

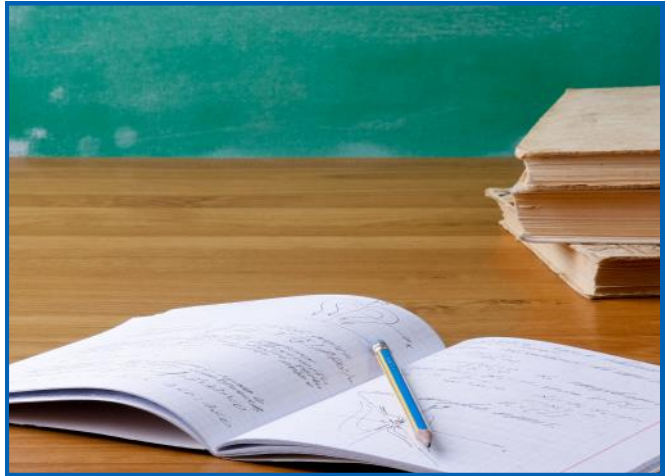
# PréCis

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More details on our website - [www.cis.org.uk](http://www.cis.org.uk)



## 2018 CiS Student Essay Competition

**Each year, CiS hosts an essay competition for students to enter, either individually, in pairs or as a group.**

The essay competition is designed to encourage promising young thinkers and writers to explore different science-faith topics.

**£500 First prize  
£250 Second prize  
£100 Third prize**

Further details for the competition can be found at [www.cis.org.uk/students/essay-competition/](http://www.cis.org.uk/students/essay-competition/)  
Deadline is midnight on 30th August 2018.

## Southern Conference

**Saturday 10th  
November, 2018**

**Redland Church Hall  
Bristol BS6 7HE**

**More details - please  
see page 5**

## Interview with the winner of the 2018 Oliver Barclay Lectureship, Dr Nicholas Higgs, (Deputy Director of the Marine Institute, University of Plymouth)



**Congratulations Nick, for winning the 2018 Oliver Barclay lecture. Do you have any thoughts on what your lecture may be about?**

My talk may be along the lines of our “animal-ness”. As a biologist I have always been intrigued by this aspect. We often talk about our “human-ness”, we are “set apart”, but there are some interesting verses in the bible that maybe we are not as set apart from the rest of creation, as we sometimes like to think we are. What can we learn as humans by studying animals?

**What were the things you enjoyed growing up in the Bahamas that sparked your interest in marine biology?**

I grew up as the son of a fisherman, living in a fishing village. I was in the sea, or on the sea, all my life. Even as a young child I would jump off the local bridge into the sea, expecting my dad to get me quickly, because I couldn't swim at that stage.

The water was so clear in the Bahamas, you could see everything, and I was always fascinated by the sea life.

I was one of those enviable people who knew what I wanted to do from quite an early age and blessed to be able to do it as a job.

**When and how did you become a Christian?**

I was raised in a Christian tradition, so I feel I have always been a Christian. I have been going to church as long as I can remember, but there have been a number of key moments in my Christian journey.

I was part of a big loving church in the Bahamas, then as an 11yr old moved to a Methodist boarding school in the UK. Surprisingly, I found there were very few Christians there. That was as much a curiosity to me, as I was a curiosity to them. I had come from a country where I had never met anyone who didn't believe in God. At the boarding school there were children from all around the world, so there were many cultural differences, although I got on well and made friends.

My time at University was both a testing and then reinvigorating time for my faith.

I was involved with local churches, the Christian Union and had a good bunch of Christian friends.

It was great to have the support and friendship of fellow Christians, but a number also had an anti-science attitude. They didn't think you could be a Christian and interested in Science. I was floored by this attitude. I couldn't understand why Christians were afraid of science.

I also talked with fellow marine biologists and when they discovered I was a Christian they asked how can that be, Science and Christianity don't go together. I found it quite disorientating.

Fortunately, I came across the local CiS group and became involved with them. This helped me see that not all Christians had this

problem with science.

These experiences showed me that being part of a church is like being part of a large family. There are lots of differences within a family. We do not all think or feel the same.

### **How do you view studying science in relation to God?**

I grew up in a place where there was no distinction between home life or work life. Everyone I knew was a Christian. I knew even as a child when I was studying a rock pool this was part of what God created.

That aspect has always stuck with me, throughout my university studies and work.

### **What has been the impact or importance of being involved with CiS?**

CiS helped me see that there were people that cared deeply about science and their faith. That it was possible to confidently be a Christian and a scientist. It gave me reassurance.

I also found it really stimulating. I am well suited to the academic life and enjoy thinking about things.

### **What has been the most interesting thing you have worked on in your career?**

I have been blessed to work on so many different things.

One thing I have found fascinating was to study these unusual deep-sea worms that live on the skeletons of dead whales. They are able to exploit this food resource, whose availability is patchy and unpredictable. They are very specialised and do this with the help of symbiotic bacteria. They don't have a mouth or gut but have a weird root material which grows into the bone. They also have extreme sexual dimorphism. Only the females are big, and the males are microscopic juveniles which live inside the females.

There are all these weird aspects of this amazing creature. They are like a poster child for all the weird diversity of life in the

vastness of the oceans.

Equally fascinating are lobsters that I now study.

Growing up in my father's fishery I never appreciated the amazing awe and wonder in the complexity of these animals. The more you know about their

biology, the more wonderful they are. For example they use chemoreceptors to find food and can navigate using the earth's magnetic field. The problem is that we often only think about things from our perspective. There has been a lot of research on lobsters as a commodity, as a fishery species - what affects their productivity, or disease and that sort of thing, but I couldn't find a single published study on what lobsters do for a coral ecosystem. No-one can say what the difference is in a coral ecosystem that does have lobsters and one that doesn't.

I really count it as a privilege to be a scientist. That's not to say I don't have bits of my job that are routine or boring. Only a small part of my job is research, but within that research, the work is fascinating.

### **You appeared in the ITV series *Britain's Sharks*, what did you enjoy/learn most from this experience?**

I enjoyed the unpredictability of working in the wild. We had ideas of what we thought might happen, but we were completely overwhelmed when a huge group of sharks appeared.

We had been sitting out at sea with a dead whale for about 3 days and nothing had come to feed. It wasn't till we were in the Celtic deep, that sharks started showing up. At one point we had about 100 blue sharks.



This is the most that had ever been seen in UK waters at one time.

I never imagined that happening. It just reminded me of the little we are able to predict about these things. There is still a lot to be surprised by in this world.

**What makes you go “WOW” at work?**

I am often struck by the degree we can use science to make sense of the world. The degree to which we are able to understand things as complex as ecosystems. We do not understand everything, this is a unending task.

By understanding aspects of the natural world, we are able to manage aspects of it and take responsibility for our place in the world.

There is also a discovery aspect of what I do and that gives me a buzz.

**What makes you go “WOW” outside of work?**

I have 2 young children and they make me go WOW a lot. They are 4 ½ and 3 years old. They are so bright and capable at such a young age. They have an ability to absorb knowledge, that I wish I still had. Imagine what I could do.

I was recently involved in the project “Messy church does science”. I wrote an article for very young children. Thinking back to when I

was a child sitting watching ants. They are doing all these fascinating things. There were 100’s or 1,000’s of these little things and God knows all about what they are doing.

**If you could chat with a scientist from the past, who would it be?**

I am currently working on a history project about Charles Nutting, a marine zoologist. Charles lived in Iowa - nowhere near the sea.

In 1893 he led a student expedition to the Bahamas to study the marine life there.

I would love to meet him and talk about what life was like back then, what the marine environment was like, and compare to now. While he did some fascinating studies, it would be more from the view point of talking with a marine scientist that had experiences of the location where I grew up.

**What do you do for fun? What are your major interests outside of work?**

I enjoy going walking, exploring the Devon countryside. We have beaches, the South coast path, and the moors all close by. I enjoyed exploring Snowdonia a while ago.

The Bahamas are beautiful, but very flat with similar vegetation throughout. I enjoy exploring Britain in all its variety, both the geology and the vegetation. I love being outdoors.

**Where would you like to see CiS in five/ten years’ time?**

I think we are good at talking with one another, but I would like to see us talking outside of the Christian world more often. Christians in Science has so much to offer mainstream culture.

I would like to see the Church supporting us more, to reach out to non-Christians as a lot of people are interested in the interaction of faith and science. It could be a real gateway of getting people interested in Christianity. I think there are a lot of opportunities outside of the Christian world.



*Nick and family*

**CiS Southern Conference**  
**10<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

***Being Human in an Age  
of Machines***

**Speakers:-**

- \*\* Prof John Wyatt - What it means to be human**
- \*\* Prof Peter Robinson - AI/Robotics**
- \*\* Rev Dr Justin Tomkins - Human enhancement**
- \*\* Rt Rev Dr Steven Croft - Closing reflection**
- \*\* Dr Nick Higgs – Oliver Barclay lecture 2018**

**Including discussion groups and 2 workshops:-**  
**The evolution of technology - "*Can we be optimistic  
about the future of technology?*"**  
**and "*Faith in the Lab*"**

**Redland Church Hall, Redland Green Road,  
Bristol, BS6 7HE**

**Further details will be available in early August  
at [www.cis.org.uk/conferences](http://www.cis.org.uk/conferences)**

# Professor Sam Berry

*Sam died peacefully at home  
on 29th March 2018*

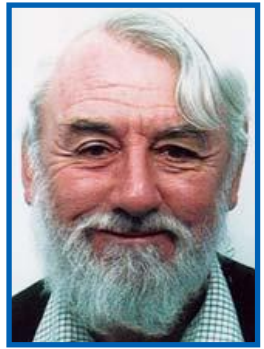
*Here is a personal remembrance of Sam, by Prof Malcolm Jeeves, CBE, PRSE. President of Christians in Science 2008 - 2014. President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh 1996-1999 and Emeritus Professor of Psychology at the University of St. Andrews.*

For more than four decades the Research Scientists Christian Fellowship, later to become Christians in Science, benefited immeasurably from the dedicated leadership and organisational skills of Sam and Caroline Berry. Sam as Chairman of Christians in Science (1967-1988) and President (1993-1995) and Caroline as its Secretary (2000-2008). Both had full-time and demanding professional commitments. Sam as Professor of Genetics at University College London and Caroline as a Consultant Medical Geneticist at Guy's Hospital in London.

His scholarship was widely recognised in many directions. He was President of the Linnean Society, the British Ecological Society and the European Ecological Federation. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and he gave the Gifford lectures at Glasgow University. Sam had a very deep love of all things Scottish and his book "Orkney Notes" (2000) remains widely acclaimed. He also took several important initiatives which embodied his deep concern for the care of God's creation.

His so-called retirement in 2000 coincided with a time when the Christian

environmental movement in the United Kingdom was growing fast and he devoted much time and energy to this area. He was a great supporter of A Rocha and was on their Council of Reference.



He was one of the founding fathers of the John Ray Initiative becoming a Vice President and forming a partnership with Sir John Houghton so that together they represented the biological and physical sciences. Sam wrote or edited many books on Christianity and the environment including his "The Care of Creation" (IVP 2000). His last work "Environmental Attitudes through Time" (Cambridge University Press) is due to be published at the end of April 2018. A close friend of John Stott he spent many shared times with him at John's Welsh retreat observing nature in all its diversity.

Sam was a larger-than-life character in many ways. For several decades I worked closely with him on a series of publications. Our Visitors book at home records how on twenty separate occasions Sam came and stayed with us for several days. At the time he was working on isolated mice populations in the Scottish islands and would turn up at short notice sometimes carrying a dustbin in which he had put his dirty clothes and some of his mice specimens.

Our daughters, young at the time, remember him as "the man with the dustbin and the mice". A flavour of his character is captured in the comments section of our Visitors book which he occasionally used. It reads "with dustbin" (23/24 March 1973);

Heb.11v3 (16 Jan 1980); “Modernity now in its postmodern phase” (20/21 May 1986); Anglican (April 4-7 1997); Co-author (8 Dec 1997).

When Dr Oliver Barclay suggested that I update my 1969 book “*The Scientific Enterprise and Christian Faith*” (Tyndale Press) he also suggested that Sam would be an excellent co-author. How right he was. As we worked on the book and spent many days together I became more and more aware of both the breadth and the depth of Sam’s scholarship. The result was our 1988 book “*Science, Life and Christian Belief*”. (IVP)

Two years ago, at his instigation, we wrote a Review article for the journal *Science and Christian Belief* tracing out the history, from its very earliest days, of the Research Scientists Christian Fellowship which was later to become Christians in Science. The detailed documentation at the end of our paper underlines just what a crucial part Sam played over many years in these organisations.

He was faithful to the end and we give thanks for his faith, his scholarship and for his life. He will be sorely missed by us all but surely most of all by his wife Caroline and their son and two daughters who remain in our thoughts and prayers.

## CONNECT

The summer issue of the CiS student webmag will be available soon. The theme is Practical Science, Practical Faith

To view Connect please go to [connect.cis.org.uk/](http://connect.cis.org.uk/)

If you wish to start a Local Group in your area, please get in touch with Emily, our Development Officer, at [do@cis.org.uk](mailto:do@cis.org.uk)



## LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Details of all events are also available on the CiS App and on our website [www.cis.org.uk/events](http://www.cis.org.uk/events).

### BRISTOL

Discussion groups – there is no meeting in August and will resume Sept 7th.

Friday 28 Sept, at 7pm “*Caring for the Oceans - 2*”  
Speaker: Dr Robert Sluka. Looking at marine biological aspects including coral bleaching, biodiversity and sustainable fish stocks.

Redland Church Hall, Redland Green Rd, Bristol BS6 7HE

Friday 23 Nov, at 7pm: “*Caring for the Earth - 1*”  
Speaker: Prof Simon Stuart. Species conservation: a summary of progress and challenges for the future. Same venue as above.

For more information please contact Tina Biggs ([cmbbiggs@googlemail.com](mailto:cmbbiggs@googlemail.com))

### CAMBRIDGE

For details of events in Cambridge please go to <http://www.faraday.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/>

### DUNDEE

For more details on Dundee events please contact [christiansinsciencedundee@gmail.com](mailto:christiansinsciencedundee@gmail.com)

## **HARROW**

For details of future events in Harrow please contact Revd Lyndon North (revlnorth@aol.com)

## **HUDDERSFIELD**

For details please contact Omololu Fagunwa on fagunwaomololu@yahoo.com.

## **IPSWICH**

For more information about events please contact Dr John Ling (jjling@btopenworld.com)

## **IRELAND**

Details about events in Ireland contact Dr Peter van der Burgt (peter.vandербurgt@nuim.ie)

## **LEEDS**

Further details of meetings please contact John Lockwood at jglockwood1@me.com

## **LONDON**

For more details about the London group please email cins.london@gmail.com

## **MANCHESTER**

For more information, please contact the Secretary on sec.cismanchester@yahoo.co.uk

## **NORWICH**

Wed 3 Oct, at 7pm: “10th Annual Science and Faith Cathedral Lecture”. Speaker: Professor John Wyatt. Norwich Anglican Cathedral, NR2

For more information on local events, please contact sfnorfolk1@gmail.com

## **OXFORD**

For more information, please contact Diana Briggs at diana.briggs@wolfson.oxon.org

## **OXFORD—students**

Please contact Matthew Patterson (matthew.patterson@physics.ox.ac.uk) or Abigail Motley (abigail.motley@plants.ox.ac.uk)

## **READING**

For information on events please email Simon Peatman at cisreading@yahoo.com

## **SHEFFIELD**

A monthly meeting for Sheffield University staff 1st Wednesday of the month at 11am, in “Coffee Revolution” at the Students’ Union. Please feel

free to turn up, or contact Dr Rhoda Hawkins on rhoda.hawkins@sheffield.ac.uk

## **SOUTHAMPTON**

For information on meetings please contact Peter May on southampton@cis.org.uk

## **SOUTH WEST**

For information on events in the South West, please contact Prof David Huntley on dhuntley@plymouth.ac.uk

## **ST ANDREWS**

Undergraduate group please contact Dr Andrew Torrance (abt3@st-andrews.ac.uk), Joshua Sharp (jas29@st-andrews.ac.uk) or Laura McCullagh (lsm4@st-andrews.ac.uk).  
Postgraduate group, please contact Dr Rebecca Goss (rjmg@st-andrews.ac.uk).

## **SURREY**

For more details please contact Joy Perkins at joyeperkins@googlemail.com

## **SURREY HEATH**

For more details please contact John Russell at chynoweth.jw@gmail.com

## **TYNESIDE & NORTHUMBERLAND**

For information please contact Bill Clegg at bill.clegg@ncl.ac.uk (please include CiS in the subject line)

## **UCL**

If you are interested in joining the group, contact Marta Berbel Gallego on cisuclsoc@gmail.com

## **WEST MIDLANDS**

For more information on events please contact Godfrey Armitage at g.n.armitage@warwick.ac.uk

## **WORCESTER**

For information on Worcester events please contact Jim Smith on jgsmith29@aol.com

## **YORK**

CiS York is a new local group. For more information please email christiansinscienceryork788@gmail.com