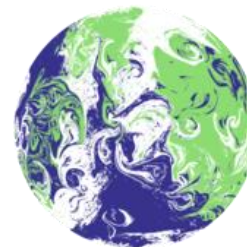


NOVEMBER 2021 NEWS FROM SEI



Green matters: *As part of the journey being made by SEI towards working out what it means to strive to 'safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth' within its own life and operations, staff and students have recently attended several webinars on the climate crisis.*

(i) Kinnoull: The module which is being offered on Friday evenings at our residential weekends this year - and thus one in which all students participate - is that of 'Foundations for Ministry and Mission in Context.' It aims to introduce students to key themes relating to Christian ministry and mission in the contexts in which they will serve, and this year its focus is the 5th Mark of Mission, the challenge of safeguarding the integrity of creation, sustaining and renewing the life of the earth.

Friday 1 October:	<i>The Science Bit: Environment, climate change, biodiversity, and Covid-19</i> , Dr Martin Hodson, Operations Director, The John Ray Initiative.
Friday 3 December :	<i>Why creation care and biodiversity matter to Christians</i> , the Revd Dr Dave Bookless, Director of Theology, A Rocha International.
Friday 14 January:	<i>Christian Discipleship and Environmental Action</i> , the Revd Canon Rachel Mash, Founder, Green Anglicans .
Friday 11 March:	<i>The SEC's Action Plan and Toolkit on climate change and net-zero carbon by 2030</i> , the Revd Elaine Garman, Acting Convenor of the SEC's Church in Society Committee.
Friday 6 May:	<i>SEI as a dispersed Eco-Congregation: The Why and The How?</i> Student-led session.

The series got off to an excellent start last month when [Dr Martin Hodson](#) led a fascinating – though somewhat chilling - session on the stark reality of environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, and Covid-19. Student feedback included the following comments:

'Very thought-provoking in relation to the science that informs the need for ecological discussion and environmental response and the Church's part in that discussion. I was also struck by the need to be able to dialogue meaningfully with those from other backgrounds - not only other faith communities but also agnostics, atheists, medical ethicists, politicians as well as scientists.' Another said: *'This was an excellent scientific presentation that aided in understanding the key issues around climate change and the crisis our planet faces.'*

(ii) Edinburgh: The Revd Professor Mark Harris (*below*), Professor of Natural Science and Theology at Edinburgh University, opened a discussion on Wednesday 7 October on the topic *'What does Jesus think about the ecological crisis?'* This was the sixth in a series of webinars entitled *Change in a Time of Crisis* being hosted by St Columba's by the Castle, Edinburgh, in the lead up to CoP26.



In the course of editing a book about the Bible and ecology - to be published next year in *The Oxford Handbook* series, co-edited with Dr Hilary Marlow - Professor Harris had noted that despite there being a great deal of theological thinking about our present ecological crisis, surprisingly little of it had engaged with the teachings of Jesus. He himself had therefore made a study of Jesus' ecological ethics in the Synoptic Gospels, which he shared briefly with those participating in the online seminar, focussing particularly upon the Marcan account. While much of Jesus teaching as recorded through Mark's lens cannot be mapped directly onto an ecological ethics for today, Professor Harris argued that His teaching on *discipleship* most certainly can be seen as a rich fundament for a Christian ecological ethic, moving us away from *'the managerial anthropocentrism of stewardship'*. Professor Harris's challenging paper was followed by a fascinating panel discussion chaired by the Revd Professor Paul Foster.

(iii) Durham: On 13 October staff and students attended a Common Awards webinar hosted by Professor Robert Song, Professor of Theological Ethics in the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, which likewise explored the role of the Bible in Christian understandings of creation. **Dr Jione Havea**, a Methodist pastor in Tonga and research fellow with Trinity Methodist Theological College, Aotearoa New Zealand, contemplated the ways in which Scripture has influenced our relationship with creation, offering a native reading of chapters of Genesis and taking into consideration the impact of climate injustice in the Pacific and the theologies of the Pasifika. **Dr Aruna Gnanadason** (*right*), national convener of the Indian Christian Women's Movement, provided an eco-feminist theological perspective, engaging with narratives of those directly impacted by climate change in India.



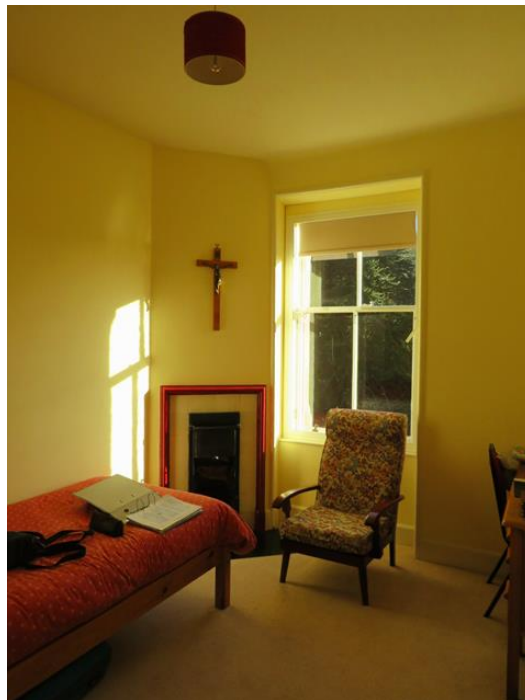
(iv) Kinnoull again: At our December Residential Weekend, we will host **the Revd Dr Martin Johnstone**, Glasgow Churches Together Ambassador to CoP26, currently working with member churches, ecumenical organisations, civil society groups and the Scottish and UK governments to seek transformational outcomes from the summit. He will challenge us to develop the legacy of CoP26, exploring what we as Scottish Christians and future leaders of charges might continue to do after the Conference.

(v) Day of Prayer and Fasting: Meanwhile, staff and students will each respond to the Conference in our own way: by marching, supporting others, singing, writing and praying. SEI students have designated Monday 1 November as a Day of Prayer and Fasting. As well as whatever each student does individually at home or at work, we have committed as a community to operate a rota for leading a time of prayer on the hour every hour in *Open Space*, part of the students' Moodle platform, from 6am until Compline at 9pm. The climate bell will be rung for alarm, for justice and for praise at the start and close of each of the four longer acts of worship.

Time	Monday 1 November SEI Wave of Prayer Topics from the COP26 Presidency Programme	Officiant
0600-0615	Morning Prayer	
0700-0705	Transition to Global net zero	
0800-0805	Keeping 1.5 degrees in reach	
0900-0905	Protecting communities	
1000-1005	Protecting natural habitats	
1100-1105	Mobilising finance for mitigation and adaptation	
1200-1215	Midday Prayer	
1300-1305	Global transition to green energy	
1400-1405	Elevating the voice of young people and education in climate action	
1500-1505	Sustainable land use	
1600-1605	Practical solutions and reparation to address loss and damage	
1700-1715	Evening Prayer	
1800-1805	Progressing gender equality, especially for woman and girls, in climate action	
1900-1905	Global transition to zero emission transport	
2000-2005	The built environment: advancing action in communities, cities and regions	
2100-2115	Compline	



Residential Weekend 1, October 1-3: The SEI Community recently spent 48 hours at St Mary's Kinnoull, Perth, (left), home to a small Redemptorist community. Time was spent quietly praying in **one's own room** or in the garden ...



or else in the Oratory with others



studying in the Conference Room ...



trying on donated clerical garments ..



Photographs courtesy of first year ordinands Maureen Farquhar, Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, and Ross Stirling-Young, Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.



or simply having fun!



The remaining two ordinations and licensings of our 2021 Leavers took place at the turn of the month. Here we show joyous photos of Sandra and Philip, and also news of three Leavers from the 2020 year group, Beki, Russell and David.



Photograph courtesy of Gavin Marshall

On Sunday 3 October, Sandra Wright (left) was Licensed as a Lay Reader at Holy Trinity Haddington by the Rt Revd Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh. Sandra now serves in that congregation whose Rector, the Revd Liz O’Ryan, is shown beside her.

On the previous day Philip Schonken (below left) was ordained Deacon in St Andrews Cathedral Inverness by the Most Revd Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness. Philip now serves as Assistant Curate at Holy Trinity Elgin, St Margaret’s Lossiemouth and Gordonstoun in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness.

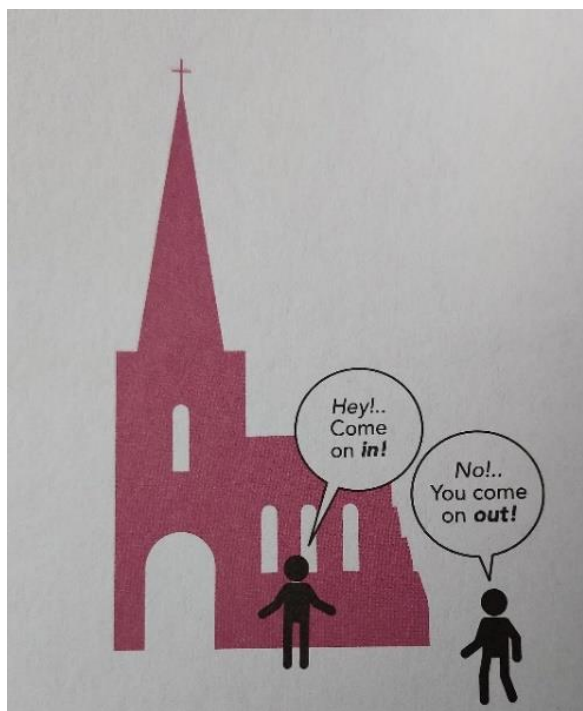


The Revd David Todd was ordained Priest on Saturday 2 October in St Mark’s Portobello by the Rt Revd Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh. David will continue to serve in that charge as Assistant Curate and as Actors Church Union Chaplain in Edinburgh. Through that latter ministry, as Richard Holloway said in his memorable sermon, ‘David has brought frightened refugee children and their traumatised parents to shows in the city’s theatres, helping them to feel cherished and protected, after fleeing warfare.’



The Revd Beki Cansdale (left) was ordained Priest on Saturday 9 October in St John’s Cathedral Oban by the Rt Revd Dr Keith Riglin. Beki will continue to serve there as Assistant Curate as well as being the Diocesan Youth and Children’s Officer. ‘Let Beki be a priest,’ Dr Riglin urged, as he sent her out to minister God’s grace and forgiveness to the world in the power of God’s Spirit. Here Beki is pictured with second year Diaconal ordinand Jackie Fenton (left) and final year ordinand Rachael Wright.

The Revd Russell Duncan was ordained Priest by the Rt Revd Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh on 23 October in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield, Edinburgh, where he will continue to serve as Assistant Curate.



Research project on pioneer ministry in the SEC: This research project is being conducted by the Mission Board and is 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 your thinking, the research uses the innovative *Sensemaker* research 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. For the purposes of this research, pioneer ministry is defined as engagement with those currently well beyond any meaningful engagement with the church, and the aim of that engagement is not necessarily that they will attend church as currently formed.

Alastair Haggart Bursary 2022: The Bursary is awarded annually in memory of Bishop Haggart, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church (1977-85). It aims to help finance sabbaticals or other similar leave of absence on the part of those in ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church (Lay Readers and clergy) 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. A committee will convene in February 2022 to make the next award totalling up to £1,300. To apply for the bursary, please request an application form from Mrs Linda Harrison institute@scotland.anglican.org and return to her by Monday 10 January 2022.

Life or Death on a Mountain? How an avalanche saved my life: This is the title of an event to be held as part of the [Kendal Mountain Festival](#), on Saturday and Sunday 20th-21st November, led by Richard Tiplady and his friend John Fleetwood, one of the founders of [Mountain Pilgrims](#). Hosted by [Kendal United Reformed Church](#) in partnership with [Gateway Church Kendal](#) (a Free Methodist church plant), the event will tell the story of Richard's mountaineering accident in March 2020. He and John will reflect on their experiences on the day and from the recovery process, identifying lessons they have learned and considering some of the deeper questions about spirituality and nature raised by spending time in the mountains.

More information and booking options for the two-day event via these Eventbrite links, one for each day:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/life-or-death-on-a-mountain-saturday-tickets-194480334917

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/life-or-death-on-a-mountain-sunday-tickets-194548087567

LIFE OR DEATH ON A MOUNTAIN
[HOW AN AVALANCHE SAVED MY LIFE]

A real story from
RICHARD TIPLADY & JOHN FLEETWOOD

SATURDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2PM
&
SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2PM
106 HIGHGATE KENDAL
Near to the Brewery Arts Centre

TICKETS £7
Includes tea/coffee & a tray/lake + donation to Cockerthorpe MRT
www.lifeordeathonamountain.eventbrite.co.uk

e One OSix GATEWAY CHURCH

Ecumenical sharing (i): For the second year running the Scottish College and SEI jointly organised a Placement Supervisors' half-day's training, held via Zoom on 11 October. Eleven Supervisors were present, representing contexts as far apart as a congregation in Dorset and a food larder project in Shetland, thanks to the wonders of Zoom. The format of the day was appreciated by participants; as one wrote, *'I found the whole morning encouraging and reassuring. The content was helpful, the worship times ensured the focus was right, and the way it was all presented in short sections with little breaks was particularly helpful for me.'*

This year there is a wide ecumenical span represented in the choice of students' placements: one URC candidate is being supervised by the Revd Matthew Little in St Mary's Hamilton, and another by Methodist minister the Revd Adele Moorhouse in a four-way Local Ecumenical Project in Newcastle. Several SEI students are engaged in placements with third sector agencies such as *Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland*, *Mission to Seafarers* and *Glasgow City Mission* as well as in congregational settings from Ellon to Elgin, Forres to Fife.

Nor is it only large charges that have students on placement; several small but missionally-active charges in areas of urban deprivation, such as St Barnabas Moredun (*right*) and St Salvador's Saughton (both Diocese of Edinburgh), are likewise hosting candidates. As the Revd David Dixon, Priest-in-charge in the former congregation, writes, *'it is important that students experience how a small congregation can not only survive but have a fair amount of outreach into the community.'* St Barnabas exhibits significant reach into its surrounding community via local primary schools and care homes, as well as working closely with two Bethany Christian Trust staff members who are housed on the premises and who run a craft group, an English class for those for whom English is not their first language, a children's Buddy Group and a Homework Club. It also plays an active part in *South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together* (SEECAT),



Ecumenical sharing (ii): SEI staff recently took part in a webinar on *Getting to Know your Community*. The event was facilitated by the Church of Scotland Priority Areas Team, with input from statisticians and community workers, including the Revd Dr Fiona Tweedie (*left*), Mission Statistics Co-ordinator for the Church of Scotland. The latter directed participants to the beautifully presented 'Deprivation and Population Statistics' area on the Church of Scotland web site, and using [Gilmerton/Moredun](#) as her case study, showed us how to drill down into the data presented (taken from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) to gain a detailed picture of the issues affecting the communities in the midst of which a congregation is situated.

Jamie Goodwin, Research and Development Facilitator for Govan and Linthouse Parish Church, then demonstrated how that congregation had built upon such data by using an Asset-Based Community Development process. He showed a moving video of how conducting regular 'Wee Jaunts' into their neighbourhood over a considerable period of time had led to the congregation's closer acquaintance with the many gifts inherent in the locality. This in time had led to growing mutual trust and new relationships between church and community, a flowering of joint projects combining the asset of the church premises with the talents of the local people, and creative partnerships with *Govan Loves Christmas*, CRAN Theatre and local community groups.

SEI students will learn more about Asset-Based Community Development next term when the Revd Nick Bowry and the Revd Canon Ian Barcroft lead sessions on this very topic as part of the new module, *Theological Perspectives on Community Development and Organising*.

Residential Weekend 2: Our second Residential Weekend of the year will take place at the beginning of next month. We will be welcoming three guests through the weekend. On Friday evening **the Revd Dr Dave Bookless** (right) will be presenting two sessions on Zoom on 'Why creation care and biodiversity matter to Christians' as part of Richard Tiplady's Module TMM1301 – *Foundations for Ministry and Mission in Context*. Dave is Director of Theology, A Rocha International. In that role he works to embed creation care into global and international Christian organisations, theological institutions, and mission movements. In relation to this he serves as Lausanne Global Catalyst for Creation Care, co-leading the global Lausanne / World Evangelical Alliance Creation Care Network. He is also on the Church of England's Environment Working Group and the global Season of Creation Steering Committee.



On Saturday **Ms Daphne Audsley** (left) will speak to the Level 5 'long' Reflective Practice group about 'Safeguarding'. Daphne is the SEC's Assistant Safeguarding Officer and also a member of the Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission. Established at the request of the Anglican Consultative Council at its meeting in Lusaka in 2016 (ACC-16), the Commission promotes the safety of people within churches of the Anglican Communion with a particular focus on children, young people and vulnerable adults. The Commission developed new international guidelines (2019) based on the Anglican Communion's Safe Church Charter (2012). The Charter was adopted by General Synod in 2016 and forms the basis of the SEC's Safeguarding Policy Principles and Commitments adopted by General Synod in December 2020.

The celebrant at our Eucharist on Sunday will be **the Revd Rosemary Bungard**, (right). 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 trained with TISEC which morphed into SEI in her final year. A former teacher, she is particularly interested in developing youth work and All-Age Liturgy. Rosemary is also the Diocesan Advisor to second year Argyll and The Isles ordinand Tony Clapham, who will be preaching at that service.



Finally we will welcome **the Revd Dr Martin Johnstone** (left) who, as mentioned on Page 2, will lead us in a session exploring the legacy of CoP26. Martin is a Church of Scotland minister who has worked in several local and national roles over the years, as well as working ecumenically and across faiths.

He now spends his time supporting individuals and organisations committed to the struggle against poverty and for social justice. This currently includes the Poverty Truth Network, Trussell Trust and Christian Aid. You can read more about what he gets up to [here](#).