

## SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM SEI

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### The 2017-18 academic year at SEI began on Saturday 2 September with an Induction Day

comprising introductions, worship and sessions on formation, the curriculum and the rhythm of prayer in the learning community. Olivia Williams and Caroline Longley, students in their second and third years respectively, were on hand to welcome the new cohort and inform them about what life is really like at SEI. The following six new students have joined the cohort:



(from left in photo, kindly taken by Aidan Strange)

Mrs Roxanne Campbell, Ordinand, Diocese of Brechin

Mrs Jenny Cornfield, Lay Reader Candidate, Diocese of Edinburgh.

Mrs Jean Souter, Candidate for the vocational diaconate, Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Mrs Alice MacLean, Ordinand, Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness

Mrs Joanna Leidenhag, Ordinand, Diocese of Edinburgh

Mr Thomas Ware, Ordinand, Diocese of Edinburgh

**The 2017 SEI Lecture** will be delivered by the Revd Canon Professor David Jasper DD FRSA FRSE, Professor of Literature and Theology, University of Glasgow on 'The Role of the Arts in the Church of Tomorrow'. Thursday 26 October 2017 in the Memorial Chapel, University of Glasgow at 5.30pm. *'We live in a rapidly changing world to which the Church, as an institution, often finds it hard to adapt. But even in a world that often seems driven by economic and material factors, the arts remain a powerful agent to help us understand and address changes in our culture and society. The Christian Church has always had a creative, if sometimes uneasy, relationship with poetry, literature, the visual arts and music, and we need to nurture and care for this relationship in the future as part of our intelligent and prayerful mission in the world'*.



We hope for a good turnout at this event. Please encourage your friends to come along to this (free) public lecture followed by refreshments. (Gilmorehill Campus, University of Glasgow, West Quadrangle, G12 8QQ).

**A Training Day for Diocesan Advisors** was held in the General Synod Office on Thursday 24 August. Revd Peter Mead (Diocese of Brechin), Canon Kathy Collins (Moray, Ross and Caithness), Dr Ros Brett (Glasgow and Galloway) and Canon Dean Fostekew (Edinburgh) attended the sessions in person while Canon Ruth Innes (Edinburgh) and Revd Anne James (Aberdeen and Orkney) received training subsequently. The morning programme comprised short sessions on the ethos of the SEI community, on Common Awards procedures and protocols, and on evidence-based reporting and appraisal; the afternoon was spent getting to grips with reflective practice, perhaps the most vital activity in which a DA engages with his or her candidate. DAs are nominated by their Bishop and accompany the student throughout their formation, acting as a 'critical friend'.



**The Revd John McNeil Scott** has been appointed as the new Principal of the Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College to succeed Revd Dr Jack Dyce with effect from 2 October 2017. He will also assume the role of Training Officer for the National Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church, working closely with the Synod team to develop learning and development material to meet the future challenges of patterns of ministry within the Synod. We look forward to getting to know Revd Scott and hope that the SEI student cohort will continue to be enriched by the presence of URC students.

**The Board of Examiners** met on 22 August to scrutinise the previous year's marks and recommend progression or awards. We are delighted to announce that the Diploma (DipHE) in Theology for Ministry from York St John University was awarded to Jonathan Livingstone and the Revd Dr Clare Caley (shown right) with Merit and Distinction respectively, they being the last two students to come under the YSJU validation system; from now on Diplomas and Degrees will be awarded by Durham University under the Common Awards scheme. The first year of our Common Awards marking was likewise reviewed and deemed to be in order, so happily we can now progress smoothly into our second year with that validating system.



**The SEI Training Fund** benefited last month from offerings taken at the Institution of the Revd Sarah Shaw at Christ Church Falkirk (Diocese of Edinburgh), the Institution of the Revd Diana Hall at St Anne's, Dunbar (Diocese of Edinburgh) and the Ordination to the Diaconate of the Revd Carol Latimer (Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane). We are also very grateful to the Revd Sarah Gorton for her continuing generosity. Sally regularly donates the fee she would receive for doing 'Sunday cover' in charges in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway to the SEI Training Fund; this is a most generous gesture and much appreciated.