

Soul Marks Trust

Trustees' Annual Report
And Financial Statements
1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Scottish Charity No. SC034403

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Charity contact information

Registered charity name	Soul Marks Trust
Scottish Charity No.	SC034403
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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 (Treasurer)

Therese Christie

Margot Dunnachie

Peter Woodifield

Sheila Yarrow (Chair)

Independent Examiner

Christian Owens BSc BFP FCA
24 Newtongrange Place
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EH22 4DF

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
PO Box 101
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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 9th 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. From 4th August 2025 the trustees resolved to second Carol Marples one day a week to work at St James the Less Episcopal Church, Leith, as their Arts and Spirituality Facilitator. This is to allow some of the objectives of the Trust to be realised in a local church setting and to provide additional public benefit.

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).

All 25/26 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, this year we had our first participant from the Republic of Ireland. The courses 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 2025: In Praise of Trees 1 The final workshops of this series fell into the 25/26 year as they took place on 29th/30th April.





Examples of work produced on the theme ''In Praise of Trees 1'.

Autumn 2025: In Praise of Trees 2 These workshops ran from September - December.

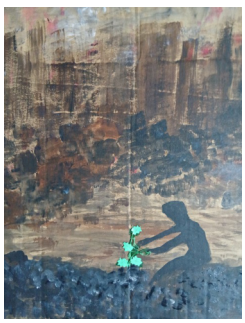





Examples of work produced on the theme of 'In Praise of Trees 2'.

Spring 2026: Seeds of Hope The first three workshops (January to March) fell into this 25/26 year.






Examples of work produced on the theme of 'Seeds of Hope'.

Selected feedback from these workshops:

- Many thanks to Carol and all of you for such a varied morning - lots of interesting things to ponder and wonderful images to enjoy.
- What a wonderful morning. Thank you all for your thoughts and poems and creativity. So sad this is the last of the trees. It has been a fruitful vein. Thank you Carol for all the research and connections you make for us. Truly inspirational.
- Thank you everyone and especially Carol for adding so much to my year of living with trees. I frequently feature trees in my own work, so it has been a joy to share with all of you and I have learnt so much.
- Thank you for this morning, a real blessing in the concerns surrounding me. I love all the images you find and put together for us with your meditations.
- I cannot thank you enough for the enriching workshop. Subversive, intentional, eye and heart opening. I felt deeply restored by your input and the sharing of all the other workshop friends. Thank you Carol and all for a challenging time mediated with hopefulness!
- Thank you for this opportunity to grow and live fully through meditation, music, prayer and connection through Art.
- Thank you again Carol for your pre and post workshop handouts, full of inspiring resources as always.
- I enjoyed this morning's experience tremendously. My tiny worry about being intimidated by the presence of "accomplished artists" vanished fairly quickly when I realised how non-judgmental this group is. And how much joy in art was present. Very much appreciated!!! Many thanks, Carol, and to everyone for the sweet energy that the group created. What a beautiful spiritual experience through art!
- Thank you Carol for being God's vessel to facilitate my journey of Hope.
- Well done Carol for giving us seeds of hope in dark times
- My heart, soul and spirit has been moved, unearthed, consoled and transformed by what I have heard, sensed, dwelled with and created.
- It has been a privilege to share this beautifully held sacramental and prayerful creative space with you all and the Holy Spirit companioning.

Art & Prayer Workshops @Parousia, House of Prayer, Milton Keynes

A regular group of 10-12 people, exploring the theme of 'God of the Elements' in a series of 4 workshops from April - November.





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

Review of 'God of the Elements' Art, Prayer and Worship Workshops by Rev. Charmaine Howard, co-leader of Parousia.

Over the past year, we had the joy of participating in Carol's "God of the Elements" series of art, prayer and worship workshops - Earth, Air, Fire and Water. Each session was beautifully crafted and prayerfully led, inviting us to encounter God through music, reflection, visual art and the written word. Carol created a space where we could explore what God might be saying to us through each element, and her sensitive guidance enabled us to respond creatively using a wide range of artistic media. Whether participants considered themselves artistic or not, everyone found themselves deeply engaged and profoundly aware of God's presence with us and between us. The preparation materials Carol sent before each workshop helped us arrive with curiosity and openness, ready to immerse ourselves in the experience. This was our first time taking part in a workshop where the facilitator was in another room - and another country - yet it worked seamlessly. Carol's warmth, clarity and attentiveness made it feel as though she was right there with us, gently leading us through each moment.

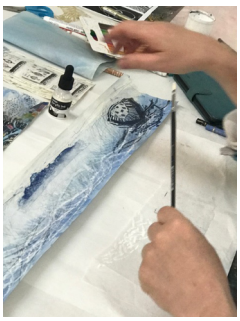
We also appreciated the relaxed atmosphere, with ample space and pace to paint, write, reflect and explore. The timing of each session felt perfect: generous enough for individual creativity and contemplation, while still leaving room for sharing and for continuing reflection afterwards. Every participant expressed how outstanding the workshop series was and how deeply it enriched both their spiritual lives and their creative expression.

We are immensely grateful to Carol for her prayerful leadership, thoughtful preparation and the way she opened up new ways for us to meet with God. We look forward with anticipation to working with her again in the future.

In Person Workshops 2025-26

Carol has been teaching at Leith School of Art since 1992, latterly as a visiting tutor for these now annual, reflective and practical workshops for twelve participants. Attendees are drawn from across the UK and from a variety of faiths or none.

Art and Spirituality Summer School, 'Small Acts of Transformation', Leith School of Art, Edinburgh, 14th - 16th July 2025.

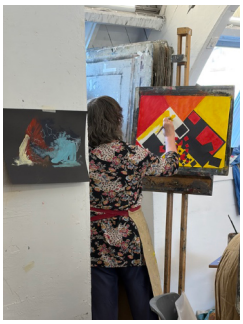





Images from the workshop on the theme of 'Small Acts of Transformation'.

Art and Spirituality Day Workshop, 'Common Ground', Leith School of Art, Edinburgh, 7th March 2026.





Images from the workshop on the theme of 'Common Ground'.

Feedback:

- The course was wonderful.
- Thank you… I did benefit greatly from both the group and the course as well as your encouragement.

Art & Prayer Workshop, 'Abigail', Sarum College, Salisbury, Saturday 27th September 2025.

Art & Prayer Workshops, Pitmeadow Farm, Dunning, Perthshire.

A new venue for Art & Prayer workshops has opened up at Pitmeadow Farm where three workshops have taken place:

'For the Beauty of the Earth', 30th September 2025.
'Mary & Elizabeth', 28th November, 2025.
'Abigail the Peacemaker', 12th March, 2026.





Images from the workshop on the theme 'For the Beauty of the Earth'.







Examples of work produced on the theme of 'Mary & Elizabeth'.








Images from the workshop on the theme 'Abigail the Peacemaker'.

Feedback:

- Thank you for leading us so beautifully. I particularly loved the Elizabeth story and your pictures really helped me see Elizabeth as a very old mum to be, helpful thinking of the friendship and different ways they would have approached their pregnancy and the similarities in their emotions.

- Very positive… a wonderful group.
- Thank you for a great day yesterday… I thought about Mary and Elizabeth's relationship and the Magnificat in a whole new light so thanks again.
- The workshop was wonderful, on such a wild day, it was a still, calm refuge Carol, where we could collect our thoughts. Thank you so much. I found it so helpful.
- A lovely workshop day and a blessing.

Nurturing Hope Art Exhibition: St Andrews

25th May - 1st June

Nurturing Hope was an exhibition of invited artists organised by Liz Crichton, Artist in Residence for the Institute of Theology, Imagination and the Arts at the University of St Andrews. It took place in the University's beautiful Reflective Garden, originally the site of the old Botanic Garden, now run by the Chaplaincy. Participants were asked to create, show, perform works or lead events in the garden inspired by the theme.

Carol's work, *'The Garden of Possibility'*, was an installation of handmade and printed seed bags reflecting on the questions: What are we planting, what are we growing? What are the seeds planted in us by the Divine at our conception? What are the seeds each of us is called to plant, to nurture in ourselves, in one another and in the world? What would our world garden look like if we planted and nurtured these seeds? This work was also on display at the 'Seeds of Hope' exhibition as part of the Edinburgh Festival of Sacred Arts, 11th - 15th August, 2025. *See below for details.*

Post exhibition, Liz noted: *We had over 260 visitors in total, a mix of tourists - many from overseas, students, staff, and local folk - several had memories of the garden from 50 years ago. Generally folk arrived not knowing what to expect, and left, feeling more hopeful about the future, having taken a few moments as one visitor put it 'to slow down and reflect, and to attend to and engage with the world around you in meaningful ways'.*

Perhaps my favourite comment was someone who described the show as 'beautifully crafted surprises in nature that you hear whisper to you'.

The invited artists were: Liz Crichton, Sue Atkinson, Roz Arno Button, Dan Drage, Cully McCulloch, Julia MacLaurin, Gordon Stewart, Judith Heald, Karen McClain Keifer, Lada Wilson, Carol Marples.

Seeds of Hope, Exhibition & Workshops

Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts, 11th - 15th August 2025

The undercroft of St Vincent's Chapel in Stockbridge was the venue for both the exhibition and the workshops.

Carol was invited to create a public exhibition and a series of reflective art workshops for the 7th Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts, part of the official Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The theme of the exhibition and the related reflective workshops was 'Seed of Hope'. It proved to be a great space, Carol was in residence for the whole time and so was able to engage with visitors to the exhibition who came from near and far.

It was great to welcome both regulars but also many new faces to the workshops, both locals and those from further afield. The workshops were enhanced by working amongst the artworks, reflecting the workshop themes, hung on the aged, stone walls of the Chapel's undercroft. This created a beautifully contemplative atmosphere and enabled a depth of spirituality seen and heard in both the participants' artworks and sharing.

Feedback:

- Beautiful space with lovely evocative images - coming underground to see seeds, leaves and the tangle of tapestry threads is just so enlivening, thank you.
- So utterly inspiring and grounding.
- Beautiful and moving - Hope - what the world needs so, so much.
- Profoundly beautiful, moving and challenging. Off to plant a seed… or two. Thank you.
- Thanks for creating this space and pocket of stillness, slowing down and contemplation.
- A magical place of possibility - in darkness, in-chill, underneath. Alive, to your encouragement.







Workshop Day for Danish Priests

At St. James the Less, Episcopal Church, Leith, 8th May 2025.

Carol was invited to speak to visitors from the Diocese of Viborg in Denmark. A delegation of nine deans, two staff-members and one bishop, Henrik Stubkjaer, who is also the President of The Lutheran World Federation.

The morning was led by Jo Love of the Wild Goose Resource Group, beginning with a time of worship and investigating practical and creative ways of interacting and delving deeper into biblical texts. Carol led an afternoon session exploring Art and Liturgy through a slide presentation, discussion, and some practical engagement - including inviting them to add names on the wall. The day ended with a contemplative worship experience co-led by Iain Lothian, rector of St James, Leith and Jo Love.

St. James the Less, Episcopal Church, Leith



For information on Carol's secondment work please see St James's website: https://www.stjamesleith.org.uk

Publishing

God of the Elements: a series of printed meditations.

This year we were able to produce a limited edition of a series of meditation booklets, these have been selling at the 'Seeds of Hope' exhibition, in-person workshops, and online from our website with positive feedback from the buyers.

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 a better year for the Trust financially, with an increase in income and a reduction in expenditure leading to a surplus of £2,796 after several years of deficit. Income improved due to an increase in donations and to art and booklet sales. Expenditure fell primarily due to a reduction in staff costs.

The decision was made to second Carol one day a week to work with St James Leith where she is able to implement many of the Trust's objectives and achieve public benefit within the context of a local church. We received £6,000 from the church to pay for Carol's salary and related costs since the Trust remains as her employer.

The £6,000 is treated as Restricted Funding and because the secondment only started in August 2025, some £1,644 of this funding is being carried over to the next financial year. At the same time, some of the existing Restricted Funding which is designated for publications was spent on the production of meditation booklets.

Reserves Policy and Position

The Trust aims to have working capital sufficient to cover at least six months' expenses. The surplus for the year increased reserves to £16,725 (2025: £13,929) at seven months' expenses.

Future Plans

Art & Prayer workshops online series.

Art & Prayer workshops at Pitmeadow Farm, Dunning.

LSA Art & Spirituality workshop March 2027

Possible Art and Worship conference.

October - December 2026

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 (with the exception of 2025) since 2021.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees

Sheila Yarrow

SIGNED VIA ILOVEPDF
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Sheila Yarrow
Chair

Date: 12 November 2026

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 2026 which are set out on pages 14 to 16.

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: 12 November 2026

Statement of Receipts and Payments
Year ended 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total Funds 2026**	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total Funds 2025**
	£	£	**£**	£	£	**£**
RECEIPTS						
Donations	13,080	6,000	**19,080**	15,803	-	**15,803**
Income from charitable activities	7,451	-	**7,451**	9,964	-	**9,964**
Proceeds from sale of booklets and art	3,621	-	**3,621**	-	-	**-**
Other income	-	-	**-**	35	-	**35**
TOTAL RECEIPTS	24,152	6,000	**30,152**	25,802	-	**25,802**
PAYMENTS						
Charitable activities						
Staff costs	19,769	4,356	**24,125**	27,163	-	**27,163**
Project materials and travel costs	602	-	**602**	466	-	**466**
Administration costs	1,214	-	**1,214**	555	-	**555**
Insurance	235	-	**235**	225	-	**225**
Exhibition and booklet costs	816	364	**1,180**	-	-	**-**
TOTAL PAYMENTS	22,636	4,720	**27,356**	28,409	-	**28,409**
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	1,516	1,280	**2,796**	(2,607)	-	**(2,607)**

Statement of Balances
As at 31 March 2026

FUNDS RECONCILIATION	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2026 Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank brought forward	12,698	1,231	**13,929**	15,305	1,231	**16,536**
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,516	1,280	**2,796**	(2,607)	-	**(2,607)**
Carried forward	14,214	2,511	**16,725**	12,698	1,231	**13,929**

OTHER ASSETS		
Gift Aid recoverable	**1,400**	**1,287**
	1,400	**1,287**

LIABILITIES		
Deferred income	**1,644**	**845**
Accrued expenses	**40**	**-**
	1,684	**845**

Approved by the Trustees on 9 November 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Sheila Yarrow

SIGNED VIA ILOVEPDF
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Sheila Yarrow

Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2026

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.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor trust deed. Details of each fund are disclosed in note 4.

3. Related Party Transactions

No remuneration has been paid nor expenses reimbursed during the year (2025: £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.

4. Analysis of Restricted Funds

2026	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/fwd
	£	£	£	£
Production of resources	1,231	-	364	867
Secondment to St James, Leith	-	6,000	4,356	1,644
Total	1,231	6,000	4,720	2,511

2025	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Balance c/fwd
	£	£	£	£
Production of resources	1,231	-	-	1,231
Total	1,231	-	-	1,231