

CHRISTIANITY AND THE LIFE OF THE MIND: AN INTRODUCTION

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2020

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 G. K. Chesterton and 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.

10:15 a.m. The calling of Christian postgrad students and academics - Ard Louis (Theoretical Physics)

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 doctrine of creation and the science of nature – Katherine Blundell (Astrophysics)

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. Panellists include Lorna Smith, Wilfride Petnga, Dapo Akande and David Williams

5:10 p.m. Prayer led by Anita Cleverly

5:30 p.m. Day closing

SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2020

9:00 a.m. Coffee & croissants

9:30 a.m. Devotional reflection on faith and the academic life - Donald Hay (Founder of DCM)

10:00 a.m. The Freedom of the Christian Historian: How to interpret the past when you already know who you are – Sam Brewitt-Taylor (History)

Humans constantly impose meaning on history to shore up their sense of identity, but usually end up distorting history in the process. The Bible teaches that God has a providential plan for history, but that we know only the outline, not the details. This talk explores how the twin prongs of this doctrine provide a great and rare freedom to Christian historians.

10:45 a.m. Discussion

11:15 a.m. Coffee & tea

11:45 a.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.

12:30 p.m. Concluding with a sandwich lunch