



St Paul's Institute &
The Diocese of London

Beyond *The God Delusion*: Theological resources for a sceptical age
Bishop's Clergy Study Day

26 September 2008, St Paul's Cathedral Conference Room

- 9.15am Registration and coffee
- 9.45am **Welcome and Introduction to the programme**
Edmund Newell, Director, St Paul's Institute
- 9.50am **Beyond *The God Delusion***
Richard Chartres, Bishop of London, sets the scene for the day.
- 10.00am **Handling Dawkins with care**
Richard Dawkins' book *The God Delusion* has raised questions about belief amongst churchgoers. **John Cornwell**, author of *Darwin's Angel*, offers a considered view of how to respond to the issues in a pastoral context.
- 10.45am Coffee
- 11.05 am **God Without the Gaps**
One consequence of the current science and religion debate is that it makes theology appear reactive and defensive. Professor **Keith Ward** has for many years worked on developing a scientifically literate approach to theology. Today he goes beyond the 'God of the gaps' to explore a positive theological approach to science and its role in Christian formation.
- 11.50am Q&A with both speakers
- 12.15pm Session ends
- 12.30pm **Eucharist**
- 1.00 pm Lunch (Large Chapter Room, Chapter House)
- 2.00pm **The Gospel according to Luke (Skywalker)?**
Science plays an important part in fuelling our imagination through literature, films and television. In this session **David Wilkinson**, the author of *The Power of the Force: The Spirituality of the Star Wars Films* considers practical ways for clergy to communicate the Gospel using science fact and fiction in preaching and teaching. The session includes Q&A.
- 3.00pm Tea
- 3.30pm **Eureka! Science in liturgy**
How can we bring science alive as a part of Christian liturgy, and the Gospel alive in the light of scientific understanding? In this session **Lucy Winkett**, Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral and **David Wilkinson** discuss practical ways in which the awe and wonder inspired by the natural world can be expressed in Christian worship. The session includes Q&A.
- 4.30 pm Study day ends
- 5.00pm Evensong

**Beyond *The God Delusion*:
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**Bishop's Clergy Study Day
Speakers**

Richard Chartres is the Bishop of London. Formerly Chaplain to Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, Professor of Divinity at Gresham College, and a parish priest in London, he was consecrated Bishop of Stepney in 1992 and Bishop of London in 1996. He speaks on behalf of the House of Bishops on environmental issues.

John Cornwell is Director of the Science and Human Dimension Project at Jesus College, Cambridge, a programme for the public understanding of science. An award-winning writer, his publications include *Hitler's Pope*, his memoir *Seminary Boy*, and *Darwin's Angel*, his response to Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion*, which The Times described as 'deliciously wise, witty and intellectually sharp'.

Edmund Newell is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and Director of St Paul's Institute. Formerly a Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford, his publications include *Seven Words for the 21st Century* and *What Can One Person Do?* He has written on the history of technology in the journal *Technology and Culture* and elsewhere.

Keith Ward is Gresham Professor of Divinity at Gresham College, London, and was until 2004 Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford University. One of Britain's best-known theologians with a particular interest in science and religion, he is the author of numerous books including *God, Chance and Necessity*, *Pascal's Fire – Scientific Faith and Religious Understanding* and *Is Religion Dangerous?*

David Wilkinson is Principal of St John's College, Durham, a Methodist minister and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He holds doctorates in both theology and astrophysics, one on Christian eschatology and the other on star formation. His publications include *God, Time and Stephen Hawking*, *Alone in the Universe: The X-Files, Aliens and God* and *The Power of the Force: The Spirituality of the Star Wars Films*.

Lucy Winkett is Canon Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral, with responsibility for music and liturgy. She has degrees in history, music and theology, and writes, speaks and debates on a wide range of issues reflecting on culture, gender and religion. She has contributed to *Why I am Still An Anglican* and *Seven Words for Three Hours*, and is an adviser to the theological think tank Theos.

**Clergy please register with Janet Eaves, janet.eaves@london.anglican.org
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