

CRES: Stewardship and the Anthropocene

For some years now we have held the CRES residential in Ripon College Cuddesdon nr. Oxford in September. We have decided to open up the Friday (7th September) of the residential to day visitors as we have an excellent and very interesting programme. In the afternoon we will visit the Earth Trust to see how they manage their land in an environmentally sensitive way. In the evening we will hear from Rev. Tim Howles about how we got to the Anthropocene, and what we should do as Christians now we have arrived here! There should be a lot to think about, from practical land management techniques to the Anthropocene and maybe a few French philosophers!

Martin Hodson (CRES Principal Tutor)

Timetable for Friday 7th September

11.00am Arrive Cuddesdon for coffee in the Common Room.

11.45 to 1.00pm Introduction to the weekend and CRES news. Introduction to the afternoon field trip (Harriett Monsell Room).

1-2 Lunch

2.00 Leave promptly for field trip (bring suitable walking shoes)

2.30 to 4.30approx. Visit The Earth Trust, (Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QZ). From their website: "Earth Trust is an environmental learning charity which provides access and opportunities for people to discover, appreciate and respect nature via our fantastic natural playground; the iconic landscape we are guardian to. We aim to inspire people to become the environmental advocates of the future, giving them the access, skills and confidence to connect with their own local environment, and ultimately care, and act on, the global issues of sustainability. Earth Trust is the proud guardian of this very special landscape which is now 1200 acres of farmland, woodland and wetland on the bank of the Thames. We are now the most highly visited free to access greenspace in the South East, with over 150,000 visits per annum. In particular Wittenham Clumps are close to many people's hearts, holding fond memories for many."

More details are here: <https://earthtrust.org.uk/>

We will take a 1.5-2 hour guided walk with Chris Parker who is Head of Land Management. Chris will explain the land management techniques used and how they farm the land. We will have refreshments before returning to Cuddesdon.

5.15approx return to Cuddesdon

6.00 to 7.00 Dinner in Cuddesdon

7.00 to 7.30 Relax

7.30 to 9.00pm Rev Tim Howells* will speak on "How on earth did we get here? A theology of the Anthropocene". (Harriett Monsell Room)

Tim says: "I will offer some thoughts on the aetiology of our current predicament. That is to say, what is the context that has generated the attitudes that have led to the contemporary crisis? In this way, I'd be exploring what you might call the intellectual history of the Anthropocene, considering in particular attitudes towards "the natural world" that are associated with "modernity". I think this will be really useful to CRES for at least two reasons: (A) it might help us understand some of the reasons why positive action on this front, particular in the realm of politics, is difficult for us to achieve now; we are hindered by attitudes to the material world that are deeply woven into our worldview as moderns; (B) it might help us consider Christianity as a resource that is really quite radical in its ability to cut through and overturn that worldview, providing a resource quite literally to think and act differently in the present moment."



thoughts as he thinks and writes about this topic.

** **Tim Howles** is an ordained minister in the Church of England, currently serving at St Andrew's church in Headington, Oxford. His work focuses on various contemporary philosophers, particularly French ones, in an attempt to understand the roots of the environment crisis and what needs to change if we are to respond to it appropriately. He lives in Oxford with his wife, who is a scientist, and has two children who are always in his*

9.15 to 9.45 Short service and reflection (Chapel)

Booking for “Stewardship and the Anthropocene”

Please note that **ALL** who intend to come to Cuddesdon must book **by 24th August**, but the external examiner, speakers, current students and tutors and members of the steering group do not have to pay, as costs relating to the weekend are written into the fees for the CRES course. Spouses of all categories are expected to pay.

If you are coming for the whole of Friday (including lunch and dinner) the charge is £45; for the Friday field trip (not including dinner and evening) the charge is £30. Many on the CRES course will be staying overnight. Bookings will be dealt with by the CRES administrator, Lynda McKeown. For those who do not have to pay please send an email indicating how long you will be staying to res@jri.org.uk

If you do need to pay then please email (or write) to Lynda indicating how long you will be staying and then pay in one of these ways:

1) By bank transfer into the JRI account using the following account details:

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account: 00098437

Bank details: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Reference: CRES and your surname.

2) By enclosing an appropriate cheque made out to THE JOHN RAY INITIATIVE and sending it to: The CRES Administrator, THE JOHN RAY INITIATIVE (JRI), City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester GL1 4DF, UK Telephone (mobile): 07583 481759.

Please book early. Travel directions etc. will be forwarded to you with confirmation of your booking.