

Booking information

The cost of the day is £35 per person and includes a two-course hot lunch. A discount of 10% is available for a group booking of 5-9 people and 20% for 10 people or more.

To book your place, please complete the enclosed form and send with a cheque to:

Diane Carter, Redcliffe College, Wotton House, Horton Road, Gloucester GL1 3PT

Tel: 01452 308097 Email: bookings@redcliffe.org

Directions to Redcliffe College can be found at www.redcliffe.org/directions



redcliffe college
centre for mission training

Population and Biodiversity

Too many stewards, not enough creation?



A one-day workshop at Redcliffe College, Gloucester
In partnership with The John Ray Initiative



Saturday 20th January 2007

The context

Few nations have attempted to restrict population growth. Neither the biblical example of Egypt, nor the contemporary Chinese practice, inspires emulation. And yet the sheer number of bodies threatens to overwhelm the earth and its biodiversity, and must require at least self-regulation if we are not to invite disaster.

Western Christians, living in countries with only slightly increasing populations, have often ignored this issue, taking comfort in Bible passages that seem to imply that Adam's descendants can reproduce without limit. However the time has come to realise that neither the earth, nor the text, nor our co-inhabitants, can be treated like that, and that we need a fresh understanding of God's priorities when considering population issues.

John Guillebaud has been the leading Christian voice in population issues for many years while Andy Gosler speaks for our avian neighbours to discuss how our 'needs' balance with theirs. John McKeown has surveyed the extremes (and the centre) of the biblical approach and Margot Hodson will look at pressures and opportunities Christians face as they integrate their whole biblical calling.

Programme for the day

- 9.30–10.00 am Arrive and coffee
- 10.00 am Welcome and opening prayer – Simon Steer
Introduction – Martin Hodson (Chairman)
- 10.10 am 'Be fruitful and multiply': The Old Testament and its modern readers – John McKeown
- 10.50 am Coffee break and informal discussion
- 11.15 am Population: are there God-given limits? – John Guillebaud
- 12.15 pm Small group discussion
- 1.00 pm Lunch
- 2.00 pm The rest of Creation: does it get enough space? – Andy Gosler
- 2.50 pm Small group discussion
- 3.30 pm Populating eternity? New Testament living today – Margot Hodson. Devotional conclusion
- 4.15 pm Tea and Depart

The speakers



John Guillebaud is emeritus Professor of Family Planning and Reproductive Health at London University, and is now Vasectomy Surgeon at Churchill Hospital, Oxford. A pioneer of family planning education worldwide, he was brought up in Rwanda in a missionary family, and educated at Cambridge, where as an undergraduate he heard a lecture on 'population explosion' that changed his life. Though chiefly known for his work on reproduction and population issues, he has always said that his primary concern is with the environment.



Dr Andrew Gosler lectures in Ornithology and Biological Conservation at Oxford University. Author of 50 scientific papers, his lifelong passion for birds has taken him to five continents. His research focuses on the exquisite detail of avian adaptation. He is equally passionate about the dialogue between science and Christian faith, and having journeyed to faith from a Jewish background, he sees the Word of God as 'uniquely unifying scientific, social, ethical and environmental intellectual discourse'.



The Revd Margot Hodson is Chaplain of Jesus College, Oxford, and a director of The John Ray Initiative. She has degrees in geography and theology and a longstanding interest in issues of faith and environment. Her husband, **Dr Martin Hodson**, is an environmental biologist at Oxford Brookes University. This summer they taught together at the Baptist College in Prague. They are both active members of 'Sage,' Oxford's Christian environmental group.



John McKeown is currently researching for a PhD in Uses of Genesis in Environmental Debates. He tutors in Church History, and also Environmental Theology, for the Open Theological College (University of Gloucestershire). He also teaches History for the Open University. John has been on the staff of JRI since 1999.