

The Aldhelm Certificate Additional Contextual Material

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 **Xi ++cc** was announced. **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

- [Accessed September 13 2017]. For role of role of faith leaders see: <https://ecochurchsouthwest.org.uk/2015/12/10/bishop-of-salisbury-meets-french-president-on-climate-summit/> [Accessed September 13 2017]
2. Bishop of Salisbury launching 'Eco Church' in Salisbury Diocese in November 2016. See: <http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/social-justice/environment> [Accessed September 13 2017].
 3. Salisbury Diocese Environment Group. For their public Facebook page see: https://www.facebook.com/SalisburyDiocesanEnvironmentGroup/?ref=py_c [Accessed September 13 2017]
 4. Launch of the Big Church Switch. See: <https://www.bigchurchswitch.org.uk> [Accessed September 13 2017]
 5. President Trump withdrawing American from the Paris Agreement. See: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/01/donald-trump-confirms-us-will-quit-paris-climate-deal> [Accessed September 14 2017]. For Church of England's response see: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2017/06/paris-climate-deal-lead-bishop-on-environment-condemns-trumps-decision.aspx> [Accessed September 14 2017]

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->

[downs-syndrome-test-on-nhs-will-increase-abortions-10613043](#) (length: 02:23) [Accessed September 15 2017].

For an article about the world's first 3 parent baby see:

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2107219-exclusive-worlds-first-baby-born-with-new-3-parent-technique/> [Accessed September 14 2017]

2. For Christian response to those who deny or doubt climate change see: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/pope-francis-donald-trump-climate-change-denier-dreamers-daca-us-immigration-catholic-colombia-a7940851.html> [Accessed September 15 2017]
3. In light of the Brexit vote, concerns about the prospect of Britain cutting its foreign aid have been voiced. See: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/04/20/world-bank-president-urges-brexit-britain-not-cut-foreign-aid/> [Accessed September 15 2017]. See also: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/apr/20/aid-eu-britain-insular-theresa-may-tory-manifesto> [Accessed September 15 2017]

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