

---

# Rutherford House

# NEWSLETTER

---



Autumn 2007

## Letter from the Chairman of the Trustees

Dear Friends,

When I was in India to give a short course of lectures on preaching at the Delhi Bible Institute, there hung on the wall of the guest room I occupied two framed jumbo jigsaws. One was of a thatched cottage and garden, and the other of the *Flying Scotsman*, pounding up a gradient, hissing steam and belching smoke. Whether it was thought that these reminders of where I came from would make me feel more at home I don't know, but I learned that they were the work of the wife of the principal of the Institute who had a passion for jigsaws.

I myself am not a jigsaw enthusiast. However, it has often struck me that the Lord's work in which we are engaged is not unlike a jigsaw. Both require patience. How often the Scriptures bid us be patient in the service of God. Frustrations, disappointments, set-backs, and opposition are to be expected. Therefore the need for patience.

There are also other connections. In a jigsaw it is often difficult to see where the different pieces go, especially if we don't have a picture to work from. Pieces which we thought belonged together turn out not to fit. But it is also the case that when we get one piece right, other pieces fall quickly into place. That is particularly true of the last piece. We may have already tried unsuccessfully to fit it into a number of places, but as the jigsaw nears completion we find the piece slots inevitably into the one remaining space, and the picture is complete. In the same way, as we go about the work God has given us to do, we seldom have before us a full picture of what God is doing. It is like making a jigsaw without the picture on the cover of the box to help us. We are unable to see the end from the beginning. Only God can. We are therefore totally dependent on him for guidance.

The jigsaw analogy applies to the current situation at Rutherford House. Over recent years the Trustees with the Director have kept the future direction of the work under constant review and have sought to respond to the changes in the evangelical topography of Scotland since the House was established in 1983, and to the social and cultural changes which have taken place in our society. However, more recently the questions we had been asking about the House's future were sharpened by a number of factors, among them our worsening financial position, and the acknowledgement that 17 Claremont Park was no longer required as a base for the diminished range of activities resourced by the House. The Trustees therefore decided to sell the property and use the capital sum to provide a solid financial basis from which to develop the work of the House. Just before the decision to sell was taken Dr. Fyall intimated his resignation as Director to work with Cornhill Scotland.

Dr. Fyall left at the end of August and 17 Claremont Park was sold in October. The Trustees have meantime given careful consideration to what future the House may have in the changing church scene in Scotland, and have explored the different options open to them.

In weighing up the pros and cons of possible courses of action, we have been acutely aware of the danger of continuing the work of the House, if in a different form, only to be faced by further crises a few years hence because we failed to read the signs inherent in the present situation. However, after much thought and prayer, we are of the view that Rutherford House still has an important role to play, and have approved a development plan, a key component of which is the appointment of a new director who will contribute to and enable others in

- promoting biblical, expository preaching.
- supporting ministers in their teaching, evangelism and pastoral care
- working with congregations to help them fulfil their mission in the context of rapid change
- liaising with academia

The post of director will be advertised shortly.

The new owners of 17 Claremont Park will take possession of the property on 31 January 2008. The logistics of vacating the premises are complex. For your information, may I draw to your attention decisions we have taken and arrangements we have made to date.

- After 31 January 2008 we shall in the short term operate from rented office accommodation. Our current contact details will remain in place as before.

- The library has been donated to the Highland Theological College, Dingwall.
- The *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology* will continue to be published twice a year. A subscription renewal form is enclosed.
- The publication of the *Rutherford Journal of Church and Ministry* will be discontinued meantime pending the appointment of a new director.
- Stephen Carter of *Seraph Media* has taken over the large library of audio tapes, CDs, videos, and DVDs which the House has built up over the past 24 years and will offer a professional service to all who wish to access the collection ([www.seraphmedia.org.uk](http://www.seraphmedia.org.uk)).
- The Rutherford House Fellowship and the Research Committee will continue to function under the chairmanship of Prof. Andrew McGowan, Highland Theological College UHI, High Street, Dingwall IV15 9HA; E-mail: [andrew.mcgowan@htc.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.mcgowan@htc.uhi.ac.uk); Tel: 01349 780208. The Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference will meet every two years as before.
- The production and sale of literature will be discontinued. However, orders may be placed for the last three titles in the Rutherford Studies series, which will be available shortly (see below). The series of papers from the Edinburgh Dogmatics Conferences will be available through the Highland Theological College, Dingwall.

To return to the analogy of the jigsaw, the picture of Rutherford House without 17 Claremont Park as a base is not yet complete.

Several key pieces have still to be slotted into place, but from the above you will see that the picture is beginning to take shape.

We have been encouraged by all who have expressed their gratitude for the ministry the House has exercised by God's grace over the years, and who have also expressed the hope that the work will continue, if in a different form. If that is to be, much hinges on who is appointed as Director. Please remember the Trustees in your prayers as they search for a successor to Dr. Fyall. We shall keep you informed of developments.

With Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely

David Easton  
Chair of the Trustees

**Contact details:**

Rutherford House, 17 Claremont Park, Edinburgh EH6 7PJ  
Mail and Phone calls will be re-directed.

Tel: 0131 554 1206

[info@rutherfordhouse.org.uk](mailto:info@rutherfordhouse.org.uk)  
[www.rutherfordhouse.org.uk](http://www.rutherfordhouse.org.uk)

# Seraph Media

## Helping to Spread the Word

---

*Seraph Media* has taken over the large library of audio tapes, CDs, videos, and DVDs, which the House has built up over the past 24 years and will offer a professional service to all who wish to access the collection.

Please contact

Stephen Carter, 16 The Grove, Musselburgh EH21 7HD

Phone 0131 665 6412

[stephen@seraphmedia.org.uk](mailto:stephen@seraphmedia.org.uk)

[www.seraphmedia.org.uk](http://www.seraphmedia.org.uk)

## Dogmatics Conference Papers

*Tolerance and Truth*, edited by Angus Morrison, published by Rutherford House; these are the papers from the eighth conference in 1999. This title is **now available** and can be ordered directly from Rutherford House until the end of the year.

The following two titles are forthcoming:

*Spirit of Truth and Power*, edited by David F. Wright, published by Rutherford House; these are the papers from the ninth conference in 2001.

*Engaging the Doctrine of God*, edited by Bruce McCormack, published by Baker Academic and Rutherford House; these are the papers from the eleventh conference in 2005.

# **Rutherford Studies Series**

**NOW AVAILABLE**

**The Sacrament of the Word Made Flesh:  
The Eucharistic Theology of Thomas F. Torrance**  
by Robert Julian Stamps  
£16.99 **on offer** for £12.00 (P&P included in UK only)

**FORTHCOMING**

**Advance Orders Welcome**  
(Price not yet available but advance orders will be  
discounted)

**The Sovereign Spirit:  
The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit in John Calvin**  
by Gwyn Walters

**Assurance in Theological Context:  
Reformed Dogmatics 1523 - 1619**  
by Robert Letham

*Would you like to read our  
Journals?*

---

***Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology***

Publication of the *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology* is continuing and the subscription form will be available shortly on the website.

---

***Rutherford Journal of Church and Ministry***

Publication of the *Rutherford Journal of Church and Ministry* will be discontinued meantime pending the appointment of a new director.