

Epiphany Group Report

Epiphany Group Training and Formation 2018 -2019

The EG ran Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living in 2 locations: Edinburgh with 13 participants and Fife with 6 participants.

Spiritual Direction (Perth): 11 participants.

Annual Day of Reflection: this was led by Elizabeth South, Cath McManus, and Helen Kinloch, three of our senior EG members and focused on the Epiphany Groups' vision statement and code of practice.

A sample of other Events and Formation offered by EG Members

A Ways of Praying was offered in Musselburgh, East Lothian that attracted 8 participants. This was a short 5-week course, intended as an introduction to Ignatian Spirituality and ways of praying, and as a taster for GPRL. Quiet days for both Advent and Lent were also held in the area.

The Lantern Group, in East Lothian and the Borders continues to meet and offer quiet days.

The Wee Art Groups meet monthly in East Lothian to explore prayer and the scriptures through art.

A "Sensible Shoes" group and a Faith Sharing Group (based on the Pathways to God on-line retreat) in Galloway, both of which have yielded a small group of people who are interested in Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living, which is now proposed for the area in 2019 – 2020.

Income

In the year 2018 – 2019 the EG received a grant/subsidy the Society of the Sacred Heart (£7000), which was intended to partly cover the fees of the Training Forum Coordinator.

An application to the Society of Jesus was made on the 16th November 2018 for a grant of £18,000/£19,000. It would appear that this application was approved, however, no funds were received by the EG from the Society of Jesus for the year 2018-2019.

Out with grants/subsidies the largest source of income was our annual membership fees and donations, which totaled £1854.48 in the 6 months to March 31st 2019.

Membership

Barbara's death occurred at the very time of year when members were renewing and returning their membership forms. It was difficult for the Core Group to get access to Barbara's paperwork after her death, so it is slightly difficult to get accurate numbers for our membership. We have 51 membership forms completed and returned. There are several more who have not returned forms, but since their forms might be in the archive, they have been kept on as members unless they have specifically withdrawn. There are 72 members on that list and 2 honorary members.

From the membership forms that we have received, the breakdown is as follows:

Active as SD	44
Offer the Spiritual Exercises	20
Receiving supervision	45
Offer supervision	18
Tutor on an EG Training Course	10
Guide on RDLs/Weeks of Guided Prayer	20
Offer quiet days/days of reflection	32
Offer Individually guided retreats	21
Led last year's Online Retreat (ISC)	3
<i>(several more offered but no group materialised)</i>	
Number of ordained persons accompanied	100

Proposed Formation and Training 2019 – 2020

The EG will offer Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living in 3 different parts of Scotland in the year 2019 – 2020: in Edinburgh, Fife (an area with high levels of deprivation) and in Galloway. The Edinburgh and Fife courses will run one evening a week from October to May. The Galloway GPRL will be held in Dumfries, one weekend a month (Friday evening and all day Saturday), to allow for the particular geographical and logistical challenges of that part of the country. The joy of GPRL is that it has a very broad appeal across all denominations and sits at the heart of the vision of the EG to help people to “discover their identity in Christ and to live it more fully in

the faith community that nurtures them, and out in the world”
(Vision Statement, epiphanygroup.org.uk).

The EG will also offer Spiritual Conversation (the second of the three year Spiritual Direction formation programme) this coming year, which will be offered one full day per fortnight. In the light of the current number of applications we are very hopeful that we will get sufficient numbers (10 to 12 participants) to allow this course to run. As can be seen from the attached budget projections, it is anticipated that this course will run at a significant loss. While usually 3 tutors would facilitate SC, it was agreed that this year we needed to have 4 tutors.

The pool of tutors who have offered all three years of the Spiritual Direction Programme has reduced in recent years, and with the departure this year of a very experienced tutor and another deciding to take a break for a year, we felt it was important to widen the experience of as many of the remaining tutors as possible. To that end 2 tutors who have not offered this course before (although they have extensive experience on Growth in Prayer), supported by 2 experienced tutors, will facilitate SC. While this decision was driven by the reduction in the number of available tutors, it will also benefit the new tutors, as it will enable them to deepen their skills, particularly around observed practice and giving feedback. Since 2013 the EG has been committed to offering our tutors “just support for ministry” in line with the national living wage (current rate £8.21per hour).

Annual Conference

The EG will not hold an annual conference in 2019, as it was agreed, in the aftermath of Barbara’s death, that the Core Group needed to reduce the tasks it was performing to the essentials only.

It is however, the intention of the Core Group to hold an annual conference on 9th to 11th October 2020 and St Marys’ Monastery Kinnoull, to mark the 20th anniversary of the formation of the EG. Planning for this event is on going.