



NEW STYLE PRÉCIS

We hope you enjoy the new style PréCiS, which will be sent out quarterly this year. It has cost us surprisingly little to update this newsletter and make it bolder and easier to read, as well as keeping up with the current standards of printing. As always, if you would like to contribute news for the next edition, do contact us at the address given on page 4.

Also this Spring the CiS magazine will be launched. This is aimed at our student members, and is being written largely by them. It will be web based, and will address current issues in a relaxed way. We think many of our non-student members will appreciate it as well, so if you would like to be alerted when it goes online, email me at ruthb@cis.org.uk.

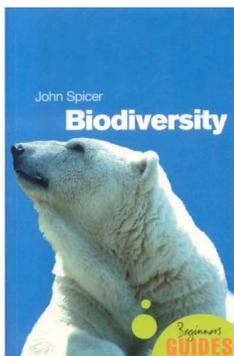
Ruth Bancewicz, CiS Development Officer

CiS LOCAL GROUPS

SOUTH WEST

CiS SW continues to meet on a regular basis at Plymouth University. Five of us from the SW area attended the recent Faraday Course in Cambridge so part of the next meeting will be feedback from those members who went, hopefully leading to some lively discussion.

One of the founder members of the CiS group here (Professor John Spicer) has been very busy lately (including newspaper and radio interviews) due to the excellent reception of his latest book 'Biodiversity: a beginners guide', published by Oneworld Books. Although written for a general audience it addresses the issue of a Christian response to biodiversity issues



with a clear statement on where the author stands. We have also met recently with Professor John Bryant from Exeter University to discuss how the group can better serve the wider SW area and not just Plymouth and we are excited about getting involved more with people in Exeter, Cornwall and beyond!

JOINT CIS-ASA EDINBURGH CONFERENCE 2007

New Frontiers in Science and Faith

Pollock Halls, Edinburgh University,
Thurs 2nd - Sun 5th August
(Excursions on Thurs 2nd)

Plenary lectures, parallel talks, poster sessions, excursions/field trips and a Ceilidh!

Booking form and programme enclosed.

CIS NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Big Faith, Big Science - Big Issue: Communication

Sat 10th March, 10am - 5pm
St Nicholas' Church, Durham

Booking form and programme enclosed.

DURHAM STUDENTS

Dr Denis Alexander's talk and the discussion that followed on 'Evolution: Intelligent and Designed?' were fantastic, and we have had a brilliant response from people who attended.

The next meeting: 'What is Truth?' was very eventful, as the weather conditions meant there was last-minute widespread train disruption and our speaker Dr Tom Hartman was unable to make it to Durham. After an hour or two of frantic prayers, emails and telephone calls, we found a willing Chemistry student to give the talk instead and had a very enjoyable and stimulating discussion.

Our next two meetings at Durham University are:

'Dolly the sheep, Frankenstein foods, Designer Babies and Me: Personal choices in a genetic age'

Professor Chris Wild

Fri 16th Feb, 7.30pm, Elvet Riverside, ER140

'Understanding Genesis Today'

Revd Dr Ernest Lucas

Thurs 22nd Feb, 7.30pm, Chemistry Dept, CG85

CAMBRIDGE

The Cambridge CiS group has been active over a number of years, in organising a lecture on science and Christianity every term, now organised jointly with the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion. The lectures are open to the public, and draw a wide audience from the university and beyond. They are always followed by refreshments with a bookstall available. A dinner discussion is held afterwards at St Edmunds College to which university staff and others, of all religions or none, are invited to discuss the topic with the speaker.

Future Lectures:

‘Stem Cells - playing God again?’
6th March, 5.30 pm
Howard Building, Downing College

Dr William Hurlbut from Stanford, who is an advisor on bioethics to the US President, will debate head-to-head with **Sir Brian Heap** (Cambridge, formerly Foreign Secretary of The Royal Society).

This provides an excellent opportunity to engage with the US presidential view on such matters which tends to be so different from that enshrined in current UK legislation, and is timely in view of both UK and US current debate on this issue.

‘Can a Scientist Believe the Resurrection?’
Tom Wright (Bishop of Durham)
15th May, 5.30 pm
Babbage Lecture Theatre

Further details from
<http://www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/faraday/Lectures.php>

NOTTINGHAM

The group in Nottingham started in Spring 2005 as a group to discuss various aspects of the science/religion debate. We meet every two months with usually around 6 people attending, though there are up to 15 that we have contact with. ‘Members’ have various backgrounds in science e.g zoology, biochemistry, engineering, anthropology and we have also had interest from those without formal education in science.

We have had discussions on Intelligent Design, Peter Singer, the Anthropic Principle, Simon Conway-Morris’ Boyle Lecture, Gaia and Consciousness. As might be expected, we never come to a definitive conclusion.

In the future, we intend to base discussions on a paper from Science and Christian Belief.

Next meetings: Feb 6th Consciousness
April 2nd Topic to be arranged

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

CENTRAL SOUTH

Moral Mazes in Bioethics.

On 11th January CiS Chairman Prof John Bryant led a seminar during which he described some of the major issues in bioethics, including stem cell research and the start of foetal life, and discussed how Christians should decide their response to them. A recording of the talk, and information on how to obtain a reduced price copy of his book ‘Life in our hands: A Christian Perspective on Genetics and Cloning’ are available from the CiS Central South web page www.cis-centralsouth.org.uk



Future Meetings:

Wed 14th March - Informal meeting for CiS Members. Come and meet other local members at Highfield Church centre (Southampton). There will be a couple of short research talks from local members, followed by an opportunity to discuss the role and function of CiS in our local area, all over a glass of wine.*

Wed 9th May - ‘Cosmology and God?’ - Prof John Polkinghorne will explore key issues in cosmology and discuss what we can learn about God from our knowledge of the universe, and what we can tell about our place in the universe from our understanding of God.*

*For more information see www.cis-centralsouth.org.uk



IRELAND

Professor Alan Hibbert, from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics of Queen’s University Belfast, gave a talk to the group on Mon 22nd January. Prof Hibbert’s presentation was entitled “Science and Christianity: An Uneasy Coupling?: A Mathematician’s Perspective”.

The next CiS meeting will be a one-day conference:

‘God and Science’

National University of Ireland,
Maynooth (25km west of Dublin)
Saturday 21st April

Prof Alister McGrath, ‘Has Science Eliminated God?’
Ricard Dawkins on Science and Religion’

Dr Denis Alexander, ‘Evolution: Intelligent and Designed?’

Further details can be found at:
www.cis.org.uk/ireland

You can find further details about all the CiS local groups at cis.org.uk/for_members/local_groups.shtml

Conference: Reading Genesis after Darwin

Wed 21st Feb, 9am - 5pm

Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University

Organised by the Institute of Advanced Studies and the Department of Theology & Religion, University of Durham

Lectures include:

'Reading Genesis 1-3 in the light of modern science',
Dr David Wilkinson, University of Durham;

'Reading Genesis 1-3 in the light of a theology of the non-Human creation',
Dr David Clough, University of Durham;

'Evolution and evil: the difference Darwin makes in theology and spirituality',
Professor Jeff Astley, University of Durham,

'Genesis, creation and evolutionary cosmology',
Professor Keith Ward, University of Oxford.

For price and details contact
Steve Barton s.c.barton@durham.ac.uk

The UCCF Reasonable Faith Tour 2007

Public Debate: Prof William Lane Craig & Prof Lewis Wolpert. Chair, John Humphrys. Tues 27th Feb, 7.30pm, Central Hall Westminster, London.

Reasonable Faith: The Evidence for Christainity, Public lecture by William Lane Craig, Wed 28th Feb, 7.30pm, All Souls Church, Langham Place, London.

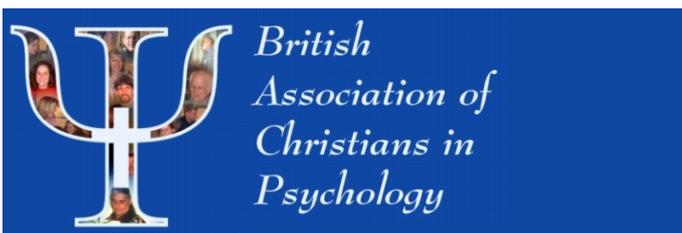
Thurs 1st March, Bristol University
Fri 2nd March, Oxford University
Mon 5th March, Manchester University
Tues 6th March, Sheffield University
Wed 7th March, Liverpool University
Thurs 8th March, Nottingham University
Fri 9th March, Cambridge University

Free entry, details at www.bethinking.org

'Wastewatchers', Holiday Club material on the Environment from Scripture Union

It's very exciting to see material on the environment for church run childrens' holiday clubs from SU - producers of tried and tested material for many years. This has been developed in partnership with the Christian conservation organisation A Rocha.

The pack comes with a DVD for the children as well as training films and information about A Rocha. There is a workbook for the kids, and the usual leaders' handbook with Bible teaching sessions, drama, songs, games and crafts. The material covers five days, taking the group through the basic Gospel message, as well as Christian principles for care for the environment. Make sure you church children's leaders know about it!



17th Annual Conference:

Why would anyone believe in God? A Christian view of evolutionary psychology

Fri 2nd - Sun 4th March
All Saints Pastoral Centre, St. Albans, UK.

Distinguished speaker:
Justin Barrett, University of Oxford.

£140 (members) £160 (non-members)
Reduced rates and day delegate rates available.

For further details, fees and booking form, visit:
www.bacip.org.uk/conference/2007.shtml
Email: conference@bacip.org.uk

SCIENCE AND RELIGION Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

23rd - 26th July
University of Lancaster, UK

This international and interdisciplinary conference is being held to mark the retirement of Professor John Hedley Brooke, and will bring together leading historians, philosophers, and theologians to debate the latest research into science-religion relationships. Proposals for papers are still being accepted, and a number of bursaries are available for graduate students wishing to attend.

For full details, see:
www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/history/news/science&religion.htm

STUDENTS & GRADUATES: 'TRANSFORMING THE MIND' THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN POST-GRADUATE CONFERENCE UK

What does it mean to be a Christian postgrad and an academic? The conference, to be held from 22nd to 24th June 2007, is an annual event which aims to explore what it means for Christians studying at or working in university to have a "transformed" mind.

The conference emerged in 2003 out of the desire to equip and enable Christian academics to develop transformed minds during their postgraduate years. It seeks to promote holistic lives that are not dichotomised into Christian vs academic, and to challenge postgraduate students about their calling and involvement in the world.

The theme of this year's conference – Excellence in Christ – addresses what excellence means for a Christian

academic; it tries to understand how "Excellence" can be subverted and subversive when we are in Christ. Vinoth Ramachandra will unpack what it means to "not conform", "be transformed" and be a "living sacrifice" in the context of a world that demands a peculiar brand of success and excellence from those who enter as players into the academic arena.

The weekend will include biblical expositions and talks related to the broad subject areas, as well as worship and discussion groups. There is time for exploring both the countryside around you and your own calling as an academic journeying with God.

The conference is held in Dovedale, Derbyshire in a beautiful house surrounded by fields, sheep, and the sheepish (there are also the sleepish). The conference is the only one of its kind: it is interuniversity, interdenominational,

interdisciplinary, and international. For more information please see:

<http://www.christianpostgrad.org.uk/>

Dr Maithrie White & Dr Mike Clifford



The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, Cambridge

Multimedia resources: Lectures available in audio or video format online or to buy as DVD/audio CD by mail order via the website.

Future courses:

Science & Religion in Schools,
30th March – 1st April*

*Bookings close early March, book now

God and Physics, 18th – 20th May
Summer courses, 20th July – 2nd August
God and Biology, 14th – 16th Sept

Flyers & posters from Bekki Pearce,
rjp70@cam.ac.uk, Tel. 01223 741 283

Details from <http://www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/faraday>

2007 Boyle Lecture

Tues 13th February
at 6 pm, St Mary le Bow Church,
London EC2V 6AU.

Lecture by **Prof John Barrow**, winner of the 2006 Templeton Prize. The response is to be given by the Astronomer Royal, the **Lord Martin Rees of Ludlow**.

Details from 020 7248 5139
or www.stmarylebow.co.uk/?Boyle_Lecture



Prof John Barrow

CiS Membership renewals 2007

Annual CiS membership renewals will be due in April. If you have not changed your standing order, or updated your details on graduation, please contact the membership secretary (details in box on the left).

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 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:

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