



## Weekly Divinity Newsletter: Undergraduate

Greetings!

I hope that you are keeping well. Here is this week's newsletter!

## Congratulations!

### Celebrations:



(King's College: photograph by Amy Bender)

### End of Year Book

As part of the celebrations of your studies and time here at the University of Aberdeen, I would like to put together a Divinity year book with your highlights, top tips and memories. I would be grateful if all final year students could send me your contributions. Your contribution could be from meeting in the Bobbin, top tips for first years, event highlights, pictures of a cat in King's quad etc...!

Please send me your contribution by the **30<sup>th</sup> August 2020** ([s.newington@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:s.newington@abdn.ac.uk))

## TRSS – Message from the Society:

### TRSS News and updates:

If you are interested in becoming a member or finding out more about TRSS and the events we organise, here is the link to our Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2272399396416039/>

If you do not have Facebook and are interested in joining TRSS, you can email us at: [TRSSABDN@outlook.com](mailto:TRSSABDN@outlook.com)



## Moving forward:

### Course options 2020-2021:

There are fantastic courses on offer for next academic session! Details for next academic year's courses are available here: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/divinity-religious-studies/courses-20-21-1969.php>

Please do take a look, as there are some details about the courses as well as helpful links about each subject too.

### Summer Workshops:

In preparation for the next academic year, there will be a range of optional online workshops. Details are as follows:

31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 @ 4pm: Looking at Primary Sources

7<sup>th</sup> August 2020 @ 4pm: Critical Analysis and Secondary Scholarship

14<sup>th</sup> August 2020 @ 4pm: Referencing

21<sup>st</sup> August 2020 @ 4pm: Top Tips for Academic Development – time management, orientation, academic skills support

28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 @ 4pm: Getting Involved – looking at CV development, funding opportunities and skills development

### How to join in:

You can join this session either by clicking on the ONLINE DIVINITY Summer Workshops link located on the **Divinity, History and Philosophy myaberdeen site**.

1. Log into myaberdeen; instead of clicking on courses – **click on ORGANISATIONS** (located under the courses link – left toolbar facing) on **myaberdeen**.
2. Click on Divinity, History & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates.
3. Click on ONLINE DIVINITY Summer Workshops in the vertical toolbar (left facing)
4. Then click – Join session.

If you need a guest link, please do not hesitate to say!



## Recent Events, Conferences and Workshops:

The images of the killing of George Floyd sent a shockwave throughout the world. The protests that followed demand(ed) justice and proclaim that Black Lives Matter. Unfortunately, and painfully, nothing is new. Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Sheku Bayoh, Emmett Till, Travon Martin, – the list of black people who have died because of racism and police violence is long. On July 8<sup>th</sup> a webinar took place in order to listen to theologians and pastors who work for racial justice in the UK, USA and beyond. They specifically discussed: passive, active and systemic racism; current events and why they are happening; and pathways to overcome racism.

The webinar was organised by Mrs Lorraine Williams, PhD student in Christian Ethics, and Dr Léon van Ommen, Lecturer in Practical Theology.

Further details and a link to the webinar recording may be located here: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/news/14210/>

**UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN** CELEBRATING 525 YEARS 1495 – 2020

### Racism 2020: Pathways To Taking Its Last Breath

"The starting point and aim remains that as a white person, I, and many others who will hopefully join, need to listen to our black brothers and sisters. Only by listening we can start to understand."  
Dr. Léon van Ommen

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In this seminar we want to listen to theologians and pastors who work for racial justice in the UK, USA and beyond. They will specifically discuss: passive, active and systemic racism; current events and why they are happening; and pathways to overcome racism. All are welcome!

**Join us, July 8, 2020**  
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM (British Summer Time)  
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)  
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (Pacific Daylight Time)

Please Register at:  
<https://bit.ly/racism2020webinar>

**Dr. Léon van Ommen**  
is a Lecturer in Practical Theology at the University of Aberdeen. His research centres on the role of liturgy in creating communities where everyone belongs.

**Lorraine Williams**  
is currently a PhD student in Practical Theology at the University of Aberdeen. She also works as a British Sign Language Interpreter, an ordained minister and is currently preparing for the Ordination in the Church of Scotland.

**Professor Anthony G. Reddie**  
is Britain's leading black theologian and the Director of the Doctoral Centre for Religion and Culture at Regent's Park College by the University of Oxford. He is also an Honorary Professor of Theological Ethics and a Research Fellow with the University of South Africa.

**Moderators: Pastor David and Pamela Stewart**  
Pastor David is the Sr. Pastor of Dornie Reformed Church in 1986. He has 40 years experience in business leadership, and people development. He with Pamela (1987) the woman's ministry and is also an active spiritual and adult behavior development.

**Dr. Georgianna A. Land**  
is an ordained minister with the African Methodist Episcopal Church, cited university professor and educational administrator. She has served as a Franklin Fellow and Foreign Affairs Officer at the US Department of State, and is the Secretary/Cofee to Vice President for Administration at AME University in Monrovia, Liberia.

**Pastor Duwayne Persley**  
is the founder of the Open Arms Christian Fellowship in Long Beach, CA and a Christ Center Coordinator that seeks to create bridges between the secular and the Christian Church.

**Marcia Dixon**  
has her own PR consultancy and is a religious correspondent in London for The Voice magazine, which advocates the Body Christ an exclusively globality.

**Joe Paul, Jr.**  
was transferred and is currently a minister who works with an affluent, high net-worth and high net-worth women and faith-based organizations. He is also a minister at the church in Columbia, SC.

**Pastor Dr. Andrew Draper**  
is an associate of the University of Aberdeen and the pastor of Dornie Reformed Church in Dornie. He holds an honorary degree and is a member of the University of Aberdeen and the University of Glasgow.



## Summer Sun:

Throughout the summer, I will post here some interesting online adventures! As ever, please do send in your suggestions too. Here's to a wonderful summer!



### Summer Odyssey by Jessie Camp (Study Abroad, St Olaf College)

*Last spring, I had the pleasure of taking Animals and Monsters in the Greek World and Beyond, taught by the amazing Sam Newington. I'll be honest, I was a little hesitant to take that class—I knew very little about ancient Greece, and all the divinity classes I had previously taken never strayed far from monotheism. Despite my reservations, I decided spring semester was going to be my time to be adventurous and delve into the unknown.*

*Little did I know that I would learn so much in that class. Sam's lectures never ceased to entertain (even at 9 AM on a Monday morning), and I found the content thought-provoking and engaging. One of my favorite discussions was on the Parthenon Frieze and deciphering its narrative. The amount of detail the original artists put into such a sculpture is breathtaking. While sitting in that classroom in King's College, I swore to myself I would one day go and see the real thing.*

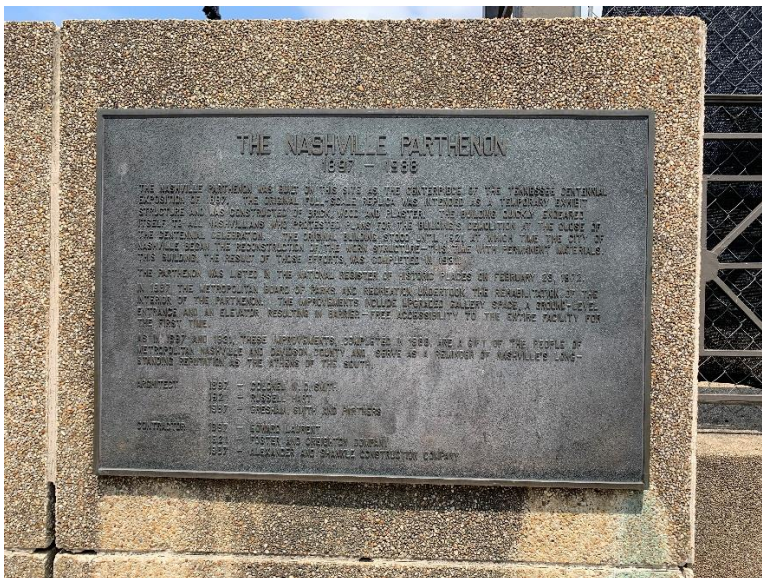


*Unbeknownst to me, that day came a little sooner than anticipated. Last week, I found myself in Centennial Park during a trip to Nashville, Tennessee. Situated within this park is a magnificent, full scale replica of the Parthenon, standing in the center of walking trails, ponds, and trees (did you know Nashville is also called "The Athens of the [American] South"? I didn't either). Despite the museum inside being closed when I was there (thanks, COVID-19), I spent time walking around the structure and admiring the detailed architecture.*

*Even though I have never been to Greece, this was definitely a close second.*



*Originally meant to be temporary, the structure was built in 1887 as part of the state's Centennial Exhibition. But, after the structure was built, the people of the city fell in love with it and decided to keep it. Thus, after significant amounts of renovation, it turned into a museum for all to enjoy. The structure was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in February of 1972.*



*Suffice to say, Sam's class did wonders to spark my interest in Classical Greek art and culture. I never thought my newfound knowledge in this subject would come in handy while I admired this replica, despite being 5,700 miles away from the real one.*

(Photographs by Jessie Camp)



## Getting Involved:

The summer has also been a great opportunity to get involved in a range of projects too.

Thanks to Mercedes Broad also for sharing further details about the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.



Mercedes has been working with the *British Hedgehog Preservation Society* and developing ways to nurture the beloved hedgehog.

If you would like to find out how you may get involved, why not take a look at the website:

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/>

There are ways we may get involved as part of a University initiative too; which would be great! Further details to follow!

*Here's introducing Howard the Hedgehog (Photograph by Mercedes Broad)*

## Support:

There is a range of support on offer here at the Department of Divinity and University of Aberdeen:

Divinity Support and queries: Dr Sam Newington ([s.newington@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:s.newington@abdn.ac.uk))

Chaplaincy: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/chaplaincy/>

Student Support: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/>

Coronavirus FAQ: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/coronavirus/faqs-9773.php>

AUSA: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/support/>



As ever should you have any queries or have any newsletter suggestions, please never hesitate to contact me.

Please to take care and stay safe.

All the very best,

Sam (Dr Newington)