

1994 – 2014

*Celebrating 20 years of
Faith and Scholarship*

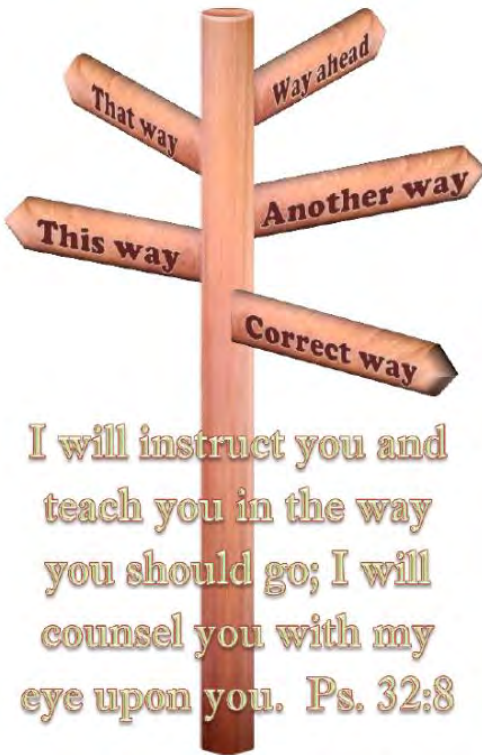


University of the
Highlands and Islands
Highland Theological
College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste Dhiadhachd
na Gàidhealtachd

Newsletter Winter 2014

On a recent Sunday morning in the church I attend, one of the young ladies in the congregation was given an opportunity to share with the congregation a little of what the Lord had been teaching her in recent times. She shared with us very openly about the way in which, at an



earlier stage of her life, she had worked out a particular plan for her life without taking the Lord or his will for her into account, and certainly not making that the priority. Instead she had decided to pursue a path of her own choosing, something that she was particularly interested in and enjoyed. But during the past year it became more and more clear to her that the Lord had another plan for her life, and as she began to take more notice of that growing sense that the Lord was nudging her in a different direction, his will for her became more and more important to her, and the more she prayed and the more she searched the scriptures, the more convinced she

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Celebrating 20 years of Faith and Scholarship

became that the Lord wanted her to prepare herself more fully for his work and service. So she has since begun a year-long programme that is going to combine some basic theological and biblical training with some very practical mission work, alongside serving a local church. As this young lady shared with us, one of the verses of Scripture she read to us was Isaiah 61:4: ***‘They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations’*** – words that have been a great source of encouragement to me in these past weeks.

What a vision these words present to us of the purposes of God, not simply for the Old Testament people of God after the exile, or for the Early Church following on, as they do, verses in which Jesus saw his own ministry and its impact depicted (see Luke 4:17-21). Surely these words are also relevant for our day? For is the church of Jesus Christ not now the prophetic body of Christ on earth, anointed by the Spirit of the living God and sent by the living God ***‘to evangelise the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives ... to comfort all who mourn ... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair’*** (Isaiah 61:1-3)?

I find it deeply encouraging to see young people, like the one mentioned above, whose lives have been impacted by the Spirit-anointed ministry of the body of Christ and who want above everything else to live for Christ and to do his will. I see more of them appearing in HTC, and I hear of them appearing in other colleges and on other training programmes too. Are these not the first of those who will in their generation be used of God to rebuild the ancient spiritual and moral ruins of our land and other lands? Let’s pray for an increasing number of young men and women – and not so young ones too! – who will be ready to follow the nudging of the Spirit rather than the desires of their own ambitions, and who, in response to the call of Christ on their lives, will be ready to deny self, take up their cross and follow the One who took up his cross in the Glory of the Father’s presence and bore it all the way – through incarnation, baptism and intense years of ministry – to Gethsemane and ultimately to Calvary, in love for the broken-hearted, the captives, the mourning and despairing of our ruined spiritual and moral landscapes. It is, after all, those who lose their life in this way for Christ and his good news who will save it.

Hector Morrison, Principal

Appointment of new lecturer in New Testament

It is with regret that we announce that **Dr Jason Maston**, New Testament lecturer, will end his appointment with HTC in December, having accepted the position of Chair, Department of Theology and Assistant Professor of Theology at Houston Baptist University in Houston, Texas. Jason joined the HTC teaching staff in January 2010. He has been a key member of the team and a very popular and effective lecturer and supervisor. His decision to leave HTC has not been an easy one but he is excited about the post he will take up at HBU. We wish Jason, his wife Erin and their three children every blessing for the future.



The position of New Testament lecturer will be filled by **Rev Dr Alistair Wilson**. Alistair is well known to many of the HTC community, having already been part of the staff team here for almost a decade. After leaving HTC in 2005 Alistair took up a lecturing post in Dumisani Theological Institute, South Africa, and shortly afterwards was appointed Principal. We are excited to welcome him back to HTC and pray that the departure of Alistair, Jenny and their family from South Africa will not be unduly unsettling for the Dumisani community.

Other Staff News

We are sorry to lose **Naomi Scott** as our cleaner. Naomi and her husband Matthew both graduated this year and have moved away from the area. We wish them every blessing in the ministry God calls them to. Naomi is replaced by **Michelle Burns**. We welcome Michelle to the team and love her enthusiasm and cheery smile.



Celebrating 20 years of Faith and Scholarship

Student News

We note with sadness the passing of **Cath MacKinven** [BA student] following a stroke. Cath had been based at West Highland College UHI and usually accessed classes by video-conference but made occasional visits to HTC to see her lecturers and to use the library.



Congratulations to Craig & **Deanne Rendall** [BA student] who got married in July. Their wedding was in Dingwall and it was lovely that they stopped in at HTC on their special day.

HTC student wins the Fraser Prize

At a time when more of the British population has taken an active interest in politics than ever before, the title for **Margaret Whyte's** essay was certainly eye-catching: *Is the Referendum question a theological question?* In her article, Margaret argued that it is and urged her readers, whether 'yes', 'no', or 'undecided', to make it a matter of personal and corporate prayer. The Fraser Prize panel commended Margaret on the quality of her essay and the clarity of her argument, something which her HTC tutors have also noted during the course of her studies. Margaret's winning essay is published in the current edition of *Theology in Scotland* (vol.21.2).



Enrolment of New Students



The new academic session saw the enrolment of 25 new students onto the BA (Hons) Theological Studies degree programme, bringing the total number of students across the four levels of this programme to 105. Students are training for a wide range of Christian work, including Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Currently one third of all the Church of Scotland candidates for full-time ministry and ordained local ministry (OLM) are studying with HTC. Candidates for ministry in other denominations are training at HTC too.

PhD Revalidation and New PhD students

We welcome three new PhD students this academic year, two from the USA and one from the UK. They commence their studies only weeks after the five-yearly revalidation of the PhD programme. At the revalidation event the panel scrutinised HTC's postgraduate provision and commended it in several areas. They made particular note of the excellent supervision of PhD students and the great support they receive whether they are studying on campus or at a distance. Congratulations to Dr Jamie Grant, postgraduate coordinator, and others on such a successful outcome.

PhD Success



Congratulations to **Yaroslav (Slava) Viazovski** who successfully defended his PhD thesis on the subject of 'A Quest for Wholeness and Hope: A Comparative Study of the Ontological Anthropology of John Calvin and Karl Barth'. Slava is a pastor in Minsk, Belarus.

Ordinations, Inductions and Appointments

Murdo Campbell [BA 2011] ordained and inducted as minister of Barvas Free Church.

Robert Cleland [BA 2007] inducted as minister of Ardersier and Petty Church of Scotland.

Janet Davidson [BA 2012] appointed as Pastoral Supervisor in the NHS.

David Kirk [BA (Hons) 2010; PhD student] ordained and inducted as assistant minister of Kilmallie and Ardnamurchan Free Church.

Amanda MacQuarrie [MTh 2014] ordained and introduced as Associate Minister at Camelon Parish Church, Falkirk.

Mike Robertson [BA 2012] ordained and inducted as minister of The Barn (Church of Scotland), Culloden.

Warm congratulations! We wish each of them, along with their families and congregations, God's rich blessing on their ministries.



20th Anniversary

We would like to apologise for the error we made in the Summer 2014 Newsletter. In the '20th Anniversary' section telling the history of the College we said that Andrew McGowan and Hector Morrison met in Feb'94 with Dr Robert Cormack. It was, of course, Dr Robert Chalmers with whom Andrew and Hector met and who helped so much in the early days in Moray College, Elgin. We apologise for the error.

20th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Inverness, 2nd May The recording of the service is available on our website at www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/20th-anniversary/thanksgiving-service

Commemorative Service, Stornoway, 15th August Students and graduates took part in this special service which was held in Martin's Memorial Church. A recording is available on the website at www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/20th-anniversary/stornoway%20event



Public Talk, Elgin, 28th August Rev Dr Tim Grass gave a very engaging and interesting talk on theologian FF Bruce who was born in Elgin in 1910 and had strong personal connections with the Elgin/Moray area. '*FF Bruce, A lay Christian in a Secular University*'. Details can be found on our website at

www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/20th-anniversary/ffbruce

Public Talk, Inverness, 31st October Journalist and author Harry Reid spoke on how the Christian faith influenced the life and writings of eminent 20th century Scottish writers, in particular John Buchan, author of *The Thirty Nine Steps*. For a recording see our website at www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/20th-anniversary/john-buchan



HTC in Glasgow?

As we go to press with this newsletter we are in negotiations with a Glasgow-based Christian organisation with whom we hope to partner as we move towards setting up a satellite campus in Glasgow. The intention is to have a mixture of teaching from Glasgow-based staff and from Dingwall by means of video-conferencing. We would hope to have a first intake in September 2015. If anyone is interested please get in touch. HTC has, of course, a number of students from the Glasgow area at present studying from home. Such a satellite facility would also benefit all such.

Library Project

Although one of the smallest and youngest colleges in the UHI partnership, HTC has one of the largest and most significant libraries amounting to around 65,000 volumes. Students, and occasional visitors who also use the facilities, appreciate the enormous wealth of resources available to them for their studies. A significant proportion of the huge library collection has come from donations for which we are very grateful, some large collections from libraries and some small personal collections from individuals. Physically fitting all the books into the limited space available, in such a way that items can be easily accessed by students, had been something of a 'problem' for Martin Cameron, HTC Librarian, but thanks to the generosity of three major funders a system of mobile shelving has been installed in one of the library rooms enabling about twice as much to be fitted into the room compared with the traditional shelving that was there previously. We are grateful to the JW Laing Trust, the Pilgrim Trust and Mr and Mrs R Macintyre for providing substantial funding towards this major project. In future we hope to fit similar mobile shelving into another of the library rooms, further improving the accessibility of our collections for users.



The old shelving full of books



Moving the contents of the library into storage



Getting the infrastructure in place



New mobile shelving installed



Starting to get the shelves filled again

🏰 20 years of Faith and Scholarship

🏰 20 intakes of students

🏰 20 years of teaching and training

🏰 20 groups of graduates now teaching, preaching and bringing Christ's love to a needy world

Celebrating 20 years of Faith and Scholarship

Scholarships

BA (Hons) Theological Studies: Some scholarships are available

to RUK (UK outside Scotland) students for studying either full-time or part-time. Students can be based either on-campus or at home. Applications for studies commencing in September 2015 are being taken now.

Master of Theology: Substantial scholarships of £2000 are

available for all students enrolling on the taught MTh programme to start in September 2015 for either full-time or part-time study.

PhD: Two part-scholarships are available for applicants from outwith the EU applying for full-time PhD study on-campus. These scholarships offer a 50% reduction in fees over the three years of full-time PhD studies. Applications are being taken now.

Further 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). All questions relating to fees and funding should be addressed to the Finance Officer barbara.macphail@uhi.ac.uk or telephone +44(0)1349 780000.

Taught MTh programme

Scholarships available for Sept'15 start

Ideal CPD course

Particularly suitable for those in full-time pastoral ministry or who desire to enter Christian ministry

Modules taught in one week blocks throughout the year – students study on-campus for the teaching weeks but can be based at home or on-campus the rest of the time

Full-time 1 year or
part-time 2 years

Choice of three pathways:

- MTh Theological Studies
- MTh Reformed Theology
- MTh Pastoral Theology

Lecturers include:

- Professor Gerald Bray
- Professor Paul Helm
- Rev Prof Andrew McGowan
- Rev Dominic Smart

Choice of modules includes:

- History of Reformed Theology
- Scottish Covenant Theology
 - Calvin and Calvinism
- Reformed Theology and Pastoral Ministry
 - Method in Reformed Theology
 - Zwingli and the Swiss Reformation
 - Romans in the Reformed Tradition
- The Study of Spirituality in its Christian Context
 - Counselling and Pastoral Care
- Christian Communication in a Post-Modern World
 - Chaplaincy Ministry
 - Homiletics

Access to Christian Theology

INTRODUCTORY OFFER FOR NEW STUDENTS

Interested in finding out about theology? Want to try a bit of study at an accessible level? Need to fit study in whenever suits you around lots of other commitments? Can't attend college, prefer to study at home? Haven't studied for a long time? Think studying is for other people?



- Suitable for anyone who would like to study theology at a basic level
- Ideal for those who simply wish to understand their bible better and find out more about theology, either just for personal growth and interest or to give confidence to participate in or lead bible study groups, church worship, etc
- Also perfect for anyone who would like to study theology at degree level but just needs a helping hand to get up to that level to get started
- The six modules, which include an introductory 'getting-into-the-way-of-studying' module, cover the main subject areas, namely Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, Systematic Theology and Pastoral Theology
- Can be studied at home, at your own pace *OR* also available as a full-time tutor-led course in a classroom setting, completed in one academic year
- Modules structured in an easy-to-follow way that leads the student from one piece of work to the next. Full tutor support available. As a rough guide, each module comprises 15 units with each unit taking about 4 hours to complete
- For more information or to enrol please contact the Registry Officer on 01349 780000 or emily.hamilton@uhi.ac.uk

The 'part-time, study-at-home' Access to Christian Theology course is priced at £160 per module (on a pay-as-you-go basis) BUT WE ARE OFFERING THE FIRST MODULE AT HALF PRICE TO NEW STUDENTS UNTIL 31/03/15. Register before 31st March 2015 and pay only £80. Offer limited to new students only.

Bursaries are available to most full-time on-campus students. Contact the Finance Officer for more details.

Graduation and Awards Ceremony 2014

The 20th Graduation and Awards Ceremony service was held in Dingwall Free Church. Professor Ian Bryden, UHI Vice-Principal (Research), presented the UHI awards along with the Rev Dr Bruce Ritchie, chairman of the board of Governors. Following the presentation of awards, Dr Mark Stirling, pastor of Cornerstone St Andrews and director of the Chalmers Centre, gave a very appropriate message on the theme 'True Wisdom for Life'. A recording of the service is available on our website at www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/studying-at-htc/graduations/graduation-and-award-ceremonies



Access Certificate in Christian Theology

This award is given to those completing Access to Christian Theology within two years.

Calum Cameron, Douglas Campbell, Marlane Cash and Jodie Cleary were presented with this award. Calum and Jodie had studied the course on-campus and both have continued their studies with HTC by progressing on to the BA Theological Studies programme. Douglas and Marlane studied the Access course by distance learning.



Certificate of Higher Education in Theological Studies

This award is given to those completing the first year of the Theological Studies degree programme.

Lewis Campbell, Margaret Grant, Michael McKean and Naomi Scott were presented with this award.



Diploma in Higher Education in Theological Studies

The Diploma is given to those completing two years of the Theological Studies degree programme.

Jonathan Appleby, Thomas Cromie, Peter McLaren and Robert Norman were presented with this award.



Bachelor of Arts in Theological Studies

This award is given to those completing three years of the Theological Studies degree programme.

Peter Chilvers, Janet Easton-Berry, Janice Guthrie, Anthony Clifford Izod, Jonathan Johnson, David Rowlands, Matthew Scott, Allan Shearer, Charlotte Smeed, Michael Thompson and Paul Tuthill were presented with this award.

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Theological Studies

This award is given to those completing four years of the Theological Studies degree programme.

Jean Boyd, Farquhar Forbes, Claire Ireland, Regan King, Ryan King, Stuart McKinlay and Mary Memia were presented with this award.

Five **postgraduate awards** were presented this year.

Master of Theology: Amanda MacQuarrie completed the one-year taught MTh programme.

PhD: There were three PhD awards. Steven Adamson's research was on the apologetics of Thomas Chalmers. Rosalind Clarke's thesis was on the Canonical Interpretations of the Song of Songs. Keith Loftin's research was on 'Time and Eternity: a study of the 'Accidental Temporalist' view.'

Doctor of Ministry: Maurice Wade completed the DMin postgraduate programme. His dissertation title was 'Expository and Contextual Preaching in the 21st Century'.



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Other UHI Programmes

In addition to having theology students, HTC hosts students on a number of other UHI programmes. These students normally receive lectures by video-conference from other UHI colleges. (Reciprocal arrangements exist whereby theology students can access their classes from other UHI campuses, eg Perth and Stornoway.)

Bachelor of Arts in Scottish Cultural Studies:

Sarah Munro

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Scottish Cultural Studies:

Theadra Young

It was a privilege to award a number of **Additional HTC Awards:**

An **'Access Endeavour' Award** was presented to James Boyd.

The **'HTC Endeavour' Award** was presented to Natasha Sutherland in recognition of her hard work and commitment despite challenging circumstances. Natasha is currently studying on the BA Theological Studies degree programme, using a combination of on-campus and distance learning modes.

HTC Student of the Year

Farquhar Forbes produced work of exceptional quality throughout the duration of his studies and graduated with a first class honours degree. He represented the students on committees at various levels within HTC and UHI, always making helpful, thoughtful and significant contributions on their behalf and diligently feeding back information to them. Being a candidate in training for full-time ministry, he had to produce a significant amount of work for the Church of Scotland in addition to his HTC studies. He balanced his workload with all the demands of a busy family life and various commitments in his local church. Farquhar was the very worthy winner of the HTC Student of the Year award for our 20th anniversary year.



Honorary UHI Fellowship: Reverend Alexander Murray

It was a special joy this year to see the award of Honorary Fellowship of the University of the Highlands and Islands conferred on the Rev Alexander Murray in recognition of his tremendous services to education in the Highlands and Islands over 50 years. Mr Murray was instrumental in the establishment of both the university and HTC and served as Chairman of HTC's Board of Governors for almost 18 years from its inception. Part of the citation read: *'For his faithful work as a Highland Councillor over many years; for his services to education in the Highlands; for his spirit of ecumenicity; for his commitment to the idea and then to working diligently for the reality of a University of the Highlands and Islands; for the dedication shown in his role as first Chair of the Board of HTC for almost 18 years; and for much more besides, this Honorary Fellowship of the University of the Highlands and Islands is awarded to the Reverend Alexander Murray.'* It was a moving tribute and the congregation applauded heartily, clearly recognising the enormous impact Mr Murray's efforts have made on the Highlands and Islands.

The ceremony was a special event for everyone involved and congratulations are expressed to all who received awards. This special graduation was the twentieth in the history of the College and brought the total numbers of graduates on the Access programme to over 80, on the degree programme to almost 200 and on the postgraduate programmes to over 60. As well as the increasing numbers of HTC graduates in pulpits of various denominations in Scotland and throughout the UK, we note the many other countries in which HTC graduates are at work including Belgium, France, Romania, Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Somalia, Philippines, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, Pakistan, Middle East, Columbia, Canada and USA.



Thanks to Vhairi Walker mycamerastories@yahoo.co.uk for providing some of the Graduation photographs.

Celebrating 20 years of Faith and Scholarship

Benefits and Misconceptions of being part of UHI

Being part of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) brings many



benefits to HTC, including being part of the best and mostly widely-used video-conferencing network in Scotland. This technology allows students who cannot come to Dingwall to join classes from distant, sometimes very remote, locations.

They can see and hear what's going on in the classroom and can even talk to their lecturers and classmates as though they were in the same room. Without this type of technology many students would have been unable to

study theology without leaving home, family, work, church and other commitments. Students who cannot physically get to campus daily to attend classes know that by studying through HTC they can receive a high quality of education



in a mode and location that is convenient to them. The majority of HTC's students use this mode of study. We're good at it. If you feel God is calling you to study theology but you're not able to attend a traditional university campus consider studying through HTC. The convenience, flexibility, quality and high standards will impress you.



'Being part of UHI means that HTC doesn't need financial help any more.' **Wrong!!** It costs about one third more, on average, to train a student than the fees that we receive to do so. This is why there is always a funding gap, so the need for us to rely on donation support.

Being part of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) doesn't change this. We've noticed a drop in our donation income since 2011 when university title was granted and we've heard people (wrongly!) say that our funding is '*sorted now, being part of UHI*'.

Each of the UHI colleges is responsible for its own finances. HTC continues to rely heavily on donations. Please continue to support us, as you are able, so that we can continue to train the next generation of Christian leaders. 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 _____

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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

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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.

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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.

Old Testament Overview Classes

Want to understand how the Old Testament fits together?

...from Pentateuch to Prophecy...

...from Creation to Covenant...

...from History to His Story...

Once a week (day and time to be confirmed) for 1-2 hours during daytime. End of January – mid April (12 weeks) in Dingwall. Easy-to-follow classes, no essays or exams! Contact us in January for day/time and any other final details.

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 14th March 2015**. For further information see

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



Photographs from previous Conference Days

- 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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