Rebecca Hind,
Messenger, 2015
Watercolour on paper
149 x 290 cm

As part of the new visual arts programme at Next Door Hextable, our intention is to commission original works of art for the Chapel and Sanctuary in future. By doing so we will enhance the experience of worship and fellowship, inviting contemplation and creativity into our midst.

In the interim, we are pleased to be able to exhibit a large-scale painting by Rebecca Hind in the Chapel, which is on loan from the artist's estate. *Messenger,* 2015 is a watercolour of epic proportions, originally commissioned for an exhibition entitled The Art of Mary at Southwell Minster. For this work the artist took inspiration from the annunciation story and from Luke 2:19, 'But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.'

In *Messenger* a light source makes a purposeful diagonal transit through a troubled sky, reaching the bottom of the painting with insistent clarity. The visual elements are based on the artist's observations and painted recordings of skies by day and by night. In the Chapel, the painting is installed so that the light source depicted aligns with the adjacent window, inviting us to imagine a divine light breaking into our own experience.

Rebecca Hind (1957-2017) was an artist working predominantly with paint. Her large-scale watercolours push the technical boundaries of the medium in unexpected ways, offering a visual and contemplative intensity. This aesthetic depth is exemplified in *Scintilla: the glittering speck,* a triptych Reredos painting at Christ Church, Spitalfields in London. Her permanent commission *Bright Rising* can be seen in the Lady Chapel at Dorchester Abbey, Oxfordshire. Hind was artist in residence at the Banqueting House, London, and affiliated artist with both Sacred Land and the Alliance of Religions and Conservation for six years. This led to her writing three books, the last of which, *Sacred Journeys,* was published in 2009.

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