

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWS FROM SEI

January Residential Weekend. First year ordinand Lesley Penny writes: 'A weekend that starts with macaroni cheese is bound to be good, and so it was. Although we have only been together on four occasions, the sense of being 'all in it together', the mutual support and encouragement on our RWEs, is great. This was particularly obvious on this weekend when we were all shocked to hear that one of our 'family' was undergoing emergency surgery; there was a pulling together and the sharing of an overnight prayer vigil. We continue to pray.



In terms of teaching we covered a wide range of areas including hearing from Dr Barbara Jenkinson who taught and shared some remarkable testimonies about the ministry of *Light and Life*, an organisation that addresses the spiritual hunger seen in so many by going to events including psychic fairs and praying for healing and power encounters with Jesus. *Light and Life* now has around 100 teams across the UK and abroad with 3000 members. This was both challenging and inspiring. On Saturday afternoon Ishbel Smith helped us think about approaches to preaching, how we use our bodies, voices (and microphones) - and it's good to know that 'breathe and pause' is the solution to most preaching crises! The third years had a helpful presentation on the role of funeral directors, and we all looked at issues around 'Receptivity' and how ready we are to receive from those outwith the church. As usual Anne, Mike and Richard kept everyone together and met with many of us. Our new Chaplain, the Revd Graham Taylor, was with us on the Saturday when the Metamorphosis Worship Group led us in a beautiful service of music, liturgy and silence. Another weekend successfully negotiated. Apart from a minor schism. There was a 50:50 split over whether After Eights go well with humus. We shall seek reconciliation in March'. *Lesley is on the right above*

It was good to have the Very Revd Sarah Murray with us, Diocesan Advisor to third year candidate for the vocational diaconate Katrina O'Neill, and Mixed Mode Training Supervisor to first year ordinand Jamie Wright. She writes: 'A weekend away at a Residential Weekend at Kinnoull always meant remembering to pack the thermals and a hot water bottle how days have changed! In so many ways, St. Mary's is a transformed environment to stay in, with full central heating and en-suite facilities to name a few of the changes.



Having been invited to celebrate the Eucharist on the Sunday morning and to spend time with students and staff alike, it was a great opportunity to share in the third residential weekend of the SEI community. It feels quite different to be there as a guest and observer of the learning community from the days spent there as a TISEC student. It was wonderful to get to know some of the current students and to catch up with those who had spent time in the Moray, Ross and Caithness Diocese during the last SEI Summer School. So many people were open and welcoming to a guest among them, and far from being an observer, there were many chances to learn academically and formationally, and also to be part of the worshipping community, sharing in their joys and sorrows alike. It was good to see that the social aspects of TISEC have been passed on to the SEI community and to be welcomed to share in all aspects of the weekend. The church is

in good hands in those who are preparing for authorised ministry in years to come. Thank you to all who welcomed me and gave me the opportunity to share in the weekend'. *Sarah Murray*

The community welcomed several families and friends of candidates to Sunday's Eucharist and lunch. The photograph above shows preacher Roxanne Campbell, a final year candidate from the Diocese of Brechin, with her husband Neil and daughter Isabella; the latter read the first lesson at the service.

Changes to the curriculum: The Scottish Episcopal Institute Council, at its meeting on Monday 12 November 2018, approved three changes to the current practice of formation for authorised ministry with effect from September 2019. This was agreed by the College of Bishops at the meeting on 20/21 November 2018.

First, SEI will seek permission from Common Awards **to add a master's degree to its programmes of study**. This will allow candidates the choice of a Diploma of Higher Education, a Bachelor's (over three fulltime or six years part-time), a Graduate Diploma or a Master's in Theology, Ministry and Mission whilst training for authorised ministry. It allows candidates to earn awards appropriate to their vocation and level of study.



Second, SEI **will admit candidates every year for all programmes of study and authorised ministries**. This change, from the prior practice of admitting most candidates on an every-other-year basis, precludes undue delay for candidates' entry and undue stress on eleventh-hour candidates, who would have to wait two years, rather than one, if Bishop's Advisory Panels or Scottish panels were unable to meet in time to round off the discernment process.

Third, SEI **will provide three years of formation as the norm for all candidates**, even those who come with theological degrees, significant life and/or ministerial experiences etc. SEI's transition to a formation-focused course in the last four years has borne much fruit in terms of rich field education, familiarity with the Scottish Episcopal Church and a holistic formational community. With formation at the heart of the course, candidates are better prepared to serve as Lay Readers, vocational deacons, assistant priests and incumbents. They are also more aware of others' vocations as they train side-by-side. Offering a three-year period of formation to all candidates permits the time needed to pray, learn, study and discern without haste or pressure within a formational community as candidates grows into the ministries to which God has called them.

Rebecca Hussey's Book Charity

SEI was thrilled to learn before Christmas that it had been awarded a generous grant from this charitable foundation. The object of the Charity is *'to provide religious and useful books to institutions in the United Kingdom'*. Trustees are keen to support institutions that have little funding for a library, awarding these grants to existing libraries and those in the course of being established. As SEI is currently introducing new modules on evangelism, mission and ecclesiology, we submitted a bid based on the development of this section of the library, listing titles we wished to include, amounting to over £500.



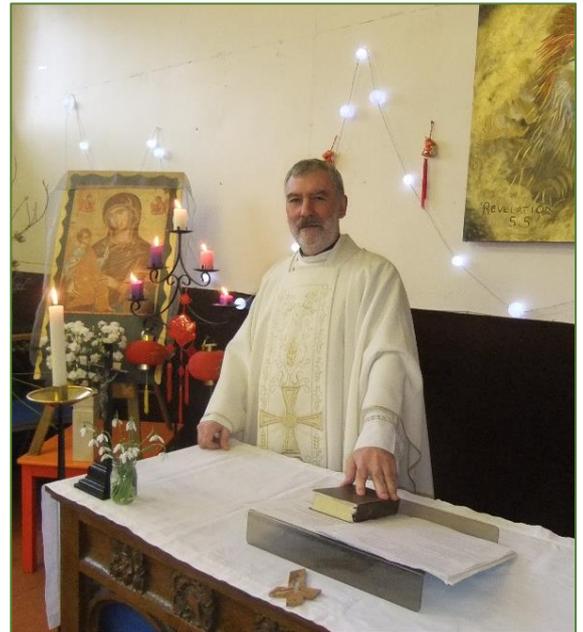
All the requested books arrived in mid-January thanks to the kind ministrations of Sarum College Bookshop. Here they are, prior to being catalogued by Linda Harrison, SEI Librarian, shelved in Room 5 of the GSO and read!



Alastair Haggart Bursary Award 2019: The Alastair Haggart Bursary Fund set up by his family in memory of Bishop Haggart, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church from 1977 to 1985 (left) offers an annual grant of around £1400 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 art work, having spent time in art galleries in Washington and New York.

We are delighted to announce that this year's winner is the **Revd David Wostenholm**, Rector of St Matthew's Possilpark, Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, and Convenor of the Diocesan Prayer and Spirituality Group.

Fr David's plan, put simply, is 'to wander with intent' in France and Spain, touching on pilgrimage routes from Lyons and Vezelay and the Carmelite centres in Spain, carrying on his heart some significant theological questions not just for his own recreation but for the greater good of the people of God as they seek to find blessedness in modern society; 're-creation' is its core remit. Fr David has served in Possilpark since 2007, an area that ranks highest in multiple indices of deprivation in Scotland. Hitherto he has not been in a position to take time out for personal exploration, but a Lottery Grant in 2018 has allowed the appointment of a Centre Manager for the St Matthew's Centre, thus freeing him up for this opportunity.



The Committee was unanimous in its praise of this submission, especially its theological depth and reflective spirituality. Members believe that by awarding the bursary, Fr David will be afforded a significant period of sabbatical refreshment and the Church - both local and diocesan - will be offered the benefits of those reflections.

On hearing of the award, Fr David said '*I am thrilled to be the beneficiary of the Alastair Haggart Bursary Award which will make my plans to wander physically and spiritually in the course of this year in a new environment much less daunting a prospect. It will give me the opportunity to breathe with some freedom from a very demanding pastoral situation which is unrelentingly and sometimes overwhelmingly concerned with the responsibility to raise funds for our work in Possilpark. Very many thanks for this news!*'

Commenting upon the award, the Dean of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, the Very Revd Ian Barcroft said '*The Diocese joins the communities of St Matthew's and Possilpark in congratulating David on his award. David offers many gifts to us, especially his spiritual insight; so we certainly look forward to hearing about his pilgrimage as well as his adventures.*

Bishop Mark, Primus and acting Bishop of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, said: '*As Primus one of my concerns – for myself and for the ministry of the Church – is our inability to have the courage to find the space to bring restoration to our ministries. Therefore this sabbatical proposal is one that we should all be able to learn from.*'

Vocations Sunday : We are delighted that the following charges have asked for student preachers on Sunday 12 May. The June edition of this *Newsletter* will feature accounts of these visits. Please note that there are no further student preachers available this year. To avoid disappointment next year, book early!

Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

St John's Forfar
St Paul's Kinross

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

St John's Johnstone
St Margaret's Renfrew
St Oswald's Maybole
St Michael's Helensburgh
St Bride's Kelvinside

Diocese of Brechin

St Ternan's Muchalls

Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness

Inverness Cathedral
St Christopher's Chapel Gordonstoun
The Black Isle charges

Diocese of Edinburgh

Christ Church Morningside
St Mary's Cathedral
St Peter's Linlithgow
St Columba's Bathgate

Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

St John's Cathedral Oban



The Management Committee: On 21 January the Management Committee – SEI's Board of Studies – was joined by David Hanson, Quality Assurance Adviser at Ministry Division (left) and his colleague, Keith Beech-Gruneberg, Initial Ministerial Education Pathways Adviser. They attended the meeting in order to help SEI begin planning for the Periodic External Review (affectionately known as the PER) which is due to take place during the academic year 2019-2020. Basically the evaluatory process has two parts: a visit of two to three days by a Ministry Division appointed team looking at formation, plus a single-day visit by a Durham-led team which is essentially an academic quality assurance review. It is looking likely that the residential part of the process will take place in January 2020. The review team will meet a wide array of stakeholders including members of Institute Council, Bishops, SEI staff, students, placement supervisors, Mixed Mode training supervisors and Diocesan Advisors. They will participate in taught sessions, and also work their way through a mountain of documentation lodged on Moodle.

SEI Training Fund: This month we thank St Oswald's Kings Park (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) for its generous donation; the Revd Sally Gorton (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) for continuing to give her deputising fees to the Fund; likewise the Revd Canon Robin Paisley (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) for donating various consultancy fees. This money supports our fulltime (incumbent status) students who opt to study for an MDiv degree at New College alongside their formational studies here in the SEI. Two such ordinands, Harriet Oxley and Jennifer Holden, will complete their studies this summer and be ordained to curacies in the Dioceses of Glasgow and Galloway and Aberdeen and Orkney respectively. By giving to the Fund, donors are thus not only supporting individual ordinands but helping to build the future leadership of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

