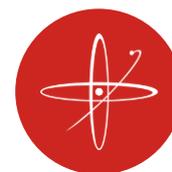


# CiS UPDATE



## A Christian response to COVID-vaccine doubts



We have on our [website](#) an article written by Prof Paul Ewart and Dr Mirjam Schilling. We hope this helps you to have reliable information to read and share on the C-19 vaccines.

*Paul is professor of physics at Oxford University and Chairman of Christians in Science. Mirjam is a research scientist in virology at the Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford.*

## February 2021

A Christian response to COVID-vaccine doubts

Nominations for Oliver Barclay Lecture 2021

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Prayer Focus

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



## Nominations for the CiS Oliver Barclay Lecture 2021 are open!

Nominations are sought each year from members of CiS, with a closing date of midnight 31st March 2021

Full details can be found on our [website](#)

## New CiS subscription rates and categories

We hope you appreciate the work that you fund through CiS; the publication of the S&CB journal and newsletters, the distribution of literature to young scientists, the support to churches, the meetings and conferences.

Attendance online by both CiS members and non-members has soared this year and we are reaching many more people than ever before.

New members are often surprised at how inexpensive the CiS subscription is, given that they receive monthly and quarterly newsletters and a biannual journal, as well as supporting the outreach activities. Perhaps that is because there has been only one price rise since 2004.

So, you will not be surprised to learn that our basic subs no longer cover the costs of the activities and we need to increase them. The good news is that the new rates are the same in “real” terms as in 2004 and represent a rise of just £1 per month. They are only this low because many members make additional donations and that helps us peg the prices for those who cannot afford more. We have also been fortunate in receiving grants for particular projects in recent years, otherwise the true cost of running CiS would be about double the basic subscription.

You will receive a reminder email each year when your subscription becomes due.

You may then update your details and renew your membership on our website. Please make payments monthly or annually by Paypal or by credit card through Paypal, standing order, Bank Transfer, or cheque. You may add any donation to the membership payment. We encourage you to tick the box for Gift Aid if you are able, because we can claim tax back on any donation, though not on subs.

### **We are also simplifying the membership categories.**

To view our new look membership page please [click here](#)

- Students are now anyone who has not yet graduated and is full-time in school, college or university.
- Early Career members are those who first graduated less than 4 years ago.
- Everyone else is a Standard member.

If you have any questions about membership, please email David Scott ([membership@cis.org.uk](mailto:membership@cis.org.uk))

For existing CiS members

[Renew annual membership](#)

[Change of address/email?](#)

### **Renew membership or Change your address or email**

To renew or make a change to your membership detail please [click here](#) and scroll down. Look for the 2 red boxes as displayed on the left.



If you are a student, graduate or early career scientist, we would love for you to join the new CiS CONNECT Conference 2021. We will be exploring controversial topics that can often divide the church and looking at the best ways to respond to these discussions.

- Prof Gareth Jones — Coping with Controversy
- Prof Adrian Thatcher — Theology, Sexuality and Controversy
- Dr Cherryl Hunt — Abortion: Controversy? What controversy?
- Revd. Dr. Joanna Collicutt — Mental Health: I'm not supposed to feel like this — am I?
- Panel Q & A (plus Dr Anna Pearson , OB Award winner)

The ticket will give you access to join each session and cover the cost to post a pack of conference goodies to your door! For further details and to book your ticket please click [HERE](#)

## **ECLAS are giving 20 churches grants up to £20,000**

ECLAS will provide funds and resources for projects that creatively change the conversation between the church and the scientific world, projects that develop a deeper engagement with scientists, theologically, pastorally, or in mission.

Deadline to apply has been extended until April 23rd!

For further information or to apply please [click here](#)

# CiS Upcoming Events

## CiS Connect Conference 2021

### *Coping with Controversy*

26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>  
February

How can we cope with differences in opinion within the church? To book your place please click here - [Eventbrite](#) Tickets are £5 to £15 each. The ticket will give you access to join each session and cover the cost to post and deliver a pack of conference goodies to your door!



### *Online: Theology of the Quantum World*

1<sup>st</sup> March  
19:00

Mark Harris, Professor of Natural Science and Theology in the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh and programme director for the School's postgraduate qualifications in Science and Religion, will delve into aspects of theology and the quantum world. Please register via [Eventbrite](#) or contact [sec.cismanchester@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sec.cismanchester@yahoo.co.uk)



### *Online: Dinosaurs, Evolution and Religion*

#### *12th Annual Science Faith Cathedral Lecture*

15<sup>th</sup> March  
19:30

Nick Spencer, Senior Fellow at Theos. Nick will explore the history of ideas linking evolution and religion. From the time of Charles Darwin to the present day, what is the place of humankind in the natural world? To obtain the link, please contact [sfnorfolk1@gmail.com](mailto:sfnorfolk1@gmail.com)



### *Online: The Spiritual Interpretation of Scientific Imagery*

12<sup>th</sup> April  
19:00

Rev Dr David Gregory, the Ministry Team Leader at Croxley Green Baptist Church, will encourage us to consider the spiritual possibilities of scientific imagery. Please register via [Eventbrite](#) or contact [sec.cismanchester@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sec.cismanchester@yahoo.co.uk)



### *Online - After the Monkey Trial*

1<sup>st</sup> May  
19:00

Dr Christopher M. Rios (Baylor) will be joining us from America. Christopher is a historian of science and recently the author of the book 'After the Monkey Trial' which explores the development of key evangelical science organisations. This includes the Research Scientists Christian

Fellowship, which was to become our own Christians in Science. Please register via [Eventbrite](#) or contact [sec.cismanchester@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sec.cismanchester@yahoo.co.uk)



7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>  
May

**Save the date: CiS Northern Conference 2021**  
*Digital Theology and the Church*



## Other News

### **Family News - Alastair Allcock**

Alastair graduated in Aeronautical Engineering in 1958 and enjoyed a long relationship with CiS. Sadly, he died on January 6th this year (of Covid pneumonia). Our thoughts and prayers go to his family.

### **Climate Emergency Toolkit**

Back in Oct 2020 we asked if you would like to assist Mark Powley and team with an initiative about a Christian Climate Emergency Resource. The tool kit is now available!

Mark wrote to thank all of those who have helped make the launch of the Climate Emergency Toolkit possible. It was quite a journey to bring together multiple contributors and agencies, but it's great to have the backing of Christian Aid, Tearfund, CofE Environmental Group, A Rocha, Green Christian, Operation Noah, the JRI institute and others, as well as testimonies from Christian scientists who have been willing to add their voice.

For more information please [click here](#).

### **CiS short videos to share**

Did you know we have produced a few short videos for you to share:-

- 1) Church Affiliation - <https://youtu.be/MScPvHVAo6E>
- 2) Christians in Science: Who are we? - <https://youtu.be/7sI5Em5G5bA>

### **Radio Maria England Science and Faith Radio Show**

We will be covering topics such as the Big Bang, creation, evolution, genetic modification, bioethics, neuroscience, freewill, miracles and divine actions, and some of the science related to the resurrection. Several guests are world-renown leading scientists or theologians from universities around the world, including the Faraday Institute. Some names among the experts you might recognise: we premiered yesterday with Prof Paul Shellard for Cosmology; next week, Dr Denis

Alexander will join us for an episode on evolution and for our third episode, Prof Keith Fox will talk about genetic modification.

Broadcast times every week: Sundays at 5pm, Wednesdays at 2am, Thursdays at 11am and Fridays at 9pm.

To listen to shows: <https://anchor.fm/scienceandfaith/episodes/Radio-Maria-England-Science-and-Faith---Episode-01-eq92r3>

We will also have a blog for each episode: <https://radiomariaengland.uk/science-and-faith-episode-1-cosmology-from-alpha-to-omega/>

## Other Events

### The Well Christian Healing Centre in Leamington Spa

20<sup>th</sup> February

09:30 to

13:00

Online teaching event "*Pain and Suffering, God and the Bible: Where's the Truth?*"

Dr Kate Distin. Too many 'solutions' to the traditional problem of evil require us to accept that suffering isn't really as bad as we think. The Bible, in contrast, acknowledges the deep anguish of our hurting world, and claims to offer a solution that brings healing, peace and hope. This event will unpack the Biblical account of suffering and equip you to reach your own conclusions about its truth and power.

The booking details can be found on The Well Christian Healing Centre in Leamington Spa's [website](#).

### Faraday research seminars and other events online

Seminars will be held as Zoom Webinars and are free to attend. Events may have a charge. More information and the zoom links can be found at [Faraday website](#)

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9<sup>th</sup> March

13:00 - 14:00

*'From Biology to Theology: How Viruses Challenge Our Perception of Good and Evil'*

Dr Mirjam Schilling [Oxford University]

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20<sup>th</sup> March

10:00 - 16:00

*End of Life Matters*

Revd Dr Rodger Charlton, Revd Dr Derek Fraser. This one-day workshop will be run online and will involve talks and discussion. Cost: £40 (£25 for those in ministry training).

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**26<sup>th</sup> March**  
**14:00 - 15:30**

*Plagues and Pandemics: Perspectives from Science and Faith*  
Revd Dr Roger Abbott, Prof. Bob White FRS

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**Note for your  
diary**

*Faith in Science? Interaction of Science and Belief in a Challenging World*  
Faraday Summer Course online this year - the course will run 4-9 July.

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## Prayer Focus

- Please pray for our upcoming Connect conference at the end of February. Please pray for the team in all their preparations and the day will be enjoyable and well attended.
- Please pray for suitable nominations for the Oliver Barclay lecture.
- Please pray for the ongoing work of CiS, as we continue with our regular production of this Update, PreCiS and the S&CB journal, plus planning the other conferences and events this year. Please continue to share and invite others to our events who may not otherwise be able to join in.
- Please pray for wisdom and inspiration in how we can encourage financial support for CiS to continue our multi-faceted work – producing and printing easy to read leaflets, hold online events, co-ordinate working with other Christian organisations and maintain CiS staffing to organise these activities.
- During this lockdown, please continue to pray for one another. The vaccine is being roll out around the country but we are still in the effects of this pandemic.
- Pray for our local churches, schools, universities, employers, councils and Government as they make decisions on how to move forward in light of keeping people safe.



Thank you for your prayers



*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*

[maryb.cis@outlook.com](mailto:maryb.cis@outlook.com)