

OCTOBER NEWS FROM SEI



Orientation Week 2019: From 30 August to 5 September the SEI community gathered in St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull for Orientation Week. By means of an integrated programme of worship, study, topical seminars and leisure time, the residential aimed to welcome the nine new students and incorporate them into the life of the Institute; to 'form' that body of eighteen into a new community; to re-establish the rhythm of prayer, work and leisure which will sustain the students through the year ahead; and above all to 'orient' staff and students alike to their proper goal - followership and service of Christ, 'fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith'. Here two students give an account of the week.

Roberta Ritson, first year ordinand, Northern Synod URC: A wise mentor had wished me a fantastic week and that is exactly what the Orientation Week at Kinnoull proved to be. I am one of two United Reformed Church ordinands. The warmth of welcome from peers, the rhythm of the daily offices, the many kindnesses of tutors, monastery staff and the Redemptorist Community - all these are things I continue to treasure.

Having a family group of brothers and sisters in Christ, untroubled by denominational variation, is also special. The many bonds of prayerful friendship will bridge the weeks between gatherings. The young and no-longer-so-young also had fun together. I enjoyed the freedom of walking in woods and gardens. I look forward to watching the seasons change. Connecting with one another, deepening our relationship with the living Christ across so many creative forms of worship was the best aspect of the week. I am grateful for the generosity as personal insights were shared, always with such attention to detail. I come away challenged, loved and blessed. I hope to grow in faith and resilience as we - in community - continue learning as we follow.

Lisa Curtice, second year ordinand, Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway: 'I don't need to ask you how it is going; we can sense the atmosphere and it feels good'. So commented a member of the Redemptorist community during our Orientation Week at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull. We arrived as nine new and nine continuing students, but by the end of the first of seven days we were already forming as one community. The sharing of gifts unfolded throughout the week. Storytelling, music-making, poetry, art and even juggling were brought into play to bring joy and express the Gospel. Through a pattern of worship, learning, reflection - and ceilidh! - we experienced different ways of deepening our prayer life, discerning call, discipling others and being together. Thanks to our tutors, chaplain and visiting speakers, Nick Cooke on pilgrimage, Alastair Warwick, who led us in plainchant for Sung Compline, and Rev Richard Hall on army chaplaincy. We move into the challenge of the year ahead with excitement as well as gratitude.

Michaelmas diaconal ordinations. Over the past month twelve ordinands in six dioceses have been ordained Deacon in the Scottish Episcopal Church. Here we show pictures from those six ordinations; please keep these Assistant Curates in your prayers as they begin to serve their Titles. Next month's *Newsletter* will contain articles from the four Vocational Deacons, Sue, Katrina, Kathryn and Jean.

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway By the Rt Revd Dr Idris Jones on Saturday 14 September in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow, **Harriet Oxley**, to serve in St James the Less, Bishopbriggs. Harriet is shown below with her fiancé, the Revd Lee Johnson, ordained priest at that same service to continue serving as Assistant Curate at Christ Church Lanark.



Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. By Bishop Mark, Primus, on Saturday 14 September in Inverness Cathedral (from the left): **Donald Grant** to serve in St Columba's, Brora, East Sutherland Team; **Kathryn Sanderson** to serve as a Vocational Deacon in St Columba's, Nairn; **Katrina O'Neill** to serve as a Vocational Deacon in Inverness Cathedral. The preacher urged the congregation to 'beware'; the ministry of deacons is challenging and unsettling, motivating the people of God to lives of mission.



(Right) **Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane** By Bishop Ian on Saturday 28 September in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, **Annie Hughes** to serve in St John the Baptist, Perth.

(Below) **Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney** By Bishop Anne on Saturday 28 September 2019 in St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen, (from left) **Jean Souter**, to serve as a Vocational Deacon in St James Holborn Junction, Aberdeen; **Mike Blake**, to serve at St Andrew's, Alford, Aberdeenshire; **Jennifer Holden**, to serve in St John the Evangelist, Aberdeen. The preacher suggested each should be given a trumpet as an ordination gift, their job being that of a herald.



(Right) **Diocese of Edinburgh** By Bishop John on Sunday 29 September in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, (from left) **Peter Woodfield** to serve in St Peter's, Linlithgow and St Columba's, Bathgate; **Jane Edwards** to serve in St Baldred's, North Berwick and St Adrian's, Gullane; **Susan Ward** to serve as a Vocational Deacon in St Mary's, Grangemouth, St Catherine's, Bo'ness and the Diocese.

(Right) **Diocese of Brechin** By Bishop Andrew on Sunday 29 September 2019 in St Paul's Cathedral Dundee, **Roxanne Campbell** to serve in the Diocese of Brechin.



The two latest **Mixed Mode** students were instituted in September to the charges in which they will be based for the three years of their formation. **Rachael Wright** (above left, St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane) is working in the Highland Perthshire charge under the supervision of the Revd Liz Baker; **Ross Jesmont** (Edinburgh) at St Salvador's, Edinburgh under the supervision of the Revd Andrew Bain. The photographs show them at their services of commissioning on Sunday 8 September at Holy Trinity, Pitlochry and 22 September in St Salvador's, Edinburgh

respectively. Ross is shown with his wife Hayley, a probationer minister in the Church of Scotland, and Andrew, Director of Mixed Mode Training, the Revd Dr Richard Tiplady, writes: 'It is so encouraging to see the second pair of Mixed Mode students begin their three-year ministry placements. They are serving in very different contexts to last year's intake, Beki Cansdale and Jaime Wright, who are in large city-centre churches. Ross and Rachael are in an Urban Priority Area and a dispersed rural location respectively. The Mixed Mode programme is designed to train ordinands for mission and ministry across the whole spectrum of SEC churches and localities. We are also in the early stages of planning for next year's intake of Mixed Mode students. Please pray for all concerned: students, supervising rectors, placement churches, and me, that we will build one another up in Christ and continue to learn about the distinctive contribution that the Mixed Mode programme can make'.



SEI Lecture 2019 This year's SEI Lecture will be given by the Revd Professor Paul Foster, Professor in New Testament Language, Literature and Theology in the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. The Lecture will be held on Thursday 17 October 2019 at 17.30 in the New King's building, Room NK10, Department of Divinity and Religious Studies King's College, Aberdeen AB24 3UB, and will be entitled 'Their Pattern and Their King: The Gospel of Matthew as a Model for Christian Formation'

Vocations Sunday 2020 Four years ago the College of Bishops decided that the fourth Sunday of Easter, 'Good Shepherd Sunday', would be kept as 'Vocations Sunday', thereby offering the opportunity to consider what 'calling' means in the Church, and how our gifts may be best used in God's service. Next year it falls on Sunday 3 May. If you would like to invite a student to preach about vocation that day, please write to Linda Harrison at institute@scotland.anglican.org

Alastair Haggart Bursary 2020 The Bursary is awarded annually in memory of Bishop Haggart, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church (1977-85). It aims to help finance sabbaticals or other similar leave of absence on the part of full-time ministers at a stage in the person's life when such an experience will significantly enhance his or her development. The outcomes of the project should also be of benefit to the wider Church. A committee will convene in February 2020 to make the next award totalling up to £1,300. To apply for the bursary, please request an application form from Mrs Linda Harrison institute@scotland.anglican.org and return to her by Epiphany 2020.



Placement extraordinaire! Second year Mixed Mode student Beki Cansdale, who is based at St John's Princes Street, Diocese of Edinburgh, recently spent a fortnight working in a mini-placement in Westminster Abbey, experiencing the ministry and mission of that royal church and World Heritage site. She writes: 'It was such an amazing experience to be somewhere so different. Regardless of the differences though, they are still a working church, they still celebrate the Eucharist and they still have a ministry. It provided a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the fact that each church has got to be true to its context, its own identity and those to whom it serves. It was also a reminder that no matter how big or small our churches are, community really matters!'

Graduation congratulations!

The photograph shows Revd Dr Jennifer Holden (left) and the Revd Harriet Oxley at their graduation from the School of Divinity, New College, University of Edinburgh, along with Professor Paul Foster. Both graduates, who achieved superb MDiv degrees, were supported through their three years at New College by a Full-Time Student Bursary from the SEI Training Fund. It is good to see this Fund having such excellent outcomes.



SEI Training Fund This month we extend warm thanks to the congregations of St Oswald's, Kings Park (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway), St Augustine's Dumbarton (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) and St Margaret of Scotland, New Galloway (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) for their kind donations; to the Revd Sally Gorton and the Revd Canon Robin Paisley for their continued generosity. Thanks are also extended to the congregations of St Andrew's Brechin and St Mary's and St Peter's Montrose (Diocese of Brechin) for the generous donations arising from the licensing of the Revd John Skinner as priest for the group.

Mr John Thompson (Old St Paul's, Diocese of Edinburgh) kindly gifted a large consignment of superb theology books, the proceeds from the sale of which (at the October Residential Weekend) will go to the Fund. Likewise we thank the Rt Revd Dr Idris Jones for his fine consignment of theology books, and Mrs Jeannette Whiteside for kindly transporting them. Ordination offerings will be acknowledged next month.

SEI Ambassador: We thank the Revd Nick Bowry, Curate at St Clement's Mastrick and St Ninian's, Aberdeen (Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney) for serving as SEI Ambassador to that Diocese in recent years. The SEI Ambassadors each ensure that this *Newsletter* is circulated around the diocese in which they reside, and publicise the work of SEI in other ways. As Nick moves south to take up an incumbency in the Diocese of Edinburgh, we thank him for his work on SEI's behalf in recent years and wish him every blessing in his new charges.

