10 years of the Catholic Parliamentary and Public Policy Internship Scheme

2003 - 2013
Celebrating 10 years of the Catholic Parliamentary and Public Policy Internship Scheme
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The scheme has clearly had a lasting and formative influence on all those have been lucky enough to be on it. I’m confident that over the next 10 years the scheme will continue to flourish.
I would like to thank all those who have participated or supported in any way in the first 10 years of the Catholic Parliamentary and Public policy internship programme. From its inception as a pilot project with three interns a year, the scheme has gone from strength to strength. It was always envisaged as a long term project, helping to nurture and encourage the vocation of those called to a life of missionary discipleship through public service. The scheme has clearly had a lasting and formative influence on all those that have been chosen to be on it. I’m confident that over the next 10 years the scheme will continue to flourish, and its quiet contribution to the promotion of the vocation to politics and public life will grow.
We are immensely grateful to those individuals and trusts who gave their financial support to the initial pilot phase in 2003, and in subsequent years have continued to support the scheme.
When the idea of the internship scheme was first suggested, the Bishops Conference backed it immediately, seeing the scheme as a highly innovative way in which to nourish and deepen the vocation to public service among future young lay leaders. We were clear that we wanted to recruit those Catholic graduates who would gain most from participating in the scheme, and the only way to do this was to ensure the scheme was fully funded. We are therefore immensely grateful to those individuals and trusts who gave their financial support to the initial pilot phase in 2003, and in subsequent years have continued to support the scheme. Without that continuing and generous help, the scheme could not exist. We are all very grateful to them, and also to all those MPs and to the Society of Jesus who have strongly supported the scheme with the provision of spiritual support, including retreats at St Bueno’s, and the intellectual formation of Heythrop College.
2003-2004
Clare Coffey
Helen Longworth
Louise Walton (nee Kift)

2004-2005
Angela Kitching (nee Cheyne)
Matthew Curtis
Elizabeth Gallagher

2005-2006
Laura Williams (nee McCann)
Fergal McLoughlin
Peter Smith

2006-2007
Kevin Regan
Toby Gribbin
Ellie Smith

2007-2008
John Shinkawin
Will Blair
Clare Groom
Dom Berner
Adrian Moore
Rhiannon Price
Fiona Paley

2008-2009
Laura O’Hagan
Luke de Pulford
Alison Potter
Amanda Brennan
MaevMcCormack
Oliver O’Callaghan
Olivia Darby

2009-2010
Hannah Mills
Patrick Daly
Anna Morillon (nee Matus)
Feargal McGuinness
Francis McGowan
Gerrard Scheuber
Peter Stoddart
William Redfren

2010-2011
Naomi Brandon
Jo-Anne Rowley
Andrew Duncan
Daniel Howard
Nick Keilty
Chris Morillon

2011-2012
Lucy Jenkinson
Stephen Rooney
Marie Southall
Dominic Foster
Michaela Costello
Daniel Caffe
Matthew Carson

2012-2013
Alexander Balzarella
Timothy Howard
James Langford
James Winterbourne
Rebecca Hedges
Rebecca Manning
Bob Boardman
William Jarvis Smith

2013-2014
Alexandra Jarvis
Megan Russell
Phoebe Jackson
Edward DeQuay
Christopher O’Callaghan
Matthew Tisi
Paul Mills
Anthony Neal
The scheme has thrived through the wonderful commitment of the interns themselves, all of whom have committed themselves fully to the year and gained so much as a result.
There are many excellent internship programmes, and a question often asked is what is different about this one. My answer is its foundation in faith and spiritual formation. The internship year begins and ends with an individually guided retreat, and includes spiritual accompaniment through the year. So the scheme brings diverse elements - working with an MP or agency, studying the MA at Heythrop College, and the various exposure visits and meetings into a kind of dialogue with each other, with the overall aim of seeking to integrate faith and life more deeply. We are so fortunate to have had the steadfast support of so many people who in different ways have enabled the scheme to grow these past 10 years. But above all, the scheme has thrived through the wonderful commitment of the interns themselves, all of whom have committed themselves fully to the year and gained so much as a result. They are its ambassadors now.
Newman House is the Catholic Chaplaincy centre for the Universities and other Higher Education institutions in the Diocese of Westminster. Situated in central London it is also a small residential community with over 60 students living there throughout the year. Since 2003 the Catholic Parliamentary Interns have been welcomed into the community at Newman House, integrating with the other students and bringing an added dimension both as a group and as individuals.
When Charles Wookey first asked me if the interns could live at Newman House I said no. The house is reserved for full-time students and having 3 interns would mean having to turn down 3 others. But I thought about it and talked to some others involved in the chaplaincy and we decided to give it a trial year– thinking the presence of the interns might add something to the house. I am so delighted that we made that decision! The presence of the interns added a wonderful dimension to the chaplaincy, and by and large those who lived at Newman House were very involved in the community life of the house. The number has grown from 3 to an all-time high of 8! It was a privilege to see the talents and energy of the interns put to good effect in the service of the common good. I was delighted to accompany some of the groups to Rome – and I benefited from seeing places in the Vatican that I would never otherwise have seen. It has been good to see some of the former interns in later years. I am still waiting for our first MP and I’m convinced there must be a PM in waiting among them as well!

FR PETER WILSON,
FORMER CHAPLAIN AT NEWMAN HOUSE

It has been a great blessing for us to have the interns based at Newman House over these years. They have brought so much to the chaplaincy, both as a group and as individuals with their own unique personalities! For me personally, in my first year as Senior Chaplain, it has been a joy getting to know them. I hope that the scheme continues to flourish, and that the relationship with Newman House continues to be such a positive one.

FR STEPHEN WANG
CHAPLAIN AT NEWMAN HOUSE
In addition to offering interns the chance to gain experience through their work in Parliament or other public bodies, the CPI scheme also aims to help participants become more informed about their Catholic faith. To assist in this, the scheme includes Master’s-level academic study on Catholic Social Teaching and Christian Ethics, with courses being run by , a specialist Philosophy and Theology College within the University of London. The rigorous nature of the study, coupled with the reputation of the college, provides the interns with transferable modules, which can be used to complete the Master’s qualification at Heythrop or transferred to another academic discipline in other further studies.
It has been an intellectual delight to have the interns taking part in our ethics modules at Heythrop College. Many of the interns come from other than philosophy or theology academic backgrounds so catching up with normative ethical theory or moral theology has not always been straightforward but their commitment to the studies is usually exemplary. By the end of the programme (Postgraduate Certificate in Contemporary Ethics) they truly excel, especially in the final essays they write in the field of applied ethics. Most of them choose to research political and social issues such as equality and inequalities, war, violence, media, culture of celebrity, work, professionalism and employment, common good and human rights. It is quite inspiring to see how they connect theory with practical matters and often bring their Christian faith into analyses. The scheme is very unique, especially in the way it enables a group of carefully selected, highly intelligent, and deeply motivated young Catholic graduates to experience political life and social action, all in the context of their personal, intellectual and spiritual formation.

DR ANNA ABRAMS,
HEAD OF PASTORAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

SUPPORT AND MENTORING

A central objective for CPI is that young Catholics are able to make the best start to a vocation in public life that they can. To foster this, regular individual sessions are held with a career coach and mentor, offering support in networking, interview skills and help to uncover the most fulfilling career for each intern. This support is provided by Dr Elizabeth Walmsley, executive coach and mentor to leaders both in business and public service in the UK and globally. Her advice and support is valuable to interns with clear hopes and plans for the future and to those still discovering the areas they wish to enter.

“It has been a real delight each year to see the interns grow in confidence: learning together and setting off for new horizons. The Intern Scheme is a rich resource supporting this critical stage at the start of their working career.”

DR ELIZABETH WALMSLEY
TRIPS TO ROME & BRUSSELS
The Church’s universal nature means that to appreciate a vocation to public service one must understand the international dimension both of politics and of the Church’s witness in the world today.

To offer greater insight into the work and service of the Church the CPI scheme includes a visit to the Vatican and to the different bodies that support the Church’s mission globally. Historically offering the chance to meet with figures such as the Press Secretary to the Holy Father, the British Ambassador to the Holy See and the Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, the visit offers a rare chance to find out about the mission of the Church from a truly international perspective.

The increasingly globalised nature of governance and economics demands that an understanding of international institutions is needed for a full appreciation of work in public life. As part of the scheme interns visit Brussels, the home of the European Union institutions that have such major influence upon politics and law across Europe. While there, interns have the opportunity to meet and ask questions of members of the European Parliament, officials of EU institutions and of the pan-European NGOs seeking to make representation.

“Since I have been in Rome as Ambassador to the Holy See, one of the real pleasures of the job has been to receive at the Residence the annual visit by the Catholic Parliamentary interns from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales. As well as explaining to them the role of the Embassy, we have sought to arrange for them to meet a cross-section of British people living and working in the Holy See, from clerics to Vatican officials, university professors and broadcasters. The lively, challenging and stimulating discussions that always ensue show that young British Catholics are thinking deeply about their future, their society, and the role of their faith as they forge career paths over the next few years. The Internship scheme is an excellent one, and I look forward to meeting more interns in the future.”

NIGEL BAKER  
HER MAJESTY’S AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE
ST BEUNOS

St Beunos, nestled overlooking the beautiful Clwyd valley in North Wales, is a wonderful retreat centre which the Jesuits have run for many years. Each year our interns group goes twice- at the start and the end of the internship year. The idea of an Ignatian retreat, seeing a spiritual director once a day, is a new experience for nearly all the interns. And the silence and contemplative air take some adjusting to. But it is a deeply refreshing space, and facilitates the inner journey which is such a vital part of the internship experience. We are so grateful to the Society of Jesus for their work with us over these years.
Meeting the Professionals

Key to discerning a vocation in public life is an understanding of the different paths that are possible and of the challenges and opportunities along the way. Regular meetings are therefore organised between prominent Catholics in public life and interns on the scheme. These meetings, whose areas include Public Relations, Journalism, Politics, Financial Services and Law, allow the interns to gain a personal insight into these different spheres and gain an understanding of how faith both can be and is lived out in public life.
Key to encouraging Catholics to live out their faith more fully is communication of the message of the Church both to the faithful and across the media in a way that is clear and relevant to those whom it reaches. With this aim the Diocese of Westminster hosts an intern each year at the Communications Office in Archbishop’s House.

The role is a mixed media position that involves organising events, writing for diocesan publications, drafting press releases as well as photography, video and audio recording. By liaising with different agencies of the Church and understanding the diverse reach that different mediums have, interns learn to appreciate the many different routes that public service can take.
I am a senior reporter for the Buckinghamshire Advertiser by day and a freelancer by night. Since my role in Archbishop’s House, I trained and worked at the Press Association and the Buckinghamshire Advertiser. Thanks to my internship I have written for the Catholic Herald, The Tablet, the Universe, Reuters, The Times and the BBC. I first made contact with the newspapers and websites when I worked on the Papal Visit in 2010, when I met

Current intern at Archbishop’s House
Christopher O’Callaghan, summarises the role of the Communication’s intern at Archbishop’s House:

“My day always starts with doing a news round up for staff members at Archbishop’s House, something that the Cardinal asked for so that he could have his ‘finger on the pulse’. I summarise the news stories from four newspapers and leading internet stories on religion, education, local, national and world news and other miscellaneous items of interest.

Beyond that, my day can take any number of forms. We frequently go out with the Cardinal or the Auxiliary Bishops to functions and receptions to write reports and take photos. I may be involved in the copy editing process of the newspaper or laying out pages on the computer for the designer. I am responsible for the ad clerum which is sent out bimonthly to all priests and religious in the Diocese of Westminster.

The most exciting part of the role is dealing with the press – getting calls from the BBC or Sky asking for interviews or comments and our help in a story they are writing. We also have good contact with the Catholic press and provide them with press releases and photos for their publications as well.”

JO ANNE ROWNEY
2010-2011

I was asked to take on the role of team leader for World Youth Day’s English Language Social Media Team, heading up a group of volunteers from Canada, America and the UK. This took me to Rio, Brazil in 2013 where I covered World Youth Day, headed up English social media coverage, and even got to act as bodyguard for Pope Francis.

In my spare time I speak at conferences, run workshops and freelance for clients ranging from charities to world-wide shipping companies. I am also media executive for Invocation.

I am now looking to build on my freelance work, as well as carrying on my World Youth Day work for Krakow 2016.

ALEXANDER BALZANELLA
2012 - 2013

I spent my internship year at Archbishop’s House, an exciting time which saw the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and the election of Pope Francis before World Youth Day, which I headed out to cover in Rio de Janeiro.

My expectations for the internship were totally surpassed by the experience. Through my year I learnt how to write press releases, prepare people for interview and respond to press queries. I also discovered a love of photography as part of my role in the Diocese, something which I pursued in my spare time as well as at work.

The spiritual development that the scheme offered also gave me a solid foundation for integrating work and daily life, whilst the career guidance led to me pursuing different paths of personal development.

At the end of the internship year I was employed by the Diocese as Communications Assistant and so far have covered events including the creation of Archbishop Vincent as Cardinal and the Ordination of Bishop Nicholas Hudson. I have also continued photographing events independent of my role at the Diocese.

LUCY JENKINSON
2011 - 2012

The internship I undertook in the Communications Office of Archbishop’s House really opened my eyes to how journalists and those representing organisations interact and gave me valuable experience of working in a fast paced high-profile press office (special thanks to Fiona Paley for being a confidante and running buddy throughout!). As well as learning a lot about myself and my faith I made some friends for life in the form of the other interns.

On leaving Archbishop’s House I worked as a Communications Officer for the Catholic development charity Progressio and was lucky enough to visit their programmes in Timor-Leste and Haiti. I now work as a Media Officer at VSO on a government funded youth volunteering programme.
Enthusiasm and a willingness to take on multifarious tasks at Archbishop’s House have made the interns a valued part of the Communications team. They have helped to develop the online and social media presence and have been a bright, challenging presence.

ALEXANDER DESFORGES
Press Secretary to Cardinal Vincent Nichols
I was the communications intern at Archbishop’s House until after the visit of Pope Benedict to the UK in 2010. After working on the visit I joined Cafod where I spent two happy years before training to be a journalist. I’ve been working at The Herald newspaper in Plymouth since January 2013 and have loved the change. In a short space of time I’ve been lucky enough to report on the ordination of Bishop Mark O’Toole and interviewed the outgoing bishop of 28 years, The Right Reverend Christopher Budd, before that.

In more secular news, an investigation I undertook saw a city centre car park demolished due to safety concerns. I’m pretty much de facto religious correspondent after my time working for the church but I enjoy that accolade. Any time we get an interview opportunity with a clergyman or faith-based group, I get the gig usually. And the “Vatican guide to ethics in the media” hand-book (a gift from the interns’ trip to Rome) which sits on my desk has exerted a chuckle from even the most cynical reporters in our newsroom.

In terms of the future, I’d like to try my hand in London at either a national newspaper or a magazine with a strong political or social justice background.

PATRICK DALY
2009-2010

I am a Consultant at Luther Pendragon, an independent integrated communications consultancy. I work for a range of clients, specialising mostly in public affairs in the health, housing and energy sectors. Prior to joining Luther I worked for the health and social care charity Sue Ryder, leading their Government engagement and policy work relating to end of life care and regulation following the Francis report. The public affairs and PR experience necessary for these roles was developed by the Catholic Church, working first as an intern in the Public Affairs Office of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor’s and then as Public Affairs Manager for the Catholic Education Service.

I won a council by-election in the London Borough of Camden in March 2013 with a 14% swing and a 60% vote share, and so I am now a Labour councillor for Gospel Oak ward. I am the Campaigns and Communications Officer for the Camden Labour group and currently manage Labour’s borough-wide local election campaign for May’s local and European elections and leading the drafting of Camden Labour’s 2014 manifesto. I am also a governor of her parish primary school and sit on the Camden Community and Police Consultative Group.

MAEVE MCCORMACK
2008-2009
CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Essential elements of Catholic Social Teaching include respect for all of humanity, dignity in work, a care for creation and work for peace and reconciliation. These teachings demand attention on a global level. One of the key ways in public life that the Christian call finds fulfilment is through the work of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. CAFOD’s work in addressing humanitarian crises whilst also helping create sustainable economic growth enables interns to develop a sense of the interconnectedness and interdependence of the world. The roles with CAFOD have included work on conflict sensitivity, humanitarian financing, assistance in national campaigns and liaising with MPs and Peers.
I took part in the internship scheme between 2012 and 2013 and was delighted to have been placed with CAFOD, working with the Government Relations team. My role as intern included developing relations with CAFOD’s Parliamentary friends, conducting policy research and drafting political briefings as well as organising key CAFOD events in Parliament. Over the course of the year I was able to have been involved in a number of exciting events and campaigns, including ‘IF’ – a coalition campaign of over 200 development agencies. Having completed my internship in July 2013, I have embarked on a full time role with CAFOD as part of the Directorate team. My role within the Directorate consists of coordinating CAFOD’s Chairmanship of BOAG (British Overseas Aid Group), logistical and operational management of corporate events and providing support to CAFOD’s Director. My time with CAFOD continues to be a truly enriching experience; working with others who share a passion for tackling poverty and injustice has greatly contributed to both my professional development and personal growth, none of which would have been possible without the opportunities afforded to me by the CPI scheme.

As one of the first CAFOD interns I enjoyed a very interesting and rewarding year in the policy team. I went on to coordinate the APPG on Agriculture and Food for Development which took me to Tanzania and India with Parliamentary delegations. I have now returned to CAFOD and lead political engagement between the Government and the 5 largest international development charities in the UK.
Anthony Neal trip to Kenya

One of the highlights of my year as a Catholic Parliamentary Intern was attending and presenting at CAFOD’s humanitarian department’s international workshop in Kenya. The workshop itself was attended by CAFOD’s humanitarian staff based in offices across the world from as far as Phnom Penh and from as near as Nairobi. The aim of the Workshop was to re-evaluate CAFOD’s humanitarian strategy and the direction of the department in immediate future. Sessions were run to discuss issues in humanitarian relief including Protection, Emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction. I was asked to lead, design and facilitate a training session on ‘Effective Advocacy in Humanitarian Programmes’ and as a result, ‘advocacy and policy’ has been incorporated into CAFOD’s humanitarian strategy as a cross-cutting priority. Whilst I spent the first half of the week generally tinkering with powerpoint slides and cutting out little cards for my exercises I did eventually find some time to relax, have a swim between meetings and go to the pub on the odd couple of occasions. I’d never had the opportunity to visit Kenya before now, and whilst the workshop didn’t leave much time for exploring, the little bits of the country I did see were spectacular. I saw a giraffe and a zebra and I feel like my trip was a complete success.
I don’t think I’ve ever had a typical day at CAFOD. As part of the humanitarian department my work changes constantly and very often rapidly. I might start one day working on a brief to feed into the FCO’s latest strategy on the Central African Republic and finish the day arranging the visit of an international partner, writing a research proposal on the Democratic Republic of Congo, coordinating some campaign action or advising on conflict approaches in CAFOD’s programme management. Whilst I often think that I’ve developed little more than a ‘cocktail party knowledge’ of various countries and emergencies, I think my biggest achievement this year has been the policy and advocacy work I have produced on the Central African Republic pushing for the eventual deployment of UN peacekeepers. I’ve really enjoyed my time at CAFOD, the breadth of knowledge I have acquired and the pace at which change can occur in the humanitarian sector and I would love to pursue this line of work in the future.
I’ve been really pleased that CAFOD has participated with this excellent scheme. It’s great to have a programme which gives an invaluable grounding across the Catholic and wider public affairs world designed so that people from all backgrounds can participate. Our CAFOD interns have all proved themselves to be excellent and will undoubtedly grow into leaders of tomorrow.

NEIL THORNS
Director of Advocacy, CAFOD
100% of interns continued to engage with the church

70% felt supported to think about their future direction from a spiritual perspective

“...the reflection and prayer made you think more deeply about what you were doing and what you were experiencing”

82% said ‘my fellow interns were a source of support for me’
“...I came out with more questions about my faith...I’m more investigative of it... it was more of a chore but now it’s a richer part of my life...I’m more confident in expressing my faith and identity”

81% continued to engage in voluntary and community activities

87% continued to engage in political life
The internship covers a breadth of public affairs work with both the Catholic Education Service and Head of Parliamentary Relations for the Catholic Bishops’ Conference. For the CES, this involves the production of communication updates on education issues, leading on specific education campaigns, as well as the writing and design of CES publications. With the Head of Parliamentary Relations, the intern’s role involves the coordination and attendance of meeting with Parliamentarians, parliamentary monitoring and the production of briefings for MPs and the wider Catholic community.
During my internship year I worked closely with then Chief Executive Oona Stannard and fellow CPI alumna Laura Williams. On my return to Scotland I resumed my previous role with the Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative, an agency of the Archdiocese of Glasgow established to provide a range of support and practical assistance to women facing crisis pregnancy and their families. I was also active in the Care Not Killing campaign against Margo MacDonald’s End of Life Assistance Bill. Having returned to studies, I am now undertaking an MSc in Library and Information Studies at Robert Gordon University and intend to pursue a career in digital and information literacy librarianship. I remain an active volunteer with the Pro-Life Initiative, as well as working with the Citizen’s Advice Bureau on digital inclusion projects.

The CPI scheme provided me with a wide range of opportunities which have proved invaluable in my current career. Through my CESEW placement, I attended a variety of education conferences, meetings and projects which greatly deepened my understanding and passion for Catholic Education. The CPI scheme as a whole broadened my understanding of my role within the Catholic community. Meeting numerous organisations and individuals who serve the Church through their work in Public life both enthused and challenged my understanding of the Church. Through the spiritual support of the CPI scheme, I was also able to explore my vocation into both teaching and married life – meeting my husband, Christopher Morillon through the CPI scheme!

My role this year has been a mixture of policy and parliamentary work for the Bishops’ Conference and for the Catholic Education Service. However I have also been involved in a lot of media and communications work, promoting the various campaigns of the CES. Having two job roles has meant that I have received a very rounded experience of the work of the Bishops’ Conference as a whole and it has also meant that my day to day work has been very varied. An average day might include writing briefing notes for MP’s/ Peers, writing press releases and newspaper articles as well as representing the Bishops’ Conference at external events and meetings. However, the nature of public affairs work means that no day is ever really the same; this is an aspect to the role which I have particularly appreciated. Part of the beauty of the scheme has been that I have been given so much responsibility in my role and this has also come with a very supportive team of people in the office who are generous with their time, and always encouraging and supportive. I am hoping to pursue a career in public affairs and communications work and I feel that my time working in the Bishops’ Conference has given me all the skills necessary to do this. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as an intern. I have learned so much through my work and have made some great friends in the process.
The internship scheme has added to our team an enthusiastic, creative and passionate member of staff. This has greatly increased the capacity of the CES and Bishops’ Conference to get the Church’s voice into the public sphere.

Greg Pope
Head of Parliamentary Relations
Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales and Deputy Director Catholic Education Service
CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK

As part of its mission to live out the Gospel message, the Catholic Church seeks to proclaim in public life the unique value and gift of each individual. In living out this mission the Church works through its social action agency, CSAN, to influence public policy to protect the poor and the vulnerable. The placement with CSAN involves liaising with different national Catholic charities, assisting both the Advocacy and Communications Teams, producing briefings for Parliament, writing press releases and organising events for public figures to spread the Church’s message. Previous placements have included work on issues including child poverty, prisoner rights and welfare reform.
PHOEBE JACKSON
2013-2014

Following a M.Sc. in Geography from the University of Birmingham I worked for CSAN andCAFOD during my internship. The internship provided the perfect stepping stone, giving me the parliamentary and media experience needed for my current position as the Public Affairs Manager of the Catholic Education Service. I am a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and am currently undertaking an Advanced Certificate in PR. I am also on the Governing Body of a large Catholic primary school in Elephant & Castle, London.

The internship with CSAN is two-fold, involving work with both the Policy and Advocacy Team, and the Communications Team. Therefore, there never seems to be an average day. Within Communications, I monitor of press and media, regularly update of the website, writing press releases, articles, and blogs, alongside helping organise events such as a Parliamentary Reception. On the Policy and Advocacy side, I work closely with the Public Affairs Officer on a variety of tasks in order to influence public policy to protect the poor and vulnerable. My key responsibilities involve; researching policy topics, producing briefings for Parliament, lobbying MPs and Peers, formulating consultation responses and developing amendments. My expectations of the scheme have been more than fulfilled; I have been exposed to so many different aspects of work in CSAN. This has allowed me to develop many valuable skills that will be useful in any workplace. I have also had the invaluable experience of meeting Catholic Charities operating throughout the UK that are tackling a whole range of social justice issues. I feel that through working with CSAN I have the chance to truly make a difference to the lives of people living on the margins of society.

REBECCA HEDGES
2012-2013

My internship as Policy and Communications Assistant for CSAN gave me a two-fold experience: working with both the Communications and Media Officer and the Public Affairs Officer. These two roles provided a hugely varied set of tasks and accompanying skills - from writing press releases and organising national events, to lobbying and producing briefings for parliamentarians.

The internship led me (seamlessly!) into a permanent position at CSAN as the Network Development Officer - a challenging and diverse role which gives me the privilege of working closely with over 40 major Catholic charities across England and Wales. It is inspirational to work with staff and service users at grassroots level and to witness the enormous contribution Catholic organisations make in the service of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of our society. Working to develop and strengthen the Caritas network and the Church’s social action mission is a challenge I have embraced wholeheartedly!

The internship also gave me the opportunity to begin a part-time MA in Contemporary Ethics at Heythrop College and I am delighted to have been able to continue the course this year – informing and strengthening both my work at CSAN and my personal development.

MARIE SOUTHALL
2011-2012

inspirational to work with staff and service users at grassroots level and to witness the enormous contribution Catholic organisations make in the service of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of our society. Working to develop and strengthen the Caritas network and the Church’s social action mission is a challenge I have embraced wholeheartedly!

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Paul Goggins and 2012-2013 CSAN intern Rebecca Hedges

The Church and the Catholic Parliamentary Internship Scheme lost a supportive friend in Paul Goggins MP this year.

Comment from Helen O’Brien, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network

CSAN has welcomed 4 interns in recent years. There is a real job for each, with time divided between our Public Affairs and Policy work, and our Communications work. We gain a new and challenging view each year, and a quickly effective staff member in our small team. He or she gains a great insight into the Caritas ethos, mission and our work in the public square with key people in Westminster. Training and mentoring is, of course, part of the ‘deal’. We couldn’t do without them!
Since the beginning of the scheme in 2003, the young Catholic interns have had an unrivalled opportunity to work closely with Members of Parliament and Peers, contributing directly to British public life. This has included meeting and discussing public affairs with some of the country’s leading political thinkers and policy makers, as well as studying Parliament and the cut and thrust of party politics. Over the ten years interns have worked for Members of Parliament and Peers from both the Government and Opposition benches.
After finishing my year in parliament I returned to the north-west of England to train to be a teacher at Leyland St Mary’s Catholic High School; on the graduate teacher programme. I then left England, moving to Valladolid, central Spain, where I have taught English during the last five years. In one sense my year as an intern seems a long time ago and quite different from where and what I am now. Yet my experiences, the memories, the colours and sounds, the people we met, and the places we were welcomed into are still very real and I often think of them with a smile. It was a very happy year and one I would have been less, in many senses, without.

Litigation (and incidentally acting for several politicians in defamation proceedings).

I have stayed in touch with Sir Edward and capitalised on other connections made during the Parliamentary internship: I’m heavily involved with the Conservative Party and was a Tory candidate for my home ward (South Wim- bledon) in this year’s elections to Merton borough council.

I am involved with various Catholic activities, including as a speaker for Catholic Voices and as a governor of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, and frequently write features and op-ed pieces for the Catholic Herald and, on occasion, Standpoint and Counsel magazines, and obituaries of dead lawyers for The Times.

Most importantly, I’m godfather to Georgina, the daughter of Fiona Paley (CPI 2007-2008).

Since leaving the internship I worked with the Church on international development and environment at CAFOD, and more recently been appointed as Programme Leader for Climate Diplomacy at E3G (not-for-profit organisation working on delivering an ambitious international climate agreement).

Insights into the political wrangling of Parliament, how elections are made and won, and how those who are the most vulnerable in society can benefit from access to justice, provided me with the confidence to plunge into the politically complex world of international relations. The academic and moral guidance provided by the internship has acted as a benchmark to enable me to assess my own judgements and those of others professionally and personally. Importantly, it rooted our political aspirations back into the reality of people’s lives, not simply an elite venture.

In looking to the future, I wish to play a keen role in building political pressure to create a fair global agreement to preserve our people and planet, and eventually to retreat from politics and live the good life.
Following the internship I worked at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG). I began my English language teaching post in Japan in March 2014. I hope to use the skills and fantastic networking opportunities the internship has given me to forward my career in international affairs. To this end, the internship provided me with unparalleled opportunities to meet people and visit places that have proved incredibly valuable to me. I hope to return to the UK in the not so distant future and look forward to using my faith and knowledge of the internship for the betterment of the Catholic community here.
After a wonderful year on the CPI with Peter Smith and Laura McCann, I went back to academia (of sorts…) on the GDL and LPC at Nottingham Law School. A training contract at Farrer & Co in London ensued, where I qualified as a solicitor into the Corporate team advising primarily on company mergers and acquisitions, investments, reorganisations and general corporate advisory.

Nearly six years later, the temptation of sun, sea and blue skies (and an escape from the morning rush hour) will see me jump ship to Harney Westwood & Riegels in the British Virgin Islands as an off-shore Corporate & Commercial solicitor from July 2014.

It’s hard to talk of ambitions so early on into the long and winding road of the corporate solicitor but a future with fewer all-nighters than corporate practice in London would be a start!

Since Autumn 2012, I have been working with Care Not Killing, a non-confessional alliance including disability rights, healthcare professionals’ and faith-based bodies which campaigns against assisted suicide and euthanasia and for better palliative care. We collaborate with partners in Scotland and Europe, and have been especially active in the courts and the media. Working on such sensitive issues is certainly challenging, and Westminster and Holyrood bills will require much of us in 2014, but we look forward to making our case. In the long-term, I would like to remain in public policy/research, perhaps in time refocusing on faith-based or heritage work (or even – Greg Mulholland’s legacy lives – real ale).

We were the last interns to see Pope Benedict in Rome, and it later came home to me, on the night of Pope Francis’ election, that the worldwide Church is a living and breathing entity which we as young Catholics must have the confidence to speak up for. We owe particular thanks to Charles Wookey, Edward Davies and Julia Flanagan for an extraordinary year and its continued impact on our lives, and I am delighted to have maintained excellent personal and professional relationships with people I interned with, worked with and lived with.

FERGAL MCLoughlin
2005 - 2006
Jim Dobbin MP

DANIEL CUffe
2011 - 2012
Greg Mulholland MP

MATTHEW CARSON
2011 - 2012
Baroness Shelia Hollins

I spent my CPI (2011-12) in the House of Lords working for the wonderful Baroness Hollins. It was a busy year, with two significant pieces of legislation, reforming healthcare and welfare, passing through the House.

I currently work in Victoria, a stone’s throw away (all that cricket) from the Bishops’ Conference, for a strategy consulting firm. The work is intense but satisfying, and exposes me to a host of industries, from oil & gas, to pharmaceuticals and entertainment. If the Church ever feels it could do with some strategic input, give me a call!

I want to go to business school, with the long-term goal of getting into sports strategy - hopefully, in the NFL. I am lucky enough to work in a job that will give me the opportunity to work abroad, and I intend to make the most of that to develop my career.

I will be eternally grateful to the Church for the enrichment it
The privileged and comprehensive first-hand experience of working in the office of a Member of the UK Parliament was not only immensely enriching, but has served me well in my current role. Since completing the CPI scheme I have been working in Brussels as a Policy Advisor for the Jesuit European Social Centre (JESC). JESC engages with the EU Institutions, with NGOs, and with Ecclesial Institutions such as the ‘Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the EU (COMECE)’ and the ‘Conference of European Churches (CEC).’

At JESC, as well as developing initiatives on a variety of themes ranging from Mineral Resources in Africa, to European Citizenship and Ecology, we co-ordinate an International Ecology Network and produce a bi-monthly online publication entitled ‘EcoJesuit.’ In collaboration with COMECE we also produce a monthly journal called ‘EuroInfos.’

Working for the Jesuits as a layman, one cannot but be impressed by the vision and commitment of the Order – on a truly global scale. This is evident in the tireless work being done by colleagues across many Jesuit Works in pursuit of social justice and therefore of the common good. Undoubtedly this experience of working for the Jesuits will prove to be formative in whatever I go on to do in the future.

Since completing the CPI scheme in 2011, I continued working for Rt Hon Paul Murphy MP for another year, before being deployed into a Liverpool English classroom through the Teach First scheme. My time in Parliament and in the South Wales valleys has linked with my work in education in many ways; from inspiring pupils to nurture high aspirations in school assemblies (taking public speaking tips from Paul) to challenging students in lessons with enriching activities such as debating and independent learning (practically addressing my parliamentary research on regional Oxbridge access). Looking forward, I am interested in international education, development and politics and potentially working in India. Through all this, my faith strengthens my conviction that all individuals should have the right to fulfilling their potential - and that I have a role in helping to remove barriers to this. On a personal note, I am excited about marrying Hannah next year, whom I would never have met if not for the CPI scheme and living at Newman House.

During the internship I worked as PA to Lord Brennan of Bibury. After which I continued to work at Matrix Chambers as the Legal Aid Project Officer as well as working in the constituency office for Jim Fitzpatrick MP in Poplar and Limehouse.

In September 2009, I returned to the University of Birmingham to train to be a teacher. For the last 4 years, I have taught in an all-through city academy in West London. The CPI provided me with unique opportunities to experience working in a professional environment, having to complete tasks to a high standard, at short notice and to communicate with many different people and organisations on a range of topics. Developing these skills has meant that I have progressed quickly in my teaching career and I am now Achievement Phase Leader and am responsible for the Maths curriculum and assessment in my school. I am part of the Primary Leadership Team and have direct responsibility for progress and achievement of pupils. I hope to continue leading in education and am currently looking forward to entrenching the new curriculum in September.

After my internship with Geraldine Smith MP I began working for the Catholic Education Service until 2009 when I joined Cancer Research UK, where I’ve been Senior Public Affairs Manager since 2012. I’m grateful to the CPI’s supporters for the opportunities I could not have pursued without their generosity, including a move to London. Thanks to the internship year - including residency in Newman House - and the foundations it laid, I met my husband, pursued a stimulating career and formed close friendships. I intend to remain at Cancer Research UK for the foreseeable future; there is much still to do. I continue to be an active member of the St Anne’s school community in Vauxhall, where my husband serves as headteacher. We’re involved with our local community in mid-Essex in various ways and I hope to be a school governor and Labour Councillor in future. I wouldn’t have considered local politics before the Internship but I feel a vocation to make an active contribution when the time is right. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, country walks, cycling, singing and photography.

TIMOTHY HOWARD
2012 - 2013
Conor Burns MP

After interning with John Pugh MP, I went to work in the House of Lords with Baroness Finlay, a cross-bench Peer. I’ve recently started working in the Treasury and hope to develop a career in the civil service. The internship was a fantastic experience and a great opportunity. I learnt so much from working with John for the year and I would not be in my current position without the skills I picked up from the internship year, or the time and effort invested in my development.

LAURA WILLIAMS
(NEE MCCANN)
2005 - 2006
Geraldine Smith MP

MICHAELA COSTELLO
2011 - 2012
Conor Burns MP

I spent my internship in the House of Commons working for the Conservative MP Conor Burns. It was an amazing and interesting year: as Conor did not have a researcher at the time, I was able to fulfil this role and gain first-hand knowledge and experience of the day-to-day running of an MP’s office. When my internship year ended, I stayed on briefly for Conor before moving on to work for Ashley Fox MEP in the European Parliament. I now work as Ashley Fox’s senior political adviser, running his Brussels office following all his work on the three standing committees of the European Parliament - Economic and Monetary Affairs, Internal Markets and Consumer Protection and Constitutional Affairs.

HANNAH MILLS
2009 - 2010
Damian Green MP

I was an intern in the 2009/10 intake working for the Rt Hon Damian Green MP, now Minister of State for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims. I worked in Parliament and campaigned in Ashford in the run up to the general election. Since completing the internship, I have received an MA in Contemporary Ethics from Heythrop College and joined the Civil Service Fast Stream as an economist. I now work in HM Treasury on the distributional analysis of public spending, having previously spent three years in the Home Office working on crime and policing analysis. Thanks to the internship, I was introduced to the Jesuits at Farm Street where I help to run First Sunday Plus, a weekly mass for young adults in London.
PAUL MILLS  
2013 - 2014  
Lord Don Touhig and Lord Tommy McAvoy

I have spent the last year working in the office of Lord Don Touhig. Working for Don has been a fantastic experience. It has been a wonderful opportunity to work so closely with a Member of the House of Lords. The work has been diverse and stimulating. It has been fascinating to see how a Member of the House contributes to the House’s work of scrutinising legislation and supporting them in this role. A particular highlight has been working around the Children and Families Bill. During its passage I sat in on meetings Don had with interested parties to discuss this legislation. Through drafting speaking notes I was able to be involved in expressing any concerns to the House. During the bill’s progress through the House significant amendments were successfully made to it. During the year I have also had the privilege of working with Lord Tommy McAvoy as well. Consequently I was able to work as part of a bill team on the Northern Ireland Miscellaneous Provisions Bill. It was exciting to study in detail amendments to this bill, understand the complex background to them, and provide speaking notes articulating an agreed position on them. My work this year has been varied, challenging, and always interesting. I have been repeatedly amazed by the level of responsibility which I have been given. It has also been a real pleasure to work so closely with two dedicated Members of the House of Lords. Both have been extraordinarily generous in ensuring that I maximise the potential of this unique and special year. As a consequence of my experiences this year I would like to work in some way in public affairs; engaging with stakeholders in order to inform policy making.

ANGELA KITCHING  
2004 - 2005  
Clare Curtis-Thomas MP

I am the Head of Public Affairs at Age UK where I lead Age UK’s engagement with politicians, their parties and influencers as well as acting as a national media spokesperson. I have worked in parliamentary, campaigning and public affairs roles in charities since leaving the internship. The opportunities offered by the internship were an invaluable springboard for my career and also gave me the confidence to bring my values to the fore in my work. After the internship I completed a Masters Degree at Heythrop College in Christian Ethics and Society. Subsequently I was involved in the development of Thinking Faith, the Jesuit journal. I remain active in debates on ethics and equality as a trustee of the Equality and Diversity Forum.

ELEANOR SMITH  
2006 - 2007  
Dan Rogerson MP

I spent a very enjoyable year interning for Dan Rogerson, the MP for North Cornwall based in Westminster. The year in Parliament was very challenging and really helped me to develop organisational skills, my ability to work with others and listen to various ideas and opinions before coming to my own point of view. I learnt a lot about the constituency itself and visited there on many occasions, including helping campaign in the local elections which was extremely interesting. My favourite times in Parliament were when we had school groups or visitors from the constituency and I was given the task of giving them a tour and explaining the history and workings of Parliament. This led me to the conclusion that teaching was the career for me and after a gap year which included working in the Loreto schools in Kolkata and Darjeeling I complete my PGCE. I am currently Head of Politics and Law at a school in Accrington and have recently completed a MA in Education.

I am the Head of Public Affairs at Age UK where I lead Age UK’s engagement with politicians, their parties and influencers as well as acting as a national media spokesperson. I have worked in parliamentary, campaigning and public affairs roles in charities since leaving the internship. The opportunities offered by the internship were an invaluable springboard for my career and also gave me the confidence to bring my values to the fore in my work. After the internship I completed a Masters Degree at Heythrop College in Christian Ethics and Society. Subsequently I was involved in the development of Thinking Faith, the Jesuit journal. I remain active in debates on ethics and equality as a trustee of the Equality and Diversity Forum.
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Catholic Parliamentary interns who have been placed in Brussels, have had a unique opportunity to work with Catholic MEPs in the European Parliament. Like the Catholic interns in the UK Parliament, these interns have had the chance to work closely with MEPs, assisting with communications and policy matters relating to the UK in the European Union. They have had an unparalleled opportunity to see the inner workings of one of the most influential organisations in Europe, gaining invaluable experiences and contacts in the process.
I greatly benefited from the CPI across all the areas it sets out in its manifesto, but there’s one in particular which outshines the others - thanks to the internship I discerned my vocation and got to know my now wife! For this I am obviously extremely grateful, however, my gratitude also extends across other areas, namely the spiritual, professional, intellectual and political dimensions. Following the completion of my time in Brussels working for a French and Polish MEP respectively, I went into Management Consulting for a boutique firm in the City which deals with Financial Regulation, focusing on German-speaking Europe. The skills I picked-up and developed on the internship were invaluable to my current position, ranging from learning how to assess large amounts of information and passing it on succinctly, to the political tool of compromise. Elsewhere, the implementation and furthering of my faith has been and is a part of my life on which I place an emphasis, partly as a consequence of being on the scheme; whilst I find it challenging truly living out my faith in the City environment, I volunteer for Centrepoint (youth homelessness charity) and am a School Governor - both of which present tangible opportunities to put my faith into action and helping those who most need it.

I very much see my short/medium-term future working and specialising in finance so as to discern and develop my political mindset and potential career in the long term (with hopefully a few children thrown in for good measure)!
The internship gave me a great opportunity to learn more about, and meet people who shared my passion for, social justice. Following my internship with Kathy Sinnott MEP, who has an incredible commitment to the rights of the most vulnerable, I returned to London. I have worked in several roles, including undertaking policy work with the voluntary sector and statutory partners in Haringey, acting as a trustee for an African women’s charity, leading the World Youth Alliance’s UK chapter and doing pro-life work, all of which have built upon what I learnt through the internship. During this period, and inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, I worked with friends to set up the Wonder Foundation. WONDER focuses on providing routes out of poverty for women and children, working with partner projects in the UK and overseas, and empowering young people to take action in their communities. I have now been working full-time for a year and in this period our achievements have included working with a Filipino partner to provide emergency and long-term support to typhoon victims, providing vocational training scholarships to girls in Nigeria, researching FGM and human trafficking, with our findings being used by decision-makers, and training over 400 women in the UK and abroad on setting up grassroots community projects.
I believe the scheme is a wonderful celebration of the lay vocation, and the particular vocation to political service - a service of the common good of society called forth by a commitment to Christ and the Gospel.
The scheme now takes 7 or 8 graduates each year, placing 4 with Members of Parliament and 4 with Catholic agencies and the Cardinal’s office. For those 8 places we typically have over 100 applications from bright, committed Catholic graduates seeking to discern a vocation to the service of others in public life. The internship scheme can only offer a fraction of these excellent young people a place. But all who have been lucky enough to be selected have given their wholehearted commitment to it, and have clearly found as a result a deepening of faith and an integration of faith and life. I believe the scheme is a wonderful celebration of the lay vocation, and the particular vocation to political service - a service of the common good of society called forth by a commitment to Christ and the Gospel.

BISHOP JOHN ARNOLD
CHRISTOPHER AND ANNA MORILLON

“Through the spiritual support of the Catholic Parliamentary Internship scheme, I was also able to explore my vocation into both teaching and married life – meeting my husband, Christopher Morillon through the CPI scheme!”

ANNA MORILLON

“I greatly benefited from the CPI across all the areas it sets out in its manifesto, but there’s one in particular which outshines the others-thanks to the internship I discerned my vocation and got to know my now wife!”

CHRISTOPHER MORILLON