



Soul Marks Trust

**Trustees' Annual Report
And Financial Statements
1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

Scottish Charity No. SC034403

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Charity contact information

Registered charity name	Soul Marks Trust
Scottish Charity No.	SC034403
Principal address	9 Roxburgh Street Edinburgh EH8 9TA
Tel. No.	07740 984156
Email	Carol@soulmarks.co.uk
Website	www.soulmarks.co.uk
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/soul_marks_trust/
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/Soul-Marks-114065058674492/

Charity Trustees

Jacqueline Bean
Roland Bean (Interim Chair 31 July 2024 - 9 April 2025)
Therese Christie (resigned as Chair 31 July 2024)
Margot Dunnachie
Peter Woodifield (from 24 June 2025)
Sheila Yarrow (Chair from 9 April 2025)

Independent Examiner

Christian Owens BSc BFP FCA
24 Newtongrange Place
Newtongrange
EH22 4DF

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
PO Box 101
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP

Objectives and Activities

The Trust was established for the purposes of advancing the Christian religion and advancing the education of the public in the arts, particularly the visual arts.

Therefore the Trust seeks to:

- a) Encourage greater use of the senses, predominantly in the visual arts, to express, explore, enjoy, communicate, challenge, influence and inspire faith in God from a Christian perspective and
- b) Provide professional guidance and training to produce visual art which impacts and stimulates both those who create it and those who encounter it.

In order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Trust and provide public benefit, the Trust employs Dr Carol Marples who is an artist, teacher, creative liturgist and development worker. The Trust undertakes its work by promoting and providing its own Art and Prayer Workshops and also by delivering a variety of work commissioned by outside bodies such as Glasgow University, the Iona Community and Leith School of Art. Details of all these activities are provided below in the Achievements and Performance section.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The charity is constituted as a Trust under a Trust Deed dated 9 May 2003.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

New trustees are identified and recruited through the network of current trustees, staff and supporters on the basis of their relevant skills and experience. New trustees may be appointed by majority decision in a meeting of existing trustees.

Achievements and performance

Art and Prayer Online Workshops

The Art and Prayer workshops, 10.00 -13.00, take place monthly during Autumn and Spring for a group (Tuesdays) and for individual bookings (Wednesdays) with the addition this year of two extra workshops in Advent.

All 24/25 workshops were predominantly at full capacity, often with waiting lists. The online nature of the workshops allows participants to join from all parts of the UK and occasionally beyond, including Sweden, Qatar, and the USA. The courses

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have many returning regular attendees, as well as some inquisitive first-timers, some of whom become regulars.

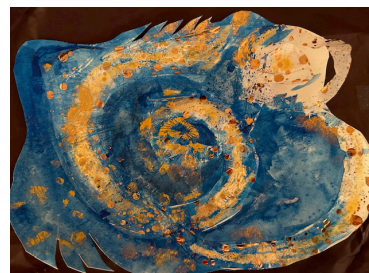
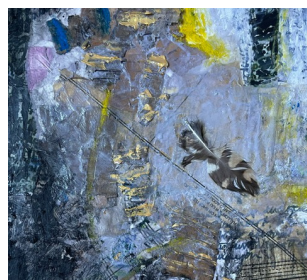
The Art and Prayer workshops' themes were

Spring 2024: God of the Elements The final workshops of this series fell into the 24/25 year as they took place on 16 /17 April.



Examples of work produced on the theme 'God of the Elements'.

Autumn 2024: Entertaining Angels Workshops ran from September - December with additional Advent workshops.



Examples of work produced on the theme of 'Entertaining Angels'.

Spring 2025: Trees of Life The first three workshops (January to March) fell into this 24/25 year.



Examples of work produced on the theme of 'Trees of Life'.

Selected feedback from these workshops:

- Thank you all for such a wonderful series.

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- Thank you Carol for making it all possible, providing the inspiration and creating such a fruitful environment.
- Thank you once more for your reflections, always deceptively simple in expression but profound in the thoughts evoked.
- It is such a privilege to be part of this group.
- It is extraordinary to receive what you give to us all. Thank you.
- So much to ponder and such riches to draw on in the coming days.
- I did enjoy this morning's session and gained so much from it.
- It was both moving and full of joy. It is such a privilege and joy to spend these precious times together.
- Another inspiring session.
- Thank you so much for yesterday - it was such a feast!
- This was a wonderful series, with resources I will continue to draw on.
- Thank you, Carol, for running these creative, prayerful spaces.
- A wonderful morning going to places I never intended.
- Big thanks for these hours of quiet absorption.
- A great morning, stilling and stretching as ever.

Commissioned Work

Contemporary Visual Art and Worship Course (CVAW), University of Glasgow, October - December 2024

CVAW is an online course consisting of 8 weekly evening classes, devised and led by Dr Carol Marples, at Trinity College, University of Glasgow. This course has been running annually since 2021.

The course is for those wishing to explore and develop the role of contemporary visual art in Christian worship. They engage practically, theologically, and creatively through looking, listening, group discussions, practical tasks and reflective work to help expand and cultivate their imaginations, their churches and worship in new ways.

The 2024 course: the participants, consisting of ordained clergy and lay people from a variety of denominations, attended from around Britain, with one student

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attending from Qatar, and a Chinese exchange student based in Glasgow.

Selected feedback:

- It was thought provoking, encouraging, informative and creative.
- The tutor input was excellent, she broadened my understanding.
- An openness and diversity of resources used.
- Excellent.
- She [the tutor] knows her subject matter thoroughly and has also lived it.
- Good written and visual material to complement spoken input.

In Person Workshops 2024-25

Art and Spirituality Workshop, Leith School of Art, Edinburgh, 8th February 2025

Carol led a reflective and practical, now annual, workshop day at Leith School of Art for twelve participants, on the theme of 'Trees of Life'.



One Participant responded post workshop:

- I really got a lot out of your workshop today. It was just what I needed.
Many thanks.

Solas Festival, Errol, Perthshire, 15 June 2024

Carol created artwork and took part in enabling participation in the Solas Vigil for Peace and Justice in Israel and Palestine alongside poets, musicians, Professor Alison Phipps, (Professor of Languages and Intercultural Studies, UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts) and Rachel Morley, Honorary Chaplain (Rituals) at the University of Glasgow.

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The Solas festival is an annual midsummer arts festival that 'strives to exhibit a commitment to equality, justice, beauty and hospitality'. It is associated with Creative Scotland, The Methodist Church's Hope and Anchor, Green Arts Initiative.

Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG) Worship Week, Iona, 18 - 24 May 2024

WGRG, based in Glasgow, is a wing of the Iona Community consisting of Jo Love (Resource worker) and Gail Ullrich (Administrator). It was founded thirty years ago to encourage, enable and equip the shaping and creation of new forms of worship that are relevant, contextual and participatory. The annual creative worship week takes place on Iona.

The theme for this creative worship week was 'Bones and Groans'. The workshop was co-led by Carol, Jo Love (WGRG) and Dr Jane Bentley. Participants came from North America, Germany, New Zealand and England. The week culminated in a worship service in the Abbey led by the leaders and the group.



Art and worship: rehearsal for the worship service in the Abbey.

Academia

Artists at Fast Forward'24 Event, New College, University of Edinburgh, 16 April 2024

Carol was one of fifteen British artists - musicians, poets, visual artists, DJ's and filmmakers who met with approximately thirty academic staff from a wide variety of disciplines within the University to discuss possible combined projects.

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The day was a stimulus for continued discussions and meetings and Carol has since met with several academics to discuss possible joint ventures -

- Prof. Rachel Muers, Chair of Divinity
- Michael Fuller, Lecturer in Science and Religion
- Bethany Sollereeder, Lecturer in Science and Religion.

Other Activities

The Bield at Blackruthven Retreat Centre.

7 DAYS: Exhibition 27 June - 7 August 2024

The 7 DAYS: Creation Panels and the Bee Project is an ongoing experimental, ecological and faith-based artwork reflecting on our relationship with creation. The Panels were hung at various places within the retreat centre's grounds and



documentary, photographic prints of The 7 DAYS: Creation Panels were exhibited in the Barn Gallery at The Bield. The 7 DAYS: Creation Panels were initially commissioned for COP 26, 2021, and were hung in the Memorial Chapel of the University of Glasgow. The work has continued to develop and has been exhibited in both England and Scotland since then.

*'Day 4 - Sun, Moon and Stars'
Flying high in the grounds*



*'Day 6 - Humanity'
Hanging amongst the people*



Exhibition of prints in the Barn Gallery

Epiphany Group Creative Quiet Day: 'For the Beauty of the Earth' Saturday 9 November 2024

The Epiphany Group (Est. In 2000) brings together women and men who have trained in and practice Ignatian Spirituality in Scotland and beyond. Members of the Epiphany Group are lay and ordained and belong to different Christian traditions.

Carol led an online day workshop for approximately 20 people for members and friend of the Epiphany Group. Following on from the success of the workshop they hope to invite Carol back in 2025.

St. James the Less Episcopal Church, Leith

As a member of St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Leith, Carol has led workshops and services as well as preaching on occasion. Her work at St James' informs, and is assimilated into, Carol's workshops and teaching.

Publishing

A large donation from faith-based organisation 'Spill the Beans' has enabled Carol to spend some time developing and creating possible resources for publication.

Website and Social Media

Our website and social media sites are continually updated by Carol who designs and publishes our Soul Marks newsletters throughout the year. These all enable our work to be seen and shared with people around the world.

Financial Review

This has been another less than satisfactory year for the Trust financially, resulting in a deficit of £2,607 in the year.

Total income of £25,802 was up 14% on the previous year. Donation income from individuals fell but this was more than compensated by a generous donation of £5,000 from Spill the Beans. Income from charitable activities was also up on last year. However, this included late payments of £864 for work commissioned over the last 2 years together with prepayments for two commissions totalling £845 to be undertaken next financial year. The income from charitable activities this year generated £4,900 from Art and Prayer workshops, and £3,400 from commissioned work from other organisations including Glasgow University, the Iona Community and Leith School of Art.

Total expenditure remains similar to the previous year with the vast majority of spend being on staff costs. The increase in cost of insurance this year was due to moving to a monthly payment rather than an annual one.

Reserves Policy and Position

The Trust aims to have working capital sufficient to cover at least six months' expenses. The deficit for the year reduced reserves to £13,929 (2024: £16,536) at six months' expenses.

In order to maintain reserves in line with the policy, the trustees have reluctantly decided to reduce Carol's salary by 11% with effect from July 2025. They have agreed to second Carol one day a week from August 2025 to St James the Less Episcopal Church, Leith to formalise her work with the church where she will be able to implement many of the Trust's objectives in a church setting and provide public benefit. This secondment will continue until the beginning of the next financial year and possibly beyond and will save the Trust £5,000 in employment costs for 2025-26.

No use of the restricted "Resources" fund was made during the year.

Future Plans

Several new projects are booked for 2025/2026 including:


2 x online Art & Prayer workshops for Sarum College, Salisbury.

4 x online Art & Prayer workshops for the House of Prayer, Milton Keynes.

An exhibition and 3 x reflective art workshops for Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees

 Dec 7, 2025 22:12:27 GMT

Sheila Yarrow
Trustee

Date: 7 December 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Soul Marks Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 12 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 as amended. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Christian Owens BSc BFP FCA
24 Newtongrange Place
Newtongrange
EH22 4DF

Date: 7 December 2025

Statement of Receipts and Payments


	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
Donations	15,803		15,803	13,836	-	13,836
Income from charitable activities	9,964		9,964	7,543	-	7,543
Proceeds from sale of art & donations from 20 th Anniversary event	-	-	-	1,323	-	1,323
Other income	35	-	35	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	25,802	-	25,802	22,702	-	22,702
PAYMENTS						
Charitable activities:						
Staff costs	27,163		27,163	24,727	-	24,727
Project materials & travel costs	466		466	686	-	686
Admin costs	555		555	1,302	-	1,302
Insurance	225		225	74	-	74
20 th Anniversary event costs	-		-	1,325		1,325
TOTAL PAYMENTS	28,409	-	28,409	28,114	-	28,114
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(2,607)	-	(2,607)	(5,412)	-	(5,412)

Statement of Balances

As at 31 March 2025

FUNDS RECONCILIATION	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024
	Funds	Funds	Total	Funds	Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank						
Brought forward	15,305	1,231	16,536	20,717	1,231	21,948
Deficit for the year	(2,607)	-	(2,607)	(5,412)	-	(5,412)
Carried forward	12,698	1,231	13,929	15,305	1,231	16,536
OTHER ASSETS						
Gift Aid recoverable			1,287			1,467
Other debtors			-			864
Prepayments			-			535
			1,287			2,866
LIABILITIES						
Deferred income			845			-
Accrued expenses			-			7
			845			7

Approved by the Trustees on 7 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


Sheila Yarrow Dec 7, 2025 22:12:27 GMT

Sheila Yarrow
Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 as amended.

2. Nature and Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

3. Related Party Transactions

No remuneration has been paid nor expenses reimbursed during the year (2024: £nil) to any Trustee or any person connected with a Trustee.

No Trustee or person connected with a Trustee had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Trust during the year.







Soul Marks Trust TAR 2024-2025

Final Audit Report

2025-12-07

Created:	2025-12-07
By:	Chris Owens (chris.owens@emms.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAAnEioSoJKGdrTTe7e0tGdjPWEQKFb0OMn

"Soul Marks Trust TAR 2024-2025" History

-  Document created by Chris Owens (chris.owens@emms.org)
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-  Document emailed to sheilayarrow@googlemail.com for signature
2025-12-07 - 9:54:55 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by sheilayarrow@googlemail.com
2025-12-07 - 10:11:19 PM GMT
-  Signer sheilayarrow@googlemail.com entered name at signing as Sheila Yarrow
2025-12-07 - 10:12:25 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Sheila Yarrow (sheilayarrow@googlemail.com)
Signature Date: 2025-12-07 - 10:12:27 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2025-12-07 - 10:12:27 PM GMT