

**Blog #119 - Sampler Blessings Challenge 2022:**  
February 2022

As promised in my last blog will begin this one with images of participants finished or partially finished samplers as part of our January 'Sampler Blessings Challenge'.



Catherine - Motueka

Fabric: Belfast Linen - Flax  
Thread: Sampler - Cranberry  
Design: GigiR - Catherine Thomas 1868



Michelle - Johnsonville, Wellington

Fabric: From her stash  
Thread: Classic Colourworks - Grape Juice  
Design: JBW - Floral Alphabet



Noeline - Tokoroa

Fabric & Threads : From her stash  
Design: JBW Designs - Floral Alphabet II



Isabelle - Taupo

Fabric: Brittney - Light Taupe  
Thread: Currant & Grape Leaf  
Sampler & Simply Shaker Sampler  
Design: JBW Designs - French Alphabet Sampler

Isabelle worked her sampler over one fabric thread



Mary - Hastings

Fabric: From her stash - White Aida - 18 count  
Thread: DMC 921  
Design: JBW Designs -  
A Collection of Antique Red Samplers



Robyn - Hastings

Fabric: Belfast Linen - Platinum  
Thread: DMC - Various  
Design: JBW Designs - Chintz Alphabet



Margaret - Hastings

Fabric: From her stash -  
Antique White (28 count)  
Thread: DMC  
Design: JBW Designs - Floral Alphabet



Dawn - Taupo

Design: JBW Designs - Chintz Alphabet  
Thread: DMC - Various  
Simply Shaker Sampler - Dungarees & Freedom  
Design: JBW Designs - French Alphabet Sampler  
Threads: Currant & Otter Creek  
Sampler & Simply Shaker Sampler

Fabrics: From her stash





Jenny - Hawera

Fabric: Belfast Linen - Platinum

Thread: Sampler - Avocado

Design: JBW Designs - Floral Alphabet



Glenys - Waipukurau

Fabric: Permin Linen - 28 count - Lambswool

Thread: DMC 326

Design: JBW Designs -

A Collection of Antique Red Samplers



Chris - Omori

Fabric & Threads : From her stash  
Design: JBW Designs - Chintz Alphabet



Jane - Dunedin

Fabric: From her stash - 46 count

Threads: Au Ver A Soie - 100/3

Design: JBW Designs - French Alphabet Sampler



Betty - Hastings

Design: JBW Designs - Rose Motif

Threads: DMC - Various

Design: JBW Designs - Chintz Alphabet

Threads: DMC - Various

Fabrics: From her stash - Antique White (28 count)



As mentioned in my December blog, the most popular design chosen was : Floral Alphabet.

Second most popular : French Alphabet Sampler.

Third equal were : Chintz Alphabet & Elizabeth Precious 1817.

However, by the end of this month, Chintz Alphabet overtook the French Alphabet Sampler

and the French Alphabet Sampler choice overtook Elizabeth Precious 1817.

Progress by others who were not able to finish their pieces by the end of January ..... but that's okay.



Fiona - Hamilton

Fabric: Belfast - Platinum

Thread: Geranium

Simply Shaker Sampler

Design: JBW Designs -

Floral Alphabet



Donna - Waikanae

Fabric: Brussels Linen -

30 count - Winter White

Thread: DMC - Various

Design: GigiR -

Elizabeth Precious 1817

The choice of design by my friend, Clare from Otane, was Julia L. Fooks by GigiR. Unfortunately I do not know how to copy an image from Instagram ([www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com)). But you can see her sampler there on her page = [clarebear610](https://www.instagram.com/clarebear610)

I stitched this same design last year. It was the Sampler Blessings Challenge piece conducted by NeedleworkPress & Gigi.



GR : JF  
Julia L. Fooks 1892  
\$ 52.50



I chose to stitch my sampler on different fabric with different thread colours to those used in the original and Gigi's reproduction.

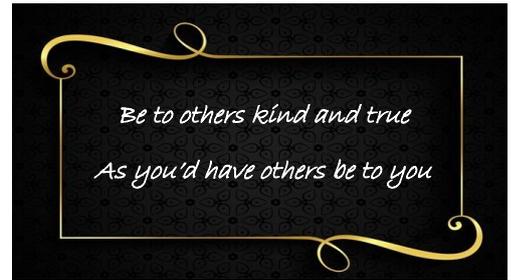
My choices -

Fabric: Permin Linen - 40 count - Lambswool

Threads: Silk 'n Colors by *The Thread Gatherer* - 210 : Elephant & Castle

DMC - 223 : 930 : 3041 : 3740

As per Elizabeth Precious in her needlework piece, Julia also had a little unworked area on her piece and so I used that area to add my name and year date.



During the pandemic months I saw on Facebook a very ingenious adaptation of this design and this is pictured to the right -



Where Julia had placed an alphabet over one fabric thread, this needleworker placed the following words: Covid-19 Pandemic Needle - Artist - in - Residence <> 2021

And instead of Julia's name : Lynn Eckel O'Neill <> Murray Hill, NJ Very clever!

A reminder and for those of you who are unaware of it, I have created a group page on Facebook - *Barberry Row & Friends* - where you can join by requesting and once done you will be able to see some of the above samplers and other pieces of needlework. Registration also allows you to post/showcase your needlework pieces.

After all the stitching I had achieved last month I was a little 'stitched out' and so started the month with finishing/making up the large sewing scissors case that I had designed and stitched a couple of months ago.



Pictured above - both the front and back views.

A reminder of the threads & fabric used in this polychromatic version.

Silk 'n Colors by *The Thread Gatherer* - SNC 239 : Turkey Feathers

DMC Stranded Cotton - 29 : 315 : 3346 : 3721 : 3830

Fabric - Belfast Linen - 32 count : Raw (#053)

As yet I have not written the instructions for this design.  
 Can't do this until after I have stitched the monochrome version which I have also designed, thus after finishing the making up of the silk version worked a test piece of different colours to ascertain which colours looked the best to be the complementary colours to my main choice of Sampler Thread - Deep Sea.



Although I didn't get much done, began stitching the back of the mono version.

And - then a mishap. Because I had been having occasional mini strokes after my bigger one in the UK and because after the first COVID outbreak in March 2020 and the instigation of having to shop wearing a mask, Keith began taking the responsibility of doing the grocery shopping. About the middle of 2021 I began joining him so that we could do it together but this month I thought I would do it on my own. Well - you guessed it! I had another mini stroke whilst at the supermarket - the result being that I was taken to hospital by ambulance. And because COVID restrictions were still in force, had to go on my own. Wasn't able to see anyone until mid-morning the following day at which time we convinced the hospital staff that I would be good and that I would rest if I could go home. Which is what I did several hours later after further tests. As before, I could not raise my arm and it could not hold any weight and my grip/squeeze was not very tight - but my fingers worked! However, I wasn't very good with walking. Staggered all over the place like a drunken person!!

Once snuggled into my big threadbare armchair I had an enforced time to rest whilst my arm regained its strength. I wondered again what was the reasoning. And again, Melissa saw it - another NEW THING!

Time for me to adjust my focus from not only creating printed needlework designs but offer them as pdf downloads as well.

Changing to pdf meant changes and/or additions to almost every design.

For example, some older designs still had fax numbers or old email addresses on them, others did not have the latest version of the information page, etc.

and all designs (54 of them) had a separate file for their cover page and was in landscape format and not portrait and therefore a portrait cover page and another portrait page of materials, design size & stitch technique advice page, etc. needed to be added to the instructions and chart pages.

Melissa did a wonderful and a very time consuming job of changing and converting all the design documents for me. Melissa is a super-efficient person despite working long hours every day in their busy, demanding business she had this task done in no time! You know the old saying -

*"If you want a job done, ask a busy person"*

It was then my task to double-check all the alterations, corrections & changes she had made. It was not a quick job as found that many of them

**Vintage Violets**

BARB 1021

**MATERIALS:**  
 Fabric - Belfast Linen - 32 count - Summer Khaki (#825) : 15" x 46" (38cm x 117cm)  
 Threads - Silk'n Colors - SNC 140 : Vintage Violets by 'The Christy Challenge'  
 - DMC Stranded Cotton - 340 : 350 : 934 : 3078 : 3342 : 3343 : 3746 (2)  
(Note: Extra skeins required - your colour choice - see finishing count & notes)  
 Ribbon - Silken Ribbons (6mm) - SR4 140 : Vintage Violets by 'The Christy Challenge'  
 Tapestry Needle - #26 or #28  
 Embroidery Hoop - Optional  
 Finishing - List of materials enclosed

**STITCH COUNT:** Framed Piece - 88w x 66h  
 Needlebook - 70w x 139h / Pincushion - 34w x 34h  
 Thread Cutter Pouch - 36w x 44h  
 Thread Cutter Fob - 16w x 16h

**FINISHED SIZES:** Framed Piece - 3.75" x 4.25"  
(approximate)  
 Needlebook - 4.5" x 5" / Pincushion - 3.25" x 3.25"  
 Thread Cutter Pouch - 2.25" x 2.75"  
 Thread Cutter Fob - 1.5" x 1.5"

**TECHNIQUES:** Cross Stitch, Satin Stitch, Smyrna Cross, Rhodes, Pins, Holbein & Backstitch

Barberry Row ~ Needlework Designs by various NZ designers  
 Barberry Row With Love ~ Needlework Designs by Sheryllyn Whiteman  
 Heirloomz ~ Needlework Gallery & purveyor of fine needlework products

Please support your favourite needlework shop.  
 However, if you are unable to procure any of the needlework materials required for this design,  
 please contact Heirloomz at the address below.

Wyndem House • 1821 Pihawhai Road • R.D. 5 • Napier 4185 • New Zealand  
 Phone: +64 6 878 1260 • www.barberryrow.blogspot.com  
 Email: barberryrow@outlook.co.nz • Email: heirloomz@outlook.co.nz  
 www.barberryrow.com • Facebook & Instagram: Barberry Row & Heirloomz

Barberry Row

Vintage Violets

With Love

from Sheryllyn

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Vintage Violets

With Love

from Sheryllyn

BARB 1021 : Vintage Violets  
 Printed Design : \$ 25.00  
 PDF Download : \$ 20.00

had their text and images slightly out of alignment! This must have happened when we changed our computer operating system from Windows 7 to Windows 10. So frustrating! I wish we could charge these computer genius 'nerds for all our time to fix the problems they create. If we could, I bet they would hate to be charged the same hourly rates as they are paid or charge!

I'm not that quick and so only managed to check and realign a few designs before creating the amended pdf's. Hopefully I will finish this task next month.

Melissa's other insight - another NEW THING - was that I also needed to convert all my 'Little Kit Company' kit designs into pdf format and offer these designs as an alternative option to kits.

Some months before I had been commiserating about how Etsy (the shopping medium through which I sell these kits) were taking so much commission from each sale.

Sometimes from a bookmark or scenic view kit selling at \$20.00 I would receive about \$10.00 by the time Etsy had taken their transaction fee, processing fee, deposit forwarding fee, monthly listing (advertising) fee and re-listing fee. And then when the money was in my bank account I'd lose another 15% GST.



By the time I had taken out the materials & packaging costs to produce a kit, I was virtually making nothing but done lots of work cutting the fabric and threads, printing the design chart and instructions, adding the design print to the packaging and putting all together before preparing it for postage.

However, before the little kits could be offered as a pdf, each design had to have a cover page designed and so had to do this for all forty seven designs. After all the designs were converted, had to add these to the Etsy site.

As a little thank you for being a loyal follower of my blogs, attached to this blog is a pdf of the 'Pohutukawa Tree' for you.

For the past 28 months I have ended my blogs relating the happenings of my 28 days in the UK. This one is ending with my arrival back home in the middle of October 2019 from my needlework tour and extended UK stay to be met by a very relieved husband with a loving kiss and tight, squeeze hug. And the words ... "Things are going to have to change".

Conversations over the next few weeks went back and forth, back and forth ...

Do I close my business?

Will I be able to cope if I don't?

How am I going to manage it?

I've lost all my confidence.

I don't really want to close.

If I don't have the business, will I end up only thinking about myself and my predicament?

My needlework is such a part of me and my life.

And so on .. and so on ...

The outcome was that I would not close the business but continue at a lesser level -



That is -

no longer have the Needlework Gallery open every Friday but only by appointment  
no longer have any Stitch Groups or NATTER days until I was stronger  
forego setting up the house for exhibitions, Christmas, etc.

And this is what I have done. This time - CHANGE - rather than a NEW THING.

Have to confess that COVID made this change in my circumstances easier  
as could use that as my reason for my decision  
rather than have to try and explain about myself.

My decision has been and is -

*"I'm going to wear out rather than rust out"*

I'm going to spend more of my time designing and stitching.

Another - NEW THING.

No more guilty feelings about spending a day or two or even three days stitching - either part of the day or all day!

May you too enjoy many days with fabric, thread and a needle in your hands.



P.S. Below is a list of all designs by

*The Little Kit Company*

**SCENES:**

- Art Deco Napier
- Auckland
- Christchurch
- Dockside Café
- Dunedin
- Farming Down Under
- High Country Hut
- Lake Taupo
- Lake Tekapo
- Lake Wakatipu
- Marine Parade Napier
- Mount Cook
- Pioneer Cottage
- Taranaki Farmland
- Wellington

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

- Aotearoa
- Aotearoa Kiwi
- Map of New Zealand
- Native Flowers
- Pacific Blue Gem \*
- Pohutukawa Tree
- Wild Flowers
- A Kiwi Christmas Stocking
- Aotearoa Bell Pull
- Kiwi Bell Pull \*
- Kiwi Country - Brown
- Kiwi Country - Green
- Kiwiana \*
- Kowhai Pincushion

\* Denotes design not available as yet

**BOOKMARKS:**

- B is for Bee
- Black Cat
- Bullrush & Fern
- Dusky Dolphins
- Fruit of the Vine
- Houhere (Lacebark)
- Kia Ora
- Kiwi
- Kokako
- Manuka
- Mount Cook Lily
- NZ Kiwis
- Pohutukawa & Kowhai
- Red Billed Gull
- Sheep
- Sheep Dog
- Takahe
- Traditional - Carving
- Traditional - Kiwi
- Traditional - Poi
- Traditional - Tiki
- Tuatara
- Yellow Eyed Penguin