



DECEMBER NEWS FROM SEI

December Residential Weekend



The autumn term is nearing its end, but not before another Residential Weekend has taken place in St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull (third floor study bedroom shown left) from 8 - 10 December. Alongside the teaching of Reflective Practice and set within the rhythm of student-led worship will come sessions on the work of the Doctrine Committee led by its Convenor, the Revd Professor David Jasper, and other members, and an afternoon given over to the consideration of bereavement issues.

The latter will be led by the Revd Canon Marion Chatterley (Diocese of Edinburgh) and the Revd David Stoter (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway), both highly skilled practitioners in this field. Marion is Chaplain to people living with HIV, Diocesan Director of Ordinands, and works in spirituality and bereavement care in Edinburgh. She has worked extensively with younger people who are facing their own mortality and as an accredited bereavement counsellor. David has worked extensively as a Chaplain and psychotherapist in the NHS, and set up the first comprehensive hospital bereavement care service in the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham. He has long experience of teaching in the medical, hospice and nursing worlds, and is a trained Cruse counsellor. Final year students will also have two sessions on the management of funerals led by Mr Andrew Pennycook, a Funeral Director from Perth.

Institute Council is the body which has the strategic oversight of the Scottish Episcopal Institute and of the delivery of the formation and training for authorized ministry. It comprises two Bishops, one of whom is the Convenor, and up to ten additional members appointed by the General Synod on the nomination of the Standing Committee. SEI staff are in attendance and the student Chapter nominates one of its number to serve annually on the Council, which meets five times a year. Nominations are made on the basis of the gifts which people bring to the task, thus ensuring a well-balanced skill-set around the table.



At its meeting in November, Council mourned the death of one of its members, Mr Nigel Cook. Nigel had been on the Council since its inception in 2015, bringing to the table huge financial acumen, deep knowledge of the SEC and long-standing embeddedness in a local congregation - Old St Paul's, Edinburgh - which has trained many students on placement and as Curates. Nigel shared all these gifts at a Residential Weekend in the last academic year; his sessions on 'budgeting for mission' were enthusiastically received by the student body. Council gave thanks for Nigel's faithful life at a Eucharist at the start of its meeting. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Meet the SEI Ambassadors Each of the seven dioceses has an SEI Ambassador, a volunteer tasked with circulating this Newsletter and more generally bringing the work of SEI to the attention of members of the diocese. Over the course of the next few *Newsletters* the Ambassadors will introduce themselves. We begin with Ms Gill Reynolds, Ambassador for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. Gill writes:



I live near Glasgow in Lochwinnoch, and worship at St John's in Johnstone. The church is in vacancy and will need considerable remedial works in the first months of our time with a new priest, who will be shared with St Margaret's in Renfrew. I do quite a bit in the Diocese, acting as a Mission Action Planning Facilitator, a Ministry Development Review Supporter and serving on the Missional Leadership Team: it's a nice diverse portfolio! And I get to meet lots of different people. In the rest of my time (I'm retired from life as a construction and engineering lawyer) I garden, which is a good activity to take one's mind to completely other things. So is Scottish Country dancing, which is also a preoccupation.

It's such a huge task to prepare people to serve in the church of the future – they need to have a wide general background and practicality, as well as all the normal priestly qualities. And they need to be able to embrace change willingly which is likely to be the hardest role of all. As I wish them all the luck in the world, I am really pleased that they will have a good grounding and sound knowledge. And lots of enthusiasm.

Mrs Gail Sanderson from the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness will be introduced next month.

A Lay Reader Candidates' Discretionary Fund was set up this month, thanks to a generous donation from the Wardens of Lay Readers. This money was originally intended to be spent on a National Conference like those held previously at Tulliallan. Such a conference having not in fact been organised, the Wardens felt that the money could best now be used to support candidates for Lay Readership training in SEI who need help with the buying of books or allied study equipment. Several funds exist for the needs of ordinands but not for Lay Reader candidates. We are therefore delighted to announce the inception of The McQueen Fund, named after one of the SEC's first Lay Readers. Mr McQueen served the community at Burravoe, Shetland (Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney) from 1865. SEI thanks the Wardens for this most generous gift.



The SEI Training Fund benefitted last month from several generous donations, including an offering taken at the Institution of the Revd Samantha Ferguson (left) as Rector of East Neuk, Fife (Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane). St Saviour's Bridge of Allan (also in that diocese) donated a considerable sum from its 'Parish Breakfasts', gathered over a couple of months, having chosen to make SEI one of its charitable beneficiaries. The fund likewise benefitted from contributions made by the Revd Sally Gorton and the Revd Canon Robin Paisley (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) from Sunday vacancy cover. SEI is deeply grateful to all who have made these contributions.



Vocations Sunday Congregations in the Dioceses of Glasgow and Galloway and Argyll and the Isles have responded to the invitation in November's *Newsletter* to invite a Lay Reader candidate or ordinand to preach on Vocations Sunday, April 22nd 2018, about God's call to them and what it means. If your congregation would be interested, please contact principal@scotland.anglican.org