



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 Summer 2015

Who Cares about Theological Education?



God does, as is evident from both bible and Christian history. From the very beginning of his covenant relationship with Israel God instituted a teaching priesthood (Mal 2:6-7), followed by schools of the prophets (2 Kings 2:7) and wisdom 'schools' (Jer 18:18). In the New Testament, Jesus had his early disciples undergo an intense

Continued overleaf



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Programme**
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three year training period which involved significant periods of sustained teaching, a pattern that was followed in measure by the apostle Paul, not least at Ephesus (Acts 19). And beyond the biblical era, as Rev Dr Sinclair Ferguson reminds us: 'The whole of Christian history cries out to us to teach us that wherever there is a genuine Christian spirituality, then that genuine Christian spirituality is drawn as a magnet to theological instruction and education.'

At a time when a number of what were once the theological faculties of Scotland's ancient universities are morphing into departments of Religious Studies, or less, and when the general level of bible knowledge and of theological awareness in the church itself, let alone in society at large, has perhaps never been so low for centuries, is it not time for our churches to wake up to the crying need to support sound theological education?



At HTC we would love to create at least a couple of professorial Chairs, in the first instance in Theology and Biblical Studies, to be filled by individuals who will have the time and space to devote themselves to being at the cutting edge of theological reflection, discourse and writing from a reformed, evangelical perspective at the same time as being rooted in a deep love of God, reverence for his word and love and compassion for his creation and for the lost. We anticipate that these individuals, along with our present staff, will then gather around them some of the brightest Christian minds of this generation in Scotland, to sharpen them and prepare them to be the Christian teachers, preachers and leaders of the next generation both here in Scotland and to the ends of the earth.

But all of that needs investment on the part of those to whom the Lord has given the means and who have caught the vision that the knowledge of God must be given priority, that theology is indeed the queen of the sciences, and that theological education needs to become an absolute priority for us as it has always been for the Lord himself. Is the Lord calling you to be one of those who can enable this to happen in a new and significant way? If so, we would love to hear from you.

But HTC continues to be involved in theological education at more grassroots levels too. One of the most thrilling aspects of this past academic session for myself has been to see the hunger among the general Christian public from across a wide breadth of denominations as they came together weekly for classes I taught on Old Testament Overview – about an hour of solid bible teaching each week, interspersed with time for questions and answers. This is an aspect of the work that we want to continue as staff time allows – see later in this Newsletter for details for the coming semester.

One exciting new venture that we are launching in the autumn in collaboration with a number of local churches is an Apprenticeship Programme in which HTC will provide the formal theological education one or two days a week for apprentices who will serve for the rest of the week in local congregations. This Newsletter contains more information. It is our prayerful hope that as this work develops more and more congregations will be drawn into the programme and that we will see a new generation of Christian leaders beginning to emerge.

And this autumn HTC spreads its wings and moves into Glasgow too, to fill part of the gap for evangelical theological education left by the demise of International Christian College. Over the page you'll see more about this exciting initiative.

As I prepared to write this piece, I took time to listen once again to Rev Dr Sinclair Ferguson's address given on the occasion of the commissioning of Andrew McGowan and myself to the work of the college back in 1994. I would encourage any who feel stirred in their hearts by the Spirit of God as they read this to take the time to prayerfully listen to that address in which Sinclair shows clearly that throughout the whole history of the church great movements of renewal, revival and reformation have usually been preceded or accompanied by a significant investment in intensive theological education. Is the Lord calling you to invest your life in this? Or your means? Or your prayer time or other talents? If so we would love to hear from you.

Dr Ferguson's address can be found on the college web-site at www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/resources/audio-resources/celebratory-services

Hector Morrison, Principal

Glasgow, here we come!

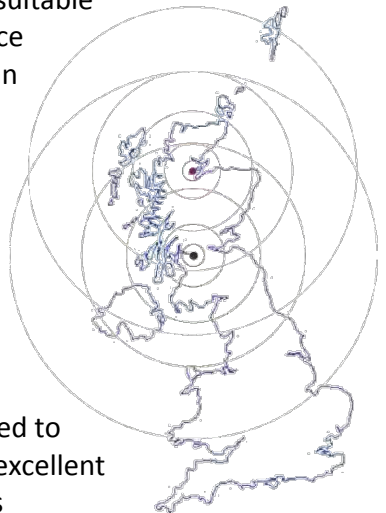


The countdown is on! In our previous two Newsletters we have intimated our hope for establishing a teaching facility in the Central Belt of Scotland. As this Newsletter goes to print, we are in the process of formalising an agreement with our Glasgow partner so that we can open classrooms to students from September 2015. This is an initial step towards providing what we hope will, in due time, progress towards the establishment of an HTC campus in Glasgow.

HTC students can use a variety of study modes. Some attend classes in the Dingwall campus; others use their computer at home to watch and listen to the lecture while it's taking place – they can even speak to their lecturer and classmates to ask questions etc as though they were in the classroom; those who are unavailable at the time of the lecture can view recordings at a time that suits them; or they can use a combination of methods appropriate to their individual circumstances. This tremendous flexibility allows many students to study through HTC who would otherwise find it difficult to study at a traditional university.

Notwithstanding the flexibility already offered to students, demand for provision by HTC to applicants in the Central Belt has been increasing yet some have indicated that distance-learning is unsuitable for their needs. To accommodate their preference for class-room based learning we have come to an arrangement with the United Free Church of Scotland to use part of their facilities at their head office in the centre of Glasgow to set up HTC classrooms. The venue is conveniently located for train, underground and bus travel and will comprise classrooms, fully equipped with high quality video-conferencing equipment, and a small library area.

This provision at Newton Place, Glasgow, is offered to Central Belt students as an enhancement to the excellent distance-learning service already offered and it is anticipated to be suitable for many but not all students. Some



students, including those with limited mobility, will still benefit from the convenience of studying at home.



This is a huge development for HTC. We are confident that God is leading us forward and we are excited about embarking on this new adventure with Him. We are very grateful to the Rev. John Fulton, General Secretary, and the Trustees of the United Free Church of Scotland for partnering with us to make this project possible and for their tremendous encouragement and excitement at being part of this work.

Be one of the first to use our new Glasgow classrooms! Applications being taken now for students to commence BA (Hons) Theological Studies degree-level study from September 2015.

HTC students benefit from the **university fees** rate which is **considerably lower than that of most independent bible or theological colleges.**

£

Most Scottish-resident students are **entitled to fee payment by SAAS** (the Students Awards Agency for Scotland) who can also offer student loans and other support. Depending on individual circumstances, 'Individual Learning Accounts' may also be available for part-time study.

?

HTC **scholarships** are available for other UK (non-Scottish-resident) students.

Registry, finance and all other enquiries will be dealt with through the main campus in Dingwall. Please contact htc@uhi.ac.uk or 01349 780000.

**Study full-time
or part-time**

classroom

- study 'on-campus'
- fellowship, support and interaction with peers
- contact with lecturers, etc

study at home

- convenience
- no travel
- fit in easily with other home-based commitments

Students benefit from Scholarships

Theological study is important for the future of the church. We need church leaders committed to God, grounded in a sound understanding of his Word and equipped to 'go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation' (Mark 16:15). For most students, however, good theological study is expensive and costs can be prohibitive to some.

For many years the Trustees of HTC have worked hard to establish scholarships. We are delighted to have received donations to HTC specifically for this purpose and through this generosity are now able to offer scholarships for theological study at undergraduate and postgraduate level. These scholarships were introduced only a few months ago and have already benefited some students.

At undergraduate level, most Scottish students receive funding towards the cost of their fees. Fees for other UK students outside Scotland are very high yet students are still attracted to HTC because of the evangelical ethos and flexible study arrangements.

Scholarships are available to support such 'RUK' students, either for full-time or part-time study whether they opt to attend the Dingwall campus or take their classes by distance-learning.

At postgraduate level, ministers and pastors are being offered scholarships to enable them to further their studies through the Master of Theology programme, benefiting not only themselves but their congregations too. Scholarships are also available for PhD students from outwith the EU who come across to Scotland to study at the

Dingwall campus.

Scholarships can make all the difference for a student, even the difference between being able to follow a call into ministry or not, relieving the distraction of financial pressure and allowing them to focus on their studies.

Maybe you remember your



student days and are grateful that you received a grant or scholarship to help with your expenses. If you would like to help a theology student and can contribute in some way towards the cost of their training we would be pleased to hear from you. One way could be to leave a gift in your will.

Scholarship details can be found on the 'Courses' area of our website www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses (click on the 'fees/funding' tab of the appropriate course). Questions relating to fees and funding should be addressed to the Finance Officer barbara.macphail@uhi.ac.uk or telephone +44(0)1349 780000.

Continuing Ministerial Development

- Postgraduate study for ministers and pastors
- Fits in with the study leave scheme of most denominations
- Generous scholarships of £2000 are available for full-time students (pro-rata for part-time students)
- Modules are delivered in week-long teaching blocks, making attendance more convenient for students who are already in full-time employment
- Options to exit at various levels:
 - simply choose individual module(s) of interest
 - postgraduate certificate
 - postgraduate diploma
 - MTh degree

Scholarships
£2000

Applications for the MTh programme are accepted from anyone with a good degree in theology, but the course is structured in such a way to make it accessible for those in full-time ministry.

MTh graduates have benefitted from the focussed reading, classroom time with like-minded students and personal development that this programme of study has brought.

Further details are available on our website at www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses/mth-master-of-theology or by contacting the [Registry Officer](#).

New Ministry Apprenticeship Programme

Apprenticeship schemes are widely used in lots of professions. The young apprentice learns his or her trade from the experienced worker. In a church setting, apprenticeship schemes provide an opportunity for 'trying out' whether full-time gospel ministry is right for the apprentice or can be a first step into full-time gospel ministry. We just have to read Paul's letters to Timothy for an example of early church apprenticeship.

Church apprenticeships are commonly 1 or 2 year placements where someone is engaged in gospel ministry and can experience something of the sort of Christian work they feel God is calling them into. The apprentice learns as they serve, and the congregation nurtures and supports them along the way while they are trained and mentored by the pastor.

HTC has teamed up with a number of local bible-teaching churches to offer a new Ministry Apprenticeship Programme to people investigating Christian work. The programme has four components: leadership, study, ministry and practical tasks, with much of the study element being offered through HTC.

Who is it for? Can I be an apprentice? Do you feel called to some kind of Christian work? Are you ready to work hard as you learn the ropes? Do you have a servant heart? Apprentices can be school-leavers, graduates, people taking a 'gap year', early retirees, or anyone looking for a career change.

What will I get out of it? As an apprentice, you'll become fully involved in the life and witness of a congregation. You'll be mentored by an experienced minister and nurtured by the congregation as you receive training in four main areas (leadership, study, ministry and practical tasks). At the end of your apprenticeship you'll have a good understanding of ministry in that local context and be well-equipped to apply for church-related employment or even to progress to training for pastoral ministry or other forms of Christian service.

Is it expensive? The congregation will make a contribution towards the cost of your training and we can give some advice about applying for grants too. The more support you can raise from friends, family and grants the less you will need to contribute towards your training and expenses. Specific costs will depend on the local situation.

I want to be part of this! What do I do now? Contact us for a list of churches taking part in the programme. Applications being taken **now** for a late August/early Sept start.



New!

Ministry Apprenticeship Programme

- *Leadership*
 - *Study*
 - *Ministry*
 - *Practical*

**Are you wondering how best you can serve God?
Exploring whether full-time Christian employment
is right for you? Unsure what to do next?**



- Church-based programme
- Stepping stone to church leadership
- Teaching provided through HTC
- 'On-the-job' training
- Skills for life

Participating Churches include:

Inshes Church, Inverness

Invergordon Church of Scotland

Kingsview Christian Centre, Inverness

Culloden Baptist Church (position already filled)

**Applications from committed, motivated individuals being accepted now to start late August/early September 2015.
For more information please contact us.**

Paul's Letter to the Church in Colosse

Wednesday afternoons, 2-3pm, in HTC, Dingwall

23rd September	Introduction: Colossians in Context
30th September	Growing and Bearing Fruit: The Gospel and Christian Maturity in Colossians
7th October	He Rescued You from the Dominion of Darkness: Salvation and Cosmic Conflict in Colossians
21st October	Christ, Creation and New Creation in Colossians
28th October	When Christ, who is your life, appears: The End Times in Colossians
4th November	Pattern for Life: Paul's Emphasis on Community in Colossians

For

in him

all the

fullness OF GOD

was pleased to dwell, and

through him **GOD** *was pleased to*

reconcile to himself all things,

whether on earth or in heaven, by making

peace *through the blood* of his **CROSS.**

Rev Dr Alistair Wilson, New Testament Lecturer

Easy-to-follow classes, no essays or exams!

All welcome

Suggested donation £5 per class

Any changes to these details
will be posted on
our website or
facebook
page

Col. 1:19-20



Old Testament Overview

Recordings of these classes taught by Reverend Hector Morrison, Principal, during Spring 2015 are available on our website at www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/resources/audio-resources



ECDL and Beginners' Computing Classes



Level of Beginners' Computing course will depend on demand. Topics covered likely to include:

- Learning about computers and familiarisation with the PC
- Basic Word Processing
- Basic Spreadsheets
- Basic File Management
- Internet and Email
- Presentations

Mondays, Commencing August 2015. For further details please contact Jack Sutherland on 07768 972226 or 01349 780000

Congratulations to our Students



Successful Viva

Danny Zacharias, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Acadia Divinity College, Nova Scotia, successfully defended his PhD thesis on '*Matthew's Presentation of the Son of David: Davidic Tradition and Typology in the Gospel of Matthew*'.

Ordinations and Inductions

Joe Barnard [CertHE 2001] was inducted as minister of Kiltarlity Free Church of Scotland.

Angela Brydson [BA 2012] was set apart as a Deaconess in the Church of Scotland in Lockerbie.

John Murray [BA (Hons) 2012] was inducted as minister of Kilmuir and Stenscholl Church of Scotland at the north end of Skye.

Dan Paterson [BA 2008] was inducted as minister of Poolewe and Aultbea Free Church of Scotland.



Wedding

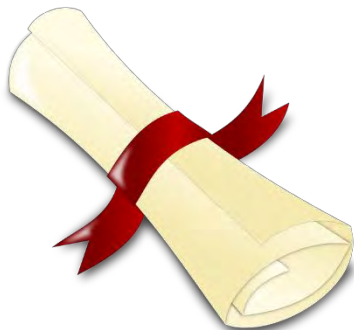
Congratulations to **Ross Collins** [BA (Hons) 2010] and Alison Bell on their marriage in Northern Ireland in April. Ross is the minister of Ballywatt Church, part of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology



Order your copy of the Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology (SBET) volume 33.1 now by contacting us on +44(0)1349 780000 or sbet.htc@uhi.ac.uk

Backcopies of most issues of SBET are available at a substantially reduced price. If you have gaps in your collection or would like to set up a subscription just get in touch.



Graduation

The 2015 Graduation and Awards Ceremony will be held on **Friday 25th September** in Castle Street Church, Dingwall. Friends and relatives are encouraged to attend.

Open Learning Conference Day

These twice-yearly events give distance learning students (many of whom are working on weekdays) opportunities to attend the campus, meet lecturers and fellow students, hear lectures and use the library. Visitors also attend, some just to get to know more about the college, others with a view to commencing studies.

The date of the next Conference Day is **Saturday 24th October**.

For further information see

www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/visiting-htc

A recording of the Plenary Paper

Matthew Henry: Prince of Bible Commentators

presented by Rev Dr Nick Needham at the March 2015 Conference Day is available on the website at www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/resources/audio-resources/access-ba-conference-days

Typical programme for Access/BA Conference Day

10.00 – 10.30	Registration and Coffee
10.30 – 10.45	Welcome/Introductions
10.45 – 11.30	Worship
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee Break
11.45 – 12.45	Plenary Paper
12.45 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 3.00	Tutorial Sessions for students
3.00 – 3.15	Coffee Break
3.15 – 4.00	Discussion
4.00	Departures



! Care about Theological Education!



We trust that

you are inspired by

the exciting new ventures that HTC is becoming involved in at present, in particular stimulating the training of future leadership in the churches through its new Ministry Apprenticeship

Programme being organised with local churches

from various denominations; and also moving into

Glasgow to fill the gap in evangelical theological education

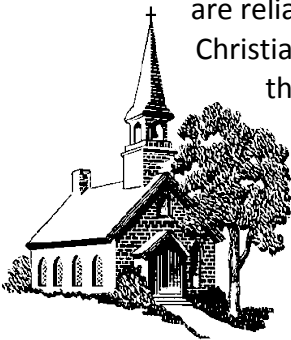
at degree level left by the demise of International Christian College.

No evangelical provider of theological education and training Scotland today *that is engaged at all levels of theological education, from grass roots congregational level right up to PhD provision*, has the flexibility and reach of HTC, enabling many to access theological education and prepare for a variety of ministries from the comfort of their own homes as well as on-campus. This flexibility is going to be increasingly important in the coming years not least as Christian folks in long-term vacant charges respond to the call to prepare themselves for providing local theological and ministerial leadership.

Yet HTC has the financial backing of no denomination and of no significant benefactors. Beyond the funding received for students, which does not cover anywhere near the cost of providing that education, we

are reliant on donations from a significant number of individual Christians and from a very small number of local churches. At

this time of our annual appeal for funding, please consider whether you can support us financially to continue training men and women of God who will help to put the word of God back into the heart of the churches and into the life of our communities. 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 credit of Highland Theological College Donations 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 _____

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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** Thank you.

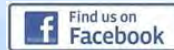
- If your mailing details are incorrect please let us know.
- It is cheaper to send communications by email. If you are happy to receive communications by email instead of by post please let us know.
- If you know of anyone else who would like to be kept informed of HTC's work please encourage them to send us their details so that we can mail or email them too.



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A Community of Faith and Scholarship



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