

# Soul Marks



Summer 2008

Issue 11 page 1

## WE ARE FIVE!

It was great to see so many friends at our birthday celebration. For those who missed the event Pauline one of our Soul Marks Friends has written an article on page 4 so you can all get a flavour of the evening.

We have had a good year developing Workshop Resource days along side the Priority Areas in the church of Scotland, linking with several new congregations, where all ages have been involved in planning, making and creating space for worship services for Advent, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. Two more workshops are planned for Harvest in September. Meanwhile Hamilton Presbytery have picked up on these and requested four similar workshop days over the next year.

The creation in March of a 'Prayerzone' for the Church Without Walls National Gathering at the Highland Show Ground, Edinburgh was an ambitious project. A team made up of Carol and of sessional workers: Raine Clerk and student Cecily Tatersall, created what was 'an amazing oasis of stillness' - [Peter Neilson] in a 24m x 12m tent, complete with Labyrinth, circle installation and quiet making space, where people were asked to write or draw their prayers and hang them in the space. Hundreds of people experienced and added to the space over the weekend.

Carol and Justin Reynolds our very talented website designer have been working for over 6 months to bring you our new Soul Marks website, [www.soulmarks.co.uk](http://www.soulmarks.co.uk) do check it out and tell us what you think

We have continued to offer our usual Art and Prayer workshops at Leith School of Art and Lochiehead, creating an additional one in Advent in December due to high demand. Additionally we

**have been** as far as Inverness and Dunoon in March and June respectively, Talks were also given recently in Peebles and Melrose.

It's great to see the transformation of people who tentatively come along to workshops claiming little or no ability and go away having had a good day, surprising themselves and reassured that they do have something to offer. Here is one response

*'I would just like to say how much I have enjoyed all your workshops at Cranhill. My first reaction was "how does art and worship" go together! I remember when Muriel asked me along, I said that "I don't do art, I can't draw a straight line!". Her response was that I didn't need to draw a straight one!*

*Now I firmly believe that worship and art do go together and shouldn't be separated! We have continued with art in our worship in a very regular basis!'*

*So for me personally you can read that it has changed my whole outlook on worship with art. It not too difficult - everyone can do it! I am certainly more reflective and more aware on things around me and looking at the importance of simple things that we take for granted.*

*Margaret Alexander, Cranhill Parish Church*

So **THANK YOU** to those of you who have journeyed with us over the passed five years, we continue to ask for your support and prayers as we journey into the future.



Prayerzone

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## COMMUNITY BANNERS AT LADYBROOK

As part of the celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the consecration of our church, St Mary the Virgin, Ladybrook, Mansfield, it was decided to make two banners to hang in the chancel.

The idea was that this would be something, which could be a combined effort of the congregation, the local school children and the community and, although the banners would mainly stay in the church, it was hoped they would also be taken to different venues in the area to be displayed for a time.

We commissioned a textile artist Carol Marples from Soul Marks to help us with this and she came down for a few days and talked to us, visited the local community and schools and together we worked on the ideas for two banners. The themes chosen were water as the estate is named Ladybrook and the Lady Brook still runs under the main road (something many people are not aware of), the Tree of Life from the book of Revelations and bricks as our church is brick built.

During one week in the summer we played host to classes from all the schools in the area and we made "tiles" of calico which were either painted or

embroidered as drops of water, leaves or bricks. We had a great time helping the children with their artistic efforts and we also enjoyed painting and sewing ourselves. There



was much fun and it was wonderful to welcome children into our church building.



There was some mess at times but the newly installed kitchen sink in our vestry was very well used that week and we felt it was a real blessing. Carol also taught the children and us some action songs when we had finished our artistic efforts.

We had a rest until after Christmas and since then a group of us have been meeting weekly to sew the "tiles" onto the backing cloth. We have had great times of fellowship, we have enjoyed our conversations and have discovered more about each other. We always start the day with prayer and have



often listened to spiritual music or had readings while we worked. We also conducted our Lent course during this period and some people continued to work on the banners while taking part in the discussions. We bring lunch to share together and are well



refreshed with tea, coffee and biscuits.

On a personal note, I attend a French Conversation class weekly and we have to think of different topics to speak about and recently I told my fellow students about the banners and was able to show them photographs of the church and the people working on them and this was a new insight to non-church-goers into the sort of things that we get up to!

*Judith Mather*

### Soul Marks Newsletter by email

You can now receive your newsletter electronically as a PDF file, this helps the environment (no paper) and our finances. To receive it in this format please send your name and email address to [admin@soulmarks.co.uk](mailto:admin@soulmarks.co.uk), using the subject title 'Newsletter'.

We are still happy to continue to sending newsletters by post for those who prefer them that way.



## WORKING WITH PRIORITY AREAS



Over the last four years Carol has been working in partnership with the Priority Areas of the Church of Scotland, encouraging and enabling the use of art

and worship for the first 3 years Carol worked individually with one church per year, working through the church seasons, encouraging reflection, bible study, connection with themes for today, creation of ideas, making and physically changing the worship spaces.

This was all very positive. In order to open this up to more congregations this past year has been spent offering Workshop Resource days in both Edinburgh and Glasgow specific to Advent, Lent/Easter and Pentecost. There are plans for more days including one for Harvest in September. Here is some feedback from the workshops:

What people have said about the workshops:

"We hosted a workshop by Carol Marples last Saturday (12th April) looking at ideas for Pentecost. We had a great day being creative and sharing fellowship. I used Carol's ideas to work with some of our girls at a residential weekend over the past two days and we have made lots of colourful 'kites' for the service this coming Sunday. We will then take them to our neighbouring church for a joint service on Pentecost - so the workshop has been well followed up! Thank you for making this workshop possible. Carol is very gifted and we would love to be involved with her again in the future.

*Brenda Robson from Muirhouse, Edinburgh.*

Comments from Lent and Pentecost feedback forms: **What have you gained from the workshop?:**

A broader view of Lent. Good fellowship with folk from other churches and from our own church.

Our church benefits from Soul Marks workshops - in that we are inspired to be creative with our space in a way we not be if left to ourselves. I personally benefit! Thank you.

*Jean McQuaker . Toryglen Parish Church*

An opportunity to do things I would not do by myself.

*Martin Grasso [Carnwadric Parish Church]*

An opportunity to do art and work again with my hands. To obtain ideas for space and worship and fellowship.. I hope we have time with you again here or elsewhere. Loved today

*Gayle Irvine . PA office*

Action and involvement made particular part of the bible [ Pentecost] come to life.

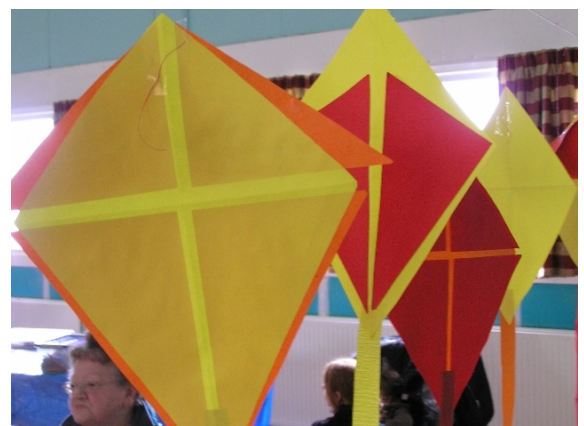
*Ann Addison, Holy Trinity, Muirhouse .*

Had a great day and could also bring my grandchildren who also learned something new.

*Sky . St. Andrews, Muirhouse*

Companionship. Able to mix and work together. I enjoyed every moment!

*Grant Nicol St. Andrews, Muirhouse.*





## THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June was the day chosen to celebrate five years of Soul Marks, the venue was St James, Church, Leith and it was rewarding how many people joined Carol and the Trustees for the evening. Carol's passion for her work was evident as she gave an enthusiastic visual presentation, which looked at why Soul Marks had been established, and how it has developed over the past five years. Photographs gave an insight into the wide variety of assignments undertaken, We became aware of the diverse range of materials used and how some are imaginatively recycled and reused time and time again.

It was interesting to learn of the interaction of people attending or involved in some of the projects. Age or ability is not a problem, and for Carol any new challenge such as working with the deaf/blind priests on Iona, added to her own learning curve.

Carol's presentation was enhanced by some of those attending, giving their own experience of working with her, Russell McLarty spoke of the workshop resource days at Muirhouse Parish Church, Edinburgh. Therese Christie told of her experience of attending the Art and Prayer workshop days and Carrie Upton, Chaplin at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, spoke of developing the 'Acts of Remembrance' services with Carol

Eleanor Strang and Ann Butler (Trustees) gave an update on the Trust finances, alongside the hopes and future ambitions of Soul Marks. They were pleased to announce the new website which had gone live that very day [www.soulmarks.co.uk](http://www.soulmarks.co.uk)

Carol's presentation had many examples of what happens when people get together and this was evident at the birthday celebration when everyone was invited to participate by writing on strips of paper their own wishes for Soul Marks development. It was rewarding how many participated in this, and also added colour and artistic additions to the papers. People then gathered to lay down their papers and listen as verses were read out, the laying of t-light candles added to the moment and provided a fitting closure to the formal part of the evening.

The entrance of birthday cakes with Soul Marks pictures on provided the opportunity for everyone to eat, drink and chat. It was good to discover where people came from and of their involvement (if any) in Soul Marks, the prize has to go to a Pastor from

Kenya even if he did come with his friend from Fife. There was also the opportunity to view the exhibition of Carol's framed photographs which were for sale and some were soon

displaying the sold sign.

Five of these had been



reproduced as cards and proved to be very popular. Soul Marks fifth birthday celebration was certainly one to remember.

*Pauline*

We would like the exhibition to travel around in the next year to promote Soul Marks, so if you have a space to hang up to 13 framed photographs [40cmx50cm] then do let us know. This could be accompanied by a talk about the work of the trust.

## DIARY UPDATE

### 2008

- 11/08/08 Talk - Christchurch. Morningside Edinburgh
- 6/09/08 Art & Prayer - Larkhall
- 9-10/09/08 Creative Workshop - Church of Scotland - St Andrews
- 20/09/08 Priority Areas Harvest Workshop - Glasgow
- 27/09/08 Priority Areas Harvest Workshop - Muirhouse, Edinburgh
- 04/10/08 Art & Worship Workshop - Langholm
- 22/10/08 Space & Worship Workshop Renfield, St Stephen's
- ??/11/08 Schools Project with Fischy Music
- 16/11/08 Fischy Music 10th Anniversary - Celebrations - Edinburgh
- 30/11/08 Sick Kids Hospital Memorial Service
- 06/12/08 Advent Art & Prayer Workshop - Leith School of Art
- 08/12/08 Advent Art & Prayer Workshop - Lochiehead

### 2009

- 28/02/09 Lent Art & Prayer Workshop - Lochiehead
- 02/03/09 Lent Art & Prayer Workshop - Leith School of Art
- 16/05/09 Spring Art & Prayer Workshop

