

The Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics Newsletter

Winter 2008

Environmental Ethics

Research project launched with Faraday Institute

Political Theology

Feeding Christian thought into public life

Upcoming Events

KLICE Book Colloquium on Scripture and ethics

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We hope you enjoy this issue of the KLICE Newsletter. Please feel free forward it to others who may wish to see it. If you would prefer not to receive future issues, simply send an email to that affect to administrator@tyndale.cam.ac.uk.

1. Upcoming Events

In Lent term the KLICE **Lunchtime Seminar on Political Ethics** is making an opening contribution to the joint Faraday-KLICE project on **environmental ethics**. Two sessions are upcoming:

19 February 1-2pm Hilary Marlow, Associate of Faraday Institute and PhD candidate, Cambridge Divinity Faculty

11 March 1-3pm Book Launch: *Cherishing the Earth* (Monarch 2008) with author Margot Hodson (Jesus College, Oxford)

Other events may be organised at short notice so keep an eye on the 'Events' <http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/KLICE/page8.html> page of our website for details.

The second **KLICE Book Colloquium** will take place at Tyndale House on 3-4 September 2008. The book selected is Brian Brock, *Singing the Ethos of God: On the Place of Christian Ethics in Scripture* (Eerdmans, 2007). The book is praised by Professor John Webster as 'astute, robust, spiritually charged [and] theology of a high order'. Dr. Brock lectures in moral and practical theology at the University of Aberdeen and is a member of the KLICE Advisory Council. Speakers include Dr. Brock, Dr. Bernd Wannewetsch (Oxford), and Professor Gordon Wenham (Trinity College, Bristol). It takes place immediately prior to the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Christian Ethics, also being held in Cambridge (5-7 September). Further details and a Registration form are available on the KLICE website <http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/KLICE/page8.html>

The next meeting of the **Ethics and Social Theology Study Group** (EST) of the Tyndale Fellowship takes place from 9-11 July 2008, in conjunction with the Religion, Culture and Communication Group. This year's theme is 'Political Theology'. The Tyndale Lecture (given by Jonathan Chaplin) and some other sessions will address the question of how the state should respond to the reality of religious pluralism. Further information will be available in due course on the EST page of the Tyndale Fellowship website.

http://www.tyndalehouse.co.uk/TF/Conferences/conference_2008.html

2. Environmental Ethics

KLICE is delighted to be able to announce its participation in an innovative three-year joint research project with the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion [www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/faraday], based at St. Edmund's College, Cambridge. The Faraday Institute has secured substantial funding from the John Templeton Foundation for the project and KLICE's participation has been made possible through the generosity of the Kirby Laing Foundation. Two postdoctoral students already associated with the Faraday Institute and with Tyndale House will be employed as principal researchers. Hilary Marlow and Jonathan Moo will be exploring core biblical and theological foundations for a contemporary environmental ethic and assisting in producing a series of publications and other outputs aimed at both academic and wider public audiences. The project aims to conclude with a high-profile public conference for policy-makers and others in 2011, for which additional funding is currently being sought. The project director is Dr. Robert White, Professor of Geophysics at Cambridge, and a member of the KLICE Advisory Council. He is also co-author of *Christianity, Climate Change and Sustainable Living* (SPCK, 2007), which was launched at a lunchtime event on 29 January, attended by 35 people. Professor White and co-author Nick Spencer both spoke at the event and a lively question period followed. The event was co-sponsored by KLICE, The Faraday Institute, and the Jubilee Centre which initiated the book project.

3. Political Theology

KLICE's core work in political theology is being advanced through the emergence of exciting partnerships with organisations sharing our goal of providing authentically Christian reflection for contemporary political debates. These partnerships will enable KLICE to offer its expertise to broad and influential audiences in the UK. One such partnership is already up and running.

KLICE has teamed up with the London-based public theology think-tank **Theos** [www.theosthinktank.org] to produce a book of original essays on political theology by British authors entitled *God and Government*. A key goal is to present a complementary copy of the book to every member of the House of Commons and House of Lords with Christian associations. Funding for the first stage has been found. Special events and seminars will be arranged around the book. In addition, Jonathan Chaplin has been commissioned to write a report for *Theos* on the theme of 'Christian public reasoning', due out in Summer 2008.

4. Ethics in Brief

The first four issues of *Ethics in Brief* are now accessible at no charge from our website [<http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/KLICE/wb2.html>]. Abstracts of most subsequent issues are also available, as are most issues of the former *Whitefield Briefings*. Recent issues have addressed the following themes:

- Business ethics (Simon Webley)
- Slavery in the Old Testament (David Baker)

Planned issues for 2008 include:

- Multiculturalism
- Greed in the Bible
- The ethics of Information Technology
- The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

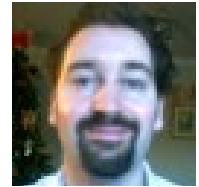
Details of how to subscribe to *Ethics in Brief* (£15 per year) are available on the website [<http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/KLICE/wb3.html>]

5. Grantee Programme

The first Research Seminar for KLICE grantees and other doctoral students in ethics took place on 26 October 2007. Twelve students participated in a lively day including a lecture by the Director on 'Christian Ethics Among the Disciplines', two student research presentations, and time for fellowship and sharing progress on research. Here is an update from some of our current grantees:

Andrew Draycott (Aberdeen)

Andy has completed working on the bulk of his research material and is currently organising the contents and tailoring an introduction and conclusion before tackling a complete re-write of the draft thesis. Balancing research 3 days a week with daycare for daughter Jemima 3 days a week means a busy life, but, for the most part fulfilling in appropriate measure. Sundays as family days are great, particularly if the weather permits outdoors time.



Joshua Hordern (Edinburgh)

Research has continued steadily in the last few months with a particular focus on the place of affections in the moral thought of Deuteronomy and Luke-Acts. Professor O'Donovan's supervision continues to be a great blessing. Joshua is also very grateful for many formal and informal teaching opportunities within the School of Divinity, his church and at a local young offenders institution. Many thanks for your continued prayers and support!

Sean Doherty (Oxford)

It's been a busy time! Their first baby, Jemimah, arrived in April. Since then they have moved house, Sean has been ordained, and both he and his wife have started new jobs - Sean as a self-supporting (non-stipendiary) curate, and Gaby as a part-time youth minister. The summer was an especially productive time for research, and in September-October he was able to get a lot of writing done. The summer also saw the appearance of Sean's first publication: a Grove Booklet on medical ethics.



Grant Funding

Applications are now open for KLICE doctoral grants for 2008/9, for which the deadline is 29 February 2008. Consult the website for further details <http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/KLICE/page14.html>

6. Director's Activities

In recent months the Director has spoken and written for a variety of audiences.

- ❑ He has served as a respondent at a conference at King's College, Cambridge on 'Faith Communities and Civil Society'. The event was initiated by Archbishop Rowan Williams and included both Christian and Muslim representatives.
- ❑ He responded to Professor David Martin at a seminar of the 'Religion and Secularism Network' based in Cambridge.
- ❑ He spoke on the integration of faith and learning at a conference of the Christian Academic Network (Leeds University), on faith in public life at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, on just war at Youth With a Mission (Harpenden), and on multiculturalism at both West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies (Leeds) and at the Association for Reformational Philosophy (Netherlands).
- ❑ During November 2007 he co-taught an MA unit on Christian social thought at the Free University of Amsterdam.

- ❑ His article 'Christian Public Engagement in a Secularised Society' appeared in the Bible Society's journal *The Bible in Transmission* (Winter 2007), which claims a readership of 20,000.
- ❑ He published a feature article, 'Forming Christian Public Ethics', on Tony Blair and just war, in *The Church of England Newspaper*, 7 December.
- ❑ He participated in a conference on 'Religion and Secularism: a dynamic balance?', at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, in January.
- ❑ He accepted an invitation to join the Evangelical Alliance's new Theology and Public Policy Advisory Commission.

7. Support the work of KLICE

If you find the work of KLICE valuable and wish to partner with us in presenting a credible Christian ethical voice in the academy, church and society, please consider supporting us financially. Our opportunities are expanding rapidly but our ability to make the best of them depends on increased funding. Donations of any size are much appreciated. You may wish your donation to be earmarked for a particular purpose. If you would like to talk to the Director about our specific funding needs, please contact him directly at KLICE@tyndale.cam.ac.uk (or 01223 566625), or via the Administrator (see below).

Some of you may be in a position to become a '**KLICE Associate**'. Associates pay a minimum of £60 per year (increased from last year to facilitate payment by standing order and through Gift Aid), receiving a subscription to *Ethics in Brief*, invitations to public events, and discounted conference fees.

A multi-option reply sheet and Standing Order Mandate are available from our website:

<http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/KLICE/support0.html>

Contact us at:

Ethics@Tyndale.cam.ac.uk

Tania Raiola
Administrator
Tyndale House
36 Selwyn Gardens
Cambridge CB3 9BA
01223 566602 or 566619