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Mrs Linden Sheffield
Fellowship of St John (UK) Trust Association
St George's Trust
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2 November 2016

Dear Linden,

St George's Trust grant SGT16/65

I am writing to offer my sincerest thanks once again to the Trustees of the St George's Trust for their grant award which supported my recent placement in the Office for Religious Life, Stanford University.

I undertook this 3-week placement in late September and early October this year, and benefited immensely from the experience.

During the placement, I worked closely with both the Dean and Associate Dean at Stanford (both Anglican priests) gaining much from the opportunity to observe and appraise their work making the case for faith in an elite, secular university. I also enjoyed numerous opportunities to engage with their Roman Catholic and Jewish colleagues in chaplaincy provision, and in many conversations further explored the dynamics of ecumenical and multi-faith chaplaincy in this context.

I was on campus for the opening of the new academic year, and so participated in the Office for Religious Life's welcome for new and returning students. Through various interactions with students and faculty I was pushed to think more deeply about the challenges involved in supporting and nurturing faith on campus. I particularly benefited from getting to know the local Episcopal priest deployed by the Diocese of California to minister to Stanford students. Our conversations – and my participation in the student meetings he organized – gave me valuable insights on making the case for the Anglican tradition of Christian faith in a university context where Anglicanism does not mean the established church or a default form of chaplaincy, as in this country.

In addition, on Sunday 25 September I preached at the main morning service in Stanford Memorial Church. I enjoyed the challenge of the lectionary readings for that day – sharing the message of the story of the rich man and Lazarus with the good people of Silicon Valley. The sermon was received very positively, and I take much from this experience in my developing maturity as a preacher.

Thank you so much for your support in making this training opportunity possible. I happily give my permission for anything I say here to be used on your website or other publicity if wanted.

With warm regards

Philip Lockley