

The Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics

Newsletter

Summer 2007

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Welcome to the first KLICE newsletter. We hope you find it interesting and valuable. We realise you may be sent many such communications and if you would prefer not to receive further issues, simply send an email to that effect to administrator@tyndale.cam.ac.uk. Please also feel free to forward this newsletter to others who may wish to see it.

1. Institute launch

The Institute was formally launched at a highly successful event on January 24 attended by a diverse audience of nearly 100. After an introduction to the work of the Institute by Dr Julian Rivers (Advisory Council Chair), the Director, Dr Jonathan Chaplin, delivered a lecture entitled 'Speaking from Faith in Democracy' at the Runcie Room in the Divinity Faculty of Cambridge University, stimulating a lively question period. A celebratory reception and supper followed at Tyndale House at which speeches were given by Dr Peter May (UCCF Trust Board Chair), Professor Andrew Clarke (Tyndale House Council Chair), Dr David Baker (Acting Warden of Tyndale House) and Bishop John Taylor (Tyndale House Council member). The text of the lecture is downloadable from the [KLICE website](#) and is also forthcoming in *Themelios* (the journal of UCCF/IFES's Religious and Theological Studies Fellowship).

2. Ethics in Brief

Published six times per year, *Ethics in Brief* offers succinct and accessible articles on key contemporary ethical issues written by specialists in the field. It replaces the former *Whitefield Briefings* published by the Whitefield Institute. Recent issues have addressed themes such as:

- Christianity and democracy (Jonathan Chaplin)
- the Bible and multiculturalism (Gordon Wenham)
- liberalism and toleration (Jonathan Chaplin)
- biblical sexual ethics (Jonathan Burnside)
- tube-feeding patients in persistent vegetative state (James Read)
- ethics and the Bible (Brian Brock)

To download past issues of *Whitefield Briefings*, [click here](#). For information on how to subscribe to *Ethics in Brief*, contact Tania Raiola (details below). Issues of *Ethics in Brief* will also be available on our website one year after publication.

3. Seminar on 'Theological Visions and Public Languages'

On April 18, 35 invited public policy practitioners and public theologians gathered at Tyndale House for a day-long seminar on this theme. The event was co-sponsored by KLICE and four other organizations. Two are based in Cambridge: the Jubilee Centre, and the Centre for Faith and Society at the Von Hügel Institute, based at St. Edmund's College. Two are London-based: the Evangelical Alliance's Public Affairs Department, and the new public theology think-tank, Theos. In total nearly 20 different organisations working in the field were represented in some capacity. The focus of the seminar was the challenge of translating various theologically-inspired visions of political change into appropriate public languages, in

the context of a secularised and religiously plural society. Its agenda was organised around discussion of relevant documents recently produced by each of the five organisations:

- *Faith and Nation*, a report commissioned by the Evangelical Alliance (EA, 2006)
- *Doing God*, a report by Nick Spencer (Theos, 2006)
- *Jubilee Manifesto*, produced by the Jubilee Centre (IVP, 2005)
- 'Speaking from Faith in Democracy' (Jonathan Chaplin's KLICE inaugural lecture)
- Introduction to *Louder Than Words*, a new book by Andrew Bradstock (co-director of the Centre for Faith and Society) (DLT, 2007)

Representatives from each sponsoring organisation gave presentations based on their documents, which were responded to by one or more individuals from other organisations. Participants reported that the day was a very valuable exchange on a key issue facing them in their attempts to speak from a standpoint of Christian faith into public debate today. *Faith and Nation* and *Doing God* are downloadable from the EA and Theos websites.

4. Doctoral Grants Awarded

The most important project inherited by KLICE from its predecessor organisation, the Whitefield Institute, is the funding of doctoral students working in key areas of Christian ethics. Our objective is to encourage and support Christian scholars, at the early stages of their academic careers, whom we are confident will make significant contributions to the advancement of rigorous, biblically-inspired work on Christian ethics in the UK, as well as to provide them with intellectual and pastoral support during their doctoral programmes. With significant funding recently reinstated by a sympathetic Trust, KLICE was able to select six highly-qualified recipients of such awards this year. In alphabetical order, they are:

Guido De Graaff, a third-year doctoral student at the University of Oxford working on political theology under Dr. Bernd Wannewetsch. Guido has already presented and published his work in several professional settings, and is Conference Secretary of the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics (SSCE).

Sean Doherty, a second-year doctoral student at the University of Oxford working on economic ethics under Dr. Bernd Wannewetsch and is also an NSM curate at St Gabriel, Cricklewood. Sean has exercised leadership roles in OICCU (Oxford Inter-Collegiate Christian Union) and has taught medical ethics at the Oxford Faculty of Theology. His booklet on medical ethics is soon to be published by Grove Booklets.

Andrew Draycott, a third-year doctoral student working on political theology at Aberdeen University under Dr. Brian Brock. A former UCCF and IFES staff member, Andrew has published many academic reviews and articles in *Themelios* and other outlets, and has taught courses at Aberdeen.

Katherine Hogg, a first-year doctoral student at London School of Theology working on the methodology of theological ethics under Dr. Anna Robbins. Katherine, who received a Distinction for her MA in Theology at Leeds University, has exercised several leadership roles in Christian and other organisations and will work part-time for Christian Aid in Leeds alongside her studies.

Joshua Hordern, a first-year doctoral student at Edinburgh University working on political theology under Professor Oliver O'Donovan. Joshua has already exercised a range of leadership roles, in OICCU while an undergraduate at Oxford, in several voluntary agencies, and as a White House intern.

Bethan Pearse, a first-year doctoral student at the University of Exeter working in the area of theological ethics under Professor Timothy Gorrige. Bethan's focus is the theology of forgiveness in Miroslav Volf and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bethan is currently volunteering for the charity LIFE.

We congratulate these first six recipients of KLICE doctoral grants. To support them in their work, three research seminars will be held in Cambridge each year, to which several other doctoral students working in cognate areas of Christian ethics will also be invited.

For further information on the doctoral grant programme, consult the [KLICE website](#). Application deadlines for the 2008/9 round will be posted by October of this year.

5. Klice Book Colloquium on *The Ways Of Judgment*, by Oliver O'Donovan

Over 25 participants attended the first KLICE Book Colloquium, held from 3-4 July at Newnham College, next door to Tyndale House. These colloquia allow a full day of serious interaction with a leading book in the field of Christian ethics and in the presence of the author. Professor Oliver O'Donovan, who recently moved from Oxford University to Edinburgh University, is one of Britain's most distinguished political theologians. His book, *The Ways of Judgment* (Eerdmans, 2005), is the much-anticipated sequel to his

groundbreaking *The Desire of the Nations* published in 1996. Three speakers responded to different parts of the book:

- Professor Nigel Biggar, soon to move from Trinity College, Dublin to take up the post of Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology at Oxford University (vacated last year by Professor O'Donovan).
- Dr Ben Quash, Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge University, and recently appointed as Professor of Christianity and the Arts at King's College, London
- Dr Jonathan Chaplin, Director of KLICE.

Professor O'Donovan responded engagingly to each of the papers, and discussion throughout was lively and informative. The three papers will appear in a special issue of the journal *Political Theology* in 2008.

The book selected for the 2008 KLICE Book Colloquium is by Dr. Brian Brock, a member of the KLICE Advisory Council: *Singing the Ethos of God: On the Place of Christian Ethics in Scripture* (Eerdmans, 2007). The book proposes a new approach to reading the Bible, allowing it to speak with fresh authority to contemporary ethical questions. Further details will be displayed on the website in due course.

6. Tyndale Fellowship Ethics & Social Theology Study Group 4-6 July

This is one of several Study Groups of the Tyndale Fellowship meeting annually, normally in Cambridge. This year's meeting of the Ethics & Social Theology Group (EST) was held jointly with the Religion, Culture and Communication Group (RCC) under the theme 'Ethics and World Religions.' Jonathan Chaplin serves as secretary to the EST Group and will be convening next year's meeting, also to be held jointly with the RCC Group.

The Group was again blessed with an impressive and varied line-up of speakers. Every year each group holds a 'Tyndale Lecture' within the programme. This year's were:

- Dr. Brian Brock from Aberdeen University (for the EST Group), "In the Beginning" and Contemporary Living: Genesis in the 21st Century'
- Rev. Toby Howarth from Birmingham (for the RCC Group), 'The Political Ideology of the UK Islamic Mission'.

Other speakers on the programme were:

- Professor David Ford (University of Cambridge): 'Scriptural Wisdom for Public Life'
- Professor John Drane (Fuller Seminary): 'The Globalization of Spirituality'
- Rev. Colin Chapman (Cambridge): 'Christian Responses to Islam, Islamism and "Islamic Terrorism"'
- Dr. Calvin Smith (Midlands Bible College): 'Christian Views of the Modern State of Israel'
- Dr. Douglas Knight (Birkbeck College): 'Religion, Religions and Pluralism'
- Dr. Jonathan Chaplin (KLICE): 'A Christian Political Response to Religious Pluralism'

Information on how to access some of these presentations is available on the ['Ethics & Social Theology' page](#) of the KLICE website.

For information on Tyndale Fellowship Study Groups, visit the website: www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk (click on 'Events and Institutes').

7. Director's Activities

During 2007 the Director has taken up speaking engagements in a variety of academic and other contexts, providing opportunities to widen awareness of the work of KLICE. Highlights included three 'Bible Readings' at the Jubilee Centre's Winter School in Cambridge in January, a paper on 'Church, Civil Society and State: Sites of Christian Public Engagement', at Princeton Theological Seminary in March, and three presentations at the 125th anniversary conference of The Salvation Army, Winnipeg, Canada in June. Further information will soon be available on the [Director's page](#).

8. Become a 'KLICE Associate'

If you find the work of KLICE valuable and wish to partner with us in presenting a credible Christian ethical voice in public life, consider becoming a 'KLICE Associate'. Associates pay a minimum of £30 per year and receive a subscription to *Ethics in Brief*, invitations to public events, discounted conference fees, discounts on KLICE publications, and the Newsletter. For more information, visit the ['Support' page](#).

Visit the KLICE website at www.klice.co.uk or www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/KLICE

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