

Saturday 27 April

Church of St John the Evangelist, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne

**From particles to patients: a faith perspective on science**10:00 *Registration and refreshments*10:30 **Welcome and introduction****Tom McLeish***Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Durham University***Wisdom, suffering and nature: a view of a theology of science from Job's ash-heap**

While there is much discussion of the relation between theology and science, there is little development of a more confident approach – a theology of science. This lack is evident in public discourse on science and technology, be it around nanotechnology, GMOs or fracking: there is no narrative store of a theological purpose of science to draw on. We begin a journey towards defining such a theological resource through the Old Testament Wisdom tradition, and find that the richest place to mine is the Book of Job.

11:15 **Eric Middleton***Formerly Principal of Prior Purslove College, Guisborough***Dimensions of the Spirit: science and the work of the Holy Spirit**

This is a spiritual journey into healing, and a unifying vision across contemporary science. It was a pilgrimage of constant surprise and wonder for myself and those who joined me on the way. These are real stories of how hurting lives have been made whole, and the centrality of the power of the Holy Spirit: not only true accounts of life-changing encounters with the Holy Spirit, but also new insights from post-modern science, often needing many dimensions. These can be seen as springboards, preparing the way for meeting the dimensions of the Spirit – perhaps touching our own spiritual needs for healing.

12:00 *Sandwich lunch, bookstall, time for conversations*13:00 **Robin Seymour***Emeritus Professor of Restorative Dentistry, Newcastle University***Being a Christian in medical/dental leadership**

The presentation will cover the challenges and blessings of being a Christian as a Head of School. History will judge whether the School benefited from such leadership, but my faith helped me enormously in dealing with a range of problems. Challenges came from ensuring that a diverse ethnic community perceived that they were treated fairly and with equanimity. Blessing arose from a variety of sources, many of which were unexpected. I was helped significantly in my role as Head of School with an excellent collection of staff and for the most part compliant students. My Christian faith helped me cope with all aspects of the role expected of a Head of School.

13:45 **Judith Goodship**

*Professor of Medical Genetics, Newcastle University*

**Between two worlds – what should we do when scientific colleagues think we are deluded and fellow Christians hold intransigent views?**

No abstract – the title says it all!

14:30 *Refreshments*

15:00 **Peter Bussey**

*Emeritus Reader in Physics and Honorary Research Fellow, Glasgow University*

**The ‘God particle’**

Last year, with great fanfare, the CERN laboratory in Geneva announced the discovery of the long-sought ‘Higgs Boson’. Dubbed many years ago ‘the God particle’, this particle represents a kind of missing link in the so-called ‘Standard Model’ of elementary particles. I will give an outline of elementary particles, how they constitute the matter which we are made of, and how large particle colliders are needed to observe many of them. What the Higgs particle is and does will be outlined, whether ‘God particle’ is in any way a good title for it, and what implications for religious faith might be drawn.

15:45 **Dominic White**

*Roman Catholic Chaplain, Newcastle and Northumbria Universities*

**The Genesis deception: are the Creation stories anti-environmental?**

The use of the words ‘subdue’ (*kabas*) and ‘dominion’ in the Genesis creation stories has been read, especially by the growing neo-pagan movement, as evidence that Christianity is anti-ecological and anthropocentric. Retrieving ‘bind [back] together’ as a more coherent reading of ‘subdue’, and reading the apocryphal *Book of Jubilees* as a reception of Genesis in the Jewish tradition, the connection of the creation stories with the key Temple principle of re-creation is recovered. Re-creation is also found in the New Testament principle of new creation in Christ, challenging an unconscious anthropocentricity found in some currents of Christianity.

16:15 **Discussion and conclusion**

*There is the possibility of an informal meal afterwards in a local pub or restaurant for those who are interested.*