



Newsletter Summer 2012

Plans ... to Give You Hope and a Future



I am not long back from a weekend's bible teaching in Gardenstown where the local Church of Scotland folks were gathered in annual conference mode, but also gathered to give thanks to God for their newly refurbished church premises. As part of the very tasteful refurbishment, two new banners were mounted on the pulpit wall of the church with the words from Jeremiah 29:11 prominently displayed: 'I know the plans I have for you ... plans to give you hope and a future,' words which directed the theme of the teaching over the weekend on 'Promises of Renewal' from Jeremiah chapters 29-31.

What an encouragement it was to hear the Session Clerk outline the process that had brought them to engage in this refurbishment programme, and that had made the words of the above verse so very real and relevant to them. At a time when the congregation was very unsure about the way ahead, the buildings were seriously damaged by burst pipes during one of our recent severe winters, with the result that the congregation was forced into doing something about their buildings. What hit them that winter as an apparent tragedy, soon, under God, became a 'door of hope' for them, and an avenue to their realising as a congregation that the Lord still had work for them to do. He had plans for them; plans for their future; plans that gave hope for their future.



Over the weekend it seemed to me that what has happened in that congregation could be a parable of God's purposes for the rest of the church in our nation, across the denominations, in these days. I came away from the weekend more convinced than ever that God still has plans for his church throughout Scotland, and, as in Jeremiah's day, these are 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' There may still be difficult days ahead for the churches, but the church has a future, the church has hope. The future is bright because God has his plans which none can thwart. The apparent tragedies that hit us from time to time can be turned by the hand of God to our greatest benefit. The ultimate example of that is, of course, what happened on the Cross. At first, it seemed to be the high point of Satan's triumph; his hour! But the words of Christ on the cross - 'It is finished!' - were not words of failure and defeat, but rather of the greatest triumph this world has ever known – words that remind us that Love has conquered all!

God still works like that. Satan always oversteps the mark and the love of Christ triumphs! Hold the faith! Pray, work and witness into God's future!



Staff movements

Recent months have seen a number of staff changes. Congratulations to **Martin Sheringham** and his fiancée Jo who got married just before Christmas. Martin left his job as HTC janitor/caretaker in January to move to the south of England to be with Jo. Martin was replaced by **Michael (Mike) Forbes**.

I was born in Dingwall and have spent most of my life in this area. After leaving school I started with a local fabrication/welding company. I stayed with the same firm for 28 years till its closure. I became a member of Dingwall Free Church in 2008 and a deacon 2 years later.

Cleaning duties were carried out by **John Walmsley** but John's involvement in various other activities forced him to stop working at HTC. John has been replaced by **Anna Stirling**.



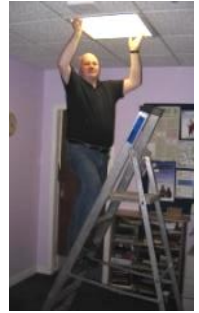
I'm married to Liam and we have two children, Jessica who is eight and Ben who is four. I'm not biased – they really are the two cutest children in the world! I work part-time in the Royal Bank in Dingwall and am a member of Dingwall Free Church.

In March HTC waved goodbye to **Angela Spence**, registrar, who left to return to a career in journalism. Angela has a degree in journalism and is settling in well to her new job with Scottish Provincial Press. HTC's new registry officer is **Emily Hamilton**.

I started off life in Buckinghamshire before moving up to Scotland with my family in 1990. I did my secondary schooling in Dumfries & Galloway and then moved to Edinburgh to study at Queen Margaret University College. After graduating, I had a short stint in Cameroon with Wycliffe Bible Translators. I returned to Edinburgh for a couple of years, initially providing admin support to a businessman in my church, before working for a nursing recruitment agency. Following my time in Cameroon, I became more and more interested in cross cultural mission and looked into various options. After some time God called me to work in Nepal with the International Nepal Mission (INF), which focused on medical and development work. I was based at INF's HQ in the role of Recruitment Officer for 2 years. Following on from Nepal I worked as Personnel Officer with the Church Mission Society (CMS) in London (then Oxford when they relocated). The role involved extensive travel throughout Asia, as I was responsible for personnel in that region. Having spent 5 years away from Scotland, I was keen to move back and be closer to family and friends. One day out of the blue I received a phone call regarding a job with Interserve Scotland. To cut a long story short, I took up the role of Personnel Manager, based in their Glasgow office. I lived in Stirling and attended Stirling Baptist Church, which is where I met my husband Graeme. Graeme and I married in January 2011. Soon after our wedding, Graeme completed his course at the International Christian College, Glasgow and was soon offered a job with a Christian charity, Reality Adventure Works in Inverness, working with youngsters on the autistic spectrum. We moved up o Inverness last June and we worship at Culduthel Christian Centre. As you can see there has been a lot of change in recent months! However, I am excited about my new role with HTC and look forward to being part of the HTC family.



It is good to have Mike, Anna and Emily on the staff team. They are all settling in quickly and are already making substantial contributions to the life of the College. We thank Martin, John and Angela for their input to College life and wish them well for the future.



Fraser Jackson will be leaving us in June ahead of making final arrangements for the family's move to Africa where Fraser will take up the position of Librarian at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria <http://tcnn.org/> . A farewell service will be held in Dingwall Evangelical Church (10 Hill Street) on Friday 22nd June at 7.30pm. We wish Fraser, Dawn, James and Ruth every blessing in this new stage of their lives. Follow their progress at <http://www.jacksonsinjos.blogspot.co.uk/> .



Mrs Kay Munro will be known to anyone who has come into the College or phoned us because she has been our Receptionist since February 2002. Kay is retiring in the summer and looks forward to taking life a bit easier and spending a lot more time with her family, especially the grandchildren. We thank Kay for her committed service to the College over the past ten years and wish her a happy and blessed retirement.

Noel Due

Many of you will be interested to know that Noel Due, a former lecturer at HTC, has moved to Cairns in the north of Queensland, Australia, to work for the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA), so, returning to his spiritual roots in the Lutheran Church. At a service in Cairns Lutheran Church on 6th May he was installed as Regional Resourcing Minister for the Queensland district. The role is flexible, but will involve teaching and training, running teaching missions and conferences, mentoring younger leaders, as well as supporting pastors and lay workers in the LCA, not least among some of the ATSI [Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander] communities further north of Cairns. His wife, Kirsten, has accepted a position with the Wuchopperen Health Service in Cairns, with outreach at Atherton. Noel and Kirsten extend a warm invitation to you all. They'd love to see any of you if you are able to make the trip!



Evening Classes

Rev. Hector Morrison, Principal, ran a series of evening classes earlier in the year, taking the theme '*The Glory of God in the Book of Psalms*'. The classes were very popular and well attended. The next series of evening classes will start in September in the College. New Testament lecturer Dr Jason Maston will teach on the theme '*The Kingdom of God*'. Monday evenings, 7.30pm – 9pm, starting on 10th September. All welcome.



Polo shirts for Sale

£10 each. Burgundy only. HTC logo on front; strapline 'A Community of Faith and Scholarship' on back. Contact Barbara MacPhail for more details. barbara.macphail@htc.uhi.ac.uk



News from Students and Graduates

PhD Successes.....

Mike Gurney is Professor of Theology at Multnomah University, Portland, Oregon. Mike's thesis was on 'Are the Princetonians Passe? Evaluating Post-conservative Critiques of Charles Hodge'.

Kevin Chiarot is Pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Jackson, Tennessee. Kevin's topic was 'The Unassumed is the Unhealed: The Humanity of Christ in the Theology of T.F. Torrance'.

Jonathan Master, Associate Professor, Philadelphia Biblical University, researched the subject 'Anthony Burgess and the Westminster Doctrine of Assurance'.

..... and Doctor of Ministry Successes

Kenneth Barnes, is chaplain and director of the Oxford American Mission. Ken's DMin dissertation related directly to the work of this mission.

Mike McQueen lectures in Missions at Urbana Theological Seminary, Illinois. Mike's dissertation topic was 'Integration of Ethnic Chinese Expatriates into a White Evangelical Charismatic Church in a University Community'.

Jim Mills, co-founder and co-director of Creative Arts Europe, took for his DMin dissertation the topic of 'Empowering Biblical Cultural Engagement in the Arts'.

Inductions/ordinations

Steve Potts (BA 2009) was ordained and inducted into the parish of Auchaber linked with Auchterless on 27th January.

Andrew Fothergill (BA 2010) was ordained and inducted into the parish of Strichen and Tyrie linked with New Pitsligo on 24th February.

Both these parishes are in the Church of Scotland Presbytery of Buchan and within about fifteen miles of Turriff, where **Kevin Gruer** (BA 2010) ministers. This makes encouraging fellowship for these three former students.

Gordon Murray (BA 2003) was ordained and inducted as minister of Lairg APC church on 4th May. The service took place in the nearby Lairg Free Church. Gordon's ministry at Lairg APC follows that of Rev. Alexander Murray, former chairman of the Board of Governors of HTC.



Summer Mission Team to Romania

Two of our 3rd year BA students, Mike Robertson and Gary Torbet, work with Carpathian Aid, a Scottish charity dedicated to supporting specific Christian mission and outreach projects in Romania. Mike is arranging a Summer Mission Team (6-12 people) to run a camp for some of Romania's poorest children in the idyllic setting of the Carpathian Mountain foothills. If you want to get involved or just want more information, contact Mike by email on 07009026@htc.uhi.ac.uk or by phone on 07740984395. <http://www.carpathianaid.org.uk/>

Correction

In the Graduation report in the Autumn/Winter 2011 Newsletter we said that graduate Patricia Robertson had worked in Romania with Blythswood. She had in fact worked with Food for the Hungry International. We apologise for this error.

Staff Publications and Conferences

Jamie Grant: Paper given at the Scottish Evangelical Theology Society Conference in April on 'The Biblical Theology of Nationhood'.

Michael F Bird and **Jason Maston**, eds.: *Earliest Christian History: History, Literature, and Theology. Essays from the Tyndale Fellowship in Honour of Martin Hengel.* WUNT 2.320. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2012.



Hector Morrison: Paper given at the Scottish Evangelical Theological Society Highland Conference in November on 'The Church and the Glory of God'.

Bruce Ritchie: Paper given at the Scottish Evangelical Theological Society Highland Conference in November on 'The Holiness of the Church'.

Innes Visagie: Paper given at COSCA's 8th Counselling Research Dialogue, Stirling, UK in November on 'Spirituality and Counselling: exploring the need for a teaching module that focuses on spirituality as part of counsellor training'. See www.cosca.org.uk for more information about COSCA.

Innes Visagie: Paper given at the Second International Conference of BASS in May on 'The role of the human spirit in the body, mind, spirit tri-unity'. For more information about BASS (The British Association for the Study of Spirituality) see www.bassspirituality.org.uk.

Updates about Courses

Great news about Access Course

We've just had confirmation of some brilliant news about funding for the Access Course, which means that the **full-time on-campus Access Course will run in the academic session 2012/13.** Up to twelve places are available. This is a very popular programme and can be studied for 'interest only' or as an entry route onto the BA programme. **Applications being taken now** – please contact us for more information. Start date Sept'12. The Access Course is also available by distance learning (apply any time to start whenever suits you and study at your own pace).

Module Changes in the BA Programme

From September modules in the BA (Hons) degree programme will carry 20 credits each, compared to the 15-credit modules in the old system. Students still complete a total of 120 credits per level. Some new modules are being introduced. The full list is available on our website.

Places still available for Sept'12 entry. Apply now.

New MTh Strands

Three strands are now available at Masters level:

MTh Reformed Theology MTh Pastoral Theology MTh Theological Studies

Each module is delivered in a face-to-face week long block teaching session, making attendance more convenient for students who are in full-time employment and wish to take the MTh as CPD. **Recruiting now for Sept'12 entry.** Contact Jason Maston, programme leader, for more information. jason.maston@htc.uhi.ac.uk

Bursaries may be available to assist students with course fees. Please contact us for details.



UHI news: Installation of HRH The Princess Royal as Chancellor



Celebrations to mark the installation of HRH The Princess Royal as the first Chancellor of the University will take place on 7th June in Inverness Cathedral. The event will include the presentation of Ensigns Armorial to the University and the award of Honorary Fellowships of the University to Colin MacKay CBE, former Chair of the Board of Governors, and Professor Robert Cormack FRSA FRSE. Professor Cormack served as Principal of UHI Millennium Institute, the predecessor to the university, from 2001 to 2009. Under his leadership UHI achieved taught degree awarding powers in 2008 and reached the final stages in the process for university title. The ceremony will be followed by an academic procession to the University's Executive Office at Ness Walk.

40-4-40 Challenge

The 40-4-40 challenge is all about raising the sum of £40,000 to mark the 40th birthday of the Chairman of HTC's Board of Governors, R. Murray McCheyne. Murray plans to take part in three events which together make up a total of 40 miles. Other people connected with HTC will take part in some of the events too.



Whichever way you look at it, 40-4-40 is a major milestone! £40k is ambitious but with your help we can reach that target. Please help HTC to continue providing such a high standard of training to theology students by supporting this challenge. The three events making up the 40 miles are:

Monster Swim, a 1 mile swim in the chilly waters of Loch Ness. Saturday 18th August. Also taking the plunge will be Jamie Grant, Vice-Principal. Places are still available if you want to take part..?! Go to <http://www.monsterswim.co.uk/> for more information.



Applecross Duathlon, a rugged 9 mile hill-run followed by a 15 mile road cycle. Saturday 15th September. A team of five will be tackling this part of the challenge. They are Murray, Jamie, Robert Shillaker (Systematic Theology lecturer), Barbara MacPhail (Finance Officer) and Anna Stirling (Cleaner). <http://applecrossduathlon.wordpress.com/>.

Sponsored walk, a 15 mile hike starting and finishing at the College, taking in Knockfarrel and some of the local trails.

Saturday 22nd September. We're hoping that most of the staff and on-campus students may be able to consider taking part in this one and may even be joined by some of those who will be returning to Dingwall that week for Graduation. Let us know if you want to join in.



Funds raised will go towards a number of essential projects in the College including development of modules and student fee bursaries. You can sponsor Murray and the rest of the team by clicking on <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/highlandtheologicalcollegeuhi>. Alternatively, send a donation (clearly marked 40-4-40) to the College address. Thank you!

Bankers Order

You can use this form to make donations to HTC by Standing Order. Please return the completed form to **Highland Theological College UHI ~ High Street ~ Dingwall ~ Ross-shire ~ IV15 9HA**

Bank/Building Society _____

Name of Branch _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Pay: Unity Trust Bank (Sort Code 08-60-01) for the credit of: Highland Theological Trust Account 20229489

I wish to make a regular gift of £ _____ monthly / quarterly / annually (delete as appropriate)

starting on _____ (date) and continuing until I give notice in writing.

The instruction supersedes any existing Standing Order in favour of Highland Theological College.

Name of Account Holder(s) _____

Sort Code

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Account Number

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Donor's Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Gift Aid

You can use this form to increase the value of your gift to HTC by about a third. Please return the completed form to **Highland Theological College UHI ~ High Street ~ Dingwall ~ Ross-shire ~ IV15 9HA**.

I declare that I 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.

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

- 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 25p for every £1 you give).
 - You can cancel this declaration any time by notifying HTC.
 - Please notify HTC if you change your name or address.
 - 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.

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Supporters in the USA

Friends of Highland Theological College, Inc. is a **501(c)3** public charity organised in 2007 solely to receive donations from US taxpayers and distribute their funds to HTC in Scotland. Since FHTC handles all the record-keeping and oversight requirements imposed by the IRS on donations to foreign charities, they are also able to offer a tax-deduction to any individual who would like to donate to HTC. If you would care to become a 'Friend of HTC' by making a donation, please make the check payable to: 'Friends of Highland Theological College, Inc.' and send it to:

Friends of HTC Inc., P.O. Box 19614, Atlanta, GA 30325

In return, you will receive a letter-receipt confirming your donation.

Dates for your Diaries

Semester 1 Induction Friday 7th September.

Semester 1 teaching commences Tuesday 11th September.

Evening Classes 'The Kingdom of God'. Dr Jason Maston, NT lecturer. Monday evenings, 7.30pm – 9pm, starting on 10th September.

Graduation Thursday 20th Sept, 3pm, Dingwall Free Church.

Conference Day/Open Day These days are held twice a year in October and March, always on Saturdays to allow distance learning students with work commitments to attend. Provisional date 27th October – please check website for confirmation. All welcome.

Public Lecture Henry Olunga, Thursday 1st November.

Please see the website for further details or contact us nearer the time.

Computing Classes (Beginners – Advanced) at HTC Learning Centre. Contact Jack Sutherland on 01349 780000 (office hours) or 07768 972226 (evenings) for more details and to enrol.

Online shopping

easyfundraising.org.uk helps charities and other good causes to raise money when their supporters shop online. It works in a similar way to nectar, but instead of earning points when you shop, you raise a donation for your cause instead. It's as simple as that! You can shop with over 2,000 well known stores and each will donate up to 15% of what you spend. For example, John Lewis will donate 2.5%, Amazon 2.5%, The Body Shop 10%, some insurance retailers will even donate up to £30 simply for taking out a policy with them!

Since registering on easyfundraising.org.uk in 2007 we've persuaded 109 people to support HTC and you've helped us raise over £1200. We need more people to support us in this way. It's free and effortless! Please go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/highlandcoll> to start supporting HTC now. Thank you.

- 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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Contact Details

Highland Theological College UHI
High Street, Dingwall, Ross-shire
Scotland IV15 9HA

+44 (0) 1349-780000

htc@htc.uhi.ac.uk www.htc.uhi.ac.uk



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