

## Another Year on...

Dear Friends,

Another year has passed. The work of Soul Marks has continued to be expressed in workshops, talks, worship, teaching and in my continued PhD study. The following offers a brief overview from June 2015 - June 2016.

In June 2015 it was my pleasure to be once again working with L'Arche Edinburgh to help facilitate and lead the weaving of art and worship at the annual Community Gathering. Throughout the day we created the four different sections of a new altar cloth that celebrated the diversity and connectedness of the people who make up L'Arche Edinburgh. The altar cloth will be used for the community's ongoing monthly ecumenical gatherings. Later that same month I was one of a number of speakers from around Scotland to be invited to speak at a day devoted to 'Worship, Liturgy and the Arts: a day of ideas, and inspiration for creators and leaders of worship' as part of the 'Spark Festival of Worship and the Arts' at Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh.

July began with the leading of a week-long Art and Spirituality course as part of LSA Summer School. This was a diverse week, with a mixed group of people, on the theme of 'Thresholds.' It included drawing (at one point in driving rain - not intentional), painting, laughter, group installations and much reflection. The following week I took part in another summer school, The Abbey Summer School, a new initiative bringing together North American and Scottish thinkers and practitioners who aim, through a holistic approach, to combine academic thinking with spiritual practice and practical action. Jeremy Begbie, Duke Divinity School, North Carolina, and James Houston, Regent College, Vancouver were the school's main speakers. My part was to lead a time of reflective art and prayer on the theme of the Trinity.

September turned back to academic studies as I gave a paper, 'Installation Art and Christian Liturgy in the West Of Scotland,' at the Ecclesiology and Ethnography Conference at St John's College, Durham. It was a very positive experience and enabled me to connect with others involved and interested in liturgy and the arts, particularly in North America and New Zealand. My PhD supervisor David Brown retired at the end of the academic year and I am now delighted to be working with Natasha O'Hear, with whom I recently made a timeline of work to take me to my handing in date of September 2017. Yes folks, the end is in sight, though there is still much to do.

In early June 2016 I joined with the Wild Goose Resource Group in facilitating part of their liturgical installation 'SOS' at Greyfriars Kirk. I also led a creative, reflective workshop for St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh in North Berwick. The end of June saw the completion of the second Art and Spirituality course at LSA. I have once again had a wonderful group of students who brought much enthusiasm and depth to the course. It continues to be a joy to teach and I learn much from doing so. Alongside all of this I am also part of an ecumenical working group for a Festival of Health, Healing and Justice in Edinburgh 2017. The focus for the immediate future however is to finish the PhD.

For what lies ahead we greatly appreciate your prayers. We continue to be grateful for all your support, prayerful and financial and generally walking along side us. Thank you for what has been and for what is to come.

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## New Website



We have recently created a new website. Much as we loved our old one that the fabulous Justin Reynold created, for various reasons we felt it was time for an update it.

It is in many ways a simpler site but we hope is informative about our work. New pages have been created to promote Carol's academic study, the Art and Spirituality course at Leith School of Art and other Soul Marks workshops that were not included previously.

Please look at [www.soulmarks.co.uk](http://www.soulmarks.co.uk)

Please note we also have a Facebook page that is regularly updated with images and news.

<https://www.facebook.com/Soul-Marks-114065058674492/>

## Workshops



'Journeying With Columba'

Coracle - making at a day of reflection with the congregation of St. Columba's by the Castle Episcopal Church, Edinburgh.



Communion cloth created by and for the Edinburgh L'Arche Community. June 15.



SOS with the WGRG

Working with the Wild Goose Resource Group for the creative liturgical installation of Song of Songs at Greyfriars Kirk, June 16.



## Art and Spirituality at Leith School of Art

It is very hard to single out the best aspect of the course. The meditative silence at the beginning of each day; the supportive, encouraging atmosphere; the thought-provoking range of artists to inspire one's own work; the wealth of ideas and the variety of work: installation, sculpture, performance, drawing, colour, tone, portraiture, self-portraiture, painting...? One thing is certain. Carol structures and enables each individual to explore art and spirituality in a safe stimulating environment where everyone can learn, seek truth and take heart while overcoming a number of challenges, whether personally, artistically or spiritually. The accommodation of each course member, regardless of faith, to be accepted and well taught is another mark of the course's quality. I highly recommend it.

Therese Christie.

Student on the 14-15 Course and the 2015 Summer School.



Art and Spirituality Summer School, July 15



Shoes for Gladys Aylward. Margot Dunnachie  
Art and Spirituality course 2015-2016

Term One of the Art and Spirituality 2015 -2016 course explored the theme 'Beneath the Surface' using the symbolism of shoes to explore character, journey, relationship, composition and holiness. In one project each student created a pair of shoes to represent a women - historical, biblical or known to them - who had been inspired their own story. Term two began by journeying through Abstraction, Silence and Spirituality, moving on to sound, colour, the senses and the passing of time. In the third term students developed their own personal projects. At the LSA end of term exhibition, one person referred to our exhibition space as 'chapel of Art and Spirituality'. A former student also commented 'I did enjoy the work produced by this year's course ..,It was a lovely peaceful corner. The course is clearly going from strength to strength.' We hope so ! If you think you might be interested do get in touch, or visit <http://www.leithschoolofart.co.uk/courses/art-and-spirituality-course>



Image: Markie Woodfield. A+S 2015-2016

I've loved this course! Carol creates a safe space for us to learn, experiment and develop our art using lectures, many different materials, techniques and innovations. But this course is about SO much more - Carol has the gift of incorporating "spirituality" into not only the day, but somehow the thoughts and experience permeate the whole week.

She is a gifted teacher, encouraging but will stretch you - it's a year of someone investing in you in an incredible way for which I'm so grateful.

Quote and paper sculpture Sheila Yarrow.  
Student 2014-15 and 2015-16



A course that combined art with spirituality drew me in and I have not been disappointed. It has been exciting, informative and challenging and time spent with delightful people.

Rosas Mitchcell  
Student 2014-15

Drawing by Claire Wilson.  
Student 2014-15 and 2015-16



## From the Trustees....

The trustees are immensely grateful for the ongoing support of many people through regular giving and other donations. This has allowed us to continue to support Carol's PhD studies as we discern together the future direction of Soul Marks. We are keeping running costs very low at the moment in order to maintain the reserves required by OSCR, the charity regulator and it has been very helpful that Carol now has other income from her work at Leith School of Art. Apart from Carol's salary, our main recent expenditure has been on a new computer for her. Apart from the vital PhD work, images are an important part of her work and Carol needs to have the necessary IT equipment to handle them properly. When the possible future of Soul Marks becomes clearer, we may launch a fundraising campaign to enable that vision. In the meantime, your faithful support is very much appreciated. The trustees remain indebted to our treasurer, Cathel Kerr and to Nigel Cooke who helps with and audits our annual report. If anyone would like more information about the finances of Soul Marks, or a copy of the latest annual report, please contact [trustees@soulmarks.co.uk](mailto:trustees@soulmarks.co.uk). Thank you.

*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.