

# JANUARY NEWS FROM SEI

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## **New member of SEI staff appointed following an interview process in December 2017.**

Bishop Kevin writes 'As Convener of the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI) Council I am delighted that Richard Tiplady has accepted the post of Director of Mixed Mode Training. This appointment will enable the Institute to offer a new training pathway of contextual learning rooted in congregational ministry, within our existing Common Awards framework overseen by Durham University. Richard was, most recently, Principal of the Scottish School of Christian Mission (formerly International Christian College) in Glasgow.'

This exciting innovation in the SEI programme has required a great deal of work, preparation and negotiation by the Institute Council. Richard's appointment affirms the confidence the Scottish Episcopal Church has in its mission to build God's Kingdom here in Scotland through creative and vibrant ministry.'

The Principal of SEI, Anne Tomlinson, adds 'Mixed Mode (or Context-Based) Training is a timely and important addition to the formational pathways offered by SEI. Richard's experience, expertise and energy will bring much not only to SEI but to the wider missional life of the Scottish Episcopal Church. I am thrilled at his appointment and look forward to welcoming him as a colleague in the New Year'.



Richard says: 'I am delighted to be joining SEI in this new role. As Scotland shifts more and more towards post-Christendom, we are in an environment of experimentation and innovation. Established methods of formation and training for Christian mission and ministry are being questioned and new approaches are being embraced. I look forward to developing these with colleagues across the church, shaping new kinds of contextual learning communities which work at discovering together

what the new shape of Christian leadership needs to look like'. The photograph was taken in December on a very chilly Meall nan Tarmachan, Killin. To gain an idea of Richard's research and other interests, including a recent post on a spirituality of the mountains, see <https://justaboutleading.wordpress.com>

**December Residential Weekend** Wintry weather, alas, prevented one student making it to the second Residential Weekend, but for the rest of us, St Mary's Kinnoull was a cosy haven for our weekend's programme – and that is not a description one could have used about the monastery in pre-refurbishment days! Our thanks to the Redemptorist Community therein for its care for us at each of our weekends.



Much of the weekend was spent looking at the pastoral care of the bereaved aided by Perth Funeral Director Mr Andrew Pennycook, Canon Marion Chatterley and the Revd David Stoter. All three brought years of experience to bear on the topic and handled the sessions with immense sensitivity. The photograph on the left shows one of the 'Small Groups' preparing an act of worship.



**January Residential Weekend** Midway through this month the students will attend the third Residential Weekend of the year, topical presentations this time being on the theme of 'interreligious relations'. The



afternoon sessions will be led by Dr Anthony Allison, Tutor in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Glasgow where he specialises in Islam, Muslim-Christian relations and jurisprudential approaches to religion within contemporary society. In the evening Canon Cedric Blakey, the Convenor of the Committee for Relations with People of Other Faiths (CRPOF) and Interfaith Adviser for the Diocese of Glasgow, will convene a Panel of speakers: CRPOF member Steve Innes, SEC Church Relations Officer Miriam Weibye, and Mirella Yandoli, Interfaith Programme Officer, Church of Scotland.

**Meet the SEI Ambassadors** Gail Sanderson writes: 'I live and worship in the north of Scotland in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. I recently moved to live in Inverness but still worship at St John's Church, Arpafeelie, part of the Black Isle Charge. When I look back, my life seems to have been punctuated by risk taking and new beginnings. The first was nearly thirty years ago when my husband and I resigned our teaching posts in Lincolnshire to move to the Cairngorms to run a Youth Hostel. I was in charge of the busy catering kitchen, never having had a cookery lesson in my life. Foolishly maybe, I was sure it would somehow work out! At that point I worshipped at St John's Rothiemurchus and it was there that I underwent a slow transformative period in my religious/spiritual life. This resulted in my next big risk when I embarked on a theology degree not even having studied O Level RE!



Also at Rothiemurchus I encountered TISEC training. We had been selected as a 'trial' congregation for the development of Local Collaborative Ministry and one of our members was accepted for Ordained Local Ministry training. I was part of the support group who pledged to walk alongside our friend as she underwent her training. Course Handbooks were posted out and tutors came up to deliver the training in situ. It was stimulating, exciting and prayerful and we all felt invigorated by the depth and spirituality of the training. I still treasure and use my TISEC Handbooks.

This experience meant I could give a strong affirmative when I was approached to become SEI Ambassador for the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. I strongly support and can speak with passion and sincerity about the work now delivered by SEI. My most recent risk was to accept the post of Diocesan Secretary, again with little background experience apart from my knowledge of the diocese. I find this role complements my role as Ambassador as it opens up opportunities to speak about the work of SEI. I send the ordinands and staff my very best wishes as the work of SEI continues to grow.'



**The SEI Training Fund** benefitted last month from the offering taken at the Licensing as Team Priest of the Revd Rosie Addis (left) in St John's Princes Street (Diocese of Edinburgh) and a generous donation from the Revd Canon Robin Paisley (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway). Sale of theological books at the December Residential Weekend contributed a further sum, and the Revd Sally Gorton (Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway) kindly continued to donate the fees she received from offering 'Sunday cover' during vacancies around the diocese.

**Vocations Sunday 22 April 2018** Several congregations in the Dioceses of Glasgow and Galloway, St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane and Argyll and the Isles have responded to the invitation in November's Newsletter to invite a Lay Reader candidate or ordinand to preach on Vocations Sunday about God's call to them and what it means. If your congregation would be interested in inviting someone along on that day, or finding out more about what it would entail, then please contact [principal@scotland.anglican.org](mailto:principal@scotland.anglican.org)