

Hope & Story



Challenge and justice in ministry

Global pandemic, streaming services, hybrid Church ... all phrases most of us hadn't encountered when we last met in person for the district ministers' conference.

Racism, injustice ... words we knew well and which, as Christians, we wanted to combat.

We're excited to launch our 2022 event with news of a new venue and two high-quality speakers to guide us through thinking about how to engage with the challenges of hybrid church and racial injustice.

The theme is **Hope & Story: challenge and justice in ministry** and we will be looking to you to bring your stories of hope in a challenging time for the Christian church.

We will be meeting on **February 1 and 2** at the Cumberland Hotel, on the seafront at Bournemouth and offering some online options.

All the familiar parts of our conference will be there: worship, a creative prayer space, the bookstall, time for fellowship. We also have a great new meeting room with much more space (see picture).



Our meeting room at the Cumberland Hotel

Members of the Southampton District have shaped the programme and will enable our worship.

We will be joined by keynote speakers Pete Phillips and Chine McDonald (see their biogs overleaf).

Pete will be helping us navigate the new tide of hybrid church - what is it;

connecting those in the building and those online; the challenges of ministering on multiple fronts.

Chine will tackle the issue of racism from her experience of being a Black woman in the white-majority space that is the UK church – a church that is being abandoned by Black women no longer able to grin and bear its casual racism, colonialist narratives and lack of urgency on issues of racial justice.

This will be a challenging conference focusing on two of the significant issues of our time.


The Methodist Church
Southampton District



We will be staying at the Cumberland Hotel on East Overcliff Drive, Bournemouth.

The hotel has been awarded the highest AA 4-star rating in Bournemouth.

It is an Art Deco resort hotel, overlooking the award-winning golden beaches with views toward the Isle of Wight and Jurassic coast.

There are 100 rooms, many with ocean view and balcony or terrace. The two restaurants include the AA Red rosette award-winning Ventana Grand Cafe Brasserie.

The Cumberland also offers access to an indoor leisure Sauna/Pool complex with squash courts and small gym (bookable) at its partner hotel, the Suncliff, next door.

Address:

27 East Overcliff Drive,
Bournemouth BH1 3AF

Online details:

Website:

cumberlandbournemouth.co.uk/

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/cumberlandbournemouth>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/cumberlandhotel/>

Our speakers

Peter Phillips is Tutor and Director at the Centre for Digital Theology, Spurgeon's College (teaching New Testament, Greek and Digital Theology) and Head of Digital Theology at Premier Christian Media.

He is an Honorary Fellow at the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University. His

current research focuses on the impact of digital culture on theology and on contemporary religious practice – especially around hybrid church, the impact of technology, and spirituality in a digital age. Pete serves as a Methodist minister and helps out in his local circuit.

Pete's recent publications include *The Bible and Digital Millennials* (Routledge, 2019) and *Defining Digital Theology* (De Gruyter's Open Theology Journal).

In response to the COVID19 pandemic, Pete wrote a number of presentations/blogs available on <http://durham.ac.uk/digitaltheology/covid19> and is lead author of the Grove Booklet on *Hybrid Church*. In 2020, Jonas Kurlberg and Pete edited a new collection of essays for SCM: *Missio Dei in the Digital Age*.



Chine McDonald is head of community fundraising & public engagement at Christian Aid.

Previously she led the media & PR team there and before that led in fundraising and communications roles in other faith-based charities.

She read theology & religious studies at Cambridge University before training as a newspaper journalist.

Chine is a regular contributor to BBC Religion & Ethics

programmes, including *Thought for the Day* on Radio 4's *Today* programme, the Daily Service, Pause for Thought and Prayer for the Day.

She also sits on a number of charity boards, including Greenbelt Festival and Christians in Media. Chine regularly speaks and writes on issues of race and faith. Her second book *God Is Not a White Man & Other Revelations* was published by Hodder & Stoughton in May 2021.