

EPIPHANY GROUP – ANNUAL REPORT 2010

This year there are 61 members of the Epiphany Group, about 13 of whom give the Spiritual Exercises. We are running a training seminar teaching spiritual directors to give the full Spiritual Exercises which has attracted 14 participants, some of whom are already giving the Spiritual Exercises, but the balance of whom will increase the pool of trained directors in this ministry.

The website continues to generate requests for spiritual direction, although fewer than last year.

Programme

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

Training in Spiritual Direction in association with the Coach House, Inverness

Training in Spiritual Conversation in Edinburgh

Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living in Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

Two supervision groups were formed – one in Edinburgh to supervise beginning directors giving the Spiritual Exercises; one in Aberdeen for on-going formation following the completion of the spiritual direction training.

Shorter ‘ways of praying’ courses were held in Perth; in a parish on the outskirts of Edinburgh; and in Edinburgh as a course specifically for the RC archdiocese.

Retreats in Daily Life/ Weeks of Guided Prayer were held in Dumfries & Galloway; Edinburgh (two); Aberdeen and Inverness. We collaborated with the ISC to offer the traditional RDL at St Andrews University. We have appointed a co-ordinator for RDLs who, with a small team, is promoting these by responding to enquiries, supporting the planning, and helping to find guides.

Quiet days were held in Elgin, in the Coach House, nr Inverness, in Perth, and in Aberdeen. A new initiative has started with the support of the Epiphany Group, Sacred Spaces, which will take quiet days into the Lothians (surrounding area of Edinburgh).

Three groups with whom we are closely associated, in S E Scotland, S W Scotland and Fife, are also offering quiet days in their areas in which EG members are involved.

For a fifth year we offered individually guided retreats (2) of different lengths during the summer, involving 4 directors. Two EG members directed during a retreat space of 8 days at St Drostan's (Angus). Retreats are offered at a small retreat house in Fife where 2 EG members live in community. One member offers retreats in a 2-bedroom retreat house in Kirkcudbright, Aig Fois. The Coach House, in addition to its regular programme has arranged a ‘training retreat’ for those who completed spiritual direction this past year – over two separate retreats, the beginning directors will have an opportunity both to guide each other and to make a retreat, with close supervision and additional input from supervisors.

In collaboration with the ISC, we continue to organise and present ongoing seminars on the Spiritual Exercises, for practitioners

The Epiphany Group organised and presented the following **events**:

A 10th Anniversary celebration focusing on the ministry of spiritual direction with Maggie and David Lunan. (Maggie is a former Education Officer with Christian Aid, now an Ignatian spiritual director; David is a Church of Scotland minister and former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. They have both found Ignatian spirituality to be significant in their journeys.)

A Day of Recollection led by Gero McLoughlin sj, reflecting about the life of the EG through contemplating paintings and meditating on Scripture.

Annual residential conference entitled “The Healing Imagination in CG Jung and St Ignatius Loyola” with John Knowles, a Jungian psychotherapist and Ignatian spiritual director.

We continue to collaborate with the Ignatian Centre in Glasgow including 2 joint meetings a year, and with the Lauriston Jesuit Centre in Edinburgh.

Development of the Epiphany Group

Leadership and Organisation

The core committee embarked on a discernment process for changing the leadership. At our meeting in October we identified the leadership qualities we were seeking. In January we met for 24 hours to consider in whom we saw these qualities present, and to discern whether there was a compatible person in the core group to succeed as co-ordinator. This meeting was facilitated by Mary Cavanagh rscj. The outcome was the choice of Sr Barbara Buda to succeed Elizabeth South in June 2012

Training Course Co-ordinator

In our budget proposal last year we asked for an additional sum to ‘prime the pump’ for a paid Training Course Co-ordinator. The one or two people we had identified as possible candidates were people who would require some financial support to take on the work, even part time.

Although the grant from the Society of Jesus was very generous in the circumstances, it did not offer quite as much as we needed to follow this plan through.

We have been exploring other options, including further funding, none of which has yet come to fruition. The Society of the Sacred Heart gave us £1000 towards the project, but although generous, still did not enable us to offer a half-time salary. Meantime, Alison Moody continues to fulfil the role highly competently and with great commitment to responding to new initiatives.

From the £12,500 we were given we allocated £2,500 to training work. We gave Alison an honorarium in recognition of her work, and used some of the remainder for training events for the course tutors.

The core group's focus on the change of leadership has meant that we could not address this issue fully until the leadership was settled, although we have continued to think around it.

Funding

The Society of Jesus was kind enough to promise us £25,000 over 2 years, in two tranches of £12,500.

We are grateful to Michael Holman sj and the Trustees for Roman Catholic Purposes, for their support, financial and personal, for the Epiphany Group.

We continue to benefit from the support and encouragement of Gero McLoughlin, sj, Promoter for Ignatian Spirituality.

Elizabeth W South
for the Epiphany Group