Term 2: Faith in a Scientific World

Session Four: Physical Science in the 21st Century, pp. 26-38

pp.27-31 The Large Hadron Collider (LHC)

- Since 2012 there have been a number of reports of new particles being found. In the main these have been discounted after further detailed review.

- However, in July 2017, the discovery of a particle named \( \text{Xi}^{++}cc \) was announced. \( \text{Xi}^{++}cc \) is a baryon, the family of particles that make up most of the ordinary matter and includes protons and neutrons. Physicists hope that studying this new particle will help them test quantum chromodynamics – the theory of the strong force.

- There have been some set-backs with the LHC – hardly surprising bearing in mind its complexity. One rather unusual stoppage occurred in April 2016. The LDC suffered a major power failure when a beech martin (a small rodent) chewed its way into the 66 kilovolt electrical transformer. The unfortunate animal died and the LHC was out of action for a few days. Even ‘high tech’ projects can suffer from ‘low tech’ problems!

- The ‘New Scientist’ website (www.newscientist.com) has a number of well written and, in the main, jargon free articles about the LHC. Enter ‘Large Hadron Collider’ in the search bar.

Dr Philip Jones

pp.31-36: Additional examples for section on Global Warming/Climate Change:

1. 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference which led to the landmark Paris Agreement. The role/influence of The Bishop of Salisbury (the Church of England’s lead Bishop for the environment) and other faith leaders in urging all parties to agree on a Paris deal. For more information on Paris Agreement (including videos) see: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en
Session Seven: Genesis 1-3: The Biblical stories of Creation, pp.58-66

p.65: Paragraph speculating about what future societal attitudes/arguments could be regarding issues such as:

- Aborting a disabled child and conceiving a ‘normal’ one.
- The silencing of environmental voices?
- Will people be criticising the amount of aid Britain gives?

Contemporary developments to consider here:

1. The development and availability of a new test in pregnancy for Down’s Syndrome. Although a safer test, there are some who are worried about how it will increase the number of women seeking abortions. For report (including video) see: http://news.sky.com/story/campaigners-fear-
For an article about the world’s first 3 parent baby see:

2. For Christian response to those who deny or doubt climate change see:

3. In light of the Brexit vote, concerns about the prospect of Britain cutting its foreign aid have been voiced. See:

Revd Sarah Wood-Roe