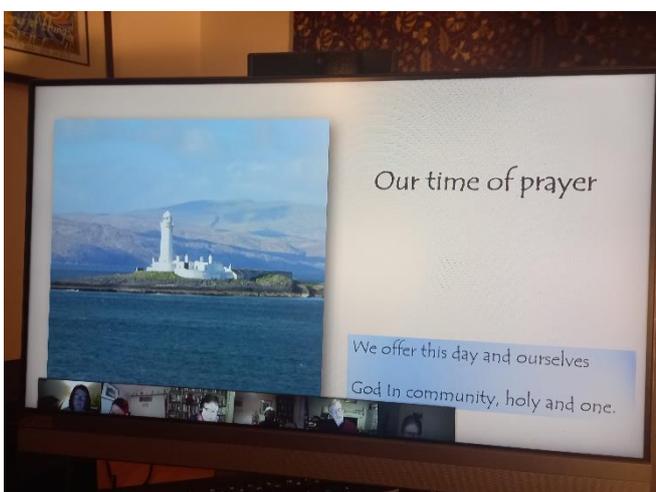


FEBRUARY 2022 NEWS FROM SEI



Turning negatives into positives: Midway through last month's online weekend one of the students said: 'There *are* positives in having to be online, and one of them is being able to see all of your faces, and your smiles!' So we start this pictorial account of that so-called 'January Residential Weekend' with just such an illustration. Smiles galore!

And it *was* a good weekend, despite being a static one. The Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mash got it off to an excellent start with her input on 'Christian Discipleship and Environmental Action', part of the *Foundations for Ministry and Mission in Context* module. Rachel 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. The Revd Dr Richard Tiplady had pre-recorded an interview with her which he then ran in class. In that, Rachel challenged us to identify 'what breaks our heart' with regard to the global environmental crisis. She then inspired us, as 'people of hope', to get involved with like-minded others in making changes in whatever ways we can, changing negatives into positives. Her stirring message arrested the attention not simply of the staff and students, judging by the photograph on the right!



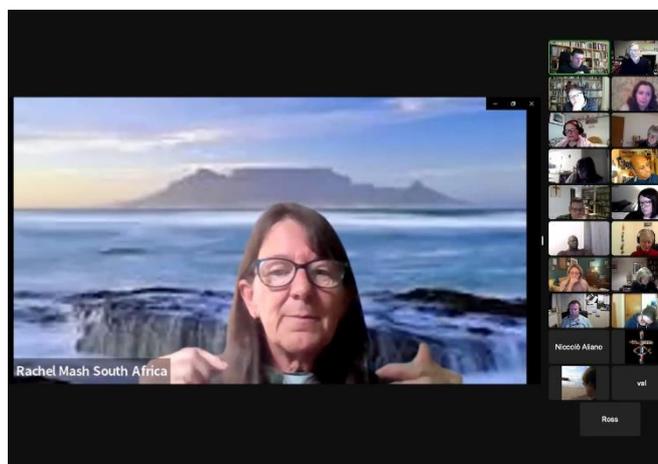
The Small Group known as *The Sojourners*, led by URC final year ordinand Louise Sanders, was responsible for much of the weekend's worship, and likewise challenged us on Saturday morning to think about our response to a pressing global issue, that of migration. Focusing upon 'the Holy Family escaping from persecution, fleeing to Egypt, displaced, as refugees' they directed our prayer and attention upon 'all those across the world on the move', weaving the 'Iona Dialogue' from the Wild Goose resource *Refugees from Eden*, (Rosemary Power (ed), WGP 2021) into their creative Morning Prayer.

Saturday lunchtime saw us engaging in a Taizé service focussing 'on the mission of the Church, the mission of each of us as individuals, to reach all the peoples of the earth, and the great gift of God's grace in revealing truth and light to the world'. Despite the online nature of this worship, 'singing Taizé chants "together" during Midday Prayer was prayerful and powerful', to quote one student.



'Chapter', the student Council, met as ever on the Saturday afternoon, ably chaired by final year ordinand Rachael Wright (*top right*) and attended by the Chaplain, the Very Revd Graham Taylor (*bottom left*). SEI staff do not attend; this is a forum in which the student body can raise and discuss any issues pertaining to their education and training within the SEI, and where relevant information can be shared. It is an autonomous body within SEI, and discussions are confidential. Any decisions that Chapter makes are written up and sent subsequently to the staff as 'Action Points', for discussion and possible implementation.

The weekend culminated in a URC Service of the Word, ably led by Louise Sanders and *The Sojourners*. Louise had pre-recorded the service on video, splicing in contributions from each of the members of the five-strong Worship Group. It was good to be joined at that service by the Revd Dr John McNeil Scott, Principal of The Scottish College, and by several family members who might otherwise not have been able to be with us. Yes, being online enables *many* positives to happen.



(Thanks to Ferdinand von Prondzynski, Ross Stirling-Young, Godwin Chimara, Linda Harrison and Pat Ellison for the photographs which accompany this account.)

Anne Tomlinson

The Revd Paul Watson, Rector of St James the Less, Bishopbriggs, and a member of Institute Council, continues our theme of 'turning negatives into positives' in this account of a fruitful development begun during lockdown. Paul is shown below (right) while walking in Glencoe with friend and ministerial colleague, the Revd Dr Richard Tiplady.

'...not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another' Heb.10,25



Pastors in a Secular Age began out of a series of conversations I had with fellow church ministers from different denominations who were interested in the work of Charles Taylor and his relevance for our context in Scotland. Taylor is a Canadian philosopher whose monumental book *Secular Age* was published in 2009 and has become a seminal text for navigating and understanding the context in which the church functions today in western nations.

These conversations happened just before the start of Covid 19, and at that point we had been thinking about organising a conference later in 2020. Then

Zoom arrived. We met together online and really benefited from sharing our experiences and reflections of being leaders of mostly smaller congregations, and of how we faced similar challenges. We quickly realised the potential that Zoom offered for getting a larger group together, and so spread the word on social media. Our first session was in June 2020, and since then we have held a wide-ranging series of one-hour online events in which a 25-minute presentation is followed by breakout rooms, ending with a short plenary and introduction to our next topic. These have included *'Surviving and Thriving as Pastors in a Secular Age'*; *'How to lead when you don't know where you're going'*; *'The Medium and the Message: the Paradox of Online Ministry'*; *'Missional Spirituality'*; *'Doing God by Doing Good? A role for the Church in a secular society'*; and *'We flourish in smallness: the authentic in small communities of faith'*.

Most sessions have 20-30 church leaders from right across Scotland and from many denominations, many of whom are leading small congregations. It has been relatively easy to organise, and the original co-ordinating group continues to meet for mutual support and discuss future topics. One of the great benefits is that we never know whom we are going to meet with in a breakout room, so it gets us out of our silos to mix with folk with whom we may not normally interact.

A desire for fellowship and support in engaging with our context here in Scotland lies at the heart of this initiative, and we hope to continue to offer this chance to learn from one another and be strengthened in our calling. We have discovered that we can connect with others with the appropriate use of technology, a format that is user friendly and a content that is relevant and grounded in our calling to ministry and mission. By gathering together we break the sense of isolation that can be so undermining, and the feeling of inadequacy we can sometimes feel as church leaders today. We are also reminded of the joy and privilege of serving our churches at a time like this, and of how much we have to offer and receive from our fellow clergy.

Looking ahead to **17 February and 17 March at 3.30pm**, Revd Dr Liam Fraser will be exploring with us *'Mission in Contemporary Scotland'*. Liam is the minister at St Michael's Linlithgow and the chair of the Church of Scotland Theological Forum. His blog can be read [here](#). Liam has recently written a book *'Mission in Contemporary Scotland'* and will lead us in two discussion sessions about the book over the two months. We recommend purchasing the book to get the most out of these sessions, but it is not absolutely essential to do so. Join via this Zoom [link](#) (Meeting ID: 829 4414 4083 Passcode: 366799). Feel free to contact me at pastorsinasecularage@gmail.com

Revd Paul Watson

Another positive formed out of a negative Last year the Alastair Haggart Bursary Awards Committee decided not to advertise the award as they reckoned no-one would be able to make use of it due to Covid. This January they decided to award two bursaries: one, retrospectively, for 2021, and the other for 2022.

Chaplain and Rector win awards! The recipient of the 2022 Bursary was declared to be the Revd Timothy Tunley, (*right*) Chaplain of Scottish Seaports, Mission to Seafarers, a team priest at St John's, Princes Street (Diocese of Edinburgh) and a member of that diocese's Mission and Ministry Committee. Tim is intending to travel to Finland late this year to research the [St Thomas Mass](#) and look at the way in which the Lutheran Church uses contemporary music in its services, before working with St John's in considering how this format could be adapted and offered therein, and within the wider SEC.

The Committee praised the imaginative nature of the proposal, and the way in which it would stimulate thought about liturgy as mission, not only for the winner's own ministry contexts, but also for the Diocese and wider Province. The members felt that the focus of the enquiry was very much in keeping with the current interest in the church ecumenical in Scotland about reaching out to the 'unchurched' through liturgy, music and the arts, and they were convinced that Tim would enable the Scottish Episcopal Church to learn and develop - which is the award's intention.



On hearing of the award Tim said: *'The St Thomas Mass is one of the most popular ecumenical services in Finland. It is based on the story in Luke's gospel about Jesus making a visit to the house of the Pharisee (Luke 7 36-50). Welcome, fellowship and serving others are very much part of the ethos of the Mass. Its strength is that it is both recognisably traditional while incorporating more contemporary material. It is planned and run by a team of volunteers alongside the help of a celebrant.*

'The St Thomas Mass is growing in popularity across Finland and Germany, and is attracting large numbers of people. It is geared towards those seeking faith and those who have faith. Many who attend simply want to come and worship. My plan in going to Finland is to find out more about the mass by asking some very simple questions: what lessons can the SEC learn from the Mass? Would this form of worship adapt to work in an SEC context? If appropriate, what resources do we already have that we could use? To whom in Scotland might it appeal?

'I have been fascinated all of my ordained ministry as to how one can keep very much within a tradition and learn from other traditions and incorporate those lessons within our own practice. While in Finland I also intend to spend time learning more about the link the Diocese of Edinburgh has with the Diocese of Espoo. In receiving the award, I want to thank the following for their help and encouragement: the Alastair Haggart Bursary donors and its administrators, Bishop John and the Revd Markus Dünzkofer.'

Bishop John commented: *'I am delighted that Tim Tunley is being supported, through the Alastair Haggart Bursary, to build on our link with Finland by exploring the St Thomas Mass as it has developed in Helsinki. I am sure he will bring back insights that will feed our own practice and help us to reach out to those many people who are deeply spiritual yet who cannot identify with traditional church. I look forward to learning more.'*

The Revd Markus Dünzkofer, Rector of St John's, said: *'In crisis time we often throw things up in the air and they never land in the same place. Covid made us throw things up into the air and now the pieces, integral and central pieces, will come falling down and we have no idea where they will fall. Looking at the St Thomas Mass will give us tools to understand where these pieces may fall; where the Spirit will place them. This is not by simply copying what is going on in Finland; the translating process will open avenues and insights for us here at St John's. I am very much looking forward to what Tim will bring back from Finland so we can listen to what the Spirit will tell us.'*

The recipient of the 2021 award was declared to be the Revd Canon David Richards, (right) Rector of St Paul's and St George's, Diocese of Edinburgh. Dave's sabbatical, taken at the end of 2021, gave him the opportunity to begin to read, plan and research for a Doctor of Ministry in church planting offered by Asbury Theological Seminary, Kentucky. The aim of the research is to discover the qualities required in the selection and training of leaders who can plant and lead fruitful churches in 21st century Scotland, and will involve interviewing a variety of church leaders in different denominations, streams and tribes, those who are responsible for the criteria and selection of leaders in different parts of the world.



The members of the Committee were unanimous in their praise of the submission: the clarity of the proposal, the purpose of the enterprise, and above all the way the research would benefit not only the recipient of the award but the wider church ecumenical in Scotland. On hearing of the award Dave said: *'I am delighted to accept the award for 2021 to help me with my sabbatical. I have begun a Doctor of Ministry in Church Planting through Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky, USA. Together with a cohort of about 35 church leaders from across the UK, and around the world, I hope to be able to learn from those who are planting churches in different parts of the globe and in different contexts. While 21st century Scotland is a unique context, with increased secularisation, I am sure there are principles we can learn from other contexts into our own.'*

'It means a great deal that the Committee recognised that my research is intended to be used for the Diocese, Province and wider church in Scotland. I look forward to continuing my research and to seeing new church plants in the future. I am grateful to the committee, and also the Haggart family, for their kindness and generosity in contributing to my studies.'

The Rt Revd Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh commented: *'Dave Richards leads a church (St Paul's and St George's) eager to plant new congregations. I am so pleased that the Alastair Haggart Bursary will now support him as he further explores the theory and practice of church planting. I believe that his study will not only guide his own leadership but also provide rich resources to the wider church, helping us to grow our Christian faith across our nation.'*

The Bursary, awarded annually in memory of Bishop Haggart, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church (1977-85), aims to help finance sabbaticals or other similar leave of absence on the part of ministers at a stage in their lives when such an experience will significantly enhance their development. The outcomes of the project should also be of benefit to the wider Church. Applications forms for the 2023 award will be available from SEI in October 2022. Clergy and Lay Readers alike are invited to apply. Recent winners have included the Very Revd Kelvin Holdsworth 2020 (Glasgow and Galloway); the Revd David Wostenholm, 2019 (Glasgow and Galloway); Mrs Kate Sainsbury 2018 (St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane); the Revd Canon Cedric Blakey 2017 (Glasgow and Galloway); the Revd Canon Lisa Eunson 2016 (Aberdeen and Orkney); the Revd Canon Dr Nicholas Taylor (Glasgow and Galloway) and the Revd Canon Ruth Innes (Edinburgh) joint winners in 2015.

Other news

Diocesan Advisors are invited to join one residential weekend during the three-year period in which they accompany an SEI candidate, thus enabling them to see their candidate operating as part of the wider student community.

Here the Revd Rosemary Bungard (right) describes her visit to December's Residential Weekend in Kinnoull. Rosemary recently retired as Priest-in-Charge of St Columba's, Portree (Diocese of Argyll and The Isles) but continues to serve the congregation of St Michael and All Angels, Isle of Raasay, where she lives. Rosemary is Diocesan Advisor to second year ordinand Tony Clapham (Diocese of Argyll and The Isles), shown below relaxing in the Gerard Room alongside first year ordinand Laura Symon (Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness).



The Ordinand whom I have the honour of accompanying is now in his 2nd year having experienced his selection panel and the 1st year of training totally online. He was delighted when the residential experience was resumed. I was also offered the opportunity to preside at a Sunday Eucharist for which my ordinand was due to preach and to stay for the weekend.

The last time I was at Kinnoull was at the end of my 2nd year with TISEC before the monastery closed for renovation. It was good to be welcomed as a visitor and have the freedom to attend the parts of the weekend programme of my choice. It was interesting to see how things have developed and changed through SEI whilst retaining the central emphasis on worship. The members of the Worship Group responsible for the Sunday Eucharist were keen to involve me, inviting me to their Compline. Getting to know them really helped prepare for the Eucharist, especially as the liturgy set for the weekend was the 1970 which I had not used since ordination as a priest six years ago!



After the isolation of online training, it was important for me to see my ordinand interact with his peers and to be there for the Evening Prayer he led, as well as hearing him preach.

Given the importance of theological reflection in monthly meetings as a Diocesan Advisor, attendance at the Theological Reflection session for 2nd year students with the Principal was enlightening. It gave me confidence that our monthly discussions were in line with what was expected at SEI. I also had time during the weekend for a more informal meeting with my ordinand, really getting to know him better.

Interaction with the whole student body was good. It was humbling to receive the comment from another student that it was so good to have support from someone who understood the cultural differences between the Central Belt and the Highlands.

A personal benefit was hearing the optional session with the Revd Dr Martin Johnstone discussing the legacy of COP26. As a priest working in a remote area, attendance at any sessions for me personally has been on Zoom for the past two years. It was good to participate in a live workshop.

Altogether, it was a very beneficial experience and one I would heartily recommend to all DAs.

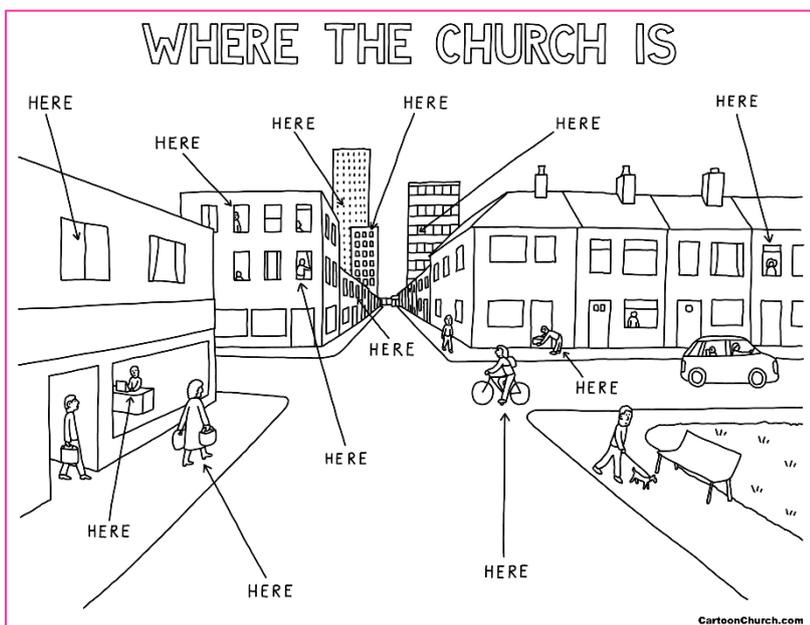
Revd Rosemary Bungard

SEI Training Fund: This month our warm thanks go to two retired clergy in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway who regularly give generously to the Fund. The Revd Canon Robin Paisley (*right*) is an Episcopal/Methodist cleric with sector ministry experience in healthcare and school chaplaincy. He offers Pastoral Supervision in Glasgow or remotely via Video-calling systems. Robin is an Accredited Pastoral Supervisor with APSE and the Methodist Church, and holds a Diploma from the Institute of Pastoral Supervision and Reflective Practice. He requests that his supervision clients offer their fees to the SEI Training Fund rather than to him, a most generous gesture that is deeply appreciated by SEI.



Similar generosity is shown towards SEI by another retired priest in that same diocese. The Revd Sally Gorton (*left*) co-ordinates a rota of retired and non-stipendiary clergy, Lay Readers and (occasionally) curates to cover vacancies, holidays and emergencies. When carrying out locum duties herself, Sally generally requests that the fee payable (as recommended by the Diocese) be donated to a good cause, usually the SEI Training Fund, or, during Lent, the Bishop's Lent Appeal. As she says so passionately, 'supporting present ordinands will help to ensure the future ministry and mission of our Church.'

Perhaps having read of Robin and Sally's generosity and thoughtfulness, you might be led to think of similar ways to donate to the SEI Training Fund. The money supports those students who are following one of the two full-time pathways at SEI - New College or the Mixed Mode track - and who receive an annual grant from SEI. By so giving, you are, as Sally says, directly supporting the future leadership of the SEC. For further information on how to donate, please contact the Principal at principal@scotland.anglican.org



Vocations Sunday 2022 The fourth Sunday of Easter is kept by the SEC as 'Vocations Sunday', an opportunity to consider what 'calling' means in the Church, and how the gifts of all God's people may be best used in God's service.

This year it falls on Sunday 8 May. Alas, students and staff are at a Residential at Kinnoull that weekend, but if any of you wish to invite a student preacher to an *evening* service that Sunday, please contact the SEI Administrator, Linda Harrison institute@scotland.anglican.org

Episcopalians and Their Ethics: A six-part series in Lent 2022

Episcopalians, like all Christians, desire to lead lives worthy of their calling in the Lord Jesus Christ. How do we lead such lives?

'*Episcopalians and Their Ethics*' is an overview of Christian Ethics from an Episcopal/Anglican perspective. It aims to develop a well-informed understanding of Christian deliberation on behaviour and the ways in which Anglicanism informs and shapes the morality of individuals and communities, with case studies relating to contemporary ethical issues.

The series is offered on the six Mondays of Lent in 30-minute webinars, each of which will be recorded and available thereafter on YouTube. The Series serves as a resource for Episcopalians to use creatively during the Season of Lent, for example as a refresher course for individuals or a discussion starter for a church group.

Presenter: Revd Dr Michael Hull. Time: 7pm to 7.30pm (Edinburgh time) on Monday evenings in Lent 2022 via Zoom. Registration is free. All are welcome. Register [here](#).



Monday 7 March:	What is Christian ethics?
Monday 14 March:	Why should I choose good over evil?
Monday 21 March:	How do I tell good from evil?
Monday 28 March:	What is conscience?
Monday 4 April:	Why follow conscience?
Monday 11 April:	Where do I go with Christian ethics?

January's Institute Council: We seek to be transformed as followers of Christ. This happens in corporate bodies as well as individual ones. Council's January meeting demonstrated this desire through agreement of incremental improvements. The first meeting of 2022 continued that path of transformation of an Institute taking decisions and fostering discussion that not only develops clergy and Lay Readers for the future but also builds the discipleship of laity. The Institute Council received and agreed the Action Plan for the ongoing development of the Mixed Mode Programme. This seeks to optimise all that is offered through this experiential mode of delivery. Changes to safeguarding training for all ordinands was agreed which will better prepare them as incumbents or chaplains, as well as future proofing requirements for the SEI as a training establishment within the Common Awards scheme. The range and diversity of teaching and tutors was highlighted, with appreciation that this continues to be added to.

With much having been achieved for students in years 1-3 of Initial Ministerial Education (IME), more attention is being directed to IME 4-6, Continuing Ministerial Development and Lay Learning. Pastoral Supervision for curates was discussed following debate at the College of Bishops. We noted that both the Methodist and United Reformed Church have made such supervision mandatory for its clergy. Discussion within the SEC will no doubt continue in this regard. Having previously considered provincial teaching input for curates, it was agreed that costed proposals for one day per week on-line provision interspersed with face-to-face support and networking would be brought back to the April meeting. The success of Dr Hull's Advent course on *Reading the Bible like an Episcopalian* was highlighted, and we heard too of other initiatives around Scotland that built on the opportunity arising from pandemic restrictions and people using different ways to worship, sharing leadership of worship, and learning alongside each other (laity and clergy). This rich discourse enables more thought about what SEI provides and what might enthuse the SEC as it seeks to deepen and enliven Christian faith and life through the proposed Season for Christian Life starting in 2023.

Rev Elaine C Garman