



Editorial

In close collaboration with the Scottish School of Christian Mission, the School of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh and the Drummond Trust, *Theology in Scotland* organised a day conference on the 14th of March 2017 in Stirling Baptist Church. The theme was: “Exploring Mission in Scotland Today”. The conference provided a forum for debate across theological boundaries and offered an opportunity to hear the diverse voices and wider perspectives of those working at the frontiers of mission in Scotland today, affirming that work at the same time. Worship and reflection was provided throughout the day by Lou Davis, of Edinburgh Dreams, a pioneer venture of the Methodist Church.

This issue of *Theology in Scotland* consists of dialogues and papers.¹ Each of the dialogues and papers are, in turn, followed by a considered response.² All of the papers and dialogues relate, in one way or another, to contemporary issues of Church, world, and mission.

Discussion of the relation of Church and mission has a long tradition in missiological thinking in Scotland, reaching right back to Alexander Duff’s seminal work *Missions: The Chief End of the Church*.³ Duff was among the first mission theorists to propose that the nature of the Church is inherently missionary and that the *telos* of the Church is mission. This is also a significant emphasis in the dialogues, transcripts and papers contained in this issue. In addition, a third term emerges – that of *community*. In the seminars and dialogues, the Church is at times the focus of discussion, on other occasions mission is the central imperative, at other points community is valued as an end in itself. Rather than attempting to summarise the articles in this issue, then, it seemed better to allow readers to discover for themselves the themes and connections that unfold in the papers, dialogues and responses.

Finally, each of the papers and dialogues is characterised by reflective practice. Here particular attention is paid to the practice of mission, along with the practical theories and values which inform it, or to put it more generally: practice and theory are thought together.

Typically, reflection in these papers encompasses practice, personal experience, autobiographical detail and, alongside reference to the wider literature, the experience of others working in the same field. The publication of these documents in *Theology in Scotland* will contribute towards the further continuation of this process of reflection.

Ian Maxwell
Editor

- ¹ Dialogues I and II and some of the papers are edited transcripts.
- ² In circumstances where such reflection was unavailable the Editor has offered a response.
- ³ Alexander Duff, *Missions: The Chief End of the Church [...]* (Edinburgh: John Johnstone, 1839).