

Newsletter

Winter 23



 **HTC**

A partner of

UHI

Welcome to

Highland Theological College

We've been busy at HTC, doing what we do best, training men and women for Christian ministry and service. Our graduates continue to move on from HTC to lead churches, work as missionaries, teach theology, work in charities, or simply become more theologically informed as they continue in their own particular calling. We thank God for how he is using HTC to impact the world.

As a recent addition to the staff team, it's been a pleasure to be able to get to know the staff, and a handful of our students. In this edition of our newsletter you'll find an exciting collection of updates from some of our alumni, along with staff updates, and of course, a message from our principal, Hector Morrison.

It's a pleasure to join this Community of Faith and Scholarship. I've been getting to know the friends and supporters of HTC, so do get in touch with me, I'd love to connect.

William Gwynn

Marketing and Communications
Officer





Pictured: HTC Dingwall's new signage



Pictured: Graduation Summer 2022

From the

Principal's desk

Since we last sent out a newsletter, we have had a number of significant changes in college staffing and personnel. In the spring of this year our Development Officer of more than 15 years, Marina Mackenzie-Day, moved on from HTC to pursue more fully another of her great passions, her interest in all things equine. Mike Day, our IT technician, has also moved on to work more locally with a firm in Nigg. We are grateful to them both for their unstinting service and commitment to the college for all these years and wish them well in their new spheres of work.

The summer also saw our Chair of Board, Rev Stuart Smith, move on. We are grateful to Stuart for his input into the life of the Board and the wider work of the college during his time with us, as we are also to Ms Moira McCarrell whose six-year period on the Board came to an end in the summer. We hope to bring you news of our new Board appointments in our next issue of the newsletter. As this newsletter was going to print, we received news of the death of the Revd Alexander Murray, the first chair of the board of HTC. We hope to include a piece on Mr Murray in our next newsletter.

Staffing-wise, there has also been significant movement into the college. In early July, we were delighted to welcome Will Gwynn as our new Marketing and Communications Officer. At the same time, we had the privilege of welcoming Professor Mark Elliott as the newly appointed Professor of Biblical and Historical Theology in UHI. Mark comes to us on a 0.5FTE UHI appointment, the other half of his working schedule being across the Atlantic in Wycliffe College, Trinity School of Theology, Canada. Mark has already begun to make an impact on our post-grad numbers and we are also benefiting from his leadership in our postgraduate

seminars, and is another very welcome pair of shoulders to carry some of the load borne by a small academic staff team.

You may also have noticed a change in the design of our logo, which has happened as part of the re-branding of the University of the Highlands & Islands over the past year or so. However, we were keen that the Celtic Cross remained as part of our logo, reminding us of something of the early history of Christianity in our nation, but also reminding us of the absolute centrality of the Cross of Christ both to the Christian faith and also to what lies at the core of the college's teaching.

At HTC, we deem it a great privilege to be part of UHI. We recognise the benefit that UHI has already brought to many of the more peripheral parts of Scotland. But I would encourage you to pray for the university, of which HTC is a full academic partner, as it transitions out of Covid in what are, for us all, challenging times. For UHI, the challenges are compounded by the rather sudden departure of its recently appointed Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Todd Walker. It is vital for the continuing development of the Highlands and Islands, Moray and Perthshire that UHI continues to develop and grow. We value our colleagues in the other Academic Partners, and also recognise the unique contribution that HTC brings to the whole university. Please keep praying for us in that task as we seek a new and renewed tomorrow not just for the Highlands and Islands but for our nation.

Hector Morrison

Principal



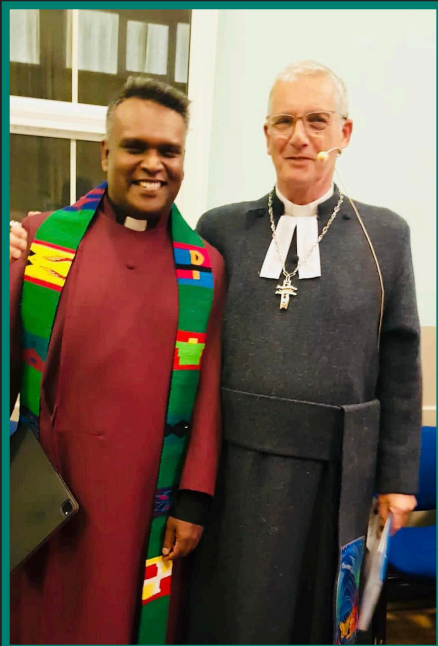
Alumni Highlights

- + **Stephen Illet (BA 2021) was ordained and inducted into Dingwall Baptist Church as their minister.**
- + **James Blackwell (BA Hons 2013) was licensed as a Free Church minister, in a service at Dingwall & Strathpeffer Free Church led by Chris Davidson (Access 2013).**
- + **Ruth Kennedy (BA 2021) was ordained and inducted into an outreach role based at St. Blane's Church of Scotland**
- + **Joshua Milton (BA 2021) was ordained and inducted to Templehall & Torbean United Parish in Kirkcaldy.**
- + **Pamela Kennedy (BA 2021) was ordained and inducted into an outreach role in the Borders parish of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn.**
- + **Stephen Barton (BA [Hons.] 2008) was ordained and inducted to Hambro Baptist Church, London.**
- + **Andy Muir (BA 2021) was ordained and inducted to be the minister of Stranraer Parish Church.**
- + **Darren Jalland (BA 2021) was ordained and inducted into Oldmachar Church of Scotland in November.**
- + **Robert Norman (BA 2018) is serving in Romania with his wife, where he serves in the city of Iasi. He works in evangelism, counselling, and preaching with a local church.**

Did you study at HTC? Get in touch and let us know what you're up to!



Above: James and Claire Blackwell



Above: Joshua Milton



Pictured: Andy Muir

Get to know...

Cathy Steed

What's your role at HTC?

- + My connection with HTC goes back before I joined the Staff team. As Regional Director for OMF Scotland (2000-2016), I often visited the college for events. I then began studying some modules as a part-time student (from 2008). When the time came for my husband, Phil, and I to finish with OMF, there was an opening within HTC for me. Since January 2017, I have worked as Student Support Officer. I live in Glasgow so am nearer HTC Paisley Campus but support students for both Dingwall and Paisley and all other students online.**

What's your favourite thing about the role?

- + Every day is different! Supporting students can be by phone, email, video call or face to face. Students have varying challenges and concerns which means being available at particularly stressful times which can be 'out of hours'. I'm glad to be flexible! I also represent HTC in the wider sphere of UHI on various committees like Counselling Network and Safe Guarding.**

What's your favourite Bible verse?

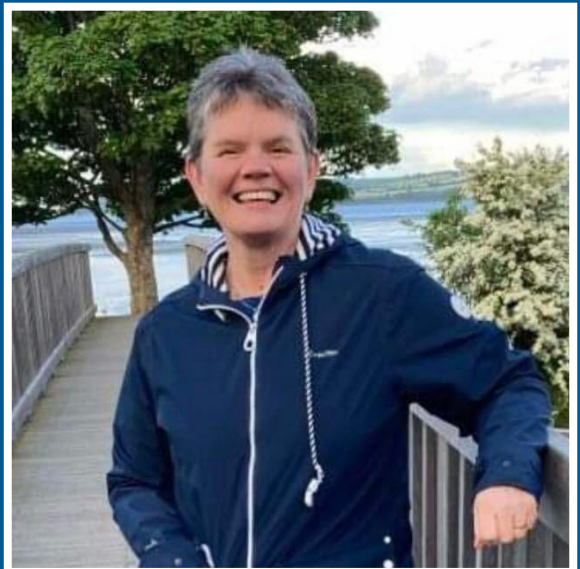
- + Difficult to choose! I could say all of Philippians, or the last few chapters of Revelation, or the account of Jesus meeting the woman at the well. I love all of these but a favourite? I think Psalm 91 which to me, speaks of safety, security and protection with God, under His care as I trust Him. It is the best place to be. I particularly like singing the Scottish Psalter version of this psalm to the tune Spohr.

Where's your favourite place in Scotland?

- + It's actually Dingwall! I love travelling up the A9, especially north of Perth. Great views and the right direction towards, not just HTC Dingwall (there's HTC Paisley of course!), but also to my best friend's house. Combining work with a visit there, walks to Knockfarrel and along the canal, who wouldn't want to work here?!

Cathy Steed

Student Support Officer



Study at HTC

- + Are you interested in becoming part of our community of faith and scholarship? Have a look at these course overviews, and get in touch or head over to our website to find out more!**

Christian Theology Access

- **No entry requirements**
- **Ideal for those interested in entering the BA programme**
- **Can be completed online at your own pace**
- **Modules include:**
 - **Study Skills**
 - **Pastoral Theology**
 - **Old/New Testament**

BA (Hons) Theological Studies

- **Equips you with a broad knowledge and understanding of Christian Theology**
- **Will provide you with the personal and professional capabilities required for a variety of ministries**
- **Study on campus in Dingwall or Paisley, or at home**
- **Access to excellent library facilities**

Masters by Research (MRes)

- Full time over one year, or part-time over two
- Complete a 40,000 word dissertation
- Can be completed at home or on campus
- Write on a topic of your choice under supervision
- Engage with our faculty, and make use of their specialisms to inform your work
- Access to our post-graduate seminars

PhD

- Faculty offers excellent supervision on a wide range of topics
- Can be completed remotely or in Scotland
- Some recent completions include:
 - Polanyi's critique of reductionism
 - Exodus 19:5-6 as a missional text
 - Samuel Rutherford's doctrine of sanctification

Get in touch

Email: htc@uhi.ac.uk
Website: www.htc.uhi.ac.uk

Student Highlight...

Isaac Gajendran

+ Where are you from, and what's your background?

Sabina (my wife) and I are from Dehra Dun, one of the Himalayan valleys in India. Since 2017, I have taught Church History and Theology at Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Now I am on study leave to pursue PhD. I am also an ordained pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of India (RPCI).

I was raised in a Hindu home for the first 12 years of my life. Following my mother's death, I attended a Christian residential school for schooling. Through the caregivers, I experienced Christ's love. "Why do you love me?" I asked them. They described the gospel and the crucifixion of Christ as the means of my salvation. The Holy Spirit convicted me of my sins and prompted me to believe in Christ's work. In 1998, the Lord gave me faith to trust in Jesus for my salvation. Since then, I've been making my way toward God's holy city.

+ Tell us about your PhD

I'm researching William Miller (1838-1923), a Scottish missionary to Madras. Miller upgraded a Christian school to Madras Christian College and devoted his 45 years to developing it as one of the leading Christian institutions in India. Furthermore, he established the groundwork for "fulfilment theology," a new method of gospel presentation in the late nineteenth century. The research will attempt to critically look at Miller's unique approach that impacted twentieth-century Indian Christian theologians

+ Why did you choose to study with us at HTC?

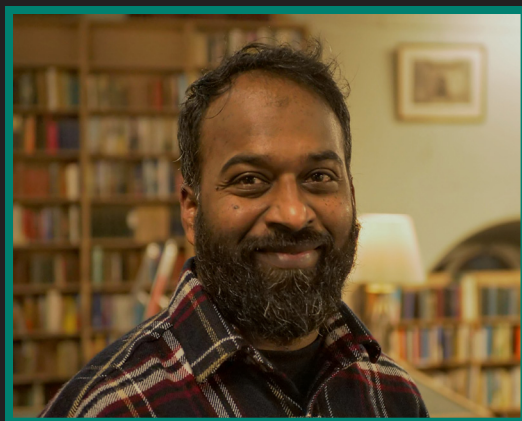
HTC was my first choice for three reasons. First and foremost, HTC has developed world-class academicians, who are spread out in a wide variety of fields. Second, it has great supervisors who can assist PhD students, especially in my subject area. Third, HTC's relationship with fantastic libraries in the United Kingdom. Through HTC, I have access to 100+ university libraries in the UK for my study.

+ You moved to Scotland when you began your studies, are you enjoying the nation?

Being a Presbyterian and a student of Church History, Scotland is the home of the Presbyterians. Further, the Lord has used many Scottish men and women in India since the eighteenth century. Many of my favourite historical personalities are from Scotland. So I love to travel around Scotland, visiting churches, castles, libraries, graveyards, and islands.

Isaac Gajendran

PhD Student



Partner with HTC

If you'd like to partner with us in prayer, we hope the following prayer points will be a helpful guide

- **Pray that our faculty and staff would remain faithful to God in all things.**
- **Pray our students would go on to lead healthy gospel-centred ministries.**
- **Pray the university as a whole would emerge well through difficult economic circumstances.**
- **Like many, HTC are still finding our way after the pandemic. Pray for God's guidance as we cast vision for the future.**

At Highland Theological College, we're thankful for all of our generous friends who partner with us financially. If you don't already give to the work of the college, and are interested in doing so, you can find more information overleaf, or on our website.

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**Account name: Highland Theological College
Donations Account**

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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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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.

HTC

