

Welcome to this audio description of **Faith, Love and Hope**, by the Caribbean Social Forum.

The Caribbean Social Forum is was started in 2015 by the “matured children” of the Windrush Generation. The Forum is open to men and women aged 50+ and currently has over 600 members mainly from the Caribbean and neighbouring countries, such as Guyana. It also attracts people from other countries who attend regularly and collectively share and learn from each other.

The strength of compassion has shined through in this challenging time for the Caribbean Social Forum. Inspired by Gratte Ciel’s strands of togetherness, this installation, Faith, Hope and Love, has been created by the members to share their identity, creativity and to have time for reflection and relaxation.

The installation is inspired by a biblical quotation: “A cord of 3 strands is not easily broken.” Ecc 4: 11-13.

As part of the creative process, 15 participants were invited to select three thin, different coloured strands of material. There is a range of material, including brightly coloured cottons, patterned silks, yarn, netting and plastic strands. The 3 strands were then woven into plaits, each plait being as unique as each participant, varying in colour, texture and length. Many plaits feature three chosen colours to represent a particular Caribbean country’s flag: blue, yellow and black for the Bahamas; green yellow and red for Grenada and green, yellow and black for Jamaica, for example.

The individual plaits were then combined to create 2 longer, thicker plaits, with the different textures and colours criss-crossing one another. These thick plaits, totalling 70 metres in length, have been wound in two directions around the trunk of a tall, leafy Sycamore tree creating a diamond pattern, from its lower branch, just above head height, down to the ground.

Attached to the plaits are messages written on small cards by the weavers. The messages include:

“Love, faith and hope combined is strength”; “Today can’t catch tomorrow” and “what’s done in the dark will appear in the light”

Some of the messages are written in their original language, or dialect, with the somewhat more prosaic English translation alongside, including:

“All crab fine dey hole”, or Everyone finds their place in life;

“Big tree fall down, goat bite he leaf”, or When the mighty fall on hard times, they are disrespected by all

And, “Better fish in di sea dan wha get ketch”, or There’s always a better lover than your current one!

The Faith, Hope & Love tree stands at the outer edge of Dial Arch Square, facing in towards the square from this tree, you can view all of the Weaving Together installations.