

The Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics

Newsletter

Autumn 2009

**New KLICE
website**

Launched
September

**New book –
God and
Government**

Appeared
October

**Response to
Caritas in
Veritate**

Issued
October

**2008
Colloquium
papers**

Published
November

We hope you enjoy this issue of the KLICE Newsletter. Please feel free to forward it to others who may wish to see it. To unsubscribe, send an email to that effect to ethics@tyndale.cam.ac.uk

1. New website launched

In September, KLICE launched a completely new website. The site has an attractive new look and greatly expanded content, and is much easier to use. Visitors can navigate from the homepage either by clicking on standard menu options or on images representing the eight areas of ethics KLICE seeks to work in. The eight areas each have their own page which includes information on events, research, projects, publications, and links. Visit the site at:

<http://www.klice.co.uk>

Further special features will be available soon, including designated login pages for KLICE doctoral programme participants and KLICE Associates. Send us your suggestions for development or improvement!

2. *God and Government* published

The first phase of 'God and Government', a joint project with **Theos**, has produced a book of that title, co-edited by Nick Spencer (Theos) and Jonathan Chaplin (KLICE). Contributors include Bishop Tom Wright, journalist Clifford Longley, former director of the Christian Socialist Movement Andrew Bradstock, Philip Booth (Institute of Economic Affairs), and Nigel Wright (Principal of Spurgeon's College). In the Conclusion to the book Jonathan Chaplin offers a 30-page interpretive commentary on the chapters. In a Preface the **Archbishop of Canterbury** writes: '*God and Government* offers invaluable resources for what is now a sharply urgent task – thinking through the ethical and spiritual foundations of our democracy'. The book is published by SPCK at £9.99.

<http://www.spckpublishing.co.uk/cat/show.php?9780281060719>

3. 2008 Book Colloquium papers published

Papers from the 2008 Book Colloquium, on Advisory Council member Brian Brock's book ***Singing the Ethos of God: On the Place of Christian Ethics in Scripture*** (Eerdmans 2007), have appeared in a special issue of the *European Journal of Theology*. For further information, click here: <http://www.feet-europe.net/journal/>

Brian Brock is Lecturer in Moral and Pastoral Theology at the University of Aberdeen. The leading American ethicist **Stanley Hauerwas** describes his book as 'extraordinary'. Find out why by reading the journal - and ordering the book:

http://eerdmans.com/shop/product.asp?p_key=9780802803795

4. KLICE co-sponsors evangelical response to papal encyclical on development

KLICE has sponsored a widely-endorsed evangelical appreciation of Pope Benedict XVI's latest encyclical letter on global economic development, *Caritas in Veritate* ('Charity in Truth'). KLICE Director Jonathan Chaplin was a member of the drafting committee. The statement, entitled 'Doing the Truth in Love: An evangelical call for response to *Caritas in Veritate*' is available at <http://www.cpjustice.org/doingthetruth>. The statement appears in the September/October issue of *Books and Culture* and also at *First Things*. A press release is available at <http://www.prlog.org/10315146-evangelicals-call-for-response-to-caritas-in-veritate.html>. The two other sponsoring organisations are [Cardus](#) (Canada) and the [Center for Public Justice](#) (USA). UK signatories include Andrew Hartropp (KLICE Advisory Council), Elaine Storkey (Tearfund), Michael Schluter (Relationships Foundation International), Peter Heslam (Transforming Business) and Joel Edwards (Micah Challenge International).

5. Ethics in Brief

The latest issues of *Ethics in Brief* have been published in print and on our site.

- **Professor Nigel Biggar**, Director of the McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics and Public Life, Oxford, writes on **assisted suicide** – now the focus of a vigorous debate following publication by the Director of Public Prosecutions of interim prosecution guidelines. Professor Biggar makes a case against legalising assisted suicide, arguing that although such a move might make for a more 'liberal' society, it will not make for a more 'humane' one.
- **Dr. Harry Bunting** lectures in philosophy and ethics at the University of Ulster, and so is well placed to write on the complex topic of **political forgiveness**. Clarifying some key issues in the debate, he argues that collective political forgiveness is ethically possible and may be desirable, so long as we can identify suitably representative bodies to offer such forgiveness on behalf of a community.

All issues of *Ethics in Brief* are available on our website. Subscribe to the print version of *Ethics in Brief* (£15 per year) at: <http://klice.co.uk/index.php/resources/ethics-in-brief>

6. KLICE Administrator appointed

We are pleased to report that David Nyström has been appointed as the new KLICE Administrator. David is a doctoral student in patristics at the Divinity Faculty of Cambridge University and a Tyndale Reader, and has wide administrative experience behind him. He works part-time from the new KLICE office in Tyndale House. Contact details are below.

7. Projects update

In addition to progress on 'God and Government', work is proceeding well on KLICE's other two collaborative projects

- '**Hope for Creation**', jointly with the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, has already generated several publications. Principal project researchers Hilary Marlow and Jonathan Moo contributed chapters to ***Creation in Crisis: Christian Perspectives on Sustainability*** (SPCK 2009), edited by project director and Advisory Council member Professor Bob White. Hilary Marlow has also published ***Biblical Prophets and Contemporary Environmental Ethics*** (Oxford University Press 2009). Jonathan Moo's 2009 Tyndale Fellowship Lecture for the Ethics and Social Theology Group, 'Continuity, discontinuity and hope: the contribution of New Testament eschatology to a distinctively Christian environmental ethos', will appear in *Tyndale Bulletin*. Hilary and Jonathan are also working with Bob White on more popular books on environmental theology and ethics. For further details of the project visit the Faraday Institute website: <http://www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/faraday/Research.php> (Project 6).

Sadly, the project formally bade farewell to Hilary Marlow in October when she took up a position at the Cambridge University Divinity Faculty. We congratulate her on her achievements, thank her for her contribution to the project so far, and wish her well in her new position. We are preparing to appoint a new member of the team and an announcement will be posted on our website in due course. Informal inquiries can be addressed to Jonathan Chaplin (contact details below).

- **'Christianity and British Political Parties'**, jointly with the Bible Society, is moving ahead well. Three authors have been commissioned to write short, accessible publications critically examining the past and present contributions of Christian political thought to the three main parties, and proposing new contributions for the future. They are:
 - Stephen Backhouse: Liberal Democrat Party
 - Paul Bickley: Labour Party
 - Joshua Hordern: Conservative Party

The three publications, edited by Jonathan Chaplin, will be launched at party conference events in autumn 2010. Project director is David Landrum, Senior Parliamentary Officer, Bible Society.

8. KLICE grantee programme

The first KLICE Research Seminar of the year was held on October 16. Papers were presented on the idea of a Christian nation (Christopher Orton, Edinburgh), eschatology and the environment (Jonathan Moo, Cambridge), and the warrior ethic (Tom Simpson, Cambridge).

We continue to support three grantees in 2009/10. In the previous *Newsletter* we reported that, due to funding limits in a difficult year, we were unable to offer any new grants this year. At this point in time we are, unfortunately, unable to confirm the availability of new grants for 2010/11. Further information will be posted on our website in due course. *We continue to seek new sources of support to allow this flagship programme to continue.* The programme provides crucial practical, intellectual and spiritual support for young scholars set to make a real impact in church and society in various areas of Christian ethics. In addition to grantees, many other doctoral students benefit from the intellectual stimulation and fellowship offered by our Seminars.

9. 5-year Strategic Plan approved

At its September meeting, the KLICE Advisory Council endorsed the new KLICE Strategic Plan. The Plan sets out ambitious goals for the next five years, including doing work of lasting value in eight specified areas of ethics (see the website homepage), by means of publications, conferences, research and research support, and presenting its work not only to church and academic constituencies but also to wider public audiences. The Plan envisages a considerable expansion of KLICE's resources, both in terms of staffing and funding. Please help KLICE achieve its challenging goals by supporting our work financially – see item 13 below, and visit the Support page of our website.

10. Recommended MA Course in Theology and Law – starts November 26!

A new master's level module, **'The Mission of Justice and the Theology of Law'**, is being offered by Spurgeon's College. The module can be taken on its own or contribute to a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, a Postgraduate Diploma, or an M.A. It explores biblical material relating to law and justice, natural law theories, historical answers to the questions of law and justice from Augustine, to Aquinas, Luther, Calvin and the Anabaptists, as well as resources from systematic theology such as the Trinity and the Incarnation. Questions addressed include human rights, the purpose of government and its relation to the Church, the role of Christian organisations in using law as a tool to bring about justice, and current theories of law in both philosophy and theology. The module will be taught by Dr David McIlroy, practicing barrister and author of *A Biblical View of Justice* and *A Trinitarian Theology of Law*. Teaching takes place in two intensive blocks, on 26th to 27th November

2009 and 28th to 29th January 2010, to enable those with other commitments to attend. Further details at www.spurgeons.ac.uk or by e-mail to david@bedfordhill.co.uk.

11. Director's activities

In September the Director participated in a discussion group on public theology held in Cambridge and organised by the Oxford-based McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics and Public Life. He also spoke on Calvin's political thought at a 500th anniversary conference on Calvin at Union Theological College in Belfast. In October he attended the annual Senior Fellows Retreat of the think-tank Cardus, in Ottawa. He also lectured at Regent College, Vancouver, on multiculturalism, and on the spiritual roots of globalization, at nearby Trinity Western University. In November he chaired a panel on 'Persons, Bodies and Technologies' in the Cambridge University Veritas Forum, of which KLICE is a co-sponsor, and spoke in a Cambridge Union debate on the role of faith in democracy. He also guest edited a special issue of *Studies in Christian Ethics* containing the papers of the May Oxford Colloquium on Nicholas Wolterstorff's book, *Justice: Rights and Wrongs*. In December he is to speak at a meeting of the National Club, London on the theme, 'Jesus is Lord – God and Governance'.

12. Research Associate's activities

Joshua Hordern took up his post in September and is already engaged in a number of projects. In his part-time role as Research Associate, he has helped in the preparation of *Ethics in Brief*, and assisted the Director with guest editing the Oxford Colloquium papers for *Studies in Christian Ethics* and with background research for the Christianity and British political parties project. He is also assisting with KLICE development work. His main research focus at the moment is on the Conservatism aspect of this project. As a Research Fellow of Wolfson College, he is also teaching ethics to undergraduates in the university.

13. Become a KLICE Associate

An excellent way to support the work of KLICE is to become a 'KLICE Associate'. Associates pay a minimum of £60 per year and receive:

- a subscription to the paper version of *Ethics in Brief*
- invitations to public events
- discounted conference fees
- discounts on KLICE publications
- access to the Tyndale House Library
- access to designated website pages (under development)
- the *Newsletter*.

KLICE needs your help to sustain and expand its work. Please join the club!

For more information, visit our support page: <http://klice.co.uk/index.php/support-us>

14. Contact details:

- David Nystrom (Administrator): ethics@tyndale.cam.ac.uk 01223 566625
- Jonathan Chaplin (Director): klice@tyndale.cam.ac.uk 01223 566625

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