

DECEMBER NEWS FROM SEI

Periodic External Review: In 2020, SEI is due for a six-yearly Periodic External Review (PER), such external scrutiny being in order to ensure good standards in ministerial training. Now that Durham University is the academic partner for most Theological Education Institutions (TEIs), academic and formational Quality Assurance have been brought together in one process, as reflected in the composition of the Review Team. Some members of that are provided by Durham University while other reviewers are nominated by the TEI. The Team is led by a Senior Reviewer who in SEI's case is Dr Sally Buck (shown right), Warden of Lay Ministry in the Diocese of Lincoln.



The Reviewers will make two visits to SEI, the first over the weekend of January 24-26, meeting in Edinburgh on the Friday with the Institute Council, Bishops, Training Incumbents, Mixed Mode Training Supervisors and Placement Supervisors, and then being resident with the students in Kinnoull for the remainder of the weekend. Reviewers receive extensive evidential documentation from the TEI prior to that visit, this having been posted on SEI's Moodle site in November. They also seek views from 'stakeholder groups' in advance of the visits, via a questionnaire.

The second visit takes place in February when the focus is upon the 'Taught Programmes'. This part of the Review is carried out by Durham-nominated reviewers, supplemented by other members of the Ministry Division Review Team. The Reviewers then draft a report that includes commentary and graded judgements against the PER criteria, commendations of good practice and recommendations for development. After moderation and editing, the report is published and the recommendations are followed up by the TEI in line with an agreed action plan and timetable.



The Review Team is pictured at the preliminary planning meeting, held in the General Synod Office: (from left to right) Mr David Hanson, Quality Assurance Adviser, Ministry Division; Dr Sally Buck, Senior Reviewer; and the three internal reviewers: Revd Professor Jack Dyce, Revd Dr Kevin Francis and the Rt Revd Dr Brian Smith. Missing from photograph, Ms Alyson Bird, Senior Quality Manager, Common Awards.

Institute Council business: God is in the detail! That's how we felt at November's meeting of the SEI Council. Most often any board of governance needs to focus on the bigger picture, and whilst we did that, we also considered the smaller things. Smaller not in importance but smaller because they are the result of bigger things previously implemented.

Mixed Mode training, for instance, is still bedding in and we tussled with the realities in the Dioceses of funding for such ordinands and decided that the Province will fund two-thirds of the maintenance grants for the Mixed Mode students. Along with the full-time students at New College, we also agreed that their grant allocation at the end of Year 3 would continue in September (as well as their accommodation provision) to help close the gap in finance prior to ordinands taking up their curacies which currently occur in September, with stipend payment in arrears.

With changes to the discernment processes newly established, we noted that the Wardens of Lay Readers will now be involved in selection processes for Lay Reader candidates. Other voices, that of the Associate Tutors, will be more involved in systematic feedback throughout the lecture/seminar programme, all helping to improve continually the education of our future authorised ministers. We thank God for all the detail.

Rev Elaine C Garman



Dr Tiplady's graduation: The photo shows Richard Tiplady at his graduation last month at Glasgow Caledonian University as Doctor of Business Administration (DBA). Congratulations! Richard's thesis was entitled '*Growing The Relational Mavericks: the development of entrepreneurial leadership in the Church in Scotland*'.

Building on this research, Richard is keen to bring insights from the academic leadership literature into the service of the Church, and to bring Christian leadership insights into the wider academic literature. Already there has been huge interest in his work, with invitations coming from leadership journals to contribute articles, teach MBA (Masters of Business Administration) students at Glasgow Caledonian University, and be engaged therein in a collaborative research project on faith-based social enterprises. This conversation between Christian and secular understandings of leadership is an outworking of SEI's world-centric vision for ministry.

SEI Training Fund: This month we extend thanks to the congregation of St Augustine's Dumbarton (Glasgow and Galloway) for its very kind donation, and in that same diocese, to Canon Paisley and the Revd Sally Gorton for continuing to donate their deputising fees to the Fund. Old St Paul's (Diocese of Edinburgh) is similarly thanked for the amazing offering of £718 collected when the Revd Canon John McLuckie was installed as Rector in October. John is SEI's Associate Tutor for the *Spirituality and Discipleship* modules. The Fund is now being made available to all studying full-time, New College and Mixed Mode students alike.

