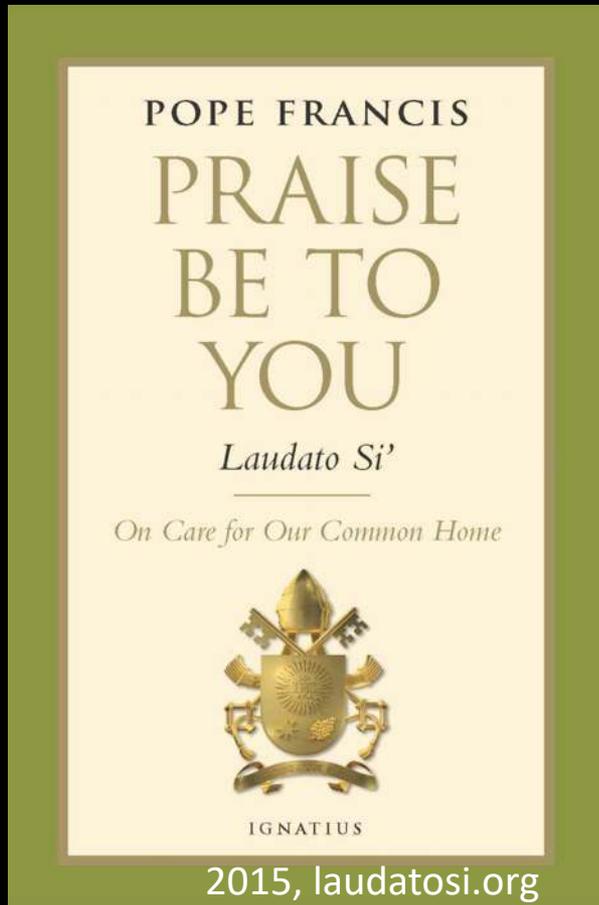


A photograph of a wind farm in a field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. Several wind turbines are visible, silhouetted against the sky. The foreground is a field of tall grass, also illuminated by the warm light of the setting sun.

# Faith and our climate crisis

2020 @ Bessels Green Baptist Church

# Why a sermon on technology?



## 3. The Human Roots Of The Ecological Crisis

101. It would hardly be helpful to describe symptoms without acknowledging the human origins of the ecological crisis. A certain way of understanding human life and activity has gone awry, to the serious detriment of the world around us. Should we not pause and consider this? At this stage, I propose that we focus on the dominant technocratic paradigm and the place of human beings and of human action in the world.

# Unintended Consequences

“We didn’t go looking for this [climate crisis], we didn’t intend it. But it’s our generation’s problem and we have to deal with it.”

*Ben Niblett*



# Unintended Consequences

05/01 Beauty

12/01 Stewardship

19/01 Facts (Rev Dr Dave Gregory)

26/01 Soil

02/02 Animals

09/02 Poverty (Ben Niblett - Tear Fund)

16/02 Technology

23/02 Jesus

01/03 Reality (Dave Nussbaum - The Elders)

08/03 Hope

15/03 Discussion

# Technology in the Bible

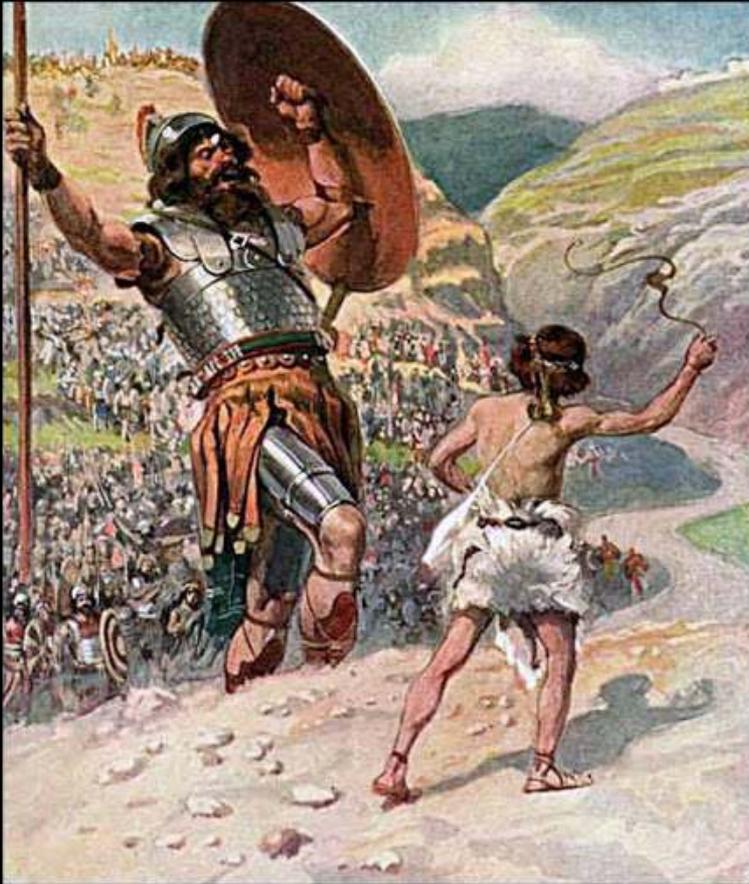
They said to each other,  
“Come, let’s make bricks and  
bake them thoroughly.” They  
used brick instead of  
stone, and tar for mortar.

Then they said, “Come, let us  
build ourselves a city, with a  
tower that reaches to the  
heavens, so that we may  
make a name for ourselves.”

*Genesis 11:3-4*



# Technology in the Bible



Not a blacksmith could be found in the whole land of Israel, because the Philistines had said, “Otherwise the Hebrews will make swords or spears!”

So all Israel went down to the Philistines to have their plough points, mattocks, axes and sickles sharpened.

*1 Samuel 13:19-20*

# Technology in the Bible

In Jerusalem he (Uzziah – King of Judah) made devices invented for use on the towers and on the corner defences so that soldiers could shoot arrows and hurl large stones from the walls.

His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became powerful.

*2 Chronicles 26:15*



# Technology

noun (plural **technologies**)

**The application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry.**

ORIGIN early 17th century

from Greek *tekhnologia* 'systematic treatment',  
from *tekhnē* 'art, craft' + *-logia*

# Technologies

Money.

The first alphabet.

The first musical notation system.

The pyramids.

Glass. Swords.

Warships. Canals.

Roads. Bridges.

Schools. Toilet

paper. Clocks.

Compasses.

Bombs.

Eyeglasses.

Mines. Guns.

Better guns.

Newspapers.

Telescopes.

The first piano.

Sewing machines.

Morphine.

Refrigerators.

Transatlantic telegraph cables.

Rechargeable

batteries.

Telephones.

Cars. Aeroplanes.

Ballpoint pens.

Coca-Cola.

Polyester.

Antibiotics.

Thermonuclear

weapons. Rockets to the moon.

Personal

computers. Video

games. email. The

world wide web.

Nanotechnology.

# Just a tool?

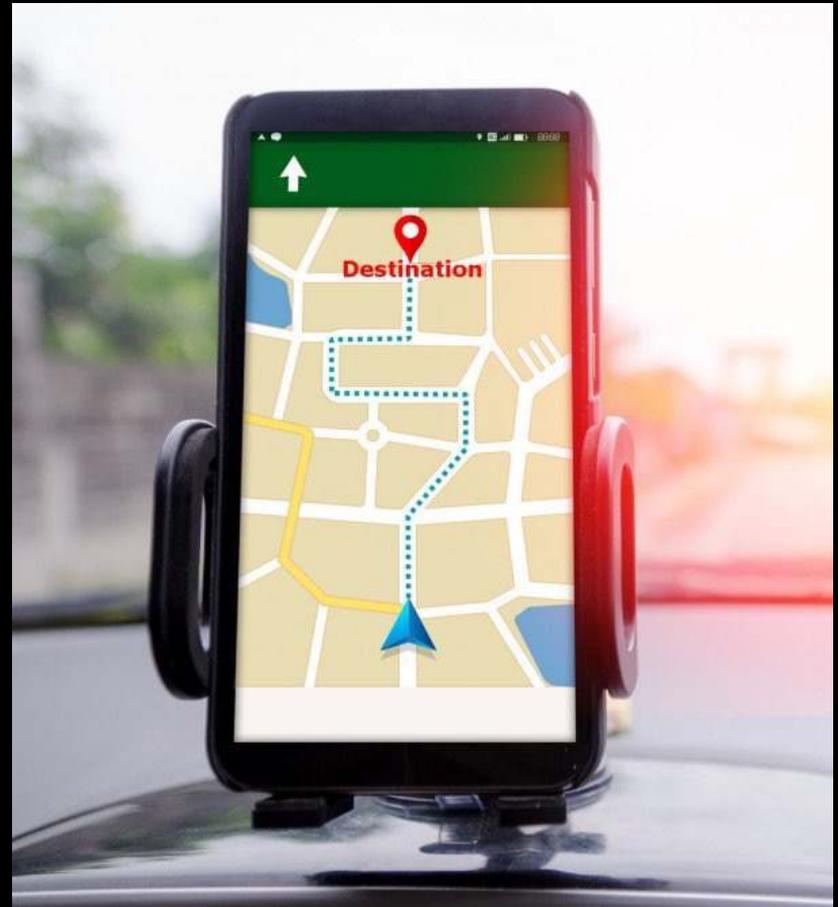
Should we?  
Because we can!  
And if we don't  
someone else will!



# Just a tool?

“We shape our tools,  
and thereafter our tools  
shape us.”

*Winston Churchill, 1941*



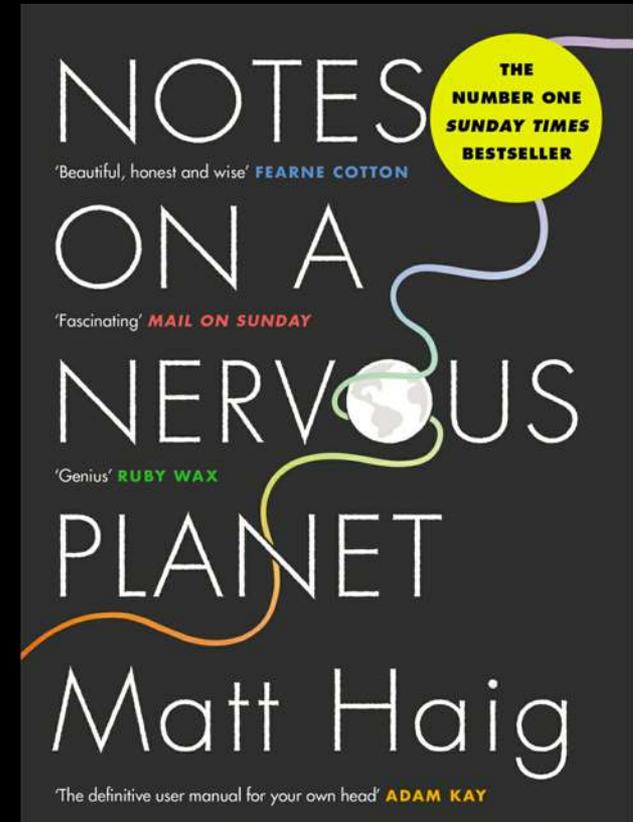
Better, faster, stronger



# Things that are faster than they used to be

Mail.  
Cars.  
Olympic sprinters.  
News.  
Processing power.  
Photographs.  
Scenes in films.  
Financial transactions.  
Journeys.

World population growth.  
Deforestation of the Amazon rainforest.  
Navigation.  
Technological progress.  
Relationships.  
Political events.  
The thoughts in your head.



# Technology takes leaps



# Technology takes leaps



# Safer internet



**Safer  
Internet  
Day 2020** | **Tuesday**  
11 February

Together for a better internet

[www.saferinternetday.org.uk](http://www.saferinternetday.org.uk)



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Humane  
Technology

[What's New](#)

[Problem](#)

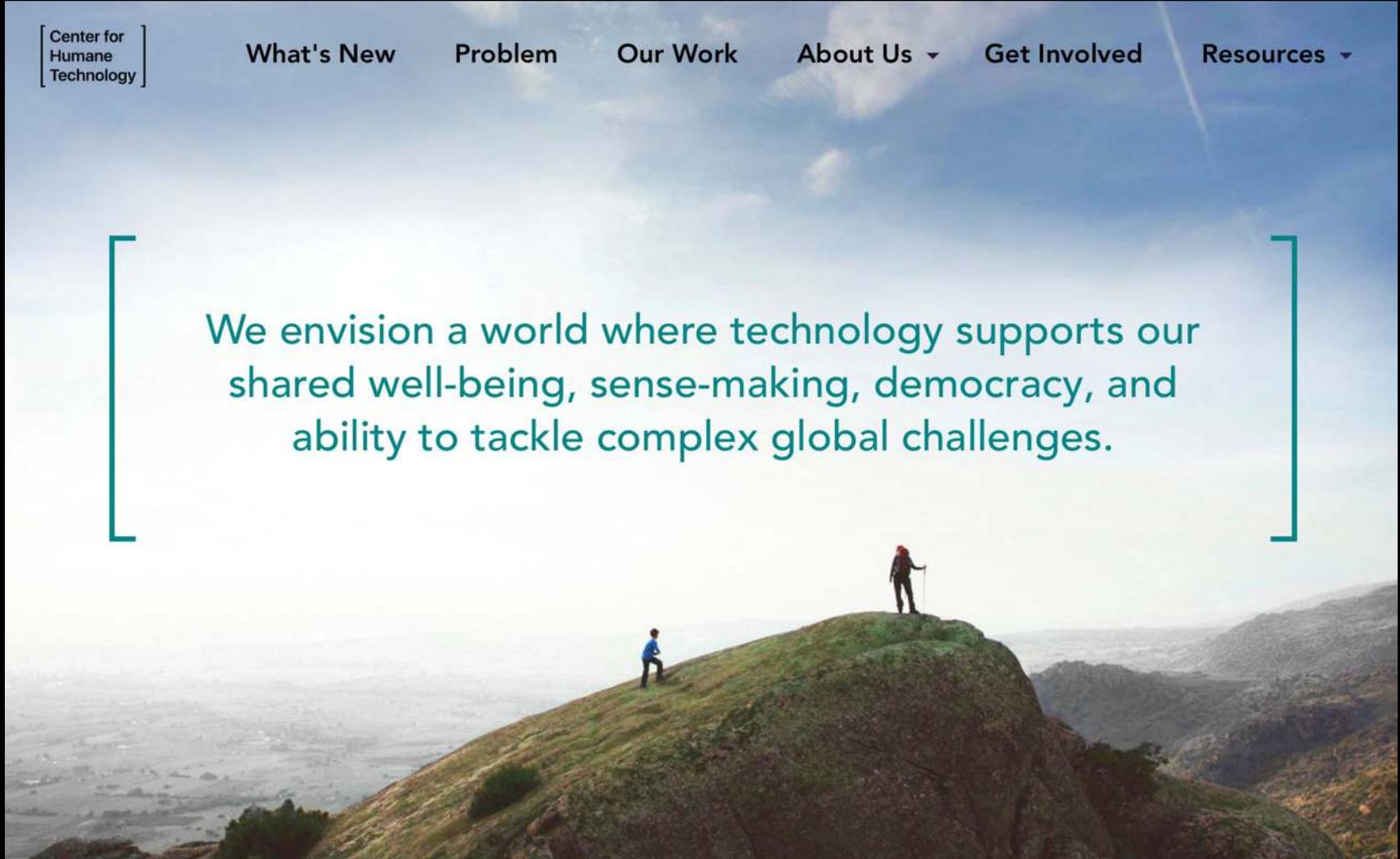
[Our Work](#)

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We envision a world where technology supports our shared well-being, sense-making, democracy, and ability to tackle complex global challenges.



# Samuel Pepys – 13<sup>th</sup> May 1665

“But, Lord! to see how much of my old folly and childishness hangs upon me still that I cannot forbear carrying my watch in my hand in the coach all this afternoon, and seeing what o’clock it is one hundred times; and am apt to think with myself, how could I be so long without one; though I remember since, I had one, and found it a trouble, and resolved to carry one no more about me while I lived.”



# C.S. Lewis

‘Progress, means getting nearer to the place you want to be.

And if you have taken a wrong turning, then to go forward does not get you any nearer.’

*C S Lewis*

*Haig, Matt.*

*Notes on a Nervous Planet  
(pp. 253-254).*



# My first job - tech now obsolete



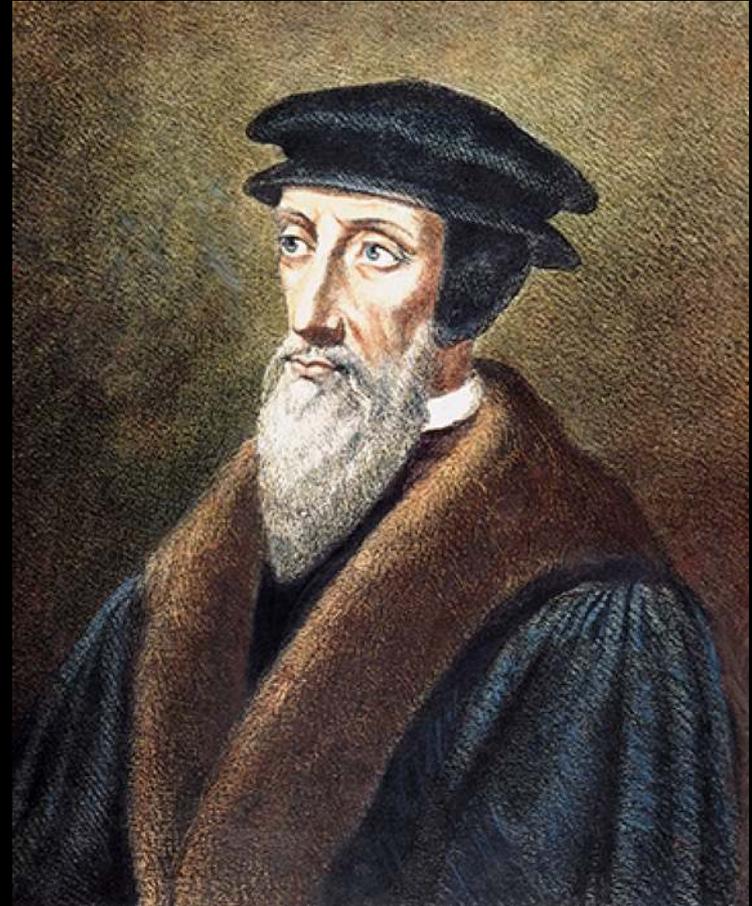
# Idolatry

Any time we put our faith in something created rather than the Creator, it becomes an idol.

Anything good in creation has the potential to become an idol.

"the human heart is a perpetual idol factory"

*John Calvin  
Institutes I.11.8*



# TED - Billy Graham



And David found that there were many problems that technology could not solve...

The Bible says the problem is within us, within our hearts and our souls. Our problem is that we are separated from our Creator, which we call God, and we need to have our souls restored, something only God can do

# TED – Pope Francis

How wonderful would it be if the growth of scientific and technological innovation would come along with more equality and social inclusion.

How wonderful would it be, while we discover faraway planets, to rediscover the needs of the brothers and sisters orbiting around us.

without even realizing it, [we] are now putting products at their core, instead of people.





“People were created to be loved.  
Things were created to be used.  
The reason the world is in chaos,  
is because things are being loved  
and people are being used.”

*John Green*  
*Looking for Alaska*



I used to think that top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong.

The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that.

*Gus Speth*



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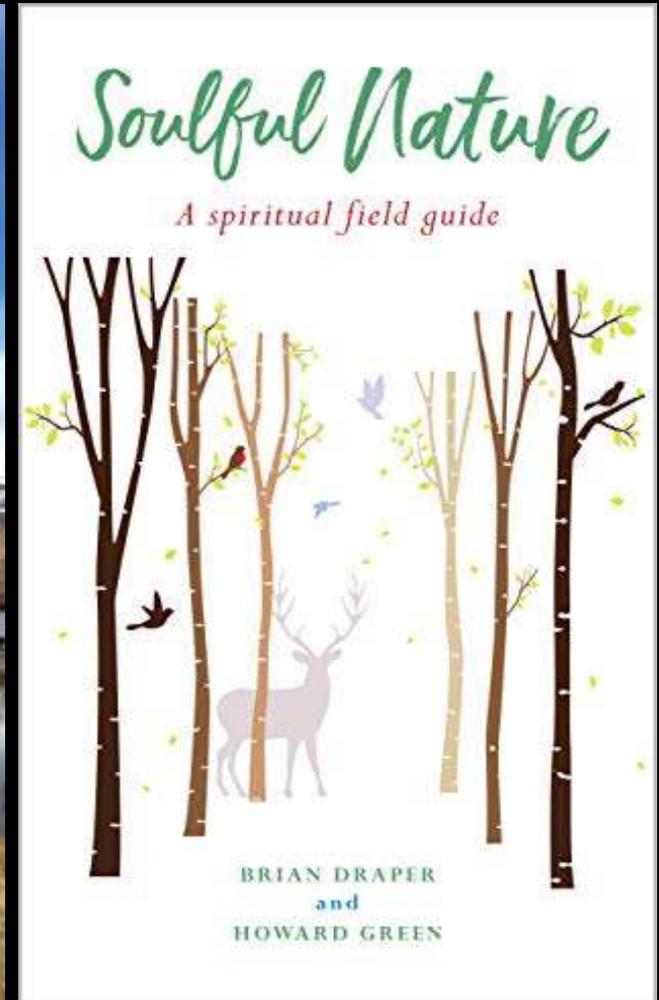
# 1. Reconnect with 'The Common Good'

Universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight — a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, all under the arch of God's love. Shalom is the way things are supposed to be”

*Plantinga, 2002, p. 15*



## 2. Reconnect with creation



# 3. Reconnect with God

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

*Proverbs 4:23*





