



Newsletter

No 9, June 2005



Centre for Theology and Public Issues

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- Public Lectures on Global Issues

Farewell Letter from CTPI's Director,

Professor William Storrar



I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the friends of CTPI for the support you have given the Centre in my years as director, 2000-2005. As I take up my new appointment as Director of the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, from 1 July, I am delighted to report that the School of Divinity is fully committed to CTPI's future. Overleaf, you will find an important announcement from the Head of School, Professor David Fergusson, on the appointment of our new Acting Director – one which I warmly welcome.

CTPI 2000-2005: A Global Research Programme

It has been a great privilege to direct CTPI. Leading a centre committed to dialogue on key issues of public concern in the opening years of a new century has been an exciting responsibility. In a university climate of research assessment, I have had to give priority to seeking research funding – we have made major collaborative bids to the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Leverhulme Trust and the Department for International Development, for example – precisely in order to ensure the flourishing of CTPI's founding vision in the changed world of a global era. But our mission remains that of bringing theologians, social scientists, faith communities, policy-makers, practitioners, many different publics, and the marginalised of our common world into a dialogue on public issues where theology can make a constructive contribution - albeit though using new methods for new times.

The focus of CTPI's work since 2000 has been on the challenge of globalisation for public theology, especially in relation to local-global issues of citizenship and civil society. To that end, there has been a series of CTPI conferences, seminars, research projects and publications offering innovative thinking

- on ecumenical social theology in Scotland
- public theology for the 21st century
- citizenship & the internet
- wellbeing of young men
- the churches and the human rights of the child
- citizenship education in schools and society
- global cities, marginalisation, pluralism, rights
- civil society in Scotland and Northern Ireland, and
- postmodern spirituality, the churches & public life.

Current and Future Work

Coming into the present, CTPI has just completed an Inter-Faith study commissioned by the Scottish Executive on faith communities and local government in Glasgow. And this September we are hosting a major international conference on the ethics of global civil society which will bring this five year global research programme to full fruition. That will be my swansong with CTPI, as I return to chair this event. It will also be an opportunity to convene the first meeting of the 'Global Network for Public Theology', linking research centres like CTPI from around the world – a lasting outcome of our collaborative work on global issues in CTPI over these past five years.

CTPI Seminar & Reception: June 10th

In the meantime, I hope that some of you will be able to join us on Friday 10 June in the Martin Hall, New College: at 4pm for my final CTPI address, *What will you do with all the Walls?*, on public theology and mission today; followed by a CTPI Reception at 5.15pm to welcome the new Acting Director of CTPI.

Thanks & Good Wishes to CTPI Colleagues

In closing, I would like to record my deep gratitude to my university colleagues in New College and the College of Humanities and Social Science, especially Cecelia Clegg, Alison Elliot and Karoline McLean, for their support and superb work on behalf of CTPI. I wish the Centre all success in the future. WS

**Breaking News:
School of Divinity appoints
Dr Cecelia Clegg
Acting Director of CTPI from 1 July**



Dr Cecelia Clegg, currently Acting Associate Director, CTPI

**A Message from Professor Fergusson.
Head of the School of Divinity to all
friends and supporters of CTPI**

Since assuming the position of Director, Professor Will Storrar has provided imaginative and energetic leadership of CTPI. In particular, successful projects on public theology, the rights of the child, and global citizenship have been developed. All have yielded significant publications. Grants have been generated, international partnerships formed, and an agenda for public theology in the early 21st century mapped out. Later this year, a major conference on global civil society will be held in Edinburgh.

Will's departure this summer is a sad loss to CTPI and New College, but we congratulate him on his appointment to the post of Director of the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton. In wishing him well in this position, we also look forward to maintaining our links with him in his new capacity.

I am pleased to announce that the acting Director of CTPI for 2005/6 will be Dr Cecilia Clegg who has become a key member of staff since her arrival last year. Cecilia's gifts as a leader, research scholar and administrator have already been much in evidence. We are delighted that she will be able to assume the position of Director at this important time in CTPI's development. It is also gratifying to know that she will be supported by Dr Alison Elliot who returns after completing a busy and successful year as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

**Professor David Fergusson
Head of the School of Divinity**

**Dr Cecelia Clegg reflects on her
appointment at Acting Director**

It is both a delight and a sadness to be writing this piece for the newsletter. It is a delight because it gives me an opportunity to paint in broad brush strokes the emerging shape of CTPI work for the session 2005/6 – a sadness because we are saying 'goodbye' to Professor Will Storrar after five very important and fruitful years as director.

It seems to me that it will only be in the future that we will fully understand the extent of Will's skill and creativity in making a bridge between the legacy of CTPI which he inherited, and the exigencies of a Centre for academic research in today's university culture. That he managed to do this while at the same time maintaining and developing CTPI's commitment to applied theological research is an outstanding achievement. His vision in beginning to address issues of citizenship and civil society some three years ago through the *Growing Citizens, A Place for All*, and the forthcoming *World for All* conferences has proved to be inspired. CTPI's contribution to the current debates on civil society, both nationally and internationally, is helping to shape the agenda as well as to bring top quality theological reflection to bear on the issues.

Of course, we are going to miss Will for more than his professional expertise and vision! His warmth, humour, intellectual honesty, tenacity, capacity to draw out and affirm the contribution of others, as well as his strong leadership ability are just a few of the qualities that we will miss. On behalf of the CTPI staff and supporters I want to congratulate Will on his appointment as Director of the Centre for Theological Inquiry at Princeton, and to wish him, Joanna, and their family "God be with you" as you set out on this next stage of your journey...

CTPI's Programme for 2005-2006

....and the journey continues for CTPI. In the coming session I hope to capitalise on and develop the momentum achieved by Will in both the events and research elements of the Centre. In terms of events, the major international conference *A World for All? The Ethics of Global Civil Society* (4-7 September 2005), combined with the issues flowing from the G8 summit, will afford a number of different types of opportunity for follow up seminars and day events in collaboration with other agencies.

Following the very successful 'Spirituality' conference in April, I am organising a short seminar series on spirituality and key issues for the Autumn/Spring term. These events will be focused towards .../

Parliament, University & Churches Honour CTPI's Work



The photo shows: Professor William Storrar, Director of CTPI; Dr Alison Elliot, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; Professor Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh; Murray Tosh MSP, Deputy Presiding Officer (on behalf of George Reid MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, who kindly hosted the CTPI 20th anniversary reception in one of the magnificent new Parliament building's Committee Rooms); Dr Neal Ascherson, Baird Research Fellow at CTPI, 2002; and the Rev Johnston R. McKay, editor of the latest CTPI book, *Netting Citizens: exploring citizenship in the internet age* (Saint Andrew Press, 2004), which was launched at the reception. The event was well attended by many other friends and supporters of CTPI.

In November 2004 CTPI marked its 20th anniversary with a reception at the new Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood, Edinburgh. The unique contribution of CTPI to public life was recognised in speeches by the Parliament's Deputy Presiding Office, Murray Tosh MSP, the Principal of Edinburgh University, Professor Timothy O'Shea, the Moderator of the Kirk's General Assembly, Dr Alison Elliot, on behalf of the churches, and journalist Neal Ascherson.

(Dr Clegg's article / continued)

continuing professional development (CPD) for teachers, social workers, chaplains/clergy, as well as being of more general public interest.

The timely arrival of leading Belgian theologian, Marc Lenders, as European Theologian in Residence, at Scottish Churches House, Dunblane during the period Oct 05-April 06 will, I hope, afford CTPI opportunities for collaboration around the role of faith communities in issues of European identity and development – very timely after recent referenda results on the European constitution!

In the field of applied theological research, the influential study on human rights and young people: *Honouring Children* by Kathleen Marshall (now Children's Commissioner for Scotland) and Paul Parvis (University of Edinburgh), which was launched in March 2004, will be followed up by a research project on "Human Rights and Religion" in young people, conducted in conjunction with Radboud University in Nijmegen. This research, which is part of a 5 year multi-national comparative study being led by Professor van der Ven, Radboud University (formerly Katholieke Universiteit), will start this autumn.

My own research on *Faith Communities and Local Government in Glasgow*, undertaken in collaboration with Dr Michael Rosie (Sociology department, Edinburgh) will be published and disseminated by the Scottish Executive in the Autumn. The dissemination will include at least one CTPI seminar. I am also in preliminary conversation with other scholars/institutions about a bid for a more substantial piece of applied research around themes concerning minority ethnic faith communities in Scotland.

In terms of publications, the texts arising from the *Growing Citizens*, and *A Place for All?* conferences will appear as CTPI *Occasional Papers* Nos. 48 and 49. Selected *World for All?* conference papers will appear in a book edited by Will Storrar, Gillian Wylie (from our partner body, the Irish School of Ecumenics) and myself.

A key element for me will be to capitalise on and extend the network of collaboration that Will has built up within New College, within Edinburgh University and with other agencies and institutions in the UK and around the world. As you can see, there is a lot of work developing and no doubt more opportunities around the corner! CC



A WORLD FOR ALL?

Public lectures on the ethics of global civil society



The Centre for Theology and Public Issues invites you to two public lectures during its international conference on global civil society, September 2005.

Sunday 4 September 2005 at 4.00pm:

'A World for All after the G8?'

Speaker: Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General, CIVICUS, South Africa*

*The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP has been invited to give this lecture, schedule permitting. Kumi Naidoo will respond to the Chancellor's lecture in that event.

Tuesday 6 September 2005 at 7.30pm:

'A World for All? The Ethics of Global Civil Society'

Speaker: Vandana Shiva

Dr Shiva founded the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, New Delhi, India.

Both lectures will be held in the General Assembly Hall, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh. Please note that admission to the 4 September lecture will be by advance ticket only, free on application with SAE to the CTPI office no later than 30 August.

Information on the conference is available from the Centre for Theology and Public Issues conference website:

www.div.ed.ac.uk/aworldforall.html

For tickets, contact:
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