

FRIDAY 18TH MARCH

12:30 pm **Registration in the North Undercroft with coffee & tea**

1:00 pm **Lunch in the Dining Hall**

2:00 pm **'Eco-Theology and the Lives of Saints'** - Siân Grønlie (English, St Anne's)

3:30 pm **Coffee & tea in the North Undercroft**

4:00 pm **Panel-led discussion** - Chaired by Siân Grønlie (English, St Anne's), featuring Dr Laura Higgins (Senior Lecturer in Modern & Contemporary Drama, Oxford Brookes), Will Bunce (History, Wadam) and Andrew Newell (Literature & Theology, Wycliffe Hall)

This is an opportunity to hear a range of graduate students and scholars further along in their careers in conversation about their experiences and insights as Christians in the academy. Please come with questions!

The following events are held jointly with all streams at New College.

5:30 pm **Prayer in the McGregor Matthews Room**

6:00 pm **Drinks at the Bar**

6:45 pm **Dinner in the Dining Hall**

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH

9:00 am **Registration in the North Undercroft with coffee & tea**

9:15 am **Prayer in New College Chapel**

9:45 am **'Cutting to the Heart of the Matter: Humility in the Humanities'** - Rebekah Vince (Modern Languages & Cultures, Queen Mary University in London)

What would it mean to attend to rather than acquire knowledge, to be 'born-with' rather than comprehend our subjects of study, as 'born again' beings characterised by gift? Perhaps this is what lies at the heart of the humanities: a receptiveness and

generosity that listens to and looks out for the other, seeing neighbours in strangers and leaning towards love.

11:15 am **Coffee & tea in the North Undercroft**

11:45 am **Group discussion of readings**

'The Land Without a Sunday' by Maria Von Trapp and excerpts of 'The Screwtape Letters' by C.S. Lewis

1:00 pm **Lunch at the Dining Hall**

2:00 pm **'The academic life: old visions, new realities'** Tom Simpson (Philosophy & Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government)

I was drawn to academic life out of a hunger for thinking about big questions, a conviction that I could do so best in the company of others who shared the same desire, a belief that doing so was a way to love God, and a hope that the academy was a place where cultural influence was exerted, so that what happened in seminar rooms mattered for society and could be a force for renewal. Some of this reflects an old Christian vision about the value of the life of the mind and how it is best lived. How does academic life actually stack up against this? This talk will veer in a partially organised fashion between the practical realities of academic life, lessons I've learnt about its pitfalls, and some reflections about the purpose and impact of academia today.

3:30 pm **Coffee & tea in the North Undercroft**

4:00 pm **Sharing of poetry and prose selections**

For our closing session, we invite each participant to bring a work that has been a source of inspiration in your development as a Christian scholar. What has encouraged you -- or challenged and convicted you -- and what might challenge and encourage other followers of Christ in the academy? Be it visual (a painting) or audible (music) or textual, be it poetry or prose, fiction or nonfiction, a quote or a story, a personal note or Scripture, we look forward to this final opportunity to build one another up as we conclude our conference.

5:30 pm **Closing**

HUMANITIES STREAM

Fri 18 March (12:30 pm to 8:30 pm) and Sat 19 March (9:00 am to 5:30 pm)

Venue: The Red Room, New College, Holywell Street, Oxford

Senior convener: Siân Grønlie (English, St Anne's)

Conveners: Alberto Garzoni (Christian Ethics, Keble College),
Kittie Helmick (Comparative Literature, Keble College),
Benjamin Sharkey (Oriental Studies, Magdalen College)

How can postgraduates, postdocs, and academics at the University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes approach their academic disciplines as Christians? What does it mean to respond to a Christian vocation and to honour God in university life?

Developing a Christian Mind: Seeking Wisdom examines these questions in five disciplinary streams: Humanities, Medical Sciences, Natural Sciences, Philosophy and Theology, and Social Sciences. Oxford academics and postgraduates speak and lead discussion for each stream. Past attendees are encouraged to come, listen to new talks, and take part in discussion with new attendees.

<https://dcmoxford.org/march>

DCM OXFORD

DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN MIND AT OXFORD