

**A Community
of Faith and
Scholarship**

HIGHLAND
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



Newsletter Summer 2008

Inaugural Lecture

‘Is there a place for theology in a modern university?’

Professor Andrew McGowan

Tuesday 10th June, 7.30pm

Eden Court Theatre, Inverness

In his inaugural lecture as UHI Professor of Theology, Prof McGowan intends to demonstrate the importance of retaining the place of theology at the heart of the university.

Attendance is by **ticket only** but tickets are available free of charge from the Eden Court Box Office on 01463 234 234 www.eden-court.co.uk
All you need to do is contact the Box Office and they will set aside a seat number for you.

Please do book your ticket and come along to this lecture, which marks an important occasion in the development of HTC and UHI.

John Murray Lecture

The Rev Dr Gerald Bray will deliver the fourth John Murray lecture, entitled ‘The Challenge and Promise of Biblical Interpretation Today’.

Wednesday 4th June 2008, 7.30pm

Castle Street Church, Dingwall

All Welcome. It is hoped that as many people as possible will attend.

Doctor of Ministry

The DMin course is offered in partnership with Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) in the USA. The course is designed to enhance the effectiveness of ministers and other full-time Christian workers. It is built upon solid biblical and theological foundations and is designed to be flexible enough to meet individual needs. The course finishes with a dissertation but there are no written exams.

So far this year four of our DMin candidates have completed their studies. Congratulations to them all! Two of them were involved in vivas which were held in three different continents and crossing three time zones.

More information about the DMin programme is available on the HTC website at <http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/dminintro.htm>



'Embers to a Flame' Church Revitalisation Conference

This conference is aimed at ministers and elders. DMin students could count attendance at the conference towards one of their modules.

St Columba's Church, Kirkintilloch

27th – 29th August 2008

Topics covered will include

The Necessity of the Ministry of
Church Revitalisation

Connect to the Past

Call to Repentance

Personal Spiritual Formation

Ministry of Prayer

Ministry of the Word

Mission and Vision

The Leadership Dynamic

Small Group Discipleship

The Great Commitment

Please contact the Academic Officer for further information about the conference.

Academic Officer

A new Academic Officer has been appointed to the HTC staff team.

Angela Jones joined us in April, having previously worked at Inverness College UHI. She comes to us with good knowledge and experience of UHI systems, including the databases we use!

Angela has a BA with honours in Film Studies from Sheffield Hallam University and also has experience in journalism. She was highly commended in the Young Reporter of the Year category at the Highlands and Islands Media Awards 2002. She has taken part in GTV programmes, including Crossfire, and has a real passion for the environment, green values and issues of world poverty. Angela lives on the Black Isle.



We are delighted to have Angela on the HTC team. Welcome Angela!

Photo: Angela showing the medal she was awarded after completing the 'Race for Life' to raise funds for cancer research.

Taught Degree Awarding Powers

UHI has now been recommended for its own taught degree awarding powers (TDAP) by the Quality Assurance Agency. This milestone decision means that UHI has come through a rigorous academic process, passing every quality test to be judged worthy and ready for TDAP.

Professor Bob Cormack, UHI Principal, said: "For an institution only nine years old, this is something to be very proud of indeed and I congratulate all our staff and students for helping to achieve this."

The recommendation is now with the Scottish Government for approval. With the government's endorsement, as expected, it will then go to the Privy Council for a decision. If all goes well, UHI could be awarding its own degrees in September this year. Currently, UHI degrees are validated by the Open University.

Visitors to the College

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend Sheilagh Kesting, was recently visiting the presbytery of Ross. The presbytery clerk arranged for her to visit HTC, since HTC is a recognised college for the education and training of Church of Scotland ministers and lay-readers. Miss Kesting was given a tour of the College, met with staff and students, then had lunch with representatives from the UHI Foundation, who were also visiting the College that day, before continuing with her presbytery visit.

Earlier the same day staff and students gathered for morning worship led by the Rev Dr John Ross, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland and PhD graduate of HTC – two Moderators in one day!

Photo from left: Mrs Andrea Boyes (HTC student); Rev Prof Andrew McGowan (HTC Principal); Mr Peter Wilson (HTC student); (front) Mr Colin Mackay (UHI Foundation); (behind) Rev Colin McIntosh (Chaplain to the Moderator); Right Reverend Sheilagh Kesting (Moderator); Dr Val MacIver (Rector of UHI & Chair of UHI Foundation).



John Franke

Dr. John Franke was recently in Scotland to speak at St Andrews University. Following this he was on holiday in the Highlands of Scotland with his family and visited HTC. He participated in a seminar



with Prof McGowan's Reformed Theology class and later gave a lecture on 'The Emerging Church'. Students and staff alike engaged in discussion and dialogue with Dr Franke and came to a better understanding of his theological position.

Keeping you up-to-date

We hope that the quarterly HTC Newsletter is an effective way of keeping you up-to-date with what's happening at the College. We try to avoid using the Newsletter to appeal for funds but, as well as informing our supporters of all the exciting progress that HTC is making, we feel that it is right to keep you informed of the financial situation too.

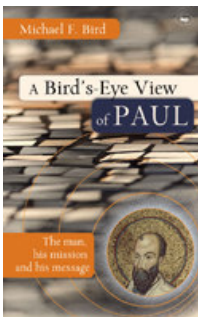
Around 75% of our income is from student fees, UHI funding and other sources such as our Learning Centre. The other 25% comes from you, our supporters, and it is crucial to making the work possible.

While our expenditure is fairly consistent and predictable, our income fluctuates quite a lot during the year, driven mainly by student fees, with higher income when students are enrolling and rather less through the spring and summer months. This year, significant changes have produced an overall income that is lower than we had forecast. With increased costs as well, maintaining cashflow has been a focal activity.

We have called on the greatly appreciated support of UHI, and are also very thankful for the support of individuals and churches and of those who have extended loans which have helped enormously. We continue to depend on the Lord's provision and to rejoice in His faithfulness. To have progressed from HTC's start in Elgin in 1994 to the stage we are now at is tremendous and we are grateful to God and to all our supporters who have helped us reach this point.

This Newsletter article is intended to provide current information to help you pray for the financial situation of the College. If you do feel that you are in a position to assist us please contact Mrs Marie Ewan, Finance Officer.

Latest book by Michael Bird



In his latest book, Dr Mike Bird, New Testament tutor, offers a lively, accessible new survey of the apostle Paul's life and teaching and aims to get us excited about reading Paul's letters, preaching his gospel, and living the Christian life.

A Bird's-Eye View of Paul

The man, his mission and his message

ISBN 978184474255 Paperback 192 pages IVP £8.99

Taught MTh in Reformed Theology

This taught MTh will provide students who already have a degree in theology with an opportunity to study Reformed Theology to a deeper and greater extent than is possible at undergraduate level. This MTh programme will particularly attract those with an interest in the rise and development of the Calvinistic tradition.

There are many MTh and other taught Masters courses now available in the UK but, so far as we can determine, this is the only one which is specifically focussed on the nature and development of Reformed Theology, as opposed to historical theology or theology in general.

In addition to those modules taught by full-time staff, HTC has recently recruited Professor Paul Helm and Professor Gerald Bray as part-time academic staff, to teach on this course.

Key features are

- Of interest to those in the Reformed ecclesiastical tradition
- Emphasis on Scottish theology
- Modules taught in one week blocks, making it accessible for ministers and others
- Can be studied full-time or part-time
- Validated by the University of Aberdeen
- Suitable for continuing professional development in the ministry.

The core modules include: The History of Reformed Theology and Scottish Covenant Theology. Study options include: Calvin and Calvinism, Reformed Theology and Pastoral Ministry, Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation, Romans in the Reformed Tradition and Biblical Theology of the Reformed Tradition. The degree is completed with a dissertation.

We are recruiting now for the 2008/09 session and anyone interested in finding out about how to register for the course (or just for individual modules) is encouraged to contact the Academic Officer for more details. The degree takes 1 year (full-time) or two years (part-time).

See <http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/mthintro.htm> for more information.

£500 towards Part-time Higher Education Courses

Is funding an issue which is preventing you from studying? New funding arrangements offered by ILA Scotland from June 2008 may be of interest to you and may enable you to take up some modules with us. Most of the modules offered by HTC are eligible for this funding.

Individual Learning Accounts are funds available for people living in Scotland who are studying on a part time or open learning basis. The main criteria are detailed below:

- Aged 18 or over and living in Scotland.
- Earning £18,000 a year or less - you can apply for an ILA of £200 per year for HTC's Access or BA courses in theology or ECDL in computing (or a variety of leisure classes offered through HTC).
- Earning more than £18,000 a year - you can apply for an ILA of £100 per year for an ECDL in computing.
- From June 2008 there will be the new £500 ILA for people earning £18,000 or less and living in Scotland who are studying part time (at least 50% of the time needed to complete a full-time higher education qualification). For example, undergraduate students taking two or three modules per semester could qualify for the £500 ILA per year. They would not be eligible if they were studying one module per semester (but the £200 ILA could apply in that case). Four modules per semester is classed as full time so would not be eligible for ILA funding.
- Not available to post graduate students.



Important Information:

- This is not a loan so does not need to be repaid.
- The £18,000 limit is the applicant's income only – spouse or partner's income is not taken into account.
- You must apply for your ILA *before* booking a course as you cannot use your ILA for a course you have already started.
- Undergraduate BA students studying two or three modules per semester should apply for the £500 ILA. (See criteria above).
- If you are currently eligible for Fee Waiver it is advised that you continue with Fee Waiver.

See the ILA Scotland website www.ilascotland.org.uk for more details.

Online shopping update

Booking a holiday this summer? Renewing your car insurance? Changing your mobile phone? Supermarket shopping online? Choosing a present for someone?

In the Spring 2008 HTC Newsletter we introduced you to a new and easy way to help raise funds for HTC – simply by shopping online. Just to keep you updated, we now have 44 ‘registered members’ using the easyfundraising website. We have received our first cheque for the money raised, which was £65.63 and applies to the period Jan-Mar ’08. It might not be much but it’s a good start. We’re aiming higher for Apr-Jun ’08....

We would love to have more people helping us raise funds this way! It is a very easy system to use and really is ‘money for nothing’!

The more people using the easyfundraising website (and the related easysearch website) the more funds we can raise for HTC. If you haven’t done so already, *please consider registering*. If you are already registered and have been using the system *thank you* for helping towards the £65.63!

As a reminder, simply log on to

easyfundraising
org.uk

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/highlandcoll>

and register to support HTC. If you already shop online, why not help HTC (at no extra cost) from purchases you would make anyway?!

- 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 us a lot of money.
- 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.

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HTC is a constituent partner of
the UHI Millennium Institute

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