**News about the first Congregational Federation**

**Spring School - March 2022**

We want to bring to your attention the first of what we hope will be our ongoing offering of Congregational Federation Spring Schools. Many in our society seem surprised to learn that there still *is* an active Congregational Federation presence in the UK. As one way of addressing this issue we have decided to launch our first Spring School in March 2022.

A large room

Description automatically generated

The venue for the first Spring School

The aim of the Spring School is both to encourage and to challenge Christian non-conformists to play a larger part in the public life of the UK today. We will explore our distinctive values, perspectives and principles, reminding ourselves of our call to radical discipleship under Jesus. There will be a focus in some sessions on the Congregationalist tradition in particular, but not in any jingoistic way.

Our title? **Is Christian Non-Conformity a Thing of the Past?**

Our topics?

* **What Are the Distinctives of a Christian Non-Conformist Voice in Public Life?**
* **Challenging ‘Empire’ is a Non-Conformist Church’s Responsibility**
* **Significant Historical Congregationalists with an Ongoing Influence Today**
* **Reading the Bible as Non-Conformists**
* **The Importance of a Congregational Voice in the UK Today**

Our presenters?

* **Professor Anthony Reddie:** Director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Culture and editor of Black Theology: An International Journal.
* **Rev Dr Ann Jeffers:** Formerly a Director of Research at Heythrop College, University of London.
* **Rev Dr Alan Argent:** Research Fellow at Dr Williams’s Library, Minister of Trinity Congregational Church, Brixton.
* **Rev Dr Julian Gotobed:** Director of Practical Theology and Mission at Westcott House, Cambridge, and an Accredited Minister in the Baptist Union of Great Britain.
* **Rev Dr Graham Adams:** MA programme leader and Tutor for Mission Studies in the Context of Global Christianity at Luther King House.
* **Rev Suzanne Nockels:** President of the Congregational Federation, and Minister of Tapton Hill Congregational Church, Sheffield.

Our date? **11-13 March 2022.**

Our venue? **The iconic grade 2 listed**[**National Justice Museum**](https://www.nationaljusticemuseum.org.uk/)**in the heart of Nottingham.**

Our cost? **£150 per person**, which includes buffet lunches and evening meals, plus a guided tour of the National Justice Museum. The first 30 places will attract an **early-bird discount of £25**.

Accommodation: Please note that accommodation is **not** included in this cost, and participants will need to arrange their own accommodation. However, we have prepared a guide to the variety of hotels and other possibilities that are very close to the venue. This guide is accessible from our webpages via the link below.

For information about the Summer School, the presenters and the venue, follow this link to our dedicated webpages: <https://www.congregational.org.uk/spring-school/spring-school>

**Booking and payment are online and will only take a few moments. Please visit** <https://www.congregational.org.uk/spring-school/bookings> **to book your place.**

**Christian non-conformity should not be a thing of the past!**

Let me encourage you to consider joining us for this important and exciting event. This will be an inspirational time of fellowship, becoming familiar with, and informed about, current issues of concern to non-conformists, and supporting one another to build confidence in our particular call from God in our contemporary society.