



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

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:janet.eaves@london.anglican.org)  
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