

Staff and General Council Updates

This year, updates have been written collaboratively between members of both the Staff team and General Council to briefly report on all areas of work within the movement.



Groups and Regions

This year has been an interesting year for our groups and regions. Groups have done an immense job throughout the pandemic. Having to adjust to the change in how we operate and moving everything online was not an easy task and has ebbed and flowed with varying degrees of motivation. We have seen universities change rules for student union affiliation which has been welcomed and we need to celebrate groups that have both survived and those that have thrived. Both have been a feat of perseverance and dedication for which SCM is indebted to all the group leaders out there. Thank you!



In August we lost Rach, the North-West Regional Development Worker, who has gone on to train for ministry in the Methodist Church. Rach has worked in the North-West for 4 years and is greatly missed both regionally and nationally. However, we have seen the work in the north-west continue through the rest of the regional development workers. The south has continued to grow with a number of new groups starting but we have been struggling in Scotland to establish groups across the region and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic. In total we have 27 affiliated groups.

The biggest piece of learning within groups and regions has been that, during the pandemic, geography has mattered less. We have been able to provide support over video calls in a way we haven't explored previously and although this will never replace face to face contact and its importance, it does allow our staff team to be more flexible in their delivery of the work SCM is undertaking.

Simon Densham (Staff), Russell Frost (GC)

Movement Magazine

Issue 162: The theme of this issue was Identity, which covered a broad range of content including reflections on being a Black LGBT Christian, how people have found their identities through SCM, and feeling a sense of identity in different religious traditions. Our interview was with Adriaan van Klinken, a researcher in queer Christianity particularly

within African church contexts. Other articles included a feature on revolutionary gardening and reconnecting with our food systems, perspectives on lockdown from some SCM members, and the poem written by a group of SCMerS for the Letters to Creation project.



Issue 163: Our latest issue was themed around vocation. This included reflections from a Church of England vocations adviser, a researcher in career development and how faith impacts our employment decisions, and reflections from current students and recent graduates about how they're exploring vocation through their studies, volunteering, and church placements. Our interview for this issue was with Rev Ellen Loudon, author of 12 Rules for Christian Activists and Director of Social Justice for Liverpool Diocese. In addition to these, we included some sustainable recipes from around the movement, some reflections from our Black Student Experience panel, and the poem we wrote collectively at the Trans Day of Remembrance service in November.

Movement Editor Nathan Olsen says, "The two most recent issues of Movement magazine spoke to issues that students face on a daily basis: how they view themselves and others, and how they view their role in the world. I am really proud that we have been able to produce insightful and relevant content on these topics, much of which was written by students themselves!"

Emma Temple (Staff), Nathan Olsen (GC)

SCM Online

SCM Online started as a response to the pandemic when lockdown started, just after last year's AGM. Since then, we've had multiple meetings a week over Zoom that engaged us in creating community together and deepening our faith, two of SCM's key values. This has been a largely student-led piece of work, with a small group of students (that has changed over time) inviting speakers and organising social events. Thank you to everyone who has

contributed or simply turned up to a session! If you've never been, you're more than welcome to join us – keep an eye on our socials for dates and times for future sessions.

This term at SCM Online has been full of great sessions. Led by SCM members Jack Woodruff and Josh Mock, SCM Online since January has been running with two events per week up until the week ending 26/03/21. 'Movement Mondays' was a session in which members got together for workshops, prayer, quizzes, and social time. 'Theology Thursday' was a session in which a guest speaker was invited to talk to members about their specialist subjects. Both sessions have been excellent,

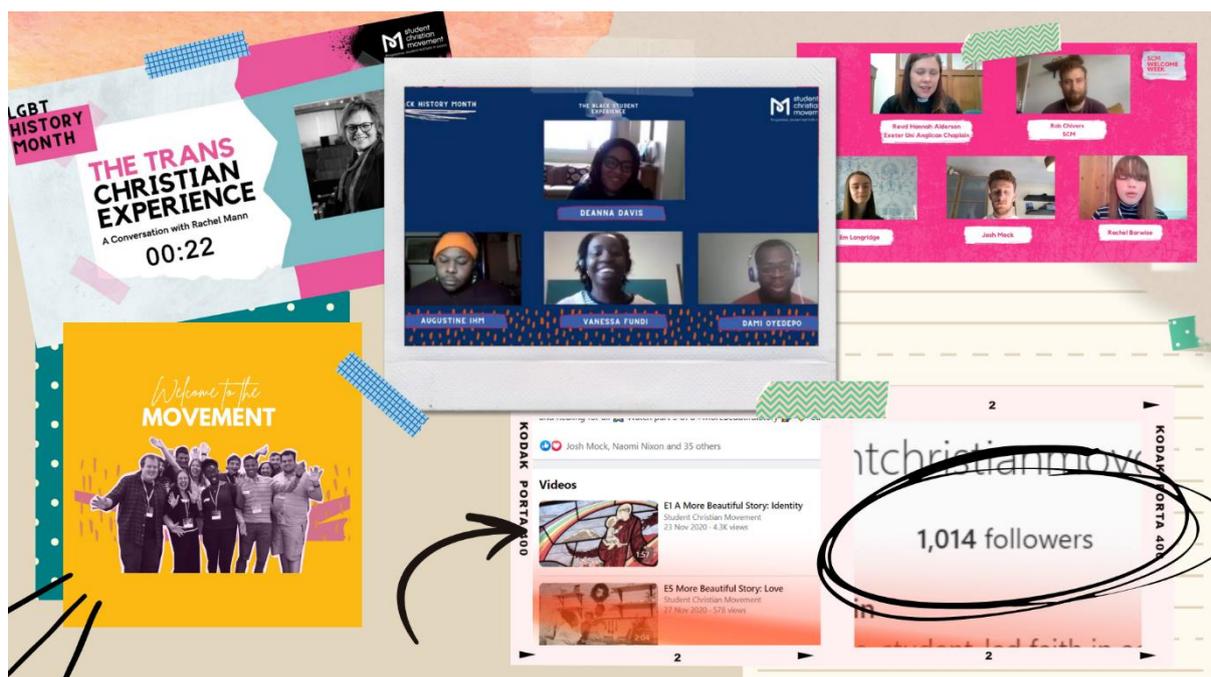
In the next stage of SCM Online events will be less frequent, and some will be open to attendees who are not members. Additionally, SCM Online after Easter will initially be led by the staff team. However, any members who want to get involved are more than welcome to do so. Please drop me a line at caitlin@movement.org.uk. A huge thanks must go to Jack and Josh for their incredible hard work this and last term, SCM has benefited hugely from their involvement and their legacy on our online work will continue to be felt.

Caitlin Wakefield (Staff)

Communications

Despite the pandemic (or rather because of it) it has been a great time to try new things and explore online events and video content. I have been working closely with Naomi on tightening up our communication processes, consistent branding, and how we communicate with all of our different audiences which has been both fun and fruitful!

We have continued to see a lot of growth in our followers on social media over the last year, including finally crossing the 1000 followers mark on Instagram. One of my favourite things this year has been learning how to livestream, which we have utilised in various themed events such as our national Welcome Week programme, a Black History Month panel, and several LGBT+ History Month panels. This is something I'm keen for us to continue and



build on even when the pandemic is over, as it's an accessible way for us to run events and hear from various groups in the movement. We have focused this year on making SCM's position on relevant current issues clear and we have released statements on everything from the Living in Love and Faith resources, to Free School Meals and Black Lives Matter. This has been really aided by having a CEO working closely with General Council and is something we plan to continue doing as we want to be transparent in what we care about and stand for.

One of the highlights of this year in our communications work was the More Beautiful Story project; a series of videos which a group of members created in response to the CEEC's reaction to the Living in Love and Faith resource. At the time of writing these videos, which featured the voices of LGBT+ Christians and allies talking about everything from marriage to identity and faith, have had over 20K views across our social media platforms. This was especially exciting for me as I had virtually nothing to do with it! It was a great example of SCM being student-led, and was just such an important and impactful project for so many people. If you ever want to do anything like this, please do get in touch! We'd love to have more student-led projects in our communications work.

Coming up in the next few months we will be launching season 2 of the SCM podcast which will be a companion to the Theology Thursday events that we have been running at SCM Online. Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved with this! We will also be exploring other online platforms for building community online, so if you have any ideas for what we could use that would be accessible for everyone I'd love to hear from you. Finally, if there is anything you would like to see us do more (or less!) of in our online communications please do let me know 😊

Ruth Harvey (Staff)

Preparation in Exile (PiE) and The Going to Uni Leaders guide



When we went into lockdown, we recognised that there would be some obvious gaps that we would need to fill, the big one being that as we couldn't meet with chaplains and church leaders. Over our years of working with Chaplains especially we know that the chaplaincy world can be quite a lonely one, especially when their worlds have changed, and they might be working from home. The plan we came up with was to organise meetings for as many chaplains as we could, we

would then put them in to break out rooms and allow them to spend some time talking about ideas they are having or worries they had. It essentially became a skill sharing network. We have since run 3 more of these events since the original PiE. We have had at least 70 different chaplains come to these events and we have had great feedback from these sessions. We have also run these events for 6th form Chaplains and Youth workers, these have been smaller events but have given up some important links, especially when it comes to gathering some individuals to work with us on the other important piece of work, the Going to Uni Leaders guide.

The Going to Uni leaders guide is a reworked version of the Going to Uni workshops that were created as part of the SCM Connect project. We have been working on this for a few months and we are rolling it out with a pilot group of 7 youth workers, once this is finished it will be a resource that will be available to buy, it is 9 workshops long and designed to be used by youth workers and 6th form chaplains. It accompanies the Going to Uni Guides and the Gift Membership Scheme.

Rob Chivers (Staff)



Faith in Action Project

The Daily Bread campaign, launched with an event in November last year, has focused on food justice, as voted on by our members at the last AGM. We've looked at food poverty in the UK, starting with the event in conjunction with Church Action on Poverty, spending time as a movement researching the issues, and discerning focused campaign actions which groups have been taking this term. We've also looked at sustainability through our Lent challenges and features in Movement magazine on urban gardening and sustainable recipes, as well as releasing a statement from the SCM Campaigns Group in support of Marcus Rashford's campaign.

The peace campaign has continued, with RDWs running workshops on the three levels of peacemaking and how we can take action against the arms trade. We've partnered with Fellowship of Reconciliation to work towards a presence at DSEI 2021, including a craftivism project. We've also run an online 'Peace Week' focusing on conscientious objectors.

Our vocations work has been focused around our Called to Be resource, which published its second edition last year, and issue 163 of Movement, which featured student and academic reflections on living out faith through work.

Last year we joined in with a Homebrewed Christianity summer course on Bonhoeffer's theology, forming a study group where we had some good conversations about the materials. We're hoping to run a similar course this summer.

Faith in Action Rep Jack Woodruff says, "I've been really pleased with how our campaigns have progressed this year. The use of zoom has allowed our campaign events to reach more members of SCM, as well as allowing us to work with other organisation more effectively."

Emma Temple (Staff), Jack Woodruff (GC)

LGBTQ+

This term has been very busy and exciting for the LGBTQ+ team. In February we celebrated LGBT History Month which included events, online meetings, blogs, and social media posts. The two events were a livestreamed panel of students reflecting on the LGB student experience, and a livestreamed interview with the Rev Rachel Mann about the trans Christian experience. Social media posts included content from past issues of Movement Magazine showing SCM's support of LGBTQ+ people from the 1970s onwards. The blogs published on the SCM website were transcripts of articles from these past issues. SCM member Debbie White also created an LGBTQ+ timeline which Caitlin and Ruth made into a graphic for use on Instagram, ensuring that all our social media channels had something related to LGBT History Month on them.



Additionally, SCM's LGBTQ+ staff lead, Caitlin Wakefield, was invited to give a paper at the University of Glasgow about the changes that inclusive churches and Christian communities can make to become actively affirming. SCM's LGBTQ+ Rep, Louise Dover, was invited to be on an interfaith panel at SOAS titled 'LGBTQ+ Students of Faith.'

Other than LGBT History Month, the staff also spent an afternoon working through the allyship programme proposal, led by Caitlin. Planning for this is going well, with a collaborative meeting with One Body One Faith to take place on 15th April. Furthermore, this was the first term in which LGBTQ+ chaplains were appointed to the LGBTQ+ Facebook group and initial planning for HOME 2021 is taking place after Easter.

Caitlin Wakefield (Staff), Louise Dover (GC)

Governance and Finance



Like everything this year Governance has all been about zoom! We've had all our official meetings digitally which at least meant they could go ahead. New trustees and GC members started in September with some training which was probably easier remotely. We've also been able to have extra meetings more easily, a strategy day in November and some more spontaneous check ins, so it hasn't been all loss. Nathan has stepped down as Movement editor after 2 excellent issues of our magazine, he has a new job and we wish him so well in the future. We also regret that GC has not

had a BAME rep so far this academic year, and we have had a lot of conversations about how we can ensure that hiatuses in representation on GC can be avoided in future. We are hoping that BAME portfolio holders will return to GC following elections at this AGM.

We've set up the Finance and Staffing committee (which used to exist in years gone by) and have been working hard at creating the sustainability we need for the future. We've cut back the budget as much as possible and are looking at all the ways we can make savings, including that we are currently consulting with the staff team about a restructure. 'Whilst we've had difficulty in getting the grants we had hoped for from most trusts we have continued to build good relationships with our current funders, and our Christmas Friends fundraising appeal was amazingly successful raising £9.2k. We've also launched Give as you Live as a way for members and friends to support us while doing their online shopping which is starting to bear fruit. Simon Densham has taken on trust fundraising as well as the church and community duties and legacy appeals and a plan for church-based giving are in the pipeline.

Naomi Nixon (Staff), Tom Packer-Stucki (GC)

Admin and Operations

This academic year we reached 170 members, which is the largest SCM membership count in some time. The team have been busy creating and sending thoughtful care packages throughout the year, to help our members with their self-care, mental health, grow in faith and build community, in these difficult times. We hope you've enjoyed them!

Our Membership and Chaplaincy surveys help us to develop the way we work and improve the way SCM supports students. We are currently surveying members and group leaders, to hear and amplify your voices to keep the movement student led. We also launched Gift Membership last summer, so now you can treat your friends with a 3-year SCM membership and gift pack.

The trustees sent a representative to each staff member's annual review, where we were able to talk with them about their work and personal development over the last year, and their future goals. We enjoyed hearing about all the great work the staff have been doing, and learning about aspects of their jobs we don't often hear about.

Every year the trustees review and approve SCM's policies, which the staff update where necessary. These cover a range of topics such as events, internal financial control and social media. In January we reviewed and approved all of SCM's policies, with only the Equality and Diversity policy requiring some updates later this year so it is more relevant to SCM. In addition to the pre-existing policies, this year several new policies have been/are being created, including a robust homeworking policy for staff and updates to the safeguarding and finance policies.

Deanna Davis (Staff), Callum Fisher (Staff), Patrick Ramsey (GC), Emilia De Luca (GC)