



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Divinity

New College

Bulletin 2016

**Our students
and programmes:
An overview**



**New College
news**

page 03

Alumni news

page 10

**Research
update**

page 14

New Books

page 16

Foreword

In this year's New College Bulletin our focus is on our students. So, we feature brief overviews of our undergraduate students and programmes (by Dr. Alison Jack) and our postgraduate students and programmes (by Professor Susan Hardman Moore).

As you will see from their comments, New College continues to thrive, with a robust number of applicants each year at all levels. We also continue to draw our postgraduate students from a wide variety of countries. Recent reviews of our operation have produced commendations. But the reviews that mean the most to us are from our students and our alumni!

In this Bulletin we also feature a variety of news about academic staff (including new appointments), recent books published by them, examples of major research projects led by academic staff, major contributions to our scholarship funds, a couple of the current postgraduate scholarship recipients, an unusual find in the New College Library, and other items.

Among coming events, I want to draw attention to the New College Alumni Reunion on 4th June. You will find more information on this special event on page 20.

We also encourage our former students to visit our website, which includes news about events and developments throughout the year: www.ed.ac.uk/divinity. And we want to hear from you too. So, let us know developments in your life. You can email to me: I.hurtado@ed.ac.uk.

Emeritus Professor Larry Hurtado
College Bulletin Editor

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| New College News | 03 |
| Our Students and Programmes | 08 |
| Alumni news | 10 |
| New Staff | 12 |
| In memoriam | 13 |
| Major research projects update | 14 |
| Reading matter: staff publications | 16 |
| Scholarships update | 18 |
| Upcoming events | 20 |

Lifelong community: stay in touch!

Keep us posted!

Please let us know when you move home or change email address so we can keep you informed with what's happening at the School of Divinity and across the University. By keeping your contact details up to date you'll receive our publications, and you can also make the most of your exclusive alumni benefits and services package, which includes careers support and ongoing access to many University facilities, often at a special rate.

To find out more about how you can keep in touch and get involved, please visit www.ed.ac.uk/alumni or email alumni@ed.ac.uk

Connect with us

You can also find us on:



[/SchoolOfDivinityEdinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/SchoolOfDivinityEdinburgh)
and [/edalumni](https://www.facebook.com/edalumni)



[@SchoolofDiv](https://twitter.com/SchoolofDiv) and
[@EdinburghAlumni](https://twitter.com/EdinburghAlumni)



www.tinyurl.com/edalumni



[/edinburghalumni](https://www.pinterest.com/edinburghalumni)



[/EdinburghAlumni](https://www.youtube.com/EdinburghAlumni)

New College news

For more on the following and other news items about staff activities and New College events, go to the web site of the School of Divinity: www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/news-events.

Rooms named in honour of two remarkable female academics

In coming months, two teaching rooms will be renamed in honour of former members of staff Marcella Althaus Reid and Elisabeth Templeton.

Marcella Althaus Reid (1952–2009) was the first woman to hold a Professorial Chair in New College. Since her untimely death, her work on contextual theology has continued to be studied and discussed across the world. Room 1.07 (which was formerly the Student Common Room) will be renamed the Marcella Althaus Reid Room where a portrait of Marcella will be displayed.

Lecture Room 1 (the largest lecture theatre in New College) will be redesignated the Elisabeth Templeton Room in honour of the first woman to hold a full-time lectureship in the Faculty of Divinity. She passed away in 2015. A photograph of Elisabeth (shown here) is being enlarged and framed for display in the lecture theatre.



Sabbath in the Glen receives a full restoration and is now in display in the New College Library

This impressive painting, held in storage for many years at New College, was recently restored and is currently displayed in the central hall of the library above the Funk Reading Room.

The large scale painting, created in 1858 by the distinguished Victorian artist Sir George Harvey (1806–1876), depicts an idealised account of a Free Church service in the open air somewhere in the Scottish highlands.

A significant period piece, this work depicts Thomas Guthrie preaching to a congregation which included many women and children who would probably have been known to the artist. One critic has written of Harvey's painting: 'The varied grouping of the numerous company, seated or recumbent on the heathery slope, shows a finer sense of composition and a more learned subordination of details to the masses than do the earlier pictures.'

The character of the heads of this typically Scottish audience, intent on the words of the preacher, are admirably depicted; Harvey is here at his best.'



Dr Joshua Ralston's op-ed on Islam

Dr Joshua Ralston has written an op-ed analysis of Christian understanding of Islam prompted by a recent controversy in Wheaton College and other developments in the online resource *Religion and Ethics*, published by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation: *The Same God, or the One God? On the Limitations and Implications of the Wheaton Affair*. He gave the 2016 Duerr Lectures, 21-23 February, *Bearing Witness: Reframing Christian-Muslim Encounters*, Houston, Texas, the series co-sponsored by St. Philip Presbyterian Church and the Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance, Rice University.



Professor Mona Siddiqui contributed to panel on multicultural societies

Professor Mona Siddiqui took part in a panel discussion on Britain's religious complexion: *Who Cares if Britain Isn't a Christian Country?* sponsored by the British Academy, 28 January.

She has also recently been invited to join the Franco-British Council, created as a joint initiative of President Georges Pompidou and Prime Minister Edward Heath, when Britain joined the European Community.

Its aim is to promote better understanding between Britain and France and to contribute to the development of joint action through meetings of leading representatives of the worlds of culture, science, education, politics and business in the context of a developing Europe and of an increasingly globalised community.



Professor Timothy Lim gives lectures at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Professor Timothy Lim gave the 2016 Chuen King Biblical Lectures in the Chinese University of Hong Kong, 24-28 February 2016, on the topic: *The Canon of Jewish Scriptures*.



Our PhD student, Jaeho Jang, received a prestigious award

Congratulations to Jaeho Jang (PhD student), who was awarded the 2015 Peacock Prize for his essay on evolutionary theodicy in Christian theology and Daoism. This prize is awarded by the Science and Religion Forum every year in honour of Arthur Peacocke, and recognises the best student piece of work in the science and religion field submitted that year.



Keeping up with Professor Jolyon Mitchell

Back in February 15, Professor Jolyon Mitchell gave a TEDx talk entitled *Swords into Ploughshares: Arms into Art* to an audience of over 500, as part of the TEDx University of Edinburgh Conference in February 2015.

Professor Mitchell's illustrated presentation explored how the arts can contribute to building peace. This was followed up by a show in the Edinburgh Festival's Fringe with Dr Lesley Orr, again on the topic of the use of arts in peace building. Both Dr Lesley Orr and Professor Mitchell also spoke at Scotland's History Festival in November 2015. Dr Orr on: *The Women Who Widnae Haud Their Wheesht – Scotswomen who fought for equality*, Professor Mitchell on his recent book: *Martyrdom: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press).

More recently, Professor Mitchell also served on the International Ecumenical Film Jury at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2015. The Jury's prize was awarded to *Mia Madre* (directed by Nanni Moretti). For more about the 2015 festival, other awards and some of the most memorable films screened there see Professor Mitchell's illustrated essay on 'The Many Faces of Cannes' at: edin.ac/cannes



Emeritus Professor Larry Hurtado lectured in the University of Calgary and Marquette University

Emeritus Professor Larry Hurtado gave the 2016 Craigie Memorial Lecture in the University of Calgary, 12 January: *A Bookish Religion: Reading, Writing, Copying, and Disseminating Texts in Early Christianity*. He gave the Pere Marquette Lecture in Marquette University, 10 April: *Why on Earth did Anyone Become a Christian in the First Three Centuries*.

His book, *Destroyer of the gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World* (Baylor University Press) will appear in September 2016.

Our PhD Student, Laura Mair, awarded the Hope Trust Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2016-18

Laura Mair has been awarded the Hope Trust Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2016-18. She will be undertaking research on the educational significance of Dr Thomas Guthrie's ragged school in Victorian Edinburgh.

Her research on the subject has already contributed to inform an important exhibition in the Victoria and Albert Museum under the name, *On their own: The story of Britain's child migrants told for the very first time*. The exhibition, focused on exploring the experiences of British child migrants in the 19th and 20th centuries.



The School of Divinity launches two new online programmes in Philosophy, Science, and Religion

The School of Divinity has embarked on a new venture to make our teaching expertise in science and religion much more freely and widely available. The School of Divinity has teamed-up with the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Science (PPLS) to create two new online programmes in 'Philosophy, Science and Religion'.

Being online, these programmes will be available globally, and we fully anticipate that they will attract a high level of interest.

The first of these new online programmes will be a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in 'Philosophy, Science and Religion', opening Autumn 2016, which will be free to all with an internet connection. It will feature online teaching material (e.g., lectures, interviews, movies, etc.) from some of the leading international scholars in the area, together with abundant online input from the home team in Edinburgh.

Alongside the MOOC, we are also creating an online masters degree,

the MSc in Philosophy, Science and Religion, commencing September 2017, which will cover more advanced material, and will provide students with the opportunity to explore their own interests in depth, with the full support of our academic staff. To this end, we have just appointed Dr Jamie Collin, a philosopher of science, as Lecturer in Philosophy, Science and Religion in the School of Divinity.

Although the interaction between science and religion is of enormous public interest and significance, it has too often become entrenched in poorly-informed and opinionated debate. There is an urgent need for educational resources in the area that are widely available. As the

only university in Europe which both specialises in the area, and which also has expertise in the provision of massive online teaching, Edinburgh is uniquely situated to make a difference here.

For more information about these projects, contact Dr Mark Harris (email: Mark.Harris@ed.ac.uk) or Dr James Collin (James.Collin@ed.ac.uk).

BLIK's 7 original cartoon strips donated to the New College Library

Students of the late 1970s will recall the celebrated cartoons which depicted members of the Divinity faculty under attack from an alien student menace, the Phundies. The cartoons blended the TV sci-fi series, Blake's 7, with the arcane religious concept of a 'blik' in the analytic philosophy of R. M. Hare.

The moving force behind Blik's 7 was Andrew Maclean who graduated in 1979. He was ably supported by Muir Donaldson, Bill Armstrong and Bryan Low. Sadly, Andrew passed away last October shortly after his retirement from St Andrew's Church in Port Glasgow. In the weeks before his death, he donated the originals of the cartoons to the New College Library. These have now been digitised and can be viewed online in this address: edin.ac/blik7



From the Mound to the Museum: a piece of New College history

Quietly tucked away in a small strong room in New College Library is an object and picture collection containing an array of surprising objects.

The picture collection contains portraits and photographs of individuals and groups from New College, the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland. The object collection contains personal belongings of ministers and New College staff such as Thomas Chalmers, objects related to New College and University life and several items brought back by ministers from their nineteenth century travels in the Holy Land.

Recently we were fortunate to have the assistance of two St Andrews University Museums Studies students in listing and re-packing the collection, and an interesting object came to light.

It's identified as an incendiary device that was dropped by a German Zeppelin during the attack on Edinburgh on 2/3 April 1916. Former New College Librarian Mitchell Hunter, in his chapter in *New College Edinburgh: A Centenary History* (Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1946), records: 'a primitive incendiary bomb dropped by a raiding Zeppelin in the First World War on the pavement in front of the statue of the Highland soldier just opposite the College, which was promptly seized by the janitor after it had fizzled out and deposited among our collection of grim curiosities'.

We were delighted to be able to work with National Museums Scotland to move this item out of long term storage at New College Library to a new home at the National Museum of Flight. <http://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-flight/>

Farewell to Sheila Dunn,

Ms Sheila Dunn, Library Services Manager in the New College Library, is moving on to a new professional challenge.



She will be known to many staff and students over a number of years as a cheerful and helpful leader among the Library staff.

Since the start of her appointment, Sheila has been responsible for the Helpdesk including the line management of staff, estates and buildings, and the organization, supervision and promotion of the Library collections. One of her annual responsibilities was organising the New College Booksale, in which donated and excess duplicate volumes were put on sale to staff and students. Sheila will go on to work for Barnardo's Bookshops in Edinburgh. So, she stated, 'my life will be one continual book sale from now on!' We wish her well in her new venture, and express our gratitude for her conscientious and cordial service over these many years.

Alumni participate in the School of Divinity's first careers event

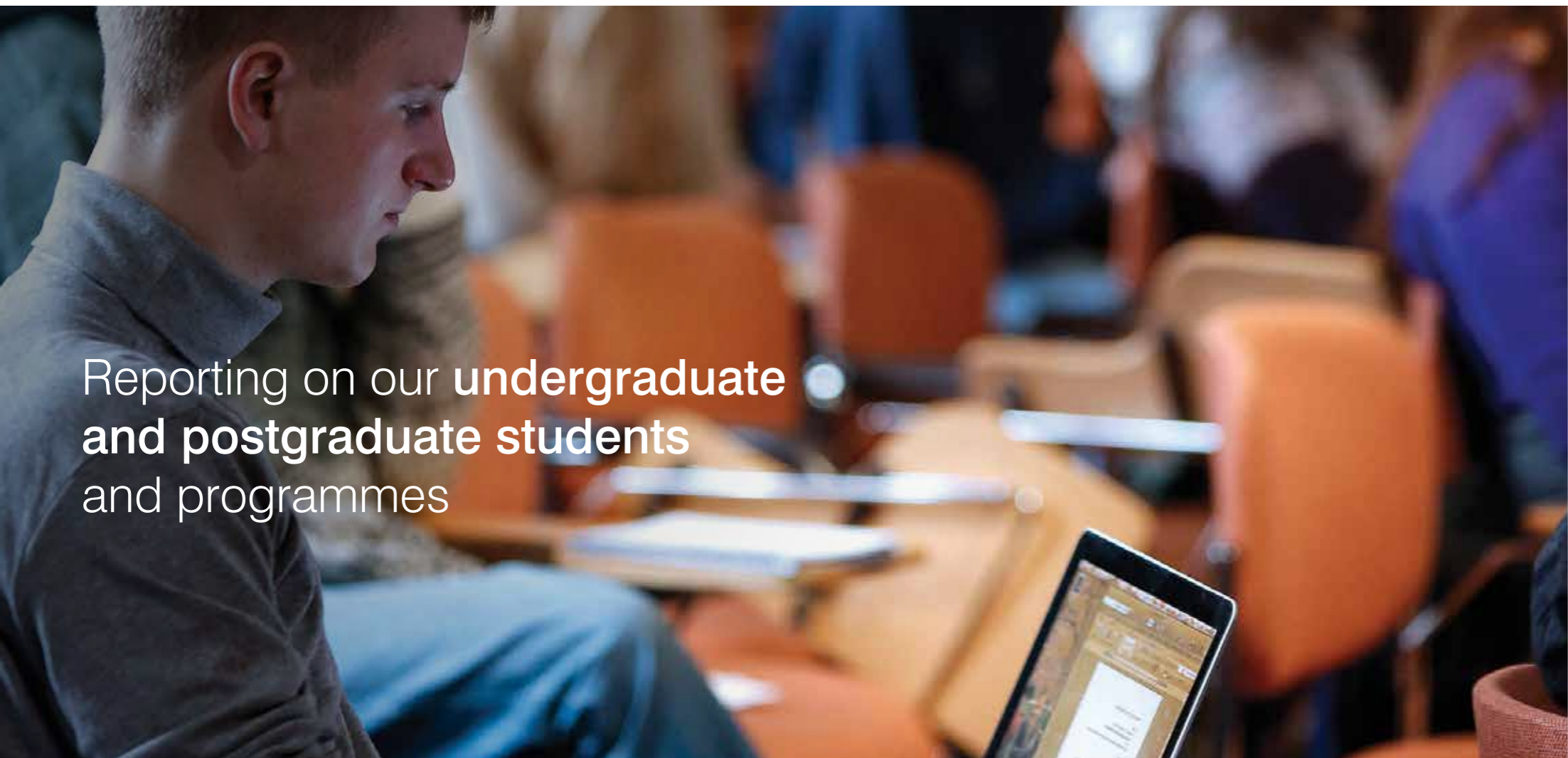


Left to right: David Plews, Dr Alison Jack, Rachel Kinnaird; Ellie Williams and Chris Turpin

In February 2016, an event was held at the School of Divinity which brought Alumni from many walks of life into conversation with current students. Four New College graduates from a variety of time periods and degree programmes spoke about ways in which their student experience had equipped them for the careers they had embarked upon.

The breadth of career choices open to our graduates was demonstrated by the panellists, who consisted of a primary school teacher, the regional managing director of a fund management company, a training development manager for the Ministries Council of the Church of Scotland, and a senior associate (Finance Consulting) for a major professional services firm. Each spoke warmly about the both the academic grounding and the social skills they gained while they were students. They encouraged current students to be confident about the abilities and skills they will have developed through their degree as they approach the jobs market.

The event was a collaboration between the School, the University's Development and Alumni Office and the Careers Service. Constructive and encouraging conversations continued over refreshments after the presentations, and students reported that the event had been a great success. Many asked for further, similar events to be planned. If you are a School of Divinity Graduate and would be interested in returning to share your experiences, please contact C.J. Cochran (alumni@ed.ac.uk).



Reporting on our undergraduate and postgraduate students and programmes

Professor Susan Hardman-Moore, Director of Postgraduate Studies, on our current postgraduate students and recent review of postgraduate provision.

The news from the Graduate School is good. New College continues its tradition of attracting students from around the world. At present we have around 170 postgraduates: almost 130 PhD students, more than 40 on taught or research Masters programmes. Scottish and other UK students are working alongside students from across the world. We are a lively community, of all faiths and none, from widely differing cultural backgrounds. Both staff and students know this can present challenges, and the School makes it a priority to affirm equality and diversity:

for example, by working in partnership with postgraduates to achieve Athena SWAN gender equality awards. Our aim is to support all students to achieve their best.

“IT IS A PLEASURE TO REPORT THAT THE QUALITY OF OUR PROVISION HAS BEEN RECOGNISED IN TWO RECENT REVIEWS.

”
Most recently – in 2015, in a major exercise that happens every five years – the University audited the Graduate School with the help of two expert

assessors, Professors Karen Kilby of Durham and Christopher Rowland of Oxford. The School came through with flying colours. We were especially commended for our innovative work to mentor postgraduate tutors; for the strong support the School office gives to postgraduates; for excellent reports on the quality of students’ experience with us; for the close working partnership between academics and the postgraduate student committee; for the numerous strategies the School uses to support students’ integration into life at New College and in Scotland. This positive review followed a strong verdict in the UK Research Excellence Framework (2014) on the quality of our ‘Research Environment’: 100% at the top grades (70% 4*, 30% 3*), locating

us second in Theology/Religion within the UK.

The Graduate School shapes its students, but also must be shaped by them. Postgraduates bring sharp minds that create the next generation of scholarship. The intellectual agenda for the School is constantly changing. Innovative and interdisciplinary approaches permeate all the ‘traditional’ disciplines. We are also promoting new research areas, such as Science and Religion and Christian-Muslim Relations.

If you would like to know more about opportunities in our Graduate School, we would love to hear from you.

Dr Alison Jack, Director of Undergraduate Studies at the School of Divinity, on this year’s undergraduate student cohort and developments in our degree programmes.

In the current academic year we welcomed 82 new undergraduate students onto our degree programmes, and welcomed a further 186 students back to continue their studies with us at New College. A new joint degree programme (with the School of Education), ‘Primary Education with Religious Studies’, brings over 30 new students onto our introductory-level Religious Studies core courses each year, and adds positively to the mix of students who identify with the School of Divinity.

Overall, we have 112 students studying for our MA (Honours) in Theology, 67 on our MA (Honours) Religious Studies programme, and 8 on our BD/MDiv programmes. A further 66 are doing joint honours in Philosophy and Theology, and 4 in Divinity and Classics. Eleven students are on our Religious Studies and English Literature programme.

While our UG student body is made up of people taking a variety of degree programmes, in fact most of our courses are shared across our degrees. The sense of community in New College is enhanced by this sharing of courses. Our students are also free to take courses from offerings in the wider University, especially pre-honours courses (‘level 8’), and we benefit from students from a wide range of other disciplines in the University taking our courses.

Obviously the benefits of having our New College Library on site, and the Rainy Hall and its kitchen as a hub for relaxing, chatting and studying, remain as strong as they have ever been. We are very proud of the level of support offered to students here, and we have a good reputation across the University for being a caring and compassionate School.

“THE BENEFITS OF HAVING OUR NEW COLLEGE LIBRARY ON SITE, AND THE RAINY HALL AND ITS KITCHEN AS A HUB FOR RELAXING, CHATTING AND STUDYING, REMAIN AS STRONG AS THEY HAVE EVER BEEN.

”

The proportion of female to male Undergraduate students remains steady (currently 169:99), as does the ratio of Scottish/EU to Rest of the UK students (97:164). Each year we welcome a small number of undergraduate year-abroad exchange students (and we would welcome more), and we send four or five of our students to America, India and the Netherlands for a semester or a year. The New College undergraduate community continues to thrive in all its diversity.

Alumni news

New College Korean Alumni Association



New College alumni in Korea form a lively and loyal group, and during the annual conference of the Korean Theological Association held in October 2015, Professors David Fergusson and Brian Stanley met with alumni attending the conference.

In 2009 our Korean alumni provided the initial contributions to establish the John Ross Scholarship in New College, which is intended particularly to assist Korean postgraduate students.

Rev David Plews (MTh Ethics, 2013)



David Plews is on a roll. His work at the Church of Scotland achieved national recognition in October when a publication he edits was nominated in The Drum's 2015, Scottish

Creative Awards. *Learn: Eldership*, the Church's in-house book for church elders, was acclaimed for its insightful articles, touchable pages and fresh design. The series is continuing with the publication this month of: *Learn: Exploring Faith*.

David was recently appointed to the post of Training Officer with the Ministries Council of the Church of Scotland, where he leads the research, planning and implementation of training programmes for all ministries personnel. He previously was Congregational Learning Development Worker for the Church.

Dr David Robertson (PhD, 2014 Tutor and part-time Lecturer)



Dr David Robertson is the co-founder and editor of the *Religious Studies project*, an international collaborative enterprise producing weekly podcasts with leading scholars on the social-scientific study of religion.

He has recently become co-editor of the journal, *Implicit Religion*, which explores and challenges the boundary between religion and non-religion. He also has his own blog-site where he comments on

various developments in religion and culture: <https://davidgrobertson.wordpress.com/>.

Rev Ben F. Eidse's



Rev Ben F. Eidse's recent book, *The Disciple and Sorcery: The Lunda-Chokwe View* (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015), is his career study of that blended tribe's world view, a work which he commenced during his studies in New College 1992-1996.

He enrolled for the PhD in New College in 1992, but his studies were interrupted by wife's major stroke in 1996 required him to devote his time to her as primary care-giver for nearly sixteen years. After her death in 2010, he was able to complete and publish the study that he began here over twenty years ago. It has been hailed by scholars as a valuable contribution combining lexicography and anthropological insights. Recently turned 87, he resides in Steinbach, Manitoba.

Rev Alan Sorensen (MTh 1993)

Rev Alan Sorensen, a Church of Scotland minister in Greenock, has recently been given the very rare honour of being commissioned as a Deputy Lieutenant. The Lord Lieutenant is the Queen's representative in a county, and appoints Deputies to represent the Sovereign when he or she is unable to. Deputy Lieutenants often present the Queen's 'telegram' at 100th birthdays, Diamond Wedding Anniversaries as well as being part of the team which organises royal visits to the area.

Mr Sorensen was one of the first graduates of the MTh course in Media and Ethics which combined his two spheres, ministry and broadcasting. He retired in January after 23 years from his Sunday Morning programme 'Down to Earth' which was networked over 7 of Scotland's local radio stations but he still regularly presents Pause for Thought on BBC Radio2

Rev Dr Russell Barr (BD Divinity, 1978)



The Church of Scotland has nominated Rev Dr Russell Barr, minister of Cramond Kirk, as the next Moderator of the General Assembly. Russell graduated BD in 1978 since when he has served in parish ministry. During his time in Edinburgh he has founded and led Fresh Start, a charity which enables those who have been homeless to become established in their own homes.

We wish Russell well on his moderatorial travels in 2016/17 and look forward to his visit to the annual carol service at New College in December 2016.

Alumni survey

We want to know what our alumni think about their time here, and about how they can continue their association with us. So, in April 2015 we conducted a survey of over 1700 alumni of the School of Divinity, which produced 276 completed responses. Here are some results of that survey.

Who Responded?

- 59% had studied for an undergraduate degree with us, 41% for a postgraduate degree
- 64% of respondents were male, 36% female
- The matriculation dates of respondents ranged from 1950 to 2014
- 17% were under 30 years old; 20% were 30-40 years old; 14% were 40-50 years old; 50% were 50+ years old
- 64% live in the UK, 16% in the USA, the remainder in various other countries

What We Learned

- Our alumni overwhelmingly expressed a strong sense of connection with New College/School of Divinity, and feel that continuing contact with us is important, wanting information about developments, staff news, and events.
- Younger alumni would value help in networking and career-development.
- 80% read and appreciated the New College Bulletin, and 68% had visited the School website since graduating.
- Respondents offered a number of ideas about what they particularly liked in the New College Bulletin. The most frequently mentioned were these: interviews with academic staff, opinion pieces, research news, news of events and developments within New College, and historical items on New College.
- There were also a number of suggestions about what other content we might include in future issues of the Bulletin, and we will be considering them closely as we plan for the future. Among them was the suggestion that we might highlight more of the diversity of career paths taken and available to our alumni.

New staff

New College continues to enjoy the addition of new members of academic and support staff, who bring a richness and diversity of expertise.

Dr Linden Bicket



Dr Linden Bicket is a Teaching Fellow focused on religion and the arts, and specialising particularly in the Catholic literary imaginary. Before coming to New College, she studied Scottish Literature and Language at the University of Glasgow, where she completed her PhD in 2011. She was later a postdoctoral research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh.

Her first monograph, entitled *George Mackay Brown and the Scottish Catholic Imagination*, is forthcoming with Edinburgh University Press in 2016. Linden is reviews editor for the journal of Catholic Scotland, *Innes Review*.

Dr James Collin



Dr James Collin is a newly-appointed Lecturer in Philosophy, Science and

Religion, as part of a Templeton-funded project: Philosophy, Science and Religion Online. He studied philosophy at St Andrews and Edinburgh, completing his PhD in the philosophy of mathematics in 2013. As a postdoctoral researcher at Edinburgh, he helped to build the online courses Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophy and the Sciences, which have attracted hundreds of thousands of students.

His research focusses on the intersection of issues in philosophy of religion, epistemology, metaphysics, and pragmatist conceptions of language.

Rev. Dr. Leah E. Robinson



Rev. Dr. Leah E. Robinson is the newly appointed Lecturer in Practical and Pastoral Theology. She obtained a BSc in Psychology and Religious Studies and her MDiv from Mercer University (USA) in the area of Practical Theology and Religious Conflict. She previously held a post in Practical Theology and Peacebuilding at the University of Glasgow from 2010-2015.

Her active research interests include practical theology, liberation theologies, sectarianism in the Scottish and Northern Ireland contexts, and contextual theologies of reconciliation and violence. Current book projects include a study into the way 'negative' practices of theology are reflected as politics.

Dr Nina Fischer



Dr Nina Fischer is a Teaching Fellow in Religious Studies. She brings her expertise in Jewish, Israel/Middle Eastern, Holocaust, Cultural, and Memory Studies to the Religious Studies subject area. Previously, Nina held positions and fellowships at the University of Konstanz (Germany), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel), and the Australian National University.

Dr Zachary Purvis



Dr Zachary Purvis joined New College as a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow. He received the DPhil in Oxford University in 2014. His research focuses on 19th-century European theology and religious history. His book, *Theology and the University in Nineteenth-Century Germany* (Oxford: Oxford University Press) appears later this year.

Dr Joshua Ralston



Dr Joshua Ralston is Lecturer in Muslim/Christian Relations. His research and teaching are focused on the theological, legal, political, and scriptural encounters between Christians and Muslims across the centuries with a particular interest in Protestant Christianity and Sunni Islam. His current book project, *Law and the Rule of God*, leverages political theology and comparative theology to engage longstanding debates over the place and function of law in Muslim-Christian relations.

Prior to moving to Scotland, he was Assistant Professor of Theology at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He also lived and taught theology and Christian-Muslim Relations in Cairo, Egypt and Ramallah, Palestine, experiences that shaped his abiding interest in Arab Christianity and modern Arab Islamic Thought.

Staff Farewells

This past year, two colleagues on academic staff departed to take up important new posts elsewhere, and we wish them continued successes:

Dr. Nicholas Adams was appointed Professor of Philosophical Theology in the University of Birmingham.

Dr. Afe Adogame was appointed the Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Christianity and Society in Princeton Theological Seminary.

In memoriam

In the past year several former colleagues passed away. We note briefly and with gratitude their lives and contributions to New College.

Rev Dr Andrew Morton

Rev Dr Andrew Morton (24 May 1928–7 January 2016) will be remembered well by staff and students over many years. After a number of other posts, he served as Associate Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues in New College. This was expressive of his life-long concern for the social implications of Christian faith. He also served enthusiastically for a number of years as Alumni Officer for New College, and edited the New College Bulletin.

Dr Alison Elliot, with whom he worked in the Church of Scotland Church and Nation Committee said Andrew Morton was a model of gracious compassion and generosity. 'He had a restless intellectual curiosity and the honesty not to settle for easy answers'.

Mrs Elizabeth Templeton



Mrs Elizabeth Templeton, the first woman to hold a full-time lectureship at New College, died on 17 April 2015, aged 69. An exciting and popular teacher, Elizabeth challenged her students to ask difficult questions of themselves and others. She taught

at New College from 1970–79, where she met her husband Douglas, who lectured in New Testament. Her books include *God's February: Life of Archie Craig* (1991) and *The Strangeness of God* (1993).

The Centre for Theology and Public Issues recently organised a mini-conference to celebrate Elizabeth's lifelong contribution to the church and the academy. We extend our condolences to Douglas, and to Kirsten and Calum.

Dr Ruth Page



Dr Ruth Page died on her 80th birthday on 15 September, 2015. She served as a lecturer and then senior lecturer in Systematic Theology at New College from 1979 until her retirement in 2000. The author of four scholarly books including *God and the Web of Creation* (1979), she devoted much time to the wider work of the churches both in Scotland and overseas. As a pastor, Ruth offered invaluable support to ministerial candidates, becoming the first woman to be appointed Principal of New College (1996–99).

Always popular with her students, she was presented with her portrait (by Ewan McClure) in June 2012 at what proved to be almost her last public appearance.

Research update

AHRC grant award for Dr Holtschneider: **Jewish Lives, Scottish Spaces** – Jewish Migration to Scotland, 1880-1950



Dorrieth Sim née Oppenheimer and her parents Trudi and Hans Oppenheimer. Dorrieth came to Scotland on the Kindertransport, was raised by a foster family and stayed here for the rest of her life.*



The Institute Players, a Glasgow-based Yiddish Theatre Company, celebrating winning a competition trophy, 1950s.*

Dr Hannah Holtschneider (University of Edinburgh, Principal Investigator) and Dr Mia Spiro (University of Glasgow, Co-Investigator) have won a grant of £619,273 for a three year research project on Jewish migration to Scotland, beginning September 2015.

The project, which is partnered with the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, has also appointed a post-doctoral researcher, Dr Deborah Butcher, and will run an extensive programme of public activities.

Harvey Kaplan, Director of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, said:

'We look forward to working with this exciting new project over the next three years. The wide-ranging collections of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, brought together over the last 30 years, constitute a unique national resource, unparalleled in any other immigrant group in Scotland. We are looking forward to seeing our

collections underpinning this AHRC-funded project and being utilised to interpret Jewish history in Scotland'.

As Jews in Scotland moved between and within, into and out of local and transnational spaces, the objects they saved, used and created reveal how Jews self-identified as they negotiated issues such as antisemitism, assimilation, cultural loss, memory and the Holocaust, nationalism and belonging.

The SJAC's collections on the history of the Jewish religious communities, on Jewish political and cultural life in Scotland since the late nineteenth century, and the rich personal

collections donated by refugees from Nazi Germany will form the primary source material.

The focus of the investigation is threefold: Dr Holtschneider is concentrating on researching collections of child refugees from Nazi Germany, Dr Spiro engages primarily with the cultural production of Yiddish Theatre, while Dr Butcher is interested in the formation of women's identity in Zionist organisations.

The project has a blog which is regularly updated <https://jewishmigrationtoscotland.wordpress.com/>.

*Copyright, Scottish Jewish Archives Centre www.sjac.org.uk

Professor Jane Dawson's book **John Knox, shortlisted for the Saltire History book of the year – 2015**

John Knox by Professor Jane Dawson (Yale University Press, 2015) was shortlisted for the Saltire History Book of the Year Award for 2015. The book has been hailed as a major contribution to our understanding of this major figure in Scottish history. Professor Dawson reflects here on the work over a number of years that led to the book:

It all started long ago and far away –the 1970s and Durham University Library – when I had my first prolonged exposure to John Knox. I had the six volumes of Knox's Works permanently on loan because Knox was the best friend of Christopher Goodman, the subject of my doctoral thesis. Producing the biography of John Knox, published in April 2015, brought things full circle. **This book rested upon major new material that gave new insights into Knox's life and allowed the familiar material – those six volumes – to be understood in a fresh way.**

I had recently discovered the manuscript papers of Christopher Goodman in Ruthin, North Wales and in Chester and they contained previously unknown letters from Knox to Goodman. In those letters the Scot revealed to his close friend worries about the progress of the Scottish Reformed Kirk and they showed how ill-health and depression haunted his final years. In addition, the rich new material plugged some gaps in Knox's life, especially the period (1554-9) he had spent among the English exiles on the Continent during the reign of Queen Mary Tudor. It revealed for the first time Knox's ministry in Ayr, a possible visit

to Ireland and details of his secret visit to England in 1566-7.

Though I assumed I had been acquainted with him for forty years, Knox's story kept producing surprises. The book tried to show the private man alongside the public figure who was a British and European Reformer as well as being a Scottish one. Writing the biography was more challenging than I had anticipated as I sought to make it as easy as possible for readers to follow Knox's words and deeds.



Reading matters: latest books by our academic staff

1 & 1b **Dr Lydia Schumacher** has two recent books of note: *Rationality as Virtue* (London: Ashgate, 2015). A creative argument that rationality involves both intellectual soundness and also a 'moral virtue' that takes account of 'whether knowledge is used in ways that promote an individual's own flourishing and that of others'.

2 *Theological Philosophy: Rethinking the Rationality of Christian Faith* (London: Ashgate, 2016). Building on the previous book, in this one Schumacher contends that 'that belief in the God of Christian faith provides an exceptionally robust rationale for rationality and is as such intrinsically rational'. She also links spiritual practice and ordinary life, contending that the latter is the focus for proofs of the rationality of Christian faith.

3 **Dr Naomi Appleton** (with Sara Shaw) published *The Ten Great Birth Stories of the Buddha*, the first complete English translation of this material in over a century. These stories narrate the Bodhisatta's ten final lives in the human realm before his final life and enlightenment as the

Buddha. Replete with adventure, subterfuge, magic, and intrigue, the tales also showcase Buddhist philosophy and morality as they chronicle the multi-life quest of the Bodhisatta to achieve the Ten Perfections—virtues that must be refined before he can reach his final goal of awakening.

4 **Professor Paul Foster** co-edited a volume of essays in honour of Michael W. Holmes: *Studies on the Text of the New Testament and Early Christianity: Essays in Honor of Michael W. Holmes* (Leiden: Brill, 2015). The collection of twenty-seven essays focuses on the twin areas of research undertaken by Holmes. These are the sub-disciplines of textual criticism and the study of the Apostolic Fathers. The first part of the volume on textual criticism focuses on issues of method, the praxis of editing and collating texts, and discussions pertaining to individual variants. The second part of the volume assembles essays on the Apostolic Fathers. There is a particular focus on the person and writings of Polycarp, since this is the area of research where Prof. Holmes has worked most intensively.

5 **Dr Joshua Ralston** co-edited a volume focused on Christian responses to migration: *Church in an Age of Global Migration: A Moving Body*. Pathways for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue Series (London/New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). The book includes essays by contributors from diverse national, denominational, cultural, professional, and linguistic backgrounds that reveal the ways in which migrants and the phenomenon of migration expose longstanding gaps and failings within Christian communities.

6 **Professor Helen Bond and Professor Emeritus Larry Hurtado** co-edited *Peter in Early Christianity* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015), a collection of essays from a conference organized here by the Centre for the Study of Christian Origins (July 2013). The nineteen essays from a galaxy of scholars address historical questions about Peter, and analyse references to Peter in various New Testament writings and in later Christian traditions.

7 **Professor Mona Siddiqui's** recent book, *Hospitality and Islam: Welcoming in God's Name* (New Haven/London: Yale University Press, 2015) is the first major contribution to the understanding of hospitality both within Islam and beyond. She explores and compares teachings within the various Muslim traditions over the centuries, while also drawing on materials as diverse as Islamic belles lettres, Christian reflections on almsgiving and charity, and Islamic and Western feminist writings on gender issues. Applying a more theological approach to the idea of mercy as a fundamental basis for human relationships, this book will appeal to a wide audience, particularly readers interested in Islam, ethics, and religious studies.

8 **Dr Nina Fischer's** new book, *Memory Work: The Second Generation* (New York/London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) explores how Jewish children of Holocaust survivors from the English-speaking diaspora explore the past and engage with the pre-Holocaust family and their parents' survival.

9 **Dr Leah Robinson** published *Embodied Peacebuilding* (Frankfurt/Oxford: Peter Lang, 2015). In the areas of peacebuilding and conflict resolution, the word 'reconciliation' has often been branded a negative term because it implies a resolution agreed upon by all parties in a given society, which for many seems an unachievable ideal. This book looks at

the concept of reconciliation from a theological point of view, analysing its use historically within theology and presenting a new model of a practical theology of reconciliation. Using narrative research, it explores this idea within the context of Northern Ireland and offers valuable insights into the theological use of reconciliation by members of communities based in a conflict zone.

10 **Professor David Fergusson's** book, *Christian Theology: 21st Century Challenges* (Tainan: Tainan Theological College, 2015) is the published version of his Sinlau Lectures (in English and Chinese translation) given in Tainan, Taiwan, in 2015.

11 **Dr Alexander Chow's** book, *Theosis, Sino-Christian Theology and the Second Chinese Enlightenment: Heaven and Humanity in Unity* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), has now been published in Chinese translation in Hong Kong by Logos and Pneuma Press.

12 **Jeremy H. Kidwell and Sean Doherty eds.**, *Theology and Economics: A Christian Vision of the Common Good*, (Palgrave MacMillan, 2015). This volume brings together a group of prominent Christian economists and theologians to discuss how we might transform economic and theological reasoning from antagonistic forces into tools with which to cultivate more just and moral economies in the twenty-first century.

The volume includes contributions from Emeritus Professor Oliver O'Donovan and alumnus, Dr Matthew Arbo as well as Kidwell and others.

13 **Dr Jeremy H. Kidwell**, *The Theology of Craft and the Craft of Work: From Tabernacle to Eucharist*, (Routledge, 2016). This book examines the theology and ethics of work through a detailed exegetical study of temple construction accounts in the Hebrew bible and the New Testament. It brings forward the ancient vision of 'good work' which is preserved in these biblical texts towards a conversation with contemporary craft theory, touching on work themes which include agency, aesthetics, sociality, skill, and the material culture of work.





Scholarships news

Thanks to the generosity of friends and alumni over many years, the School of Divinity is able to offer a number of scholarship of varying amounts to students. These are particularly important in attracting postgraduate students. In the last year we received two further substantial donations that will enhance greatly our ability to offer financial assistance to deserving students.

The Kirby Laing Foundation has donated £800,000 to be spent over ten years on scholarships at New College. This money will be applied to full-year or half-year students from the majority world (the 'global south'). We look forward to welcoming the first group of Kirby Laing scholars in September 2016. The School of Divinity is grateful to the Kirby Laing Foundation for this further major gift which will promote educational work amongst colleges and churches in some of the most economically disadvantaged parts of the world.

The *Scottish Journal of Theology* has donated a further £50,000 to the John McIntyre Scholarship Fund. This fund supports candidates training for ministry in any one of the Scottish churches. The capital sum has now reached almost £150,000, and awards have been made to students in the current academic session. Further contributions are welcome as we seek to increase the

fund in anticipation of an increase in candidate numbers. We are grateful to the Directors of the *Scottish Journal of Theology* for their several gifts and this latest generous support, which collectively amount to some £130,000 over recent years.

In addition to the general scholarship endowment fund, there are several named scholarship funds to which we heartily welcome additional donations. Scholarships are awarded from the income earned on the capital amount. So, increases to the latter enable us to offer more generous scholarships, to help keep pace with the rise in fees and living costs. Here are current scholarship funds, to which you can make a contribution. For more information: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/divinity/support>.

- The James S. Stewart fund was established in 1996 to provide scholarships for postgraduate students of outstanding merit.

- The Thomas F. Torrance fund supports Masters students from Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- The John Ross fund was established by Korean churches and alumni to provide scholarships for Korean postgraduate students.
- The John McIntyre Fund was established to provide scholarships for candidates preparing for ministry in any of the Scottish churches.
- Rev Dr Norma P Robertson Scholarships are available to students undertaking programmes of study at postgraduate level in Christian History, Bible and Theology.
- The John Baillie Fund offers support to overseas postgraduate students.

We also welcome inquiries from anyone who may wish to establish a new scholarship fund with a substantial gift. For any initial inquiries about donating to scholarship funds, contact the Editor, Professor Larry Hurtado (l.hurtado@ed.ac.uk)

Scholarship recipients talk about what their award means to them



Amos Bongadu Chewachong, PhD Candidate in World Christianity/Religious Studies.

I am Amos Bongadu Chewachong, an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon now studying for a PhD in World Christianity/Religious Studies.

I came to Edinburgh in September 2012 to study for an MTH in World Christianity. I graduated in November 2013 and was awarded the Divinity School tuition scholarship to study for a PhD in World Christianity. This

scholarship made all the difference in my life; without it, I would never have been able to pay the fees nor pursue my PhD studies. My research interests are: Religious transnationalism in the intra-African diaspora, theology and ethics, eco-theology and comparative religions. My PhD research title is: Transnational Pentecostalism and the Dynamics of Power in New Cultural Geo-spaces: The Living Faith Church Worldwide in Cameroon, 1996-2015.

I am enjoying my research in Edinburgh University because of

its extraordinary nature in terms of resources and services. The multiple campuses and libraries include those at New College, George Square and the King's Buildings where students can access study spaces and resources from different angles of the city. The short courses often offered by the University in foreign languages, research methods and the use of software for easy analysis of research data are very rewarding. New College has also got a cream of professionals in every theological and social science discipline. My supervisors have been meticulous and their feedback on my work very helpful.

I hope that the University of Edinburgh will remain a citadel of academic excellence and that its alumni will find their knowledge helpful for developing a better world.



Krittika Bhattacharjee, PhD student in Religious Studies

I began my PhD in New College in January 2014. I had also studied here two years earlier, towards an MSc in Religious Studies. I enjoyed working on my dissertation on tourism and religion and I felt there was more life to the project. With the encouragement of my supervisors, I applied and, supported by the kind offer of a scholarship, I made the trip back to Edinburgh from India. By the time I returned, the tables in Rainy Hall were arranged differently, the Wash Bar had retired its New College Meal Deal, and the first year PhDs I had known were writing up: serious, tired, and wiser.

Now in my third year, I have learned and re-learned the things I value about New College: the keen sense of community, the close attention from my supervisors, the view from the windows in the Martin Hall, the brightness of lunchtime chats. I've valued being able to learn, tutor and do field-work relatively unconstrained by anxieties about the rupee-to-pound exchange rate. In the meantime, the cost of student visas has risen and the conditions for getting a post-study work visa are stricter. The ramifications of these actions will be widespread; to me, they serve as reminders about the distinct and sometimes fragile privilege of being able to be here, for now, even if for a little while.

Upcoming events

April

19 April 2016 – 9:45-17:00

One-day conference

Religious Diversity and Cultural Change in Scotland: Modern Perspectives

A One Day Conference organised by Scottish Religious Cultures Network (SRCN), with Religious Studies and the Centre for Theology and Public Issues. Held at New College

23 April 2016 – 10:00-16:00

Symposium

God, Creation and Providence

The Symposium, led by Professor David Fergusson, will feature lectures, lunch, and discussion. St Cuthbert's Church Lothian Road, Edinburgh. The event will be held at St Cuthbert's Church Lothian Road, Edinburgh

30 April 2016 – 14:30-16:00

Public lecture

Visions of the End: The Book of Revelation in Art, Music, and Politics

Professor Elaine Pagels, Princeton University will deliver a public lecture on 'Visions of the End: The Book of Revelation in Art, Music, and Politics'. Held at New College

May

3 May 2016 – 14:15-15:15

Public lecture

How do the Nag Hammadi Texts Change our Understanding of Early Christianity?

Professor Elaine Pagels of Princeton University will deliver a lecture on "How do the Nag Hammadi texts change our understanding of early Christianity?" Held at New College

2 – 12 May 2016

Gifford lecture series

Christianity and the New Spirit of Nationalism

Professor Kathryn Tanner (Yale Divinity School), will demonstrate through these six lectures the capacity of Christian beliefs and practices to help people resist the dictates of capitalism in its present, finance-dominated configuration.

These lectures are free but ticketed. Visit our events page to book your ticket

13 May 2016 – 14:00-16:00

CPD event

Approaching Religion Through Story: Resources for School Teachers

A CPD event for Primary teachers and Secondary RMPS teachers. Held at New College

June

4 June 2016 – 15:00-22:00

Social gathering

Alumni Reunion 2016

Join us at New College for the 2016 Alumni Reunion and share food, entertainment and good memories. To register your interest, visit our website or follow this link: <http://edin.ac/1LJT3hH>

15 June 2016 – 17:00-18:00

Public lecture

Professors Tom Wright (St Andrews) and John Barclay (Durham) will discuss St Paul

Please visit our events page to register for any of our events.