



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

# New College **Bulletin 2011**



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**The Supper at Emmaus – Ceri Richards**

## *Shadows of the Divine*

### INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ART WORKS COME TO NEW COLLEGE

Friday 13 May was lucky for some: it marked the opening of the internationally significant *Shadows of the Divine* art exhibition at New College. This selection of outstanding works of modern religious art was brought to New College through the combined efforts of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, and the generosity of the Methodist Art Collection, and was on display in the Martin Hall from May 14 to June 11, 2011.

The Methodist Church Art Collection is one of the most important collections of modern Christian art outside the Vatican. It includes works by Graham Sutherland, Georges Rouault, Craigie Aitchison, Elisabeth Frink, Peter Howson, Patrick Heron and Eric Gill, among others. The exhibition was further enriched by works from Scottish-based artists.

### **The Centre for Theology and Public Issues**

Founded in 1984 by Duncan Forrester, the CTPI aims to keep academic theology and public life in dialogue with one another. Its interests are various – in past and present, these have included Religion and Ethics in the Making of War and Peace, and Theology in the Public Square, a two-year project on theology and public policy in Scotland since devolution. Its outlook has always been both global and local.

Currently, under the directorship of Professor Jolyon Mitchell of New College, the CTPI is launching a three-year project on Peacebuilding through Media Arts. This project has been generously funded through the Binks Trust. The *Shadows of the Divine* Exhibition marks the start of that project.

To date, the CTPI has published 14 books on topics such as human rights for the child, citizenship and the internet, and most recently, education for citizenship.

For more information about the work of the CTPI, see the New College website under 'Research'; or look up its Wikipedia page

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre\\_for\\_Theology\\_and\\_Public\\_Issues](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_for_Theology_and_Public_Issues)



**Pink Crucifixion -- Craigie Aitchison**

“This is one of these occasions where you can’t quite believe what you are seeing,” remarked Scottish artist Paul Martin in his speech at the opening reception. “It is a wonderful thing for these paintings to be in the public domain, and to be seen again, and to be seen in Edinburgh.”

In this anniversary year, the exhibition also included a display of a rare first edition of the 1611 King James Version of the Bible, supplied by the New College Library. Thus visual art and the written word were displayed side by side in their respective representations of the Christian message.

In his time, King James sought through this translation to make peace between conflicting religious groups, just as the modern visual artwork on display also reaches across divides. In this way, the exhibition explored how both pictorial and literary creations can represent and even contribute to peacebuilding. As the curator of the exhibition, Monique Sliedrecht, commented, “Lovers of great art as well as church people will learn much and will, I am certain, go away from the exhibition hugely stimulated by what they will see.”





**Prof Stewart J Brown**

It is an honour to have been invited to return for a second term as Head of School. And as I do so, permit me to begin again where I had left off, with my farewell message as Head of School in December 2003. In that message, I had reminisced about how much the School had changed since I first arrived at New College as a visiting postgraduate student in 1976. Physically, New College then looked much as it does now—the Rainy Hall, the Library, the Martin Hall, the rabbit-warren of halls and passages, the portraits and busts of serious-looking old Presbyterian gentlemen. But its character was very different. There were far fewer students, the large majority were men, and most were training to become Presbyterian ministers. All but one of the academic staff were men, and most were ordained ministers. Many lecturers still wore traditional black clerical gowns, and opened each lecture with prayer. There was a warm collegial atmosphere and a sense of common purpose, but also a certain narrowness of vision.

## Message from the Head of School

There have been massive changes in our community since 1976. While our buildings have not changed much, the content of our teaching and the composition of our community have been transformed. There is now a great diversity among our academic staff, and an openness in our community to different forms of religious belief. Our student numbers have grown, and are several times larger than they were forty years ago. Along with our traditional teaching of Biblical Studies, Christian Theology, Christian Ethics, and Christian History, we have greatly expanded our study of other religions. Our Religious Studies programme, which was just beginning in the 1970s, has steadily grown under the inspiring leadership of Professors Frank Whaling, James Cox and the late Alisdair Kee, and has attained international distinction.

We continue to diversify and expand. Through our Centre for Theology and Public Issues, founded in 1978 by Professor Duncan Forrester and now under the able leadership of Professor Jolyon Mitchell, we have been working in fresh ways for inter-religious understanding. Our vibrant Centre for World Christianity, led by Professor Brian Stanley, explores the interactions of Christianity with other world faiths. We have initiated new projects on religion, conflict and peace-building, and in the spring we held our first major art exhibition, *Shadows of the Divine*, temporarily transforming the Martin Hall into an art gallery to launch a new project on 'Peacemaking through the Media Arts'. We will soon welcome the distinguished Muslim scholar, Mona Siddiqui, as our first Professor of Islamic Religion and Inter-Religious Understanding. Under the leadership of Professors David Fergusson and Michael Northcott, and with generous assistance from the Templeton Foundation, we are launching a new inter-disciplinary taught Masters programme in Science and

Theology, which we hope will provide international leadership in this vital field.

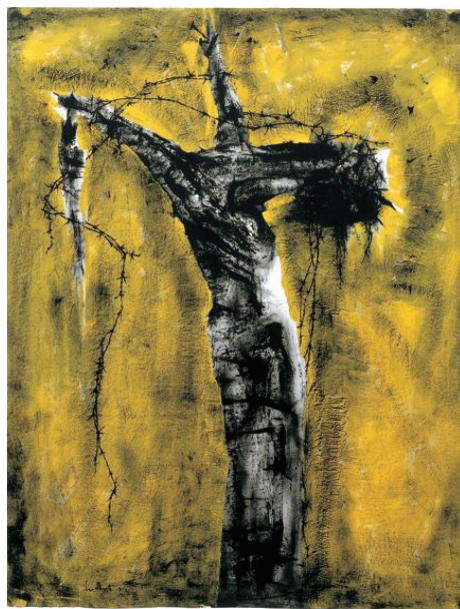
I could go on. But let me simply observe that we have gone through all these changes with confidence and collegiality, and without losing our historic identity. Indeed, as we explore new paths, take on new initiatives and embrace new traditions, it is important that we remember our beginnings. We were shaped by the Protestant tradition, and it has been a source of strength. We were especially reminded of this during this past year, as members of our community played leading roles in the events commemorating the 450th anniversary of the Scottish Reformation, and the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Moreover, Professor Jane Dawson's 'World of the Reformation' project has highlighted, through musical performances and a major exhibition, the rich cultural contributions of the Reformation. We must not lose sight of what was positive in our Reformed tradition, including its emphasis on the importance of learning, the eternal value of each individual, the need for each of us to realise our full human potential, and belief in a transcendent truth.

When I gave my last message as Head of School, the memories of September 11 were still raw. I had closed that message by observing how our world desperately needed 'people of open and magnanimous minds, who seek understanding, mutual respect and reconciliation, and have an abiding sense of the human potential for good'. We are now ten years past September 11, and the need for openness, understanding, mutual respect and reconciliation is greater than ever. We have monumental tasks before us. We also have the potential, in our New College community, to make a real difference in a troubled world.



## Message from the Principal

I have spent much of this year in the implementation of the merger of the University with the Edinburgh College of Art, an experience that has given me renewed appreciation for the supportive work of the university administration. One consequence of my temporary absence, however, is that I have been heavily reliant on the work of Dr Frances Henderson as Assistant Principal. She has organised New College worship and the annual study tour – this year to Jerusalem – very effectively, and I am personally indebted to her for taking on these additional responsibilities.



**Crucified Tree Form -- The Agony -- Theyre Lee-Elliott**

We had a healthy intake of Church of Scotland candidates in September and we hope to maintain a similar level of recruitment later this year. Discussions with the Church of Scotland on the future of ministerial training are taking place.

We remain firmly committed to offering the traditional BD degree, as well as to developing more opportunities for continuing professional development while also identifying ways in which new forms of provision might be offered

New College continues to benefit from the generosity of previous generations. Our scholarship funds provide support to a variety of students from home and overseas, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This generosity of giving continues, and it is good to report the establishment this year of the John Baillie and Ian Baillie Scholarship Fund, following a substantial gift from Mrs Sheila Baillie in honour of her late husband and his distinguished father, Principal Baillie. Further contributions to this scholarship fund from alumni are welcome. In addition, we have received from the Scottish Journal of Theology two substantial awards for 2012/13. These will be designated T. F. Torrance Scholarships and offered to MTh candidates from Asia, Africa or Latin America.



**Prof David Fergusson**

The past session has provided miscellaneous highlights, including a distinguished series of Croall Lectures from Professor Bruce McCormack of Princeton Theological Seminary, the purchase of a new pipe organ for the Martin Hall to be installed this summer, the highly successful art exhibition 'Shadows of the Divine', and the involvement of several colleagues in the events to mark the anniversaries of the Scottish Reformation (1560), the King James Bible (1611), and David Hume (1711–76). In the year ahead, we are planning a reunion event within our buildings and I look forward to meeting many alumni at this occasion.

*David Fergusson*

## Message from the Alumni Officer



### Dr Frances Henderson

In my first email last year, I remarked how it was with some trepidation that I was stepping into Andrew Morton's shoes. Andrew had devoted himself tirelessly to the service of our Alumni for many years, and it was a daunting thought indeed to have to manage without him.

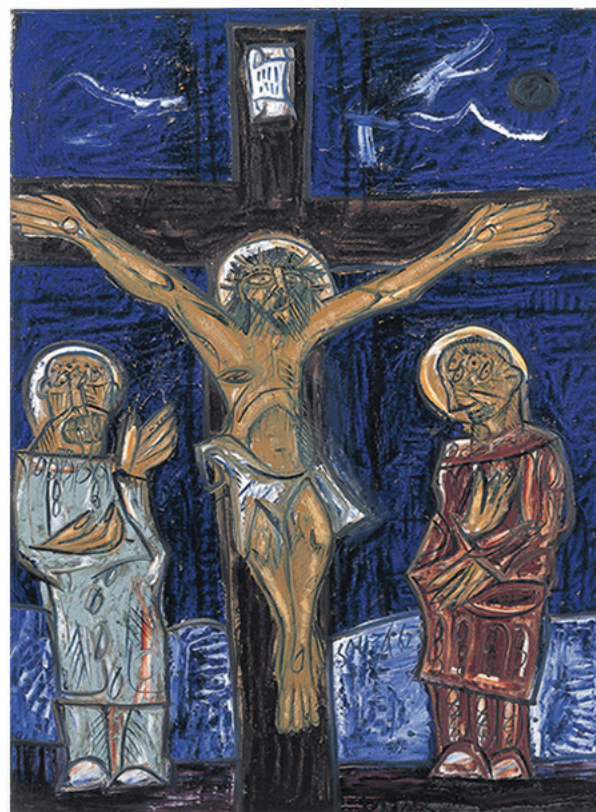
But what a year it has been! On a personal level, I finished my PhD, passed the viva, and graduated on 1st July. Professionally, I have been tutoring and lecturing undergraduates, as well as fulfilling the Alumni Officer and the Assistant Principal posts. And all the time working as a locum minister for a church south of Edinburgh. I can safely say that I have not had time to be bored.

That the work has been such a pleasure is in very large part owing to the contact I have had with so many Alumni over the past year. Every email sent round garners all sorts of responses, and it has been a delight to meet many of you at our various functions.

It is good to know that the collegiality on which we pride ourselves does not end with graduation, but that strong ties of friendship keep our former students interested in all that New College gets up to – and vice versa. That is why we have included in this Bulletin a new feature, where Alumni were invited to update us in turn on their careers and life events.

So I thank you all for your encouragement and good wishes, and look forward to another year of 'getting to know you'.

*Frances Henderson*



**The Crucifixion -- F N Souza**

# Staff news in brief

## Professor Jolyon Mitchell

Dr Jolyon Mitchell, Senior Lecturer in Communications, Theology and Ethics at New College, and Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, has been promoted to a personal Chair at the University of Edinburgh, and is now Professor of Communications, Arts and Religion. This honour is in recognition of his rich contributions to his field, in both teaching and research.

Before his appointment to the University of Edinburgh, Professor Mitchell was a producer and journalist for BBC World Service and BBC Radio 4. He is a regular broadcaster and is frequently invited to lecture at universities around the world. As well as contributing numerous articles and essays to journals and anthologies, his 2007 book, *Media Violence and Christian Ethics*, has just been released in paperback by Cambridge University Press.



**Prof Joloyon Mitchell**

## Dr Afe Adogame and Dr Hannah Holtschneider

We are delighted to announce the promotion of two of the School of Divinity staff to Senior Lecturer



### Dr Afe Adogame

- Afe Adogame and Hannah Holtschneider.

Before his arrival at New College in 2005 to take up his appointment as Lecturer in World Christianity, Dr Adogame taught at the Department for the Study of Religion and Institute of African Studies, Bayreuth University. At New College he teaches a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in World Christianity and Religious Studies, and is also affiliated to the Centre of African Studies, where he teaches African Religions & Cosmologies in the MSc in Africa programme.

Dr Holtschneider is Senior Lecturer in Jewish Studies, where she teaches courses and conducts research in Holocaust Studies, modern Jewish thought and history, and contemporary Jewish-Christian relations.

She says herself that "My main research interests are at the interface of religion,

culture and identity, focusing on Jewish--non-Jewish relations, in particular in Germany, and Holocaust representation in the Western world."



### Dr Hannah Holtschneider

## BBC Appearance for Dr Bond

Dr Helen Bond made a television appearance with *The Story of Jesus*, broadcast by BBC One on Easter Sunday morning. In this two-part series, she was one of nine Biblical experts who re-examined from an historical perspective the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life.



**Dr Helen Bond**



The aim of the programme was to employ the very latest research in order to present a fresh historical perspective on the 'true meaning' behind the story of Jesus. To this end, the BBC combined documentary footage and dramatic re-enactments to examine the social, historical, and geographical context within which Jesus lived and taught. Dr Bond's particular contribution, along with Andrew Skinner of Brigham Young University, was to investigate Jesus' trial and death in the light of her extensive research on Jewish and Roman trials

## Dr Koepping's World Travels



As part of her 2011 sabbatical, Dr Elizabeth Koepping, Senior Lecturer in World Christianity, has been giving lectures and conducting research through Asia, Australasia, and the West Indies, on the topic of domestic violence and the response of churches. In the course of her travels, Dr Koepping, who is also Associate Director of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World, has been pleased to catch up with a number of New College Alumni.

## A New Approach to Exams

Those who remember writing exam script after exam script – in increasingly deteriorating handwriting – may be envious of a new generation of students, who are now being given the opportunity of doing their exams on laptop computers.

This project is being pioneered at New College thanks to the initiative of Dr Michael Purcell, and of Dr Jessie Paterson, our IT and E-Learning Advisor. Entitled "Exams ? Comparing Handwritten Essays with those Composed on Keyboards", it is being funded by a successful application to the Higher Education Academy Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies (HEAPRS).

Quite simply, the project is exploring whether there are any significant differences in exam performance between students who use a keyboard, and students who handwrite their essays. The information gathered from this study will inform University policy in the matter, both here in Edinburgh and at institutions across the world.

First year students who volunteered for the project first of all sat a 'mock' exam, and then later had the option to use a laptop for their real exams. Special software 'locks down' the computer during the exam so that the student has no access to the internet or to other files while doing the exam – and then the scripts are sent straight to the examiners.

David McNeish, a first year student who took part in the trial, commented,

"I rarely use a pen anymore and type so much that it affects the way I think and express my thoughts. The laptop gave me more time to plan, I could restructure questions, and it felt far more natural. I'm sure the markers also appreciated being able to read what I'd written."

## Croall Lectures 2011

New College was pleased to welcome back an old friend this January: Professor Bruce McCormack, former lecturer at New College and now Princeton Theological Seminary's Charles Hodge Professor of Systematic Theology.

Professor McCormack was in Edinburgh to deliver this year's Croall Lectures, which were entitled, "Abandoned by God: The Death of Christ in Systematic, Historical, and Exegetical Perspective".

These six lectures proved to be a wide-ranging and challenging rethink of Protestant theories of atonement, and were delivered in a Martin Hall which was filled to overflowing with students, staff, and members of the public.

With customary generosity, Professor McCormack also offered a seminar to New College staff and students. Here, he spoke about the theology of T. F. Torrance, whom he had also been privileged to know during his time at New College, and also encouraged questions from the student body



**Prof Bruce McCormack**





# Andrew Morton: A Tribute

As Alumni Officer, Andrew has served with great distinction since 1997. We associate him first and foremost with his stellar work in editing the Bulletin, and organising alumni lunches, reunions and receptions. He has been the most efficient of administrators and indefatigable of organisers.

However, there are two other ways in which he has unobtrusively become a valued and vital part of New College life. First, he has been at the heart of our intellectual activities, attending seminars and guest lectures with regularity and enthusiasm throughout the academic session. His comments afterwards are typically acute and unfailingly generous, and his presence has reminded us that our work is important to a wider public.

Secondly, he has played an important pastoral role in the support of students, particularly our ministerial candidates. Ever present in the Rainy Hall at lunchtime, he has befriended successive generations of students and provided a listening ear. His wisdom and wide experience of church and academy have been to their lasting benefit.

Even as we pay tribute to his work over many years as our Alumni Officer, so we look forward to the continuation of his long and happy association amongst us.

*- Professor David Fergusson, Principal of New College*

## Alumni Tributes:

Andrew - the first time I encountered you was during Freshers' Week, Edinburgh University, 1969, when as University Chaplain, you addressed us all in the McEwan Hall. Your association with New College alumni has been a fitting conclusion to many years of service to the Church in many and varied capacities - thank you!

*- Gordon M.A. Savage*

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Andrew's sustained welcome to the New College community was a radically hospitable one. His faith was demonstrated through his companionship: at a table in the Rainy Hall, engaged in general conversation, or sorting through some issue of great significance. In this way he made a great contribution to my experience at the time, and to how and who I am now.

*- Helen M Mee*

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Among the many great memories of my time at New College (2000-2004) are the discussions I had with Andrew Morton over lunch in the Rainy Hall. Whether it was a topical issue or a theological point, Andrew always had a wise word to say. Please pass on my good wishes to Andrew for his retirement.

*- John Gibson*

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Andrew and I were fellow students at New College in 1949 and we became good friends, equally committed to the exciting ecumenism which had just blossomed into the World Council of Churches. On my return, I found Andrew remarkably unchanged, though even more distinguished-looking than before. I began to benefit greatly from his care for Alumni and his editorship of the New College Bulletin. On every single occasion when I have heard him speaking in public, what he said was distinguished by its clarity, its sympathetic understanding, and its positive and practical contribution to the situation. I think I can speak for the goodly fellowship of the Alumni when I say that as a source of accurate information, stimulating views, and generous sharing of time, scholarship and experience, Andrew can have few equals. Thank you, Andrew. Thank you, Marion.

- Robin Boyd

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For nearly my three years at New College (and wonderful years they were!) I was the Student Assistant at the Kirk of the Greyfriars. I can clearly remember the Sunday when Andrew Morton, the newly appointed University Chaplain (it must I think have been late 1964 or possibly early 1965), came to preach at Greyfriars. It was I think the first time he had preached in Edinburgh after his appointment.

Andrew preached a fine, refreshing, contemporary sermon. I can still remember the text : "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever." It was a joy to listen to him and one could immediately sense that he was going to be a fine Chaplain, one who would get alongside the students and have a real ministry among them. And so it proved.

He has done a great job for all us alumni over the years. May he have a long and happy retirement.

- David Keddie (1962 - 1965)

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Memories of Andrew:

Your words of comfort when I arrived at my first New College Communion service just in time for the last verse of the last hymn - 'You arrived for the best bit - the blessing'.

Your company over lunch in Rainy Hall which was always witty, gracious and stimulating.

The very knowledgeable and personally guided tour of New College that you gave to my in-laws and myself. I might have gone through my degree without ever finding out what that plaque on the wall in Martin Hall said!

- Sheena Orr

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Thank you, Andrew, for your diligence and commitment over the years. Jane and I have good memories of our contacts with you, going back some twenty eight years, and we wish you well for the future

God Bless,

Roy and Jane Dodman

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# Obituary:

## Professor Alistair Kee

**Born April 17, 1937; Died April 16, 2011**

It was with sorrow that the New College community heard of the death of our friend and colleague, Professor Alistair Kee, MA, BD, STM, PhD, DLitt., Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

Alistair taught in the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh from 1988 to 2002, and then continued to serve the School and University with great distinction as Professor Emeritus.

Shaped by his youth in the West of Scotland (where he embraced the Scottish ideal of the democratic intellect), Alistair was educated at Clydebanks High School, the University of Glasgow and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He was a lecturer at the University College of Rhodesia, 1964-67, then taught at the University of Hull, 1967-76; and the University of Glasgow, 1976-88. At Glasgow he was for some years Head of the Department of Religious Studies, and Edinburgh was extremely fortunate to attract him in 1988. At the University of Edinburgh, he played a leading role in expanding our Religious Studies programme, and developing closer links between Divinity and other academic disciplines across the University.

His research interests were broad, and focused largely on political theology and political economy. His scholarship was defined by his abiding concern for social justice, civil rights, human flourishing and racial equality in a world perspective. His international

reputation brought him numerous invitations to lecture at colleges and universities around the world. He was the author of twelve books, including *The Way of Transcendence* (1971), *Seeds of Liberation* (1973), *A Reader in Political Theology* (1974), *The Scope of Political Theology* (1978), *Constantine Versus Christ* (1982), *Domination or Liberation* (1986), *Being and Truth* (1986), *The Roots of Christian Freedom* (1988), *Marx and the Failure of Liberation Theology* (1990), *From Bad Faith to Good News* (1991), *Nietzsche Against the Crucified* (1999), *The Rise and Demise of Black Theology* (2006).

Alistair was characterised by a sharp intellect, a warm, relaxed manner, a dry sense of humour, and an abiding compassion. He was a loyal friend, a well-loved teacher, and he took a genuine interest in his students. He had a love of golf and of travel. His wife, Anne, had pre-deceased him, and he is survived by his son and daughter.



## Alumni Tributes

I was fortunate to enjoy Alistair's teaching and his pastoral care during my time at New College in the 1990's and I remember him with great affection and respect.

- Margaret Ritchie

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It was my good fortune to have met Professor Kee during my initial program in New College. When I returned for the PhD, Professor Kee was on the board that examined my proposed dissertation topic. He was helpful at that point and at several junctures of the ensuing project. I especially remember his work with Marcella Altus-Reid who was also a formative influence on my work in New College.

- Dennis Lambert

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He was a good man and teacher.

- John McMahon

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My deepest condolence to the death of Dr. Alistair Kee. He was my Supervisor when I was doing my dissertation for the Master Degree on Theology and Development during the school year 1992-93 at the University of Edinburgh. May his soul rest in peace.

- The Rt. Rev. Renato M. Abibico, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines.

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I remember Professor Kee with gratitude in my heart.

- Peter Balla



# Roland Walls

## (1918-2011)

New College was saddened to learn in April of the death at the age of 92 of Roland Walls, who had been a lecturer in the Faculty of Divinity from 1963 to 1974.

The eldest of four children, he was born at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight just a few months before the end of World War I. He was ordained to the Anglican priesthood in 1941, in the midst of another war, and after serving as an assistant curate in Leeds and Sheffield, in 1945 he entered Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, to study for a degree in theology. He graduated with First Class Honours in 1948, and maintained his ties with Corpus Christi over the following years, as a Fellow of the college and as chaplain. amongst us.

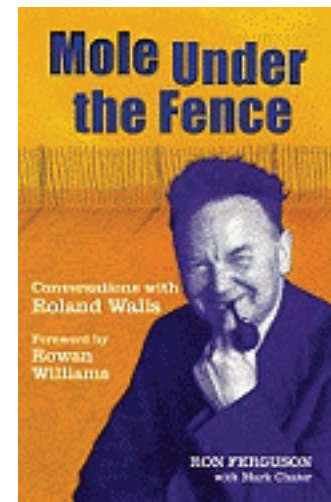
In 1962 Father Roland accepted the post of chaplain at Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian. The following year he was welcomed as a lecturer at New College, a service which he carried out for 11 years. It was at Roslin that he helped to found the ecumenical Community of the Transfiguration in 1965, along with John Halsey, Robert Haslam and (from 1972) Patty Burgess. Then, in 1981, he was received into the Roman Catholic Church and ordained to their priesthood. However, he continued to live in community at Roslin, where he was an inspiration and a guide to many over the years.

Father Roland found a renewed fame in his latter years through his biography, *Mole under the Fence*. His most enduring legacy, however, must be the affection and respect of so many people whose lives he touched.

### An alumnus writes:

I remember Roland Walls coming into our dogmatics seminar room with a great beam on his face, carrying a book as if he was processing into church. It was the recently published Jerusalem Bible and I'm sure we all rushed out to buy ourselves a copy after his testimony to its virtues. I've still got my copy!

Colin Douglas (School of Divinity  
1964-67)





## The Wode Psalter

# Wode Psalter Project

The Wode Psalter is one of the great treasures owned by Edinburgh University Library: not just one, in fact, but five, out of only eight copies in the world. A key text from the Scottish Reformation, it is named after its compiler and illustrator, Thomas Wode, Vicar of St Andrews. Between the years of 1562 and 1592, and working under the patronage of James Stewart, Earl of Moray, Wode brought together this collection of 106 harmonised Psalm settings into one colourful and priceless volume. Frink, Peter Howson, Patrick Heron and Eric Gill, among others. The exhibition was further enriched by works by Scottish-based artists.

For almost three years now, the Psalter has been the subject of an Arts and Humanities Research Council award of over £300, 000, granted so that multi-disciplinary research might be carried out and disseminated. The core team of five has from the start included two New College staff members: our Professor of Reformation History, Jane Dawson; and our IT and E-learning Advisor, Dr Jessie Paterson. The research has included partnerships with Trinity College Dublin, Georgetown University Washington, and the British Library in London.

Public interest was whetted with Professor Dawson's Inaugural Lecture in September 2009, entitled "Singing the Reformation". The outing here by the Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers was the first of many such concerts, which coincided neatly with the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin in 2009, and then with the 450th anniversary of the Scottish Reformation in 2010.

Now the project has reached its climax with a free exhibition in the University Library for the 2011 Edinburgh International Festival, and a concert in the High Kirk of St Giles, on 20th August 2011. There will also be a production of a musical recording, available from this summer.

In a combination of old and new, the sounds of the Reformation are also available via the Wode Psalter Iphone app, which accompanies the exhibition. The app, which can be downloaded from the iTunes store, contains excerpts of music, and more detailed information about the objects on display.

The 'Singing the Reformation' free exhibition takes place in the Exhibition Room, Main University Library, University of Edinburgh, George Square, Edinburgh, from 6 August to 28 October 2011.

For more information on all aspects of the Wode Psalter Project and accompanying events, see the New College Website, at

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/divinity/research/projects/wode-psalter>

Alternatively, follow the links through Research – Projects – Wode Psalter.

# Singing the Reformation Exhibition

## Opening Times

September - October:

Monday - Friday 10:00 -17.00

Closed Saturday and Sunday.



## Life Long Learning

### The Fraser Prize

The Scottish Church Theology Society and the journal *Theology in Scotland* announce a new annual collaborative award of £250 for an article of around 4,000 words. The aim of the Fraser Prize is to affirm constructive, creative, theological thinking about the Church in Scotland, its life and its mission. The topic will be set each year, and the first will be 'The Church, Power and Status', with a deadline of 30th April 2012.

The Prize is named in honour of Dr Ian Fraser, who graduated from New College in the late 1930s, and is still

writing in his 80s – his latest book is *A Storehouse of Kingdom Things*. It is open to all, not least those who have never had anything published before. It is likely that the winning article will be published in *Theology in Scotland*.

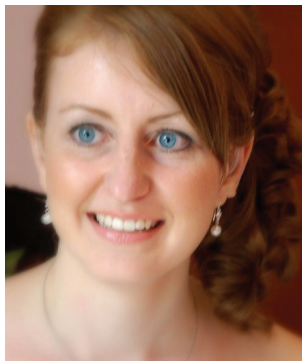
The judging panel is looking for thinking which is creative, and shows awareness of both historical context and contemporary debate. One of the reasons for this award is a feeling of disappointment that denominations are commonly adopting a managerial instead of a theological approach to their shape and practice.

An application form, with fuller details, can be had from Dr Ian Maxwell, 31 Hatton Place, Edinburgh EH9 1UA ([i.d.maxwell@altrive.com](mailto:i.d.maxwell@altrive.com)), and will be acknowledged. The sponsors are grateful to the Novum Trust for funding to prime this new venture.

## After New College? The class of 2000

There was a time when almost every New College graduate headed straight into ministry in the Church of Scotland. Times have changed, however, and while our commitment to the training of clergy remains as strong as ever, the majority of our graduates take up careers in the secular world. We asked three of our recent graduates to tell us about their time at New College, and how it prepared them for the beginning of their working life.

### Jill Dunlop



I studied at New College from 2000-2006, gaining in the process an MA (Hons) in Religious Studies, and an MTh in Ministry. For my MA, most of my courses were on Indigenous Religions and Christian Ethics. For my MTh I focused on ministry to deaf people, which included a course in Deaf Studies at Moray House.

After graduating from New College, I completed the PGDE course in Secondary Education at Moray House, and qualified as a teacher of Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies in 2007. I have now been teaching for 4 years in an independent school in Edinburgh.

# Theology in Scotland

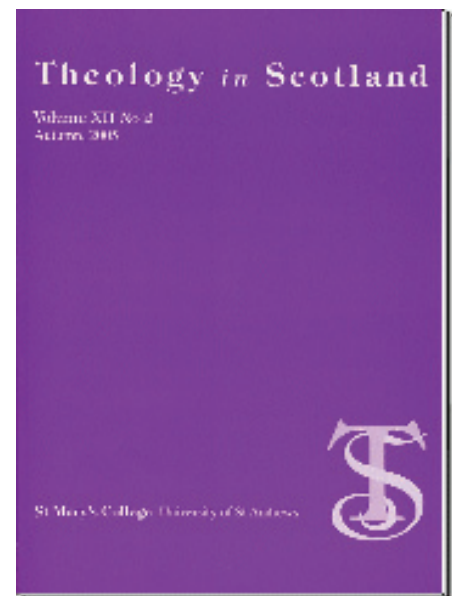
This St Andrew's based journal has recently devoted two special editions to two of New College's most prominent academics. The Thomas F. Torrance edition was issued in Spring 2010, and contains both personal reminiscences and essays on his contribution to theology. The John McIntyre special issue includes papers by George Newlands, Alison Jack, Bill Shaw, and David Fergusson. These can still be purchased: see the journal's website at

<http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/divinity/rt/tisjournal/> for more details

*Theology in Scotland* is offering New College Alumni a one year reduction if they sign up for a new subscription via the Bulletin. The price will be £10 for the first year of subscription, rising to the usual £15 thereafter. If interested, then send a cheque made payable to University of St Andrews, at

the following address:

Production Manager  
Theology in Scotland  
St Mary's College  
St Andrews



All of my teachers at New College had a profound influence on me, because they were all so passionate about their courses. But in particular, Professor Will Storrar and Dr Ewan Kelly were very encouraging. Also, I was lucky enough to visit India last summer, and found myself recalling various New College classes as I encountered churches, mandirs and mosques so close to one another.

Obviously, my degree in Religious Studies gave me the background knowledge

that is essential for teaching my subject. However, I am also very grateful for the training in critical thinking that I received at New College. For me, however, New College is about more than just academic or vocational training. My fondest memories are of chatting with friends in the Rainy Hall, and of the New College weekends away. Many of the friendships I made at New College look like being life long.

## Mark Tattum-Smith



I was a student at New College between 2000 – 2004, studying for the MA in Divinity. In my third and fourth years I specialised in Church History and Systematic Theology, and wrote my dissertation on Søren Kierkegaard's humorous understanding of theological language.

If I have to narrow it down, there were three of my teachers who had a particular influence on me. Dr John McDowell was a generous and encouraging teacher whose door was always open to his students, and I recall with great fondness the many theological chats we had. Dr Nick Adams' lectures were some of the most intellectually demanding that I attended at New College, and I benefited a great deal from his classes. I was also deeply inspired by the erudition and intellectual breadth of Professor David Wright - a true scholar. Attending his final seminars on the development of Early North African Christianity was an experience I will never forget, and all his students felt privileged to witness the distillation of a lifetime's study of the Church Fathers.

I would hesitate in describing the series of jobs and further training I have embarked upon since leaving New College as a formal career path as such, but my degree has led me into an interesting and challenging variety of employment settings: from working as a residential support worker with St Matthew Housing Association, teaching philosophy and ethics to sixth form students, and for the last two years, working in finance with Suffolk Social Services.

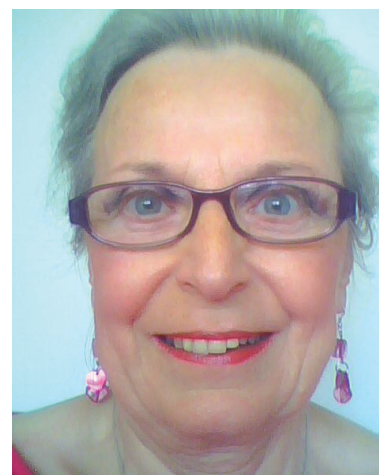
If I had stayed in the teaching profession, my degree would have had more formal vocational relevance. As it is, my current job in social services did not require a graduate level qualification. However, the communication and analytical skills that I learned at New College have been transferable to every job I have had since graduating.

Moreover, my degree has had deeper and more important influence on my life outside work. I started my degree an atheist, though one with an odd fascination with religious questions, and I am now a reader in the Russian Orthodox Church.

I look back on my time at New College with great affection and delight as one of most formative periods of my life. There was always a buzz of intellectual excitement about the place and it was a wonderful and inspiring environment in which to explore the most important questions of life. New College was also where I met my wife and so it will always have a very special place in my heart.

## Rebekah Gronowski

I came to New College at the age of 51, having had a career in teaching and lecturing. I had been forced to take an early retirement on health grounds but my brain was very much alive and needed stimulating and stretching. I studied for my degree from 1994 until 2000 and obtained a BD Honours. I continued with Postgraduate Studies until 2006.



The background to my wanting to follow this particular path was my journey into Judaism. I wanted to take my BD Honours in Hebrew & Old Testament, but I could not get the hang of parsing verbs! Even so, I remain grateful to Peter Hayman, who taught me to love the language. I then moved into the Christian Ethics and Practical Theology Department, and for my Postgraduate work, I studied Ancient Near Eastern Religions & Languages and Archaeology. Here I was very much influenced by Nick Wyatt, who taught me everything I know about the Ancient Near East. He was totally immersed in his subject, was passionate about it and had a tremendous breadth of knowledge.

As I had already retired, my studies were more of an interest than a career stepping-stone. But in effect, what I learned at New College opened up a second career for me - one which I had not even thought of before.



My latest venture is the establishment in April of this year of the UK Liberal Jewish Inclusion Forum for people with disabilities. I am also an activist for the Rights of Disabled People, and belong to Inclusion Scotland, which engages with politicians and government bodies to highlight disability issues.

The critical thinking and the art of analysis which I learned at New College have enabled me to engage more confidently in the political field. Recently, I have set up the Scottish Liberal Democrat Friends of Poland and the Liberal Democrats Friends of Poland. I am also in the process of setting up the Scottish Rainbow Covenant for LGBT Jews in Scotland.

What I remember most affectionately about my time at New College is the feeling of it being a "New College Family". In my time, the College was much smaller and more intimate and we all knew each other. There was such a lot of camaraderie in those days.

I am still studying and researching and have spent several years working on a long project for my Honorary Doctorate in Sacred Music and Liturgy. I still have hopes of being a Rabbi - eventually! I might make it by the time I am 70 - who knows?

# Alumni Updates

As a new feature of the New College Bulletin, we sent out an email asking if any alumni would like to include an update on their lives and careers. These are the replies we received

## 1940s

**Denis Duncan**, MA (1940) , BED,Dist.NT (1943), now aged 91. After 25 years parish ministry in Kelso, Edinburgh (Juniper Green), and Glasgow (Dennistoun), is now resident in East Sussex. Has held several major ecumenical posts including Editor, British Weekly; Associate Director, Westminster Pastoral Foundation, London; Director, The Churches Council for Health and Healing; Chairman, The World Association of Pastoral Care and Counselling. Is author of ten books, his latest being, Towards the Light (SPCK,2009). Editor of a further six books. Was Meditations writer for The Daily Telegraph for 13 years.

## 1950s

**Ross Mackenzie**, writes: I entered New College in the Fall of 1949. The faculty were world-renowned then, as they are now: John Baillie, Tom Torrance, "Jake" Burleigh, Hugh Watt, O.S. Rankin, Norman Porteous, J. S. Stewart, Willie Manson, and Willie Tindal. The students in my year came from as far as the Gaelic-speaking islands of Scotland, Australia, and Africa. New College gave me what I most needed for parish ministry in Edinburgh and the States, for teaching at Union Seminary in Virginia, and lastly for serving as director of the department of religion at Chautauqua Institution in New York State. Hence my abiding gratitude and appreciation to the College!

**Gordon Tait** PhD (1955) writes: Laying aside my work on John Wither- spoon (1723-1794) for the time being, I have recently completed writing my personal reflections on the history of religion at The College of Wooster from the time I joined the faculty to the present – 23,300 words, 109 pages. The essay goes into the archives, and also to selected friends and alumni. Part of it will be published in our alumni magazine. If anyone is interested, I can send a copy on line.

**Vernon G. Elgin** (1952-59) writes: I just had my 84th birthday on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011. I have never before in my 59 years of ordained ministry had a congregation sing "Happy Birthday" to me on an Easter Sunday at worship! The experience was almost as good as being back in Scotland - which will also probably not happen again.

I am about to send my latest book to the publisher, the topic of which is "The Will of God." It will be the fourth book I have written in the past two years. I am waiting for inspiration for a fifth.



## 1960s

**Stuart G. Leyden** (1963) writes: I am retired in Cumming, Georgia, just north of Atlanta. I play tennis with two knee replacements, and am active in Cherokee Presbytery's Mission Team. Also I have visited the presbytery's Worship Team and several congregations to encourage a more frequent and celebratory mode of Communion

**Sandy Shaw** (1964 & 1967) writes: When I thought 'retirement' was a-coming, invitations to speak and teach in Uganda and Kenya, at Pastors' and Leaders' Seminars, opened up a whole new avenue of ministry, involving five visits in the past six years. I normally take the Pastors through the first fifteen Chapters of Acts, where we study "How to come into the Church", and "Basic Principles of Leadership".

## 1970s

**Alastair Osborne** (1969-72) writes: 15 years in new forms of ministry then the next 24 in local government and Labour politics. As Václav Havel wrote, "Hope is not the same as optimism ... not the conviction that something will turn out well but the certainty that something makes sense".

**Tom Gordon** (1973) was a parish minister for 20 years, then for 15 years a chaplain at the Marie Curie Hospice, Edinburgh. In retirement he continues to write – his third book of contemporary parables complementing the Lectionary cycle is due in November (Iona Books), with a co-written text-book, 'Spiritual care for healthcare professionals', due in August (Radcliffe). He has recently developed the 'Acorns Bereavement Support Programmes' in the Edinburgh area, and he and his wife, Mary, live in East Lothian. And the light of his life is his grandson, Alexander.

**James Galbraith** (1969-73) writes: I am a retired minister of the Church of Scotland. I was at New College 1969 to 1972, studying for a B.D. degree along with about 30 others. I was minister of Auchtermuchty Parish congregation 1973 to 1989, then minister of Taynuilt in Argyll 1989 to 1996. I have been retired since then, but I also keep in touch with most of the lads who came through with me. I have organised re-unions about every 5 to 8 years.

## Keep in touch !



## 1970s

### Gordon Savage

(1972-75) is returning to parish work following a 'year out' for chemotherapy treatment. Minister at Maxwelltown West Church, Dumfries, since 1984, and Clerk to the Presbytery of Dumfries & Kirkcudbright since 1987, he is grateful for the support and good wishes of fellow ministers, including many New College alumni. Gordon recently came across an amusing poem written at a Conference held at Stirling University in 1986, with references to such luminaries as Alex Cheyne and Douglas Templeton. He'll be pleased to e-mail it to anyone who thinks they may have been present (or to anyone else interested)!

### Denis Campbell

(1970-73) this year celebrated 25 years as minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Blackrock in Dublin. Denis' son, Colin, married Cathy, an Edinburgh girl, and moved to Edinburgh, where he is currently part-time lay chaplain in Cameron Toll shopping centre. Colin and Cathy belong to Barclay Viewforth Church.

An important way we keep in touch with our Alumni is through regular email contact. If you haven't been receiving these emails, you might want to check that we have your up-to-date details. Also, please do let us know when you change address, so that you can continue to receive the Bulletin. If you are not on our email list, and would like to be, please send your email address to the Alumni Officer, Frances Henderson, at [F.M.Henderson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:F.M.Henderson@ed.ac.uk)

## Reminiscences:

“ My three years at New College were the best of my life. I have never ceased to be inspired by the teaching I received. I have no doubt that those who were most inspiring, Hugh Anderson, Alec Cheyne and Johnny Mac are saints of God. Thank you for the information about the lectures. I live in Dublin, but since I have a son living in Edinburgh, I will find excuses to escape from the parish to visit my favourite city. Keep up the good work.”

*Denis Campbell (1970-73)*

## 1980s

### Andrew Anderson

writes: After 30 years since my ordination and induction to Greenside Parish Church in Edinburgh's east end, I am now retiring on 31 October. These have been wonderful years for me, rewarding and challenging in every way. I have hugely enjoyed parish ministry and the work of the wider Church, and am thankful to many of the staff and my friends at New College for a great start!

## 1990s

**Ken Stewart** (1992) continues as professor of theological studies in Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA. 30750. His latest book (March 2011) is *Ten Myths about Calvinism: Recovering the Breadth of the Reformed Tradition* (IVP USA & UK).

**Sari Kosonen** writes: I studied at New College the academic year 1994-95 as part of my MTh degree at the University of Helsinki. I nowadays work as a parish minister in the Evangelical Lutheran parish of Lauritsala, Lappeenranta, Finland (right next to the Russian border). I'm very happy that I've been able to keep in touch with my Anglican and Church of Scotland contacts over the years through the friends I made during my year at New College!

**Samuel Kelechi Eze** (1952-59) writes: I am the Rt. Rev. Dr. Samuel Kelechi Eze, graduated from New College in 1995 and currently the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of Ukwu in Nigeria. It was a big pleasure having lunch two years ago on my visit to Edinburgh with Professor Duncan Forrester, a man I so admired as a student of New College.



**2010 Reunion: The class of 1969-72**  
at the Murrayfield Hotel



**The Alumni Lunch in New College Gardens, May 2011**

## 2000s

**Pete Portal** writes: I'm currently working for a Christian NGO called The Warehouse, based in Cape Town, and specifically in a township called Manenberg -working with gang members and drug addicts with the view to befriending them, restoring them and empowering them to live free from lifestyles of destruction.

My personal website is [www.projectcapetown.org](http://www.projectcapetown.org)

Dr. **Nathan Hitchcock** is assistant professor at Sioux Falls Seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA, where he teaches Church history and hermeneutics. His second child, Eden, was born in March. He graduated formally from New College this summer.

### Reminiscences:

“ Rainy Hall, the office of Jonathan Tuckett, every single biblical studies seminar I ever had, Dr Barstad’s sense of humour. ‘Jolly good’ Dr Bond and the wry Dr Foster, who in an inside joke somehow became Indiana Jones on the run from bad guys trying to steal the Gospel of Peter. Don’t even ask.”

*Lindsey Askin, class of 2010*

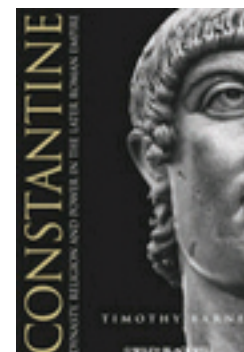
# Reading Matters

2010-11 has been a bumper year for publications by New College staff and alumni. This publishing record continues to enhance the international reputation of New College as a place of academic excellence

**Alison Jack**, *Scottish Fiction as Gospel Exegesis: Four Case Studies* (**Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2010**). Considers how the Bible influenced the fiction of James Hogg, Robert Louis Stevenson, Mrs Oliphant and Lewis Grassie Gibbon.



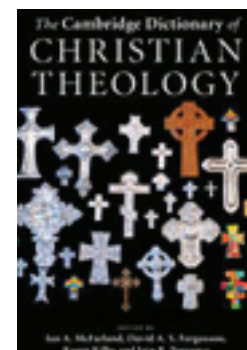
**Timothy Barnes**, *Constantine: Dynasty, Religion and Power in the Later Roman Empire*, (**Wiley-Blackwell, 2011**). This blend of biography, politics, and religion draws on new evidence to rethink Constantine's role in Christian history.



**Hans M. Barstad**, *A Brief Guide to the Hebrew Bible*, (**Westminster John Knox Press, 2010**). Designed as an introductory text, this English translation makes scholarly Biblical research accessible to a world-wide audience.



**Eds. Iain A. McFarland, David A.S. Fergusson, Karen Kilby, Iain R. Torrance**, *The Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*, (**Cambridge University Press, 2011**). With over 550 entries ranging from Abba to Zwingli composed by leading contemporary theologians from around the world.



**Ed. Geoffrey Stevenson**, *The Future of Preaching*, (**SCM Press, 2010**). A series of essays by members of the College of Preachers, arguing that the art of preaching is alive and well.

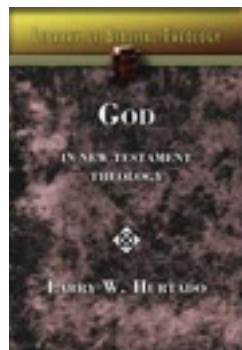


**Paul Foster**, *The Gospel of Peter: Introduction, Critical Edition and Commentary*, (**Brill Academic Publishers; Critical Edition, 2010**). This important work is the first complete English-language analysis of the apocryphal gospel since its discovery in 1886/87.

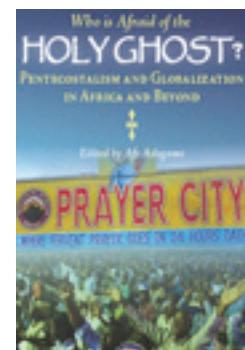




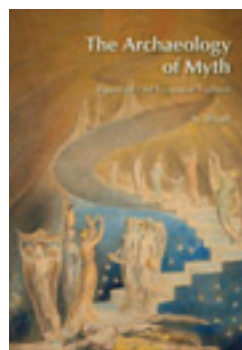
**Larry Hurtado**, *God in New Testament Theology*, (Nashville: **Abingdon Press**, 2010). Explains the different understandings of God in the New Testament, and considers how they impact upon current theology.



**Ed. Ade Adogame**, *Who's Afraid of the Holy Ghost? Pentecostalism and Globalization in Africa and Beyond* (**Africa World Press**, 2011). Essays about the global Pentecostal movement, and its influence on more traditional Christianity



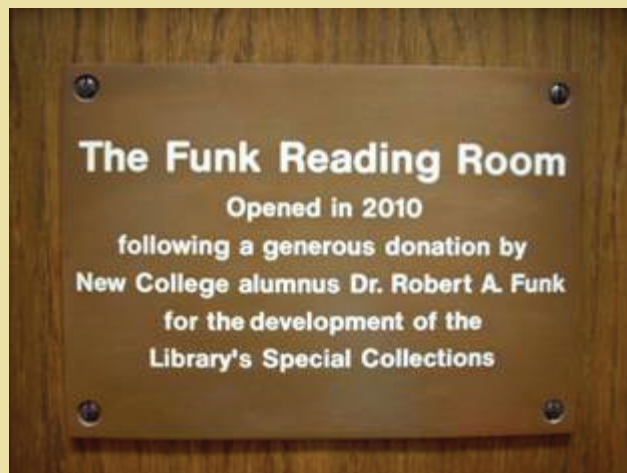
**Nicolas Wyatt**, *The Archaeology of Myth: Papers on Old Testament Tradition*, (**Equinox Publishing Ltd**, 2010). A history of how key religious narratives developed from their earliest forms into their final form in the biblical text. .



## The Funk Project

Back in 2005, the Reverend Dr Robert Funk donated \$1,000,000 to New College Library, to be spread over a 10 year period. The donation was earmarked for the improvement of facilities for Special Collections, particularly in terms of cataloguing and preservation, but also to improve security and reading facilities.

Just over half way through the project, the result is the Funk Reading Room, a dedicated space within the Library enclosed by protective glass walls, where these rare manuscripts can be studied securely and in peace.





Behind the scenes, the project is working to preserve at least 1000 of the Special Collection's most vulnerable items. The Funk Donation has also helped fund the cataloguing of the New College Library Pamphlet Collection. This collection consists of over 30,000 items, the earliest of which date back to the 15th century, and many are of profound historical, theological, and literary interest. Dr Funk's donation is currently supporting two full time cataloguing posts for two years, during which time the aim is to complete the cataloguing of the final 12,000 items. However, the Library is already seeing an increased interest in the Pamphlets Collection, as these become more readily accessible to researchers.

## Giving to New College

Your contribution, whether large or small, can help us to continue to provide an outstanding centre for study and research in theology and religion for students from around the world. Giving to New College has never been easier, with links via the Alumni page on the website to a number of current funds. There are several possible ways of contributing:

- You may be able to consider giving a major sum, either one-off or spread over several years. See above for an account of the Funk Project, in which just such a donation is being used by the New College Library.
- You may make a smaller contribution, or on-going regular contributions.
- You may wish to discuss a major challenge-grant scheme, in which a large contribution by you is conditional on a matching contribution by us.
- You may wish to consider making a deferred gift in the form of an amount left in your will.

Here are some examples of needs to which you can give a contribution:

### **Student Scholarships.**

Contribute to our scholarship endowments, such as the James S. Stewart Scholarship, or the John Ross Scholarship. Or perhaps you are able to establish a new scholarship endowment, which can be named after the donor, or after someone the donor wishes to honour.

**Library.** Help us continue to make New College Library a major resource for students and researchers. Even small regular amounts towards purchasing books are welcome. Financial pressures on library costs make this an increasingly important way to help.

**Academic Posts.** You can secure an academic post in a chosen field by setting up an endowment. This is the surest way to protect teaching and research in Divinity.

### **Or maybe you have another idea!**

There is further information on the various ways in which you can make a donation on the following URL: **[www.edinburghcampaign.com/Gift/Default.aspx?PageID=4](http://www.edinburghcampaign.com/Gift/Default.aspx?PageID=4)**





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