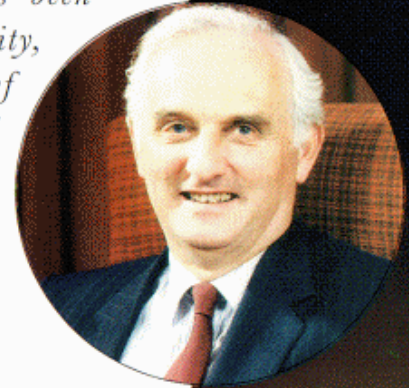


During a lifetime career in science, Sir John has been Professor of Atmospheric Physics at Oxford University, Director of the Appleton Laboratory, Chief Executive of the Meteorological Office and is a gold medallist of the Royal Meteorological Society and the Royal Astronomical Society.



SIR JOHN HOUGHTON CBE, FRS

'GARDENING' WITH GOD

I am both a scientist and a Christian and it has always been very important to me that the scientific and religious components of my life should fit together as two parts of a larger whole.

Many similarities exist in the way we think about science and religion; they are both searching for objective truth—truth about nature and truth about God. I agree with some of the great scientists in the early days of the scientific revolution 300 years ago who spoke of two books of God's revelation—the Book of Nature from which we learn about God's creative activity in the Universe, and the Book of God's Word, the Bible, from which we particularly learn of God's revelation of himself in Jesus. The views from these two books complement and support each other rather like the effect we experience when viewing through binoculars or through a stereoscope. A view with a single eye is flat, but with both eyes depth and perspective is added.

'Looking after the Earth is a responsibility given to humans by God.'

During recent years, my increasing involvement in the science of the environment has brought these two aspects of my life closer together. Looking after the Earth is a responsibility given to humans by God as described in the first chapter of the Bible. We were given the task of being 'gardeners' of the Earth and we have also been given the scientific and technical tools to help with the task. In our crowded, rapidly developing modern world, the task is enormously challenging. But we do not have to face it on our own; God offers us his partnership—a partnership which is tremendously exciting and which also provides real hope for the future.