



## Editorial

This issue of the journal consists mainly of papers given at a conference held at New College in March 2007 to celebrate the life and work of John McIntyre, formerly Professor of Divinity and both Dean of the Faculty and Principal of New College. I suppose that those of us who had the privilege of being students when John McIntyre was at the height of his powers took it all very much for granted. With John teaching Divinity and Tom Torrance introducing us to Dogmatics, James Stewart expounding the New Testament with elegance and grace, Norman Porteous and James Barr helping us to understand the Hebrew scriptures, both as important in their own right and as the cradle of the faith we were to proclaim, and J. K. S. Burleigh helping us to understand the history of the church in Scotland within the far wider history and experience of the world church, we were fed a rich fare. True, Practical Theology was not deemed of sufficient academic standing to merit a course within the BD degree, but those who taught us the major academic disciplines had all been parish ministers and each in his own way was involved in the life of the church both in local congregations and in the wider church both nationally and ecumenically. All of them were part of a Scottish tradition in which confessional theology was taught with academic integrity and an openness to truth, whatever its source.

This was personified in John McIntyre. Equally at home in dialogue with Anselm and Bultmann, he demonstrated the relevance of patristics for contemporary theological issues; committed both to the church and the university he ensured that New College's geographical position did not lead to Divinity being marginalised within the university; proud to be a minister of the Kirk, his was the Moderatorial handshake which welcomed the Pope to Edinburgh on behalf of the Church of Scotland.

All the papers in this issue pay tribute to John's life and work or reflect his interests. Bill Shaw, George Newlands and David Fergusson were all students who became colleagues and friends – and subsequently

came to hold the chairs of Divinity in St Andrews, Glasgow and Edinburgh respectively. Bill Shaw provides the rich personal and intellectual context for understanding John's work. George Newlands explores a topic to which John introduced as in our first year, namely the relationship between theology and history. David Fergusson's preliminary dip into the McIntyre papers whets our appetites for a deeper understanding of the man and his times. Alison Jack, one of our younger scholars picks up a theme from John's later writings, namely that of imagination and explores this in relation to Scottish literature. John McPake was not a speaker at the McIntyre conference, but given John's part in the dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church it seems singularly appropriate that this paper on the Joint Declaration on justification should appear in this issue.

*David Lyall*

## Subscriptions

We regret that, because of increasing costs, it has been found necessary to make a modest increase in the price of *Theology in Scotland*. As from vol. XV no. 1 (spring 2008) the annual subscription rate will be £15.00 in the U.K. (North America US\$35.00; rest of the world £20.00). The institutional subscription rate will be £25.00 (North America US\$45.00; rest of the world £30.00).

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