

FEBRUARY 2020 NEWS FROM SEI

Alastair Haggart Bursary Award 2019: This Fund, set up by his family in memory of Bishop Haggart, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church from 1977 to 1985, offers an annual grant to help fund a sabbatical or similar leave of absence for someone in authorized ministry. Such leave should occur at a stage in the person's life when the experience will significantly enhance his or her ministerial practice and development. The outcomes of the project should also be of benefit to the wider Church. Grants in recent years have funded studies of 'pilgrimage' and 'interim ministry' and also a sabbatical in the Tantur Institute of Ecumenical Research. Another beneficiary produced a meditative Lent Study Guide based on a daily artwork, having spent time in art galleries in Washington and New York.



We are delighted to announce that this year's winner is the **Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth**, Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. Provost Holdsworth plans to travel to the States and stay in Virginia Theological Seminary, the largest Episcopal seminary in the United States, there to engage in theological thinking and writing on the theme 'Full Inclusion – a Liberation Theology of the West'.

Such research will be amplified by travel to Mexico City and Havana, enabling him to make contact with Christians living in different contexts to his own, build up friendship links within the wider church and influence his own future work in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Provost Holdsworth has been involved in many movements for progressive change both in the church and in the world, particularly the move towards the ordination of women and the campaign for equal marriage in Scotland. He has also been a political campaigner in the secular field, standing in a General Election in 2005 by way of campaigning against the Iraq War. He now wishes to begin to think through what has been learned in the course of all this and share his experience and thinking with others, both within and beyond the boundaries of the church, by means of writing.

On hearing of the award Kelvin said: "I'm thrilled to be awarded the Alistair Haggart Bursary. It gives me an incredible opportunity to do some theological thinking about my own experiences in ministry. It will also enable me to rekindle old friendships and make new ones in different contexts within the Anglican Communion."

Bishop Mark, Acting Bishop of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, writes: "I am delighted that the committee agreed that this year's award should go to Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth. Kelvin has worked tirelessly in pursuit of a more open and diverse church. He has developed a wonderful liturgical and spiritual life at the Cathedral and can now find the time and space to reflect on all of this while presenting to the Church a carefully considered theological reflection on this powerful ministry".

Durham graduation: Our warmest congratulations go to the **Revd Oliver Brewer-Lennon** (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway), the **Revd Nick Bowry** (Diocese of Edinburgh) and **Lay Reader Chris Howard** (Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney) upon their graduation at Durham University in January. Oliver is the Vice-Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, Nick is the Rector of St James the Less, Penicuik and St Mungo West Linton, and Chris serves as Lay Reader in the charges on Orkney. Each has worked towards the successful completion of a BA(Hons) in Theology, Ministry and Mission, submitting dissertations in their final year respectively on: *'A Hip Apologetic: Mission and apologetics in contemporary culture, specifically hipster culture'*; *'Is Asset-based Community Development an effective tool for Christian mission, and does it have a special use in an urban estate setting?'*; and *'Marcella Althaus-Reid: Agent provocateur or a new perspective on Christianity: an exploration of the difference between gender and sexuality'*. The photograph below shows (from left to right) Nick, Chris and Oliver with Archbishop Sentamu; the latter received an honorary doctorate at Congregation.



Two further candidates are currently studying for this degree: the **Revd Andy Philip** and **Lay Reader Dr Jennifer Floether** (Diocese of Edinburgh). Andy is Chaplain at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh and Jennifer is a member of the ministry team at St Salvador's Saughton.

Institute Council business: January's SEI Council started with a different dynamic as we settled into the first meeting of 2020 with members of the Periodic External Review (PER) team with us. This is a review which the Institute Council and its staff sought as part of its ethos of self-evaluation. The team provided useful questions and comments, the first of which provided a bit of a theme for the meeting: integration across different aspects of SEI's work. The question highlighted the need to integrate academic development with personal spiritual development for each of the students. The importance of increasing the awareness across the whole of the SEC that this formation for authorised ministry is now a three-year programme, irrespective of previous academic background, was emphasised during the meeting, the whole of the SEC, as it were, owning this SEI agenda of formation not being 'simply' about academic preparation. This integration or working together across the SEC is a legitimate focus for the Council. For instance, it may take much preparation with a congregation(s) by the Rector and the Bishop to be ready even to think about offering a place for a mixed mode candidate, far less having everything sorted for such a placement to begin. From the students' perspective there was a timely reminder that their lives must be considered holistically, with the essentials of life such as their housing needs being a priority that may take much staff time to organise; everything needs to work together to have successful outcomes.

One of the tools of working well together is good communications. Much lies with each of us to promote this, but we were also pleased to welcome to his first meeting, Donald Walker, SEC Director of Communications, and we look forward to his expertise over the next years.

Rev Elaine C Garman

SEI Training Fund: Thanks go to the Rt Revd Dr Brian Smith for his kind donation of a consignment of theological books. Thank you also to St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth for the generous donation of cassocks (right) which have already found good homes with two ordinands, Josh Cockayne (Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane) and Lesley Penny (Diocese of Edinburgh). Our thanks also go to the congregation of St Augustine Dumbarton and the Revd Sally Gorton (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) for their continuing generosity; and also to St James the Less, Penicuik and St Mungo's West Linton (Diocese of Edinburgh) for the offering uplifted at the Institution of their new Rector, the Revd Nick Bowry.



SEI becomes an Eco-Congregation: As Christians we are very aware of God's love for us and for creation. In Genesis we are told that heaven and earth were created by God 'and it was very good'. Psalm 65 describes God's care for the land and how God pours out love and goodness on it. Throughout scripture we are reminded that human beings, created in God's image, are charged with care and stewardship of the earth. The scientific evidence around climate change suggests we are making a poor job of it.

Eco-Congregation Scotland was set up to help congregations address their own social responsibility and environmental impact, and to help them become more sustainable. SEI has recently registered as an eco-congregation, with Val Cameron being appointed as the Student Chapter representative. Val said:



"We are looking at two approaches to sustainability, firstly as individuals i.e. 'sustainable self' and secondly as a 'sustainable organisation'. People need food and water, a place of shelter and safety and clean air to breathe for a healthy life, so these are obvious areas to consider when we are looking at consumption of resources and producing waste.

"No-one should feel pressured to do everything suggested, but any minor changes can have a major impact and contribute to reducing the effects of climate change. As individuals we have responsibility for our actions and what we do, the resources we use, how we dispose of waste and what we buy. It's good to start by assessing our own ethical, moral and social values and decide whether we can justify our actions and the choices we make."

The plan is to start with 'sustainable self' and to produce an easy checklist and tips to improve our own sustainability. This will cover energy consumption at home and as regards transport, water consumption and the food and clothing we buy, and will address such things as preventing and reducing what we consume, recycling as much as possible and reusing things such as buying furniture and clothing from charity shops.

Once the 'sustainable self' checklist and tips are completed, SEI staff and students will be able to assess their own environmental impacts and consider the changes they can make to improve their own sustainability. It is intended that a checklist for SEI as an organisation will be produced so that improvements can be considered, such as more sustainable procurement and systems management.

Val said:

"If we try one or two simple steps at a time, together we can start to make a huge difference. Climate change is happening and will have catastrophic effects on the earth for generations to come. We can show our love for God and His creation by getting involved."

In next month's edition of the *Newsletter*, Val will list some of the suggested steps each of us might take.



Our heartfelt thanks go to Mrs Gail Sanderson for her hard work these past four years as SEI Ambassador for the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. Personal circumstances have caused her to take steps to lessen her workload, and so with reluctance but a great sense of indebtedness we say a huge 'thank you' to her for all she has done to promote the cause of SEI around the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness: by sending out the monthly *Newsletter* most diligently to a wide contact list, and also speaking about the work of SEI at Regional Councils and other diocesan gatherings to great effect. That folk across the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness 'get' SEI so well is to a great extent down to Gail's gift of communication. Happy retirement, Gail, and thank you.

We hope in next month's *Newsletter* to introduce the new SEI Ambassador for the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. The diocesan Ambassadors do a valued job in circulating the *Newsletter* each month, and of raising awareness of the life of SEI more generally.

January Residential Weekend in pictures: The Residential Weekend last month saw two Feasts: that of the Conversion of St Paul properly celebrated through times of prayer in the Oratory, and a Burns Supper equally appropriately enjoyed but in the Refectory. Final year ordinand David Todd piped in the haggis with great aplomb, the 'great chieftain o' the puddin'-race' then being addressed with tremendous flair by Bishop Brian, much to the delight of our guests from Ministry Division. A ceilidh followed Compline, complete with Scottish songs, poetry, fiddle-music and dancing.



Amidst all this jollification, the usual round of studying went on, with the Principal leading sessions on Reflective Practice, staff from Tearfund Scotland continuing the *Developing Ministry and Mission in Context* module and final year ordinand Josh Cockayne leading a Bible Study on Deuteronomy 11.

Thanks to Rachael Wright, Ross Jesmont and Beki Cansdale for the three photographs above.