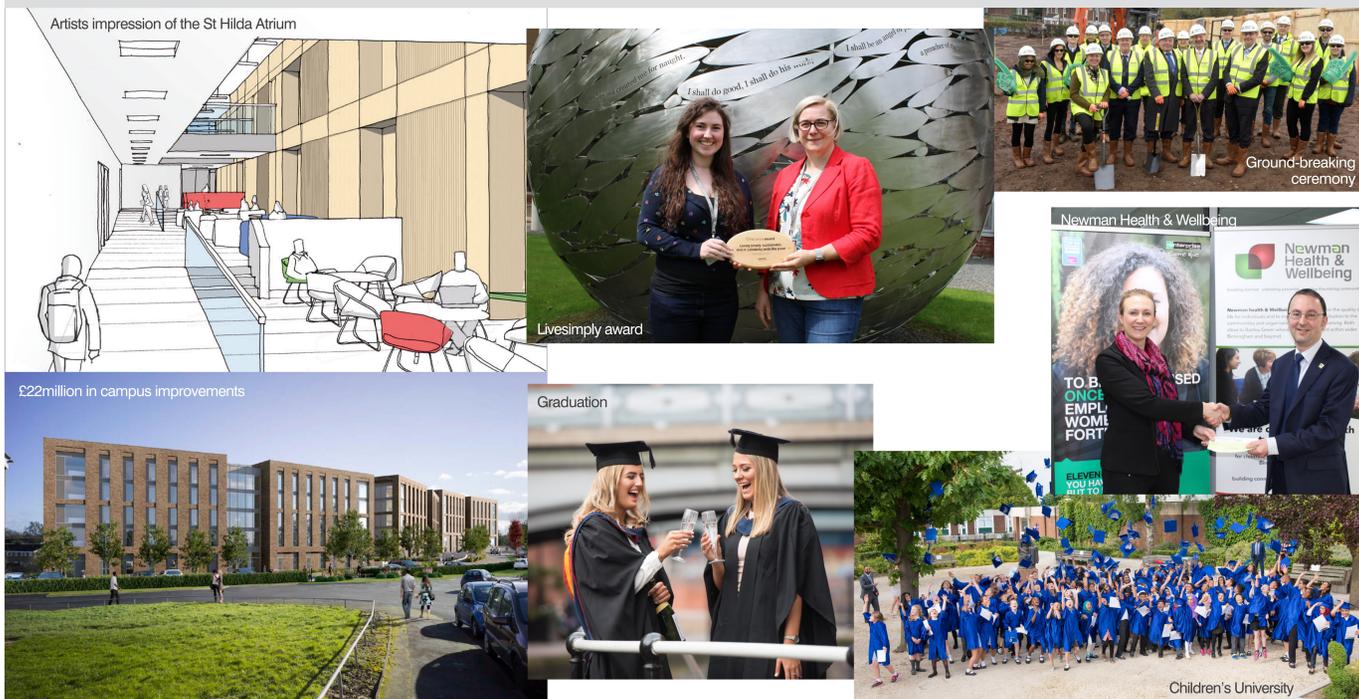


# The History of Newman University 2015-2017

Vice Chancellor of Newman University  
(2017 - present)  
**PROFESSOR  
J. SCOTT DAVIDSON**



## 2015 2016 2016 2016 2016

**CADLab awarded BBC Children in Need grant**  
Persephone Sextou, Reader in Applied Theatre at Newman University secures £49,349 grant from BBC Children in Need to develop further research on the impact of bedside theatre projects on children's Wellbeing in hospitals and hospices.

**Supported by**  
**BBC Children in Need**

**Newman celebrates NSS success**  
Newman University celebrates after being named the number one university in the country for student satisfaction in 3 subject areas.

**18th February - Students take to their bikes for Gambia**  
Staff and students are taking to their bikes and cycle 210 miles to raise money for education projects and schools in the Gambia.

**23rd February - Public lectures on religious belief and evolution**  
Science, Knowledge and Belief in Society Research Centre hosts two renowned US academics - Professor Jonathan Hill, Calvin College Michigan and Professor David E Long, Morehead State University - in public lectures.



**Newman invests £22million in campus improvements**  
Newman University announces £22million investment over the next five years to develop the campus.

**Newman University Running Team to run 10k Chase Challenge for Article 26**  
Following on from the success of 2015's fundraising event, Newman's running group once again ran to raise funds for Article 26 students. Article 26 is a scholarship which offers a 100% tuition fee waiver and limited additional financial support to assist with study and travel expenses to one student per year who is seeking asylum in the UK or a dependent of partner of someone seeking asylum.

**7th April - Receives national recognition for innovative student programmes**  
Newman was recognised nationally after being shortlisted in two categories for the prestigious Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards (THELMAs). Student Services named in Outstanding Student Services Team category and the Registry team in the Outstanding Administrative Support category.

**9th April - Passing of Fr Eamon Clarke RIP**  
On 9th April, Newman received news of the death of Fr Eamon Clarke RIP. Fr Eamon was the first Chaplain at Newman and held this position from 1969 to 1988. He played a key role in establishing our Chapel and Mass was offered for the repose of his soul.



**7th July - Newman University announces new Vice-Chancellor**  
August saw Professor J. Scott Davidson announced as the new Vice-Chancellor. Professor Davidson set to join Newman in January 2017 following the retirement of Professor Peter Lutzeier, who led the university since 2010.

**10th November - Ground-breaking ceremony for Newman University expansion**  
MP Gisela Stuart and Councillors John Lines and Des Flood joined staff and students of the university for the official ground-breaking ceremony to mark the next stage of Newman's campus redevelopment.

**Newman secures Catalyst funding**  
Newman secures £47,000 funding from HEFCE for a collaborative research programme to develop interventions designed to improve student progression and academic results.

**Professor Peter Lutzeier retires**  
Professor Peter Lutzeier retired at the end of 2016 after being Vice-Chancellor for seven successful years at Newman University, which included leading it to full university status in 2013. Professor Lutzeier, originally from Stuttgart, Germany was the first Vice-Chancellor for the university and he also became the chair of The Cathedrals Group during his time at Newman. When talking to Times Higher Education Professor Lutzeier once stated that the best thing about his job as Vice-Chancellor was "to see colleagues develop and flourish, especially those I've appointed myself."



**Professor Duncan Lawson wins mathematics gold medal**  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Duncan Lawson awarded a gold medal by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) for his work establishing sigma - a network of support centres dedicated to helping University students develop and improve their mathematical and statistical skills.



## 2017 2017 2017 2017 2017

**22nd February - Installation of new Vice-Chancellor**  
Professor J. Scott Davidson was installed as the new Vice-Chancellor to lead the university. The ceremony took place at St Mary's Chapel on the university campus and saw Professor Davidson set out his vision for Newman as it prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

**Midlands twins embark on charity projects in Africa and Asia**  
Staff member Charlotte Bray, along with her twin sister, set off for Africa and Asia as part of an ambitious charity project. They participated in CAFOD's Step into the Gap scheme, which enables young people to spend a year volunteering in the UK and visiting CAFOD partners overseas.

**8th March - Newman's netball team through to the cup final in Loughborough**  
The Newman netball team secured their place in the BUCS cup final for the first time ever for a Newman team. The team faced tough opposition in Loughborough's 5ths at Loughborough University and unfortunately were unable to secure the win but held their heads high with a great achievement in reaching the final.

**Newman secures funding for enterprising venture**  
Newman University awarded £1,000 from the Enterprise Rent A Car (ERAC) Foundation to support a street-based youth project in Bartley Green. The pilot programme - Reach Out Bartley Green - was part of the university's new venture Newman Health & Wellbeing.

**12th April - Careers Service Shortlisted for the Times Higher Education Leadership & Management Awards 2017**  
The Newman team were shortlisted for the 'Outstanding Student Services Team' award due to their initiative to be able to deliver more careers education to more students, by engaging with them through the curriculum.

**Newman University receives Livesimply award**  
Newman University awarded the CAFOD Livesimply award for its work living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

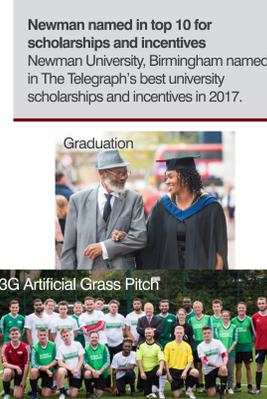


**21st June - Newman Secures Silver TEF Rating**  
Newman University secured a Silver rating in the first Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), awarded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

**6th June - Children's University Graduation held at Newman**  
Newman University Birmingham hosted the graduation ceremony for the Children's University for the second year running for local school children after becoming a learning destination in 2014.

**Newman University aims to improve mental health through football**  
Staff and students from the university work with the Aston Villa FC Foundation to improve the mental health of local people by assisting with a weekly session where an hour's football training, followed by 30 minutes of social interaction takes place.

**Newman named in top 10 for scholarships and incentives**  
Newman University, Birmingham named in The Telegraph's best university scholarships and incentives in 2017.



**1st September - Passing of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Chancellor of Newman University**  
Newman was very saddened to hear the news of the death of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Chancellor of Newman University. Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor was a real advocate for the university and since his appointment in 2014 he proved to be a trusted and supportive advisor to two Vice Chancellors.

**New evolution survey conducted by Newman Research Centre**  
Ground breaking survey conducted by the Science, Knowledge and Belief in Society Research Centre. Results show that whilst the majority of people in UK and Canada accept evolutionary science, non-religious and atheist individuals show similar doubts about the origins of humans and human consciousness as religious and spiritual individuals.

**Poetry by Elizabeth-Jane Burnett highly commended for the Forward Prize for Poetry**  
Poetry by a lecturer at Newman published in an annual anthology showcasing the best contemporary poetry published in the British Isles over the last year.

**20th September - New 3G Artificial Grass Pitch opened at Newman University Darius Vassell and Sian Massey-Ellis**  
A state-of-the-art 3G Artificial Grass Pitch was officially opened by former England and Aston Villa footballer, Darius Vassell and Football Official Sian Massey-Ellis, MBE at Newman University, thanks to a £315,968 grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund, which is delivered by the Football Foundation.

**Newman University's Students Union win RAG award**  
The Students Union celebrate success as they secured the title of 'Most Improved' at the 2017 Raise and Give (RAG) awards.

**Newman joins other Birmingham universities to offer free talent, training and support services to local SMEs**  
Newman joins a £3.3million business skills and growth project which provides local companies with access to graduate recruits, interns and project staff with the skills businesses need to grow.

**Newman reaccredited with Eco Campus Gold Award**  
Newman University received a re-audit of their Eco Campus Gold status to ensure that the university was still meeting the requirements needed to honour the title. The university certainly impressed and retained the title.

**26th October - Graduation**  
The class of 2017 graduated from Newman at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham, enjoying the celebrations with family and friends.

The Honorary Graduates in 2017 were Alumni and Premier League Football Official, Sian Massey-Ellis, MBE and anti-gun and gang campaigner, Marcia Shakespeare, MBE.

**23rd November - Cofton Hall opens**  
The new campus accommodation was officially opened by Chair of Council, Jonathan Day and was blessed by the Archbishop of Birmingham, Archbishop Bernard Longley. The halls comprise of 108 bedrooms which are en-suite, Wi-Fi enabled and share a communal open plan kitchen/living room space.