



CMF
NC2025

16-18|5|25

HOLD FAST

NAVIGATING
CULTURAL
STORMS
WITH JESUS

cmf.li/NatCon25

national conference 2025



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HOLD FAST

NAVIGATING CULTURAL

STORMS WITH JESUS

In the rapidly shifting landscape of twenty-first-century healthcare, Christian doctors and nurses in the UK face unique challenges that test their faith, integrity, and professional calling. There is increasing pressure to compromise our values and more restrictions on our Christian freedoms. The temptations are either to blend in or to withdraw.

The lives of Daniel and his companions were shaped by a firm conviction of the sovereignty of God and confidence in his ultimate victory. They exemplified a balance that is crucial for us today, staying faithful to God while actively contributing to the world around us. We are similarly called both to stand firm in our convictions and to engage fully in the society in which we live.

In three talks, our speaker, Peter Saunders will examine Daniel's resolve to stand firm in his identity, his reliance on God for wisdom, and his boldness in witness, even in the face of trials. Peter will look at how this enabled him faithfully to navigate the ethical, emotional, and spiritual challenges of serving God in a 'Babylon' hostile to his faith and values.

Join us for an unmissable weekend of biblical teaching and fellowship for Christian healthcare workers and their families!



Peter Saunders is a New Zealand-born general surgeon who worked in NZ and Kenya before doing theological training at All Nations

Christian College, UK. He left clinical medicine in 1992 to serve for 27 years with the Christian Medical Fellowship, 19 as CEO. During this time, he also spent 13 years in end-of-life advocacy as Director of the Care Not Killing Alliance. Since 2019, he has been Chief Executive of the International Christian Medical & Dental Association (ICMDA), bringing together 107 national associations of Christian doctors and dentists worldwide.

PLENARY SESSION

Finding ways to thrive in the health service

Drawing encouragement from the letter that God instructed the prophet Jeremiah to send to those in exile in Babylon (including Daniel and his friends), we will consider how we might thrive and even influence the places we study and work in the health service.

This will be an interactive session with space for worship, reflection, discussion, and prayer and will include a diverse range of voices and experiences of some of those working across healthcare.

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 16 MAY

From 17:00	Registration
18:30	Dinner
20:00	Main session
22:00–22:30	Night prayers

SATURDAY 17 MAY

07:30–09:00	Breakfast
08:00–08:30	Morning prayers
09:30	Main session
11:00	Coffee break
11:45	Seminar session 1
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Free time (activities, exhibitors)
16:00–17:00	CMF Connect Fellowship with others in your area over coffee
17:15	Seminar session 2
18:30	Dinner
19:45	Plenary session
21:00	Free time
22:00–22:30	Night prayers

SUNDAY 18 MAY

07:30–09:00	Breakfast
08:00–08:30	Morning prayers
09:30	Seminar session 3
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	Main session (with the Lord's Supper)
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Depart

GENERAL INFORMATION

VENUE

Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre
Yarnfield
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 0NL

TRAVEL

See yarnfieldpark.com for full details.
The nearest train stations are Stafford and Stone.

BOOKSTALL

A bookstall is available and there will be plenty of relevant literature available for you to purchase. Cash and credit card accepted.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Pastoral care and prayer is available throughout the weekend.

CANCELLATIONS

No refunds will be paid for cancellation **after 16 April 2025**. If you cancel your booking before 16 April 2025, payment will be returned **with the deduction of a £40 administration fee**.

For more details or enquiries, contact:
events@cmf.org.uk
Tel: 020 7234 9660

1

Build a life you don't need to regularly escape from

In the Message, Jesus' words from Matt 11 v. 29-30 are paraphrased as, *'Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me, and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.'*

NHS data shows that in 2023, nearly 7 million days were lost due to stress-related illness among nurses and health visitors. Have dangerous stress levels been normalised in our workforce? In this interactive seminar, we will be asking, 'What did Jesus' healthcare ministry look like?'

SPEAKERS

N&M Team: **Bex Lawton** has been practising as a paediatric nurse for 19 years in Oxford and is CMF's Head of Nurses and Midwives (N&M).

Gemma Griffiths has been a qualified midwife for ten years, specialising in birth trauma, and is our N&M Staff worker.

2

Guiding principles: A biblical compass for navigating ethics in healthcare

Some of us received very little ethical teaching in our training. Many of us were taught Beauchamp and Childress' Four Principles (beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, and autonomy) and little else. But are the models we have enough? Are there Christian frameworks that we could draw on? In this seminar we will begin to consider how biblical teaching helps inform us in this area.

SPEAKER

Susan Marriott is CMF's Head of Public Policy. She previously trained and worked as a GP in and around Cambridge. She has also undertaken theological training and is currently enjoying combining both these strands while working for CMF.

3

'Medical mission: The now and not yet...'

With the aim (and transition in many cases) in Christian healthcare to national leadership. With many Christian healthcare mission organisations transitioning to national rather than expatriate leadership, what is the role, now and in the future, of Christians from the global north? Come and learn from those engaged in global health and mission.

SPEAKERS

Fi McLachlan is the Head of CMF Global and has been engaged in mission leadership alongside healthcare management. She has led the team at CMF for eight years and loves helping others discover how God can use them to be a blessing to the nations.

Gordon McFarlane is a (newly) retired rural surgeon, with experience in Kenya and latterly in Shetland. He works with CMF Global one day per week as a volunteer.

4

Why would I think of pastoral care at work?

In the world of Health Care, we meet patients, colleagues, and fellow believers every day. Daily, we encounter more than just their public image. Little glimpses of the joys and struggles in their real lives cannot be hidden. How do we respond lovingly and caringly as we pick up on these things? Or do we just let the moment go, not realising that these are precious opportunities to live and speak for Jesus? How can we, as ordinary believers, be instruments of God's care in the workplace?

SPEAKER

Steve Sturman works as a Consultant in Neurorehabilitation in Birmingham and has increasingly come to realise the value of having a 'pastoral mindset' in the workplace. He has spent the last six years in CMF thinking about Pastoral Care at work and the issues that are encountered. He is a CMF Associate and is a Pastoral Elder in his church.

5

Conversations that count: Sharing faith in secular culture

Sharing our faith can often feel difficult and daunting. Where do I start? What if I say the wrong thing? What if there's a tough question? What if they just don't care? What if I get in trouble? This seminar will explore some of the underlying issues that we face in secular culture and look at some practical ways we can move toward spiritual conversations and sharing the gospel.

SPEAKER

Steve Osmond trained in the sciences and earned his MSc *cum laude* in Zoology from the University of Johannesburg, where he specialised in ecotoxicology and ecological risk assessment. Along with his passion for the natural world, he also has a love for theology, exploring how Christianity makes sense of the world and answers life's big questions. Steve also holds an MA in Apologetics and Theology.

6

Conversations, Cass, and queering: Hot topics in gender and sexuality

The Labour manifesto committed them to bringing forward a draft bill on LGBT conversion practices. Like many governments, they are finding the practicalities much harder to nail down. The Cass Review continues to send positive ripples throughout healthcare, including the new Levy Review on adult gender services. In this seminar, we will look at the current landscape and consider how Christian healthcare workers might best bring grace and truth into an often confused and contested area.

SPEAKER

Mark Pickering is CMF's Chief Executive and a secure environment GP. He oversees CMF's public policy ministry on issues at the beginning and end of life, gender, and sexuality, often in collaboration with other Christian organisations.

7

One body, many parts

'But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.'
(1 Corinthians 12:24-25)

In the body of Christ, our strength comes from our unity in diversity, and this is to be celebrated. Come along to this seminar to hear from some of our brothers and sisters from across the globe as they share their experiences of working in the NHS, both the challenges and joys. We'll also consider what it means to intentionally stand shoulder to shoulder as co-labourers for the Kingdom from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

SPEAKER

Phoebe Owen is a Rehabilitation Medicine Consultant in Derby. She also works part-time in pastoral ministry at her local church. She is the Chair of the new CMF Every Nation Collaborative, an initiative that seeks to support international graduates and ethnic minority doctors, nurses, midwives, and students across CMF.

8

Flourishing in faith: Finding purpose and joy in every season of work

Work is not just a necessity or a burden – it's part of God's divine design. Unlike many worldviews, the biblical perspective places work within the beauty and order of creation, offering a unique and life-affirming understanding of its purpose. In this seminar, we will explore how wrong views of work can rob us of joy, purpose and dignity and how embracing God's vision for work can transform our daily lives and lead to flourishing and faithfulness.

SPEAKER

Felicia Wong is CMF's Head of Conferences and Equipping and a GP in London. She is passionate about integrating faith and work, particularly in empowering others to embrace the fullness of life that Christ offers, make a meaningful impact, and flourish where God has placed them in each season of life.

9

Managing a team as a Christian: A practical seminar

NHS working is synonymous with team work; a team working together seamlessly, supporting each other, and providing outstanding care is a wondrous thing. Yet it is also rare; there are difficult team dynamics, shortages, different agendas and more. This seminar will explore the practical business of influencing and leading a team as a Christian, including the multiple challenges of finances, resources, and management.

SPEAKERS

Chris Holcombe is a consultant surgeon in Swansea and has held multiple leadership roles locally, regionally, and nationally. Chris currently heads up CMF's Christians in Healthcare Leadership Network.

Angela Wilkinson is a GP in Liverpool who has led the Merseyside Catalyst Team for several years. She has been a GP for over 15 years and a partner at her current practice for about a year. She is married to Dave, a Paediatric Surgeon, and they have two teenage girls.

10

Christians in EDI: Redeeming the culture with humility, courage, and grace

When Christians come across Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives in the workplace, we can feel as if we are not welcome. The thought of actively engaging with EDI groups may seem like entering the lion's den. But why? We aim to explore together how the principles of EDI are fundamentally Christian, how they have been lost, and how God might want to redeem them. We will be challenged to consider our practical engagement with the world around us and encouraged to love those God gives us with a sacrificial and steadfast heart.

SPEAKER

Jonathan Buckley is a consultant psychiatrist in Southern England. He has engaged with EDI groups at NHS Trust, ICB, and Royal College levels. He has chaired a Faith and Spirituality staff group in this context. He currently is the new EDI lead on the Spirituality Special Interest Group at the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

11

How Jesus read his Bible

When Jesus said, *'Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms'* (Luke 24:4), he obviously had in mind more than a handful of famous cross-references. So, how can we learn to read across the whole range of Old Testament songs and stories, all its literature and patterns, and develop a richer picture of him and his work?

SPEAKER

Chris Green is vicar of St James, Muswell Hill in North London. Before that, he was Vice Principal at Oak Hill College, London, where he taught preaching and leadership. He's the author or editor of twelve books, including *A Higher Throne: Evangelicals and Public Theology*. He and Sharon have two adult sons, a bouncy black Labrador, and when he's not at work, you can often find him trying to be less bad at watercolours.

12

Caring for the dying: What part can I play?

Debates around assisted suicide have shown us that our society has poor 'death literacy'. Most people have little exposure to death or dying. Even many health professionals find this a difficult area to navigate with any confidence. How can we take a lead in expanding this conversation so that more of us can talk openly (and accurately) about death and dying? How can we advocate for health systems that care for each dying person, recognising their immense value right to the end of their life?

SPEAKER

Gillian Wright was a palliative care registrar in Wessex and Glasgow before changing track to work in medical ethics research for the Scottish Council on Human Bioethics. For the last few years, she has worked as the Director of Our Duty of Care, a campaign group of health professionals opposing assisted suicide and euthanasia and promoting well-funded, accessible medical care, including palliative care, for patients at the end of life.

'O joy that seeketh me through pain' – are you kidding me, Lord?

Each of us faces significant challenges throughout our lives, with times of unbridled peace and happiness being few and far between. How do we come to terms with a God who seems distant, who is ignoring our prayer to sort out the difficulty or long-term suffering in our life, or in the life of a loved one? When our desperate cries for help hit the ceiling, and there is no answer, is an unsatisfyingly diminished faith in God (or faith in a diminished God) the best we can hope for?

In this seminar we shall together look at the Biblical perspective on this dilemma and seek the Lord himself. Is the promise of finding in him our hope and our joy an illusion, or a wonderfully divine possibility, even in the presence of deep disappointment and pain?

SPEAKER

Alasdair Fyfe is a retired paediatric surgeon, from Scotland. He is married to Lena, with three grown-up children and five grandsons.

Having left his Christian faith in his mid-twenties to mid-thirties, his restored relationship with the Lord left him longing to know God better, learning to listen for His voice, and to encourage others to walk closely with Him, in joy.

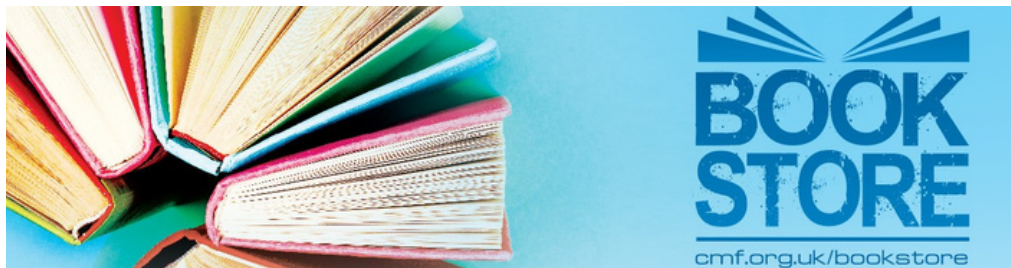
As youth-leader, then an elder in his home church, he has extensive experience in leading, preaching, and (often alongside Lena), in pastoral care. Alasdair is still very active in his own church, preaching and teaching, and witnessing through Alpha. He is a pastoral care partner with CMF, with this aspect of his ministry becoming increasingly prominent in his retirement.



This year's programme will be led by a team of passionate and dedicated YWAM (Youth with a Mission) workers who are committed to making a positive impact in the lives of young participants.

They will organise the young people in age groups, creating activities that inspire each child to live a life of purpose and meaning.

They believe that every child is unique and has a God-given purpose. YWAM is committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment where they can discover and develop their talents and abilities.



CMF exists to unite and equip Christian healthcare workers to live and speak for Jesus Christ. One of the many ways we do this is through the CMF bookstore - a one-stop-shop for Christian healthcare books.

It is one thing to delve into literature about Christianity in general, it is another to think deeply about how our Christian faith should influence our day-to-day decisions in our healthcare settings.

Visit our bookstore via cmf.org.uk/bookstore and have a browse of the resources - including CMF's own published material!

We will also feature some of our Christian healthcare resources onsite at National Conference 2025.



10 of those.com
Resources that point to Jesus

In addition to an excellent selection of Christian healthcare books from CMF, 10ofThose will also have a wide range of Christian books to purchase throughout the National Conference weekend.

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING AT CMF?

cmf.org.uk/events



CiAH pre-conference

**15-16 May 2025 | Yarnfield Park
Training & Conference Centre**

Away from home: journeying together

As Christians we are all 'resident aliens' – not of this land, but heavenward bound. How can we live in the light of this, and in particular learn from colleagues who have relocated to work in our NHS? CiAH welcomes any member of the 15 allied health professions. Please do pass on to any AHPs that you know.



NAMfest pre-conference

**15-16 May 2025 | Yarnfield Park
Training & Conference Centre**

Where was Moses when the Lord appeared to him? Well, he wasn't in a religious building, a temple, or a designated place for worship. And it wasn't on a holy day. On an average day in the wilderness, whilst tackling the unglamorous job of herding sheep, God catches his attention. Do we still expect to meet God in our everyday? Could we notice him at work in our staff room culture?



Catalyst Teams' & Specialty Leaders' pre-conference

**16 May 2025 | Yarnfield Park
Training & Conference Centre**

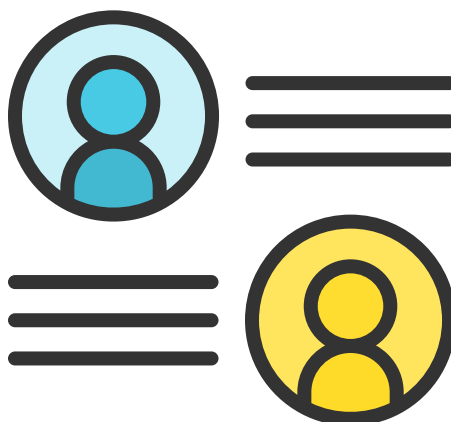
For members of Catalyst Teams' and leaders of Specialty networks or those exploring getting involved with catalyst teams or leading a specialty network are also welcome.

ARE YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE?

We want to ensure you are getting the information you need. Whether that be via our flagship magazine *Triple Helix*, emails about events in your local area or specialty, or information about what's happening in the world of Public Policy. In order to do so, we need you to keep your contact details and communication preferences up to date.

Please log in to your existing CMF account to have more control over how we keep in touch with you, to unsubscribe from particular CMF communications, or to tailor your communication preferences according to what's most relevant to you.

We use Mailchimp to send out our E-newsletters. If you unsubscribe via a CMF Mailchimp email campaign, Mailchimp will stop you from receiving *any* updates we send via this platform. Therefore, we recommend you use your CMF account to manage your preferences rather than never receiving key information via our Mailchimp again.



If you cannot remember the username or password for your CMF account, don't worry, get in touch with our team via **admin@cmf.org.uk** and we will help you to reset your password.

Please do not create another account as this could lead to us not being able to send the relevant information to you.

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Password

☐ Keep me signed in

sign in

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BOOKING NEED-TO-KNOWS

PASTORAL CARE & WELLBEING

The CMF Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Team will be available in person and online at the conference.



If you would like to pre-book a wellbeing and prayer session with a CMF Pastoral Partner, please indicate on the booking form, and the team will be in touch

REGISTRATION

A note about pricing

In light of ongoing rising costs for venue utilities, catering, and staffing, we've had to make some adjustments to our conference prices this year.

Supporting CMF members and early bookers

Members still benefit from discounted rates, and early-bird savings are available if you book soon.

What's included?

The weekend price covers your conference attendance, a comfortable ensuite or family room, and all meals and refreshments from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

Why the conference matters

In today's world, coming together is more important than ever. We look forward to welcoming you to this year's conference for a weekend of fellowship and growing together.

Bookings close on 16 April 2025

Bookings made after this date will incur **an additional £40 late booking fee** to cover extra administration costs (late bookings are subject to availability). For cancellations made before the closing date, payments will be refunded **minus a £40 administration fee**. **You can book online via: cmf.li/NatCon25 or by using the form in this booklet.**

Cancellations made after the closing date are non-refundable, except in exceptional circumstances.

Please note, there is no online gathering this year.

NC25 BOOKING FORM

Online booking is available at: cmf.li/NatCon25

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Student leaders need to register with the Student Department. Email: students@cmf.org.uk

Name(s) (including titles):

Address:

Postcode:

Tel / Mobile(s):

Email(s):

Year(s) of qualification:

Job title(s):

Workplace(s) / University:

SEMINAR CHOICES

PERSON 1

Three choices: ☐ ☐ ☐ Reserve: ☐

PERSON 2

Three choices: ☐ ☐ ☐ Reserve: ☐

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Any food requirements (including vegan/vegetarian):

Would you like to pre-book a wellbeing & prayer session with a CMF Pastoral Partner?

YES (MALE) ☐ YES (FEMALE) ☐

VENUE / ACCOMODATION

Due to restrictions set by Yarnfield Conference centre, children aged 10 and over will be allocated a separate room next to their parents. Please state if you would like to share a room with a family member (up to 4 names only).

FAMILY MEMBERS' NAMES

AGE SHARE

	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Any accessibility requirements/special needs/additional information we need to be aware of:

YOUR DATA

- ☐ If you are not a member of CMF, please tick the box if you would like CMF to contact you about membership and future events.
- ☐ Please tick here if you agree to having your name, job title, workplace and qualification year published on a delegates' list by CMF on this event for networking purposes.
- ☐ I give permission for my photograph to be taken during the event, solely for CMF publicity purposes.

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NC25 BOOKING FORM

Online booking is available at: cmf.li/NatCon25

Alternatively, please complete this form, detach it and send it with a cheque to the address below.

PAYMENTS

		EARLY BIRD (BEFORE 5/3/25)	STANDARD (BEFORE 16/4/25)	NO.	COST
STANDARD (INC NON-HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS)	NON-MEMBER	£340	£360		
	CMF MEMBER	£310	£330		
FY1/NURSE/MIDWIFE/AHP/NON-MEDIC HEALTHCARE WORKER	NON-MEMBER	£250	£270		
	CMF MEMBER	£220	£240		
RESIDENT DOCTOR TWO TO FOUR YEARS POST QUALIFICATION	NON-MEMBER	£270	£290		
	CMF MEMBER	£240	£260		
STUDENT	NON-MEMBER	£200	£215		
	CMF MEMBER	£170	£185		
CHILD	AGE 0-3		FREE		
	AGE 4-11		£70		
	AGE 12-17		£110		
DAY VISITOR (FULL DAY, INCLUDING MEALS)	SATURDAY	ADULT £110	CHILD £35		
	SUNDAY	ADULT £55	CHILD £20		
				TOTAL £	

Included is a non-refundable administration fee of £40.

CARD

☐

To pay by card, please either book through our secure online booking system at: cmf.li/NatCon25 or call: 020 7234 9673

CHEQUE

☐

I enclose a cheque made payable to: Christian Medical Fellowship

DONATIONS

We are very grateful for the generosity of those who are able to make additional donations over and above the conference fees. We rely on these to subsidise the conference fees for missionaries and families who may be unable to pay the full cost themselves. Donations also help us to be generous to our speakers. Even if you are unable to attend the conference, please consider making a donation.

Donation to CMF

£

☐

I wish to Gift Aid my donation (we will collect Gift Aid on donations where CMF hold a Gift Aid Declaration).
UK tax payers only.

The closing date for bookings is: **Wednesday, 16 April 2025.**
Please apply online, or detach this booking form and return with payments and/or donations to:
Gwen Gowers, CMF, 6 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL

