

Paul Hobbs - *exploring faith through art*

Talks • Seminars • Workshops • Exhibitions



- Celebratory abstract paintings.
- Painting and sculpture that consider contemporary social issues in the light of biblical values.
- Paul exhibits frequently in Cathedrals and schools, giving workshops and talks about his artwork, its themes and his method of working.



TEN WORDS

*Acrylic and print on tulip wood,
193 x 193 x 65cm*



Ten Words

An installation of 165 wooden blocks, painted the colours of liquorice all sorts, and arranged in various, changing combinations.

Each block is 255 x 85 x 85mm, and has one surface covered with news headlines, and another printed with time-worn words from a best-selling author. Contemporary news stories rub up against these larger, disjointed words presenting a visual puzzle.



Ten Words

How do the words relate to one another?

How does the large text relate to the images and stories?



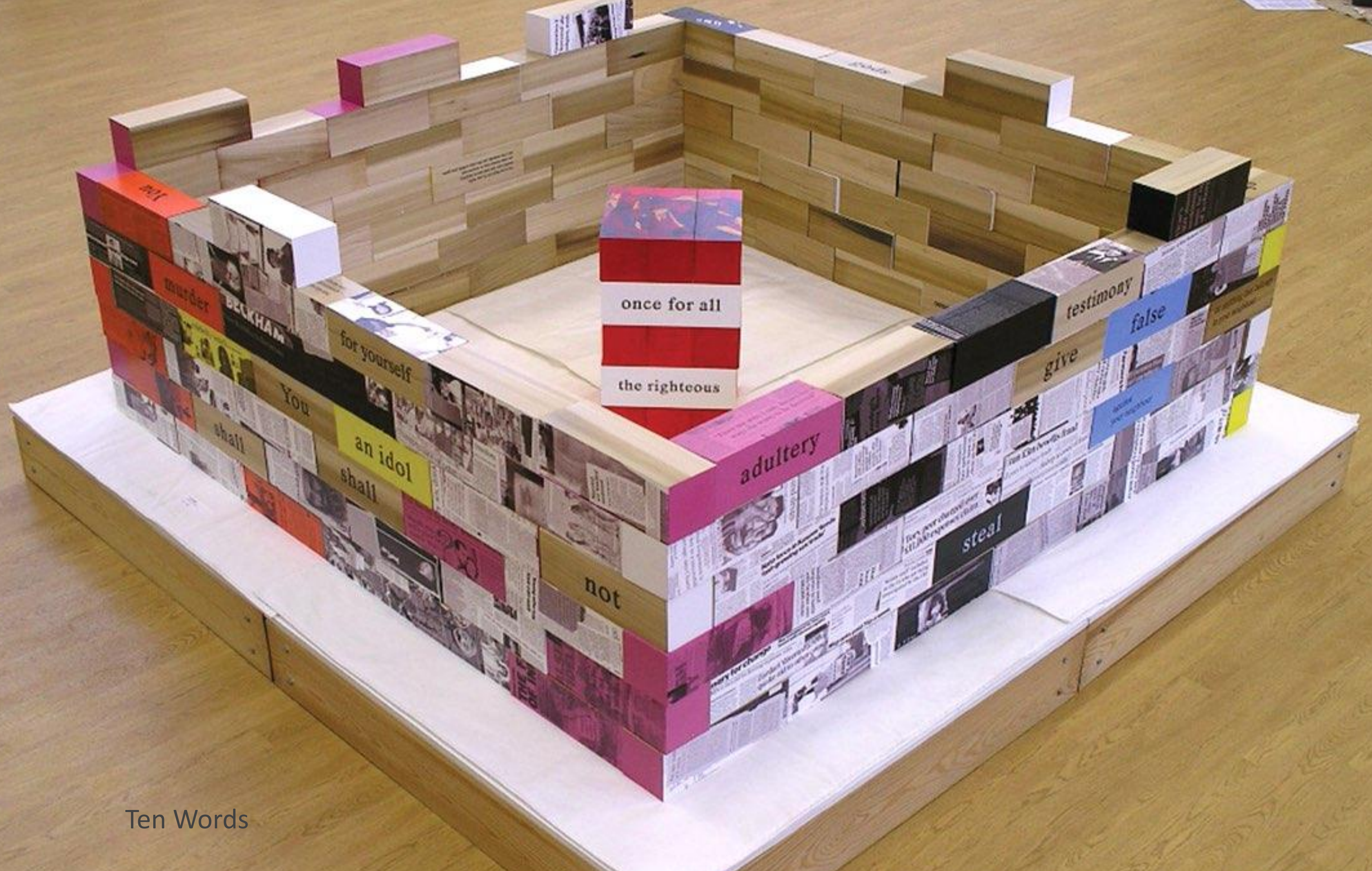
Ten Words (detail)

The large words printed on sides of the blocks are all the words of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20/2-17, but only a few can be seen at a time, creating the puzzle.

The blocks are stacked in different configurations to explore how we trash these laws and how they become a barrier between us and God.



Ten Words



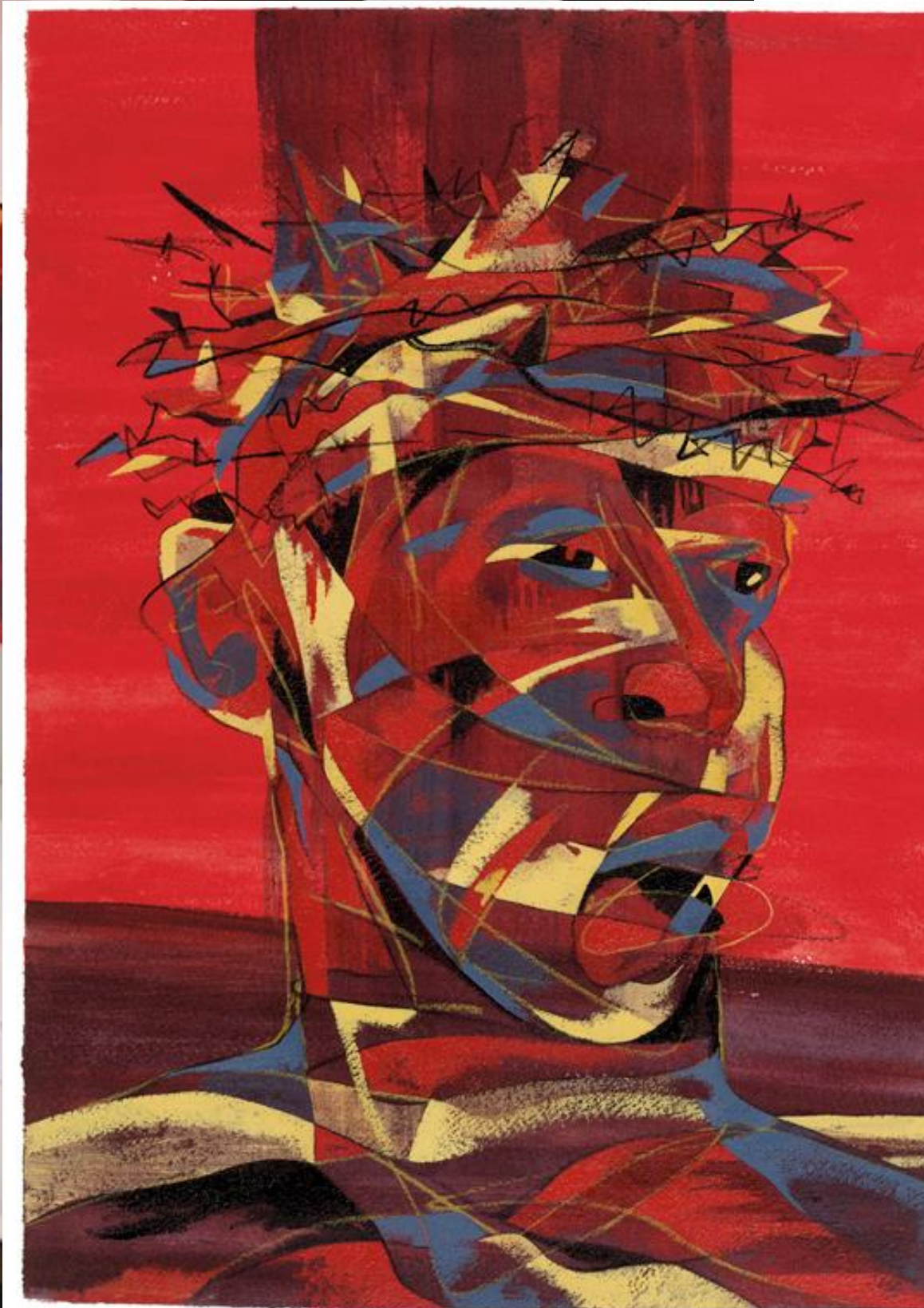
Ten Words



Ten Words - blocks with head of Christ

Viewers eventually realise there are 11 sets of blocks - the 11th one NOT being a commandment, but a statement about Jesus –

“For Christ died for sins once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.” (1 Peter 3:18)



This set of blocks does not have news articles on it. Instead it has a picture of the head of Christ on the cross from another of my paintings.

HOLY GROUND



Holy Ground

Holy Ground is a collection of **SHOES AND STORIES** from Christians all around the world. The stories are short statements about what it means for each person to believe in Christ in their particular situation.



Holy Ground with students

Among those represented are:

- a thief,
 - a refugee,
 - the despised,
 - the rejected
- people who Jesus specially sought out**

**as well as those who have known
great opportunity, wealth and success.**

- those who are beautiful,
- those who are disabled,
- those struggling to make a living & raise a family,
- those who have known great loss and tragedy, and
- those asking the deep questions of life.

70 x 7



70 x 7



The dartboard is set inside a box with open shutters. Newspaper images of tragedy, violence, and corruption cover the surface of the box. There are scenes of bomb blasts, terrorism, and murder, but also headlines about cheating, embezzlement, lying and anger.

Slightly lost within the marbled red lines that decorate the dartboard is a famous line drawing of Jesus' body - arms and legs outstretched on the cross. The scoreboard has the number 70 x 7 written on it.

70 x 7 (detail)

Unknown Martyrs: St Anmol, India

In November 2013, seven year old Anmol was killed on the way to Sunday school near his Indian village. He was beaten, mutilated and drowned in a pond by local extremists who objected to his parents' conversion to Christianity.

The quote is from Jesus' words in Matthew 19:14, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

The under-layer has gold leaf, but also cheap silver foil to reflect poorer, improvised homes from Anmol's community. Anmol is shown carrying a book, representing his desire to learn the bible, and wearing a white shirt, a symbol of innocence and purity.

The image itself has been physically assaulted: soiled, scratched and battered, and even submerged in water to reflect his drowning. The paint has been worn away to reflect his suffering, but also (in some parts) to reveal gold, the promise of glory, for as the text—painted red for martyrdom—states, 'the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'





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**ABSTRACT and
CONCEPTUAL
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