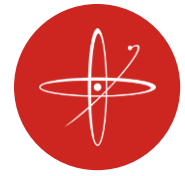


# CiS UPDATE



February 2024

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## **Celebrating our 80th anniversary – First Special event for 2024**

### ***AI and the Future of Religion*** **Speaker: Prof Beth Singler**

Please complete the form to register to attend online – [Click here](#)

**Beth is the Assistant Professor in Digital Religion(s) at the University of Zurich. Prior to this she was the Junior Research Fellow in Artificial Intelligence at Homerton College, University of Cambridge, after being the post-doctoral Research Associate on the “Human Identity in an age of Nearly-Human Machines” project at the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion**

**We will be arranging more of these special events during the year of our 80<sup>th</sup> celebration.**

## Upcoming CiS Events

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### *Christians in Science - Celebrating 80 years*

*We will hold a number of special events throughout the year culminating in a special two day Autumn 2024 conference*

*Details will be made available as soon as possible*

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#### *ADA LOVELACE (1815-1852): The First Computer Programmer?*

**Speaker: Dr Kim Stansfield**

In her short life, Ada Lovelace, estranged daughter of Lord Byron, is considered by many today to be a pioneer in programming for general computing. A modern programming language, Ada, is named in her honour. She worked closely with the better known Charles Babbage, who developed one of the first mechanical computers.

**20<sup>th</sup> February**

**19:30**

**Worcester**

In the talk, Kim will discuss Ada's incredible achievements; he will also look at the wider issue of how women were perceived in her generation, and how she was arguably the most creative technologist of her day.

Doors open at 7.30pm for coffee and cake, and the talks will begin at 8pm.

Location: Worcester Baptist Church, Baptist Church House, Sansome Walk, Worcester WRI ILN.

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#### *CiS Special event - AI and Religion*

**11<sup>th</sup> March**

**19:00**

**Online**

**Speaker: Prof Beth Singler**

For more details about Beth [click here](#)

Please complete the form to register to attend online – [Click here](#)

Further details are on the Update front page

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#### *Consciousness, Creativity and Generative AI*

**3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**19:00**

**Bristol**

**Speaker: Prof Nigel Crook - Nigel is Founder and Co-Director of the Institute for Ethical Artificial Intelligence at Oxford Brookes University.**

Location and time: Redland Parish Halls at 7.30 pm with coffee and tea from 7pm.

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## Other News

### Latest listings on the CiS YouTube Channel

In January our Oliver Barclay Lecture 2023 winner, Dr Nathan James delivered his very interesting talk “*A Higher Calling? Science as a Christian Vocation*”. This is now available on our YouTube channel – [click here](#)

Some of our previous Oliver Barclay lecture winners are also available – [click here](#)

Have you listened to the CiS 2023 Autumn conference talks “*Big Questions in Science & The Church Part 2*” – [click here](#)

### God Saw That It Was Good

This is a series of four short films on environmental issues. The films weave together stunning visual imagery with a narrative entwining science and faith. Enabling viewers to encounter the wonder, playfulness, and connections in creation that science reveals, and through which, perhaps, God may be encountered. And inspiring action to respond to the growing environmental and climate crises.

The Revd Dr Dave Gregory, CiS member, writer and presenter of the films, is a Baptist Minister and former meteorologist and climate scientist at the Met Office and European Weather Centre. Now focusing on engaging churches with science and environmental issues, he comments “Science gives us a deeper, higher, wider, and fuller vision of the world. Yet often today, people are disconnected in their everyday lives from the natural world around them and from a sense of the divine within it. These films aim to re-connect people, helping them to discover and appreciate both aspects in a fresh way.”

The films can be viewed through the website [www.gstiwg.co.uk](http://www.gstiwg.co.uk)

### The John Ray Initiative (JRI)

The webinar recordings on the JRI website are made available for personal and small group use, and may be available for only a short period of time – [click here](#)

*JRI 25th Anniversary Webinar: Climate Change: dealing with disagreement* – speaker Dr Katharine Hayhoe, Chief Scientist for The Nature Conservancy and a Horn Distinguished Professor and Endowed Professor of Public Policy and Public Law at Texas Tech University.

*Nature Based Solutions to Climate Change* – speaker Dr Mike Morecroft, President of JRI, Natural England’s Principal Specialist on Climate Change, and Co-ordinating Lead Author on ecosystems for the IPCC. 18th January 2024

### ECLAS – Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science

ECLAS has launched a free online climate change resource for Advent, [Climate Cathedral](#). Featuring 360-degree imagery of Southwark Cathedral set around [Luke Jerram's Gaia](#) installation, the immersive experience explores the intersection of science and spirituality in the context of climate change. We hope it will be a resource which churches and small groups can use to gain new perspectives on this pressing issue.

## Other Events

### The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion

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27<sup>th</sup> February

#### *'Rescuing Religion from Obsolescence? John Templeton on Science and Religion'*

Online and  
in-person

13:00 to 14:00

Speaker: Dr Pete Jordan [University of Oxford]

A light sandwich lunch will be provided from 12:30 in the Healey Room, Westminster College, Madingley Road Cambridge.

For further information [click here](#)

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#### *Course – Nature of Science training for Secondary Science Teachers*

11<sup>th</sup> March  
2024

16:00 to 17:30

Online

Speaker: Cathy Priest

'Research suggests that teacher education needs to take an explicit and reflective approach to teaching teachers about the Nature of Science and its methods, in service teachers need high-quality subject-specific CPD on this topic' (OFSTED 2021).

Can science answer all the questions asked by young people in your classrooms? What is the power of science? What are its limits? Our world needs scientifically confident young people, and they need more than just science literacy to become the creative, motivated and responsible scientists of tomorrow. Learning about the 'Nature of Science' will help them to fulfil their potential.

For more details [click here](#)

Location: Queen's Lecture Theatre, Emmanuel College, Cambridge

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12<sup>th</sup> March

#### *Science, Religion and the Material Turn: Exploring New Global Potentials through Colonial Museum African collections*

Online and  
in-person

13:00 to 14:00

Speaker: Dr Nathan Bossoh - CiS member [University of Southampton]

A light sandwich lunch will be provided from 12:30 in the Healey Room, Westminster College, Madingley Road Cambridge.

For further information [click here](#)

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### Christian Rural & Environmental Studies (CRES)

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20<sup>th</sup> April

#### *Prepared for Everything! Rural and Environmental Mission- CRES Day*

Our speakers are: Revd. Canon Caroline Hewlett, Vicar of Swaledale with Arkengarthdale; and Dr. Martin Hodson, Principal Tutor of CRES. On this day we will look at two contrasting, but overlapping themes: Eco Mission in a Rural Context; and Environmental Disaster Management.

Location: Ripon College Cuddesdon (RCC) near Oxford.

For more details of the day and the booking procedure go [HERE](#)

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## Prayer Focus

- Please pray for those organising, and others attending, our events listed in this Update
- For the Trustees and Committee as they continue their work looking after CiS
- For the team putting together CiS conferences and events this year
- For other organisations and individuals working in the area of science and the church



**Thank you for your continued prayers and support**



*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)*