

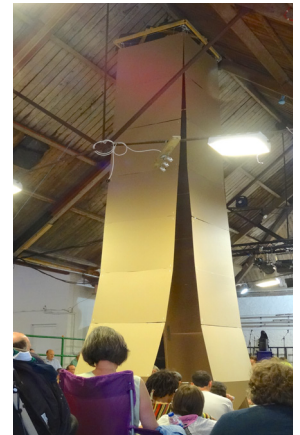
How Time Flies!

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it is over a year since our last newsletter so there is much to update you with. Let me begin....

2014 began with a journey to the USA, which included a workshop at Arlington Presbyterian Church in Washington DC for 40 participants. The workshop was very well received with one church sending images of artwork created for their Easter service inspired by the day. This was followed by attending the Calvin Symposium on Worship in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as part of a team from Britain.

In May, back home in Scotland, I led workshops on 'Art in Worship' for the 'Casting the Nets' Day at St. Ninian's Episcopal Cathedral, Perth and one considering 'Space and Worship' for the 'Nitekirk' team in Edinburgh. In July I was delighted once again to be part of a team that planned and led the communion service for the Solas Festival (www.solasfestival.co.uk). This involved a giant tower of Babel being raised from the ground in a matter of seconds into the middle of the worship space. The idea was adapted and repeated by the Wild Goose Resource Group in Iona Abbey for their worship week later that summer.



Solas Communion Service

The PhD research continues. It is by turns interesting, energizing, reflective and frustrating, the latter often in recognition that there is so much more to learn, and so little time! This year I have been building up my confidence in academia having given two academic papers. The first was at the St. Andrews University conference 'Textures' (May 2014) and was entitled 'The Event of a Thread: A Playground for the Soul.' It explored installation art, particularly the work of Ann Hamilton, and liturgy, the former and latter predominant themes of my thesis. In January 2015 I gave a paper at the Society for the Study of Theology Postgraduate Conference: 'Images, Icons and Idols' at the University of Manchester. The paper was entitled, 'Daughters at the Last Supper: Three Feminist Interpretations.' I would describe the first as a learning curve and the second a good step forward.

From September I moved from full-time to part-time study. This was predominantly because I was approached by Leith School of Art to teach a new, year-long course (one day per week) in Art and Spirituality. It is a very practical and hands on course and I have been given free reign to create and develop it. This is explored further in a separate article. It does mean the PhD will take a little longer but also allows for other work to develop alongside which feels like a positive move at this time.

Email:
Tel:
Web:
Facebook:

carol@soulmarks.co.uk
0131 467 4243
www.soulmarks.co.uk
Soul Marks

Published by
The Soul Marks Trust
Charity No.SCO34403



The Autumn brought the continued privilege of working again with Chaplain Carrie Applegath, together with a small group of wonderful volunteers, to write, plan and lead the all-age Annual Memorial Service. The numbers continue to grow each year, moving from an expected 40-60 people when we began to work together 11 years ago to 150 this year. In February I took part in a consultation with the congregation of St. Martin de La Tour's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh, helping them to begin the process of creating a new artwork for their recently reburbished Church.

So the life of Soul Marks continues to bring new and unexpected changes, challenges, surprises. As Henri Nouwen notes in his book *Peacework*, 'Nothing alive is the same from moment to moment. To live is to face the unknown over and over again. Life requires trust.....Essential to living is trust in an unknown future that requires a surrender to the mystery of the unpredictable.' This is as true for those who daily face uncertainty and struggle in our war-torn, broken world as it is for each of our ordinary daily lives.

We are grateful for all that has happened in this mixed, busy and fruitful year at Soul Marks, for both the everyday and unexpected, for ongoing study and new work. We continue to reflect back and discern our way forward. We greatly appreciate your friendship, prayers, trust and financial support, which are vital to the work. THANK YOU.

Carol

2014 Sick Children's Memorial Service



Families were invited to remember those they had loved and lost, through the poems written for the service, guided quiet moments, and through creating memory ribbons. These held a triangle, a star and a flower, representing the struggle of grief, light that shines in the darkness and the beautiful characteristics that evoked each child.

The ribbons were tied on to the trees. The lights were dimmed and the names of those who had died were read out as eight strings of light were gradually switched on to bring light into the darkness.

Soul Marks Van - Update

As there have been fewer workshops since Carol began her studies, the Soul Marks Van has been off road to save money on road tax for the past few years. After serving us well since Autumn 2003, it was decided to sell/scrap the van. It was sold in May 2014 for £250. We hope the new owner will be as happy as we were with it and grateful thanks go to Faye and Robert Clerk who kindly stored it on their property while it was off road.



Diary 2015: Workshops, Courses and Events.

6th June 2015

Workshop for L'Arche Edinburgh.

27th June 2015

Spark Festival of Worship and the Arts.

Worship, Liturgy and the Arts - a day of ideas and inspiration.

Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh. £10 (Students £5)

www.greyfriarskirk.com

24th July 2015

Art Workshop at the

2015 Abbey Summer School (July 23rd - 25th), Edinburgh.

The Abbey Summer School is a new venture in Scotland that offers Christian teaching and nourishment to all who like to think about their faith. With Jeremy Begbie (Duke Divinity School) and James Houston (Regent College, Vancouver)
<http://abbeysummerschool.com>

13th -17th July 2015

Art and Spirituality Summer School, Leith School of Art.

9.30am - 4.30pm

Sept 2015 - June 2016

Art and Spirituality - year long, one day a week course.

Leith School of Art.

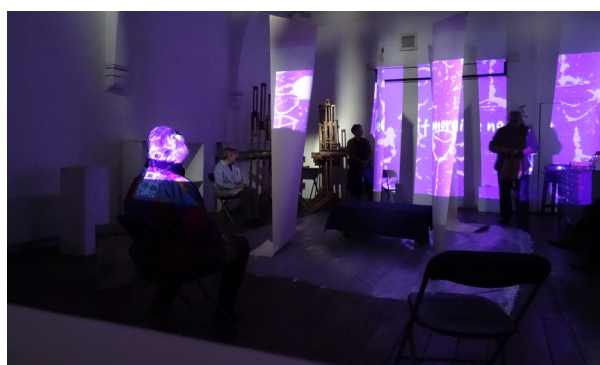
<http://www.leithschoolofart.co.uk>

29th November 2015.

Royal Hospital for Sick Children: Memorial Service.

Edinburgh University Chaplaincy Centre.

3 pm



Images from the Art and Spirituality Course.

Art and Spirituality at Leith School of Art

The theme for the all courses at Leith School of Art this year has been 'Thresholds'. For the Art and Spirituality Course this has meant exploring the threshold of the ordinary and the sacred, learning to see more deeply the spirituality of the everyday. This year's students are seven women, who have brought the rich seams of their own lives to explore this theme through practical artwork, reflection and discussion.

We explored in the first term through drawing, painting and collage, the ordinary everyday simplicity and depth of meaning inherent in vessels and tables. This led to a group project based on the feminist installation artwork 'The Dinner Party' (1974-79) by Judy Chicago that has been likened to a Last Supper. We also explored the sense of presence and our deeper selves through portraits and self-portraits, again leading to a rather fun-based, experimental group portrait at the end of term.

The second term began with exploring silence through art, initially a daunting project to teach and explore practically, but one that enriched us all on many levels. We drew on the artwork of such as Agnes Martin, Edmund de Waal and Richard Long. This was followed by moving into sound, the senses and colour influenced by the work of Kandinsky. We also experimented briefly with installation art, performance art and book-making. The term ended with three weeks of exploring landscape and spirituality, drawing at the nearby Water of Leith.

Term three sees the students move into their own projects. Some of this work will be exhibited at the Leith School of Art end of year exhibition 26th-28th June. Do come along if you are able.

If you are interested in joining next year's course, or the week long summer school more information can be found at: <http://www.leithschoolofart.co.uk>

From the Trustees....

Firstly we thought it would be helpful to update you on who the present trustees are:

Alan Kimmitt: Chair

Alan joined the Soul Marks trustees in 2006. Having encountered Carol's work at the Carberry Festival. He was then a humble IT man, but has since retrained and ascended or descended (depending on your point of view) to the dizzy heights of a Church of Scotland parish minister in Glenrothes, Fife.



Angie Inchley

Angie has been a very faithful trustee having been with us from our beginnings in 2003 (though the meetings began in 2012 and Angie was at the first). She took a break when she retired from her job as a pastoral counselor, but we love her so much we convinced her to rejoin us in 2013 and are very grateful for her quiet, wise and reflective presence.



Dr. Geoffrey Stevenson.

Geoffrey joined the board in 2012. He worked for 20 years as an actor, specialising in physical theatre and mime. He was director of a communications project at St. Johns College, Durham University before moving to study for his PhD at Edinburgh University. Geoffrey lectures at Edinburgh University, Scotland and still does the occasional mine... he has been known to combine the two!



Therese Christie

Therese is our newest trustee having just joined us at the beginning of 2015. She is, however, not new to the work of Soul Marks and has both attended and helped at several Soul Marks workshops and events over the years. Therese retired a few years ago after being the Administrator at Leith School of Art for nearly 20 years. She was also involved in the Social Housing and Care Sector as a Board Director with a leading Housing Association and Care Company over several years. We have now successfully implored her to join and work with us to help us reflect and map the road ahead.



From The Trustees:

The trustees perform and oversee the routine activities of running Soul Marks, like the annual joy of reporting to OSCR, the charity regulator. We also support Carol's work and, with Carol, try to discern future directions and new opportunities for Soul Marks. We are delighted that people are still being engaged, inspired and uplifted by the activities of Soul Marks and we are immensely grateful to the very loyal supporters of the trust, who enable the continuation and development of this work. The trustees are also hugely grateful to Cathel Kerr, the treasurer, and Nigel Cooke, who audits the accounts and helps to prepare the annual OSCR return. If you would like more information, or would like to comment on the work of Soul Marks, we can be contacted by email, trustees@soulmarks.co.uk.

Alan, Angie, Geoffrey and Therese



If you are receiving this newsletter by post and have an email address please let us know so you can receive it in full colour. We hope it will also be available to read on the Website and Facebook page.