

From the Principal

I am delighted to introduce our new Newsletter. Up until now, we have produced two eight page Newsletters each year. In discussion with Dr Robert Shillaker, our new Development Director, we have decided that, from now on, you will receive shorter Newsletters but on a more regular basis. I hope that this will help to keep you informed about the work of the College, for your prayer and support.

The College is growing steadily and moving ahead with much to encourage us. Our graduates, both undergraduate and postgraduate, are beginning to spread out across the world. We are developing a reputation for high academic standards and a strong commitment to evangelical Christianity in the Reformed tradition. UHI is advancing too. After a recent visit by the Quality Assurance Agency for Scotland, we are a significant step closer to obtaining full university status. Contact us if you would like a copy of the QAA report. We also continue to serve the churches, particularly in the Highlands and Islands.

We still have needs, of course. As a missionary arm of the churches, carrying out a ministry of education and training, we need your help and support, both in prayer and in giving. Thank you to all of those who have helped us thus far and please continue to do so. If you are considering supporting our work, then please contact Robert and we will provide you with any information you need.

Professor Andrew McGowan

Holiday time?

Not many students get to relax over the summer vacation these days, and our students are no exception. For example, Kenny Ross is spending the summer filling a vacancy at the Lairg Free Church. Dave Lynch has a full diary of preaching engagements, including two in Portugal. He, rather hopefully, plans to come back to college for a rest.

The staff, too, continue to be busy over the Summer. The Tyndale Fellowship Triennial Conference, a gathering of around 150 biblical and theological scholars from around the UK, was held between 30 June-3 July. Three of our lecturers gave papers to their own specialist study groups. Later in the summer Andrew McGowan and Nick Needham have been invited to present papers on the theme of justification at the Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference.

Noel Due on his visit home to Australia has been asked to give two papers at the annual New Creation Teaching Ministry Pastors' School on 'Reconciliation', before speaking at a joint house party for Coromandel Valley Baptist Church and the Japanese Christian Fellowship of South Australia. Alistair Wilson is going to Canada to teach a course on 'The Gospels' at an Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church divinity school.

Closer to home Alistair and Jamie Grant have been invited to attend the 6th International Consultation of the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar: 'Biblical Theology and Biblical Interpretation' at the University of St Andrews.

All these events are a part of HTC's wider mission to make a contribution to biblical and theological scholarship, by advancing an evangelical point of view in academic circles.

The fruits of the year

On the 24 October HTC plans to have its annual meeting and graduation ceremony (a date for your diary). This year's ceremony will include seven students graduating with degrees, one with a first class honours. In addition there is one PhD student and five others graduating with either the Certificate or Diploma in Theological Studies. We are pleased to have Dr Ric Cannada, President of the Reformed Theological Seminary, as the speaker.

This year Malcolm Maclean, one of our first BA graduates and a DMin student, finished his studies required for ordination with the Free Church, at their College, and was licensed. It is exciting to see another of HTC's students going out to serve the Lord in the world, and we wish him God's guidance as he seeks the congregation to whom he will minister.

The Rev **Kenneth Ross**, a member of the Academic Board is moving to a new charge in New Prestwick, Ayr this August. Noel Due is preaching during his induction weekend. We, at HTC, thank him for his help and advice, and pray that the Lord would bless his ministry. We also welcome two new members to the Board of Governors, the Rev **Malcolm Maclean** and the Rev **John Ross** (Inverness).

Alexander Murray Challenge taken up

We have been greatly encouraged by the initial response to the Alexander Murray Challenge. The launch of the Challenge in March recognised our ongoing need of help from individual Christians and from congregations who wish to see the work of HTC grow and flourish.

The leaflet explaining the Challenge highlighted some basic facts. The Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC), through UHI, met only 26% of last years operating costs, and additional student fees paid directly met a further 23%. HTC receives no direct funding from the Scottish Executive and though we have had generous donations from American supporters these have been largely directed to specific building projects. This leaves us dependent on our loyal supporters and on trusts and grants, which generally will only invest in projects.

The Alexander Murray Challenge formalises and acknowledges the dependence HTC has upon its supporters to achieve its mission 'to provide opportunities for men and women to study the Christian faith, on a full-time, part-time or open learning basis, from an evangelical and Reformed perspective, in the context of a worshipping community'.

Our financial situation remains fragile, and we would encourage any who value the importance of HTC's work to seriously and prayerfully consider supporting us in this way.

Wedding

On 2 August in Castle Street Baptist Church, Inverness Philip Magee and Morven Morrison were married. Morven graduated from the BA course at HTC last year and Philip enters the honour's year in the autumn. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings in their new life together.

Time to help?

Since HTC began we have had the valuable help of volunteers, who have worked in reception, library, administration and garden. If you are able to come and help, please let us know.

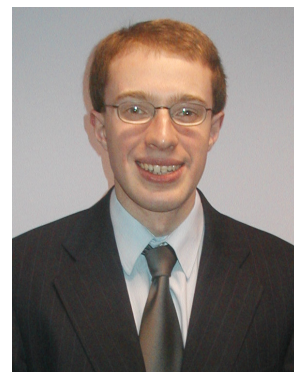
Changes



Since our last Newsletter there have been two staff replacements. In May Robert Shillaker filled the post of Development Officer, which had been vacant since Martin Cameron moved to be our Librarian last summer. Robert has had a varied experience of HTC, starting as an undergraduate in 1994

and becoming HTC's first fulltime PhD completion this year. He has also taught the Introductory Greek Grammar module and tutored an open learning Access Course module.

Julie Cribb left the post of Learning Centre Manager to become UHI Community Learning Manager, a tribute to her success and hard work in this area of the UHI project. We have greatly enjoyed and benefited from her time with us, so it is good to know she is still basing herself with us in Dingwall. Kevin Sinclair stepped into her shoes as the Learning Centre Manager this June, from a background in hotel management and latterly in business banking.



Reply Slip

8/03

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