



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Highland Theological
College

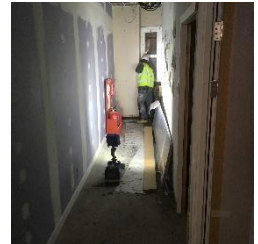
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste Dhiadhachd
na Gàidhealtachd

A Community of Faith and Scholarship

Newsletter Winter 2019/20

We apologise that we have been unable to bring you an issue of our newsletter for about two years. This has been due to a variety of circumstances, not least that our Development Officer, Marina Mackenzie Day, who has been almost solely responsible for producing our newsletter now for many years moved from full-time to part-time employment in 2016. Also, during 2017 and early 2018 much of her time, and that of other Management Group colleagues, was taken up with the additional demands of getting our Paisley premises operational.

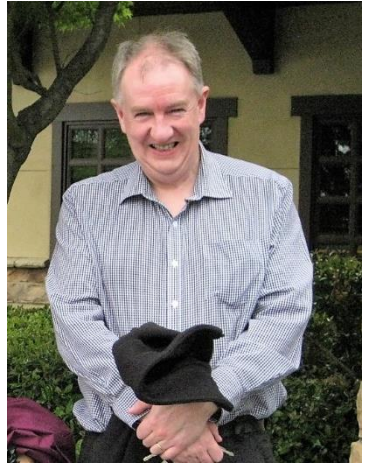
During the same period, and still continuing, the University of the Highlands and Islands – of which HTC is an Academic Partner – has been undergoing a major review programme, which has required members of our Management Group in additional time-consuming university meetings with, to date, little if any significant benefit to our particular college or its students. Yet we see this as part of our responsibility as a constituent Academic Partner of a modern-day university – being actively involved in the world, though not of the world. At the same time, our small team of academic staff have continued to create a new



degree within the university, which will prepare students to be teachers of Religious, Moral and Philosophical Education. This is due for validation in semester two. Please pray that all will go smoothly.

In addition, in the past two years a number of our key staff have suffered from various health issues which has meant that colleagues have had to cover additional duties for weeks, months or even longer.

In the case of our long-serving librarian, Martin Cameron, sadly, despite various treatments, there was to be no recovery of health for him after being diagnosed with prostate cancer. Until the time of his passing, Martin was my only remaining serving colleague from the early days of the college in Elgin. Martin's passing has been a severe loss to the college and to the university as to the wider Christian community in Scotland and beyond, though his widow and their family of young men will feel his loss most keenly.



Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with them. Yet, we grieve not as others who are without hope. This fact was much in evidence at the packed funeral service where many tears flowed but where there was also a very tangible sense of the presence of the Spirit of the living God bringing heavenly comfort and robust joy to our tender and broken hearts.

More recently, our part-time Church History lecturer, Rev Dr Nick Needham, has been signed off work for this semester, and I myself have been sidelined for much of the semester after suffering a cardiac arrest on my way home from a ParkRun on Saturday 21st September. The Lord has been gracious to me, however, and thankfully I have now just begun a phased return to work which should lead to my being back full-time in mid-December. I have been greatly aided in my recovery by the love and prayers of the Lord's family throughout Scotland and much further afield too. So, a

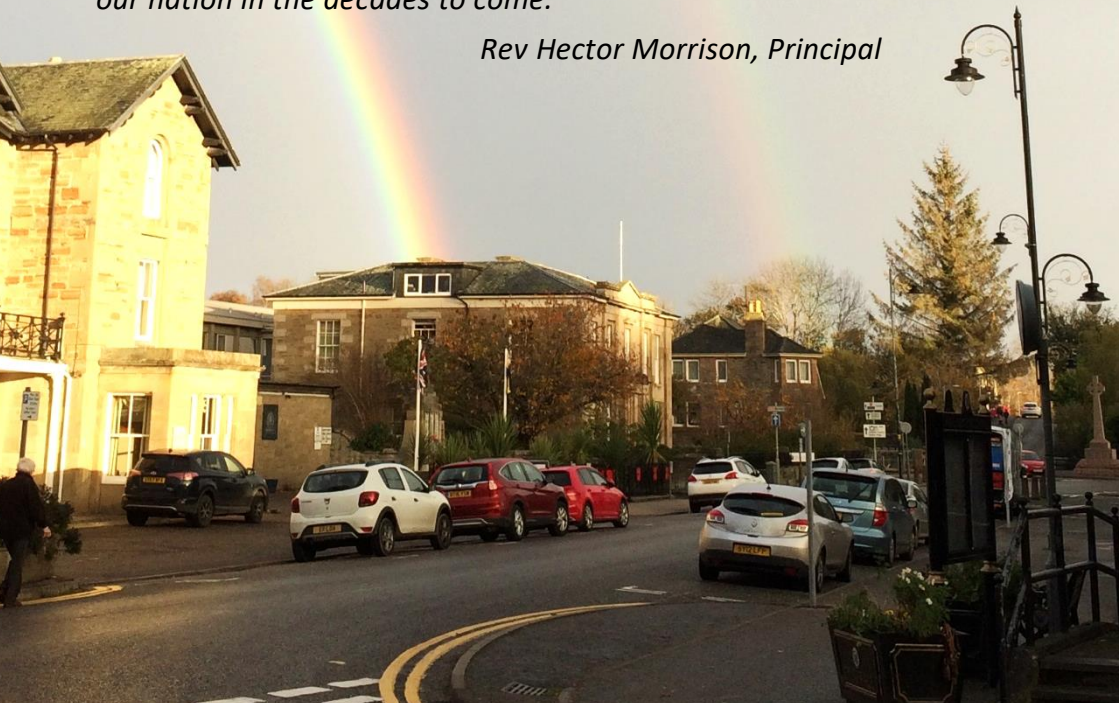


hearty 'Thank you' to all of you who were able to visit me in hospital or home, or who prayed for me and my family, who wrote cards or sent messages, or showed care, concern and love in other ways.

As we draw near the close of another calendar year the team here at HTC would covet earnestly your ongoing prayers for the work and witness of the college. Great opportunities and great challenges lie ahead for us in 2020. In the midst of all that, please pray that we will learn to lean even more heavily into the living God, our heavenly Father, trusting him for all our needs.

Perhaps I can leave you with one particular prayer request. For the past decade HTC has been recognised as one of five academic providers for the Church of Scotland, and for each of the past 3-4 years HTC has had more Church of Scotland candidates for ministry than any of the other academic providers. However, the Church of Scotland is presently undergoing a review process which will lead them to choose one or perhaps two providers for the future. Can I ask you please to make this a particular matter of prayer over the coming 6 months? Pray that the tendering process will be transparently fair and that the outcome will be the most beneficial one for future ministry candidates, and also the most fruitful one for the Gospel in our nation in the decades to come.

Rev Hector Morrison, Principal



Student updates – ordinations, inductions, etc

Raheel Arif [BA 2018] minister elect for Denny Old and Hags Churches, Falkirk (ordination and induction service to be held 28th November).

Rev Dr Rob Barlow [BA 2010] inducted to Erskine UF Church, Carnoustie.

William Boyle [BA (Hons) 2018] locum minister at St Columbus Foxbar in Paisley and pastoral assistant for Westburn and Old Gourrock and Ashton.

Lynsey Brennan [BA 2017] ordained and inducted as minister of Dundonald Parish Church, Ayrshire.



Scott Burton [BA 2017] ordained and inducted as minister of Brightons Parish Church.

Calum Cameron [Access 2014; CertHE 2016] licenced by the Inverness, Lochaber and Ross Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland.

Sean Carnochan [BA (Hons) 2016] installed as parish/community worker for Davidsons Mains Parish Church, Edinburgh.

Robin Gray [Ministry Apprenticeship programme 2015/16] inducted to Gardenstown New Church.



Heidi Hercus [BA 2016] ordained and inducted as minister of Ullapool and Lochbroom Church of Scotland.

Barry Hughes [BA 2017] ordained and inducted as minister of St Mark's Parish Church, Stirling.



Carl Irvine [BA 2017] minister elect for St Andrews Parish Church, Inverurie.

Rev Stewart MacKay [BA 2003] inducted to Dalneigh and Bona Church, Inverness.

Gordon Macleod [BA 2015] inducted as minister of Stornoway High Church of Scotland.

Jacob Marker [Access 2013 and Ministry Apprenticeship programme 2015/16] installed as pastoral worker with Tayside Christian Fellowship, Perth.

Stephen Marr ordained as minister of Chryston United Free Church.

Rev Dr John McCulloch [BA 2016] ordained and inducted as minister of St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church, Jerusalem.



Andrew Morrison [BA 2017] ordained and inducted as minister of Arbuthnott, Bervie and Kinneff Parish Church.

Fiona Morrison [BA 2019] ordained as an OLM in Inverness Presbytery of the Church of Scotland.

Irene Munro [BA 2019] ordained as an OLM for Ross Presbytery of the Church of Scotland.



David Nicolson [BA 2018] ordained and inducted as minister of Erksine Parish Church.

Sam Orr [BA (Hons) 2019] ordained as assistant minister of Chalmers Church, Edinburgh.

Martin Paterson [BA 2015] received into the Free Church of Scotland by Commission of Assembly.

Carl Peet [BA (Hons) 2019] ordained and inducted as Pastor of Grimsby Baptist Church.

Rev Allan Shearer [BA 2014] inducted to Dunblane Free Church.

Gary Torbet [BA 2012] ordained at Broughty Ferry Baptist Church.

Anne White [DipHE 2017] ordained as an OLM in Grahamston United Church, Falkirk.



We don't always hear about updates so we apologise if we've missed anyone off the list. If you've got news you can let us know on htc@uhi.ac.uk Thanks!

Staff updates

2018 and 2019 have been challenging years, with several significant changes to the staff lists.

Martin Cameron

It is with deep sorrow that I share with you the sad news that our librarian, Mr Martin Cameron, passed away on 11th June in the Highland Hospice, Inverness.



Martin had been a huge part of HTC for 20 years, being employed initially as Development Officer towards the end of our time in Elgin, but then slipping into the role of Librarian for most of his 20 years with us, though he always retained his Development work with the churches in the USA where he built many wonderful friendships. Martin was a very special person. He was very much a 'people-person'. He was well-loved by all the staff and loved and appreciated by all the

students, both those studying on-campus and those studying at a distance, and often went far beyond the call of duty to accommodate their needs. Over the years this has been evidenced by the number of times his name appeared in

commendations, validations and national audits of one kind or another, and the number of occasions when he was nominated by HTC students as 'Support Staff Member of the Year,' as well as twice being awarded the UHI Support Staff Member of the Year.



He was a highly talented man. He had an amazing knowledge of church history and theological writings, but also a great interest in Scottish history more generally. He was an accomplished precentor and also a competent piano player and in these roles often led our praise in our times of worship at College. Above all Martin was a man of God, whose natural graces were developed and honed by his relationship with his risen, living Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is that relationship that made him the 'happy Christian' that he undoubtedly was. He knew how to laugh – heartily – and how to make others laugh too, although sometimes his jokes could be appalling! He was one of the most talented

mimics I have ever known. There was scarcely a voice he could not reproduce – and many a time he had us all in stitches in the HTC staff room.

He was also a man of prayer and had a wonderful heart of prayer for all



involved not just in the College and the churches, but also in the University, and he often prayed for UHI and individuals within it at our weekly staff prayer times.

We weep for our own loss as a College and as friends and colleagues of Martin, but we also weep with his wife Mags and their three boys (Calum, Neil and David), his sister and family, and the wider family circle in their deep, deep loss. We hold them in our hearts and prayers, and pray that they may be held in the Father's tender hand.

Naturally, we would have wished it otherwise, but Martin himself has already heard the 'Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord'. He now rests from his labours and his works follow him, and his Saviour sings songs of joy and love over him.

We all miss immensely this very human man of God. A prince has fallen in Israel.

Rev Hector Morrison, Principal

Board Members – Peter Chirside, Alexander (Ali) Barron, Norman Maciver

It is with sorrow that we also report the passing of Peter Chirside in August, then on two consecutive days in November the passing of Alexander (Ali) Barron and Rev Dr Norman (Norry) Maciver. Each of these men were valued members of our Board of Governors, bringing to the Board a wealth of experience from their respective realms of ministry and employment. We are grateful to God for the contributions each made to the work of HTC and the wider work of the Kingdom. They were all kind, gracious, prayerful men of God who we were proud to know and have as part of the HTC team.

Volunteer – Marion Whitfield

Mrs Marion Whitfield and her husband Peter became involved with HTC when the College moved from Elgin to Dingwall. For over 15 years they were active volunteers in the HTC library and their contribution has been greatly appreciated by staff and students alike. They 'retired' from the HTC team about four years ago when Marion's health was deteriorating. Marion passed away in December 2018. Peter continues to be actively engaged in the work of his local church.

Other staff changes

Reception: cheerio Anne, hello Sam!

We said farewell to Anne Rodgers as HTC Receptionist. Anne joined the team in 2012 and her friendly, cheery smile at Reception always made visitors feel welcome – even over the phone you could tell she was smiling! Anne has taken up a new role in Smithton-Culloden Free Church.

Filling the Receptionist's chair we have Samantha Oxby. If you're phoning or visiting Sam will be at the desk to greet you. It's good to have her on the team.

Administration: Alan Buist

We also welcome to the HTC team Alan Buist. Alan's vast range of skills gathered from previous workplaces makes him well equipped to assist with a (very!) wide range of administration tasks including helping the Principal and Development Officer.



From left: Alan Buist, Samantha Oxby, Catherine Pritchard, Andrew McGowan

Library: Catherine Pritchard and Geordie Cryle

Catherine Pritchard joined the team on a short-term basis to assist Martin Cameron. A qualified and experienced university librarian, Catherine devoted a lot of effort to cataloguing. She also coordinated the project to reorganise the layout of the main library.

Geordie Cryle joined the team in September. He is a recent graduate of Aberdeen University where he studied music with modules in theology and history and worked part-time in the university libraries, special collections and museums department.



Geordie Cryle

New part-time Lecturers:

Rev Dr Neil Allison – Chaplaincy Studies

Rev Jonathan Fraser – Homiletics

Heather Major – Hebrew Grammar

Rev Prof Andrew McGowan – Early Church History

Rev Mike Parker – Exploring Other Faiths

Rev Mike Rattenbury – Christian Spirituality

Graduation and Awards Ceremony 2019

Tuesday 2nd July, Castle Street Church, Dingwall

Guest Speaker: Rev Dr Alistair Donald

Honorary Doctorate

Very Reverend Susan Brown

This award was presented to recognise Rev Brown's contribution to the church and to the communities of the Highlands and Islands.



Bachelor of Arts with Honours: History

Mark Stirling

Bachelor of Arts with Honours: Sociology and Politics

Bethany-Anne Murphy

Patrick Murphy



Bachelor of Arts with Honours: Theological Studies

First class honours

Colin Gillies

Upper second class honours

Robert Nicholson

Samuel Orr

Carl Peet

Lower second class honours

Duncan Kennedy

Karen Kennedy

Michelle Oellermann

Jeanette Wilson



Bachelor of Arts with Distinction: Theological Studies

Fraser Edwards

Bachelor of Arts: Theological Studies

Jade Ableitner

Susan Edwards-Horton



John Gow
Philip Gunn
Thomas Handley
Stephen Ilett
Donald MacKintosh
Elsie Macrae
Priyatam (Paul) Mahato
Edmund Metcalfe
Ian Millar
Fiona Morrison
Irene Munro
Matthew Ritchie
Neil Slowman
Catherine Steed
Dorothy Wallace



Diploma of Higher Education: Theological Studies

Fiona Anderson
Petrechiuta Gurney

Certificate of Higher Education with Distinction: Theological Studies

James Malcolm

Certificate of Higher Education: Theological Studies

David Hume
Fiona King

Access Certificate in Christian Theology

Andrew Muir

Certificate in Christian Theology

Ian Hogg
Henry Waters

Additional Awards

HTC Student of the Year

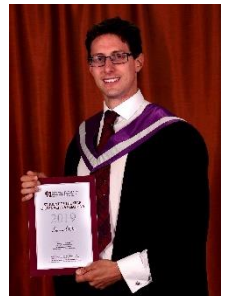
Samuel Orr

HTC Endeavour Award

Gerard Dolan

HISA Sporting Blues Award

Deirdre Nagle



Deirdre Nagle: para-badminton athlete and BA (Hons) Theological Studies student at HTC-Paisley.



'I have played badminton since 2006, competing internationally from 2016 all over Europe, the USA and South Korea with the Scottish Para-Badminton team. I have won 5 bronze medals and at the height of my international career was ranked in the top 5 worldwide and number 1 in Scotland. Thanks to the UHI Elite Athletes Fund I have been able to continue competing whilst studying. The sport I love and am passionate about has improved my health and given me the opportunity to travel the world, making lifelong friends, regardless of distance. If my health allows, and should I be given the opportunity, I would love to continue competing. I am thankful to God for the sporting opportunities He has given me.'



Graduation and Awards Ceremony 2018

Thursday 5th July, Dingwall Free Church

Awards presented by: HRH The Princess Royal

Guest Speaker: Rev Stuart Smith

Honorary Doctorate

Eileen Mackay

This was the first ever Honorary Doctorate to be awarded by the University of the Highlands and Islands. This award was presented to recognise Mrs Mackay's outstanding contribution to the development of the university.



Chancellor's Medal

John Norman MacLeod

This award was presented to recognise Mr MacLeod's exceptional service to the university and invaluable contribution to the development of further and higher education through the medium of Gaelic.



PhD

Hyo-Ju Kang

Mantle Nance

Ken Pierce

Mike Preciado

Martin Salter

Walter Strickland

Bachelor of Arts with Honours: Theological Studies

Patricia Boyd

William Boyle

Euan Dodds

Dawn Martindale

Emmanuel Patterson

Bachelor of Arts: History and Theology

Dina Gillham

Bachelor of Arts: Theological Studies

Raheel Arif

James Bissett

Jodie Cleary

Iain Macleod

David Nicolson

Robert Pettifer



Certificate of Higher Education with Distinction: Theological Studies

Alexander Muirhead



Certificate of Higher Education: Theological Studies

David Bartleman

Ella Gill

Kieran Turner



Access Certificate in Christian Theology

Daniel Peet

Victor Juliao Toral

Additional Awards

Student of the Year

Robert Nicholson

Endeavour Award

Cate Otanes



HTC-Paisley Official Opening



With renovations completed, the official opening ceremony was a cause for great celebration! Several personal donations plus some donations from trusts were added to the generous contribution from UHI to fund this project. A huge thank you to everyone who helped. There were some significant hold-ups on the way, mainly due to legal issues, but once these were resolved the contractors and project team did a marvellous job and produced a facility that is well-suited to the needs of the staff and students in the Central Belt. It gives students more options and flexibility in their studies and enables some to study through HTC who simply would have been unable to do so without this Central Belt base.

Some of the HTC-Paisley students and staff.



Jamie Grant interviewed six students during the Thanksgiving Service in the evening and the Rev Colin Sinclair preached.



After the official speeches by representatives from HTC, UHI, the City of Paisley and the church community the ribbon was cut...



then the cake was cut...



Visitors were encouraged to view the classrooms, library and other facilities.



Book donations – thank you!

The HTC library has been greatly blessed over the years by donations of theology books. When the library was small and growing donations, often from retiring ministers who were ‘downsizing’ from a large manse to a smaller home, were

HTC is one of the smallest colleges within the UHI network but has one of the largest libraries!

greatly appreciated and helped in increasing the library stock.

As the library has grown it has become much less dependent on donations of books. In fact the library stock is now so vast (approximately 65,000 volumes!) that the rooms have been bursting at the seams!

So over recent years the librarian has only

been able to add donated books to the main library stock if they are directly related to the course curriculum; other books would be offered to students or others to help them build up their own collections at home. This was, of course, always discussed and agreed with donors before books were accepted.

With the recent changes in library staff and procedures, we are not accepting further book donations at the moment. We are hugely thankful to all who have donated books to us over the years – you have helped us create a large and impressive library. Our book stock continues to grow but we need to focus on new publications, so if it is on your heart to help the HTC library a financial donation towards the purchase of new editions would be gratefully received, or if you would prefer to donate books the librarian can supply you with a list of titles on his ‘wish list’. Thank you!



Approximately 10 years ago a box of books no longer required by the HTC library and offered free to students was very eagerly received by visitors from the Ekwendeni area of Malawi, during an exchange visit to Scotland. Rev George Chuma Njabili was a theology student at that time and benefitted from using those books during his studies. He is now a pastor within the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia in Malawi. It was a great surprise when he visited HTC with members of Ross Presbytery of the CofS to personally thank us for that donation!



Academic Matters

Another successful 5-year revalidation of the PhD programme

HTC's PhD programme has been revalidated for a further 5 year period with no conditions attached. The programme received several commendations in the 2019 revalidation event, including strong endorsement of the quality of the library support and the high quality of supervisory support.

Congratulations to programme leader Dr Jamie Grant and the academic team on achieving such a glowing report!

HTC has produced about 40 PhD graduates (plus many more Doctor of Ministry and Master of Theology graduates), many of whom are professors in seminaries and theological colleges in the UK, USA and further afield.

Informal enquiries about postgraduate study should be addressed in the first instance to htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk

Approval of BA Philosophy degree for UHI

The BA Philosophy degree, single and joint Honours, underwent a successful approval with two commendations, one condition and one recommendation.

The commendations recognised the development of a new and important subject area for UHI, and the partnership-wide collaboration and delivery by teaching staff. The condition and recommendation were both paperwork related. A great outcome! The development of this programme has been

driven largely by HTC lecturer Rev Dr Innes Visagie. When he started the process of developing the Philosophy, Politics and Economics degree several years ago the possibility of a full Philosophy degree seemed a long way off.

This has been a significant body of work for HTC, particularly for Innes, but it is good to be involved in these things as part of the University.

Results reflect 'an excellent academic environment for our students'.

In the annual National Student Survey (NSS) students who are due to finish their course are asked to complete an anonymous survey about their overall experience at university, covering academic and support issues. HTC had a result of 100% for 'overall satisfaction'! A huge 'well done' to the entire team, particularly BA programme leader Dr Robert Shillaker, for making HTC such a great place to study!

Combined with the long list of HTC names on the HISA Awards nomination list, this shows how excellent an academic environment HTC is for our students.

HISA Awards for HTC in 2019

Most Engaging VC Lecturer -
Dr David Kirk

Best Assessment Feedback -
Dr David Kirk

Best Support Staff –
Pamela Adkins

Most Inspiring Student -
Andrew Ellison

Publications and Conferences

Cliff Boone [PhD 2010]

Christ Victorious: How to Experience Christ's Victory over the Devil in Your Everyday Life (WestBowPress)

Len Cazaly gave a paper entitled 'May your song always be sung: Bob Dylan, modern day psalmist' at the inaugural World of Bob Dylan symposium in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mike Preciado [PhD 2018]

A Reformed View of Freedom A Reformed View of Freedom: The Compatibility of Guidance Control and Reformed Theology (Wipf and Stock Publishers)

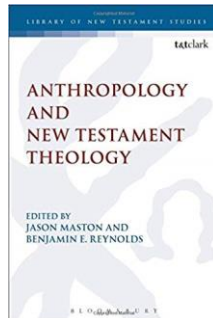
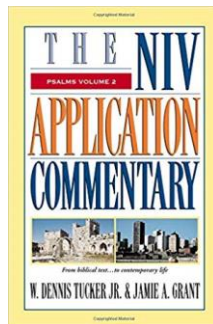
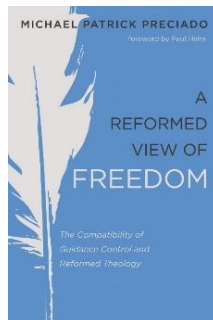
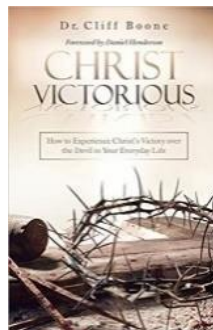
Jamie Grant gave a paper entitled 'A Retrospective on the Canonical Approach to the Psalms' at the Evangelical Theological Society Annual Meeting in Denver. He also has a number of recent publications:

W. Dennis Tucker Jr. and **Jamie A. Grant**, *Psalms, Volume 2* (NIVAC; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2018).

Jamie A. Grant, "'What is Man?' A Wisdom Anthropology', in Jason Maston and Benjamin E. Reynolds, eds., *Anthropology and New Testament Theology* (London: T&T Clark, 2018), pp. 5–25.

Jamie A. Grant, 'Complaint and Transformation: Decreation at the Outset of Job,' *Southeastern Theological Review* 10/2 (2019), 59–76

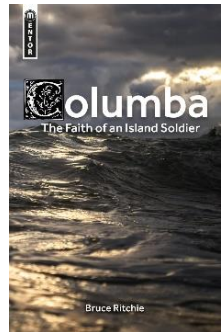
Jamie A. Grant, 'The Psalter, Worship and Worldview,' in a forthcoming *Festschrift* for Professor Christopher Seitz (SBL Press: 2019)



Bruce Ritchie gave two papers at the Torrance Conference, Fิร์bush, entitled 'Studying Theology under TF Torrance' and 'Theological Method and TF Torrance'.

Bruce Ritchie

Columba: The Faith of an Island Soldier
(Christian Focus Publications; Mentor series)



A public lecture giving an overview of the book was held by the Highland Church History Forum.

'Devils, Demons, and Deliverance: the Celtic Faith of St Columba'

A recording of the event is available at

www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/news-and-events/highland-church-history-forum



Please support our work

There are several ways in which you can help us. Prayer is important – please do remember HTC in prayer. HTC is very dependent on financial support. If you can make a financial donation it would help us enormously. Thank you.

Electronic payments can be made to

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US donors are encouraged to use our 501c3 public charity 'Friends of Highland Theological College, Inc.'

For further information please contact Barbara MacPhail, Finance Officer, on 01349 780000 or barbara.macphail@uhi.ac.uk



25 years of Faith and Scholarship: 1994-2019



A couple of photos from the archives..!



Photo taken about 1994 – Hector Morrison, Douglas Kelly (trustee), Andrew McGowan – in the early days of HTC.



One of the early meetings – probably early 1994? – in which the seeds for HTC were sown.

And a couple of up-to-date photos...



Cathy Steed, Student Support Officer, at the 2019 United Free Church conference.

Laura Symons [BA student] who represents HTC in the Highlands and Islands Students Association (HISA).



Board of Governors

The current membership of the Board is Rev Dr John Ferguson (chair), David Fraser, Dr Jamie Grant, Catherine Mackenzie, Donald Mackenzie, Moira McCarrell, Rev Hector Morrison and Rev Stuart Smith.

Rutherford Centre for Reformed Theology

The new office of the RCRT has opened in the main Dingwall campus of HTC where Rev Prof Andrew McGowan is based in his role as Director of RCRT.

- If your mailing details are incorrect please let us know.
- It is cheaper to send communications by email. If you are happy to receive communications by email instead of by post please let us know.
- 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.

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A Community of Faith and Scholarship



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