

Reviews from MET South West Weekend

23-25 JANUARY 2026

SPEAKER DEREK BURNSIDE



HEROES & VILLAINS

BRIAN ADDINGTON writes

Blend together food, fellowship and focused Bible study. Add in Torquay and January, and one arrives at the MET SW Conference held on the last weekend of January.

This year's main speaker was Derek Burnside (Principal, Capernwray Hall Bible School). Under the loose heading of 'Heroes and Villains', Derek helped us explore some of those biblical characters who give us shining examples of what it is to be a person of faith, living out the life-transforming love of God. Each

passage we looked at also had those whose lives can act as a warning to us, and gave us something to think about, particularly how we respond to the challenge of being a 'work in progress'.

Early on, Derek reminded us that there is often some 'poor area' in the best of us, and even those areas we sometimes describe as the worst, can have redeeming qualities. Jesus is the only true hero of the faith.

One of the illustrations Derek gave us was of a guitar string being held in tension. Only when the tension

between the extremes is correct, can a tune be played.

As the weekend drew to a close, we were all encouraged to invite someone else to next year's weekend, where the main speaker will be Rev Chris Briggs (Chair of MET:Revive). Could you be the person that I am inviting? One does not have to live in the South West to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you beside the sea next January and digging deeper into all that our loving God has for us!

KATE RAWLINS writes

After battling the wind and the rain, flooding, and fallen trees to get there, along with a storm raging, and the waves hitting the hotel windows, the Holy Spirit gently settled on the MET South West Conference and gave us a weekend of great teaching, fellowship, worship and food.

Derek Burnside guided us through the 'heroes and villains' of Gaius and Diotrephes (putting God first); Tychicus and Archippus (what ministry has God given us for now?); Euodia and Syntyche (Christians sometimes fall out with each other, but put it right in Christ); Demas and Alexander (are we battered or beaten?). The words in brackets are what challenged me at the time! I was also encouraged, enlightened and blessed by Derek's thoughtful, funny, inspired words.

Saturday afternoon saw Rev Graham Shaw give a presentation about the Zimbabwe Victim Support charity. As always, he brought good news stories about what the charity is doing, but also shared something about the terrible injustice that makes the charity necessary in the first place.

The worship that punctuated the sessions was led by members of the committee, greatly enhanced by Joan Wragg's Spirit-filled music. It was wonderful to have time to be still and quiet, as well as excited and loud in our praise.

A truly good time. Those of us who don't live by the sea absolutely loved watching the wild sea – it added a new dimension to the weekend!

Next year we are being led by Rev Chris Briggs: I'm looking forward to it already! The challenge was for each of us to bring one person with us next year, but you don't have to wait to be invited, just come and be blessed by our God.

PAULINE SCOTT writes

I am an Anglican who likes to share fellowship with my Methodist friends. This was my second MET SW Conference at Torquay. All the teaching was fabulous, but the session that spoke to me most was 'Finishing or Fizzling' from Colossians 4:2-18. What happens if we lose our focus on Jesus? We need to be sure that we 'complete the work we have received from

the Lord' and not fizzle out. Fizzling means the light has not gone out, but it is not burning brightly.

The weekend was a great encouragement to keep burning brightly and be equipped to finish the race strongly. So, if you would like outstanding teaching, warm extravagant fellowship and glorious food there's no better place than the MET SW Conference where you will find nourishment for body, mind and spirit.

GERALD HARDY writes

As a hardened attendee at this annual gathering, I feel qualified to say that they never disappoint and this year was no exception. It is always a pleasure to renew acquaintance with numerous familiar faces, and friendliness with conviviality rules the day. We always have excellent speakers. This year, Derek Burnside excelled in his teaching and as always, we enjoyed inspirational worship. All in all, a glorious experience. Roll on the next one!

We would love to see you at MET SW next year! If finances are a problem, there is a discretionary fund that could be made available, separate from MET:Revive: The Briggs Personal Discretionary Gift Fund for Promotion of the Evangelical Faith. Contact chris@briggsworld.co.uk or nicola@briggsworld.co.uk for further details, or write to 16 Booth Drive, Ashbourne, DE6 1SZ.

MET SW CONFERENCE

**Friday 29th – Sunday 31st
January 2027**

Principalities and Powers: Avoiding the Paralysis of the Church

SPEAKER: CHRIS BRIGGS

LIVERMEAD CLIFF HOTEL, TORQUAY

Booking form and details in the autumn edition of
RE:VIVE magazine