

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: 29th November 2009

So, what is important?

If I gathered 20 people in a room and gave them brushes and paint and asked them to paint the tree outside the window, there would be 20 different representations of the tree. Some would focus on the colour of the leaves, others the branches; some would paint the flowers and fruit they anticipate; some would attend to the light and shadows on the leaves; some would paint detail others would give general impressions. All these representations would show me something about the tree and all would tell me something about perspective of the painter. I would be misguided to spend time arguing which of the 20 paintings was *truly* the tree! And it would be futile to spend time arguing the width of the most appropriate brush or the scope of the correct colours on the colour palate!

I have been at a theological conference this week and I found that I had no taste for arguing which 'clever' presentation of God and God's intentions are 'true' or 'more true' and permissible than others. I was more interested in considering what opportunities the various arguments offered for appreciating God and the impact of the presented argument on my capacity to live well and appreciatively in relationship with others. I wanted to consider how they helped us create a healthy sustainable life in harmony with the earth and all earth creatures such as God invites us to do. When we talk about God we are all painters, we all have our perspectives to share to the cumulative whole. It is good to look at each others work and consider our own and its impact in the light of theirs without having to assign truth or correctness. **Susan**