

AUGUST 2018 NEWS FROM SEI

Farewell: We say farewell at the end of next month to Mrs Denise Brunton who has been SEI's Administrator throughout its life, and before that worked for TISEC and Coates Hall. In total, Denise has served the Scottish Episcopal Church for 27 years! We are highlighting her retirement *now* in order to give the very many people whose lives Denise has touched, through her immensely caring attitude to all that she does and all whom she meets, a chance to write to her or 'phone her before she leaves.



Meet the Ambassadors 7: The Revd Nick Bowry writes: 'I am the SEI Ambassador for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney. I am in my second year of my curacy, at St Clement's, Mastrick, on the outskirts of Aberdeen. I was a student, initially of TISEC (Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church) and then of the SEI from my second year onwards. The first three years of training, as an ordinand, was with an incredibly supportive cohort of fellow students. The peer support from those I met frequently at mid-week classes and those who I met less frequently on residential weekends and at the Summer School was an important aspect of the studies. Meeting people with different styles of worship and theological outlooks contributed to my formation, alongside the studies I undertook. I had not studied for many a year, and started the course with considerable trepidation.



The support and encouragement of fellow students, both ordinands and Lay Reader candidates, was of considerable help, and eased me into the challenges of studying, or writing essays and preaching to the SEI community.

In my curacy I continue to be an SEI student, as I study to convert my diploma achieved after the third year to a degree. The challenges are different, juggling the role of curate (especially in the first year of curacy) with study time and essay deadlines. The relationship with the peer group changes as we connect for seminars solely by computer video links, but luckily the peer group members are people I have studied with over the past five years. The seminars are also more personal, with a smaller group of students. This enables some deeper and richer discussions compared to a large group seminar. The SEI student community I studied with will always hold a special place in my heart and the relationships made then continue to be supportive and I hope will continue to be mutually beneficial as we journey with our calling.

Welcome 1: At the end of this month ten new students will arrive in SEI - a Lay Reader candidate and nine ordinands, two of whom will be following the Mixed Mode pathway - joining the existing fifteen students. Please do pray for all the community using the 2018-19 Prayer Cycle available [here](#) on the SEI web site. A breakdown of the categories and dioceses of origin of the candidates is offered here for information, followed by a tabulation of the pathways that they follow.

Category	F	M	Diocese
Stipendiary Ordinands	10 (1)*	(1)*	Aberdeen (1) Brechin (1) Edinburgh (6) Glasgow (1) Moray (1) *York and URC candidates
Assistant Priests	3	5	Aberdeen (2) Edinburgh (2) Glasgow (1) Moray (2) St Andrews (1)
Vocational Deacons	4		Aberdeen (1) Edinburgh (1) Moray (2)
Lay Reader Candidates	1		Edinburgh (1)

<p>BA(Hons) in Theology, Ministry and Mission <i>Mixed Mode</i></p> <p>This degree is offered by Durham University through Common Awards, and is studied in two stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-ordination – study up to DipHE level • During curacy – further study to achieve the full BA(Hons) award, which is a requirement for incumbency. <p>There is alternate-year entry to this programme, in 2018, 2020, and so on. For those who wish to start their studies in an odd-numbered year, a foundational year of study is available. All subjects are taken through weekly classes and Residential Weekends. Mixed Mode students take additional mission-focussed modules and are in a training placement of 20-25 hours per week. They are offered a maintenance grant and accommodation.</p>	<p>Dip HE and BA(Hons) in Theology, Ministry and Mission</p> <p>This degree is offered by Durham University through Common Awards, and is studied in two stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-ordination – study up to DipHE level • During curacy – further study to achieve the full BA(Hons) award, which is a requirement for incumbency. <p>There is alternate-year entry to this programme, in 2018, 2020, and so on. For those who wish to start their studies in an odd-numbered year, a foundational year of study is available. All subjects are taken through weekly classes and Residential Weekends. One additional mission-focussed module is audited through Residential Weekends, and others can be audited if appropriate. No maintenance grant or accommodation is offered.</p>
<p>Graduate Diploma <i>Mixed Mode</i></p> <p>This course is taken by students with a first degree in theology. They are registered with Common Awards as Graduate Diploma students but do not graduate with a qualification. They do however receive a transcript of modules taken. Entry is available to this programme every year. All subjects are taken through weekly classes and Residential Weekends. Mixed Mode students take additional mission-focussed modules and are in a training placement of 20-25 hours per week. They are offered a maintenance grant and accommodation.</p>	<p>Graduate Diploma</p> <p>This course is taken by students with a first degree in theology. They are registered with Common Awards as Graduate Diploma students but do not graduate with a qualification. They do however receive a transcript of modules taken. Entry is available to this programme every year. All subjects are taken through weekly classes and Residential Weekends. One additional mission-focussed module is audited through Residential Weekends, and others can be audited if appropriate. No maintenance grant or accommodation is offered.</p>
<p>MDiv</p> <p>This course is taken by students with a first degree who spend three years of fulltime study at the University of Edinburgh’s School of Divinity (New College) to pursue the Master of Divinity degree. They are also registered with Common Awards as Graduate Diploma students, but their award is from New College. They do however receive a transcript of modules taken under Common Awards. Entry is available to this programme every year. Most studies are taken at New College with a few additional modules in weekly classes and Residential Weekends. They are offered a maintenance grant but not accommodation.</p>	

Welcome 2: We welcome Dr Ros Brett as the new SEI Ambassador for the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, replacing the Revd Elaine Garman who has moved to the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane. Ros will introduce herself in the October issue. Bishop Kevin hosted a lunch for the Ambassadors in June, a chance for them to be thanked by the Convenor of the Institute Council for their work this past year.

SEI Lecture 2018: This year’s Lecture will be held on Thursday 11 October at 17.30 in Parliament Hall, South Street, St Andrews. Professor Elaine Graham, Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology, University of Chester and Canon Theologian of Chester Cathedral, will deliver a paper entitled ‘Liberating the Laity: a Theology for a Learning Church’. The Lecture, sponsored by the School of Divinity at St Andrews University, is open to all free of charge, and is followed by a reception.



SEI Training Fund: Warm thanks this month go to the congregations of St Oswald’s Kings Park (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway), St John’s Forfar, (Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane), St Martin’s (Diocese of Edinburgh) and St Andrew’s Cathedral (Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness) for their kind and very generous donations, and to the Revd Canon Robin Paisley for donating fees for covering worship in vacant charges in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.