

JUNE 2019 NEWS FROM SEI GENERAL SYNOD EDITION

May Residential Weekend: The final residential weekend of the 2018-19 session took place last month, its focus being 'Vocation'. The Rt Revd Anne Dyer led two separate sessions on that topic with the Leavers and the Continuing Students respectively, while the Revd Dr James Currall gave a session to the whole cohort entitled 'Married to the Church?' James is shown below with his Diocesan Advisee, Janet Spence. Dr Steve Aisthorpe, Mission Development Worker for the Church of Scotland, offered a superb session on 'The Invisible Church'.



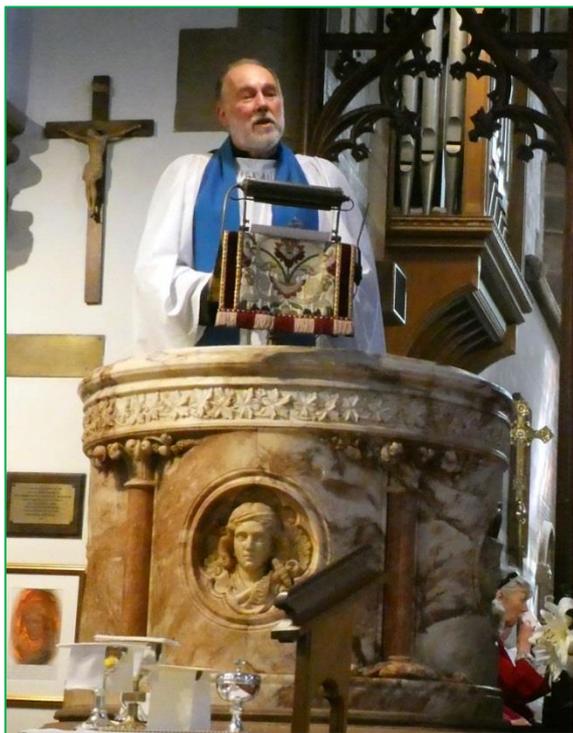
The weekend also saw several innovations. Russell Duncan led two sessions in St Mary's Church on 'the use of a thurible'. Under Russell's skillful tutelage and highly experienced hands, students learned to process with a thurible, take corners sharply, cense the Gospel and altar – not to mention manage all the practical aspects of lighting and extinguishing charcoal. The house was indeed 'filled with smoke'! Russell is shown below between Claire Nicholson and James Currall.

On Sunday morning the Principal led a session for the spouses and families of those soon to be ordained. Five 'clergy-spouses-to-be' and one daughter engaged in a hard-hitting and useful discussion of expectations and boundary-setting. Feedback indicated that this was a useful innovation, one to be repeated in future.

The closing Eucharist, at which the Rt Revd Anne Dyer was the President and final year ordinand Jane Edwards the preacher, saw the Continuing Students paying tribute to the Leavers, thanking each in turn for his or her particular gifts to the community and praying for God's ongoing protection. Chapter Chair Jenny Holden (middle of photo, top right) also gave a tender vote of thanks to the SEI staff, and later in the Refectory paid a touching tribute to the St Mary's community and kitchen staff. Gifts were also handed over by her to SEI and Kinnoull staff on behalf of the student community.



Vocations Sunday 2019 Round-up



Glasgow and Galloway: Final year Aberdeen and Orkney ordinand **Mike Blake** preached at St Michael and All Angels Helensburgh. The Rector, the Revd Dom Ind, commented that it was 'a well weighted sermon, professionally delivered'. Mike will be ordained at Michaelmas to serve his Title at St Andrews, Alford in the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

The Revd **Richard Tiplady** (below), Director of Mixed Mode Training, preached at St John's Johnstone and St Margaret's Renfrew. He is seen here with the Rector, the Revd Reuben Preston, and Worship Leader Gill Reynolds. Gill is SEI Ambassador for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.



First year Glasgow and Galloway ordinand **Lisa Curtice** preached at St Bride's, Kelvinside, Glasgow. She is shown below with the Rector, the Revd Dr Kevin Francis.



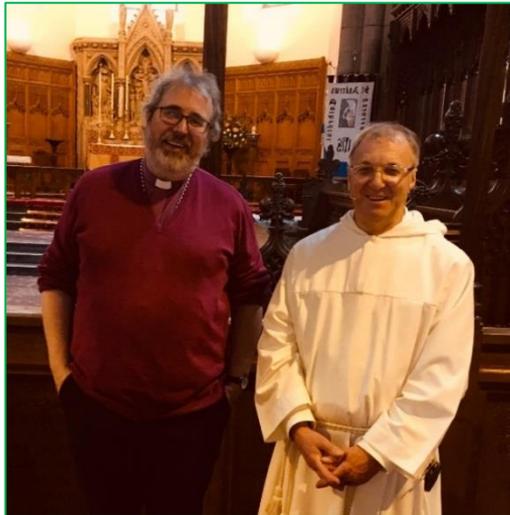
Final Year Edinburgh ordinand, **Peter Woodfield**, preached at St Oswald's Maybole. Peter will be ordained at Michaelmas to serve his Title at St Peter's Linlithgow and St Columba's Bathgate. Asked to summarise the message which he is seen here preaching, Peter said: 'Loving one another as Jesus loves us is our macro-vocation'.





Edinburgh: The **Principal** preached at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, and afterwards engaged in a dialogue with the Chaplain there, the **Revd Andy Philip**. Final year ordinand **Susan Ward**, shown left between 'Bishop' Hanna and Lucy, members of the Sunday School at St Columba's Bathgate, preached in that congregation and at St Peter's Linlithgow. In her sermon she spoke about listening for God's voice to be yourself, to follow Jesus and to belong to one another. Sue will be ordained as a Vocational Deacon at Michaelmas, serving in the Diocese of Edinburgh and based in Grangemouth.

First year ordinand **Lesley Penny** (right) preached at Christ Church Morningside. Afterwards she spoke at a 'Journeys in Faith' session about her 'journey' to ordination. She is shown here with the Revd Dr Jenny Wright.



Moray, Ross and Caithness: Two local ordinands preached in this diocese. Final Year ordinand **Donald Grant** is shown relaxing with Bishop Mark after preaching in Inverness Cathedral which

he describes as 'involving a telephone conversation with our Lord'! Don will be ordained at Michaelmas to serve his Title at St Columba, Brora. First year ordinand **Janet Spence** writes: 'It was a joy and a privilege to preach in my home church, St Andrews, Fortrose, on Vocations Sunday. I was delighted to be able to point to the font where I was baptised, and refer to my baptism day at 6

weeks old with some people present who had also been there on that day! I looked out to a crowd of people who I could feel willing me on as I take each step on my journey. Thank you to every one of them.'

St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane: Final year ordinand **Annie Hughes** (left) was at St Paul's Kinross. In the sermon slot the Rector, the Revd David Mackenzie Mills, and she engaged in a conversation about the joys and struggles of vocations and life at SEI, linking that in to the Baptism taking place that morning. Annie reports that 'Fr David set up slides of the cohort on a screen which helped folk better understand the range and giftedness of our amazing group.'

Argyll and the Isles: Final Year ordinand Jenny Holden (Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney) visited the Cathedral of St John the Divine, Oban. She writes: 'Driving to Oban alongside fresh snow-covered mountains against beautiful blue skies seemed apt when I was preaching on Psalm 23. A lovely coincidence was some members of the congregation making the connection between their preacher and the SEI student remembered in the diocesan cycle of prayer, and it was lovely to be able to thank them for their prayers in person.'





Final Year Brechin ordinand, **Roxanne Campbell** (left) preached at St John's Forfar. The Rector, the Revd Elaine Garman writes: 'St John's were delighted to welcome Roxanne to preach. She reminded us that as baptised members of the Church we are all called to serve. Finding that ministry often means paying attention to God when we are least expecting it, carrying on with our everyday lives. By talking to people about what we do we can have an influence on others – and people in St John's, on the fourth Sunday in Easter, got that message. Thank you Roxanne.'

Congratulations, Richard! The photo on the right shows **Richard Tiplady** after his successful Viva in mid-May. On the left is Professor Rona Beattie, his Director of Studies and lead supervisor, and on the right, Dr Afroditi Dalakoura, his second supervisor. Richard was awarded the degree of Doctor of Business Administration for a thesis entitled '*Growing The Relational Mavericks: the development of entrepreneurial leadership in the Church in Scotland*'. Immediate follow-ups will be a book and two articles, plus a collaborative research project within Glasgow Caledonian University. One of Richard's concerns is 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.



SEI student at Methodist Convocation Susan Ward writes: 'The Methodist Diaconal Order Convocation was held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick in May. The MDO is both an Order of ministry and a religious Order within the Methodist Church. Deacons follow a Rule for Life to deepen their fellowship and to bind everyone together when they are all dispersed. Every day at 9.40am, where possible, everyone prays the Rule of Life prayers for the Order, the church and each other. In this way even though everyone is far apart they are still part of the Community. There were 250 Deacons present plus spouses and guests, and from the moment of my arrival I was made to feel very welcome and part of the Order. During the week we shared fellowship, meals and leisure time as well as hearing of the work going on in everyone's local communities. Hearing the testimonies of people who are seeing God at work in amazing ways was exciting, but there are also many challenges that people face, including racism and abuse, both mentally and physically.'

The Youth President Jasmine Yeboah (seen above with Sue) gave a wonderful testament on her work during the year. Her involvement with children and teenagers in Tottenham through music and singing to get them off the streets was truly inspirational. Jasmine said 'I wanted to train as a teacher but God asked me to help the children through singing instead.' It was lovely to be with so many men and women who share prayer, work, and study to serve God in their local communities and it would be lovely to see as many Deacons in the SEC.'

SEI Training Fund and the St James Fund: Thanks are paid this month to St John's Jedburgh for the kind donation of theology books and to Claire Nicholson for organising their sale at the May RWE. Thanks also to the Revd Sally Gorton and to the congregation of St Oswald's Kings Park (Glasgow and Galloway) for their generous donations.