



OUR STORIES
IN STITCH

Over the summer of 2021, two groups of women met at Unity Hubb and Christ Church in Ward End to stitch their own personal samplers.

Working with Tina Francis and Suze Carter from Woolly Mammoth Stitch Works CIC and poet Amerah Saleh, these artists have come together to stitch their stories and share their own words for an exhibition.

The Our Stories in Stitch project was a brilliant first time collaboration between Woolly Mammoth Stitch Works CIC, St Margaret's Community Trust and Christ Church.

Thank you to Hodge Hill Neighbourhood Network Scheme for funding this beautiful project.



How would you represent your life experiences and the things that have shaped who you are in tapestry stitch?

I am mother of four children.
I am the grandmother of seven.
I am a library of knowledge.
I am the interior of my home.
I am style and fashion.
I am a traveller with my friends.



Nusrat

When I retired, I recognised that no one and nothing is perfect and that is OK. My new beginning.

The blue border is the water that flows around the British Isles and in Birmingham's canals.

The gold border represents the gold given as a gift to baby Jesus.

The cup is for celebration and communion.

Carrots and flowers represent growth and my new life at the allotment.

1.Cor.13 was read at my wedding. The last word is love I have the love of my family and Christ.



Cheryle

I was born 13.2.58.
I am a Christian.
I am a homemaker.
I am a mum of two boys and
two girls.
I am a widow.
I am a nana to ten.



Maxine

I am a gardener.

I am mother to eight daughters and one son.

I am a mother-in-law.

I am a grandmother and
great grandmother.

I am a homemaker.

I started stitching
on 21.6.21.



Razina

I am what I am.
I am a home for my
grandchildren to stay.
I am a safety net for my
family.



Mary

I am a great granddaughter, granddaughter,
and daughter of a newsagent.

I am a descendant of Albert
Edward Partridge.

I am a gardener.

I am a Christian.

I am a sister.

I am an auntie to four.

I am a crafter.



Susan

I am an artist.

The peacock was the start of my creative journey. It is significant to me because I feel it encapsulates and celebrates diversity. The peacock has many different colours which merge together in a united display of vibrancy and joy.

My niece and I sit appreciating the beautiful nature around us and reminiscing. As the wind blows, we watch the colours change and the sun set. The sun reminds us of how colourful the world can be and of the bright side of our lives and our relationship.

I love every shade of colour and contrast.



Nazia

I am a strong, bold lioness.
I am the protector at the centre of my family.
Family is everything to me and my parents,
siblings, husband and all our children are
represented in the dominos.
I am the daughter of potters
and was born in
Stoke-on-Trent.

My father made me a yellow
plate, a family heirloom.
The wave represents my
childhood travels across
the ocean to Pakistan.



Nazeem

I was raised from a baby as a Yorkshire rose.
I am a domino set for my family
to be healthy, strong and
proud in this chaotic world.
I am a traveller, going back
and forth from Yorkshire
to Birmingham, all to
keep family connections.



Shamim

Our Stories in Stitch
AMERAH SALEH



Imagine this was a city set in stone, this
was the whole city on one long almost
never-ending road.

You'd approach it with an arch as if welcomes
hugged your shoulders

You'd not need to walk long to find one of the local
schools, a church and a supermarket open all the
time.

You'll find buildings that have been abandoned,
the community walking past.

The almost looking ring road leads to corners of
other cities you may cross if you want but you
never do

All you have is here.

We are pushed together like back-to-back houses
Crammed on one street

Finding comfort in our lending of sugar when
needed



Some of us have made home in the same four walls
for 64 years

Some have moved from one house to across the
street

These streets are maps of our life stories

We pass around Tetley, Yorkshire or PG

As long as it's a cuppa, there ain't a
problem we couldn't solve

Together

In this part of Brum

Kindness cuddles with the stars

We line prayer beads across our necks to remind us
of time

We are stitched with family histories
from the 60's

We are women protecting our families like a
lioness



They are stood on threads of happiness and pain
We stand beside them
Just in case they fall
Find them bouncing back up
Off our incredible bodies
Facing this world
Again.

I have raised a zoo.

I am the zookeeper,

Of my street
of my children
of my community
of my home.

We watch our neighbours now,
we can hear their happiness so clearly
we can't seem to pinpoint where it's coming from
we want to borrow some if they'd give.





Private view and celebration event
Unity Hubb 17.9.21

"Inspirational. You can feel the love in every stitch."

Birmingham Heritage Week exhibition
Unity Hubb 18.9.21





Exhibition 5-29 October 2021

The Gallery at The Hive, Jewellery Quarter

I love feeling part of the community
at Unity Hubb.

Race, gender, religion, sexuality.

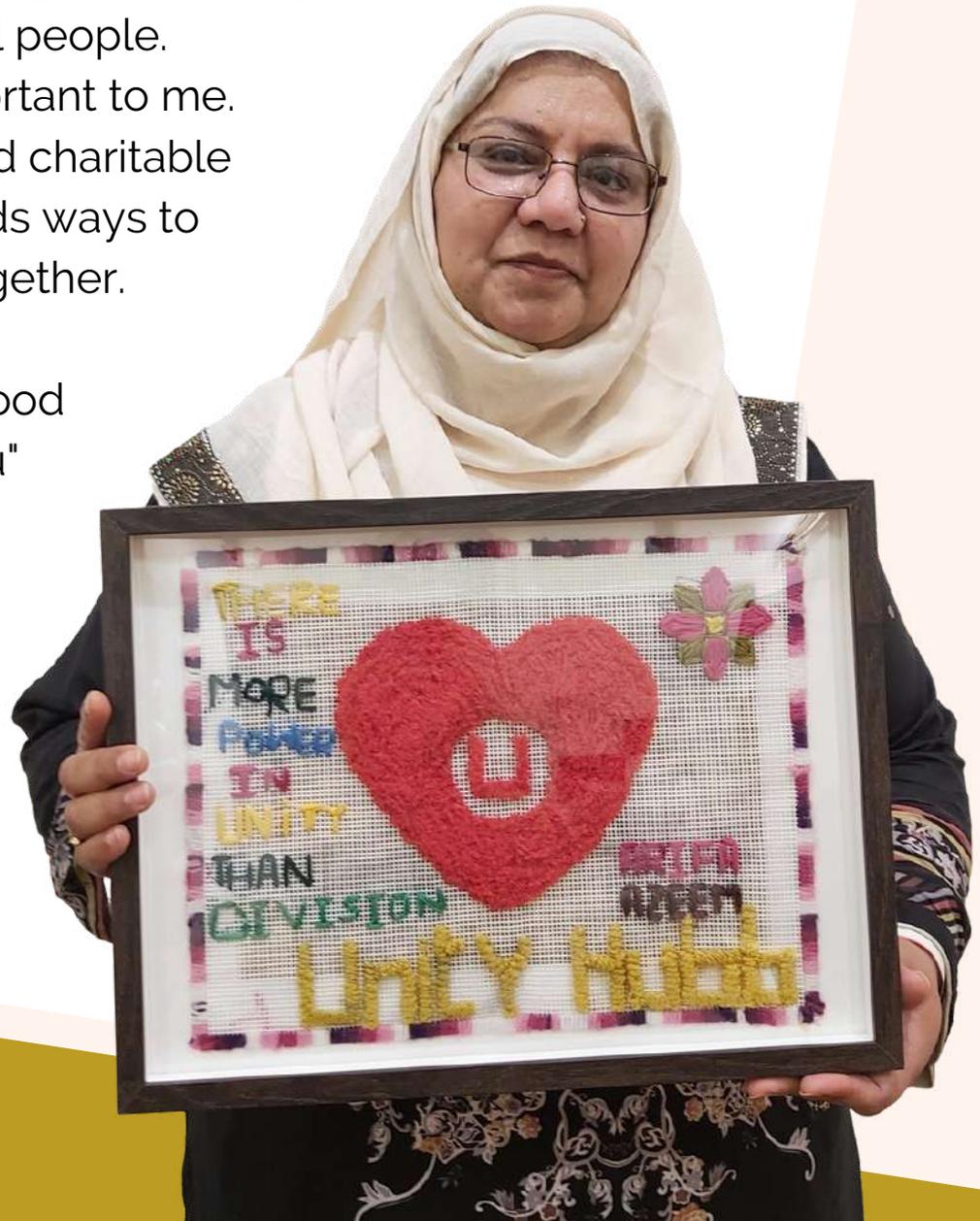
We are all equal people.

Diversity is important to me.

I am a caring and charitable
woman who finds ways to
bring people together.

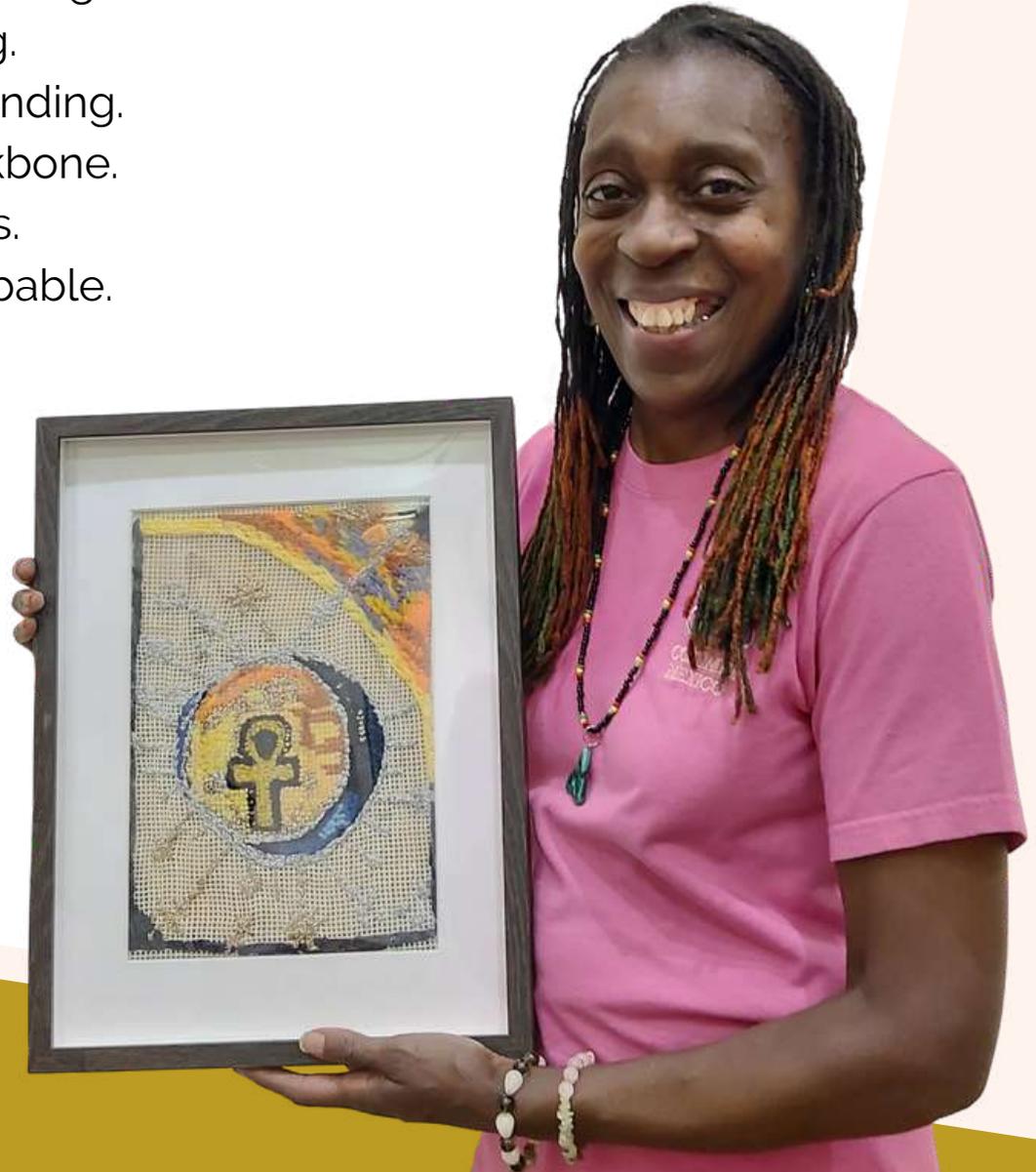
I am a crafter.

"Do good and good
will come to you"



Arifa

This represents me.
An asteroid.
Forever growing.
Forever gathering.
Forever rising.
Forever expanding.
I am the backbone.
I am all things.
I am indescribable.
I am infinity
and beyond.



Jenn

I am beloved.

First of all, I am beloved of God. I am also beloved of other people.

I think first of the loving home I grew up in, my beloved husband, and my fantastic children.

I have also been loved into life and fruitfulness through friends and in multiple communities over the years.

The way I try to live my life grows out of this sense of being beloved.

The garden is always somewhere I find myself reminded of God's goodness and my belovedness - and also, as I pull up weeds, life's challenges, and difficulties!

Ruth

I sewed flowers for people I love,
things I have learnt to do, meals
round a shared table - and all the
other life-giving and joyful
things in my life.

There's a teacup for hospitality
and a spade for hard work.



I love nature.

I like the touch of the earth in my hands.

I see hope for the future
in the trees.

I see love and happiness
in rainbows.

I see kindness and
peace in the stars.



Haleema

I moved to Birmingham in 1966 from Pakistan. Prayer beads are very important to me and my family. The tassel has one thread for each of my six children. I am a proud mother to one son and five girls.



Manzoor

I am a retired occupational therapist.
I am a musician.
I am from Cheshire.
I am an adopted Brummie.
I am a crafter.
I am a twin.
I am a Christian.
I am blessed.



Maureen

My stitches are my family.
The fallen leaves are
for those we have
loved and lost.



Shazia

I am dancing in the sunshine.
I am the blanket for my three children.
I am the right arm of my husband.
I am a daughter, an auntie, a mother, a sister.
I am an explorer.
My house and garden are a home for everyone and a
place to explore and enjoy.
I have a dream to achieve what I want.
Home. Love. Peace. Happiness.



Afshan

I am Exodus chapter 3 v14.
I am a craft hobbyist.
I am a gardener.
I am a provider.
I am at the centre of
my family.



Wendy

Sisters of another mother.
As women we are sisters and strong,
connected and
growing together
on our allotment
and at Unity Hubb.

My sisters' countries
are represented
in words, and the
colours of their
flags, in stitch.



Kumba

I came to the UK from Pakistan in 1996.
My husband and child are
represented in the dominos.
Life has its ups
and downs, with
lots of happiness
and flowers.



Shkila

I was born and bred in France where my three brothers and sister still live.

I have Spanish heritage from my mother's side.

I have been living in Birmingham since 1990 and part of the Ward End community for 23 years.



Patricia

I am a mother of three...
My World, My Lifeline, My Heartbeat.
It's been a rollercoaster ride throughout
life.
And I am still here.
I am a creative artist and love
creating from my imagination.
My life revolves around
"my family".
My life in stitches is
about "my family".



Nahedah

I love perfume. It helps to make you feel good about yourself and create lasting memories.



Sajda



c. Woolly Mammoth Stitch Works CIC 2021