

# CENTRE FOR MINISTRY STUDIES

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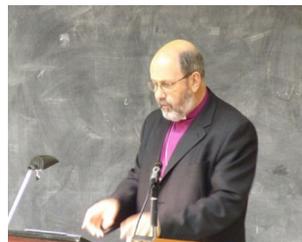
## New Aberdeen Centre welcomes leading Bible scholar

Around 120 people attended a free public lecture on ‘Paul and the Faithfulness of God’ by one of the world’s leading Bible scholars at the new Aberdeen Centre for Ministry Studies on Tuesday 27 May.

N.T. Wright is the former Bishop of Durham in the Church of England and is now serving as the Chair of New Testament and Early Christianity at the School of Divinity at the University of St. Andrews. For twenty years he taught New Testament studies at Cambridge, McGill and Oxford Universities.

The Aberdeen Centre for Ministry Studies was established in January 2014 under the leadership of Professor John Swinton, as the result of a collaboration between the University of Aberdeen and Christ’s College. Run and coordinated by the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Jeffrey, it is inter-denominational and aims to work closely with churches and organisations from all traditions, with the purpose of providing ministry education, research and training across a wide range of contexts for lay and ordained people.

Professor Swinton said: “We were delighted to welcome a scholar of the calibre of N.T. Wright for our first major public event since the launch of the Centre for Ministry Studies earlier this year. It gave the centre a wonderful start and we received some excellent feedback about the event.” It was followed by a question and answer session, a reception and a book signing in the Divinity Library.



### Swiss Visit.

In September the Centre welcomed 9 students and 3 staff members from the University of Zurich visiting Scotland to learn about the Scottish Church. They were delighted to meet with staff and associates of the Centre for Ministry Studies and it is hoped that a return visit with students from Aberdeen University will be organized in the future.

### FUTURE EVENTS

**Advent Worship Conference**

**New Year Retreat**

**Bonhoeffer for Pastors**

**Summer School**

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

ADVENT WORSHIP 2

RETREAT 2

BOOKING DETAILS 2

BONHOEFFER FOR PASTORS 3

COURSES 3

LETTER FROM KEN 5

## ADVENT WORSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday 1 November 2014,  
10am – 4.30pm at King's College, Old  
Aberdeen; cost £25 [includes lunch]



To educate, enthuse and inspire ministers, readers and worship leaders about the great Christian themes of Advent, the conference will be facilitated by Prof Paul Nimmo from Aberdeen University who will speak on Advent Theology. He will be joined by Rev Roddy Hamilton from New Kilpatrick Parish Church who will lead a workshop on Advent worship and liturgy,

Rev Linda Pollock from Possilpark Parish Church who will lead a workshop on Advent worship with children, and Rev Dr David Sinclair from Wellington Parish Church who will lead two main sessions on Advent themes, including Freedom and Liberation, Anticipation and Dreams, Repentance and Hope and Waiting and Watching.

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### RETREAT

6 TH – 8TH JANUARY 2015 AT THE BIELD, BLACKRUTHVEN; £195

*'Are you tired? Worn out?  
Burned out on religion? Get  
away with me and you'll  
recover your life. I'll show  
you how to take a real rest.  
Walk with me and work with  
me - watch how I do it. Learn  
the unforced rhythms of  
grace. I won't lay anything  
heavy or ill-fitting on you,  
Keep company with me and  
you'll learn to live freely and  
lightly.'*

Matthew 11 v28-30



What is this renewed  
interest in 'spirituality'?  
Who pastors the pastors?  
How do we 'rest in the  
Lord' and do the work  
too?

At the retreat there will  
be worship and group  
work, time for input and  
for personal space, for  
prayer and for silence, for  
rest and for recreation.  
Not so much head to head  
as heart to heart.

For around twelve  
participants, the Retreat will  
be led by David and Maggie  
Lunan. David was minister  
in three parishes, and a  
presbytery clerk, and is now  
retired; Maggie worked for  
Christian Aid and is trained  
in spiritual direction . This  
will be an opportunity for  
anyone in full-time service  
of the Church to reflect on  
their ministry, to take time  
out, to listen to one another,  
to pray, and to be still.

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## TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact

Clare Davidson:  
[clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk)  
01224 272138

To Book a place:

[www.store.abdn.ac.uk](http://www.store.abdn.ac.uk)

Click on: 'Product Catalogue'

then on 'Events'

## COURSES

### MTh

This term the CMS is running an MTh course on Pastoral Care and Counselling. Taught by Professor John Swinton and Dr Ken Jeffrey. The twelve week course begins on 19 September, and will include sessions on Practising Lament: Pastoral Care, Distress and Faithful Praying, and on Practising Dying Well: Pastoral Care and the Care of the Dying. <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/courses/ministrymission.php>

### DPT

This term also sees the beginning of a new programme; the Doctorate in Practical Theology which is a five year part time programme of study for those who want to reflect theologically upon their vocation. Four students are beginning this programme in October, and during the first year they will concentrate on writing a Literature Review on their chosen subject.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/divinity-religious-studies/practical-theology-practicebased-research-degree-495.php>

### PhD

We are pleased to welcome three PhD students, one of whom is Sheila Okomiah who won the Elphinstone Scholarship which was awarded earlier in the year.

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## DISTANCE LEARNING

It is my pleasure to begin teaching this year and helping with the University's Distance Learning Programme.

This programme leads to a Certificate or a Diploma in Christian Studies and can also lead to a BTh degree.

Traditionally, the courses have often been taken by people training to become Readers or Ordained Local Ministers in the Church of Scotland, but they have been designed to have a

broad appeal and can be taken by anyone who has an interest in the area of study.

Therefore, I would ask you, please, to advertise these programmes within your churches and to encourage your elders and leaders to consider taking some of these courses. I am teaching two courses this year, listed below, but there are other courses that will be taught by my colleagues.

Ken Jeffrey

[Introduction to Pastoral Care; Distance Learning Course, begins September 2014](#)

[Introduction to Christian Spirituality; Distance Learning Course, begins January 2015](#)

For further information and to book:

contact Dr Sam Newington:  
[s.newington@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:s.newington@abdn.ac.uk) ; 01224 273056

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## FUTURE EVENTS

### Bonhoeffer Conference

Saturday 28 March 2015, 10.00am – 5.00pm at King's College, Old Aberdeen; £50 [students £25] [includes lunch]

Led by Prof Stanley Hauerwas, Prof Tom Greggs, Dr Mike Mawson and Dr Phil Ziegler

### Summer School

#### **'Christ Centred Ministry'**

Sunday 16 [evening]– Friday 21 August [lunchtime], at King's College, Old Aberdeen; Cost: £495

Time to stop, to think and reflect on what a Christ Centred Ministry looks like.

Led by Dr Andrew Clark, Prof Tom Greggs, Canon Nick Cuthbert, Very Rev John Miller, Rev Anne Wilkinson



For further details or to book: contact [clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:clare.davidson@abdn.ac.uk)

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Administrator  
Clare Davidson  
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The Centre is delighted to have the following associates to contribute to its future:

- Dr Tomas Bokedal
- Dr Chris Brittain
- Dr Brian Brock
- Dr Andrew Clarke
- Prof Tom Greggs
- Dr Mike Mawson
- Prof Paul Nimmo
- Dr Lena-Sophia Tiemeyer
- Dr Don Wood
- Dr Phil Ziegler

All new students are warmly welcomed to the first teaching term for the Aberdeen University Centre for Ministry Studies.

Over the next few weeks we will get to know you all and organize social events to help form a community of students for learning, fellowship and friendship.

## LETTER FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear friends

Thank you for registering your interest in being kept up to date with what is going on at the Centre for Ministry Studies at Aberdeen University. At the end of June I completed my first 100 days in position. These first few months were spent meeting lots of people and visiting various institutions, and together this has helped me begin to create the Centre. On 2 September we met with our Advisory Board and this also helps us discern the work we do in the coming year.

I am working in partnership with Aberdeen Presbytery and other local church leaders to develop a Ministry School for church leaders here in Aberdeen. This project is still at an early stage, but we plan to run pilot events each month from January 2015, and if these prove to be successful we shall develop a programme for the School to begin in September 2015. I also want to create a MTh in Ministry Studies programme that would begin in September 2015. Again, this project remains, at this stage, a vision and an ambition, but I hope that I shall be able to tell you more about this when I write to you again next year

A third responsibility is the creation of collaborative ministry education and training partnerships with churches, institutions and agencies within the UK and from the developed and developing world including Malawi and Nigeria,

and this is very exciting. I hope I shall be able to share more news with you about this in our next Newsletter.

Thank you, once again, for being interested in the work of the Centre for Ministry Studies. Please, if you have the time, reply and let us know what you think of our plans. Offer suggestions of what you think we should be doing as we seek to develop a new and vital relationship between the academy and the church. Would you also, please, tell other people about us, who we are and what we seek to do, and suggest they contact Clare Davidson so that they can receive this Newsletter too.

Kind Regards,

Ken

