



## Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the Rutherford House Newsletter. It has been some time since our last communication but I hope you will see that, in the meantime, we have been very busy putting flesh on the bones of our mission, to help people to think biblically and theologically. In these pages you will read about a DVD resource for Elders, a weekly opinion piece on our website, a virtual reading group For Ministers, details of the next Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference and advance notice of a new bi-annual conference, for those in various types of ministry, to be called 'Kingdom Come: The Rutherford House Ministry Conference'. In addition to all of this, we are working on a programme to help members of our churches, as they wrestle with biblical and theological issues. Finally, we are at the 'drawing board' stage of providing help for those in various youth, parish worker and other ministries. Every single aspect of what we are doing and planning is part of the core mission, to help people to think biblically and theologically. For the details, read on...



The Reverend Professor Andrew McGowan.

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## Helping Elders

Dr George Craig, himself an elder, is the Trustee responsible for driving through this aspect of the work of RH. In the early part of this year, George Craig and Andrew McGowan travelled across Scotland, holding meetings with Elders, to share RH's vision to help Elders think biblically and theologically and to outline a projected course of nine sessions, which would be taught over three week-ends in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and Stornoway. The feedback on the planned course was universally positive and encouraging, the problem was the planned method of delivery. Some

preferred an evening to a week-end but could not agree on which evening! We have decided that the only way we can meet the demand for the course is to put the nine sessions on a DVD, so that churches, or groups of churches, can use the material when it suits them. The team of speakers has been recruited, the materials are being prepared and Sanctus Media will film the sessions in January-February, with the DVD being available by Easter. If you would like to order an advance copy, contact our Administrator Jan Bradford.



Dr George Craig, Trustee

## Helping on the Web

One of the ways in which we can help people to think biblically and theologically is by using our new website and the facility it offers us to communicate with people all over the world. Whereas in the past we produced journals and magazines, now we shall develop this new website to make our work available to a wider audience. The first thing we intend to do is post a weekly 'opinion piece' engaging with key issues. We have engaged a team of writers and, each week, one of them will offer a biblical and theological reflection on a subject which we believe to be important. The writers will be from various parts of the world but all will share our commitment to reformed and evangelical theology. We expect the first piece to be posted in November.

***"Rutherford House exists to help people to think biblically and theologically"***



Reverend Gordon Kennedy

## Helping Ministers

One of the problems facing Ministers is that the demands of the job, especially in a large church (numerically or geographically) make it difficult to find time to read. At the same time, reading is vital if Ministers are to be informed, refreshed, challenged and excited as they carry out their preaching and teaching ministries. Reading helps Ministers to continue to think biblically and theologically. Rutherford House has always understood that reading often works best when it is done in the company of others. At one time, RH organised reading groups for Ministers in various parts of the country. Technology now makes it possible to organise a reading group on-line. Our virtual reading group begins in January, led by

the Rev Gordon Kennedy, the trustee responsible for carrying forward the work among ministers. The first book we are going to read is Stephen Holmes *The Trinity*. This will take us through to March. Then from April to June we are moving on to Terry Johnson's book *Worship in Calvin*. This second book will prepare us for the next Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference, which is on the theme of worship, which takes place in September and at which Terry Johnson will be a speaker. If you would like to be part of this reading group, contact Jan Bradford on telephone number 0131 220 1621 or [jbradford@rutherfordhouse.org.uk](mailto:jbradford@rutherfordhouse.org.uk).

## Helping Academics

Every second year, RH organises the Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference (EDC). This is a conference for academic theologians, ministers and others who have studied theology at a serious level. The EDC enables RH to engage with the academy from our reformed and evangelical perspective and over the past thirty years has attracted theologians from all over the world. The next conference will take place at New College, Edinburgh, from 31st August - 3rd September 2015. The theme is 'Reformed Worship' and the speakers include Paul Wells, Henri Blocher, Kate Sonderegger, Paul Nimmo, Ivor Davidson, James Eglinton, Kees van der Kooij and Elizabeth Shiveley, with one or two to be confirmed. If you would like to be notified when booking opens for the conference, contact Jan Bradford.

## Helping those in Ministries

In the past, Rutherford House organised a conference for those engaged in various ministries, called the Scottish Ministry Assembly. It has been decided that RH will establish a new conference on a similar model, to be called 'Kingdom Come: The Rutherford House Ministry Conference'.

This is aimed at Ministers but also at others who engage in preaching and teaching at various levels within the churches. For example, Readers, evangelists, parish workers, youth workers and others.

This conference will be bi-annual (alternating with the Edinburgh Dogmatics Conference).

The first one will take place from 19th-21st September 2016, in Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh. Further details will be published in future newsletters but do put the dates in your diaries.

If you would like, even at this early stage, to register an interest in the conference, please contact Jan Bradford.

## Contact us...



Jan Bradford is the Administrator of RH and runs our office at Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh. If you have any questions about any aspect of what you have read in this newsletter, then contact Jan. She works in the office in the mornings (and on her PhD in the afternoons!) and can be contacted as follows:  
Telephone: 0131 220 1621  
Email: [jbradford@rutherfordhouse.org.uk](mailto:jbradford@rutherfordhouse.org.uk)  
Address: 10 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5AA

## Helping...?

Are there other ways in which RH can help people to think biblically and theologically? If so, let us know and we shall try to help.