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## **Newsletter Summer 2009**

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### **Introducing the New Principal**

On the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> May, at an HTC event in Inshes Church, Inverness, hosted graciously by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, I was introduced publicly, as the new Principal of HTC, my appointment having been made on 6<sup>th</sup> April by the Board of Governors of HTC.

The evening was a special one not just for me and my wife, Annice, but also for many of those who gathered, not least because of the very real sense that we had of the gracious presence of the living God among us and of his unifying influence in all the different aspects of the evenings proceedings. Many commented afterwards about the great encouragement the evening had been to them.

Personally, it was a time when the Lord brought home to my own heart in a very real and fresh way, in the power of His Spirit, the words of Ps 102:13-17, and in particular verse 13: 'You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favour to her; the appointed time has come' – that 'appointed time', when the work of the Kingdom seems to take a quantum leap forward in a relatively short space of time, and when one scarcely needs any human activity because of a strong sense of the action of God moving things forward in such a way that no power, human or otherwise, can resist it. Is such a time nearing for the work of the college and the wider work of the Kingdom of God in our land to take a significant leap forward? That certainly would be my longing and the desire of my heart.

In the proclamation on this passage, we considered: the time for God's grace and compassion (v 13); the time for His re-building of Zion, for the revelation of His glory (v 16); and all in response to the prayers of God's destitute people (v 17). With regard to this latter point, in what, in some ways, are dark and difficult days for the church in Scotland and further afield, when your heart groans within you over its own condition or over the condition of your congregation, denomination, or the church at large, do not despair. In the very pain you feel and the burden you carry, you are 'filling up that which is behind of the sufferings of Christ, for the sake of his body which is the church' (Col 1:24). And, as you cry out to God, often feeling like a 'desert owl' (Ps 102:6) God will respond to these prayers of the destitute. He will not despise your plea. [The Gaelic speakers among will be more familiar with the following rendering of verse 17: 'urnaigh nam bochd bheir e fainear; cha diult e iad le tair.']

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### **The Way Ahead**

Over recent months the Lord has laid a number of things on my heart for the way ahead. The first of these is that I would want HTC to re-engage with our constituency at grass-roots level, in such events as Teaching Weekends, occasional Conferences and Evening Classes. Look out for these in the coming year. Secondly, I'd like to see the college becoming more involved in Evangelism and Mission at various levels. Thirdly, Dr Innes Visagie, our tutor in pastoral and practical theology, is working towards the developing of a Counselling strand within our BA degree that will make it possible for students to become professional and registered counsellors. In order to keep his own registration current he is also engaging in a small amount of counselling on a weekly basis, and would be open to receiving some referrals. If you are interested in this, then please get

in touch with us. Fourthly, it would be wonderful if HTC were to have more of an impact on the spread of the gospel to the nations. We already have former students and graduates ministering in various countries across the globe, including Kenya, Pakistan, Poland, Czech Republic, Korea, the Philippines, France, and others; and our staff have taught abroad in such places as China, South Korea, Poland, Czech Republic and, most recently, Moldova. We would wish to support the world church in whatever way we can and particularly with training men and women for various Christian ministries.

Hector Morrison, Principal

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### Jamie Grant Appointed Vice-Principal



At its April meeting, HTC's Board of Governors unanimously approved the appointment of Dr Jamie Grant as Vice Principal of the College. After studying law at the University of Dundee, Jamie worked for seven years in Poland with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. He gained an MA in Biblical Studies from Reformed Theological Seminary in the States and a PhD on the Book of Psalms from the University of Gloucestershire. Jamie joined the staff of HTC in 2002 as Lecturer in Biblical Studies. Amongst his many responsibilities, Jamie is also Postgraduate Studies Co-ordinator. Jamie is married to Iwona and they have two daughters and a son.

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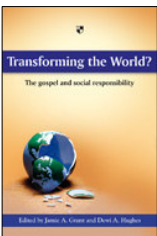
### Counselling

Rev. Dr Innes Visagie teaches Pastoral and Practical Theology and Counselling at HTC. He is an experienced counsellor and an associated member of COSCA (the professional body for counselling and psychotherapy in Scotland). Outwith his work at HTC, Innes offers a counselling service on a part time basis. For more information please visit his website at [www.goforcounselling.co.uk](http://www.goforcounselling.co.uk)

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### Publications

***Transforming the World? The Gospel and Social Responsibility.*** Edited by Jamie A. Grant and Dewi A. Hughes. Paperback, 288 pages. ISBN 9781844743742. Published May 2009



Evangelical Christianity has long been plagued by a dichotomy between evangelism and social action. This volume seeks to demonstrate that there is no tension between the task of evangelism and the Christian's obligation to care for those in need. The issue should never have been one of 'either/or' but rather should always have been voiced in terms of 'both/and'. The Bible's teaching makes it plain that God's salvific work is both spiritual and physical.

***The Lord's Supper.*** Malcolm MacLean (foreword by Douglas Kelly). Paperback, 272 pages. ISBN 1845504283. Published Jan 2009.

A careful examination of the means and practice of the Lord's supper. Malcolm Maclean (BA and DMin graduate) seeks to encourage us to focus on the Lord Jesus who is the head as we celebrate the Lord's supper.



## Postgraduate Revalidation

Revalidations of all academic courses must be carried out regularly and involve panels of internal and external auditors thoroughly examining all aspects of the course including its administration. In March HTC's postgraduate programme successfully underwent such an event. The validation period now continues for a further 5 years, with no requirements.

## Christian Conventions

We've booked to attend the **Keswick Convention** again this year so if you're in Keswick between 25th and 31st July please stop by the HTC stand in the Earthworks marquee and say hello. We've also booked to attend the **CLAN Gathering** in St Andrews between 17th and 24th July. If you're there stop by and say hello. We attended the **New Word Alive** convention in Wales just before Easter and it was good to meet a few of our supporters there.

These events provide great opportunities to make the work of HTC more widely known, to recruit students onto our courses, to meet our supporters and maybe even to welcome new supporters who will pray for the work.



## Standing Order Form

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**A Community of Faith and Scholarship**

If you would like to make donations to Highland Theological College by Standing Order, please complete and sign this statement and return it to **Highland Theological College, High Street, Dingwall, Ross-shire IV15 9HA**

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## Recruiting Now

**BA (Hons) Theology:** Prospective BA students hoping to commence studies in the 2009/10 academic session are encouraged to contact Angela Spence, Academic Officer, now if they require any help with the application process. Semester 1 induction takes place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September and teaching starts on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Access to Christian Theology:** Full-time Access students start on the same dates as BA students. Prospective students are encouraged to contact us if they require any help with the application procedure. Open-learning Access students can commence their studies at any time.

**MTh Reformed Theology:** The first module of the MTh programme begins on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Prospective students should contact Angela Spence, Academic Officer, or Mike Bird, Programme Leader.

**MPhil/PhD Programme:** Prospective students should contact Ruth Craigie, Academic Registrar, or Jamie Grant, Postgraduate Coordinator.

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## ILA Funding Now Available to MTh Students

For the 2009/10 academic session, the Scottish Government has confirmed that ILA500 funding will pay for study up to SCQF Level 11, which is the level of our MTh course. This is for this year only: *“For academic year 2009-10 only, we have widened the range of courses eligible for ILA500 funding to include part-time taught postgraduate courses at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level 11.”* Until now only courses up to SCQF Level 10 (our BA Honours year level) have been funded by ILA.

Other points to note:

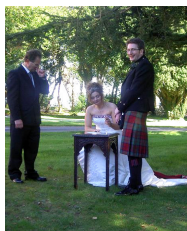
- The income threshold has increased from £18,000 to £22,000 so anyone with a personal (not household) income of £22,000 a year or less can access ILA Scotland funding towards eligible courses. It is available to anyone living in Scotland.
- The requirement to be part-time studying the BA (ILA500 funding) has been reduced from 50% of a full-time course to 40 SCQF credits so more students will be eligible. Full time students are not eligible for ILA funding.



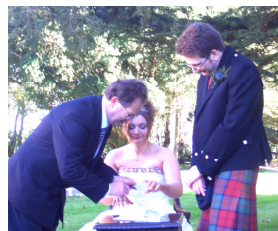
Please contact Kevin Sinclair at HTC for more information or see the ILA Scotland website [www.ilascotland.org.uk](http://www.ilascotland.org.uk)

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## Angela's Wedding



Congratulations to Angela Jones and Chris Spence who got married on 18th April. The Rev. Dr Innes Visagie conducted the service. We wish Angela and Chris God's richest blessing on their marriage. Angela is our Academic Officer.



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## PhD Congratulations

Well done to **Ian Maddock**, **Jerrard Heard** and **William Van Doodewaard** who have had successful PhD vivas over the past few weeks. God willing, all three will be able to come back across from the USA in October for the Graduation.

## Evening Classes



The two series of evening classes we ran over the winter were popular and well-received. Len Cazaly, part-time tutor and Church of Scotland Reader, gave students a broad overview of the Old Testament, beginning with the amazing story of Creation and going on to the Fall and God's dealings with his people, always pointing towards God's rescue plan and the certainty of his Promise.

At the moment we are unsure whether we'll be able to provide evening classes this winter, but we hope that we will be able to do so. It will depend on demand as well as availability of tutor(s). If you would be interested in attending evening classes (in either Dingwall or Inverness) please let us know. It would be useful if you could indicate which evenings would be most suitable and whether before or after Christmas.

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## Mission Lunches

Mission Lunches will resume in Semester 1 of the 2009/10 session. We've only got one booked in at the moment but more may be added – keep an eye on the website for updates.

1<sup>st</sup> December 2009

Dr. Alistair Wilson

Dumisani Theological Institute

All welcome, no fee. Feel free to bring your lunch along. 1pm, HTC Conference Room.

## Gift Aid Form

HIGHLAND  
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Using this form, you can increase the value of any gifts you make to HTC by about a third. If you are a tax payer and are happy for us to reclaim the tax paid to add it to your donation, from £1 up, please complete and sign this Declaration:

I declare that I, \_\_\_\_\_

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wish all my donations to Highland Theological College (unless I specify in writing) to be treated as Gift Aid donations. This applies to all donations made by me from April 2001 until I give notice in writing.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Notes:

- You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that HTC reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for every £1 you give).
- You can cancel this declaration any time by notifying HTC.
- If your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that HTC reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
- If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment Tax Return.
- If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid Tax Relief ask the Finance Officer at HTC, or ask your local tax office for Leaflet IR65.
- Please notify HTC if you change your name or address.

**Please return this completed form to:**

**Highland Theological College,  
High Street, Dingwall IV15 9HA**

## Beverley Due

Following a long illness with breast cancer Beverley Due, wife of former HTC tutor Rev. Dr Noel Due, went to be with the Lord on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Bev's funeral service was held in Adelaide, Australia and a memorial service, conducted by the Rev. Hector Morrison, was held in Inverness.

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## Hector Teaches in Moldova

During the last week of March and the first week in April I was in Moldova teaching a module on the Book of Isaiah to 26 part-time students preparing for a variety of Christian ministries. This was done under the auspices of the Slavic Gospel Association. The experience was tiring but also very enriching and humbling.

Some of the things that stood out for me, other than the relative poverty of the people and the poor infrastructure in the nation, especially in the villages, were the commitment of the students, the hunger for the word of God, their joy in fellowship, and the spirit of prayer among the people.

Most of the students had taken time off work, or university study, to give themselves to a hectic schedule of study of two modules (the other one was on Evangelism) over the two weeks. These students do this four times a year for two years to achieve their diploma. This is the only form of training for Christian ministry available to most Christians in the north of Moldova. This work of SGA is highly respected and deeply appreciated among the Baptists in northern Moldova.

In the services in the village churches, it was humbling to hear old and young – men and women – praying aloud and earnestly to God with tears streaming down their faces.



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## Graduates

The induction of **Robert Cleland** (BA, 2007) took place in St Bride's Church, Douglas, South Lanarkshire on 19th May. Douglas St Bride's is linked with Douglas Water and Rigside to form The Douglas Valley Church. We wish Robert every blessing in his ministry there.

**Stewart Mackay** (BA, 2003) commences training for army chaplaincy in mid September and will be posted to his unit - 5 Scots (The Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders) in Canterbury in December.



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## Keyboard

In our last Newsletter we were looking for a keyboard. We had a number of responses to our appeal - many thanks to everyone who offered. The quickest off the mark, pipping several others to the post, was one of our OL students and we are very grateful to him. The keyboard is now in regular use. Thank you.

## HTC Learning Centre Courses, Autumn Term 2009-2010

For more information about courses or about ILA funding contact Kevin Sinclair, Learning Centre Manager. All the courses listed below are eligible for ILA funding.

### Computing

	Mondays Start 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Tuesdays Start 18 <sup>th</sup> August	Wednesdays Start 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Thursdays Start 6 <sup>th</sup> August
10am-12noon	Level 1a (Beginners)	ECDL (Group A)	Level 2a	Level 2b
1pm-3pm	Level 3a	ECDL (Group B)	Level 1b (Beginners)	Level 4b
3pm-5pm	Level 3b	ECDL (Group C)	Level 4a	

If there is sufficient demand for any of the above levels, then extra daytime classes may be arranged at other times during the week. Topics covered include word processing (including mailmerge), spreadsheets, databases, presentations, file management, internet and emails.

The European Computer Driving Licence course (ECDL) will last for 10 months and will cost £215.

All other courses will last for 10 weeks (total of 20 hours) and will cost £70 each.

### French

A number of French leisure classes are available through the Learning Centre at levels to suit all abilities and complete beginners. The classes are ideal for people wishing to improve their French skills for holidays, business or to help with tourism at home. £70 per course.

### History & Culture Studies

**Short Courses** Each course lasts 15 weeks (Sept-Dec) and costs £157. ILA funding is available.

#### **Scottish History: 1066 – 1603**

This introductory module comprises a broad survey of Scottish history from the eleventh to the seventeenth centuries. No previous knowledge or study of Scottish history is required.

#### **Identity and Environment**

The main purpose of this module is to provide students with a multi-disciplinary view of the Highlands and Islands and, by applying basic methodologies from various disciplines such as history, geography and geology, gain a greater understanding of the local area.

#### **Themes in Modern British History 1815 – 1939**

This module offers an analysis of the inter-relationship of British economic, social, political and foreign policy developments between the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the start of the Second World War. It is divided into three main themes: Economic Change, Political and Social Reform and Empire, Alliances and Enemies.

#### **The Atlantic World 1492 – 1800: The Old World Meets the New**

This module looks at the Atlantic World from a broad European perspective in terms of the expansion of European people, commerce, technology and ideals across the ocean.

**Degree Level Courses** Start in September 09. ILA funding available. Standard degree fees.

#### **BA (Hons) Scottish History**

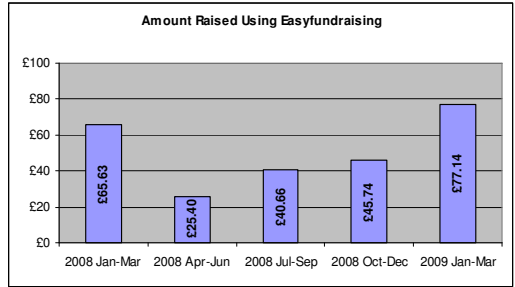
Appealing to anyone with a general interest in the study of the past and in finding out what is distinctive about Scottish History. This course provides detailed examination of key themes and events in the country's history from 1500 to the present. The history of the Highlands and Islands is at the heart of a number of degree modules, and students will also study wider elements of British, European, Atlantic and American history.

#### **BA (Hons) Scottish Culture Studies**

This is an exciting Degree course that has at its heart the cultural identity of the Highlands and Islands and the communities that make up the region. It allows you to develop a real understanding of cultural studies theory and its application to the region.

## Online shopping

Through online shopping system you've helped us raise over £250. The system works by online retailers giving donations to charities registered with easyfundraising (HTC is one of those charities). If you register as a user whenever you make a purchase through a participating retailers a donations is automatically given to HTC. It doesn't cost you a penny extra but we can benefit. See [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/highlandcoll](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/highlandcoll) for more details.



## Dates for your Diaries

**Public Lecture** by Dr Julie Canalis, 'Downloading our Spirituality: Why Going to Church Doesn't Seem to Matter in this Virtual Age'. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept, HTC Conference Room.

**Public Lecture** by the Rev. Professor Donald MacLeod, Principal of the Free Church of Scotland College, Edinburgh (Dingwall, Autumn – details to be confirmed in next Newsletter).

*Public Lectures are pitched at a level that suits an audience of both academic and 'lay' people. Please come along.*

**Graduation.** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Castle Street Church, Dingwall.

**Access/BA Conference Day & Open Day** (HTC Conference Room, Autumn – details to be confirmed in next Newsletter). Open to students and visitors. An opportunity to see around the College, meet the tutors and join us for worship and lectures.

See also the 'Mission Lunches' schedule.

**Computing Classes** – courses to suit all levels, complete beginners to advanced, beginning week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Contact Jack Sutherland for more information ([jack.sutherland@htc.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:jack.sutherland@htc.uhi.ac.uk) or 01349 780000).

- 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.
- Do you run a Christian business? Would your business like to sponsor the HTC Newsletter to help pay for printing, in exchange for a small advert? Please contact Marina for more information.

**Highland Theological College, High Street, Dingwall IV15 9HA**

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