

TICKETS:

£48 to include lunch and refreshments

Booking is being administered online via

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nature-in-the-balance-tickets-28653665886>

Links to the event are on the JRI website: www.jri.org.uk

If you are unable to book online please send your cheque (payable to 'The John Ray Initiative') and contact details to **The John Ray Initiative, City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester GL1 4DF** and the booking will be placed on your behalf. When booking please advise of any dietary requirements, and your seminar preferences (1,2,3).

TRANSPORT

Trains can be caught from Birmingham New Street to Longbridge train station which is situated on the same road as the College

Some trains (e.g. the Cardiff to Nottingham line) stop at University station, and you may find it easier changing there than at New Street if you have that option.

If you are driving Bournville College is easily accessed from the M5 (J4, A38) and M42 (J2, A441), and there is plentiful public parking on site at a cost of £3 per day.

Conference Suite, Bournville College

1 Longbridge Lane, Longbridge, Birmingham, B31 2TW



**Nature in the balance:
can we put a value on the environment,
and should we?**

Saturday 18th March 2017

9.30am – 4.30pm

**Conference Suite, Bournville College,
Longbridge, Birmingham**

Sponsors:

The John Ray Initiative & ForMission College

What is the value of non-human nature? Does it only have value if it is useful to humans? In the early 2000s the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment popularized a concept known as Ecosystem Services, defined as ‘the benefits people obtain from ecosystems’. This framework has become the dominant thinking in nature conservation, but is highly anthropocentric, and it encourages attempts to put monetary value on various aspects of the environment, to incentivise conservation. But are there other ways to protect nature? Does our environment have intrinsic value, and how is it valuable to God? This conference will investigate different views on valuing nature. It will be of interest to Christians and others who have an interest in nature conservation and the environment. It is intended to deepen our thinking as we respond to the present environmental crisis.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

***“Ecosystem Services:
managing nature for human benefit.”***

Dr. Darren Evans - Reader in Ecology and Conservation at Newcastle University

“Why do other creatures matter?”

Prof. Richard Bauckham - Biblical scholar and theologian

“Biblical Wisdom for Nature Conservation.”

Rev. Dave Bookless - Director of Theology for A Rocha International

SEMINAR LEADERS

Dr. Eline van Asperen, Dr. Richard Gunton ***“Beyond ecosystem services: A framework for valuing the invaluable.”***

Dr. Eline van Asperen is a postdoctoral researcher in palaeoecology with Durham University & Liverpool John Moores University. Dr. Richard Gunton is a researcher in ecology & nature conservation at the University of Leeds

Rev. George Otieno, Prof. Andrew Basden ***“Greening our theology - in church and at home.”***

Rev. George Otieno is an Anglican priest from Tanzania who has studied the impacts of mining on human well-being as part of a concern about ecological degradation. Prof. Andrew Basden is Professor of human factors and philosophy in information systems in the Salford University Business School.

Dr. Deepa Senapathi, Dr. Martin Kaonga ***“Ecosystem functions, reflecting on the vision of Psalm 104.”***

Dr. Deepa Senapathi is an ecologist and former knowledge-exchange fellow at the University of Reading. Dr. Martin Kaonga is the Director of the Cambridge Centre for Environment and its Principal Consultant in environment and sustainable development

Dr. Yoseph Araya, Dr. David Hanson ***“Discussing motives for conservation with our neighbours.”***

Dr. Yoseph Araya is a plant ecologist and academic at The Open University, UK. Dr David Hanson is the Secretary of the Trustees of Thinking Faith Network

Dr. Sam Ewell ***“Overhearing the Gospel according to permaculture: a modest proposal for finding our place in God's good world”***

Dr. Sam Ewell is an MA Tutor at ForMission College