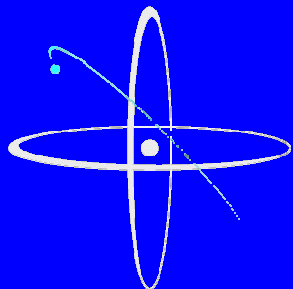


Edinburgh Group Newsletter

October 2009 / Number 1

CHRISTIANS · IN · SCIENCE



WELCOME

Edinburgh is a great city to live in and provides many exciting talks and opportunities in and around the area of the city. It is exciting to be in a city that has so much to offer that can help us to learn not only more about how about how science and faith can work hand in hand to not only deepen our understanding and love for God, but also how we can take the best of both to further the growth of His kingdom amongst people today.

There has been such an influx of these events of late that I thought it would be helpful to summarise these all in an accessible newsletter for you. This would also provide a chance to keep you updated on wider happenings amongst the national Christians in Science organisation.

Please feel free to pass this newsletter onto anybody else you feel might be interested in its contents.

Test of Faith @ Edinburgh

We will be running the new Test of Faith study series over the remaining three months of 2009. The format for the course is a short film each evening followed by discussion of the topics raised.

The course is a great introduction to the area of science and Christianity and is suitable for both people with little or some prior knowledge of the subject.

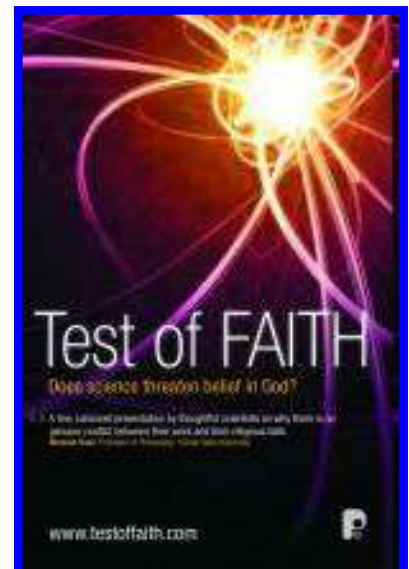
All meetings will take place at our usual venue of Morningside Baptist Church, EH10 4DB from 7.30pm lasting until about 9.00pm.

The dates for the course are:

14th October - Test of Faith Part 1
– Science/religion and Cosmology

18th November - Test of Faith Part 2
– Creation and the Environment

15th December - Test of Faith Part 3
– Bioethics and The Mind



CiS Northern Conference Edinburgh, March 20th 2010

Every year Christians in Science (CiS) runs at least two conferences – one in London and the other in the ‘North’ with the location rotating around the CiS local groups in the north of the UK. There hasn’t been a lot of actual rotation happening and our friends in the Durham group have kindly hosted it for the last four years. This year the Edinburgh group has been asked to host it.

The theme for the conference will be ‘**Giving an Answer: Living Faith in the World of Science**’ and a small committee from within the group has already begun to put a programme together for the day. We hope to make this more widely available as soon as we have speakers for the day and a venue confirmed.

The **first thing** we’d like you to do is to put the date in your diaries **now** and to do your best to make it on the day. The programme for the day looks very exciting with a wide variety of topics ranging from the physical science to historical developments in science and religion through to applied psychiatry and faith. We are also hoping to have stands and representatives from many other local and national science/religion organisations present for you to meet and hear from.

And **secondly** if you would like to help in anyway with the conference please get in touch. Much help is needed both in terms of planning and publicity beforehand and on the day itself with practical matters like set up, registration, refreshments, technical support, etc.

CiS London Conference October 31st 2009 ‘Applying Science in a Suffering World’

There is still time to book your place at this years CiS London Conference at the end of October. Registration closes on 23rd October.

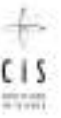
Topics and speakers include:

John Wood:	A new covenant? Science and technology for the modern world
Mike Clifford:	Sustainable technology: how to get down from a yak
John Wibberley:	Agricultural progress for a suffering world
Chris Lavy:	If Jesus were a medical scientist what would he be researching?
Elaine Storkey:	Closing address

More details on the conference and speakers along with application forms can be found on the CiS website: www.cis.org.uk or obtained from the CiS Secretary at secretary@cis.org.uk

Would Jesus Play God? 7.30pm November 2nd 2009

JESUS and the *Scientist*



The theme for this meeting is Christianity and new biotechnologies and how (or even if) the two should interact with each other. There will be discussion on a range of topics including stem cells, genetic therapies and GM foods amongst other things. We will try to bring some Biblically themed thoughts to these issues hopefully in order to place both helpfully in the context of today's culture and societies needs.

The speaker for the evening is Professor John Bryant, who is a geneticist based at the University of Exeter. John is a recent past President of the Society for Experimental Medicine and was also chair of Christians in Science for many years. He is deeply involved in both teaching and research on bioethics principles and matters in both academic and general Christian arenas.



Venue: Morningside Baptist Church, Edinburgh, EH10 4DB
More Details: info@jesusandthescientist.org.uk

James Gregory Lecture

'God, Science and the New Atheism' Prof. Keith Ward

5.15pm 29 October 2009

This is the next lecture in this popular and successful series is organised by Prof. Eric Priest who came to speak at our last CiS Edinburgh meeting.

Keith Ward is a well-known speaker and prolific writer on the topics of theology, science and philosophy.

Venue: Younger Hall, North Street, St Andrews
More Details: www.jamesgregory.org



University
of
St Andrews

Gifford Lectures October 2009



Professor Michael S Gazzaniga, Professor of Psychology at the University of California will deliver a series of lectures around the theme of **FREE: The Science of Mind Constraining Matter** over a period of a week and a half beginning on **12th October 2009**. Free, but booking online required.

Dates: 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 22 October 2009 @ 5.30pm

Venue: Playfair Library, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh

More Details: <http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/giffordexemp/ProfessorMichaelGazzaniga.htm>

Climate Change and the Communion of Saints Michael Northcott 5.15pm, 13th October 2009

“The scientific and economic frames of climate change are mechanistic and reductionist. They are therefore insufficient to describe or motivate the wide ranging cultural and behavioural shifts that mitigating climate change requires. They are also inadequate in describing the intergenerational dimension of the problem. In this public lecture, Michael Northcott examines the concepts and practices associated with the Christian creedal belief in the communion of saints as a powerful resource for Reconceptualising climate change as a moral and spiritual reality that transcends modern approaches to valuing humans and nature and modern conceptualisations of space and time.”

Venue: Martin Hall, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh

Contact: pmclory@staffmail.ed.ac.uk to reserve a place.

What is a Person? 10.00am – 4.00pm, 30th January 2010

Day conference looking at various aspects of what it means to be human alongside practical considerations for today's society.

Speakers include Elaine Storkey, Thomas Torrance and John Wyatt.

Organised by the Church of Scotland Mission and Discipleship Council in association with the Church and Society Council.

Venue: Cross House, Linlithgow

More Details: acampbell@cofscotland.org.uk



SCOTTISH CHURCH THEOLOGY SOCIETY 2010 Conference DARWIN AND CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY 11-15th January 2010



A week of talks and discussion engaging with aspects of evolutionary science and Christian theology arranged in six themes:

1. DARWIN'S THEORY - Professor Aubrey Manning
2. HOW IT CHALLENGED PREVAILING THOUGHT - Professor Neil Spurway
3. CREATION, COSMOLOGY AND DARWINISM - Professor Wilson Poon
4. DIVINE AGENCY AND NATURAL ACCIDENT - Professor Joe Houston
5. THE CHALLENGE OF DARWIN TODAY - Professor David Fergusson
6. HUMANITY AND THE NON-HUMAN CREATION - Professor Michael Northcott

Venue: Crieff Hydro, Perthshire

More Details and Booking: Jock Stein, 35 Dunbar Road, Haddington EH41 3PJ

Summary of Events

OCTOBER

12+	Gifford Lectures - University of Edinburgh
13 th	Michael Northcott lecture – University of Edinburgh
14 th	Test of Faith: Part 1 - Christians in Science
29 th	James Gregory Lecture - University of St Andrews
31 st	Christians in Science London Conference

November

2 nd	Would Jesus Play God? - Jesus and the Scientist
18 th	Test of Faith: Part 2 - Christians in Science

December

15 th	Test of Faith: Part 3 - Christians in Science
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January

11-15 th	Scottish Church Theology Society Conference
30 th	What is a Person? - Church of Scotland

March

20 th	Christians in Science Northern Conference
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