

CENTRE FOR MINISTRY STUDIES



UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN

ISSUE 2 JUNE 2015

Forthcoming Events

CMS SUMMER SCHOOL

16TH – 21ST AUGUST 2015

The first *CMS Summer School* will run from 16-21 August and will be held at Aberdeen University. Entitled 'Participating in the Ministry of Christ', the School will explore the implications of a Christ centred ministry and what this means practically for those who serve the church today, part time and full time workers, lay people and ordained church leaders. The presenters are Canon Nick Cuthbert, Prof Tom Greggs, Very Rev John Miller, Rev Peter Neilson and Rev Alison Wilkinson. The cost of the residential School, which includes full board accommodation in Crombie Halls is £495.

Non-residential rate £295.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/events-510.php>

SECOND WORSHIP CONFERENCE

12TH SEPTEMBER 2015

Saints and Souls. The second Worship Conference hosted by the Centre, will educate, inspire and enthuse ministers, readers and worship leaders about All Souls and All Saints days. Held at the Chaplaincy Centre of the University on Saturday 12th September, it will be led by Bishop Bob Gillies and Prof Paul Nimmo. The cost will be £30 or £20 pounds for students and unwaged.



ABERDEEN ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY

The new *Aberdeen Academy of Theology* has been created to encourage faithful thinking and living, and help Christians connect what they believe to how they live. In the autumn, Prof Greggs will lead three classes under the title, 'Who is God? Everything you wanted to know about God but were afraid to ask'. These will be held at Rubislaw Church Centre, 1 Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen, AB15 4AB from 9.30am – 12.30pm on Saturdays, 26th September, Saturday 31st October and Saturday 21st November 2015. Next year, Prof Paul Nimmo will give three classes on Christology, and the following autumn Dr Don Wood will present three classes on The Holy Spirit.

Classes cost £45 per term and £30 for students and unwaged. Bursaries are available.

CMS/Place For Hope

Day Conference 'Growing through Conflict'

Aberdeen on 4th November 2015

Banchory on 5th November 2015

For further details of these events and to register please contact

Clare Davidson at clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk or on 01224 272138.

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Centre Teaching



An Introduction to Pastoral Care.

This course explored some of the vital dimensions of pastoral care in a complex social and cultural context. The course was a collaboration between the Centre and the University's Christian and Religious Studies flexible programme. We had the pleasure of teaching fourteen students, many of whom are training to become Readers and OLMS in the Church of Scotland.

Christian Spirituality. This course was also done as a collaboration and was a great success with a record number of 28 students from the UK and across Europe.

Centre Events

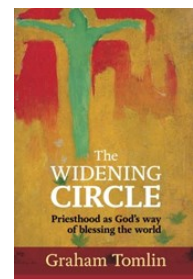


'Bonhoeffer for Pastors: Ministry and Mission at the start of the Twenty First Century', was the title of the conference hosted by the Centre in March. It was led by Drs Mike Mawson and Phil Ziegler and Professors Tom Greggs and Stanley Hauerwas and three Aberdeen University post graduate students had the opportunity to present papers. This proved to be a very successful event attracting 50 people, the maximum we were able to accommodate.

Our intention is to run a series of similar seminars focussing on key theologians such as Karl Barth, (12th March 2016), John Calvin, Thomas Aquinas and Martin Luther. In this way we hope to encourage useful conversations between parish ministers and those ministering in different roles within the academy.

The Annual CMS Seminar and Lecture, was held on Tuesday 12 May and delivered by Rev Dr Graham Tomlin, Principal of St Mellitus College, London. <http://www.stmellitus.org/principal>

In his addresses, Graham explored the subject of Priesthood, the theme of his recently published book, *The Widening Circle*. We hope this is the beginning of a fruitful and creative engagement with St Mellitus.



COURSES

NEW Master of Theology

The Centre for Ministry Studies has created a new *MTh in Ministry Studies* programme which begins in September 2015. The two year, part time degree programme in Practical Theology has been carefully designed so that it is accessible to those who are already engaged in full time or part time, ordained or lay Christian ministry.

Built around four one week modules that will be delivered at Aberdeen University, these week long intensive courses will be preceded by a three weeks of guided reading, and followed by two fortnightly online seminars. This mode of delivery makes the programme ideal for ministers who want to use their Study Leave to further their theological training.

The courses of the programme include: Spiritual Formation; Patterns and Principles of Church Leadership; Preaching to change the world; and Christian Practices.

A further advantage of the programme is its flexibility. It includes four options that allow students to complete either the MTh, or a Postgraduate Diploma or Certificate, while there is also the possibility of taking the programme over an extended period of time.

For further details of the MTh programme, please visit:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/courses/ministrystudies.php>

Doctorate in Practical Theology

The Centre's *Doctorate in Practical Theology* programme also provides an exciting opportunity for people who work in a variety of different situations to reflect theologically on what they do in ways that are both academically deep and practically important.

A five year, part time course of study that has been specifically designed for people who are working full time in either professional or voluntary contexts, this practice-based Doctorate is intended to dovetail with your work in ways that are relevant and transformative, while it functions academically at an equivalent level to a PhD.

Students are supported throughout the programme of study by regular seminars, workshops, close personal supervision and an annual Summer School. The programme is assessed by a portfolio of work that includes a literature review, a publishable paper, a research proposal, a reflective paper and a final dissertation. The DPT provides an ideal opportunity for reflecting on practice and for continual professional development.

For further details of the DPT programme, please visit <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/divinity-religious-studies/practical-theology-practicebased-research-degree-495.php>.



PhD students:

Sheila Akomiah, from Ghana and winner of the prestigious Elphinstone Scholarship, is studying church growth in Glasgow.

Paul Coulter, from Northern Ireland, is working on 'An Ecclesiology for Evangelical church planters in Northern Ireland'.

Stuart Sheenan, from Texas, is examining 'The Changing Voice of Corporate Worship, 1750-1934: How song texts used among Baptists in the Southern United States exhibited a shift in the function of the weekly gathering'.

George Weagba, from Liberia, is working on 'A contemporary survey of narrative preaching among united Methodist Pastors in Liberia'.

A new PhD student, **Ben Brenkert** from New York, will begin his studies in July on 'Human Flourishing', while a further four students have enrolled for the DPT programme and will begin their studies in September 2015

Doctorate in Practical Theology students include:

Marc Kenton, a parish minister from West Lothian.

Iain Macfadzean, the Chief Executive of Work Place Chaplaincy

Sheena Orr, a Prison Chaplain from Edinburgh.

***New ***

CHURCH LEADERS READING GROUP

In the autumn, the Centre will create a new on-line reading group for church leaders. Using the University's Blackboard Collaborate platform, people involved in ministry will be invited to meet in a virtual room where together they will discuss a recent theological publication and reflect upon its practical relevance and usefulness in church work. Further details of this new initiative will be published towards the end of the summer, but in the meantime you are invited to register your interest in joining the reading group by contacting Clare Davidson at clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk or on 01224 272138.



The Centre for Ministry Studies at Aberdeen University celebrated its first birthday earlier in the year. It has enjoyed a very successful first twelve months and has surpassed many of the initial targets. The Centre's vision and purpose remains to provide world class education and training for people involved in Christian ministry by developing and nurturing a creative and innovative working relationship between the academy and the church. The Centre exists to enable people to develop their skills and practice well.

Ken Jeffrey :Coordinator

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