



Stations of the Cross renovation Gouarec Church

Jenny: They are the 14 Stations of the Cross that have come from The Gouarec Church. The Gouarec Church has just been restored beautifully and the Stations of the Cross look very sad and very, very dirty and could do with smartening up so that's what we're undertaking to do.

Jon: And what are they actually made of?

Jenny: They're made of plaster- which is quite daunting really because they very vulnerable for breakaging (sic) - even the wood around the outside..

Jon: It's not wood?!

Jenny: I was convinced it was wood but it's not wood. It's all plaster..

Jon: Which is now painted brown which is why I thought they were wood..

Jenny: Exactly. Exactly.

Jon: How many volunteers have you got here today?

Jenny: There's a group of six of us. The first thing we did was too clean them up. They really were very, very dusty and dirty so we had to spend a lot of time with small brushes and vacuum cleaners getting all the dust and dirt out and then because it's not a restoration – we're not restoring them to what they were to start off with. We're just cleaning them up really – we then touched in the plaster plaques in the middle, which are cream and painting round the outside as well and when they're finished we will wax them to seal it.

Jon: Good idea. So, were any of the plaster details missing? Did you have to restore them in that sense?

Jenny: There were a few bits that had just been chipped off like Pontius Pilate has lost his hand...

Jon: ..Serves him right (Laughs)

Jenny: But no, we're not going to recreate those. We're just.. by painting them in that sort of breakage disappears – it's not so visible..

Jon: OK. So, how old are these things? Are they fourteenth century or what?"

Jenny: Oh no,no,no,no. I think they are about eighty or ninety years old..

Jon: Old enough to get a little bit..

Jenny: They're not antiquities but they're certainly old enough ...



Jon: Very beautiful aren't they?

Jenny: They are. The details are fantastic. And I've certainly learnt a lot by looking at the pictures that are in the middle. You know – I mean I didn't know about St Veronique the.....is it Veronique? - yes- who gave her veil to Jesus to mop His face and then it left an imprint of His face on the veil and it became a..

Jon: A hence the Turin Shroud maybe

Jenny: Yes, something like the Turin Shroud yes.

Jon: So Jenny, it's nearly Christmas. You'll have to read your Bible..

Jenny: I'm going to have to..

Jon: And so will I! Have you ever done any – I'll call it 'conservation' but have you done any of that in the past?

Jenny: No. Just Art. With this project I did one panel first of all to see: A – if I could do it and B whether it was what the Church wanted and it passed muster and so we've carried on doing it.. We've kept it very simple. We haven't gone very technical on it''

Jon: You're not adding Technicolor, gaudy colours to the..

Jenny: It was very tech.. One of the group did say 'ooh, we could add some more glitter..' No! No!
(laughs)

Jon: They are actually going to be on display fairly soon..?

Jenny: I think very soon. I think hopefully they'll be back in the Church ready for the concert that's coming up soon at the beginning of December.

Jon: And they'll be available for people to look at all through the New Year as well?

Jenny: Oh, yes, yes.

Jon: Right – Ok, Jenny thank you very much.

Jenny: Pleasure. Thank you!