

CIS UPDATE

Last few days to enter

Student Essay competition

Please encourage students you know to enter the 2020 CiS Student essay competition.

Essays of no more than 1000 words to be on one of the following titles:

- Future challenges for Christians in the sciences
- Can Science explain Religion?
- A Christian response to pandemics
- How can Science and Scripture inform ethics?

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

**Submissions close at MIDNIGHT on
30th August 2020.**

Please read full details - [click here](#). The first prize will be announced later in the year, and the essay will be published in the PreCiS.

August 2020

This month's highlights

Student Essay competition

Conference YouTube Links

CiS Conference

Local Group News

Other News

Other Events

Prayer Focus

*'Exploring God's work in
creation...encouraging concern for the
environment...applying Biblical
principles to science and technology'*

The conference talks are available on our YouTube channel if you missed them!

Speakers:

- Monday: Prof Bob White - [Plagues and Pandemics: Perspectives from Science and Faith](#)
- Tuesday: Dr Mirjam Schilling - [Viruses as part of God's creation?](#)
- Wednesday: Dr Simon Kolstoe - [The ethics of Evidence in a Pandemic](#)
- Thursday: Anna Pearson - [Oliver Barclay Lecture 2020: Quantum Mechanics, Faith and Unresolved Questions](#)
- Friday: Panel - [Q & A Discussion](#)

Successful Online CiS conference

God and Pandemics

Each of the talks had viewers numbering into the hundreds over the previous week. The viewers were predominantly from the UK, but it was a global event including someone from Brazil tuning in each day. Many viewed live at 4pm, with others viewing later that day or the next. We have received many positive responses.

We are grateful to the speakers for all the time they put into the preparation and delivery of their talks and the discussion panel on Friday, plus the many hours of hard work by Steph, CiS Development Officer and the CiS team. Many hours went into research and working out how to put this together, learning newly purchased programmes etc.

While we had many joining in the conference, unfortunately we did not receive the donations we had hoped for to cover the running costs. Although operating from our home studios, there are still considerable expenses involved in putting together a conference in this format.

If you are able to contribute to this work, can we encourage you to consider donating now? This can be easily done either by text or the CiS website.

For text donations (charged at your standard network rate) -

To give £3 text GIVE2CIS to 70331

To give £5 text GIVE2CIS to 70970

To give £10 text GIVE2CIS to 70191

If you would like to donate a different amount, or make a regular donation by standing order, please complete [the online form](#). If you are a *CiS member* please enter your membership number in the space provided in Personal Details and then click on **Submit**. This will take you to a new page, showing your donation and auto-completed details, click on **Submit** again to confirm your donation. If you have forgotten your membership number, you can simply complete the form.

Feedback - If you haven't completed the conference feedback form, please do - https://s.surveyplanet.com/w_Zofk9oT

Local Group News

For latest information, check the CiS website at www.cis.org.uk/groups/ or the CiS app.
If you would like to be involved, contact your local group or our DO Steph Bevan
steph.cis@outlook.com

A number of CiS groups are holding Online events, but we often don't have much forward notice - please keep checking our website.

Manchester

As it looks neither possible nor wise to meet for some time yet in our former style, we are instead embracing the opportunity to host meetings on Zoom, and we have an exciting and varied programme prepared for the autumn season. Starting in September, we will have a meeting at 7pm on the first Monday of every month.

07/09/20 Dr Bethany Sollereeder - *Animals and Theodicy*
05/10/20 Rev Dr Justin Tomkins - *Results from recent Science / Faith Survey*
02/11/20 Dr Rhoda Hawkins - *Order & disorder*
07/12/20 Rev Dr Roger Abbot - *Responding pastorally to the scientific and theological features of a pandemic*

More detail - and joining instructions - will be available on the CiS website nearer the time, but for now please note the dates.

Other News

Autumn Workshop Volunteers?

We would like to run a few online workshops during October or November, but need volunteers to lead them! If you are interested in running a small group online, or would like to discuss suitable topics, please contact Steph our Development officer - steph.cis@outlook.com We can ensure you are trained in the technology needed to run it smoothly.

Faith and Science in Action

Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science (ECLAS) supports Christian leaders engaging with science. This year we are starting a new phase funded by £3.4M from the Templeton Religion Trust.

We are excited to work with CiS on new projects, including another round of Scientists in Congregations: 20 awards of £20K to support creative local programs which bridge faith and science. Details, including how to apply, will be here soon. Learn more online (<https://community.dur.ac.uk/christianleadership.science/the-project/>) or contact us by email - sciencein.congregation@durham.ac.uk

CiS Committee summary

Available via our website is a summary from the [May 2020 CiS committee meeting](#).

Request for Advice on / Endorsement of a Christian Climate Emergency Resource

This request is made on behalf of a working group including representatives from Tearfund, Christian Aid and other environmental groups looking to help Christian churches, schools and other organisations respond to the climate crisis.

We're developing a resource to help organisations do three things: declare a climate emergency, make a meaningful plan for change and act for wider social awareness. This is where we need help from members of Christians in Science. We are looking for Christian scientists and scientific bodies to offer comment on draft versions of this resource, and/or to offer endorsement later in the summer.

Our aim is to build a wider Christian consensus about the climate crisis and help local churches make a more significant difference. If you'd be willing to be contacted with more details, please send an email to Mark Powley - marktpowley@gmail.com

The John Ray Initiative

Notice of New Publication - "*COVID-19: Environment, Justice, and the Future*"

A new Grove booklet, written in three weeks by a team of Dr Ruth Valerio (Tearfund), Dr Martin Hodson (JRI), Revd Margot Hodson (JRI), and Revd Dr Timothy Howles (William Temple Foundation, and a CRES tutor). It covers the origins of the pandemic, the environmental impacts of the lockdowns, and how to build back in a just and sustainable way. The booklet is £3.95 - [click here](#)

Other Events

Please confirm directly with the organiser how events are being conducted, particularly as we come out of lockdown.

SRF Annual Meeting

Friday 28 August

The meeting this year is taking the format of two Zoom sessions available free to all. These sessions will be given by Prof Tom McLeish on the topic of '*Humans do Science: the Created Co-creator in a Strange World*'. Details and booking are available at <https://www.srforum.org/srf-upcoming>

CRES Admissions 2020.

This is the normal time of year when advertising starts for students to take the distance learning course Christian Rural and Environmental Studies (CRES). Obviously, things are different this year. They have already had several enquiries from people asking if they can start the course earlier than the normal time of September/October, and the answer is yes they can. If you would like to join us the best place to start is [HERE](#).

Cuddesdon

CRES Day Conference

November 14 @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford, OX44 9EX. Please check their [website](#) for details.

Prayer Focus

- Please pray for the ongoing work of CiS.
- The CiS Trustees and committee members are looking at ways we can be self-sufficient and not dependent on grants. Please pray for wisdom and inspiration in how we can encourage financial support.
- Viruses and pandemics are a part of God's creation that we often ignore unless they impact us directly. Do pray that those who listened to the conference talks may be encouraged to share its insights with others, particularly those whose lives have been directly impacted by the present situation.
- Please pray for the ongoing impact of our work amongst students and for guidance as we seek to develop our next projects in this area.
- Please pray for the Manchester group as they prepare a series of online talks in the coming months.
- Please pray for the other local group teams as they make decisions on their events and for the many other events organised around the UK.
- The Student essay competition closes at the end of this month. Please pray for students entering the competition and the judges as they review the essays and select the winner.
- It can feel like a long time since things were "normal", but please continue to pray for each other, particularly as we are easing out of lockdown and the possibility of local increase infection rates for some of our members.
- Pray for our local churches, schools and universities as they look at the new Govt regulations regarding opening, or not.
- Please remember your neighbours - this includes your colleagues, family and those who live near you.



We try to update personal preferences each month. However, if you have previously requested "unsubscribe" and have received this in error, please accept our apologies and resend your request to me at

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