

# The Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics

## Newsletter

Spring 2010

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We hope you enjoy this issue of the KLICE Newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to others who may wish to see it. To unsubscribe, send an email to that effect to [ethics@tyndale.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@tyndale.cam.ac.uk)

### 1. Beyond Individualism: Applying a New Sexual Ethic - May 15

KLICE is pleased to co-sponsor a conference on sexual ethics with the **Jubilee Centre**. The opening keynote speaker is Dale Kuehne, author of the widely-praised new book *Sex and the iWorld: Rethinking Relationships Beyond an Age of Individualism* (Baker Academic 2009). The conference draws on the recent work of the Jubilee Centre and of individuals associated with KLICE. The conference is open to all but will be of special interest to students, clergy and lay leaders.

**Title:** 'Beyond Individualism: Applying a New Sexual Ethic'

**Date:** Saturday 15 May 2010, with optional supper on Friday 14 May

**Location:** Cambridge: Eden Baptist Church/Tyndale House

#### **Keynote speakers:**

- Dale Kuehne (New Hampshire Institute of Politics, USA), author of *Sex and the iWorld*
- Jonathan Burnside (Bristol University), Chair of KLICE Advisory Council

#### **Workshop presenters:**

- Guy Brandon (Jubilee Centre), author of *Just Sex* (IVP 2009)
- Jenny Taylor (Lapido Media/KLICE Advisory Council), author of *Wild Constraint: the Case for Chastity* (Continuum, 2008)
- David Instone-Brewer (Tyndale House), author of *Divorce and Remarriage in the Church* (Paternoster 2003)
- Rachel Gardner (Creative Director, Romance Academy)

#### **Further details:**

[http://www.jubilee-centre.org/news/214/beyond\\_individualism\\_may\\_15th\\_conference](http://www.jubilee-centre.org/news/214/beyond_individualism_may_15th_conference)

#### **Booking form:**

<http://www.jubilee-centre.org/uploaded/files/beyondindividualism.pdf>

### 2. KLICE in Parliament

KLICE recently contributed to two events on faith and politics held in Parliament.

- On 13 January the Director gave a brief presentation at a Briefing on the **Equality Bill** in the House of Lords, chaired by Lord McKay of Clashfern. The event introduced an important new report from **CARE** written by Dan Boucher, and entitled *A Little Bit Against Discrimination?* The report is an excellent analysis of the troubling implications of recent equality legislation for the corporate freedom of religious organisations. It is endorsed by the Director and by Professor Julian Rivers (former KLICE Advisory Council chair). The Bill has since been amended in line with the proposals of the report. Amendments were moved by peers present at the Briefing meeting.
- On 10 February, Bishop Tom Wright delivered a stirring lecture on the theme '**God and Government**' on the occasion of the publication of the book of that title co-edited by Nick Spencer and Jonathan Chaplin. Jonathan Chaplin presented a response. KLICE Research Associate Joshua Hordern also attended the event, along with 120 others including MP's, peers, political staff and members of the public. Bishop Tom's lecture and the Director's response are available on the Theos website:  
[http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/Governments\\_ignore\\_parliamentary\\_process\\_says\\_Bishop\\_of\\_Durham.aspx?ArticleID=3811&PageID=14&RefPageID=14](http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/Governments_ignore_parliamentary_process_says_Bishop_of_Durham.aspx?ArticleID=3811&PageID=14&RefPageID=14)
- In addition, the Director and Research Associate were invited to attend the parliamentary launch of an important and creative new web resource on faith and politics sponsored by the Bible Society and led by David Landrum (with whom KLICE partners in a project on political parties). Named **SUSA** – after the Persian biblical city which was home to Daniel, Nehemiah, Esther and Mordecai - the website makes available a wide range of very accessible resources to help Christians reflect and act on their political responsibilities. It is sponsored by the cross-party organisation 'Christians in Politics'. Visit the site here:  
<http://www.susa.info/>

### 3. KLICE in the media

The Director recently published three pieces in the *Guardian*, evoking many vigorous responses:

- 'There's more to faith than sex', *Comment is free/CiF belief*, 24 February:  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/feb/24/religion-christianity>
- 'These amendments should stay' (on the Equality Bill), in the online *Comment is free/CiF belief*, 6 February:  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/feb/06/equality-bill-church-religion>
- 'Democratic debate should take in as many faith-based views as possible', Face to Faith column print edition and online at *Comment is free/CiF belief*, 5 December:  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2009/dec/05/faith-role-in-democratic-debate>
- The Director was also interviewed on a Sunday morning BBC Radio Cambridgeshire programme on 15 November on the upcoming debate in the Cambridge Union Society in which he proposed the motion that 'faith has an essential role in democratic debate'.

### 4. New leadership vision for KLICE doctoral support programme

Our doctoral support programme is undergoing a significant shift of focus. Renamed the **KLICE Public Leadership Programme** it will now cater not only for doctoral students but also for selected masters students. Participants will receive not only financial and pastoral support but will also be prepared to assume leadership roles in church, academy and wider society. The goal is to encourage and equip emerging young leaders to present Christian

ethical standpoints with integrity, wisdom and confidence - not only in the church but also in the public square.

Selected participants will be partnered in various ways with groups or organisations working on practical issues in their field. For example, a doctoral student working in legal or medical/bioethics may be partnered with a group of lawyers or doctors who will contribute financially to the student's costs and receive benefit in kind from the relationship. The Leadership programme will now also include young professionals in areas such as medicine, law, business, journalism or politics. The form which participation in the leadership programme takes will be tailored appropriately for each professional field. Please contact us for more information. Further information is on our website, and will be updated further in the coming months: <http://klice.co.uk/index.php/leadership-programme>

***Finding partners and resources for this ambitious programme is now KLICE's highest priority.*** If you would like further information on the programme or wish to find out how to support or participate in it, please contact either the Director, Jonathan Chaplin (01223 566625) or the Research Associate, Joshua Hordern (01223 566619).

## 5. How Should Christians Vote in 2010?

The latest issue of ***Ethics in Brief***, by the Director, addresses the question of how Christians should prepare to cast their votes in the upcoming general election. While not advising them to vote for any one party, he argues against regarding voting as a purely private, individual affair. He urges Christians to engage in serious discussion on how they will make their choices, and suggests some key considerations to bear in mind in assessing the rival parties. The issue is a useful resource for church-based discussions of the election.

Another recent issue, on the place of 'the good' in Old Testament ethics, is by recent KLICE grantee Jonathan Rowe, who teaches at a theological college in Spain. This issue shows how the various themes in OT ethics - law, principle, wisdom – each promote particular moral goods rooted in created order.

All issues of *Ethics in Brief* are available on our website. ***Subscribe online*** to the print version of *Ethics in Brief* (£15 per year) at:

<http://klice.co.uk/index.php/resources/ethics-in-brief>

## 6. Director's activities

The Director addressed two groups in Oxford in early March. He spoke to the Oxford Christian Graduate Society on the theme of religious language in political debate, and to the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies on a Christian view of democratic government. He served as internal examiner in Cambridge University, for a doctoral thesis on the Church of England's economic views between 1989 and 2008. He is also part of research team in the USA which was recently awarded a significant grant from the Calvin College Christian Scholarship fund for a three-year project on a Christian view of the role of the state in protecting the environment.

## 7. Research Associate's activities

Joshua Hordern continues to work with the Director on the joint Bible Society project on Christianity and British political parties, as well as writing the publication on the Conservative Party. He has been very busy on KLICE development work, contributing especially to the design of the emerging Public Leadership Programme. As a Research Fellow of Wolfson College, he is also teaching ethics to undergraduates in the university and has recently been invited to design and deliver a course on sexual and medical ethics in the Faculty of Divinity in 2010-11.

## 8. Doctoral grantee activities

Recent KLICE doctoral grantees have achieved important academic successes:

- **Guido De Graaff** (Oxford) successfully defended his doctoral thesis in December. Supervised by Dr. Bernd Wannenwetsch, Guido's thesis was entitled 'The Gift of Common Judgement: A Theological Analysis of Politics in Friendship'.
- **Joshua Hordern** (Edinburgh) successfully defended his thesis in January. Supervised by Professor Oliver O'Donovan, he wrote under the title, 'Political affections: a theological enquiry.'
- **Jonathan Rowe's** doctoral thesis has been accepted for publication as *Michal's Moral Dilemma: A Literary, Anthropological and Ethical Interpretation* (LHBOTS; New York, T&T Clark, forthcoming). He has also published an article in the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*.

## 9. KLICE needs your support!

Apart from the Director's position, all KLICE costs need to be covered either by trusts, revenue or individual donations. We are working hard to place KLICE's administrative operation on a more secure financial footing by 2011, but this will only happen with the help of many individuals like you. ***If you are excited by KLICE's contribution to a credible Christian ethical voice in the UK today, please support our work financially.***

An excellent way to do so is to become a '**KLICE Associate**'. Associates pay a minimum of £5 per month and receive:

- a subscription to the paper version of *Ethics in Brief*
- invitations to public events
- discounted conference fees
- discounts on KLICE publications
- access to the Tyndale House Library
- access to designated website pages (under development)
- the *Newsletter*.

***KLICE depends on your help to sustain and expand its work. Please join in the mission!***

For more information, visit our support page: <http://klice.co.uk/index.php/support-us>

### 9. Contact details:

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