

Flourishing in an Age of Intelligent Machines

This period of rapid technological transformation is impacting almost every area of our lives. Systems that purport to be ‘intelligent’ are threatening to displace millions from their jobs, and – with algorithms super-charged by AI – the divisions and mental health impacts we are only just understanding with social media are set to deepen. **How can communities, businesses and schools learn not just to survive alongside these new technologies, but to flourish?**

Kester Brewin has been exploring the resonances between theology and technology for over twenty years. An Associate Director at the Institute for the Future of Work - where he helps firms, unions and policymakers better understand the socio-technical impacts of AI - he is also the author of *Other: Embracing Difference in a Fractured World* and *Godlike: a 500-Year History of Artificial Intelligence*.

A day workshop for clergy and other leaders



In this period of increasing geopolitical instability, rising nationalism and hate speech, the question of how we can better love our neighbour has never been so urgent. It is one that requires careful theological reflection, but also a deep understanding of how new technologies are mediating our relationships.

Over three sessions – combining a framing provocation, prompts for small group discussion and Q&A – we’ll unpack ‘otherness’, how technology has, through history, shaped how we share life together, and how a ‘re-encounter-culture’ can sustain human flourishing.

‘A truly excellent day that attracted a higher attendance from clergy than we have seen in a good while, and their response was overwhelmingly positive. It will live long in the imagination - and continue to provoke me and others as we seek to be more human in a fractured world’

- Rt Rev. Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester

An evening presentation for local firms and other organisations

Drawing on experience working with firms on research-based approaches to AI adoption that sustain good jobs and build local capacity, this session also offers a highly engaging and interactive presentation for all those looking to better understand how innovation and social good can go hand-in-hand – if we work together to shape it, rather than have the future handed to us by ‘big tech’.

AI strategy for schools

Kester worked as a teacher for over twenty years, and now combines this experience with expertise on AI impacts to help schools develop effective AI strategies. He has recently given evidence on AI and EdTech to the Education Select Committee. He is able to offer staff INSET, work with pupils and guided strategy workshops for school leaders, helping to build confidence in how to get AI ‘right’.

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