



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Highland Theological  
College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste Dhiadhachd  
na Gàidhealtachd

## ***Newsletter Summer 2013***

### **The Lord Reigns**

These are difficult days for the church in Scotland as the church, across all its denominations, seems to stagger from one crisis to another. The voice of secular humanism roars ever more loudly from the outside as it grows in confidence, belligerence and intolerance; while, inside, the church is torn apart, on the one hand, by pride, arrogance, self-righteousness and lack of love, and, on the other hand, by scandals over moral failures, and arrogant disregard for the clear teaching of the word of God. Add to that the pressing economic crisis, an ageing and continually declining church membership, and the countless vacancies and one might wonder what future the church can possibly have.

At such a time we need to do what the psalmist does in Psalm 93. We need to lift our eyes from the storms that buffet us and have our focus firmly set once again, and day by day, on the One who sits where he has always been, on the throne of the universe: 'The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.' That reality is not one that the secular humanist can see. Indeed, he would mock at such a suggestion. But, sadly, is it any more of a reality to those of us in the Christian church? Only the eye of faith can see and grasp and lay hold of such a reality – faith founded on the truth of God's self-revelation in his word. And this is what faith does see – a regnant Christ; a triumphant Christ; the Lamb of God on the throne of the universe! In the midst of the storm let us not take our eyes off Christ, for it is then that we begin to flounder, as Peter discovered (Matt 14:30)!

In verses 3-4 of the psalm, the author recognises the times through which he has been living as stormy times; times of opposition to God and his cause; times of vocal, even strident opposition (v 3): 'The seas have lifted up, O Lord, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.' He speaks of the 'thunder of the great waters' and 'the breakers of the sea', and we

can almost imagine the storms crashing over his life and over the life of the people of God. Yet, with his eyes fixed on the throne and the One enthroned upon it, he is able to say with confidence (v 4): 'Mightier than the thunder ... mightier than the breakers – the Lord on high is mighty!'

In the midst of all the present disarray in the church, we need to remember on a daily basis that the Lord is King. He is in control, as he has always been. He knows what he is doing, and, even more than that, through the storms, and even using the storms, he is actually forwarding his purposes in this world – purposes of grace and salvation! Can we not trust him for that? And, meanwhile (v 5), let us keep his statutes which 'stand firm'; and let us adorn his house with 'holiness'.

Hector Morrison, Principal

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### Staff movements

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**Access Course:** Following his recent relocation to Inverness the Rev Norman Maciver, retired after more than twenty years of Church of Scotland ministry in Tarbert, Harris, has taken over as Programme Leader of the Access Course. We are delighted to have Norman in this role. He succeeds the Rev Donald Maciver, retired Free Church minister, who headed up the Access programme for several years. We wish Donald well in his retirement.

**IT Technician:** Bob Mackenzie, who was employed on a temporary basis as IT Technician, has left us and taken up a job on the UHI Helpdesk. Our new post-holder is Mike Day (photo right) who comes to us with over twenty years' experience in IT. He is a keen walker and enjoys taking his dog out into the glens.



**Registry Officer:** Mr Percy Macinnes (photo left) has joined us on a short-term basis as Registry Officer. This is to cover Emily Hamilton's maternity leave period. Percy previously worked with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and brings many skills to his post at HTC. We wish Emily well in her new role of motherhood!

**New Volunteers:** We're delighted that Mike Lind and Brian Burn have joined the team of volunteers helping us in the library. Mike moved to the Highlands following his retirement as a Church of Scotland minister in Campbeltown. Brian is a retired schoolteacher. When he's not helping in the library (and when there's a glimpse of sunshine!) Brian also helps keep the College garden tidy. We have a small army of volunteers who help out at Reception and other areas. Without their tremendous help we would find it impossible to keep on top of all the work. We are very grateful to them all. If you would like to volunteer your time and talents please contact us.

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## Board of Governors

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At the 2013 AGM of the Governors and Trustees our chairman, R. Murray McCheyne, reluctantly resigned due to personal circumstances and the increasing demands on his time from work, church and the many other organisations he is involved in. Unfortunately Murray's resignation as chairman coincided with the Rev Donald Maciver's resignation as vice-chairman following his 2-year period in that role.



Murray and Donald have both brought immeasurable gifts and talents to the board and have steered HTC through a significant chapter in the history of the College and the wider UHI business. We are immensely grateful to them both for their selfless service.



It is anticipated that the new chair and vice-chair respectively will be the Rev Dr Bruce Ritchie (upper photo) and the Rev Norman Maciver, Newmachar, (lower photo), both extremely capable and well-equipped to serve in these roles.

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## Ordinations, Inductions and Others

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**Andrea Boyes** [BA (Hons) 2011] was ordained and inducted in Chalmers Parish Church, Larkhall in January.

**Janet Davidson** [BA 2012] has taken up the role of hospital chaplain for Nairn and Kingussie.

**Gavino Fioretti** [BA student] was inducted as minister of Leith Free Church, Edinburgh in April.

**Jonathan Mackenzie** [BA (Hons) 2004, PhD 2011] was ordained at a service in Culloden Baptist Church on and inducted as pastor of the Lighthouse Church, Forres, in April. Hector Morrison, principal, preached at the ordination service and Jamie Grant, vice-principal, preached at the induction.



**Kenny Ross** [BA (Hons) 2004] will be inducted as pastor of Culloden Baptist Church at the end of August.

From left: Jamie Grant, Hector Morrison, Jonathan Mackenzie

**Rory Stott** [Access 2008] was inducted as minister of Ayr and Kilwinning Free Church.

It's encouraging to hear where our graduates are serving. Please keep us informed so that we can continue to encourage others!

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## Jason Maston awarded British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant

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Congratulations to Jason Maston (New Testament lecturer and MTH programme leader) who has been awarded a British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant for his research project on Pauline anthropology. This award, the first of its kind for HTC, will enable Jason to carry out research at Tyndale House and attend the 2014 *Society of Biblical Literature* conference on the topic.

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## Student Wedding



The wedding of Matthew Scott and Naomi Nakahashi took place in March in Dingwall Free Church. Matthew and Naomi met when they both came to study the on-campus Access Course at HTC in September 2009. Following the Access Course they both chose to continue their studies at HTC by embarking on the BA programme. It was good of them to choose to marry on a Friday in the church directly opposite the College as it meant that we could watch them at the church door 😊 We wish them every blessing in their marriage.

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## Staff Publications and Conferences

**Jamie Grant:** Paper presented at a Symposium on Bible Translation in Central and Eastern Europe at International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague on '*Czeslaw Milosz's Translation of the Psalms*'.

**Jamie Grant:** Spoke at the Crieff Fellowship in March on '*The Unchanging Gospel in a Changing Scotland*'.

**Jamie Grant:** Speaking at the 'family week' at the Abernethy Trust Centre, Nethybridge, this summer.

**Jamie Grant:** Speaking at the UF Summer Event, summer 2013.

**Hector Morrison:** Giving a series of lectures on Genesis 1-2 in a former Soviet Union country this summer.

**Innes Visagie:** Paper presented at a UHI research conference on '*The Human Experience: a body-mind affair: (a philosophical, neurological, psychological and theological medley to the tune of Dylan's 'The Times They Are a-Changin')*'.

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## Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology

We are excited to announce a new association with the Scottish Evangelical Theology Society (SETS) for the production and distribution of the society's biannual journal *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology* (SBET). SETS began life as the Scottish equivalent of the Tyndale Fellowship. The aims of the society are to promote within Scotland the advance of evangelical theology in the biblical, doctrinal, historical and practical fields; to encourage original research in these fields; and to help foster the formation of evangelical perspectives on issues of moment in ecclesiastical and national life. The *Bulletin* is a significant part of the work of SETS and dovetails very well with the academic output of HTC. The new working relationship between SETS and HTC is a hugely exciting step forward for both the society and the College and is a good example of the increasing levels of partnership working amongst the evangelical organisations in Scotland. For SBET subscriptions please telephone the HTC Finance Officer or email [sbet.htc@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:sbet.htc@uhi.ac.uk).



## Ministry, OLM and Readership Training

HTC trains students of many denominations (and none) and is specifically recognised as a training establishment for Readership and Ministry candidates for the Associated Presbyterian Church, Church of Scotland and United Free Church of Scotland. We also train students for Ordained Local Ministry (OLM) in the Church of Scotland. As a general guide, Readership candidates are required to complete the Certificate in Higher Education (equivalent to the first year of the BA degree), OLM candidates are required to complete the Diploma in Higher Education (equivalent to the first two years of the BA degree) and Ministry candidates are required to complete the BA degree. *Interested students should check specific requirements with their denomination.* Further advice can be obtained from the HTC Registry Officer.



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### MTh

This year's MTh programme has been running successfully. Modules are taught as week-long intensive sessions followed by time to work on essays and class sizes allow for lots of discussion and exchange of ideas. This structure is well suited to the MTh being used as a CPD opportunity for those already in full-time ministry. The programme team includes Dr Jason Maston, Dr Jamie Grant, Dr Innes Visagie, Dr Nick Needham, Professor Andrew McGowan, Professor Paul Helm, Professor Gerald Bray, Rev Dominic Smart and Dr Iain MacRitchie. Places are still available for Sept'13 entry. Contact us for more details.

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### Access to Christian Theology

Ordinary church members who just want to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith will find the *Access to Christian Theology* course highly beneficial. It offers a broad introduction to all the main areas of theological studies. Funded places are still available for full-time on-campus study\* starting in Sept'13. An ideal course for school-leavers to study during a gap year. Or maybe you can think of an unemployed Christian who might benefit from this course? *Access* can also be studied at your own pace and in the comfort of your own home or church. Some denominations are becoming interested in using it for elders' training. Why not gather a group of friends at church and learn together?!

\*Full-time on-campus Access: four days per week, Sept-May. Most students get their fees paid; bursaries may also be available – ask the Finance Officer for eligibility.

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**Recruiting now for Sept'13 start: Access, BA, MTh programmes**

**Contact Registry Officer or go to the apply tab on the courses page of the website [www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses)**

**PhD applicants can apply now and start at a date agreed with their supervisor**

## Summer Appeal

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The timing of this Newsletter coincides with our summer financial appeal. Student fees alone are insufficient to cover the running costs of the College therefore we continue to rely on the generosity of our supporters. *Without these donations we simply could not continue to exist.* We appeal to all who are in a position to help to consider supporting us through a one-off or regular donation, however large or small. UK taxpayers can increase the value of their gift by signing a Gift Aid declaration. USA taxpayers can donate through our 501(c)3 public charity 'Friends of HTC'. Any help is greatly appreciated. At present our finances are on budget for the year, despite the difficult economic climate, however *a good response to this financial appeal is still required to enable us to break even.* Thank you.

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## 20 Amazing Years

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Twenty years ago this coming February two Church of Scotland ministers, Andrew McGowan and Hector Morrison, were at a meeting in Elgin that changed the course of their lives. They met with Dr Robert Chalmers, principal of Moray College in Elgin and also chair of the University of the Highlands and Islands Project, to explore how a proposed theological college might become part of a future university of the Highlands and Islands. At that time such a theological college was little more than a vision or dream that Andrew had shared with some churchmen in the North of Scotland in the



Fresh-faced Hector Morrison (left) and Andrew McGowan (right) outside 'The Hut' at Moray College, Elgin in 1994

previous year or so. At the meeting Dr Chalmers informed them that there was a brief 'window of opportunity' for access that would soon close. He challenged them to start the college in premises rented from Moray College *that August!* When they said, 'That's impossible! How can you start a college in a few months' time with no courses, no library, no students, no staff and no money?', his response was, 'I thought you were men of faith!' Within six months Highland Theological Institute (as it was then called) had begun in Elgin, and the rest, as they say, is history!

It has been a phenomenal journey, full of ups and downs. Throughout 2014 we hope to hold some events to celebrate our anniversary, looking back over some of the amazing experiences of the past 20 years and looking forward to the plans God has for us over the coming years. We hope to publish our planned programme of events in the next Newsletter and on our website. We warmly invite you to attend any or all of those events so that you can join us in thanking God for HTC and for all the students who have been, and will yet be, trained here.

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### 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 wish all my donations to Highland Theological College (unless I specify in writing) to be treated as Gift Aid donations. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that HTC will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.*

*giftaid it*

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

You can cancel this declaration any time by notifying HTC. Please notify HTC if you change your name or address. If your circumstances change you can cancel your declaration.

### 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.

## Computing Classes Microsoft Office 2010



Beginners – Advanced level classes and ECDL classes start week commencing Monday 5th August in HTC Learning Centre. Contact Jack Sutherland on 01349 780000 (office hours) or 07768 972226 (evenings) for more details and to enrol. ILA funding available for ECDL course.

### Evening Class Recordings

Recordings of *'The River of God'* evening classes taught by the Rev Hector Morrison, Principal, are available on our website at [www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/community-resources/audio-resources](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/community-resources/audio-resources).

### Short Meditations

Some of the short meditations written by the Reverend Billy McMillan and published in 'Life and Work' magazine have been posted on the HTC website at [www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/meditations](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/meditations). We are grateful to Mr McMillan and Life & Work for granting us permission to use them. Mr McMillan is a retired Church of Scotland minister and keen supporter of HTC.

### Red Nose Day at HTC

Students and staff at HTC took part in lots of fun activities on Red Nose Day to help raise funds for Comic Relief. Across the UHI partnership there was a 'tour de UHI' cycle which most of the colleges took part in, collectively clocking up 1015 miles. Here at HTC we clocked up over 100 miles on the 'tour de UHI' bike. A big thank you to the Dingwall Leisure Centre for lending us the bike for the day. Other fundraisers included a treasure hunt and delicious red nose cupcakes. Approximately £2000 was raised for Comic Relief across the UHI partnership including £150 by HTC.



- 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.

### Contact Details

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