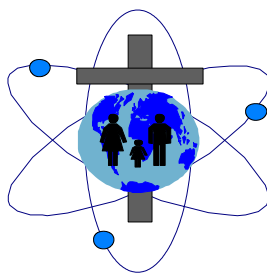


# SOCIETY, RELIGION AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

Church of Scotland

Director : Dr Donald M. Bruce



until May 2005 at  
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## Today's church looking at Tomorrow's technology

### Tomorrow's Technology...

Technology is changing the face of our society. Often it happens unseen. It's hard to stand back and grasp the impact of the car, electricity, telephones, TV, computers, the Internet. They're now part of our life, things we could hardly imagine being without. Yet ethical challenges like cloning and GM food, and environmental impacts like global warming have made us aware of the risks of letting our skills run ahead of our judgement. There is now a recognition that we need to take wider ethical and social values into account in technology. This has been SRT's aim for over 30 years.

### ...Today's Church

The Society, Religion and Technology Project was set up in 1970 by the Church of Scotland to examine the implications of new and emerging technologies. It seeks to stimulate ethical understanding by engaging with those working in research, industry, government, NGO's and many other organisations. Its expert working groups provide a forum for multi-disciplinary interaction between scientists and specialists in ethics, theology, sociology, ecology, risk and other fields, to look together at wider dimensions of emerging technologies. Bringing insights from Christian ethics, it has built up a reputation for the quality and balance of its work on complex and vital issues of our times, from North Sea Oil in the 1970's to cloning, GM crops and nanotechnology today. SRT also acts a catalyst of public debate on current issues and promotes practical environmental action through the Eco-Congregation programme.

### SRT's Aims

- To foster an informed understanding in society of the issues confronting it as a result of emerging technologies; to bring a voice of balance into complex issues.
- To engage with scientists and technologists to reflect on ethical, environmental and societal implications of their work; to promote ethics teaching to science students.
- To respond with considered judgement to Government and national bodies on technology and environmental issues, and to be active in their European and global dimensions.
- To inform the churches of Scotland and the UK about key developments.
- To act as a Christian witness to the world of science and technology.
- To stimulate good environmental practice in the churches and in wider society.

## The SRT Team

**Dr Donald Bruce** has been Director since 1992. He trained as a chemist and previously worked in nuclear research, energy policy and risk assessment. He studied theology at Oxford and Edinburgh.

**Eleanor Todd** is SRT Assistant Director and has masters degrees in history from Cambridge, on works with churches on the Eco-Congregation Programme and also on environmental issues.

**Alan Whitson** our administrator is a non-stipendiary Methodist minister and ex-computer scientist.

## Eco-Congregation Programme and Church Energy Saving

In 1978 SRT set up the world's first energy saving scheme for churches. Since 2001 we have promoted the ecumenical Eco-Congregation Programme in Scotland to enable local churches to practise environmental care in their life and community. It is a partnership with the environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful, with funding from the churches and the Scottish Government.

## Communication

**Public debate:** SRT is a catalyst for public engagement on current issues in science, technology and the environment, through talks, conferences and publications. We are working with the New Economics Foundation's Democs project to promote debate with lay people. SRT runs popular ethical debates at the annual Edinburgh International Science Festival and the BA Science Festival.

**Media:** we work closely at all levels of the media in national and local press, TV and radio.

**Website:** SRT's website is now in its tenth year and is an established source of information and comment, which is widely used as an educational and media resource worldwide.

**SRT Bulletin:** our free newsletter is produced 3 times a year with a wide circulation.

## SRT Publications

SRT produces books and reports on a wide variety of topical issues, including:

***Engineering Genesis*** : Widely acclaimed as one of the most balanced books available on genetically modified food, crops and animals, the product of SRT's expert working group study

***Modifying Creation*** : A working group study on GM crops and food with the Evangelical Alliance

***Sustainable Agriculture*** : SRT's General Assembly report on integrated and organic agriculture

***Genetically Modified Food*** : 1999 General Assembly report critical of the power structures behind GM but not dismissing its potential

***Biotechnology as a Social Contract*** : What conditions will future developments of biotechnology have to fulfill to be accepted by civil society?

***Cloning Animals and Humans - an Ethical View*** : Ethical issues of animal and human cloning, drawn from SRT's unique local knowledge of the issues.

***Cloning and Stem Cells*** : A discussion paper which SRT drafted for the Conference of European Churches on embryonic stem cells

***Ethical Concerns about Patenting Genes and Living Organisms*** : informed views on a hot debate

***Seeing Scotland from the Summit***: Sustainable development in simple terms for the non-specialist

***Heat and Light*** : A practical guide to energy conservation in church buildings based on the experience of the Church of Scotland's energy saving scheme

***The Dominant Economic Model and Sustainability - Are they Compatible?*** : An influential report of a European churches expert working group, on the tension between environmental care and economic growth with case studies on energy, transport and world trade

***Technology at the Crossroads*** Ron Ferguson traces the history of the SRT Project against a backdrop of major developments in technology over 25 years.

*SRT also produces short papers and information sheets on a wide range of issues including Eco-Congregation, Cloning, Stem cells, GM food & Animals, Patenting, Risk and the Environment.*

## Become an SRT Associate

SRT is looking to expand its work and its spheres of communication. It invites any who identify with its aims to become Associates, receiving news, articles, and invitations to special events.