

A Story To Tell



Congregational Conference

18th - 21st April 2017

Cliff College, Derbyshire

A Story To Tell



Congregational
Federation

**The CONGREGATIONAL
CONFERENCE is open to all
Congregationalists, of all ages.**

Human beings love listening to stories and telling stories. We are shaped by stories - especially if we discover truth in them. Perhaps you can remember a time when somebody shared the difference that Jesus had made in their life and the impact that made on you. Perhaps you can remember hearing about the amazing witness of a person from history and how that inspired your own faith. Perhaps you've read the Bible and a passage has jumped out at you - relevant in a new way.

This year our Conference has the theme of having '**A Story to Tell**'. We'll be looking at our Protestant origins in this 500th anniversary of Reformation with Rev. Dr David Cornick but also asking what is the Reformation's continuing story? Rev. Dr Janet Wootton will ask us to reflect on the life and legacy of Rev. Constance Coltman. Nick Page will be helping us to learn some Biblical storytelling skills and Rev. Dr Graham Adams will encourage us hear some of the more down-played but vital stories in Scripture for the living of our days. We've got some great worship with Rev. Peter Thomas - another storyteller - and workshops where people have tried to communicate the Gospel in particular contexts including Sheffield Wednesday Football Club. (You might think they need all the prayer they can get!) As ever our theme will be continued into our dedicated provision for children (ages 3 - 9) and young people (10 - 14).

Cliff College is situated in some stunning countryside and it does feel a world away from the usual pressures of life. It's also a good time to catch up with Congregational friends and make new ones. Who knows this Conference might be a significant time in your story of faith?

Rev. Dr David Cornick



David Cornick is a United Reformed Church minister. He is the General Secretary of Churches Together in England, and a Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge where he directs studies in Theology. He is a church historian with particular interests in the Reformed tradition and the history and theology of ecumenism.

His session '***Constantine confounded? The reformation radicals and their legacy***' will explore the world of the radicals both on the continent and England in the sixteenth century, outline their influence and consider their contemporary legacy.

Nick Page



Writer, speaker, story-teller, unlicensed historian, applied ranter, freelance information-monger...

Nick Page is the author of over seventy books for adults and children and those who aren't sure. His most recent book is ***The Dark Night of the Shed – a book about men, midlife, spirituality and sheds.***

Other books include ***A Nearly Infallible History of Christianity, the Longest Week trilogy (Kingdom of Fools, The Wrong Messiah, The Longest Week),*** and ***The Bible Book.***

As well as writing books, he works with a number of campaign groups and NGOs on the grounds that, if you're going to be a grumpy old man, you might as well get grumpy about something that matters. He is going to be demonstrating his Biblical storytelling skills, giving us some tips and encouraging us to have go. Be prepared for humour, honesty and trying something you might not have done before!

Website: www.nickpage.co.uk

Twitter: [@NickofEynsham](https://twitter.com/NickofEynsham)

Baz Gascoyne

Baz is Chaplain for Sheffield Eagles & Sheffield Wednesday and Team Director of Sheffield Sports Chaplaincy.

Baz and his wife Linda have been leading a church in Sheffield since 1996. Baz has enjoyed a life-long love of sport and is pleased to be able to combine his passions by being involved with Sheffield Sports Chaplaincy.

Sports Chaplaincy is about supporting the whole person in their place of work regardless of their status: each person is as important as another and may at some time need a listening ear or a word of encouragement.

Life at times can throw things our way so that we need to talk to someone outside our organization or club confidentially. The Chaplain is there for the club; a neutral person to discuss things with and provide a listening ear. This neutrality is helpful to the club/organization and to the individual seeking pastoral care.



Tracy O'Neill

For the past few years Tracy O'Neill, along with her fabulous helpers, have provided great sessions for our younger attendees. We are so pleased she will join us again in 2017.

Tracy will provide lots of fun activities for the children when they are not taking part in the all age sessions.



Tracy will ensure the activities fit with the theme of the conference to make sure the children are included throughout. There will be separate provision for youth aged 10-14.

Rev. Dr Graham Adams—Bible Study Leader



Graham is a theological educator, teaching full-time since 2012 with Northern College (URC and CF) and the ecumenical partnership at Luther King House in Manchester, and has tutored on the CF courses since 2003. His subjects are theology and mission. He is the author of *Christ and the Other*, and chapters concerned with dissent, the theology of religions, and mission under Empire. He is married to Sheryl, and they have a five-year-old daughter, Bethan.

What story does the Bible help us to tell? What if it testifies to the story of the God who is open to others' stories – especially stories which we tend to edit out of reality? To explore this, we will read Scripture by explicitly attending to the stories of the poor, the Earth and others, because God is always shaking us open.

Rev. Peter Thomas—Morning Worship Leader

Since 2003 Peter has been the minister at Grassington Congregational Church, he combines this role with an active ministry within local schools. The Craven schools partnership works alongside six secondary and fourteen primary schools in the area. He is also the creator of the award winning *'Happenings'* card series which uses pictures to guide prayer and reflection.



Peter has led worship at the conference before and will offer creativity and reflection to inspire, stimulate and engage. We will explore some characters from the Gospel who engaged with the stories of Jesus together.

Rev. Suzanne Nockels - God in the Gallery



Suzanne Nockels is a Congregational Federation Minister in Sheffield and is currently undertaking an MA in Pioneering Ministries. As part of this she has started running 'Art and Soul'. These are monthly tours of the City Art Gallery which enable people to pause, reflect and share thoughts about the artwork, life and faith.

Suzanne will briefly share how this project developed and where it may lead. You'll also be given a mini - virtual tour. Lastly, there will be an opportunity to respond by creating your own artworks to take home. This workshop is suitable for children and adults together. Each workshop will look at different works so you can come twice.

Rev. Catherine Booton - God in the School

Rev. Catherine Booton has been minister at Ashby de la Zouch and Newton Burgoland Congregational churches for the past 10 years and has a passion for working with children and young people. She has much experience of leading assemblies, holiday bible clubs, kids clubs and has written a paper on For-all church.



Catherine also volunteers as a leader for Girlguiding. Her other interests include reading, knitting and listening to rock music! She has been married for 20 years and has one son Harry. This workshop will focus on the practical aspects of how we can share the good news about Jesus with youngsters in schools and hopes to give resource ideas and ways of adapted existing publications for different circumstances.

Rev. Joy Langford - God in the Workplace

Joy Langford is part of a team of Workplace Chaplains serving the city of Nottingham. They have representatives in shops, businesses and even in the transport sector. Joy has a varied background: wife, mother, nurse, midwife, teacher and now leads two churches one in Leicestershire and one in Nottingham.

Joy's great passion is listening to peoples' stories and offering support. It is her hope that she can be a sounding board, offer advice and signpost people to find their way through difficult situations – at work or at home. Joy brings her life experience, training and faith to this developing role. The aim of this workshop is to explain the nature of the Workplace Chaplain, raise its profile and encourage others to get involved in their own locality.



Stephane Vickers - God in the Community



Stephane Vickers is a Church Development Worker in Hay Mills Birmingham. The Congregational Church closed in Hay Mills three years ago but has since re-opened with fresh vision and purpose. It provides an act of worship for people with learning disabilities and their families and carers, a community café and a Messy Church to which all the local schools are invited.

Stephane is very used to listening and sharing his faith with a wide range of people. Come and hear a little about Hay Mills and think about how you and your church can personally share what Jesus means to you.

In Ministry

As the Conference has (rightly) developed a more open and inclusive feel, there has been a growing sense that people in ministry or church leadership also need a place to talk, to share experiences, talk about their vision for the future, and attend to their own professional development.

This year, Rev. Dr Richard Cleaves and Rev. Dr Janet Wootton will facilitate a session for ministers, mission enablers, area workers and others in leadership positions in our churches. We hope to create the opportunity to discuss our joys and concerns, to learn from each other, and to look to the future together, in the wisdom of God.



Richard Cleaves has a lifetime's experience in congregational churches, including his ministry over the last 25 years in Highbury, Cheltenham. Janet Wootton ministered in rural and city churches before taking on her



current role as Director of Studies for the Congregational Federation. Both were founder members of the Training Board and have therefore worked with many of our churches, ministers and leaders throughout the lifetime of the Federation.

Leisure Time

Free time is included in the programme. We hope the breaks and meal times provide opportunities for socialising and fellowship. On Thursday afternoon Keith Bradley from Tapton Hill Congregational Church will provide an optional hike around the local area. It will take an hour and you are advised to bring suitable footwear! In the evening, Mark Taylor from Newark Congregational Church will lead quiz night. You may recognise him from his stint on the BBC's Pointless programme!

BRING AN INSTRUMENT if you can play, and would like to join our music group for worship.



The Venue

We have reviewed last year's feedback and noted that the venue was too far for some to travel. It is hoped that the central location of Cliff College will enable lots of people to attend.

The College provides high quality en-suite facilities for guests.

The venue is between the villages of Calver and Baslow on the A623 Baslow to Chapel-en-le-Frith road. The historic market town of Bakewell is five miles away, larger towns such as Chesterfield, Matlock and Buxton are all within twelve miles. The city of Sheffield is fifteen miles. There are good transport links to the M1 and M56.

The closest train station is Chesterfield. There are regular buses from the town to the College. Alternatively there are taxis available from outside the station. Shuttles can be arranged with members of Tapton Hill Congregational Church with two weeks prior notice. Details will given on booking.

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Hope Valley
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	Tuesday	Wednesday
8.00		Breakfast
9.15		All age worship
9.45		The Story of the Shaken Earth Graham Adams
10.00		
10.30		Coffee Break
11.00		Nick Page
12.00		
12.30		Break & Lunch at 13.00
14.00	Arrivals to 15.00	
15.00		Baz Gascoyne
15.30	Worship, Introductions and Housekeeping	
16.00	A Story Open to Other Stories - and the Story of the Shaken Poor Graham Adams	Tea
16.30		Workshops
17.30		Break & Evening meal
18.00	Evening Meal	
19.30	Constantine confounded? The reformation radicals and their legacy - David Cornick	Nick Page
20.15	Free Time	
20.30		Evening Worship
20.45		

	Thursday	Friday
8.00	Breakfast	Breakfast
9.15	All age Worship	Considering Constance Coltman Looking at CF Anniversary Resources
9.45	The Story of the Shaken Other Graham Adams	
10.00		Elections and Evaluations
10.30	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11.00	Nick Page	All age worship
12.00		Lunch at 12.00 & departures
12.30	Break & Lunch at 13.00	
14.00	Workshops & MinistryNetworking	
15.00	Tea	
15.30	Free Time An optional 60minute hike around the local area - Keith Bradley	
16.00		
16.30		
17.30		
18.00	Evening Meal	
19.30	Social Evening Free Time	
20.45	Evening Worship	

Conference costs per person

We are aware that cost is an important factor to many and we have worked hard to find a venue that offers value for money.

Adult	£285pp (single occupancy) £260pp (double/twin)
Age 10-14	£140
Aged 4-9	£90
Under 3's	Free
Day delegates	
With lunch	£45
With lunch & evening meal	£55

We hope that churches and Area Associations will provide financial support towards your cost of attending...DO ASK!

Book Now

The Conference has become increasingly popular in recent years and early booking is recommended. Speakers, workshops, worship, fun and fellowship....following on from Easter it provides much needed space for spiritual and physical refreshment away from our local commitments. Please complete the enclosed booking form or book online at to secure your preferred accommodation.

www.congregational.org.uk/bookonline

A deposit of £100pp is required when booking, this should be paid online at **www.congregational.org.uk/payonline** or by cheque payable to 'Congregational Federation'. For further information contact Jemma Edwards, Congregational Federation, 8 Castle Gate, Nottingham, NG1 7AS
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