

# JUNE – JULY 2018 NEWS FROM SEI

We are publishing a double issue this month for distribution at General Synod.

**SEI Lecture 2018:** The annual SEI Lecture will be held this year on Thursday 11 October at 5.30 pm in Parliament Hall, South Street, St Andrews. Professor Elaine Graham, Grosvenor Research Professor of Practical Theology, University of Chester and Canon Theologian of Chester Cathedral, will deliver a paper entitled 'Liberating the Laity: a Theology for a Learning Church'. The Lecture, sponsored by St Mary's College, the School of Divinity, University of St Andrews, is open to all free of charge and will be followed by a reception. This is the third in the lecture series, the first two having been given by Professor Mike Higton of Durham University and Professor David Jasper of Glasgow University.



## Vocations Sunday round-up

Here is a selection of the photographs and text received from congregations across Scotland after students preached on Easter 4. Thanks to all the charges who welcomed students, contributed copy and donated money to the SEI Training Fund. Bookings for next year open in October!



### From the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway:

We were delighted to welcome Ellie Charman, a final year ordinand, to St Oswald's Church in Maybole. Ellie played an active role in the service by choosing the hymns, assisting at the altar and preaching for us on the Gospel of the day. In a small congregation that relies heavily on the lay ministries of our members as well as the ministry of our priest, Ellie's words were very much appreciated in reminding us all of our own individual vocations as Christians. A collection was taken during the service, raising £60.

We are very grateful to Ellie for travelling from Edinburgh to join us and we will be keeping her in our prayers as she continues on her journey to ordination. The photo shows Ellie, sixth from left, with members of the congregation following the service.

Matthew Wyllie

### From the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness: A

'phone call from the Almighty Himself opened the sermon slot at St Finnbar's in Dornoch. Second year ordinand Don Grant encouraged the congregation to consider God's calling on their lives by sharing some of his own journey and sense of call to ordained ministry. The call to his mobile, which interrupted his sermon as it started, illustrated how many of us can feel too busy to spend time simply listening to what God is calling us to do in our lives. The gentle encouragement we both give and receive from others can help us to discern the part that each of us has to play in God's mission to our world. As St Teresa of Avila would have it, 'Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which He blesses the world'. Simon Scott





**From the Diocese of Brechin:** First year ordinand Roxanne Campbell writes: It was a privilege to be back among my sending church to preach for Vocations Sunday. Preaching to a congregation who are already familiar with my own call narrative, I had the opportunity to speak about discipleship and our primary vocation as Christians to embodying the image of God which is in each of us. I spoke of how our individual call involves risking ourselves in the midst of reality, discovering God's holiness within us and others, and vulnerability, but that each and every one of us, as disciples, live with the assurance that God has made us into the kind of people who can do the kind of work that builds God's kingdom. It was a wonderful opportunity and I was so thankful for the support and tangible graciousness of the community around me.

**From the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles:** First year ordinand Thomas Ware and his fiancée Julia spent a weekend with the Revd Amanda Fairclough in the West Highland Region. They enjoyed hiking in the area on the Saturday, and then spent a full day across the six charges on the Sunday. Thomas preached, served and acted as deacon at the 10:30 service at St Mary's Glencoe, followed by a café lunch with members of the congregation. They then toured the rest of the group of charges looking in on St Paul's Kinlochleven, St Bride's North Ballachulish, St John's Ballachulish and St Adamnan's Duror, before heading over to Holy Cross Portnacraois where Thomas led and precented Choral Evensong. Two highlights of the weekend were handling the Appin Chalice and Paten (right), said to have been used at a Eucharist just before the Battle of Culloden, and being 'phoned by +Bishop Kevin on the Saturday morning and welcomed to the diocese.



**From the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane:** The photograph (left) shows first year ordinand Jean Souter (Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney) with the Rector of St Michael's Elie, the Revd Samantha Ferguson. Jean also preached at St. John's Pittenweem. Elsewhere in that Diocese second year ordinand Annie Hughes (Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane) preached in St Saviour's, Bridge of Allan.



**The final Residential Weekend** of the 2017-2018 academic year took place at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull, early in May. The topic, as ever on this last weekend of the year, was 'vocation'. Bishop John and the Revd David Paton-Williams, IME 4-6 Officer for the Central Belt, came to speak to the Leavers as they prepared to move into representative public ministry. Dr Paul Stollard, Lay Reader at St James the Less, Goldenacre (Diocese of Edinburgh) and the Revd Sarah Shaw, Rector of Christ Church Falkirk (Diocese of Edinburgh), both recent graduates of TISEC/SEI, led two sessions entitled 'God on the ground: formation bearing fruit in ministry'. Dr Daphne Audsley, Assistant Officer for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, led thought-provoking sessions on 'Towards a theology of safeguarding' and 'Practical safeguarding'.



On Friday night first year ordinand Thomas Ware (Diocese of Edinburgh) led us in Sung Compline in the candlelit church of St Mary, as ever a most memorable act of worship given the acoustic of the church and the beauty of the RSCM Office. On Saturday lunchtime the Worship Group rostered for the weekend, led by Final Year ordinand Lee Johnston (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway), organised a Café Church-style act of worship. The Oratory in St Mary's (above) was transformed, the congregation sitting around tables and discussing John 11 during the Exposition of the Word. The weekend culminated in a celebration of the Eucharist with Canon Ian Paton (Diocese of Edinburgh) as President and Final Year ordinand Andy Philip (Diocese of Edinburgh) as preacher, the service and the lunch following being attended by families of candidates. Commendations were made to the Leavers by the Continuing Students at the end of the Liturgy.



**SEI Training Fund:** Thanks this month go to the Revd Moira Jamieson (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) and the Revd Lorna Mortis (Diocese of Edinburgh) for their kind donations of theology books which raised £120 at the May RWE; to the Revd Sally Gorton (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) for continuing to donate her locum fees to the Fund; and to Mrs Linda Catterall (Diocese of Argyll and the Isles) for the kind donation of her Lay Reader robes. SEI is deeply grateful for all these thoughtful and most generous donations.

**SEI stand at Edinburgh's 'Big Day':** Students from the Diocese of Edinburgh - Jenny Holden, Olivia Williams, Sue Ward, Thomas Ware and Joanna Leidenhag - staffed an SEI stand at the 'Big Day' on Saturday 28 April. The day, intended to celebrate the life of the diocese and showcase the ministry and mission of congregations, chaplaincies, organisations and charities, attracted over 500 people. The students created a Power Point slide show of the life of the Institute, plus a map indicating where each member of the community comes from (seen right). They were kept busy throughout the day answering questions about the formation programme and about their own vocations. Huge thanks to them for their hard work before and during the day, and for being such good ambassadors.



**New College Five:** The photograph shows the SEI ordinands who are also currently studying at New College, University of Edinburgh. From the left: Eleanor Charman, Joanna Leidenhag, Harriet Oxley, Jennifer Holden and Thomas Ware. Ellie is about to begin serving her Title in St John's Wick and St Peter's Thurso, Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. Jo, Harriet and Jenny will begin their final year at SEI, and Thomas his second, in August.

**For your prayers:** Please hold the Leavers in your prayers - Megan Cambridge and Eleanor Charman (Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness); Henna Cundill (Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney); Lee Johnston (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway); Caroline Longley and Andrew Philip (Diocese of Edinburgh). Please also pray for the other eighteen students continuing into a further year of formation, and for the twelve preparing to join the community in August.