

APRIL 2020 NEWS FROM SEI

Residential: The fourth residential weekend of the 2019-2020 academic year took place in early March. The Small Group responsible for worship that weekend led us in several Lenten services, including Communion from the Scottish Prayer Book and a reflective service of imaginative monologues spoken by participants and by-standers on the Via Dolorosa (see right). Provost Holdsworth and Director of Music Friðrik Walker from St Mary's Cathedral Glasgow introduced us to a wide range of music which could be sung by congregations large and small - and got us singing it vigorously! Ricky McAddock, Director of *StreetConnect*, a Glasgow charity that works with marginalised and vulnerable people in Glasgow City Centre, Possilpark, Govan, Paisley and Clydebank, offered a hard-hitting session on 'Homelessness, addiction, and the local church' as part of the Developing Ministry and Mission in Context module.



On the Saturday afternoon Claire Benton-Evans, Provincial Youth Committee Enabler, along with Sam Harris and Caitlin Conway, members of that Committee, spoke about youth work in the Scottish Episcopal Church, alerting us to the do's and don'ts of good practice. Mixed Mode ordinand Jaime Wright (below) led a Bible Study in our series on God's covenants on the Sunday, after which the community worshipped using the Scottish Prayer Book.



It was also a real pleasure to have Robert Gordon, Convenor of the Provincial Standing Committee, with us. Robert wrote afterwards: 'I very much valued the opportunity to meet students and to engage with the programme. It was fascinating at mealtimes to chat informally with a cross-section of the community and to hear something of their experiences and aspirations. I found the sessions on the work of Street Connect inspirational, uplifting and challenging. I was delighted by the level of enthusiasm on the part of students to engage with this and similar expressions of transformative Christian social action. I also greatly appreciated the session on worship led by Provost Kelvin and Frikki Walker. It was a tour de force and a source of great encouragement to this reluctant singer! The worship sessions led by the students were innovative, imaginative and inspiring. I left uplifted by the quality of the programme and the commitment of the participants. Well done SEI and Kinnoull is a marvellous venue.'

Non-residential! By contrast the 2020 Staff Conference, due to be held at the Conforti Institute Coatbridge, became a *non-residential* event at the last minute, due to COVID-19. However it proved to be a very valuable exercise in how to run a such an event online, not only for SEI but also for Dr Ken Farrimond, Virtual Learning Environment and Blended Learning Officer, Ministry Division, who plans to share this experience with other Theological Education Institutions (TEIs). Ken kindly set up various 'on-line rooms' using the Big Blue Button facility on our on-line learning platform: a Chapel space in which we gathered for prayer, various rooms in which to chat informally, and a conference room for the main inputs of the event. Participants were able to explore and practise various on-line teaching methods, expertly coached by Ken. Timely preparation for May's *non-Residential* Weekend!

Current research and writing: SEI's teaching staff and students are keen to participate in many facets of the wider church's life, including theological reflection. From time-to-time, they publish articles and book reviews. Two Initial Ministerial Education students have recently surveyed aspects of the church on the local level. Dr Joshua Cockayne (right), an IME1 ordinand, has just published [‘The Cultural Liturgies of Café Church’](#), where he examines the engagement between culture and mission in four UK-based café- church settings.



The Revd Dr Jennifer Holden (left), IME 2, takes a look at congregational life from another perspective in a [review](#) of Andrew Rumsey's book, *Parish: An Anglican Theology of Place*. In like manner, two members of SEI's core teaching staff survey aspects of leadership on the local level. Richard Tiplady, Director of Mixed Mode Training, shares some of the findings of his doctoral research at Glasgow Caledonian University on [‘Entrepreneurial Leadership Development in the Christian Church in Scotland’](#). And, finally, Michael Hull, Director of Studies, makes a case for [‘Theological Proficiency and the Formation of Incumbents’](#).

SEI Training Fund: Thanks go this month to the congregation of the Church of the Holy Cross, (Diocese of Edinburgh) for the very generous donation of the offering uplifted at the Institution of their new Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes. St Mary's Hamilton (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) is also thanked for its kind donation, as are the Revd Sally Gorton and the Revd Isobel Dowlen (both Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway); sale of the latter's donation of theology books raised £70.00 at the March Residential Weekend.

Update: On the right is a prelapsarian photo of Richard Tiplady, Director of Mixed Mode Training, taken at Pillar Rock in the Lake District an hour before his [dreadful accident](#), a fall of 600 ft while mountaineering. On the left is a photo taken 11 days later, just 5 days after his discharge from hospital,



during an ‘emergency stockpiling’ run to Waterstones. Richard continues to make good progress at home, with the broken ankle, elbow and neck bones all repairing well. More importantly, he says, his hair is growing back in the places where his head was shaved to allow for the stitching of his head wounds! Please continue to pray for a full physical and emotional recovery. Considerable attention has been given by the national media, and Richard has been keen to use this as an opportunity to speak about mountain safety and damage limitation when disaster happens, and to focus attention on the sterling work of the volunteer mountain rescue teams across the UK.



St James Fund: Huge thanks to the people who responded so generously to the request for regular donations to the St James Fund last month. As was reported then, this Fund was set up some years ago to offer assistance to SEI students who are in training or serving as Curates/Lay Readers in their first year of ministry (IME 1-4). It supports such educational needs as overseas study, attendance at conferences and the purchase of study materials, and is also used for spiritual or emotional needs. More pledges of a monthly donation of £10 are always welcome; forms obtainable from institute@scotland.anglican.org