**How might scientific discoveries about origins of the universe support Christian beliefs in purpose?**

* The universe is highly complex – there is evidence of design – the Teleological Argument. Christians believe the designer is God.
* Virtually all scientists believe there was a starting point for the universe – this is evidence of creation.
* The anthropic principle – a range of scientific observations about the universe seem to suggest design in the universe.
* The physical laws of the universe are at odds with a completely natural explanation of the universe - suggestion that the universe has a purpose and meaning given to it by the intelligence which created and designed it.
* 2nd law of thermodynamics

Some of the scientific discoveries about the origins of the universe that support Christian beliefs concerning the purpose of life are the last three bullet points above –

* the anthropic principle,
* the physical laws of the universe
* the second law of thermodynamics.

\* The anthropic principle as put forward by Richard Swinburne, is based upon an observation that the universe shows uncanny features of design and purpose.
The term 'anthropic' comes from ‘anthropos’, the Greek for man, and refers to design for a specific purpose – the existence and survival of man.    Design is implied by the way the universe seems to work in all its complexity, whereby if any one of these design features of light, gravity, planetary movements and positions or chemicals in the atmosphere were to be different in quantity, dimension or position, then the planet earth would not sustain life. Therefore he argues, the universe is designed in this way for that very purpose of creating and sustaining intelligent life, man, that is able to ask the questions 'why am I here?' and 'where do I come from?' or 'what meaning, value or purpose is there to my existence?'

\* Another scientific discovery is the physical laws of the universe. Paul Davies, the physicist, and many others like him are puzzled as to how to explain the existence of physical laws in the universe from an explosion. To him and others, explosions cause disintegration of order, and result in chaos, the absence of order or physical laws. This implies that the existence of physical laws in the universe is at odds with a completely natural explanation of the universe, hence their suggestion that the universe has a purpose and meaning given to it by the intelligence who created and designed it.

\* Finally the universally agreed principle of the second law of thermodynamics is another scientific discovery that gives support to the argument that the universe is meaningful and purposeful.   This law states that the universe
and everything in it decays and is going from a state of order to chaos, leading eventually to a universal death for everything where nothing moves in the universe.    Consequently some Christians use this law to support their belief that God is the meaningful and purposeful creator of the universe, (the one who 'wound up' the universe), and that this law of thermodynamics supports their belief (through Biblical or 'special' revelation) of a beginning of all things for the purpose of mankind knowing, loving and enjoying God for ever.