

## Commentary on the 'Ruth Icon'



In this commission from 1983, a new icon of Ruth was written with the following symbols:

- The colour purple: the traditional colour for suffering, mourning and penitence, but also for royalty; both suited to Ruth's journey and her marriage into the lineage leading to King David
  - The colour green: the colour for renewal and the promise of new life
  - Ornamentation suitable for the era
- - The tree depicting the lineage from Abraham and with prunings at key personages within that lineage
  - Ruth's left hand is bound to the tree with her marriage to Boaz
  - David's crown with the star of David
- The new growth at the top of the tree represents the fullness of God's Revelation in Christ Jesus and fulfilling prophecy
  - The rays from above represent God's guiding hand
- Ruth holds a shief of wheat to represent her assisting Naomi by gleaning in Boaz's fields

And the inscription on the lower left is Ruth's declaration –  
"Wherever you go I will go; wherever you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people;  
and your God my God."