

## The Society: History and Vision

The Society was founded as a dispersed religious order of those who are ordained and also have significant experience of science. The late Revd Canon Dr Arthur Peacocke was the prime mover and became its first Warden. The founders wanted to express a commitment to the academic dialogue between faith and science within a spiritual framework. Thus in 1987 twenty-four people committed themselves to pursue the Aims and to follow the Rule of the Society.

Although Anglican in origin, the Society now has members from other Christian traditions in the United Kingdom, North America and elsewhere. The members provide mutual support through prayer, the Annual Gathering, and local meetings. The sharing of experience in their very varied vocations encourages and develops their ministries. The Society is overseen by the Warden assisted by a small committee chosen by the members. The members promote the Aims in many ways, including preaching, lecturing and teaching, in churches, schools or colleges. They can offer their particular experience as a resource to the churches and society on the ethical, social and theological implications of science and technology. Their witness is to a faith that is able to be lived out with integrity in an increasingly secular society.

## The Aims of the Society

To offer to God in our ordained role the work of science and technology in the exploration and stewardship of creation.

To express both the commitment of the church to the scientific and technological enterprise and our concern for its impact on the world.

To develop a fellowship of prayer for ordained scientists by the following of a common rule. To serve the Church in relation to science and technology.

To support each other in our vocation.

To serve the Church in its relation to science and technology.

## The Rule:

To pray daily for the aims of the Society and for its members and associate members.

To remember, when appropriate, the Society and its members at public worship.

To endeavour to attend the Annual Gathering and Retreat of the Society.

## Further information

Please contact the Warden or Secretary:

### Warden:

**Revd Dr Keith Suckling**  
291 Knightsfield  
Welwyn Garden City  
Herts AL8 7NH.  
[keith.suckling@cantab.net](mailto:keith.suckling@cantab.net)

### Secretary:

**Revd Dr Robin Harvey**  
21 Saint Cadoc House  
Temple Street  
Bristol BS31 1HD  
[rgharvey.194@btinternet.com](mailto:rgharvey.194@btinternet.com)

### Secretary for Associates:

**Revd Robert Nelson**  
5 Sedbergh Road  
Wallasey  
Wirral, CH44 2BR  
[rtnelson@googlemail.com](mailto:rtnelson@googlemail.com)

## North American Province

### Warden:

**Revd Dr Barbara Smith-Moran**  
93 Anson Rd.,  
Concord, MA 01742, USA  
978-369-1464  
[smithmoran@earthlink.net](mailto:smithmoran@earthlink.net)

### Society website:

<http://www.ordainedscientists.org/>

## Testimony

I enjoy the emotional, spiritual and prayerful support to be found in sharing an enthusiasm for Christian faith and for science. Quite selfishly I derive great pleasure from the conversations with the intelligent, perceptive and gentle people which seem to populate the Society.

Less selfishly, in my work as a full time hospice chaplain, I routinely encounter people who feel constrained by perceived limitations in every area of life including social and theological. The prospect of death, their own or a loved one, can increase the tension between their accepted faith or belief system and their experience of life in our modern technological world. If I share the fact that I am both scientist and priest and a member of a society of scientist-priests, it almost invariably gives permission for individuals to explore their own convictions and relieves them of the tensions involved in doing that. Frankly, it's worth it for that alone.

*Stig Graham*

## Commitment and Membership

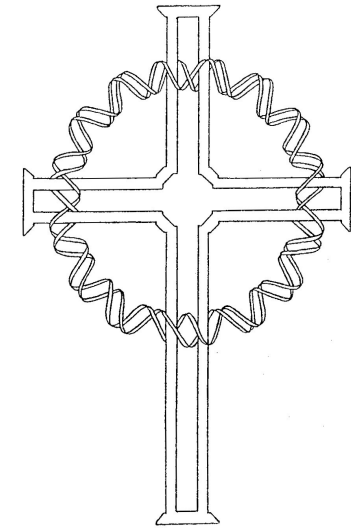
Full membership is open to those in the ordained ministry of one of the Christian churches and who have some measure of expertise, or experience of science, medicine or technology at a professional or graduate level.

New members are admitted at the Annual Gathering or at a North American Provincial Retreat at which the Episcopal Visitor is present. The commitment is to pursue the Aims of the Society and to keep its Rule. Initially the commitment is for one year, renewable for three years or for life. Attendance at the Annual Gathering and Retreat is part of the Rule.

To support one another further there are meetings in more local groups (Chapters) for fellowship, study and discussion. There are Chapters covering all parts of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. In recent years a North American Province has been established which organises its own Gathering. A Bulletin is published, usually three times a year, with news and views of members and associates.

Associate Membership is open to lay and ordained Christians who are scientists or have an interest in science and its relationship to religion or faith. They are asked to pray regularly for the Society, they receive the Bulletin, and are invited to Chapter and Province meetings.

# Society of Ordained Scientists



**An ecumenical fellowship of those who are ordained and have expertise in science, medicine or technology.**