

DCM OXFORD

DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN MIND AT OXFORD

PROGRAMME 2022

CHRISTIANITY AND THE LIFE OF THE MIND: AN INTRODUCTION

Saturday 29 - Sunday 30 January 2022

St Hilda's College Cowley Pl, Oxford OX4 1DY

SATURDAY 29 JANUARY

9:00 a.m. Registration, coffee, & croissants

9:30 a.m. The discipleship of the mind: reflections on integrating faith and scholarship - Alister McGrath (Theology and Religion)

This lecture explores the rich intellectual vision which arises from the Christian faith and how it informs our thinking about ourselves and our world. After interacting with leading Christian thinkers such as C. S. Lewis, the lecture considers the importance of the discipleship of the mind and how Christian graduates and academics can think about their roles in the academy and church.

10:20 a.m. The calling of Christian postgrad students and academics - Ard Louis (Theoretical Physics) ***this talk will be circulated in advance so that we can focus our time in-person on questions, answers and conversation***

Based on his own academic career and experience with postgraduate ministry in several countries, Professor Ard Louis will discuss the main themes of the conference in the light of questions such as: What does our

calling to be disciples of Christ mean for our academic vocation (whether temporary as students or longer term as a career)? What are some of the promises and pitfalls of the scholarly life? How can academics and postgraduate students serve and relate to the wider body of Christ (the Church)?

11:00 a.m. Coffee & tea

11:30 a.m. Discussion

12:15 p.m. The Lion, the Witch and the corkscrew: C.S. Lewis reading *Paradise Lost* – Simon Horobin (English)

This lecture will consider Lewis's lifelong engagement with Milton's poem and its central themes of sin, repentance and redemption. What difference did Lewis's own Christianity make to his reading of the poem, and how did Milton's work in turn influence Lewis's personal faith? And what can we learn from Lewis's understanding of his role as a Christian scholar and writer of apologetics and fantasy fiction?

1:00 p.m. Sandwich lunch

2:00 p.m. What does it mean to be human? – Elaine Storkey (Philosophy and Sociology)

This lecture discusses how the Christian understanding of the human being steers a course between individualism and collectivism, between fatalism and personal freedom, between materialism and 'idealism'; and how its personal and communitarian understanding of the human being is grounded in the Trinitarian God.

2:45 p.m. Discussion

3:30 p.m. Coffee & tea

4:00 p.m. Panel discussion: Faith and scholarship –

Session chaired by Mary Louis (Senior Research Fellow, Said Business School) and includes panelists Jen Downs (Associate Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College), Mike Brownutt (Associate Director, Faith and Science Collaborative Research Forum, University of Hong Kong), Christopher Wadibia (Junior Research Fellow, Theology, Pembroke College),

and David Howey (Professor of Engineering Science, Tutorial Fellow, St Hilda's College)

5:10 p.m. Prayer

5:30 p.m. Day closing

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY 2022

10:00 a.m. Coffee & croissants

10:30 a.m. The doctrine of creation and the science of nature - Katherine Blundell (Astrophysics)

In this talk Katherine Blundell examines the differences between Biblical language and literature, on the one hand, and scientific language and literature, on the other. Situating the Biblical creation narratives in their ancient cultural context and within the wider context of the Biblical canon, she develops a nuanced and literarily sophisticated account of what those narratives were and were not designed to convey. She suggests that the Bible was never intended to be a technical scientific monograph, but rather that Scripture employs a wide range of literary genres—poetry, proverbs, prophecies, and parables to name just a few—in order to powerfully communicate vital theological truths to a wider audience than a technically precise scientific textbook could ever hope to reach.

11:15 a.m. Discussion

11:45 a.m. Coffee & tea

12:15 p.m. Looking to the future: Christian living and scholarship in light of the world to come - Michael Lloyd (Theology and Religion)

Where you think we're headed will shape what you think we're for. And what you think we're for will shape how you live in the meantime. So eschatology is foundational for meaning, ethics and hope. This talk indicates how the eschatological redemption affirms, challenges and directs the lives of Christians generally, and their vocations as scholars specifically.

1:00 p.m. Concluding with a sandwich lunch