
Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2007

Paul Helm & Gerald Bray teaching MTh modules

Professor Paul Helm will be teaching Module HT5007 'Calvin and Calvinism' of the Masters in Reformed Theology course. The dates for this module are 3rd – 7th March 2008. Dr Gerald Bray will be teaching Module HT5008 'History of Reformed Theology'. This module will be held on 2nd – 6th June 2008.

Anyone wishing to register for these modules, or any of the modules available, should contact the Academic Office on 01349 780000.

Remember, it is possible to 'audit' these modules, i.e. study these modules without committing yourself to doing the whole MTh programme or to doing assessments.

Give Thanks

We have seen healthy student enrolments in both our Access course and BA degree. Around half a dozen students are, or hope to become, candidates for Church of Scotland ministry. Our new taught Masters programme is now underway and we are thrilled too, that by God's provision through UHI, Paul Helm and Gerald Bray have been added to our supervisory team this year, allowing our postgraduate programme to expand.

There is so much for which we give thanks and we continue to rejoice in all your support for HTC. As we look out upon fields that are white for harvest, we are praying that you will be moved by God to work with us in your committed giving to this ministry, that we may do all that the Lord has set before us.

Student Accommodation

From time to time we have students coming to the College for a few days or a few weeks. Sometimes they have difficulty finding accommodation for their time in Dingwall. Do you think you could help out? We'd like to know about rooms, flats or houses in the area which may be available for rent, on a short-, medium- or long-term basis. If you have accommodation which may be suitable for a student (maybe with a family) it would be great if you could let us know. Thank you.

Latest book by Andrew McGowan

Professor Andrew McGowan, Principal, has just had a new book published, “The Divine Spiration of Scripture: challenging Evangelical perspectives”. In it he engages with the issues, debates and terminology, and reconstructs and re-expresses an evangelical doctrine for the current context.

First, he reconsiders the place of Scripture in theological systems, and argues that it should be relocated, in order to emphasize that it is an aspect of God’s self-revelation and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, he revisits the vocabulary used to articulate the doctrine, with some proposals for new terminology.

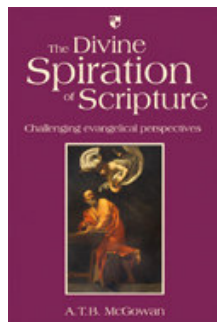
Thirdly, he examines the important differences between two evangelical positions, ‘inerrancy’ and ‘infallibility’, with some further proposals for strengthening an evangelical doctrine.

Finally, he addresses two key issues – the relationship between Scripture and our creeds and confessions, and how Scripture is preached in the context of the life of the church.

Paul Wells, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Faculté Libre de Théologie Réformée, Aix-en-Provence has this to say about the book:

‘The combination of broad perspectives and careful attention to detail commends this book to those looking for a readable, well-informed and balanced presentation of the doctrine of Scripture. Professor McGowan skilfully localizes problem areas in recent discussion and allows Scripture itself to provide constructive pointers to their solution.’

‘The Divine Spiration of Scripture’ is published in paperback by IVP at £14.99.



F.F. Bruce Lecture

The fourth annual F.F. Bruce Lecture was given on Friday 26th October by the internationally known preacher and scholar, the Rev Professor Edward Donnelly. Prof Donnelly is Professor of New Testament Language & Literature at the Reformed Theological College, Belfast, and Minister of Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church, Newtownabbey. Anyone who missed the lecture still has the opportunity to hear it by logging on to <http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/audio/aud-list.html> and clicking on the appropriate file. Please don't be put off by the word 'Lecture'. This talk was aimed at all Christians, not just those who are academically-minded, so everyone should find it interesting listening.

Hugh Grant

On Tuesday 23rd October, most of the staff of HTC joined with a large congregation in Hilton Church, Inverness, for the funeral of Hugh Grant, father of our Biblical Studies lecturer, Dr Jamie Grant. Hugh died of cancer at the age of 66 after a relatively brief period of illness.

Hugh had been a member of the Board of Governors of HTC for a short time, since moving north to Inverness just over two years ago, and had begun to make his own distinctive and significant contribution to the work of the Board and of the College in general. One of Hugh's last duties for the College, at a time when, in retrospect, it is now clear that his cancer was causing him considerable discomfort and pain, was as a member of the interview panel tasked with choosing our new Finance Officer. His keen insight, vast experience of such procedures and warm Christian commitment were evident on that occasion as they were on each occasion the Board of Governors met.

Hugh's work for the College and his warm and jovial presence among us will be greatly missed by us all. We would have desired to have had his input for many years to come, but it was the Father's time to take him home. The funeral was a wonderful affirmation of the greatness and glory of the Christian hope in the midst of the tearfulness of broken hearts.

We commend Hugh's widow, Christine, two sons, Donald and Jamie, and their respective spouses and children to the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

Access Course Book

One of the recommended books for the Access Course is "*Learn How to Study: A Realistic Approach*" by D. Rowntree (Warner Book, 1998). Previous editions have sold out and the new edition won't be available until next year. If you have a copy that you no longer need would you mind donating it to the College or passing it on to a student? Please contact us if you think you might be able to help. Thank you!

Gift Aid

Thank you to everyone who supports HTC financially. We are extremely grateful to you all. We would like to thank especially those who responded to our letter in June. If you were unable to respond at that time you are still welcome to do so (at any time that is convenient to you). It may be possible for you to increase the value of your gift to HTC by about a third, at no extra cost to yourself, through the Gift Aid scheme. If you are a UK tax payer and are happy for us to reclaim the tax paid to add it to your donation, from £1 up, please enquire about Gift Aid. Contact Marie Ewan, Finance Officer, on 01349 780000 or Marie.Ewan@htc.uhi.ac.uk

West Highland Way Sponsored Walk

In the last HTC Newsletter we told you about the Sponsored Walk of the West Highland Way that Andrew McGowan, Hector Morrison and Fraser Jackson did in the summer to raise funds for Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible School in South Africa and Zomba Theological College in Malawi. The magnificent sum of £5200 has been raised!!!! This means we can send £2600 to each of these colleges.



At today's exchange rate, each British pound is worth approximately 13.6 South African Rand. This means that £2600 is worth approximately R35,300. Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible School could put this sum to many different uses. Examples of how it might help are:

- In providing adequate health care for the staff (there is no NHS in South Africa and most of the staff members have no health insurance).
- In helping to support training for the administrative staff.
- In helping to support postgraduate study for the academic staff (especially the Xhosa staff).
- In helping to support conference attendance for academic staff.
- In providing subsidised books for the students.



Thank you again for sponsoring the West Highland Way team and Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible School in South Africa and Zomba Theological College in Malawi. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Zomba Theological College (ZTC) has annual running costs of approximately £250,000. This sum covers all the costs of the college, including students' fees, all students' living costs, staff salaries, running costs of the college (electricity bills, etc), stationery.... There are approximately 100 students at ZTC, so the average cost per student is £2,500. By comparison, HTC has annual running costs of approximately £600,000 but this sum does not include students' living costs. If HTC had 100 residential students the annual running costs would come in at over £2 million! This is about eight times as much as in ZTC!

When money runs out at ZTC the college is forced to close down temporarily and the students go back home. Then when funds become available again the college reopens and the students return. This is obviously very disruptive and unsettling. At the time of writing this Newsletter, ZTC is actually experiencing cash-flow difficulties and is temporarily closed. God willing, it will reopen in January for a new session, with Dr. Mazizwa as the new Principal.

Key facts about Malawi (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications>)

- One of the ten poorest countries in the world with an income per person of around \$160 per year: 170 times less than the average Scot's income.
- Population (c.12m) more than twice the size of Scotland's, and land area around 50% larger, but economy only a little over 1% of size of Scotland's (\$1.8bn vs. \$139bn in 2003). Falkirk's economy alone is around twice the size of Malawi's.
- Suffers from one of the worst HIV/ AIDS epidemics in the world with around one million people infected - more than the total number in Europe and North America combined - and around half a million orphans: roughly the same number as the entire population of Edinburgh.
- Life expectancy at birth has fallen from around 45 years in 1990 to around 37 years today: around half of the life expectancy of the average Scot.
- Government can only afford to spend on average \$12 (around £6) per person each year on healthcare. (Source: Statement by Health Minister Ntaba, Feb 05).
- Children under age of five 27 times more likely to die than those in Scotland.
- Malawi is the country with the fewest doctors per person (Source: Guinness World Records). USAid cite this ratio at: 117,647:1 for 2002: one doctor serving a population equivalent to that of Ayr and Livingston combined.
- Population growing rapidly: more than half the population less than 15 years old.
- One qualified teacher for every 95 pupils, compared to one for every 14.9 pupils in Scotland (Source: National Statistics On Line 2002/03).
- At today's exchange rate each British pound is worth approximately 290 Malawian Kwacha, making £2600 worth approximately 776,000 Kwacha.
- In rural Malawi the average monthly wage is less than 4000 Kwacha (approx £14) – compare this with the price of a loaf of bread at about 50 Kwacha.
- Average monthly salary for a pastor in Malawi is about £50.

2007 Graduation

The Annual Public Meeting & Awards Ceremony 2007 took place on Friday 26th October 2007 at 7pm in Castle Street Church, Dingwall. The Rev Hector Morrison led the service and Prof. Andrew McGowan presented the Annual Report. The Rev Alexander Murray (Chairman of the Board of Governors of HTC) presented the awards, assisted by the Rev Donald MacIver for Access Course graduands and Dr Michael Bird for BA Programme graduands. Seventeen students graduated this year, five from the Access Course and twelve from the BA Programme. The guest preacher for the service was the Rev Professor Edward Donnelly from Northern Ireland. His sermon, of relevance to all Christians but in particular the new graduates, can be heard by clicking the link on the HTC website at <http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/audio/aud-list.html>

Certificate in Christian Theology

Stuart Farnes, a driving instructor from Fortrose, began his studies with HTC by completing the Certificate in Christian Theology. He has proceeded to the BA degree programme and is now in his second year of study on this course. Stuart is HTC's first candidate for the ministry for the Church of Scotland. Stuart graduated *in absentia*.

Access Certificate in Christian Theology

Donald Fraser, a Gamekeeper from Kyle of Lochalsh, had previously completed studies through the UHI Millennium Institute, gaining a certificate in Gamekeeping from North Highland College.



Christopher Lawson is based in Hull and does a lot of work there amongst refugees. To help him with this work he has taught himself several Arabic languages so that he can communicate meaningfully with those he serves. He has also taught himself biblical Hebrew. Christopher was unable to come to the graduation.

Susan MacLean from Aultbea has also completed previous studies through the UHI Millennium Institute, gaining a BA in Child and Youth Studies. She has been involved in various aspect of youth work within the church and is Youth Facilitator in the Free Church Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross. Susan could not attend the graduation.

Indra Rincon Rojas is Columbian and holds a psychology degree from a Columbian university. As well as completing the Access Course, Indra has already begun studies on the BA programme. She has worked in several jobs to help fund her studies, mainly caring for children and the elderly. Indra has now returned to Columbia and is getting married later this year. She was not at the graduation.

Certificate of Higher Education in Theological Studies

This award is given to those who complete the first year of the BA Theological Studies programme.

Stephen Proudlove already has an MA (Hons) degree in Natural Science. He attends Broadway Baptist Church, Isle of Man. He works for a pharmaceutical company and is also a director of a charity for the homeless on the Isle of Man. Stephen was unable to attend the graduation ceremony in person.

Diploma of Higher Education in Theological Studies

This award is given to those who complete the first two years of the BA Theological Studies programme.

Ann Anderson, originally from Glasgow, is now based in Lincolnshire. She completed her studies by distance learning. Ann is now involved in ministry with the Methodist Church.



David Holdsworth is from Skeabost, Isle of Skye and lived in Inverness during his study. David could not be at the graduation.

Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies

This award is given to those who complete three years of the BA Theological Studies programme.

Robert Cleland previously studied at Northumbria Bible College and the Baptist College, Paisley, before coming to where HTC he has upgraded his Diploma to degree. He lives and works in Inverness, but was unable to attend the graduation in person.

Shevonne Connelly, also from Inverness, is continuing to study, this time doing Education through Strathclyde University. She is engaged to Alan Bowie, who is currently studying for his BA at HTC, and they plan to marry in August of next year.



Ondrej Grabmyler, from the Czech Republic, came to HTC to complete the degree which he started at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Prague. Earlier this year Ondrej and his wife celebrated the birth of their first child. Ondrej could not be at the graduation.

Andrew Homes, a plumber, comes from the Seaboard village of Portmahomack. Andrew is preparing to go into the ministry within the Baptist Union of England.



Samuel Oluoch from Kenya completed his BA studies via distance learning. He is a pastor at Trinity Baptist Church in Kismu. He was unable to come to Scotland for the graduation.

William Paterson is a salmon fisherman. Another Seaboard villager, William is from Hilton. He is currently engaged in further studies for the ministry at the Free Church College in Edinburgh.



Jacqueline Scott from Nairn was a nurse for many years before coming to HTC. During her studies Jackie was very interested in missions and undertook a trip to Indonesia as part of her placement. She has a passion for women's ministry.



Bachelor of Arts (with Distinction) in Theological Studies

This award is given to those who complete three years of the BA Theological Studies programme and achieve consistently high grades.

Norman McKay, Ayrshire, has spent 15 years with WEC International. He was inducted as minister of Falkirk Free Church the week after his graduation from HTC.



Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) in Theological Studies

This award is given to those who complete four years of the BA Theological Studies programme.

Leonard Cazaly lives in Inverness with his wife Catriona who works for UHI Millennium Institute. Len gained the BA (Honours) degree with First Class Honours. He is a Reader in the Church of Scotland and regularly leads services in churches around the Highlands and Islands. He is currently enrolled on the MTh Master of Reformed Theology course, the latest course to be rolled out by HTC, and he also teaches the Biblical Studies module of the HTC full-time Access Course.



Warm congratulations to all our graduates!

Looking for something to do to occupy your time during the cold dark winter evenings? Want to know more about the Bible or the Christian faith? How about doing the Access to Theology Course?

The Access Course offers you the chance to explore key areas such as the Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Systematic Theology and Pastoral Theology.

Thought of study putting you off?

The course includes a module on study skills to help you get back into the way of reading, writing and planning if you've not done this sort of thing since you were at school many years ago! (or you can miss this module out if you're a seasoned scholar).

'I don't want to be a student. I just want to learn for personal interest...'

Access to Theology is great as a stand-alone course, studied just for interest or personal development. Or you can use it to gain entry to the BA Theological Studies programme (but taking the Access Course doesn't presume that you'll go on to degree level work).

'Dingwall isn't convenient for me...'

That's no excuse! The Access Course is available by distance learning, so you can study with us without even having to move to Dingwall! We'd post the study pack to you, and you'd send back your work to us. And you'd be assigned a tutor to help you as you go along, who you could keep in touch with via phone or email.

'I'm far too busy to study...'

There's no time limit on completing the Access Course so you can just proceed at your own pace. (Unless you're doing the Access Course as an entry requirement for the BA degree programme, in which case you'd need to complete within two years).

Only want to do one module?

That's OK! Just select the module you want and study at your leisure.....

'I'm too old to study...'

No, you're not! The Access Course caters for all ages. We've had students in their teens & in their nineties (and all ages in between)! You'd fit in too.

'I don't think I can afford it...'

Financial assistance may be available, depending on your personal circumstances. Don't be shy to ask for more details.

Have I persuaded you???

For more information, contact us on:

Tel: 01349 780000

Email: htc@htc.uhi.ac.uk



- If your mailing details are incorrect please let us know.
- If you have an email address and would like to receive communications that way instead of by mail it could save paper and postage.
- If you know of anyone else who would like to be kept informed of HTC's work please encourage them to send us their details so that we can mail or email them too.
- To suggest articles for inclusion in future HTC Newsletters, please contact us.



Mailing List Update (Autumn/Winter 2007 Newsletter)

My Name and Address details are incorrect. The correct details are

Name (old details) _____ (new details) _____

Address (old details) _____

Address (new details) _____

I wish to be removed from your mailing list

In future, please send me _____ copies for my church (mailing details above)

Please send future Newsletters by email to _____

Please send me more information about Gift Aid



HIGHLAND
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE **HTC**

e-mail:

htc@htc.uhi.ac.uk

website:

www.htc.uhi.ac.uk

phone:

01349 780000

fax:

01349 780001

Scottish Company

Number:

149728

Charity Registration

Number:

SC 029190

HTC is a constituent partner of the
UHI Millennium Institute



Development Officer
Highland Theological College
High Street
Dingwall
Ross-Shire IV15 9HA

Please update details overleaf,
cut along dotted line and return
this slip to the address shown.
Thank you.

HIGHLAND
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE **HTC**