

## **EPIPHANY GROUP - ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

This year there are 59 members of the Epiphany Group. Several of those who completed training in spiritual direction last year have joined us, and 2 of these have begun to give the Spiritual Exercises under supervision. This brings the number of people offering the Exercises to approx 12.

Spiritual direction is offered by members to approx 200 people.

Through website enquiries, we have handled 28 requests for spiritual direction. A further 20 requests came from other sources. All were responded to, either by arranging a spiritual director, or by suggesting alternatives which seemed more suitable.

Members of the Group planned and presented the following **courses**:

Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living - Edinburgh and Perth  
Training in Spiritual Direction - Edinburgh and Aberdeen  
Various 'Exploring Prayer' courses in Edinburgh, Penicuik, Kirkcudbright, and the Borders.

This past summer we began an adapted Training in Spiritual Direction (to run over 6 weekends) at the Coach House in Inverness.

Members of the Epiphany Group at The Coach House offered the **Spiritual Exercises as a 30-day retreat** to 4 retreatants.

We are planning a **Training Seminar** for members who wish to learn to give the full Spiritual Exercises, starting in March 2010.

**Retreats in Daily Life and Weeks of Guided Prayer** were offered in Perthshire and on several occasions in Edinburgh. In Edinburgh responsibility for organising the RDLs is passing to newer members, which ensures their continuity.

For a fourth year we offered 3 residential **Individually Guided Retreats** of various lengths during the summer and autumn at Scottish Churches House in Dunblane. Out of a possible 160 'bednights', 116 were filled. Directors are generous with their time, foregoing remuneration in order to support the retreats financially.

The Training in Spiritual Direction (Aberdeen) concluded with a **retreat weekend** at Tarfside in October 09 with the option to stay on and make an **6-day individually guided retreat**. Six people took advantage of the longer retreat.

We are continuing to organise **ongoing seminars on the Spiritual Exercises** for practitioners. This is a collaborative effort with the ISC and is open to anyone who currently gives the Exercises.

We organised and presented the following **events**:

**Day event** on Ignatian Spirituality and the New Science with Julia Ling

**Day of Reflection** led by Tom McGuinness at the ISC to celebrate St Ignatius' Day

**Annual Conference**- "Drawn by our Desires" - Andrew Walker on Ignatian spirituality and sexuality.

We continue to collaborate with the Ignatian Centre in Glasgow, including two joint team meetings a year. Two Epiphany Group tutors, Alison Moody and Julia Ling, are members of the ISC team. Collaboration with the Lauriston Jesuit Centre this year included supporting a Retreat in Daily Life initiated by Gerry Hughes sj when Epiphany Group members were guides.

#### **Work with other agencies**

The Christian Fellowship of Healing in Edinburgh (whose Chaplain is a member of the Epiphany Group) recently asked, through the Chaplain, if we could co-operate in offering spiritual direction, where appropriate, for people approaching their service. This is a widely respected ecumenical group doing valued work.

#### **Development of the Epiphany Group**

##### Leadership and Organisation

The present core group now consists of people who were not 'founding members' of the Group. Only Elizabeth South and the Society's representative, Gero McLoughlin sj, remain from the original founding Group.

Encouraged by the new energy and creativity in the core group, and feeling that to continue to 2013 (end of her second term as co-ordinator) is perhaps rather too long, Elizabeth has offered the core committee her resignation with effect from June 2012.

##### Training Course Co-ordinator

The demand for courses in dispersed locations has increased considerably. Responding positively to this, we have created the new role of Training Course Co-ordinator. Last year we devolved the responsibility for this role to Alison Moody. She has brought experience, energy and enthusiasm to

developing this, with the result that work is developing in Inverness and Dumfries & Galloway, as well as continuing strongly in the areas where we already work.

We are realising that the potential of this role is considerable. The work is devolved from the core group of the EG, and the Training Course Co-ordinator is presently responsible to the Co-ordinator of the EG. We have formed a small working group to look at this more strategically, and to clarify the line management

### **Funding/Fund-raising**

In 2009, the third 3-year agreement by the Society of Jesus to fund Epiphany Group came to an end. Our next budget proposal for ongoing funding will respectfully be asking for an increase in funding, looking at a further 3-year period to 2012.

The Epiphany Group has recently appealed **to members for financial support**. Half our members contributed, giving £1000 towards general costs, just over £1000 in bursary funds, and commitments of £600 p.a. in standing orders. We believe this shows that we are committed to the work of the Epiphany Group and want it to continue and to grow.