

## **Citation for the 2018 RAS Service Award: Dr Matthew G.G.T. Taylor**

The 2018 RAS Service Award for Geophysics is awarded to Dr Matthew G.G.T. Taylor.

Dr Matthew Taylor receives the 2018 RAS Service Award (G) for his outstanding contribution to the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission. Dr Taylor is the Project Scientist for this enormously successful mission. Space missions in the planetary sciences are uniquely challenging, not only in the technical sense, but also in terms of their scientific coordination. They have numerous, often conflicting, scientific goals and (especially in the case of Rosetta) limited opportunities in which to fulfil them.

In the European Space Agency model, every instrument team has a voice in the planning of the mission. Dr Taylor came late to the Rosetta project as a non-specialist in cometary science but managed to gain the respect of the science team; his contribution in uniting the team behind the goals of the mission, in order to solve the problems associated with orbital insertion around a comet and the achievement of Rosetta's objectives in a limited timeframe, were crucial to the success of the mission.

Furthermore, Dr Taylor has spent his considerable energy promoting Rosetta to international audiences through social media, public lectures and TV and radio interviews, all heavily promoting Rosetta science. Rosetta was a historic achievement that would not have been anywhere near as successful, or visible, without Dr Taylor's dedication, hard work and talent.

For these reasons, Dr Taylor is awarded the Royal Astronomical Society's Service Award for Geophysics.