**Christopher Wren and his cosmos**

I attended a lecture by Katherine Blundell, one of the most remarkable Gresham professors of astronomy. She presented to us in a lecture about Wren’s cosmos. Not only did his story inspire me but also taught me a valuable lesson – with hardship comes success.

Sir Christopher Wren was an architect, mathematician, and astronomer who lived in 17th century England. While he is most famous for his architectural work, particularly his design of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Wren was also a keen observer of the cosmos and made significant contributions to the field of astronomy.

Wren's interest in astronomy can be traced back to his days as a student at Oxford, where he studied mathematics and became fascinated with the work of Galileo and Kepler. He went on to develop his own theories about the structure of the universe, which he saw as a vast, interconnected system governed by mathematical laws.

One of Wren's most important contributions to astronomy was his development of the "heliocentric theory of the universe." This theory, which had been first proposed by Copernicus in the 16th century, held that the sun, not the earth, was at the centre of the solar system. Wren expanded on this theory by suggesting that the sun was not just the centre of the solar system, but the centre of the entire universe.

Wren's heliocentric theory was a radical departure from the prevailing geocentric theory, which held that the earth was at the centre of the universe and that the sun and other celestial bodies revolved around it. However, Wren's theory was not immediately accepted, the same consequence faced by many scientists, and it was not until the 18th century that it gained widespread acceptance.

In addition to his work on the structure of the universe, Wren also made important contributions to the study of comets. In the 1660s, he observed several comets and wrote extensively about them in his journals. He noted that comets were not just random, chaotic objects, but were subject to the same mathematical laws as the planets and stars. He also suggested that comets might be related to the formation of the solar system, a theory that would not be confirmed until centuries later.

Wren's interest in comets led him to develop a new method for calculating the orbits of these objects. His method, which involved measuring the comet's position relative to the stars, was more accurate than previous methods and allowed astronomers to predict the path of a comet with greater precision.

In conclusion, Christopher Wren was a polymath whose interests extended far beyond architecture. His work as an astronomer and mathematician was driven by a deep curiosity about the cosmos and a desire to understand the world in all its complexity. While his ideas about the structure of the universe were not immediately accepted, they would ultimately have a profound impact on the history of astronomy, paving the way for new discoveries and a deeper understanding of our place in the cosmos.

I absolutely loved this lecture as Professor Katherine Blundell did an astounding job to keep me engaged throughout the event and there wasn’t a second where my attention was lost, even though I have a very short attention span.