

# Newsletter



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Highland Theological  
College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste Dhiadhachd  
na Gàidhealtachd

## Summer 2021

*Graduate news,  
student news,  
staff news*

*Coping with  
the COVID-19  
situation*

*UHI news*

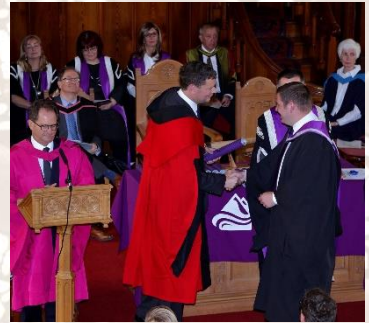
*And more...*

*A Community of Faith and Scholarship*

## Ordinations, Inductions, Appointments and Movements of Graduates

**Andrew Brown** [BA 2020] – Taking place during the COVID-19 restrictions, numbers attending Andrew's ordination service as minister of Craigmalen United Free Church of Scotland, Bo'ness, were strictly limited. The service was aired on YouTube so that family, friends and congregation who were unable to attend in person were able to watch.

**Fraser Edwards** [BA 2019] – Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn Parish Church have a new minister. Fraser's ordination and induction service took place in February. Like Andrew's service, numbers were restricted and the service was available online for those unable to attend.



**Andrew Ellison** [BA 2020] – The Ordination and Appointment service for Andrew to Northfield United Free Church of Scotland took place with a small number present in the church but a large number watching the service as it was livestreamed over YouTube on the North Presbytery channel.

**John Gow** [BA 2019] – John's ordination and induction service as minister of Portsoy Church of Scotland took place in St Ninian's and Forglen Church in Turriff (where Kevin Gruer [BA 2010] is minister). The Turriff venue was chosen to make it easier to livestream the service via YouTube.



**Peter Mackenzie** [BA (Hons) 2008] – Following almost 13 years as pastor of Bulkington Congregational Church, Warwickshire, Peter has moved to pastures new. He was inducted as pastor of Melbourne Hall Evangelical Free Church, Leicester, which was founded by the famous evangelist and author FB Meyer.

**Jonathan Master** [PhD 2012] – Previously Dean of Cairn University's Divinity School, Pennsylvania, Jonathan moved to Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, South Carolina, in July last year and was formally inaugurated as its President in a special ceremony earlier this year. During his time with HTC, Jonathan's research was in the field of Historical Theology, specifically the doctrine of assurance in the Westminster Confession and in the writings of Anthony Burgess. His work was supervised by Rev Dr Nick Needham and Dr Robert Shillaker. Many of our American PhD graduates are in senior roles in seminaries and bible colleges, thus involved in the education and training of the next generation of students.



**Cate Otnes** [BA (Hons) 2020] – Cate is currently undertaking a Master of Theology degree at Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

**Dorothy Wallace** [BA 2019] – Dorothy was called to be minister of West Lochfyneside Parish Church in Argyll. Her ordination and induction service took place in April with a small number present and many friends and family watching on YouTube.



*We don't always hear about where our graduates are so if you've got news to share please let us know!*



## **New Degree for RMPS Teachers**

Academic staff at HTC have also been heavily involved in the development of a new four-year undergraduate teacher training programme for RE teachers in Scotland. The resulting BA (Hons) Moral and Philosophical Studies with Religious Education degree programme has been successfully approved and validated and will be available from September 2021. Traditionally it has taken students five years to train as RMPS teachers; this new programme will allow students to train in four years.

[www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/ba-hons-moral-and-philosophical-studies-with-religious-education](http://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/ba-hons-moral-and-philosophical-studies-with-religious-education)

## **Ministry candidates**

HTC continues to be a popular choice for Church of Scotland ministry candidates with around 30 students currently studying with HTC. Around two thirds of these are training for full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament, with the remaining third for Ordained Local Ministry (OLM) or Lay Readership. HTC is also an approved college for ministry candidates of the United Free Church of Scotland and the Associate Presbyterian Churches.

HTC is not just for students of these denominations! Students from a number of denominations study at HTC and graduates have gone into ministry in Baptist, Independent and Congregational churches as well as Presbyterian churches in England, Ireland, Wales and further afield.

[www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/study-at-htc/what-can-i-study/ministry-training](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/study-at-htc/what-can-i-study/ministry-training)

A pair of glasses is visible at the top of the page, and a notebook with a pen is visible at the bottom. The background is a light, textured surface.

## Applications

We're encouraged by a good number of applications by students wishing to start on HTC courses in September 2021. Application numbers for the BA (Hons) Theological Studies programme are up on the same time last year and we have had a lot of interest in the Access Course.

*We still have places available and would encourage anyone keen on starting any of our courses to apply now.* Details are on the courses area of our website [www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses).

Prospective PhD students are especially encouraged to apply. They should, in the first instance, email [htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk) expressing an interest in postgraduate study. This should be accompanied by a full cv (resumé), together with a 500 word outline of the proposed area of study. We look forward to hearing from you!

## **Conference Day cancelled**

Unfortunately the Spring Conference Day couldn't go ahead in its usual format due to COVID-19 restrictions. Instead, lecturers organised additional online sessions and other ways to chat with students outwith class time to provide extra help and support. The students also set up lots of video-conferenced chat groups amongst themselves to support one another and try to make up for the lack of face-to-face contact time. We hope to have the Conference Days open to visitors again in future when we're able to hold events on campus.

## **Graduation**

The list of 2021 graduates has not been published yet – you'll need to wait until the next Newsletter for that list! As you can imagine, there have been lots of discussions about whether a ceremony can go ahead this year. We are following the advice of the Scottish Government and our colleagues in UHI. Safety is our top priority and there are still too many uncertainties for us to be able to announce plans for any in-person event.

## **Weekly Worship Meetings**

Our weekly worship meetings throughout semester continued despite COVID-19. With services held online, it was easier to draw in speakers from further afield to lead worship. Just some of the speakers we have had this past semester have been Nigel Kenny of the Christian Institute, Rev Jane Howitt of St Rollox Church, Sighthill, Rev Robert Adair of Alness Baptist Church, and Rev Prof Andrew McGowan of the Rutherford Centre for Reformed Theology.

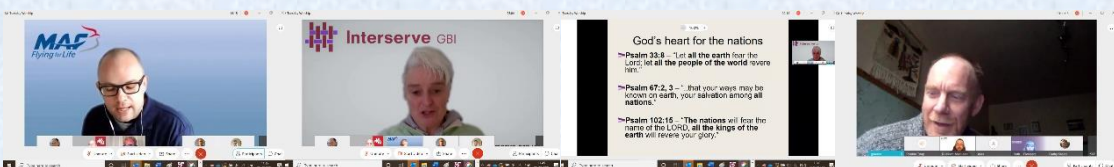
## Mission Tour

The annual ‘mission tour’ took place online this year with the theme “Mission : Cover to Cover [The Bible as a Mission Manual]”. Many thanks to representatives of ENGAGE:World Mission Advisors, including

- Graeme Simpson and Ruth Box – Pioneers
- Douglas Craig – WEC
- Grace Penny – Interserve
- Robbie Toop – Mission Africa
- Chris Macrae – MAF
- Ruairidh MacLean – UFM
- Lesley De Blicke – Echoes International
- Philip Rose – OM
- Kenny Mckee – Global Recordings
- June Beveridge – SIM

Apologies if we missed anyone out!

Most of us are familiar, at least to some extent, with the work of so many mission agencies but it’s always a great opportunity for students to meet and talk to representatives who are passionate about mission overall, not just the work of the individual agency they’re part of. Over the years, several HTC students have become involved in overseas mission as a direct result of conversations sparked at the ‘mission tour’.





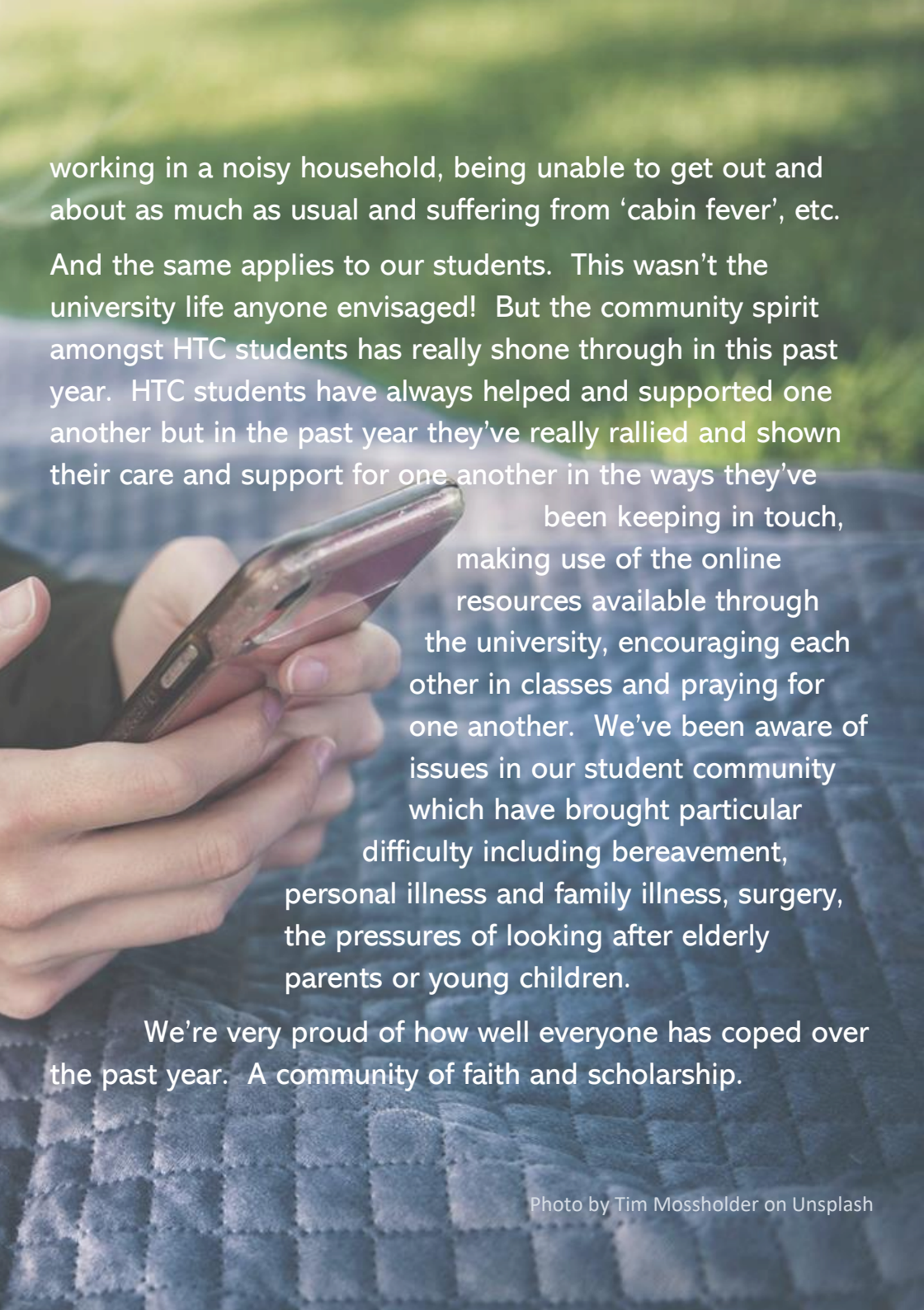


## **Working/studying from home**

We're well over a year into the pandemic and the changes that it has brought about in our daily living. We've been forced to become accustomed to things we've not chosen. It's been difficult not seeing our friends and family, our church family, our work colleagues, the people in our communities, those we used to meet in the shops, our hairdresser...! We've all had to adjust.

Thankfully UHI is a university which is used to working over a dispersed area and making use of technology to communicate with one another, so many of the tools were already in place when staff across the partnership were all faced with working from home. Ensuring everyone had access to the computers (and broadband) and everything else required to continue doing their job took time and effort and at first many were unsettled at the new regime. Over a year on, we're used to it but it's taken its toll in many ways... the feeling of social isolation, having children at home during school-hours,





working in a noisy household, being unable to get out and about as much as usual and suffering from 'cabin fever', etc.

And the same applies to our students. This wasn't the university life anyone envisaged! But the community spirit amongst HTC students has really shone through in this past year. HTC students have always helped and supported one another but in the past year they've really rallied and shown their care and support for one another in the ways they've been keeping in touch, making use of the online resources available through the university, encouraging each other in classes and praying for one another. We've been aware of issues in our student community which have brought particular difficulty including bereavement, personal illness and family illness, surgery, the pressures of looking after elderly parents or young children.

We're very proud of how well everyone has coped over the past year. A community of faith and scholarship.

**How well do you know the HTC team?** Over the next few Newsletters we hope to introduce you to some of the team you may not know so well. This time we'll introduce **Rev Mike Rattenbury.**



Mike Rattenbury is a part-time lecturer, working mostly with third year BA students. He began teaching Christian Spirituality in 2019 and started co-ordinating the placements last year so he's still fairly new to the team.

He grew up in Kent and trained at London Bible College (now LST).

Over about a 20 year period he was the minister of three very different evangelical churches (FIEC) in Yorkshire and Lancashire: one small town church, one rural church, and one inner city church. In 1999, still in Yorkshire, he became a hospice chaplain then in 2005 he moved to the Highlands to work at Highland Hospice, until 2017.

When asked what he likes best about HTC, Mike replied *"I've really enjoyed the college environment, and being with both staff and students. Being asked to teach the Christian Spirituality module at HTC was remarkably timely and has been unbelievably refreshing!"* And about lockdown, *"I'm used to working from home. Where we stay is surrounded by a working farm, so lock-down has been easier for us than for many but it'll be good to see other people once more. What we often miss are the casual, spontaneous, workplace conversations that are often so stimulating and encouraging."*

Mike is married to Carol and they have a grown-up family and grandchildren.

## Board of Governors

We are grateful to David Fraser for his dedication to HTC through serving on the Board of Governors for the past six years. David's expertise was in the area of Estates and Health and Safety. During his time on the Board David was instrumental in driving forward a number of projects, and his advice on work to develop our new HTC-Paisley base was especially appreciated.

As David steps down from his role he is replaced by Fraser Stewart. Fraser, we give you a warm welcome and look forward to working with you on our Board.

So the current list of governors is:

- Steve Adamson
- Jamie Grant
- Catherine MacKenzie
- Donald MacKenzie
- Moira McCarrell
- Hector Morrison
- Stuart Smith (Chairman)
- Fraser Stewart



We're grateful to each of them for their expertise and commitment.

More information, including a list of teaching staff and support staff, is available on [www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/about-us](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/about-us).



## UHI news

### UHI tenth birthday

It was on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 that the Privy Council officially awarded the UHI partnership university status. This was a monumental occasion for UHI and for the wider Highlands and Islands community. Having a university in this part of Scotland had been a dream for centuries but the ancient Scottish universities were established in the big centres of population, not in areas like ours. Consequently, when school leavers chose to go to university they had to leave the area – the classic ‘brain drain’.

The establishment of UHI meant that students had a choice to stay locally if they wished, or move away to ‘the bright lights’. Not only that, many of the flagship courses in UHI actually draw students



from outwith the area to study here. Theology is one of these hugely important courses for UHI. HTC draws theology students from not just across Scotland but from across the world! Shortly after university status

was formally declared the Princess Royal was installed as Chancellor of UHI in a ceremony in Inverness Cathedral.

As well as being Scotland's newest university, UHI covers the largest geographical area and leads the way in modern teaching methods. It's a remarkable organisation.



Happy 10th birthday to UHI



## **New Principal and Vice Chancellor for UHI**

Following the retirement of Professor Clive Mulholland, Professor Todd Walker has been appointed as the new principal and vice chancellor of the university. Prof Walker joined UHI as its third principal and vice-chancellor on its tenth birthday in February 2021. A graduate of Charles Sturt University and former provost and deputy vice-chancellor at the University of New England, Australia, he has many years of experience working in multi-campus, regional universities and is well qualified to lead UHI in the next stage of its development.

Members of the management group of HTC were pleased to meet (online) with Prof Walker in March, taking the opportunity to talk about HTC-Paisley, as well as the main Dingwall campus.

We give a warm welcome to Professor Walker as he takes up his new role and look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead.



## Publications and Conferences

Most of the conferences staff would normally try to attend have either been cancelled or held online due to the pandemic.

**Dr Jamie Grant** was a speaker at the Edinburgh Theological Seminary postgraduate seminar in February, which was also attended by a number of HTC graduates. Jamie spoke on the Psalms and Worldview.

**Dr Jamie Grant** and **Rev Dr David Kirk** attended an online event run by the Kirby Laing Centre in April. The title was 'On Founding God's Nation: An Engagement with Leon Kass and His New Commentary on Exodus.' Speakers from around the world gave short papers interacting with Kass's new book.

**Rev Dr David Kirk** has also recently prepared a series of video talks and materials for Esk Valley Community Church, a Free Church of Scotland congregation, entitled 'Horizons of Hope'. The series explores the part that hope plays in Christian faith and living, from 1 Peter.

**Rev Dr David Miller**, part-time lecturer at HTC, is the new Moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland.

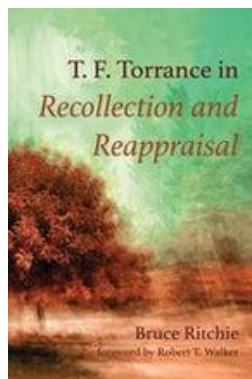
**Dr Robert Shillaker** chaired some of the sessions of the Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference which focussed on 'The Doctrine of the Church'.

**Rev Dr Nick Needham** has a forthcoming article in the Journal of Andrew Fuller Studies entitled "Charles Stuart of Dunearn: a Forgotten Baptist Hero".

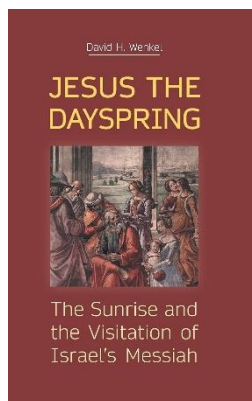


Congratulations to **Rev Dr Bruce Ritchie** on the publication of his book 'T. F. Torrance in Recollection and Reappraisal' published by Wipf and Stock Publishers.

*"This is perhaps the most engaging and readable introduction to T. F. Torrance's theology around. .... This book is a must, not only for Torrance readers, but for all lovers of theology."*



Congratulations to **Dr David Wenkel** [PhD 2011] on the publication of his book "Jesus the Dayspring: The Sunrise and the Visitation of Israel's Messiah", published by Sheffield Phoenix Press.



Issue 38.2 of the **Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology (SBET)** is available.

There are three ways you can receive copies of SBET:

- Become a member of The Scottish Evangelical Theology Society (SETS). SETS members enjoy the benefits of reduced rates on the society's events as well as receiving twice-yearly copies of the Bulletin. Membership of SETS costs not much more than a subscription to SBET. A special rate is available for students.
- Take out a subscription to the journal through HTC to receive regular copies when they're published (without becoming a member of SETS).
- Buy individual copies direct from HTC without subscription or SETS membership.

Current annual subscription rates for this twice-yearly journal are £18.00 for UK residents and £23.00 for outside UK (prices are in £GBP and include postage). For further information phone us or see [www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/resources/sbet](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/resources/sbet)

## Studying from home – what our students say

Are you unsure about studying from home? Even before coronavirus came along, many of our students have been home-based. HTC has been geared up for this type of studying for years! If you think studying from home means you'll be left to struggle through on your own think again! With HTC's BA (Hons) Theological Studies programme, classes are live enabling real-time dialogue between lecturers and fellow students with opportunities for follow-up discussions after classes too. Not being in the classroom with other students doesn't mean you need to feel isolated, in fact the sense of 'community' is strong as people support one another. If you think studying from home means just working through dull, dated, pre-recorded lectures and struggling by on your own that's a far cry from the HTC experience! Contact us on [htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk) for informal enquiries. We still have places available for a Sept'21 start. We look forward to hearing from you!

*I studied the whole four years online  
and achieved way more than I  
ever expected.....  
Have fun and  
enjoy it!!*



**FIND  
YOUR  
FUTURE  
HERE**



*"I studied the whole four years online and achieved way more than I ever expected. It's hard work and takes a lot of self-discipline and motivation but the tutors and staff are fantastic and always willing to help. Main thing is to always ask if you're unsure of anything, keep up with the weekly schedule and have regular breaks. I loved every minute of my studies with HTC and felt completely supported in my studies. I also made friends and felt like a part of the class throughout. Have fun and enjoy it!!"*

**Heather Harper [BA (Hons) 2015 and joint winner of the HTC Student of the Year award 2015].**



## Church vacancy...?

## Taking on extra responsibilities...?

## Feeling thrown in at the deep end...?

With an increasing number of vacant pulpits, many elders and church members are finding themselves in a situation where they're assisting with bible studies, prayer meetings and other activities but not necessarily feeling confident to do so. The **Christian Theology Access Course** is ideal for anyone who wants to broaden and deepen their own understanding of the faith.



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- no prior qualifications required
- study at home at your own pace
- step-by-step easy to follow course
- open to anyone
- more details on [www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses/access-christian-theology](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses/access-christian-theology)

Access to  
Christian Theology

A Community of Faith and Scholarship

[www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses/access-christian-theology](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses/access-christian-theology)

*"This was a great course that covered a wide range of topics. Although I studied completely by home learning, I never felt alone. I felt well supported through each module. I would recommend that anyone doing this course should keep in touch with college staff as most problems can be sorted out very quickly, which means the student will have an enjoyable learning experience."* **Susan MacLean [Access 2007]**



FIND YOUR  
FUTURE  
HERE

### 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**

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### 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 reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.*

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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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