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# CHRISTIANS · IN · SCIENCE

## CIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

From this year CiS will be holding regular AGMs. The first will be held during the conference in Edinburgh (details below). By this point we very much hope that CiS will be a charity, and our new constitution will come into effect. This year, the whole of the current committee will retire, apart from the Chairman, (John Bryant), the Company Secretary (Caroline Berry) and the Treasurer (Hugh Reynolds) who are also Trustees. Denis Alexander and Rodney Holder are ex-officio members as they are respectively Editor and Reviews Editor of Science and Christian Belief. A number of the committee will be eligible for re-election.

**We will therefore need nominations for the new committee before the meeting, and forms for this purpose are included in this mailing.** The current committee are listed on the enclosed form, and on the CiS website ("about" section). We aim to have at least 15 committee members and welcome nominations for new members, particularly from some of the local groups. It has also been suggested that there should be one student (under or post graduate) member.

Committee members must be able to commit to meetings that are held 3-4 times per year. They currently take place in London on a weekday evening and travel expenses can be re-imbursed. A committee away day is held annually on a Saturday.

## CIS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

One further change is that Ruth Bancewicz will have been part-time development officer for three years this autumn, and feels it is time to devote more time to her Faraday Institute work. The position will be advertised once the details of the new post have been worked out, but if you know of anyone who could fill this exciting, demanding and crucial role please contact Ruth or Caroline Berry. We would be especially keen to find someone who has just finished a PhD or has several years experience since graduation from a first degree.

## JOINT CIS-ASA CONFERENCE

### New Frontiers in Science and Faith



Pollock Halls, Edinburgh University,  
Thurs 2nd - Sun 5th August 2007

We have over 180 people booked in already for this joint meeting, that happens only once every ten years! We have an exciting line-up of speakers, and a range of social events planned. ASA and CiS members will be presenting their own work in parallel and poster sessions. Book now to avoid disappointment!

Booking form and programme enclosed, and on website.

## CIS NORTHERN CONFERENCE

**Big Faith, Big Science, Big Issue; Communication.**  
Sat 10th March 2007, Durham.



The 5th CiS Northern Conference focussed on the issues surrounding communication of science and faith in different public arenas today. With almost 40 participants, including several members of the CiS Durham student group, we had an interesting and thought-provoking day.

Paul Marston, a senior lecturer from the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, and a long-standing CiS member, kicked the day off with 'Wise as serpents - understanding communication of truth'. He

looked at how we communicate our faith as scientists, both to Christians and non-Christians, with a useful summary of how we can communicate most effectively to different audiences. He stressed the importance of hermeneutics, a new word for some of us, interpreting scripture in relation to its context and historical setting as well as to our own situation. He looked at the way that Jesus communicated, with stories and parables to attract attention, and showed how we can follow that pattern.

Ian Hore-Lacy then spoke on 'Presentation and misrepresentation: seeking integrity in communication', drawing on his experience as the director of the Australian Uranium Information Centre, and the World Nuclear Association in London. He used examples from this industry to show how scientific facts are accepted in different ways. Focusing on the interaction of facts, context, perspective and meaning, he showed how

Christians working in science can communicate their point of view on any issue without resorting to 'spin'. He emphasised the importance for Christians of taking time and trouble to be sure of facts before making pronouncements. Failure to do this is dishonouring to God and a poor witness.

We then moved to communication in the context of the media, as Ray Mathias, a communications consultant and former plant biologist spoke on 'Truth: a still small voice in a world of spin.' His first job as a science communicator was for the John Innes Centre for plant science during the GM food debate, and he spoke from this experience giving us insights into how the media work. He believes we should aim to tell the truth but need to bear in mind the media's need for brevity and simplicity. We as scientists should take the opportunities available to us to speak directly to the public, following Jesus' example in engaging with people at their level. However scientists from any academic level can benefit from training in presentation and wise handling of these media opportunities.

The final speaker was Andrew Griffiths, director of policy at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, on 'Openness and democracy: management of risk'. He addressed the trend of risk aversion, as opposed to risk management, and the communication of risk by scientists. Christians in this area need to be willing to speak the truth into an atmosphere of conflicting interests.

We then had the opportunity to talk to the speakers in smaller groups, and the discussion that followed dealt mainly with the practical application of the principles outlined in the talks. Rev Dale Hanson, the vicar of St Nicholas' Church, closed the meeting with an epilogue, on Colossians 1:15-20: 'For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.' The Lordship of Christ is a fundamental part of the structure of the universe, and all we do is connected to him. He sent us out with the encouragement that what we do as scientists needs to be high on the priority list for the church, and that we are expanding our idea of God and the universe, by Him, through Him and for Him.

Many thanks go to everyone who helped to organise the day, including Dale Hanson, and all the DUCiS students who helped, and to John Bausor for sending the contents of the ever-popular bookstall.

**Recordings, papers and PowerPoint slides from the talks are all available on the 'past conferences' page of the CiS website.**

**If you would like to be involved in future conferences, please contact Tamzin Lafford at [cisconf@beeb.net](mailto:cisconf@beeb.net).**



## AN INTERVIEW WITH GRAEME FINLAY

Dr Graeme Finlay's interest in cancer genetics, and the rise in young earth creationist ideas in New Zealand, stimulated him to write on genetics in terms accessible to non-biologists. The resulting booklets were published in 2004 by Telos Books, and are available from CiS publications secretary - details on page 3.

### What have you been doing until now?

I've been a cell biologist for 20 years with the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre, a lab dedicated to the discovery of new anticancer drugs, and the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere. My interest has been in DNA-binding drugs, especially those that poison the DNA-unknottting enzyme topoisomerase II. Six years ago my emphasis changed to lecturing in scientific pathology.

### What do you do for fun?

Not enough! I walk to unwind. I live a few minutes from the coast, and regularly head off along the beach, rocks at low tide, and cliff walks with wonderful views of the beautiful Hauraki Gulf and its dozens of islands. Such natural beauty is conducive to prayer.

### Who have been the most important role models in your life?

My parents – who served as missionaries in Asia, and who

lived unreservedly for the Kingdom of God. They taught me that no matter how disillusioned I might be with the trappings of the Christian church, the enduring and liberating reality is Christ. As an insecure student, I was hugely encouraged by the Christian faith of the then Professor of Zoology at Auckland, John Morton. Subsequently, from the other side of the world, many of the CiS people have encouraged and inspired me more than I can ever express.

### What challenges have you come across as a Christian and a scientist?

I am always saddened by the way that conflict between science and Christian faith is propagated by the media and by people who are uninformed and uncompromisingly dogmatic. Here in New Zealand, young earth Creationism is inalienable orthodoxy for many of the most vigorous churches. I feel enduring frustration when Christians exclaim that they do not know how an intelligent person can ever believe in evolution and Dawkins exclaims that he does not know how an intelligent person can ever believe in God. If only they would ask!

### How has your faith helped you as a scientist, or vice versa?

I would like to think that my faith has helped me through the many discouraging periods in the lab. Science has helped me appreciate more the wonder of the ever-working God. Surely a faith that encompasses science is the most consistent and satisfying world-view. But both may synergise to cause discomfort. I have not come to terms with the fact that my lifestyle has an ecological footprint of >8 hectares, whereas the carrying capacity of the earth is 2 hectares per person, and many people subsist on 0.5 hectares per person. I know that the Gospel alone can address this tension, but the prophetic voices (contd. on page 3)

in the Church seem to be muted. If I was not a scientist I might not know; if I was not a Christian I might not care.

### What science-faith book have you most enjoyed/found most helpful?

There have been many. I was very fortunate to come across Donald MacKay's 'The Clockwork Image' when I was still a student in my formative years. MacKay's unassailable logic protected me from the range of category errors that have been propounded by the Creationist-ID alliance on the one hand, and the Dawkins propaganda juggernaut on the other. These category errors seem to carry all before them. These days my favourite book would be one of Tom Wright's.

#### Vacancy for Christian Scientist:

Head of Mycobacterial Research Laboratories  
Anandaban Hospital,  
Kathmandu, Nepal

This key position focuses on leprosy research, and on the development of new and existing collaborations with other research professionals worldwide. The post involves the oversight of the facility, the day to day management of the lab and its staff, and liaison with clinical and other staff in the hospital.

For more information and an application pack please visit:  
[www.leprosymission.org](http://www.leprosymission.org)

### CIS EMAIL NEWS

We plan to start a monthly email newsletter for CiS members, with details of events, new books, media stories etc. If you would like to be part of this, but are not sure if we have your current email address, please contact Tom Moffat, the CiS membership secretary at [subscriptions@cis.org.uk](mailto:subscriptions@cis.org.uk).

### TO CLONE OR NOT TO CLONE? That is the question!

A discussion with: Dr. Calum MacKellar, Director of Research at the Scottish Council on Human Bioethics (Key Speaker), Dr. Rodney A Shotter & Rev. Alan Kilpatrick.

Thurs 17th May, 8pm,  
St. Luke's Church Prestonville, 01273 500865  
64 Old Shoreham Road, Brighton BN1 5PG

### Tearfund's Church Climate Change Challenge

**Don't be Derek**



The new Tearfund initiative 'Don't Be Derek' is a great new resource designed for church leaders to present the issue of climate change simply, accessibly and entertainingly to their churches and give their members clear, simple ideas for what they can do about it and why it's urgent.

To find out more about it and to order a pack go to [www.tearfund.org/derek](http://www.tearfund.org/derek) or call Tearfund on 0845 355 8355.

### BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM CIS

#### REPRINTED EDITIONS AT REDUCED PRICE

**Beyond Belief – science, faith and ethical challenges**, Denis Alexander & Bob White (Lion) £5 post free from CiS (list price £8.99).

**Can we believe Genesis today? – the Bible and the questions of science**, Ernest Lucas (IVP) £5 post free from CiS (list price £7.99)

#### NEW TITLES FOR CIS

**When Enough is Enough – a Christian framework for environmental sustainability**, R J Berry (ed) (IVP 2007), 192 pp, £11.99 pb. This brand new book addresses a major issue of our time, and includes chapters by some of the world's experts on subjects such as agriculture, economics, science and biblical theology. It is based on the Conference in London in 2005 that was held under the auspices of CiS, the John Ray Initiative and the Victoria Institute.

**Coming to Peace with Science – Bridging the worlds between faith and biology**, Darrel Falk (IVP US 2004) 235 pp, £12 pb. The author contends that the orthodox Christian doctrine of creation is fully compatible with modern biology, and in particular evolution. He therefore seeks a peaceable relationship between conventional science and biblical theology, rather than the conflict apparently sought by some.

**The Language of God – a scientist presents evidence for belief**, Francis F Collins (Simon & Schuster 2006) viii+296 pp, £18 hb. In this book the head of the Human Genome Project gives a quite personal account of how he came to faith when an adult, and also addresses the view that faith and science are incompatible. He profoundly disagrees, and explains why he rejects YEC and ID. He looks for and believes in a real harmony between science and faith, and shows in some detail how it is possible.

**Darwin and Intelligent Design**, Francisco J Alaya (Foretress Press 2006) xi+116 pp, £4. In this authoritative little book the author, a professor both of biology and of philosophy, considers design and evolution before looking carefully at intelligent design itself. He concludes that the argument from "irreducible complexity" does not stand up, and asserts the importance of accepting both God as creator and natural processes of development.

**God and Design – the teleological argument and modern science**, Neil A Manson (ed) (Routledge 2003) xvi+376 pp, £20 pb. In the 19 chapters of this substantial book a wide range of views is represented. It includes papers from both a biological and a cosmological perspective, covering inter alia fine tuning and the anthropic principle, multiple universes, intelligent design and convergence in (human) evolution, as well as the philosophical and theological background to the discussion.

**10% discount to CiS members, and £2 off all books over £5 to CiS student members.** Postage extra (apart from the reprinted editions at a special price). Details and order forms on the CiS website, or contact John Bausor, CiS publications secretary, 16 Walter Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 3JA. Tel. 0118 978 2902

## WIMBORNE

### Report from a CiS Member

In Wimborne there have been meetings promoting creationism and intelligent design but none on theistic evolution. To help people make informed decisions, we decided to hold a public meeting to explain how science can help our faith and inspire worship. We did not wish to fuel controversy or favour any particular denomination.

So "Churches together in Wimborne" (see [www.churches-together.org.uk](http://www.churches-together.org.uk)) invited Dr Peter May to come to a meeting on 19th March and speak on "Does Science disprove God?" Over 100 heard a lucid and persuasive talk. Few clergy, but fifteen sixth-formers with their masters came from St Edwards School, Poole, which includes science and religion in their syllabus. Feedback from the students was very positive.

CiS was made known at the meeting and some new members are expected. CiS have helped us with general advice and by supplying books to sell. We are most grateful.

*Michael Poynder*

### SCIENCE AND RELIGION

#### Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

This international and interdisciplinary conference to celebrate the work of John Hedley Brooke will take place at Lancaster University, 23-26 July 2007.

For full information and to register online, please go to [www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/history/news/science&religion.htm](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/history/news/science&religion.htm)

### The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

**NEW: FARADAY PAPERS** - 13 articles for non-scientists on key issues in science and religion e.g. the age of the earth, the anthropic principle, & the environment.

Available from website or address below.

Summer Course Unit 1: Science, Humanity and Religion  
July 20-26, 2007

Summer Course Unit 2: The Origins of Science and the Science of Origins  
July 27 - Aug 2, 2007

Flyers & posters from Bekki Pearce, [rjp70@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rjp70@cam.ac.uk),  
Tel. 01223 741 283. [www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/faraday](http://www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/faraday)

### Submissions for next PréCiS

We would love to receive your contributions - news of local group activities, events, new books and other activities.

Items for the next PréCiS should be submitted to:

Caroline Berry at [cberry@pncl.co.uk](mailto:cberry@pncl.co.uk) or

4 Sackville Close, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3QD

### Change of address? Graduated? New e-mail address?

If any of your details have changed, please contact the CiS membership secretary, Tom Moffat at:

The Manse, Culross, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 8JD. Tel. 01383 880 231. E-mail: [subscriptions@cis.org.uk](mailto:subscriptions@cis.org.uk)

## EDUCATION

I am writing this article on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, 2007. Today marks the date of agreement about climate change reached by the UN and a hundred governments. The agreement is reported as an important one. It precedes the next G8 meeting.

Even so, a Channel 4 TV programme "The Great Global Warming Swindle" shown on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007 questioned the view that global warming was a direct result of man's activity. It suggested that the Sun was responsible for global warming rather than also acknowledging the influence of raised greenhouse gas emissions associated with industrial activity. It specifically challenged the scientific communities' analysis and, by implication, the integrity of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

To those involved in education, programmes like "The Great Global Warming Swindle" uniquely present sensations that can require fairly swift responses in the classroom. Staff and students alike can pick up media-driven questions. As the title suggests, Channel 4 may promote the suspicion of disingenuous behaviour by scientists. Can this be helpful?

On a positive note, controversy can fuel discussion: and for those seeking the truth it may also open up new lines of enquiry. If well handled, this can be a very useful tool in an education sphere. For example, it may interest students in issues surrounding the public understanding (or misunderstanding) of science and the role that the media plays in that. It may interest students in the area of cosmology and physics by the consideration of, say, Milankovitch cycles (variations in the Earth's orbit/orientation around the sun); or atmosphere chemistry, including the role of cows in the release of methane! Therefore the lecture theatre or the classroom can provide a helpful setting for working through some of these issues.

It is likely that "green issues" will rise up the political agenda. As this happens, we are reminded of mankind's responsibility towards the environment. Students and educators alike will be looking at how the nations respond to the challenge addressed to world leaders. It is likely society will see new technologies emerge, and perhaps new tax laws and tighter restrictions on energy supply and demand. It seems inevitable that technology and politics will at times be close partners. Future generations then need to be equipped to manage this inter-play.

But this year, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2007 is also Good Friday. This is a day when the Christian church remembers the death of Jesus Christ before resurrection. It remembers a man who has authority to sustain all, forgive and renew, and who gives purpose and direction in a broken world. In some part, at least, it is the role of many educators to facilitate the spiritual and moral development of their workplace environment. How we think out our response to this call is at best (in itself) an act of worship.

*John Ling, CiS Education Secretary*

IPCC: [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch) (images and slides available)

Response by Sir John Houghton to Channel 4's "The Great Global Warming Swindle" [www.jri.org.uk/](http://www.jri.org.uk/)

Milankovitch cycles: [www.homepage.montana.edu/~geol445/hyperglac/time1/milankov.htm](http://www.homepage.montana.edu/~geol445/hyperglac/time1/milankov.htm)

Atmosphere chemistry: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/04/050425165353.htm>

## STUDENTS & GRADUATES: WHY STAY IN SCIENCE?

As a biology undergraduate, I glimpsed the sheer volume of scientific literature and shrank from the idea of doing research. When I graduated and became a research assistant, I saw so many pressing needs in the world that I could hardly justify the detached life of an academic. Then, as I went through the ups and downs of my ecology PhD, the drab paperwork blanketing my supervisor's desk cried out to me not to become a university lecturer. And now, writing up my thesis, I'm hurrying in order to start my first postdoc, already booked to begin this summer.



Whatever has come over me? Have I failed to find the will or the initiative to move out into the real world, committing myself instead to fossilisation in an ivory tower? Let me say that in recent years, God has changed my understanding of His calling to Christians.

Increasingly I see Christian vocation as engaging with God's creation in all its fullness, fulfilling the cultural mandate of Genesis 1. In discovering, defining and developing, we may help realise the potential of our Saviour's handiwork. Surely this is an endeavour with eternal value, if indeed "the kings of the earth shall bring...the glory and the honour of the nations" into the heavenly city of a new, redeemed creation (Revelation 21)?

Is this rather lofty? The question that really undergirds my enthusiasm for academic work is, "*Just how deep does faith go?*" In day-to-day teaching and research, does a Christian expect to follow just the same sort of paths of thought as a colleague holding a secular humanist or materialist view of the world? Or can an heir of God's kingdom know the created order and its lawgiver quite differently, and exult in his or her gifting to interpret the songs and groans of this world, to the eternal glory of its creator?

Ideas, they say, have consequences. Can the most shocking idea of history plumb the depths of academia?

Richard Gunton, CiS student member, Leeds

<http://www.personal.leeds.ac.uk/~bgyrg/WvQs.htm>

## CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE CIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2008

In the past, groups of CiS members have presented papers at the CiS annual conference in London. We would like to revive this tradition for our 2008 meeting, which will be held on Sat 1st Nov. The focus will be creation, suffering and the fall. We invite local groups of CiS members to submit an outline of the proposed study on a topic within this area. The two successful groups will research and write on this over the year, and submit a paper that they will present at the meeting in November 2008.

Abstracts should be submitted by October 2007, and a decision will be made by November.

## CIS IRELAND CONFERENCE



About 250 delegates attended "God and Science", a one-day conference organised by Christians in Science Ireland exploring aspects of the relationship between science and religion. The conference was held at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and was organised in collaboration with the Maynooth Community Church, the Maynooth Christian Union, and the Irish Bible Institute.



Denis Alexander and Alister McGrath at the start of the conference

Speakers at the conference were Prof. Alister McGrath (Oxford University), who presented "Has Science Eliminated God? Richard Dawkins on Science and Religion", and Dr. Denis Alexander (Cambridge University), who spoke on "Evolution: Intelligent and Designed?". The talks were followed by discussion on general issues in science and religion, where members of the audience could ask questions to a panel consisting of both speakers, plus Dr. Andrew Bowie (Trinity College Dublin), Dr. Peter Childs (University of Limerick), and Dr. Peter van der Burgt (NUI Maynooth), and chaired by Dr. Scott Peddie (Chair, CiS Ireland). A book table was jointly organised by Dr. Ruth Bancewicz and Kevin Hargaden (Maynooth Community Church).

Audio files of all sessions, slide presentations by both speakers, and photos can be downloaded from [www.cis.org.uk/ireland/](http://www.cis.org.uk/ireland/).

## CIS LOCAL GROUPS

There is a growing number of CiS local groups, some of whom have news below. If you would like to contact CiS members in your area, or are interested in starting a group, please contact Ruth, or go to the local groups page on the CiS website for a paper on running a local group.

## CAMBRIDGE: CIS-FARADAY LECTURES

Tom Wright (Bishop of Durham)  
"Can a Scientist Believe the Resurrection?"  
5.30 pm Tuesday 15th May 2007  
Babbage Lecture Theatre

The lecture will be followed by refreshments with a book-stall available. All welcome. Details of this and future lectures from Bekki Pearce (01223 741 283), or go to:  
<http://www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/faraday/Lectures.php>

## CENTRAL SOUTH

The Central South group aims to serve CiS members and other interested people in an area roughly South of the M4, West as far as Bath/Weymouth and East as far as Crawley/Brighton. If you would like to receive e-mail updates of future events please e-mail [Robert.Heather@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.Heather@gmail.com)

### Local Members' Meeting

On 14th March about 20 local CiS members gathered for a social evening. We heard two presentations on current work, one on Rapid Climate Change and the other on the Geology of Crete, and discussed ideas for future events. We plan to hold similar social events in the future.

### Next Lecture - Sir John Polkinghorne FRS - 9th May

Sir John will speak on the subject 'Cosmology and God' at 7.30pm in Lecture Theatre 1, Boldrewood Biomedical Science Building, Southampton University. Entry is free. For more information and directions to the lecture visit:

[www.cis-centralsouth.org.uk](http://www.cis-centralsouth.org.uk)

### Date for your Diary

On 29th November Sir John Houghton FRS will lead a lecture and discussion on the subject of 'Global Warming'. More details will be placed on the website as they are fixed.

## DURHAM

Durham University CiS has had a busy term, with two excellent talks and the Northern Conference. Rev. Dr Ernest Lucas spoke on 'Understanding Genesis Today', which was very well-received and sparked some lively debates. Our meeting with Prof Chris Wild who spoke about 'Dolly the sheep, Frankenstein foods, Designer Babies and Me: Personal choices in a genetic age' was also well-received and especially enjoyable as it ended in a visit to a church pancake evening!

Our last meeting of the academic year was 'Science and Faith - Friends or Foes?' with Dr Ard Louis giving a fascinating and challenging talk. This was followed by some intriguing discussions on the origins of life and quantum mechanics!

Our next meeting will be in October, after an AGM in May/June. For more details email [cis.society@dur.ac.uk](mailto:cis.society@dur.ac.uk) or write to: Durham University Christians in Science, Durham Students' Union, Dunelm House, New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3AN

## HARROW

The first meeting of the CiS Harrow Local Group will be:  
"Beyond Belief? Science and religion in the 21st Century"  
Dr Denis Alexander  
Wednesday 16th May 7.30pm,  
St Andrew's Church Sudbury, Harrow Road, HA0 2QA  
Contact Rev Lyndon North, Tel. 07747 638 783 for details.

## NOTTINGHAM

The group in Nottingham meets every two months to discuss various aspects of the science/religion debate. Our next meeting is 5th June.

Contact: Geoff Bagley, 58 Meadow Road, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1JT  
Tel: 0115 9258801 email:[gbagley@ntlworld.com](mailto:gbagley@ntlworld.com)

## OXFORD

The Oxford group has now been running for nearly three years and continues to draw between 60-100 people to each meeting. Probably about half of those attending are scientists or in science-related occupations. The remainder come from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from sixth formers to the retired, with a good number of professionals, academics and students of all disciplines. Some come from as far away as Abingdon and Stokenchurch.

We meet once a term at St Andrew's Church, North Oxford, beginning with coffee and refreshments at 7.30 pm. The evening usually consists of a talk by an invited speaker, followed by questions and general discussion. In the last academic year, our speakers have included Colin Humphreys (Miracles), Alister McGrath (Dawkins, Dennett and the Meaning of Life), and Margot and Martin Hodson (Climate Change). Tapes of most talks are available.

Our speaker on Friday, May 18th will be Dr Stuart Judge, Reader in Physiology at Oxford University, who will speak on Neuroscience. Contact Diana Briggs ([diana.briggs@gmail.com](mailto:diana.briggs@gmail.com)) for further information.

## SOUTH WEST

CIS SW met at the University of Plymouth on March the 9<sup>th</sup> which happened to be the day after the channel 4 screened its controversial programme 'The Great Global Warming Swindle'. This ensured that although not planned, a lively discussion on climate change took centre stage!

A number of talks have been given to the university staff Christian Fellowship by Tony Watkins (The Anthropic Principle; Science & Christian Eschatological Hope; Historical Interactions between Science & Religion; Darwin's Spiritual Odyssey) and Revd Andrew Saunders (Climate Change). Some of these talks were based on those heard at the Faraday Institute course in January as it was felt that the things learned there were too interesting not to be passed on!

Regular meetings are held at the University of Plymouth Chaplaincy. For further details email [matfr@mba.ac.uk](mailto:matfr@mba.ac.uk)