

Conference biographies

Introducing our keynote speakers and other Conference guests

Neil MacGregor



Neil MacGregor was the Director of the British Museum (2002-2015) and the National Gallery (1987-2002). He now divides his time between Berlin, Mumbai and London.

He is the inaugural artistic director of the Humboldt Forum where he chairs an advisory committee making recommendations to the German government on how the Forum can draw on the resources of the Berlin art collections to become a place where different narratives of world cultures can be explored and debated. In Mumbai he advises the CSMVS Museum on the presentation of world cultures. In London he is working on an exhibition on Faith and Society for the British Museum and a radio series for BBC Radio 4 for later this year.

Martyn Percy



Martyn Percy is Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, the only academic institution in the world that is also a cathedral. Educated at the Universities of Bristol, Durham, London and Sheffield, Martyn trained for ordination after a career in publishing, serving a curacy in Bedford (1990-94), as Chaplain and Director of Studies at Christ's College, Cambridge (1994-97) and then Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute (1997-2004). He served as Canon Theologian at Sheffield Cathedral, and is a Canon Emeritus of Salisbury Cathedral. From 2004 he was Principal of Ripon College Cuddesdon.

Martyn has served as a Director of the Advertising Standards Authority and is a current Adviser to the British Board of Film Classification. He is Patron of St. Francis' Children's Society (an Adoption and Fostering Agency), a Trustee of the Grubb Institute and the Li Tim-Oi Foundation, and a Vice-President of Modern Church. He has written extensively, his most recent publication being *The Future Shapes of Anglicanism: Currents, Contours, Charts* (Routledge, 2017). As an academic practical theologian, Martyn comments with strength and passion on the issues of Christianity and contemporary culture, modern ecclesiology and pastoral theology.

Veronica Hope Hailey



Veronica Hope Hailey is Dean of the School of Management and holds a Chair in Management Studies at Bath University. She is a member of the Government's new Productivity Group in addition to being a member of the Steering Group for the UK Government's Task Force on Employee Engagement. She has been named among the 'UK's Top 10 Most Influential HR Thinkers' from 2012 - 2016. Professor Hope Hailey has worked for over 20 years on issues to do with strategic change in organisations and has co-authored one of the bestselling text books on the topic, *Exploring Strategic Change*, for which the fourth edition has recently been published.

Veronica specialises in working with large, mature organisations in collaborative research partnerships.

A consistent theme of the collaborations is exploration of the challenges of corporate renewal and people transformation. Her most recent work has focused on the Repair of Trust following the financial crisis, culminating in a series of reports for the CIPD, 'Where has all the trust gone?', 'Cultivating Trustworthy Leaders' and 'Experiencing Trustworthy Leadership'. In 2015 she published two CIPD reports with Professor Julia Balogun on 'Landing Transformational Change'. This research was undertaken within 25 organisations, including the John Lewis Partnership, Unilever, the NHS, GKN, Norton Rose, HMRC, BIS and a banking group.

She has given some help to the Diocese with leadership development and the Bishop's Staff with work that led to 'Renewing Hope – Pray, Serve, Grow'.

Elaine Storkey



Elaine Storkey is a well-known theologian, writer and broadcaster (including *Thought for the Day* for over 20 years). She was a member of General Synod from 1987 to 2015 and served on numerous commissions and working parties including the Cathedrals Commission and Crown Nominations Commission. Elaine has taught all over the world and in this country, principally at Oxford University, The Open University, the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (where she was also Director), and King's College, London.

For the last eight years she has been a member of Newnham College Cambridge. She was President of Tearfund from 1996 to 2013, and has been named as one of the 100 women public intellectuals by *The Guardian*. Elaine has written about the impact of climate change and global poverty and is a prominent feminist evangelical whose writings have brought a biblical perspective to the feminist movement.

Elaine's latest book is *Scars Across Humanity: Understanding and Overcoming Violence Against Women* (SPCK, 2015).

Anne-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh



Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh is Director of Studies at the Sarum Centre for Formation in Ministry at Sarum College. She is responsible for the quality of the ministry programme and teaches Biblical Studies.

She is especially interested in the Hebrew Bible and the interrelationship between the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. She is currently researching the four women in Matthew's genealogy and writes a lectionary blog at: <http://www.sarum.ac.uk/category/lectionary-blog>

Nicki Rogers



Singer, songwriter, realist and dreamer. Nicki Rogers' heart and music takes you through the duality of life without allowing questioning or pain to detract from hope or beauty. Her music is drawn from the complexities of life – faith and doubt, joy and sadness, the subliminal and the sublime.

Nicki is passionate about God, life and music – all three are inextricably linked for her and she questions and explores them as only someone who believes in all three and has been disappointed with all three, can.

Her voice has been described as 'beautiful...healing...ethereal...crazy...unbelievable' and comparisons have been drawn with Tori Amos, Nicole Norderman and even Kate Bush. She is an Indy Music Award finalist and regularly performs all over the UK and Europe. Nicki's first three albums – 'Colour Scheme', 'Feeder Lane' and 'Once in a While' have been well received on both sides of the Atlantic.

Riding Lights



Riding Lights Roughshod is a dynamic young theatre company with one mission – to bring the gospel into the heart of local communities. Creating a unique brand of spiritual story-telling, Roughshod annually reaches a live audience of some 70,000 adults and young people. The intention is to get this dynamic, challenging, spiritually centred theatre to the places that need it most.



The first Roughshod company was launched in 1992, specifically to serve local churches and communities. Each company is a group of four or five multitalented young actors who travel around the country with their own transport and equipment. The actors are all Christians committed to communicating their faith and its values through performance as well as through their personal witness.

Emily, Phoebe, Chris, Will and Andy are this year's Roughshod company.

Tom Elliott



Tom Elliott is a Christian comedian and entertainer. He travels throughout the UK and abroad making people laugh, whilst helping them think about life and faith. Tom reaches thousands of people each year at live events in churches, schools and conferences, whilst also appearing numerous times on Radio and TV.

Tom is the founder and director of *The Affirming Life Trust*, a charity that facilitates his work, allowing him to pioneer creative ways to share the Christian message. An Ambassador for the International Charity, 'Compassion', Tom also uses his unique blend of skills to see children released from poverty.

David Runcorn



In past lives David Runcorn has been a vicar in West London; a leader of the Lee Abbey Community Holiday and Conference Centre in North Devon; a full time lecturer and tutor at Trinity Theological College, Bristol, where he was Director of Pastoral Studies; Director of Ministry Development in the diocese of Lichfield; and a 'free-range priest' working in areas of personal spiritual accompaniment, prayer and retreat, vocational guidance, Christian faith, leadership and ministry development, team and community building.

David has published a number of books on areas of Christian faith, spirituality, prayer and human development. He is now Associate Director of Ordinands and Warden of Readers in the Diocese of Gloucester, while continuing to write and speak.

Theresa Hunt



Theresa Hunt is a former gymnast and experienced fitness instructor who is qualified to teach a number of sport and exercise activities, including Stott Pilates. She is known for her sympathetic and person centred approach and works with individuals at their own level of fitness to achieve great results.

Theresa says, 'I do try and inject a certain amount of humour into the sessions and I really welcome and appreciate as much interaction in my classes as possible!'

Theresa will be leading Sunrise Exercise at the Conference, as well as offering two reflection sessions and two workshops. While she is on site she will be available for one-to-one sessions for anyone with specific conditions that would benefit from more structured and focused exercise recommendations, such as neck, shoulder or back pain or stiffness.