

Plockton High School CST S6 Conference 2009



Does Life Have Any Ultimate Purpose?

Program 29th September 2009

(Timings are approximate)

1005	Registration & welcome	MR. DAVE MOCKETT
1015	Opening up the Question	REV. RODDIE RANKIN MR. DAVE MOCKETT
1025	Measuring value: 1	ALL TOGETHER
1035	Measuring value: 2	GROUPS
1050	Break	
1105	The Growing Human	GROUPS
1120	Summation	MR. DAVE MOCKETT
1125	A Question of Life	GROUPS
1200	Reports	
1220	A World of Death	MR. DAVE MOCKETT
1230	Lunch	PLEASE DO NOT GO TO THE CANTEEN EARLY
1330	Morning Recap	REV. RODDIE RANKIN
1345	Life is...	GROUPS
1420	Presentation of Life	
1445	Question Time	ALL TOGETHER

Notes

(All timings are approximate)

- 1005 Registration & welcome MR. DAVE MOCKETT
- Fruit juice and biscuits will be provided at the start of the day. Dave will give a brief welcome.*
- 1015 Opening up the Question REV. RODDIE RANKIN
- We begin with the opening titles from Monty Python's 'The Meaning of Life.' Roddie and Dave will then explain what we mean by the title question.*
- 1025 Measuring value: 1
- Students will be asked to place salaries for various occupations on the walls around the room. Is this a reasonable way to measure how we value people?*
- 1035 Measuring value: 2 GROUPS
- In groups, the students will be asked to assign value of life according to usefulness. The same occupations will be used to decide the classic lifeboat scenario, where not everyone can be saved.*
- 1050 Break
- 1105 The Growing Human GROUPS
- In groups, students will place development markers on a chart as to how they think a baby develops in the womb. Markers will include genetic defect testing, survival outwith the womb and the UK abortion limit.*
- 1120 Summation MR. DAVE MOCKETT
- We'll bring the answers to the development charts and then move into the main discussion for the morning:*
- 1125 A Question of Life MR. DAVE MOCKETT
- Professor Kate Costeloe, Prof of Paediatrics, Queen Mary, University of London, says: "I would hope that people understand that being born early is a very, very serious business, that survival is not high, and that should children survive, their likelihood of having life-long problems — particularly in respect of learning is high. Bright Asamany, born at 24 weeks, is one of the most severely disabled of all the children who were born in 1995. In this latest study he is described as "functioning at an extremely low level in all areas of development." He was classified as having severe physical and learning disabilities. Some weeks after Bright's birth, a scan revealed that he had suffered a brain haemorrhage. He now has severe cerebral palsy and severe epilepsy. He is entirely dependent on his parents for the care he needs*

24 hours a day. His father, Kennedy, says even though he loves his son, if they had another baby born as early as Bright, he would say "turn off the machine, there is no need to continue".

Prof. Costoloe: "At 23, 24 weeks I have sometimes thought that if these outcomes are as good as they can be, should we be doing this?"

The groups will be assigned viewpoint and must answer the professor's question, arguing with consistency from their groups' viewpoint.

1200 Report back

1220 Death Rituals MR. DAVE MOCKETT

1230 Lunch

The school will provide lunch for the team in the canteen.

1330 Recap REV. RODDIE RANKIN

Having a discussed real-life, yet 'distant' issue, Roddie will bring us back together with the personal example of the life of his second cousin who live with Downs Syndrome. It is this defect referred to in this morning's development chart as being detectable during pregnancy.

1345 Life is... GROUPS

In the groups, time will be given to prepare a presentation of the evidence to support a view on life and the universe which we have predetermined. These will be assigned to each group. During your discussion, you will need to bring up the question of God: whether the concept of a god would fit into the view and if so, what that god would be like.

1420 Presentation of Life REV. RODDIE RANKIN

During your discussions, a spokesperson must be assigned to present the evidence to the conference for your particular world view, outlined by a series of statements which you must have formulated ideas for, with the available evidence. Following this, a vote will be taken

1445 Question Time PANEL

An open question time for any questions to be put to the team. This will run on from the vote by the group being asked how they think the team see life.