

A WARM WELCOME TO
The Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh
25 October 2019

for
THREE GREAT DEBATES

CHRISTIANITY IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE?

In the chair: **PROFESSOR MONA SIDDIQUI**

1. Christianity is irrelevant in modern society

Debated by: Donald Findlay QC and Dr Andy Bannister

**2. Christian principles should be dropped from
medicine**

Debated by: Professor David Galloway and Lord Purvis of Tweed

**3. Christians should support the criminalisation
of hate speech**

Debated by: Dr Donald Macaskill and Paul Coleman



Have your say. Contribute to the discussion.

Tea and coffee from 18.30

Debate starts at 19.00

Continue the conversation over a glass of wine at 20.30

Tickets £25 on eventbrite

*A joint venture between Lawyers' Christian Fellowship,
Christian Medical Fellowship and Christian Dental Fellowship.*

Meet the Participants....

Mona Siddiqui, OBE is Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh where she also serves as Assistant Principal for Religion and Society. Her primary research interests are in the areas of Islamic jurisprudence and ethics and Christian-Muslim encounters. She holds six honorary doctorates and is a regular commentator in national and international media as well as chair of the BBC's Scottish Religious Advisory Committee. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the American Academy for Arts and Sciences.



Donald Findlay QC has 40 years of experience in dealing with every aspect of the criminal law including common law crime and statutory and regulatory offences in trial and appellate courts. Donald is an atheist. He has extensive practical knowledge of matters scientific, medical and technological in so far as they relate to the justice system. He has frequently spoken at conferences on such issues in the UK and abroad. In addition he has a long involvement in the world of sport and has frequently advised sportsmen and women on contract and other matters as well as clubs and organising bodies.



Dr. Andy Bannister is the Director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity (and an Adjunct Lecturer at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto). He travels widely across the UK and further afield, engaging audiences in universities, business settings, on the media, in pubs, cafes, and churches in discussions about Christianity and the claims of Jesus. Unusually for a Christian philosopher, Andy has a PhD in Qur'anic Studies and is active academically in that field, where for the past few years he has been working on the world's first digital critical edition of the Qur'an. He has written several books, his most recent being *The Atheist Who Didn't Exist*, a popular-level mix of comedy and philosophy. Andy is husband to Astrid and father to Caitriona and Christopher. He and his family live in Dundee.



Paul Coleman serves as executive director of ADF International from its headquarters in Vienna, overseeing the advocacy and operations of the global, legal advocacy organization. Coleman is a solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales and is the author of two books and numerous articles. In his book *Censored*, Coleman addresses the rise of so-called 'hate speech' laws throughout Europe and their devastating effect on freedom of speech. Specializing in international human rights and European law, Coleman has been involved in more than 20 cases before the European Court of Human Rights.



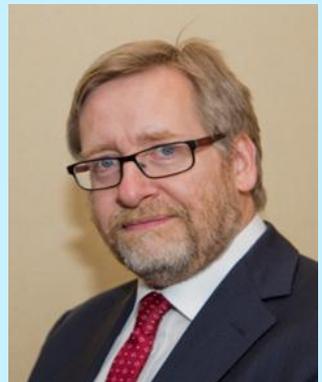
Professor David Galloway is the immediate past President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. He trained in surgery in Glasgow, London and New York City before establishing his consultant practice in Glasgow. He has worked in many different parts of the world, most recently providing surgical support to a remote hospital in rural Zambia. His specialist interests are in surgical oncology and metabolic surgery although in the African context has had to deal with almost every surgical discipline. He continues to be academically active, has numerous publications and has recently been working on a book that challenges naturalistic assumptions as they apply to physiology and medicine. In November 2018 he participated in a “Grill a Christian” event hosted by Glasgow University Christian Medical Fellowship and is keen to engage in providing an intellectually valid defence for the Christian worldview.



Jeremy Purvis was appointed a Liberal Democrat working peer in August 2013, taking the title Lord Purvis of Tweed. He was born at the mouth of the river in Berwick-upon-Tweed and represented its source as Member of the Scottish Parliament for Tweeddale, Ettrick & Lauderdale (2003-2011). When elected he was the youngest constituency MSP and he is one of the youngest ever Life Peers.

During his terms in Holyrood he served as the Scottish Lib Dem Shadow Finance Secretary. In 2005 he proposed a bill 'to allow for a mentally capable, terminally ill adult the right to receive medical assistance to die'. In 2011-12 he chaired the cross party Devo Plus group writing their proposals for the future of Scotland, most of which are now reflected in legislation.

Dr Donald Macaskill is the Chief Executive of Scottish Care, the membership organisation of independent providers of care home and care at home/housing support services in Scotland. Numbering nearly 500 organisations Scottish Care members employ over 110,000 staff. Prior to his current role, Dr Macaskill ran an equality and human rights consultancy for fourteen years. In that time, he focused on issues such as adult protection and safeguarding, workplace and institutional discrimination and the role of human rights in social care. He has a particular interest in human rights-based approaches to care and support, personalisation, bereavement and palliative care. Dr Macaskill has campaigned for many years for incidents of harm against minority groups to be considered as hate incidents and has sought to increase understanding around what we mean by freedom of speech.



Introducing the Sponsoring Organisations for this event:



The Lawyers'
Christian
Fellowship

The Lawyers' Christian Fellowship seeks to encourage Christian lawyers to speak about Christ and live out the gospel in the legal profession. Originally founded in 1852 as the Lawyers' Prayer Union, the LCF has a long history of uniting and equipping Christian lawyers and witnessing to members of the legal profession. The ambition of the LCF is to see society served by our legal system bringing

people justice in substance as well as proper process, and to see such justice helping the most vulnerable where it counts, on the ground. In an age of scandals and corruption we want to help encourage an uncompromising commitment to integrity among everyone involved in the law.



Formed in 1949, the Christian Medical Fellowship unites and equips Christian doctors and nurses to live and speak for Jesus Christ. Members include around 5,000 UK doctors, 800 UK medical students and 600 nurses and nursing students. CMF aims to help its members to deepen their faith, live like Jesus

and serve him obediently, particularly through acting competently and with compassion in their medical practice. CMF encourages medical mission throughout the world, and promotes Christian values in society, especially in the areas of bioethics and healthcare. For more information see www.cmf.org.uk.



CDF is a UK based, inter-denominational organisation of people who are joined together by a common desire to serve Christ in their own lives, as well as in and through their profession. The aim of CDF is to provide an active Christian influence in the dental profession by uniting and equipping Christian

dentists to live out their Christian faith in life and work, encouraging and supporting dental students and dental care professionals in their training and those who have recently qualified