



# Annual Conference 2025

Suncoast Church, 3 Courtlands Road, Eastbourne BN22 8TR

Christian Friends of Israel  
United Kingdom

## Map and directions

**Car** — From **A27** turn onto Kings Drive until you reach the A2021 continue straight over the mini roundabout and turn left at the second lights.

— From **A22** turn onto Lottbridge Drove then right onto the A259 Seaside turning right at second lights onto A2021 Whitley Road. Then turn right at the next lights onto Waterworks Road then left onto Courtlands Road.

**Train** — From train station venue is a short taxi drive or a 20-minute walk along Ashford Road, Cavendish Avenue, etc.

**Bus** — Any bus to Eastbourne arriving at Cornfield Road. Walk to train station and turn right to join the Ashford Road route.



## Accommodation Information

For those considering spending the weekend in Eastbourne, details of available accommodation can be obtained from the local Tourist Information Office: Tel: 01323 415415 or [www.visiteastbourne.com](http://www.visiteastbourne.com)

Contact: CFI Communications, PO Box 2687, Eastbourne, BN22 7LZ  
Tel: 01323 410810 Email: [info@cfi.org.uk](mailto:info@cfi.org.uk) YouTube: [www.youtube.com/CFIUK](http://www.youtube.com/CFIUK) Web: [www.cfi.org.uk](http://www.cfi.org.uk)

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# Annual Conference 2025



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September

## Why Israel matters to the Church



Venue: Suncoast Church, Eastbourne BN22 8TR

Encouraging  
Understanding

Challenging  
Prejudice

Assisting  
Community



# Annual Conference



# Why Israel matters to the Church

## Special guest speakers



**Gerald McDermott** teaches at Jerusalem Seminary and the Reformed Episcopal Seminary (ACNA) in Philadelphia, USA. He retired from the Anglican Chair of Divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham AL in 2020. His most recent book is, *A New History of Redemption: The Work of the Jewish Messiah Through the Millennia* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, March 2024). This is a history of redemption for the Church with Israel at the centre.

Three previous books on Israel have been *Israel Matters: Why Christians Must Think Differently about the People and the Land* (Brazos) and *The New Christian Zionism: Fresh Perspectives on Israel and the Land* (InterVarsity), and *Understanding Jewish Roots of Christianity* (Lexham).

Gerald and his wife Jean attend Holy Cross Anglican in Crozet, VA, USA where he serves as vicar-in-residence. He lectures and podcasts frequently. They have three grown sons and fourteen grandchildren.



**Martin Charlesworth** lives in Shrewsbury with his wife Jane. They have three adult daughters. He has worked as a school teacher, in business, as a pastor and in charity leadership. He was the pastor of Barnabas Community Church, Shrewsbury, for twenty years. Martin founded the Christian social action charity 'JubileePlus' in 2013 (<https://jubilee-plus.org/>). He has co-authored three books on issues related to biblical social justice.

Martin is also a Bible teacher. He has led a leadership training programme for Christ Central Churches, a Newfrontiers church network, for the past ten years. Also, in 2020 he launched an online Bible teaching resource - 'Word Online' (<https://wordonline.org/>). Throughout his ministry Martin has retained a focus on the Church's engagement with the Jewish people.

## Programme outline

### FRIDAY EVENING 12<sup>th</sup> September

**6.00 – 6.45pm** Doors open – CFI UK resources stall open

### 7.00–8.00pm – SESSION 1

**Why Israel matters in the Bible** – Gerald McDermott

### SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> September

**9.00–9.45am** Doors open – CFI UK resources stall open

### 10.00–11.00am – SESSION 2

**Why Israel matters through history** – Gerald McDermott

**11.00–11.45pm** Refreshment Break – CFI UK resources stall open

### 12.00–1.00pm – SESSION 3

**Cultural progressivism & the rise of antisemitism** – Martin Charlesworth

**1.00–2.00pm** Lunch Break\* – CFI UK resources stall open

### 2.00–3.00pm – SESSION 4

**Activities Report** – CFI UK Team

**3.00–3.45pm** Refreshment Break – CFI UK resources stall open

### 4.00–5.00pm – SESSION 5

**Why Israel matters today** – Gerald McDermott

**5.30pm** Doors Close

Programme subject to change

## Resources

We will have our usual well-stocked resources stall and free literature  
For online resources please visit: [www.cfi.org.uk/shop.php](http://www.cfi.org.uk/shop.php)

Sung worship accompanied by Andrew and Liz Day with Matthew Soakell

There will be opportunity to give to the work of CFI UK during the event  
\*Please bring a packed lunch, hot drinks provided