

DECEMBER 2021 NEWS FROM SEI

As we prepare to give thanks for the gift of the Christ Child, we look back in this edition of the Newsletter at those who have given generously of self and service, money and materials, to SEI over this past year.

Warm thanks go to all who have given so generously to the SEI Training Fund in the past month: to the Revd Aaron Moffat-Jackman and the congregation of St Peter's Musselburgh, Diocese of Edinburgh; the congregations of St Bartholomew's Gourrock and All Saints Bearsden, (*right*), Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway; the Revd Lindsey Sanderson and Hamilton United Reformed Church.



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We **thank** likewise those who this past year have donated regular sums to the Fund, in particular the Revd Sally Gorton who has generously forwarded the Deputising Fees she has received while working as a locum in charges across the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, and the Revd Canon Robin Paisley who similarly has waived supervision fees in favour of the Fund. The SEI Training Fund supports those students training on the two full-time pathways, that is via New College or the Mixed Mode track, and we are very grateful for all contributions towards their training.

Our **thanks** go likewise to those who have set up Standing Orders to contribute to the St James Fund or the McQueen Fund. These two funds support ordinands and Lay Readers respectively while studying for authorised ministry (IME 1-3) or in their first year of ministry. They are used for such extra-curricular educational needs as study overseas and conferences; spiritual needs including attendance at retreats; and emotional needs (including, but not limited to, situations of hardship). This past term money has been granted to enable one student to go on a trip to the Holy Land next year and another to take a seven-month course of Ignatian Exercises. So, warm thanks are extended to those who have enabled the coffers in these two Funds to remain buoyant.

Many **thanks** also to those who have donated second-hand clerical gear. Two such consignments of garments have been taken to recent residential events. It is always a great joy when a student discovers a cassock that seems to be 'made to measure'. Given the cost of clerical gear today, SEI is always grateful to receive such gifts.

But the giving is not all one way; we **thank** those students who have set up Standing Orders or given at Residential Weekend Eucharists to the online fund set up to support the mission of our sister Theological Institute in Porto Alegre, Brazil.



Institute Council: We **thank** those who have served on the Institute Council this past year and given of their time and their talents to further the work of SEI. In particular we **thank** the ecumenical members, the Revd Marjorie McPherson now joined by the Revd Stewart Cutler; the University representative, the Revd Professor Paul Foster; and the Convenor of the Council, the Rt Revd Anne Dyer, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney (*right*). Most especially we **thank** the Revd Elaine Garman, Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, who produces a digest of the proceedings after every meeting with rapidity and conciseness, as here:



‘November’s Institute Council meeting welcomed Godwin Chimara (*left*) and the Revd Stewart Cutler (*below*) to membership of the group as the respective student and ecumenical representatives; as ever it is good to have fresh perspectives. We also welcomed the addition of two further post-graduate modules around healing and the environment. The development of new modules is both exciting and challenging.

‘It was also inspiring to learn of the Student Chapter’s desire to move to membership with *Eco-Congregation Scotland*, to which the Institute Council agreed. Money raised by the students and staff was topped up to £1,000 to donate to *Eco-Congregation Scotland*, but probably more important to note is the aspiration to partner meaningfully on projects together. This commitment gives a reality to the shaping of a missional church and its future ministers.



‘Lay learning opportunities have been actively developed over past months, and the Council expressed its appreciation of this contribution to the wider church. We debated how to maximise the promotion of these opportunities, a topic which will now be discussed with the Director of Communications, recognising the importance of internal communication to the benefit of us all.

‘Finally, there were items of ‘investment’. We noted the increase to 75% of stipend and associated costs in the funding of curacies to support local churches that would not otherwise have been able to afford a curate. Such churches have much to give in the formation of clergy, and clearly have much to receive too. It was agreed to increase fees for Level 6 and 7 modules whilst maintaining the ability to waive fees should the situation necessitate this, to encourage further study regardless of financial situations. The Council received the report of the Mixed Mode Review and considered the investment in supervision which is particularly crucial to this mode of learning. And lastly, with no hesitation we approved that the post of Director of Mixed Mode Training be made permanent, which adds to the already valued SEI staff team.’

Revd Elaine C. Garman

*Through the past year SEI has endeavoured to offer its educational resources beyond the community of those training for authorised ministries; **thanks** are given here for the many courses that have been offered by the Revd Dr Michael Hull and the Revd Dr Richard Tiplady through 2021.*



SEI Lecture: Despite flooding, COP26 road closures and delayed trains, there was a good turn-out at Glasgow University Memorial Chapel on Thursday 28 October for the sixth SEI Lecture, a further sixty-two people having registered to follow the livestream on the SEC's Youtube Channel and Facebook page. The Lecture was delivered by SEI's Director of Studies, the Revd Dr Michel Hull, who offered a scholarly peroration about the Filioque controversy, which segued into a lively debate in the Q and A session.

Advent studies: Following on from the success of his Lenten series, 'Acting like a Christian', Dr Hull is currently running an Advent series entitled *Reading the Bible like an Episcopalian*: a four-part series in Advent. 'What is the Law? How do you read it?', asks Jesus (Luke 10.26). Perhaps we should put the same question to ourselves. As Episcopalians, we affirm the Bible as God's word, but how do we read it?

Reading the Bible like an Episcopalian is a series of four talks in the Season of Advent to reflect upon ways in which Episcopalians understand Holy Scripture. Because we, like all Christians, read the Bible from our own perspective and within our own denomination, it is worth probing our own predilections. It is worth asking, in other words, what characterises an Episcopalian approach to the Bible over time, say, from the Reformation until today?

The remaining three (standalone) talks will address the following topics: how we pray with the Bible and why Books of Common Prayer came into use; how the Enlightenment affects the way we read the Bible; and how we read the Bible in a variety of ways in our own day.

Monday 06 December — Praying with the Bible: Why a Book of Common Prayer?

Monday 13 December — The Bible in the Enlightenment: Who's the light of the world?

Monday 20 December — The Bible in the twenty-first century: How do we read it?

Time: 7pm to 8pm on four Monday evenings in Advent via Zoom. To register click [here](#)

SEI Journal: Through 2021 the SEI Journal has continued to offer scholarly material for thought and discussion. Editions this year have addressed the following topics: 'Safety and Salvation', the theology of safeguarding (Spring); 'Scottish Episcopal Theologians' (Summer); and 'Climate change' (Autumn). At the time of writing we look forward eagerly to the winter edition on 'Lucy Menzies and friends' curated by Professor Ann Loades. We extend many **thanks** to Dr Hull and the Editorial Board - Dr Elizabeth Corsar, Dr John Reuben Davies, the Revd Dr Harriet Harris, the Revd Dr Oliver O'Donovan, the Revd Canon Dr Alison Peden and the Revd Dr Jenny Wright – and to the Copy Editor, Mrs Heather Barcroft, for their creative work on this significant outreach of the Institute. Professor Mike Highton, our University Liaison Officer, commended the Journal as '*a creative and interesting way of ensuring that research culture surrounds all aspects of the TEI's work.*'



Richard on top of Bidean nam Bian in Glencoe

*The Revd Dr Richard Tiplady, SEI's Director of Mixed Mode Training, has run a course entitled 'The Church in the New Normal: An Introduction to Pioneer Ministry' eight times since May 2020, three times in 2021. These last three iterations – twice for the Diocese of Edinburgh and once for some Church of Scotland churches in Hamilton Presbytery - have been in response to being invited to lead the course by particular groups of people. Here Janet McKinnell, Warden of Lay Readers in the Diocese of Edinburgh, offers her **thanks** for the teaching received during one of the courses run in the Diocese of Edinburgh.*

Appreciation of the Pioneer Ministry courses

I recently attended the *Introduction to Pioneer Ministry* course, a last-minute decision. It was not to aid my own ministry in any way, as I've never seen myself as a pioneer. I hoped it would help me to understand the ministry of other people who *were* pioneer ministers, which it did.

This online course was an enjoyable and challenging experience, beginning with discussion, and including reading, videos, discussions, and input from both Richard Tiplady and guest speakers with experience of pioneer ministry. It was a loosely, but carefully, guided exploration of the subject. We started not with a talk or lecture, but with small group discussions, starting where we were and building relationships, building community, and finding our way. Key questions for us were 'Who are we? What do we know? Who do we know?'

Life and ministry can unfold in unexpected ways and this course was like that for me. I discovered that pioneer ministry is more about the 'How' than the 'What', more about seeing opportunities and responding to them, about relationships and working together. It was not about 'What event or outreach shall I plan for "them"?' but more 'Who should we connect with?'

I quite unexpectedly began to see possibilities of using at least some of the principles of pioneer ministry in my role as a Warden of Lay Readers. Reflection on this will continue with the other Lay Readers who were in the group. If you get the chance, I do recommend this course.

Introduction to Pioneer Ministry is a gift of a course. Richard believes passionately in what he is doing and that's shown in his careful selection and preparation of materials and in signposting resources for us to continue our own exploration. Best of all, Richard demonstrated the principles of what he was teaching in the process of delivering the course.

The depth and commitment of Richard's own continuing exploration of pioneer ministry were obvious. Richard was a gift to us ... in my case a transformative gift.

Thank you, Richard!

Janet McKinnell

Focus on Discipleship: Through his involvement on the Mission Board, Richard has been helping to drive forward work on the enlivening of Christian faith and life in the SEC. At the 2016 meeting in Zambia of the Anglican Consultative Council it was agreed that there should be a Communion-wide focus on 'Intentional Discipleship', highlighting the transformation of the whole of life by those who profess to be Christians, and the call upon each of us to invite others to the same journey. Accordingly the Mission Board proposed that the SEC engage in a *Season for Christian Life* beginning in January 2023, connected to and following on from the *Season of Pilgrimage* of which more in due course.

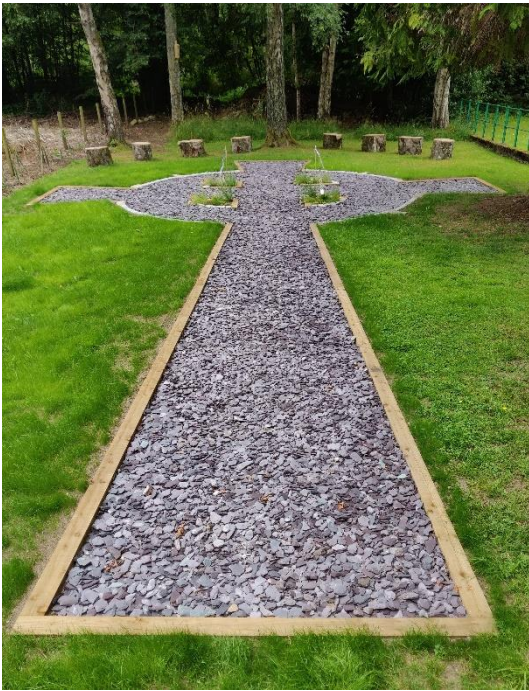
Richard is well placed to help guide this process having represented the SEC at the thrice-yearly UK & Ireland Intentional Discipleship gatherings from 2019, where best practice and resources are shared between Anglicans and organisations such as the Church Urban Fund, CPAS and Messy Church. He is also on the editorial board for the new [Grove Discipleship series](#), and has just edited Rachel Mash's book, *Renewing the Life of the Earth: Christian Discipleship and Environmental Action*. He draws our attention to the third book in the series by Mark Greene: *Making Disciples for the Workplace: How to Nurture Whole-life Discipleship*.

Mixed Mode steams ahead: Now in its fourth year, the Mixed Mode pathway is fully embedded in the life of SEI and of the wider SEC – and greatly appreciated by candidates and context charges alike. Under this model, ordinands serve for 20-25 hours in mission and ministry each week in a placement context, with 1-2 days being set aside for academic study and the writing of assignments, and 1 day a week for class preparation and attendance. They receive an annual maintenance grant, two thirds of which is provided by SEI. This iterative process of learning and formation, based on the interplay of placement experience, private study, and classroom learning and discussion, has at its heart a missional imperative. It is about equipping students to be leaders of their congregations or communities in mission. Two former Mixed Mode students, the Revds Jaime Wright and Beki Cansdale, are putting the skills learned at SEI into practice as they serve their curacies in Old St Paul's, Edinburgh, and St John's Cathedral, Oban respectively; Beki also serves as Diocesan Youth Officer for the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles.

Currently within the SEI student cohort, there are three ordinands on this pathway, and two further part-time students piloting 'extended placements', that is, working two days a week in the placement context but

without receiving a maintenance grant. Third year ordinand Ross Jesmont's (*above*) main placement is at St Salvador's, Edinburgh, under the supervision of the Revd Canon Andrew Bain. Ross's particular focus is the development of a potential *fresh expression* of church around the Wednesday food bank and among a growing number of young people in the church.





Fellow final year ordinand Rachael Wright has just returned to her main placement at Highland Perthshire Linked Charge, supervised by the Revd Liz Baker, having completed a seven-week alternate placement at St Mary's Dunblane. She is currently working on the handover of projects she has developed and led, such as the Serenity Garden project at Holy Trinity Church, Pitlochry (*left and below*).



First year ordinand Niccolo Alianò is based at St Columba's by The Castle, Diocese of Edinburgh, under the supervision of the Revd David Paton-Williams. His first term's work has largely focussed on relationship-building within the congregation and with local community groups, but he is also working with a member of the congregation to explore possible collaboration with the National Museum of Scotland and National Library of Scotland.

**Peace
'n' Jam**
Social Hub & Community Kitchen

Ross Stirling-Young, another first year ordinand, is engaged in an Extended Placement at the Church Army Centre of Mission in St Luke's Glenrothes under the supervision of the Revd Gerry Dillon. He is working energetically with the church's Peace 'n' Jam Social Pantry, Kitchen and Social Hub as Community Development Officer two days per week. He is also hoping to volunteer with Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland in Morrisons Supermarket Glenrothes, one of the latest food providers to partner with St. Luke's.

Dr Val Cameron (*shown right at the COP26 climate march on 6 November*), a final year student in training for the Vocational Diaconate, is placed with the Revd David Dixon at St Barnabas, Moredun, in Edinburgh. She is actively involved in the work of the church, leading worship, delivering sermons and leading midweek prayer services.

Val is supporting two project workers of the Bethany Christian Trust who are based in the church. A range of community projects include a craft workshop where Val is using her calligraphy skills to share the good news.



Thanks to SEI students for their energetic engagement in COP26 in so many ways, including the Day of Prayer and Fasting on 1 November. SEI students (and Mäyrä, the dog) also joined the COP26 Global Day of Action for Climate Justice march in Glasgow on 6th November as part of the 'Faith and Beliefs Bloc for Climate Justice' which gathered in Kelvingrove Park. Val, shown right with Eco-Congregation Scotland Chaplain the Revd David Coleman, writes: *'It was a very moving experience to join with so many people from all faith groups in raising awareness and concern but also in praising God together for the gifts we have. We walked through the streets of Glasgow, Sauchiehall street, Argyle Street, George Square, High Street and on to Glasgow Green. Over 100,000 people walked together.'*





Encouraging participation in pioneer ministry project: This research project into the experience of pioneer ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church is being conducted by the Mission Board and led by Rev Dr Richard Tiplady, SEI's Director of Mixed Mode Training. It seeks to identify examples and experiences of pioneer ministry across the breadth of the SEC and the lessons that can be learned therefrom. Using the image on the left as a way to inspire thinking, the research uses the innovative Sensemaker tool to learn from people's stories and to clarify the key lessons from those stories. You can contribute to this research using this [link](#). Richard is keen to hear from people from across the SEC, so your contribution will be very welcome.



And so giving thanks for all that has been in this past year, we look to the New Year

New modules (i): From January through to March SEI will be piloting a module entitled '*Theological Perspectives on Community Development and Organising*'. This explores the themes, theology, scope and approaches to community work, and examines the work of individual theologians so engaged such as Ann Morisy, Sam Wells, Al Barrett, Luke Bretherton and Angus Ritchie. It seeks to enable those who study it to develop their skills in community engagement, learning how to listen well and work with others who are already investing their gifts and skills in their locality, enabling dialogue and understanding between church and community.

The module will comprise case studies of Community Development and Organising work in the UK delivered by practitioners in the two fields. We are thrilled to be welcoming the following into our midst: the Revd Chris Howson, Chaplain to the University of Sunderland, (*right*), author of *A Just Church: 21st century liberation theology in action*; the Revd Nick Bowry, Rector of St James the Less Penicuik, and formerly at St Clement's Mastrick Aberdeen; the Revd Canon Ian Barcroft, Provincial Director of Ordinands, formerly Rector of St Mary's Hamilton; and the Revd Dr Martin Johnstone, a Church of Scotland minister involved in supporting individuals and organisations committed to the struggle against poverty and for social justice. Other sessions on the theology of these approaches will be led by the Principal.



Those currently candidating for the vocational Diaconate will be taking the course for credit, and Deacons from across the Province will be auditing the module. The module is highly appropriate for those called to this Order for they '*have a commitment to outreach and witness, advocacy and prophecy .. and are called to build bridges between the Church and the world*'.



New modules (ii): Dr Tiplady is working with the Revd Dr Gillian Straine (*left*) of the Guild of Health and St Raphael to develop a new Level 7 (MA) module on *Health, Healing and Mission*, which could be added to the Common Awards portfolio of modules. This would sit alongside their existing Level 6 (BA) module on the same topic and allow SEI to teach it concurrently to BA and MA students from 2022.

New modules (iii): With all the interest in matters relating to the environment at the present time, SEI is also considering delivering the Level 7 (MA) module *Christian Faith and the Environment* in 2022-23. This module widens the environmental lens beyond simply focussing upon the net zero issue, vital though that is, to include other important aspects of mission and the environment

(for example, biodiversity, plastic pollution, air quality and water quality, fast fashion and overconsumption). This module would be very suitable for CMD purposes, as would the Health, Healing and Mission module, and might lead to additional interest in and registrations on SEI's new MA programmes.

New MA programme: This has been made available by Common Awards to sit alongside the existing *MA in Theology, Mission and Ministry* which is currently being studied by our first cohort of students. At its October meeting SEI's Management Committee approved a request from core staff to proceed with an application to Common Awards to offer the new *MA in Contemporary Christian Leadership* programme from September 2022. The programme combines a focus on leadership with the reshaping of the church for mission in contemporary Western society, which connects very closely with Dr Tiplady's academic interests and experience.

New term: The term begins with a residential at which we look forward to welcoming the Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mash who will lead the third Friday evening session in the *Foundations for Ministry and Mission in Context* module. Canon Mash is the Environmental Co-ordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. She works with the *Green Anglicans* Youth Movement and is also the secretary to the Anglican Communion Environmental Network. She will be speaking about 'Christian Discipleship and Environmental Action'.



Advance notice is given of the 2022 SEI Lecture, to be delivered virtually by the Revd Professor Sarah Coakley. Professor Coakley was Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity from 2007-2018, one of the senior professorships in divinity at the University of Cambridge. Since then she has been an Honorary Professor at St Andrews University, and a Visiting Professorial Fellow at the Australian Catholic University. She is currently writing the remaining volumes of her systematic theology, and editing recent papers in philosophy of religion. The Lecture will be held on Thursday 20 October 2022. Professor Coakley's [championing](#) of the integration of pastoral and systematic theology is a cause very dear to SEI's pedagogical heart.