

You are invited to hear Rev. Dr. Robert Beckett speak on:

'CHARLES DARWIN, EVOLUTION AND THE BIBLE - 150 YEARS ON'

Where?

Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church,
Doagh Road Newtownabbey

When?

Wednesday 21 October 2009 at 8.00pm

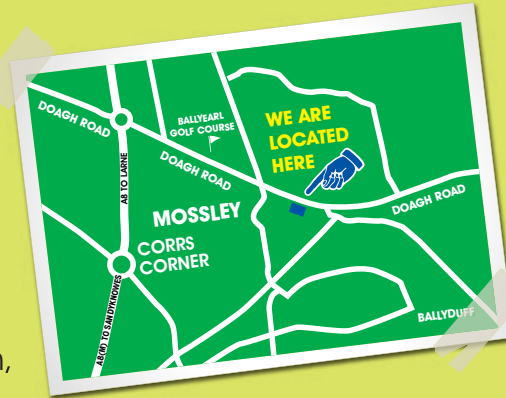
Who?

Dr. Robert Beckett

Currently minister of Crosscollyer Street Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Belfast and formally an animal geneticist for the department of Agriculture in Northern Ireland. Dr. Beckett did his PhD in animal genetics and has frequently spoken on the subject of evolution.

What?

A presentation with opportunities for discussion followed by refreshments, with a bookstall *everyone welcome*.



**FREE
COURSE**

CHRISTIANITY EXPLAINED

'Christianity Explained' is an opportunity for you to find out about Jesus Christ - who He is, what He did and how this affects you!

Contact:
Rev. Edward Donnelly
Tel: 028 9336 6449
or David Wright
Tel: 028 9332 2085

How I found hope

Sherley Stevens



As I discussed with my daughter what I should write in this short testimony, she said, "Mum, tell it like it was." As I thought about her comment I realised that to tell it any differently would be to deceive both you and myself. However, to 'tell it like it was' means that I open myself up to vulnerability. Do I really want people to know that I was an alcoholic? Will my neighbours, my work colleagues or my friends be taken aback at my disclosure? Will I be thought less of if people know the truth? As I reflected further, I realised that my shame was not that I had been an alcoholic, but one of pride. Why should I hide what Christ has done for me? What makes me think I am anything better or greater than He who lives in me?

"He showed me a way of life that was precious..."

Alcohol became a dependence very early in my teenage years and took high priority in my life. It wasn't a lifestyle that I chose or purposely set out to attain; it was a temptation that crept up very slowly. Gradually I realised that I was trapped. It was a snare that caused bankruptcy in body, mind, emotion and soul and left a self-loathing that was beyond rationalization.

Throughout those agonizing years my understanding of God was limited. However, I understood enough to know that somehow He alone could set me free from the entrapment that I was in.

I had cried out to Him on many occasions. However, God's timing was not my timing and only He knew when I was ready to submit to His will. That submission was

gradual, just as my reliance on alcohol was; nevertheless, it was the beginning of my freedom.

Through the love of His people and the continuing understanding of His Word, He showed me a way of life that was precious, that was worthwhile and a life that allowed me the privilege to love again and become whole.

Throughout my Christian walk I have had many difficult experiences, there have been trials and tribulations and there have been times when I have not acted as I should as a Christian. However, just as He did in the depths of my alcoholism, He continually holds out His hand, He forgives me, He leads me through troubled times and He restores my soul. He knows my brokenness and He wraps His precious arms around me and leads me out of the pit that I often create for myself.

I can promise you that same hope. If you reach out to Him, ask forgiveness for the sin that has separated you from Him and allow Him to lead you, He will take you out of the depths that you too create for yourself.

He has promised, "Ask, and it will be given to you" (Luke 11:9).

