

MEADOWBANK

Church of Scotland

UPDATE
23rd september
2021



www.meadowbank.church

meditations & prayers posted by visitors to the exhibition

*We thoughtlessly pollute your oceans
We spoil the beauty of the earth
which you originally created
Forgive us
Thank you that your clouds
are full of mercy*

Please save the beauty of our home planet

Every day is a green day!

*Please listen to the silenced.
Nature is screaming
Stop abuse of environment
of the other
of the planet
Love instead.*

*Forgive them, Father,
they don't understand what they are doing.
Help them, Father,
to love creation as you do.*

*Make the changes
to make the difference
before it is too late*

*The renewing of all life
According to God's purpose*

11am Sunday 26th September

We will be looking this week at HOPE in our lives. This is especially important where so many people are worried about the future with concerns about the Climate Crisis and many other matters.



Dear friends

Over the Saturday & Sunday last weekend we had nearly 200 people visiting 'Glory in Creation', the exhibition of Peter Gray's paintings and on Monday & Tuesday we had between 30-40 each day with our doors open from 2-5pm right up until Sunday 26th.

One of the really good things has been the way in which people have been keen to have some in-depth conversations about their fears and their hopes. It is surely good that we can provide a 'listening place' and offer our own thoughts and experience where appropriate.

We invited visitors to share meditations and prayers some of which are printed here

At last Sunday's service Peter shared the experience of his 'calling' to show God's Glory through painting and he is happy to have these words printed in this week's UPDATE over the page. Perhaps we all need to be attuned to God's speaking in many different ways

With prayer for all,

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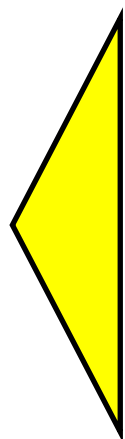
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Peter describes his 'dream-like' calling to painting

Once on a Sunday morning
I sat in the kitchen after breakfast
and glanced up through the window.
It seemed to be a moment
when the view was overtaken
by another dimension.
The stone in the wall outside
began to vibrate as if
it was not in its solid state.
I moved to the next room.
I was very aware of a presence
engaging me in conversation
knowing every single detail of me
and my life.
The sensation was
of an understanding gentle power
instructing me.
My initial reaction was
to listen and to be very awake.
He said there was something I must do
and I was very fearful that I
could not do the task
and I do not have the gift
of study or confident speech.
'Tell me what it I must do.'
I was very surprised at the reply
'Show them my glory', He said.
I remember thinking
How do I do that?



On Sunday at our service Peter shared the experience he had of a dream-like 'call' to 'Show God's Glory'. He said that it was some months later that he realised that he could do that through his painting and the picture below ' ' was a result and a beginning of many other wonderful paintings.

There are many dream-like and mystical encounters in our Bible and it seems important to understand that these can be as real and important as the more rational and physical world. God's calling to each of us comes in many different ways and we need to be alive, awake and alert not to miss out.



A poem by Rainer Maria Rilke

God speaks to each of us before we are,
Before he's formed us — then, in cloudy speech,
But only then, he speaks these words to each
And silently walks with us from the dark:

Driven by your senses, dare
To the edge of longing. Grow
Like a fire's shadow casting glare
Behind assembled things, so you can spread
Their shapes on me as clothes.
Don't leave me bare.

Let it all happen to you: beauty and dread.
Simply go — no feeling is too much —
And only this way can we stay in touch.

Near here is the land
That they call Life.
You'll know when you arrive
By how real it is.
Give me your hand.

A poem — 'God speaks to each of us'