



Training Incumbents and Mixed Mode Supervisors' gathering, 29 January:

Incumbents with a curate, Mixed Mode Training Supervisors with a Mixed Mode student, and prospective Mixed Mode Supervisors gathered at the end of last month in the GSO for a half-year catch up. Shown here left to right: Peter Harris, John Conway, Liz Baker, Sophia Marriage, Rosie Addis, Amanda Fairclough, Mike Parker, David Paton-Williams and Sarah Murray. Michael Last (not shown) was present via Skype.

The idea behind the day was to create a forum in which trainers might share good practice, learn from each other, inform SEI of what further support they might wish for the task, and be offered some new tools from the toolkit. It was heart-warming to see the seriousness with which the task of helping to form new ministers was being addressed by those present, and to sense that such committed and intentional supervision is proving to be a mutual blessing to supervisor and supervisee. Having a student on placement, a curate or a Mixed Mode candidate can indeed enrich the lives of congregations and clergy alike. It is SEI's hope that just as supervision has 'restorative' and 'formative' aspects, so will attendance at such training events; may it also become 'normative' in our church as we seek to build a culture of supervision. On that note, there is a Training Day for those who will receive curates at Michaelmas this year, to be held on Wednesday June 12th 2019, 10.30 – 16.30 in the GSO.

Institute Council News: February's SEI Council meeting had a focus on investing in the future ministry and mission of the church by developing the SEI (in totality) as a learning organisation. As we all know, culture change is both exciting and daunting and there was a sense of both throughout the meeting. Whilst the enormity of the challenge was acknowledged, excitement predominated as we talked through the aspiration to continue to improve the outcomes for those going through Initial Ministerial Education 1-6. For Rectors involved in the practical and formational aspects of training both ordinands and curates, there was emphasis on those trainers being part of a community with their own formational needs. Much of the discussion centred on the training of Mixed Mode Supervisors and new Training Incumbents (TIs) for curacies. However, the need for longstanding TIs to be part of that learning community, sharing their wealth of knowledge and increasing their own skills, was highlighted. The Bishops' role in encouraging new and existing TIs is paramount.

The Bishops' ministry in sending out new ministries was underlined too in the discussion on the changes to the vocational discernment process. The new process will ensure that the Bishops meet potential candidates for authorised ministries at many more points in that journey. As reported in November, the process changes in June 2019. The vision is to ensure the widest possible approach to vocation. Local charge ministers need to be alert to, and encouraging of, people across that breadth of vocation, recognising the Holy Spirit working in people. The Bishops will attend training for the new process in February, with all others involved in the full selection process being trained in April. Key to all that happens throughout vocational discernment is the importance of relationships, that everyone is met with kindness, compassion and respect, and that processes are timely.

Elaine Garman

Periodic External Review: We are delighted to announce that the three Reviewers for the upcoming 2020 PER – an evaluatory process which occurs periodically in all Theological Education Institutions - are to be the Rt Revd Dr Brian Smith, the Revd Dr Jack Dyce (URC) and the Revd Dr Kevin Francis. More about this in future Newsletters.



Three ministry students go East: Exploring Luther and Hus: From 18 - 22 February three SEI students along with 18 Church of Scotland ministry candidates from New College and Trinity College visited key sites in Reformation History. We began by descending on the sleepy town of Lutherstadt-Wittenberg (*left*) to learn about Martin Luther's life and ministry. Staying in the Luther Hotel, whose profits fund the work of the City Mission, we experienced the culinary 'delights' of Luther's Feast as well as visiting important sites in the town. We had a guided tour of Luther's House, followed by

tours of the Castle and Town churches where Luther allegedly posted his 95 theses in 1517, preached and worshipped (*see 'the door', right*). We then moved to Prague, via an extended layover in Leipzig. Here we had an opportunity to explore historical churches related to the Leipzig Disputation, Bach and the 20th century peace movements in East Germany. In Prague we stayed in the Church Pension of the Evangelical Czech Brethren - imagine a surprisingly well equipped and comfortable youth hostel on the top floors of the General Synod Office! The focus of our time in Prague was the life and ministry of Jan Hus, a Czech reformer of the early 15th century. We had a lively tour of key sites in the city, heard about defenestration and other ways people expressed their displeasure of attempts at church reform. The tour ended with Communion at St Martin within the Walls, where the laity first received the chalice at Eucharist. After free time where we were able to roam the Old Town of Prague we visited the Protestant Theology Faculty at Charles University. We ended the tour, as we had each night, with discussion-filled dinner followed by student-led Evening Devotions. The trip provided an opportunity to reflect on those who have sought to reform and renew the church following study of scriptures and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Thanks to the St James' Fund for funding the air travel of Jenny and Harriet for the trip.



Susan Henderson, Jenny Holden and Harriet Oxley (*as in photo above*)

SEI Training Fund: Thanks go this month to the congregations of St Oswald's Kingspark, St Ninian's Troon and St Barnabas and Holy Trinity, Paisley (all Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) for their generous donations to the fund, and to the Revd Sally Gorton (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) for continuing to donate her numerous deputising fees to the Fund. Thanks also to the congregation of St James, Holburn Junction, Aberdeen (Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney) for donating the offering collected at the Licensing of the Revd Dr Ruth Green as Priest-in-Charge, and to the congregation of Inverness Cathedral (Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness) for the offering from the Choral Evensong for Candlemas at which the Installation of Revd Michael Last as Synod Clerk and Revd Dr Iain MacRitchie as Honorary Canon took place. Both priests have been good friends to SEI; Canon Last (*left, back row*) has served as a Diocesan Advisor and Canon MacRitchie (*right, back row*) as a Placement Supervisor.

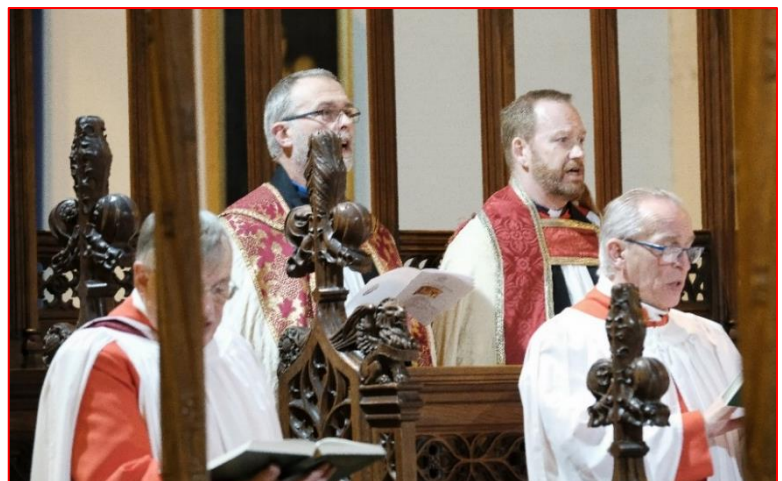


Photo courtesy of Roddy Mackenzie