

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWS FROM SEI



Congregation supports tomorrow's leaders: 'St. Cuthbert's, Colinton (Diocese of Edinburgh) were blessed with a generous legacy recently, and are pleased to be able to share it, and offer the SEI a gift of £13,000 annually for the next five years to support a student of their choice through training for ministry,' writes the Rector, the Revd Nicki McNelly. 'We should not underestimate the work of the SEI in training students to lead the SEC for years to come, and are thrilled to hear that Rachael Wright, a second-year Mixed Mode student, is the first recipient of this grant for the next two years. We wish her every blessing as she continues her training and look forward to hearing about her experiences.'

SEI is deeply grateful for this generous gift. Here its first recipient, Rachael Wright (shown below), introduces herself and offers her own thanks.

'I am immensely grateful to the congregation of St Cuthbert's, who have chosen to share their resources with the wider church through this gift of financial support for a student, of which I shall be the first beneficiary.

'When I received my telephone call from Bishop Ian to say that I was to start on the next stage of the journey of formation and training by joining SEI, I was a support worker in a Camphill Scotland community for adults with learning disabilities. I loved the people that I worked with and considered it a sincere privilege to journey with them in life, but it never wholly satisfied me. Instead, I longed to immerse myself in my training and wholly explore my vocation to parish ministry.



'Being a full-time student - and a Mixed Mode one in particular - allows me to do that. I spend two days a week on my studies and two to three days a week in the Highland Perthshire Linked Charge. There the Rector (Revd Liz Baker), Lay Reader (Lesley Whitwood), and congregations, have accepted me and already given me countless opportunities to learn and discover, challenge and be challenged. I regularly take part in services and preach; I ran an ecumenical Lent group; I have spoken at local school assemblies; I help with pastoral care; and I have been working with congregational members to establish a community garden in the grounds of Holy Trinity Pitlochry.

'A part-time placement would never have been able to afford me all of these opportunities. And a bursary allows me to benefit from them. Already, in just one year, I have grown in confidence, ability, and faith, and I am excited for what the year ahead holds. That is why St Cuthbert's gift is so important and so gratefully received: it enables me, and students after me, to immerse themselves in formation and training so that we can serve the church, by God's grace, in future. Thank you St Cuthbert's!'

Ordination: Susan Henderson, shown on the left of this photograph, was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the United Reformed Church at a service of Ordination and Induction to the Inverclyde Churches (Greenock East, Greenock West and Port Glasgow). The service, which took place on 5 August (her birthday!) was led by the Synod Moderator, the Revd Dr David Pickering, and the preacher was Revd Dr John McNeil Scott, Principal of the Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College. Due to current restrictions only family, close friends and representatives of the congregation and Synod of Scotland were physically present in Port Glasgow, but the service was streamed as a Zoom Webinar. Those participating online were then assigned to one of several break-out rooms, each of which Susan 'visited', enabling all present to share fellowship with, and congratulate, her.



For the first three of her four years of Education for Ministry Phase 1 (EM1) formation, Susan studied at SEI, forging close bonds therein with candidates from the Scottish Episcopal Church, which means she is now part of 'a wonderful support network with my peer group'. A close SEC colleague and friend, the Revd Sue Ward (shown right), was present at the service. We wish Susan every blessing as she begins her pastorate.

SEI Board of Examiners: Under Common Awards, every Theological Education Institution (TEI) has a Board of Examiners, which is responsible for receiving and confirming the students' marks for modules under its jurisdiction, as well as considering and determining, in accordance with the relevant University core regulations, the progression of all students registered on its programme. This year's meeting on 4 August was attended by selected members of SEI's Management Committee, core staff, the External Examiner (Dr John Moxon, Principal Lecturer in Biblical Studies, Roehampton University) and the University Liaison Officer (Dr Frances Clemson, Lecturer in Theology and Ministry in the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Durham).



The Board was chaired for the first time by Dr Alistair Mason (middle row, far right). In tandem with Linda Harrison who had prepared all the data for easy electronic access, he steered the meeting through the complex agenda with grace and humanity.

PER update: SEI has received the Ministry Team's section of the Periodic External Review which took place in January-February 2020, but due to the pressures of Covid-19 upon the University, the Common Awards Team's section is not yet ready. SEI's response can only be made once the entire document has been received; thereafter the Report will be published on the SEC web site.

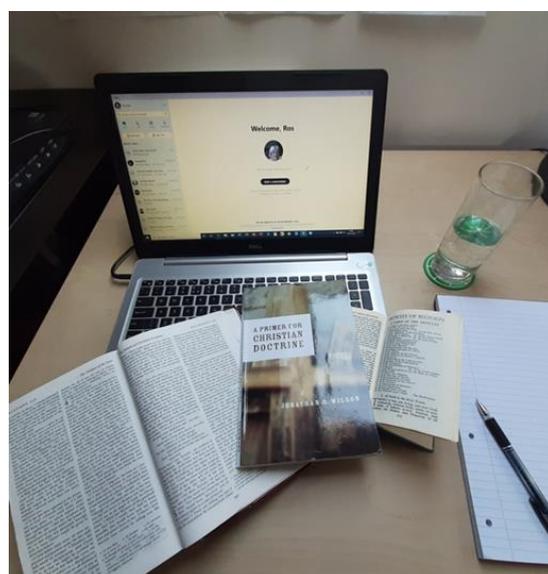
Forthcoming opportunities for theological learning: SEI seeks not only to provide formation for those training for authorised ministries in the Scottish Episcopal Church and our partners in the URC, but also to resource the wider church theologically. Here are details of three such opportunities:

(i) Autumn SEI Journal: The College of Bishops has designated 2021 as a Provincial Year of Pilgrimage. The Year is a special opportunity for as many people as possible to make a pilgrimage – a holy journey of one sort or another – for example an organised pilgrimage, a personal pilgrimage with a journey from one physical site to another, or a journey of a different kind without a change of earthly venue.

The Scottish Episcopal Institute Journal seeks to resource the Year of Pilgrimage in its Autumn 2020 edition by offering a number of articles related to pilgrimage with a focus on the contribution of holy journeying to the lived reality of the Christian faith and a special accent on pilgrimage in Scotland.

(ii) Two more lay learning courses: Following the success of the Doctrine course delivered virtually for laity in the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles earlier this year (see May's *Newsletter*), SEI intends to offer two further modules during this coming academic year.

The first will be run in Lent 2021, led by the Revd Dr Michael Hull, Director of Studies at SEI. Entitled 'Acting like a Christian', this five-week early evening course is an introduction to Christian Ethics. The second, in the summer term – entitled 'Just About Leading' - is a five-week course on Leadership led by the Revd Dr Richard Tiplady, Director of Mixed Mode Training at SEI. Further details about dates, costs and enrolment will be published in October's *Newsletter*.



(iii) SEI Lecture 2020: This year's Lecture, the fifth in the series of annual lectures sponsored by the Scottish Episcopal Institute, will be given by Dr Cathy Ross, Director, Pioneer Mission Leadership Training Centre for CMS (Church Mission Society) and Canon Theologian, Leicester Cathedral. Dr Ross, one of the world's leading missiologists, is a prolific writer; her published works include *Women with a Mission*, *Mission in the 21st Century*, and *Pioneering Spirituality*. The lecture is entitled 'Mission and Formation in a Time of Lament and Hope: Reflections After Covid-19'. It will be held on Thursday 29 October from 17.00 – 18.00 and will be delivered via Zoom, with Q&A to follow. A telephone service will also be available to allow those who do not have internet access to listen to the Lecture.

Registration will be via Eventbrite – click on [this link](#) – and will close on Thursday 22 October, one week before the lecture.