

NOVEMBER NEWS FROM SEI



October Residential Weekend: The first residential weekend of the year saw the SEI community being joined by several guests: Marcus Slater, a post-grad student from the University of Glasgow, who was observing SEI's pedagogy; the Revd Dr Steve Younger, Minister in High Blantyre Baptist Church, Glasgow, who led a session on 'The Theology and Practice of Chaplaincy and Spiritual Development within Scottish Schools' as part of the *Developing Ministry and Mission in Context* module; Dr Michael Green, Director of Music at Christ Church Morningside, Edinburgh, who spoke on the topic of 'Supporting the congregation musically'; and the Revd David Coleman, *Eco-Congregations Scotland* Chaplain (left), who led an energetic session on climate-change conscientization and then presided at a URC Communion. Family members joined the community on the Sunday morning for that service and lunch.

SEI Training Fund: This month we extend warm thanks to the congregations of Holy Trinity, Dunoon and St Paul's, Rothesay (Diocese of Argyll and the Isles) for the generous donation to the Fund of the offering gathered at the Institution of their Rector, the Revd David Railton, and likewise to St James the Less Penicuik and St Mungo's West Linton (Diocese of Edinburgh) for that gathered at the Institution of their new Rector, the Revd Nicholas Bowry. Thanks also to the congregation of St Michael and All Angels, Helensburgh (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) for its kind gift, and to the Revd Canon Robin Paisley for donating his deputising fees to the Fund once again.

The Revd David Dalglish (Diocese of Edinburgh) kindly donated a rich store of theology books which will be taken to and sold at the December Residential Weekend, and for that we thank him deeply. We thank Canon Tom Montgomery and the Rt Revd Dr Idris Jones for further consignments of theology books, the proceeds from the sale of which have gone to the Fund; thanks also to Jan Whiteside for kindly transporting these to the General Synod Office. We also thank the following dioceses for the offerings taken at the ordination services at Michaelmas, magnificent sums all.

Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney	511.19	Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway	528.39
Diocese of Brechin	181.33	Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness	364.14
Diocese of Edinburgh	1,567.57	Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane	1,235.82

Vocations Sunday 2020: This is simply to say that we have been inundated with requests for preachers. All available students have now been matched (and the staff likewise), so if you had wanted someone in 2020, then we are sorry to disappoint you. Plan early for 2021!

Alastair Haggart Bursary 2020: This annually awarded Bursary aims to help finance sabbaticals 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. The Bursary committee will convene in January 2020 to make the next award totalling up to £1,300. To apply for the award, please request an application form from Mrs Linda Harrison institute@scotland.anglican.org and return to her by Epiphany 2020.

Diaconal stories: The four recently ordained Vocational Deacons describe the kind of ministries they are getting involved in. **The Revd Jean Souter** (shown right with her husband Dave) reports that she was delighted when told by Bishop Anne that she would be serving her Title at St James, Aberdeen, for two years, having been brought up in that congregation. 'The church holds very fond memories for me' she writes. Jean is now on the rotas for reading the Gospel, leading an Advent course, prayers, pastoral visiting and preaching, but her main diaconal work will be in connection with the midweek outreach work in which this city centre congregation engages. 'There is a coffee morning every Thursday and every second Thursday there is a Healing Service followed by coffee. Everyone is welcome to these gatherings and services. Some local people come on a Thursday and it is a good time for fellowship, to get to know them and have a chat'.



The Revd Katrina O'Neill writes: 'My curacy is in Inverness Cathedral and my ministry as a deacon will be for the City of Inverness. As part of that, the hope is that I will be able to engage more with Bishop Eden School and assist at the school assemblies. I have become the Cathedral's representative on the Inverness Christian Aid group. Every Wednesday I am on duty as the contact clergyperson in the Cathedral, taking the Morning Office and service. My work within the Diocesan and Cathedral Office will also be part of my ministry as I engage with the people with whom I come into contact through those links, as well as greeting the many visitors that come to the Cathedral.'

(Photo shows Katrina with the Rt Rev Bruce Myers, Bishop of Quebec)

My hope for the future is to engage more with, and work alongside, the Inverness Street Pastors as I believe that the work they do is very much 'diaconal ministry'. This would allow me to engage with the community as well as help address the needs of those who may find themselves in vulnerable situations. In preparation for this diaconal ministry I had the great privilege to be asked by Bishop Mark to spend part of the summer in the Diocese of Quebec. The Dioceses of Moray, Ross and Caithness and Quebec have for many years had close links as companion dioceses. I was greatly humbled to have been offered the chance to represent the diocese and SEI as I prepared for the next part of my journey towards ministry and ordination.

I had the most amazing experience and will treasure the memories of my time there and what I gained by being among their clergy and people. Due to the vast size of the Diocese I didn't get to visit all areas, but managed to travel around many parts, experiencing how ministry occurs in different places: Eastern Townships, Gaspé and Quebec City. I had the opportunity to spend time with Deacons, accompanying them on pastoral visits and learning about their experiences of diaconal ministry. In the Diocese of Quebec, and especially in the rural areas, Deacons and Lay Readers are relied on a lot due to the lack of priests and the vast areas over which priests have to minister.

During my time in Quebec I preached four times, went hospital and home visiting, assisted at services including a Pet Blessing Service (right), helped at a Confirmation class and also at the yearly agricultural show lunch. I hugely enjoyed attending the worship

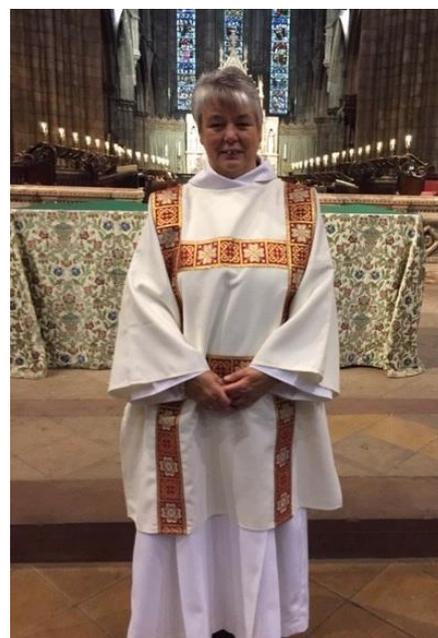


that the churches hold at the Shigawake Fair. All the churches gather together at the showground for their Sunday service in the main tent. We had a full tent, gospel music, horses could be heard outside and dogs attended with their owners; a fantastic way to take the church to the community.



At the end of my time with Bishop Bruce and the clergy in Quebec, I made my pre-ordination retreat with the Sisterhood of St John the Divine, an Anglican Order in Toronto (left). I attended their Daily Offices, had meals with the Sisters and engaged in spiritual direction as I prepared for my ordination. I feel blessed, humbled and forever grateful to the Diocese of Quebec for the part they played in my journey towards diaconal ministry. It was wonderful to be reunited with Bishop Bruce, Fr Edward and Fr Giuseppe when they visited the diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness in October'.

The Revd Susan Ward writes: 'My curacy as a Vocational Deacon is split between my home churches of St Mary's Grangemouth and St Catharine's Bo'ness and the Diocese of Edinburgh. I will be involved with Grangemouth Day Care for vulnerable adults as part of the ministry team. At *Hope Street* in Bo'ness I will continue to help run a drop-in centre for people who have drink and drug addiction, offering hot food, prayer and practical support. In Edinburgh I will spend time with Murrayfield Dementia Club for people with early onset dementia helping with activities, games, worship, and representing the church on the Board of Trustees. I will also be helping at *Soul Food Edinburgh* who provide a safe place, hot food and help for people who are homeless or have drink and drug issues. Sundays will be split between my home churches, Mustard Seed, who run *Soul Food*, and attending services with the Bishop of Edinburgh around the Diocese'.



The Revd Kathryn Sanderson writes: 'My life now at St Columba's encompasses my role as Deacon and my Distinctive Diaconal calling of ministry to the elderly. As a member of the clergy team I am involved in the planning and development of the worship life of the congregation, including preparing and planning new forms of worship. I have a role in leading worship and in supporting others in their leadership of worship. In respect of the Offices of the Church I am participating in the preparation and conducting of funeral services.'

In my Distinctive Diaconal ministry I share in the support of pastoral and spiritual needs of a local Care Home, working with the staff and the Activities Co-ordinator, and take a short Sunday afternoon service for residents on a regular basis. A developing of my ministry of care of the elderly extends into the wider community to the housebound and vulnerable. I am about to attend the Anna Chaplaincy Gathering 2019, the focus of which is 'Loneliness.'



It is good to learn from her Supervising Incumbent that 'Kathryn is already extending the congregation's mission'. Such indeed is the diaconal vocation, so clearly exemplified in all four of the Scottish Episcopal Church's new Vocational Deacons.

Double SEI representation. The 2019 'Annual Meetings' in San Diego, California, hosted by the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, is the world's largest gathering of scholars interested in the study of religion. SEI is immensely proud that two of its students will be presenting papers at that event. Dr Josh Cockayne, final year ordinand from the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, (shown below), is Lecturer in Analytic and Exegetical Theology in the School of Divinity, St Mary's College, University of St Andrews. He is presenting a paper entitled '*Rites of Initiation: Baptism and Group Membership*', as part of a session of the Philosophy of Liturgy, hosted by the Society of Christian Philosophers. The paper will look at the nature of promises made



in baptismal liturgy (using the SEC 2006 Baptism Liturgy as the main example) and consider how membership in the worldwide Church informs an understanding of the nature of these promises. Also present at the event is Jaime Wright, final year Mixed Mode ordinand, who has recently completed a PhD at New College. She is part of a panel that is responding to a recent publication in the Science and Religion field: Josh Reeves's *Against Methodology in Science and Religion: Recent Debates on Rationality and Theology*. Her particular response is entitled '*Making Space for the Methodological Mosaic: The Future of the Field of Science and Religion*' and will be addressing the issue of method with respect to the intersection of science and religion in popular culture.