

Christian Rural and Environmental Studies

- Please send me more information about the Certificate Course
- I would like to enrol for the Course
- I enclose a cheque for £450.00 payable to 'The John Ray Initiative'
- I would like to pay by internet banking transfer – please send me details

£400 refund payable for early withdrawal

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form to:

CRES Admissions Officer
The John Ray Initiative
City Works
Alfred Street
GLOUCESTER
GL1 4DF

This two-year course provides an opportunity to study rural and environmental issues from a Christian viewpoint. There are no entry requirements. The course is open to people of all faiths or none.

Under the guidance of local tutors, students work through 6 of the 12 modules below. Modules 1 is compulsory, and at least one of modules 9 and 12 must be taken. Four options are selected from the other modules. Each module represents about 40 hours of activity and study.

Students are examined on Study Papers and a work diary, one per Module, and a Dissertation presented at the final Residential, the topic being chosen in consultation with the local tutor and senior tutors.

Module 1: The Living World Starting with first-hand experiences of nature, this module considers the Biblical relationships between God and the whole creation, a Christian understanding of humanity's role, and Jesus' 'earthing' of heaven in the life of the Church.

Module 2: Food and Farming This module concerns the production, distribution and consumption of food.

Module 3: Creation Care Integral Mission This module explores the place of Creation Care within global mission. Examples are drawn from around the world.

Module 4: Globalisation and Faith This module considers the important topic of globalisation, gives some background to the topic, and asks what a faith perspective on globalisation might look like.

Module 5: The Physical Environment This module describes the physical systems underpinning life on earth. Threats from climate change lead to an assessment of adaptation and mitigation. Marine and freshwater systems and soil are considered in the contexts of pollution and erosion.

Module 6: The Biological Environment This module describes the dynamics of ecological systems. An historic view that the natural world is infinitely bountiful is modified by the knowledge that some ecosystems may be approaching their limits.

Module 7: Rural Communities As these have become more diverse, this module invites local research, and urges students to explore the values underlying their activities, the historical background and to consider some current initiatives.

Module 8: The Church in the Countryside This module looks at Christian spirituality and worship in the countryside. It studies the function of church structures, holy places, rites of passage and the role of ministers – both ordained and lay.

Module 9: Rural and Environmental Theology This module explains Christian theology, and relates it to today's rural and environmental context. This includes issues such as the authority of the Bible, Darwin's legacy, Christian environmentalism, and rural spirituality.

Module 10: Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Stabilization, Energy and Climate This module describes the likely climate changes, and their impacts, over the 21st Century. In particular it focuses on the control of greenhouse gas emissions, which are the subject of intense international negotiations.

Module 11: An Introduction to Biodiversity This module looks at why we should protect biodiversity; the religious mandate for conserving what is happening and why; and solutions.

Module 12: An Introduction to Environmental Ethics This module will introduce you to ethics, then look at secular and Christian environmental ethics. Finally, it considers how this all works out in practice.

The details on this leaflet, including cost, are correct for enrolments received after 1 January 2020

COST - £900 in total, which includes two residential weekends. Payable in two annual instalments.

Bursaries – We encourage students to seek support from their church or denomination. CRES has a small bursary fund – please contact us if you feel this may be helpful

How the course can help you

The uniqueness of the course lies in its innovative approach, combining the academic expertise of JRI with the practical experience of A Rocha UK, for:

- teachers in school, college or church – it provides background knowledge and materials on rural and environmental concerns;
- environmental practitioners – it enables the work situation to be related to the Christian faith;
- any concerned person – it connects Christian thinking to the rural and environmental context and offers stimulation, resources, and the potential for renewed vision.

COURSE LEADERS

Dr Martin Hodson is the Operations Director for The John Ray Initiative. He is a plant scientist and environmental biologist, and has been involved in the Christian environmental movement since 1990. (Principal Tutor)

Rev Dr John Reader is Rector of the Ironstone Benefice in North Oxfordshire. He is also Honorary senior research fellow at the William Temple Foundation and University of Chester. (Senior Tutor of the Diploma)

Dr Elizabeth Rushton is currently Director of Evaluation at the Institute for Research in Schools. Her doctorate at the University of Nottingham explored the environmental history of Belize using palaeoecological proxies. (Senior Tutor for Science)

Rev Philip Wagstaff is a Methodist minister who has worked in 4 rural circuits in Norfolk, North East Essex, Devon and Somerset over more than 20 years. (Senior Tutor of the Certificate)

The John Ray Initiative (JRI), founded in 1998, works to develop a Christian understanding of the environment, and to promote environmental stewardship, through research, education, conferences and publications. JRI website: www.jri.org.uk

A Rocha UK, is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world, both as a response to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and as a demonstration of the Christian hope for God's world. They do this through practical involvement in nature conservation projects and ecological research, by campaigning on biodiversity issues, and by engaging with churches, schools, communities and individuals. A Rocha UK website: www.arocha.org.uk

Ripon College Cuddesdon, nr Oxford (RCC), has validated the course since September 2005, and provides facilities for many of our meetings. RCC is an Anglican theological training and research college, which runs a variety of courses. RCC website: www.rcc.ac.uk

www.cres.org.uk

Contact: cres@jri.org.uk

News about CRES can also be found on the JRI Facebook page:

 www.facebook.com/JohnRayInitiative

and at the JRI Twitter account:

 twitter.com/JRayI



Certificate in Christian Rural & Environmental Studies

The John Ray Initiative
& A Rocha UK



Validated by

RIPON COLLEGE
CUDDESDON