

Newsletter



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Highland Theological
College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd
agus nan Eilean
Colaiste Dhiadhachd
na Gàidhealtachd



**Winter
2021/22**

***Celebratory &
Thanksgiving
service for
2020 and 2021
Graduates***

***Alumni
updates***

UHI news

And more...

A Community of Faith and Scholarship

Recent ordinations, inductions and appointments

Jade Ableitner [BA 2019] has been ordained and inducted as minister of Eaglesham Parish Church. Celebrating her ordination with her were some of Jade's classmates. From left: Rev. John Gow, minister at Portsoy; Rev. Elsie Macrae, minister at Wamphray linked with Kirkpatrick Juxta linked with St Andrew's Moffat; Rev. Fiona Morrison, assistant minister at Ness Bank Church, Inverness; Rev. Jade Ableitner, minister at Eaglesham; Rev. Fiona Anderson, assistant minister at Strathaven Trinity; Rev. Fraser Edwards, minister at Innerleithen, Traquair & Walkerburn.



A valedictory service was held for **Claire Brodie** [CertHE 2020] as she left her teaching job in Scotland to take up a teaching role with OMF in Grace International School Thailand. Many mission agencies use this school for their children's education, allowing them to be involved in ministries in southeast Asia.



At a special service in Boleskine Church of Scotland, **Fiona King** [CertHE 2019] was set apart as a Reader in Inverness Presbytery.

Drew Kuzma [BA 2016] was inducted as minister of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Church of Scotland. Drew was formerly minister of Benbecula and Carinish Church of Scotland.

Keith Loftin [PhD 2014] has been appointed Head of School at Kingdom Preparatory Academy which is in Texas.

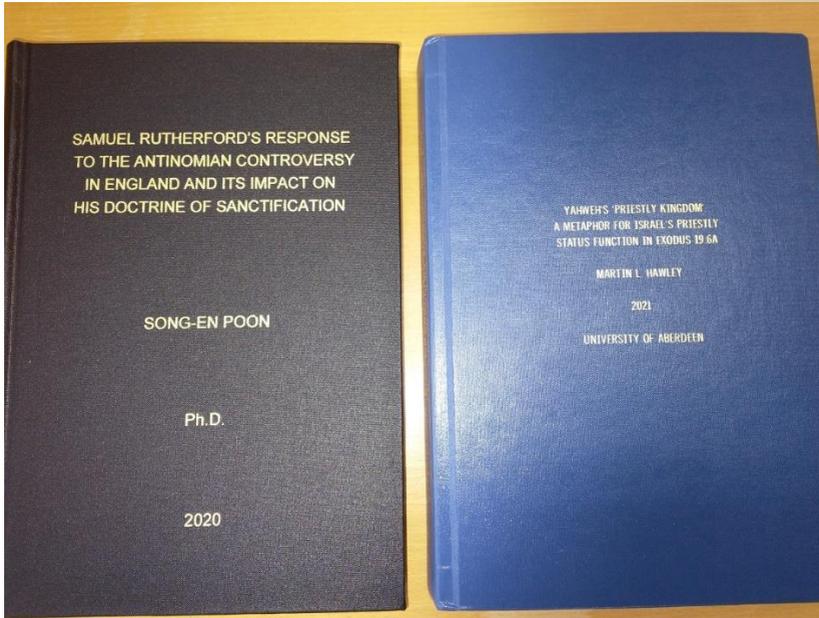


Gillian Rooney [BA 2020] has been ordained and inducted as minister of Orchardhill Parish Church, Glasgow. Much of Gillian's time as a student was spent at HTC-Paisley.



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

PhD news

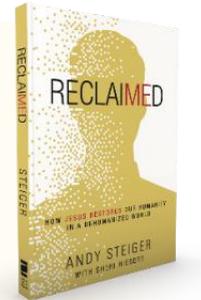
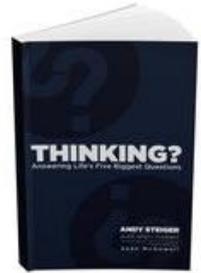


We're proud of our students' contributions to theological scholarship and are excited to add two recently completed PhD theses to our library shelves:

- 'Samuel Rutherford's Response to the Antinomian controversy in England and its impact on his doctrine of sanctification' by **Song-En (Sam) Poon**, 2021
- 'Yahweh's Priestly Kingdom: A Metaphor for Israel's Priestly Status Function in Exodus 19.6A' by **Martin L. Hawley**, 2020

Congratulations to Sam and Martin for completing their doctorates!

Congratulations to **Andy Steiger** who has passed his PhD viva, subject to minor corrections. Andy's study was on Michael Polanyi's critique of reductionism. Part of the inspiration for Andy's PhD topic was the research he carried out in preparation for writing his book "Reclaimed: How Jesus Restores Our Humanity in a Dehumanized World" (published by Zondervan). He is also author of "Thinking?: Answering Life's Five Biggest Questions" (published by Apologetics Canada, an organisation dedicated to helping churches better engage with today's culture and of which Andy is the founder and president).



Are you interested in postgraduate study? We'd love to support you in that. We've had a number of PhD completions over recent years, opening up spaces for us to take on new PhD students. If you're considering theological studies at PhD level we'd be keen to hear from you. Check out our webpage www.htc.uhi.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-research-degrees or drop us an email on htcadmissions@uhi.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

Graduations

Congratulations to our 2021 Graduates

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Martin Lee Hawley – Yahweh’s ‘Priestly Kingdom’: A Metaphor for Israel’s Priestly Status Function in Exodus 19.6a

Song-En Poon – Samuel Rutherford’s Response to the Antinomian Controversy in England and its Impact on His Doctrine of Sanctification.

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH HONOURS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Laura Anne Symon – First 1st

Salvatore Gulletta – Upper 2nd 2.1

Joshua Detwiler – Lower 2nd 2.2

Javed Kailab – Lower 2nd 2.2

**BACHELOR OF ARTS
IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

Joanna Cook (Distinction)

Susie Ford (Distinction)

Pamela Kennedy (Distinction)

Gillean Richmond (Distinction)

Jonathan David Turner (Distinction)

Mark Alexander Boag

Andrew George Ellison

Stuart Andrew Finlayson

Darren Michael Jalland

Ruth Kennedy

Christine McWhirter

Andrew Muir

D. Kerr Wintersgill

**CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

Duncan James Campbell

David Thomas McKee

Angela Jean Morrow

**ACCESS CERTIFICATE IN
CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY**

Joyce Goel

Andrew Gray

Nicola Newman

Kevin Stewart

Stanley Stewart

Malcolm Webster

Celebratory and Thanksgiving Service for 2020 and 2021 Graduates

2020 was the first year since HTC started that we couldn't hold a Graduation and Awards Ceremony. Understandably, graduates were disappointed. So were staff. Normally, it's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate achievements alongside peers and with family and friends present. So with restrictions being less tight this year, we were thrilled to be able to have a Celebratory and Thanksgiving Service to which 2020 and 2021 graduates and their families were invited. The service was held in Dingwall Free Church and it was good to have Rev Kenny Ross [BA(Hons)2004], now pastor of Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church, as the guest speaker. A recording of the service is available on YouTube www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q29_AQ735_I&t=2s (apologies for the lack of sound at the start of the video).





Left: Rev Kenny Ross [BA (Hons) 2004], pastor of Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church, who was our guest speaker for the service.



Huge congratulations to all our 2020 and 2021 graduates – those in the photo and those who weren't able to attend on the day!



Lots of great friendships have been formed during the HTC years. Pictured here are some of our Church of Scotland candidates who attended the Celebratory and Thanksgiving Service. It looks like they enjoyed the day!

Three of our graduates were from the same congregation! Congratulations to Salvatore Gulletta, Javed Kailab and Mark Boag. What a



great day for the congregation of Inshes Church, Inverness, where the Associate Minister is another HTC graduate, Farquhar Forbes [BA(Hons)2014]!

HISA Awards

We already know we have some amazing students and staff at HTC but it's encouraging when there's some formal recognition for them too! The HISA Awards give students the chance to thank the staff and students across the UHI partnership who have inspired and supported them. It's great to see some HTC names listed. Well done **Pamela Kennedy, Ruth Smart, Geordie Cryle, David Kirk and Alasdair Macleod!**

Above and beyond- Student and Staff awards

Winner Pamela Kennedy Student Voice Rep Level 9

"Every single time I needed someone to care for me, to give me an encouraging word that I could finish my degree on time, Pamela was there."

Highly Commended Ruth Smart Level 7

"She has completely inspired me and taught me that even with a disability that often stops a lot of people from achieving, I am able to win if I fight for what I want and need."

HISA Awards | 21 Duaisean HISA

Highly Commended Geordie Cryle- Best support staff (Non-teaching)

"The availability of books and material from the Library has been superb throughout the lockdown. Geordie has worked hard to ensure we all had the opportunity to receive any books we requested. He also gave great advice on the availability of online material."

Highly Commended David Kirk – Best assessment Feedback

"David provides detailed feedback showing how you can improve your next piece of work... David is always very positive and encourages you to do the very best you can."

Highly Commended Alasdair Macleod - Most inspiring Lecturer

"Alasdair managed to make the different narratives 'come alive' by combining his extensive knowledge with his obvious and sincere passion for the topics covered within the module."

HISA
www.hisa.uhi.ac.uk

Highlands and Islands
Students' Association
Comann Oilleanach na
Gaidhealtachd agus nan Eilean



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agus nan Eilean

UHI news

Two significant new appointments in UHI in 2021 were UHI Chair of Court Alastair MacColl and UHI Principal and Vice-Chancellor Professor Todd Walker. Keen to meet some of the students and staff from across the network and to see first-hand something of the breadth of what UHI offers, Mr MacColl and Prof Walker have been touring the Highlands and Islands visiting some of the campuses. It was good to welcome them to our Dingwall campus and chat with them about their vision for the future of UHI, also to share something of the background of HTC, its significance academically and, crucially, its role in equipping churches with theologically sound ministers and lay people.

From left: Andrew Ritchie (student); Hector Morrison; John Haston, Matt Lingard and Jamie Gallacher (students); Todd Walker; Alastair MacColl.



COVID-19 and the National Student Survey

There's little that hasn't been affected in some way or another by the COVID-19 pandemic but here in HTC, and across UHI as a whole, we've worked really hard to continue providing courses whilst keeping safety top priority and keeping information channels open.

The results of the 2021 National Student Survey show that UHI performed significantly above average in both the Scottish and UK sector in all questions relating to COVID. Now well into the 2021/2022 academic session, we're still working hard to support everyone as best we can.

"These results from the largest annual survey of UK students provide objective evidence that our distinctive and inclusive model of delivery, using world-class technology and hard-working staff committed to our students' education and wellbeing, has served them well during the pandemic. Our staff admirably rose to the challenge of delivering top-quality learning and teaching, communicating changes and investing in laptops and additional mental health and wellbeing resources to support the needs of our students.

"Our priority has been to provide a safe learning, research and working environment for all staff and students while also protecting our local communities.

These high ratings from our students show that we have the expertise, knowledge and practical skills to enhance the delivery of our courses, while still adhering and adapting to changing government guidelines, and are testimony to a job well done by our magnificent staff."

Dr Iain Morrison,
UHI Dean of Students

HTC buildings still closed

HTC-Paisley as well as the main campus in Dingwall remain closed, in the main, to students, staff and visitors. We look forward to being able to get back into classes and offices when we can but for now we continue to follow guidance from the Scottish Government to the universities and colleges sector.

Library resources are being provided electronically where possible, also by post or by appointment where applicable. Well done to Geordie Cryle, librarian, for maintaining such an efficient service. Mike Forbes, caretaker, is the one who has been on campus most and he's been able to work on some projects that could have been fairly disruptive had there been lots of people around. Other staff have been in occasionally. Students and staff are all used to 'working from home' but we miss the fellowship and camaraderie of being on campus. We also miss our committed team of volunteers who used to be with us regularly but who have been temporarily 'stood down' until it's safe for us all to get back together again.

We're blessed to have excellent electronic means of teaching and learning, holding

meetings, keeping in touch via video calls, etc, and are very thankful that we've been able to continue lectures with minimal disruption throughout the pandemic. Nobody had ever planned for a global pandemic but right from the first lock-down in 2020, HTC adapted quickly to the new scenario and was well-equipped to keep forging ahead and doing what we've always been good at – delivering excellent academic programmes to enable men and women to study the Christian faith from an evangelical and Reformed perspective in the context of a worshipping community.



Dr Jamie Grant, vice principal,
working from home.

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 **Mark Stirling**.



Hi, I'm Mark Stirling. My wife Jenny and I have recently moved to the Highlands from St Andrews.

My first degree was in medicine and I worked as a GP until 2002. At that point we were working in student ministry in Edinburgh and just after that got the opportunity to go and study theology at Covenant Seminary in St Louis. This was

followed by PhD in New Testament in St Andrews, during which time we continued to be involved in student ministry and served in a new church (Cornerstone St Andrews) as well as developing Chalmers Institute, the focus of which is to help equip Christians with the theological resources necessary to serve God in their vocation.

My particular burden is the education and formation of leaders for the church who will be servant hearted, kind, safe – and competent.

It's a privilege to be involved in teaching "Jesus and the Gospels" this semester and to be able to get to know some of the HTC students.

Recent bereavements

It is with sorrow that we report the passing of one of our former volunteers, Pauline Hunt, in July. We continue to pray for Trevor (Access Course tutor) in the loss of his dear wife.

We also remember Len Cazaly (retired Access Course programme leader) in the loss of his dear wife Catriona in September. Catriona was known to many through her work in UHI and in the Free Church offices.

We also pray for Trish Rigby, former Student Support Officer, following the loss of her husband Mike in November. Mike was an electrician and most of the electrical work in the Dingwall campus was carried out by him and his team.

Worship

Staff and students are still based at home but that doesn't stop us joining online for worship. In addition to some of the HTC lecturers, worship this semester has been led by:

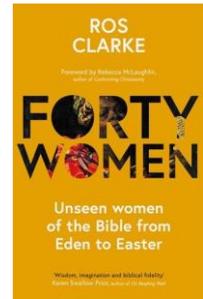
- Students
- Ruth McCaig (Wycliffe Bible Translators)
- Rev Drausio Goncalves, CofS minister
- Peter Wilson (AIM, Kenya)
- Rev Stuart Smith, CofS minister

All the worship times at the college are a real blessing but we always particularly enjoy those times led by students. This semester, the students who were particularly involved were Stuart Harbinson, Brenda Ellwell-Sutton, Jamie Gallacher and Ruth Smart. They took us on a whistle-stop tour of the Torah in Psalm 19, looking not just to creation but to the Creator, His nature and character and promises.



Shopping

If you're looking for Christmas present ideas, **Ros Clarke** [PhD 2014] has just had her latest book published: 'Forty Women - Unseen women of the Bible from Eden to Easter'. Check it out on the IVP website <https://ivpbooks.com/forty-women>



And, on the subject of Christmas shopping, if you're buying online you can help raise funds for HTC at NO EXTRA COST TO YOURSELF by making HTC your chosen charity on Amazon or on easyfundraising.

 smile.amazon.co.uk

Do you shop on Amazon? Set Highland Theological College as your chosen charity on Amazon Smile to make a donation (at no extra cost to you) when you shop! <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC029190>

Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice.

If you register with easyfundraising HTC gets a donation (at no extra cost to you) if you shop online using any of the retailers (there's about 5000 of them) that are part of the scheme. All you have to do is register as a user at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/highlandcoll and set the easyfundraising Donation Reminder. Since we registered HTC as a 'good cause' around 170 supporters have helped us raise over £4,500 AND IT'S NOT COST THEM A PENNY. We'd love to have more people using easyfundraising. It's quick, simple and hassle-free to sign up. Why not do it today?! Thank you!

Raise **FREE** funds for us every time you **shop online**

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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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