

## **Idris Baker**

### **Brief Biography**

Idris Baker is a consultant in palliative medicine in Swansea. He grew up in Knighton and Bangor and trained mainly in Cambridge, London and Leicester. He has interests in the theoretical and applied ethics of end of life care which he has studied at Keele University. Before taking up his post in Swansea he was visiting scholar at the Hastings Center in New York, looking at questions of autonomy and proxy decision making. He currently has responsibilities in medical management, postgraduate training and education, and clinical ethics, but although he has read a couple of books he has learnt most of what he knows at patients' bedsides. He teaches and speaks widely on palliative care and ethics on undergraduate and postgraduate courses and with other groups.

He is a Christian (and a member of Townhill Baptist Church, Swansea) and has spent time discussing his clinical and ethical interests with a range of church and Christian groups. He shares with his wife, Sarah, the role of medical school link in Swansea for the Christian Medical Fellowship, a UK organisation whose passion is uniting and equipping Christian doctors and nurses.

All of us, at some point, come up against people who may soon be nearing death, so what should be our response to them? The Bible is utterly relevant, so it must have something to say on this - but what? What does Christ's lordship mean when we're faced with difficult questions and death and dying? What do the commands to love God and our neighbour say about how we should deal with people who may be nearing the end of life?

Idris doesn't yet have many of the answers but he is committed to working out, before God, what it means to be a Christian in the modern world, as one who works with people who are dying, with their families, and with those who care for them.