

Faith, Politics and Belonging Tour – October 27-31 2024

7pm, Sunday 27 October – Making Sense and *Launch of Faith, Politics and Belonging*, St John the Evangelist, Station Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9HT – hosted by Reverend Paul Butler

7.30pm-9.30pm, Tuesday 29 October - *Launch of Faith, Politics and Belonging*, City Hope Church, 121 Drummond Road, Bermondsey, London SE16 2JY – hosted by Paul Brown, Elder, City Hope Church

3pm -5pm, Thursday 31 October – Panel Debate in association with ‘Faith in Labour’, *What now for the Christian tradition in the Labour Party?*, The Jubilee Room, House of Commons – hosted by Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP

For more information contact igeary1972@gmail.com

Copies of Faith, Politics and Belonging will be available for £12 in cash at the events in Waterbeach and Bermondsey.

Drawing on the author's years spent working in and around Westminster, this essay collection provides a personal perspective on the themes of faith, politics, and belonging.

To understand identity and place we need faith. Faith should lead to engagement in the wider world, and engagement in the wider world should deepen our faith and sense of purpose.


In three sections each drawing on his experience, Ian Geary reflects on the cognate themes of faith, politics, and belonging. Each section concludes with some questions for discussion and some suggestions for further reading.

Written from personal experience via immersion in British political life and informed by his understanding of theology, the author seeks to animate a generous debate about the key themes, not to secure readers' attachment to a cause or political ideology.

These essays are written in the hope that Christians engaged in politics will find them helpful and that they will also reach a wider audience to show how viewing politics through the lens of faith might yield a fresh perspective. Ian Geary would venture to suggest that politics—despite its critics—is a necessary and good thing.

IAN GEARY has over twenty years' experience in UK politics including working for two Labour MPs, a trade union, and The Salvation Army. He is the co-editor of *Blue Labour: Forging a New Politics* (2015), a committed Christian, and a fan of West Bromwich Albion. He is currently based in Athens, Greece, with his wife and three children while studying remotely for a PhD in Divinity at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

COVER DESIGN: Savannah N. Landerholm
www.wipfandstock.com

Resource Publications 
An imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers

ISBN 978-1-5667-7797-0

9 781566 777970


GEARY

IAN GEARY
Foreword by Michael Wear
Afterword by Jon Cruddas

Faith, Politics, & Belonging

Faith, Politics, & Belonging

A Reflection on Identity; Complexity, Simplicity, and Obsession



Comments on Faith, Politics and Belonging

“Britain’s Labour Party has deep roots in the nineteenth-century expansion of Methodism but is usually thought of today as classically liberal and secular. Ian Geary’s lively series of essays is a timely reminder of a disparate but dogged group inside the Labour Party which continues to take the Christian faith as the starting point for their politics—and which sees history moving in their direction.”

—**STEPHEN TIMMS,**
member of Parliament for East Ham

‘If we don’t have souls and love isn’t the ultimate reality, why should we bother with a politics of justice and compassion? In a comprehensive series of short essays, Ian Geary updates the crucial traditions of religious socialism for our time. His personal and accessible approach to postliberalism or ‘left conservatism’ means that, for the first time in print, this politics is being *performed* and not just discussed, without being in any way theoretically diluted. Such an approach is crucial, because at the core of postliberalism lies a desire to replace the technocratic with the interpersonal. If this core is not communicated to a large audience, it cannot ever become a mass movement. Geary has inaugurated that process.

Professor John Milbank

“In this collection of essays, Ian Geary is a wise guide not only to the complex political issues of our time from the position of faith, but also the divisive political instincts of our time from the position of faith. Geary charts an independent course in a series of essays which offer insight and originality on issues of faith, politics, and belonging—but most of all on the intersection of these. In these days of divisive binaries, voices like Geary’s are sorely needed.”

—TOM GREGGS,
chair of divinity, University of Aberdeen

Professor Tom Greggs, Chair of Divinity, University of Aberdeen

“Here, you’ll find political vision honest enough to express doubt, and political commitment clear-eyed enough to hold tension. Geary leaves behind the tribal fandom of his football team and advances a view of politics, but not as an arena in that we must pick a team and then work up certainty about the rightness of that team—no matter what it does.

Instead, Geary finds his political interest and involvement rooted in his Christian faith and oriented toward the common good. Geary’s politics is occupied with the well-being of persons, particularly as they find themselves in relationship with one another.”

Michael Wear, Founder, President and CEO of The Center for Christianity and Public Life