



Rainy Dayze



SEPTEMBER 2009

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Welcome to New College

Professor David Fergusson: Principal of New College.

We're glad to welcome you to this new session at New College. As Church of Scotland candidates, you represent a distinctive cohort within the student body and I trust that this will ensure lasting bonds of friendship amongst you. At the same time, you have an opportunity to participate in the wider life of the School of Divinity within New College. I hope that you will find the time to do this, whether through attending weekly worship, guest lectures, social events or simply enjoying the company of staff and fellow students at lunch in the Rainy Hall.

For much of the coming academic year, I will be absent while serving as Interim Head of the College of Humanities & Social Science. However, I hope to be present each week within New College, especially for our weekly communion service on Thursdays. I look forward to meeting you all and wish you every success in the year ahead.

Dr Alison Jack will be on hand to provide some cover for Professor Fergusson during his time as Interim Head of the CHSS.



Ruth Halley: President, Church of Scotland New College Candidates Committee

Welcome to New College 2009-10 and to the Church of Scotland candidates' newsletter, 'Rainy Dayze'. The name is appropriate as it reminds us of the Rainy Hall refectory where so many friendships are made and where experiences and hopes are shared. We hope that the newsletter and candidates' committee will reflect this. Our aim is to provide you with a channel of information between candidates as a group, New College and Ministries Council. This is not to replace our individual links but to offer something in addition. We also hope to coordinate social events and training events in response to interest from you. If you have any thoughts, or would like to help organise these, then please

let us know.

If this is your first year at New College you may be wondering what is ahead. If you are returning then you may have some clear hopes for the year. Either way the academic year takes a bit of getting used to. Most of us find the first semester quite a challenge, especially if we are combining it with a placement. It does get easier, however. In the second semester there is a longer lead in to the exams and everything is more familiar.

May the Lord bless you and keep you as you journey on with Him,
Ruth Halley



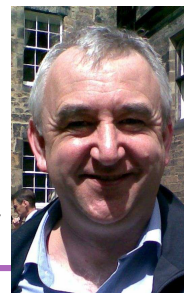
The New College Candidates Committee is made up of candidates studying at New College and who are interested in organising activities for all the other candidates. We usually organise some social activities, some relevant training events and of course this newsletter to keep you all informed of what's going on. If you would like to be involved

Meet the committee



Andy
[& Stewart!]

with the committee, we welcome any input from new candidates just contact the Secretary, me!



Andy Haddow



Iain
Nikki

For all sorts of useful info & sign-up sheets:
Don't forget to check the candidates notice-board in the corridor just down from the Rainy Hall (on the way to your tutorial group rooms if you're an undergrad!)

Training Events:

1st Semester: 'What happens to the body?'
Although death comes to all of us, modern society appears to be in denial. We hide it away. This is an opportunity to observe and discuss the practicalities and legalities of death with an experienced undertaker including a 'behind the scenes' visit to a crematorium. On a bereavement visit, faced with the statement: 'but they just mix all the ashes up anyway', you'll know 1st-hand this isn't so.

2nd Semester options: We have a couple of choices—but can only do one. Sign up sheets on the notice-board. Let us know which you'd

prefer by the end of October so we can arrange. 'Getting to Grips With Powerpoint/Fresh Start' Combo.— learning PowerPoint for presentations and worship, and at the same time learning about the work of and opportunities to volunteer with Fresh Start.. With Rev. Mark Foster Dementia, Spirituality and Worship— explores practical ways of including those on the margins of the church community who are ageing, or who have issues around dementia. Useful hints for creating dementia-friendly worship both in church and in nursing/ sheltered housing venues. Speaker [in process!]

And, don't forget to watch out for upcoming social events!

Undertakers... the inside story

Read any Victorian novel and you're never far from death—well, that's been my experience of Victorian novels at any rate! But our modern society hides death, denies it, and does its best to remove it out of sight and out of mind. As student ministers, we're on a path where death, in effect, will be a part of our daily life. Knowing this, I went on an arranged visit to a funeral parlour and then a crematorium with a couple of other candidates. Here's some brief impressions: the staff at the funeral directors and at the crem. were friendly, helpful and sensitive. They talked us through useful legal and practical matters and then walked us around on a behind-the-scenes tour of the crem. I was worried prior to the visit that I'd feel a tad voyeuristic and intrusive, but this was not the case. Having been walked through the process and seen what happens has been an immensely enriching experience. It's subsequently stood me in good stead during my time as a locum over summer, visiting with bereaved folks and conducting funerals. Knowing the process, and knowing some of the protocols—what you can and can't put in a coffin!— has been incredibly useful. I can certainly say a resounding 'no' when someone suggests that it probably isn't the loved one's ashes. And perhaps that, in itself, is a very good thing.

Nikki Macdonald



Hickory

Dickory...

Blog?



Journaling is now an 'expectation' of the ongoing candidate assessment process, but it really shouldn't be looked upon as a chore. It's a great way to sort out your own thoughts on an issue or something you've observed or even just a way to record useful ideas. It's also interesting to see how, over a period of time, your understanding of

things has developed and changed. There are many ways of keeping a journal: you can use trusty pen and paper... or you can blog! With Eutyclus, you can theme your blog, customise sidebar widgets, upload photos and files, create special interest groups, hold discussions on the forum and much more, so even if you don't want to

use Eutyclus for journaling, it's a great place to exchange ideas and to support others. Journaling by blogging is not for everyone but if you like the idea of it, sign up and give the features a run-through. Even if you blog elsewhere you are encouraged to set up a page here <http://eutyclus.org.uk/> with a link to your own blog. John Orr

RAINY

DAYZE:

Just a product of your wild & fertile imagination...

Worship @ New College



Worship at New College can be found in many different guises. There are obvious ones that are easily identified by the weekly email reminder - on Thursdays around 1pm, a short communion service is celebrated. This is led by staff, students and guests - with a short reflection, prayers, a bit of music and the sharing of communion. This intimate service provides a lovely spiritual community within New College. You are of course welcome to join the New College choir too!

More informally, the Sanctuary is available for prayers. In previous years Friday lunch-times were used as a more relaxed time for prayers for the New College and wider community - but really the space can be used by whoever, in whatever way is helpful for their spiritual life. If a regular time is wanted for anyone to join prayers the space

can be booked in the office. If you attend worship at New College you are also invited to attend the Worship Committee, which meets at least twice a year - usually at the end of semester. The committee reflects on how worship has been experienced that semester and the principal and vice-principal are open to suggestions for changes for the following semester. At this point you can volunteer yourself or nominate others to lead worship and music can also be considered with the musical director.

These are just the existing structures for worship within the New College community - the spirit moves in all kinds of ways and meeting with others over a meal or cup of tea seems just as Christ like a model to follow....

Sarah Brown [now 'our woman in Princeton']

*Shoebboxes:
Make
a world
of difference
to someone
this Christmas*



Blythswood Care: shoebox appeal

Will you help us to make someone smile this Christmas?

This year the Church of Scotland Candidates are joining with the **Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal** to send Christmas Shoeboxes to people in:
**Eastern Europe,
India
and Sri Lanka.**

The things that we take for granted are considered to be luxuries by these people, who have so little. We are hoping to fill 75 shoeboxes with gifts to make this Christmas special for them.

Please help by donating new items to put into shoeboxes – toiletries, stationery, small household items, clothing, sweets etc.

Shoebboxes will be made up for all ages of people: from babies to the elderly. If you would prefer, you could donate financially and we will buy suitable items.

Help with wrapping and packing shoeboxes would also be appreciated. And we anticipate having one afternoon or two in the Rainy Hall to assemble the shoeboxes. We're also hoping that this appeal will end up being a wider New

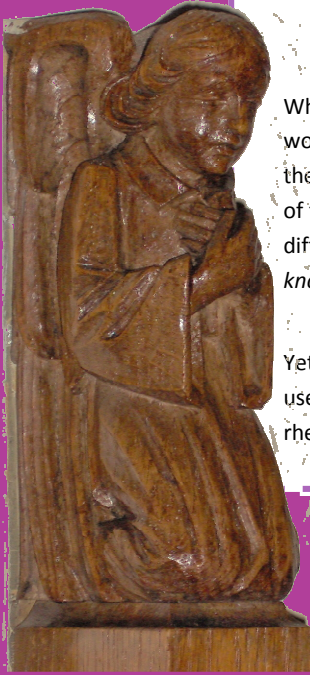
College event: students all working together on behalf of those who are less fortunate than we are.

Look out for more information on the notice boards in New College and help make someone smile this Christmas.



Lindsay Turnbull

On Being: Where are the scholars?



*Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar?
Where is the philosopher of this age?
(1 Corinthians 1:20)*

Why, at New College, of course! Though it seems it won't do us much good. 'Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?' Paul asks. All the wisdom of this age will not reveal God to us. There is a clear difference between knowing *about* God and actually *knowing* God.

Yet Paul himself was an exceptional scholar, who used his knowledge of scripture, philosophy, rhetoric, and law, all in the service of the Gospel. He

never mistook his learning for knowledge of God – but he used his learning to serve God.

For the time being, God has placed us here, to gather the learning we need to serve him. The opportunity is truly God-given. Enjoy it!

God of wisdom, your call has brought us to this place, and we are meant to be here. As you want us to learn, so teach us how to love learning. Keep us steady; keep us patient; keep open our hearts and minds. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Fran Henderson, Doctoral student & C of S minister

Candidate 'lite': church bulletins...

Glorious typos, marvellous misprints:

- Don't let worry kill you off -- let the Church help.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM -- prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of

every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

*"supper entertainment
&
gracious hostility"*

*John Knox:
The man;
The legend;
The beard.*

Caption competition

John Knox: reformer, role-model, religious super-hero of Scottish Presbyterians worldwide. But just what is it he's saying from his elevated position in New College quad? Most amusing answer wins a wee box of chocs. [Kindly donated by the Candidates Committee]

Entries in by 1st October & to be sent to Nikki:
N.M.Macdonald-2@sms.ed.ac.uk

Go on, you know you want to...

Newsletter Notes

Newsletter: comes out twice per semester unless the dark forces conspire and conquer. This is a call for volunteers:

If you'd like to write a short article or poem for inclusion; fancy doing the wee prayer/ reflection slot for 'On Being'; have ideas for competitions/ or a wee silly something for

'Candidate Lite'; or would like to get involved with helping to put together the newsletter... here's your chance! Talk to Nikki.

Next edition will have a **Christmas/ winter theme.**

Copy due end October.
Articles no longer than 150-200 words.
Email Nikki: N.M.Macdonald-2@sms.ed.ac.uk



*Candidates Got Talent:
Articles,
Poetry,
Photos
'Funnies'
You'd like to share?*

100% Simon Cowell-proof guaranteed

RAINY

DAYZE:

Just a product of your wild & fertile imagination...