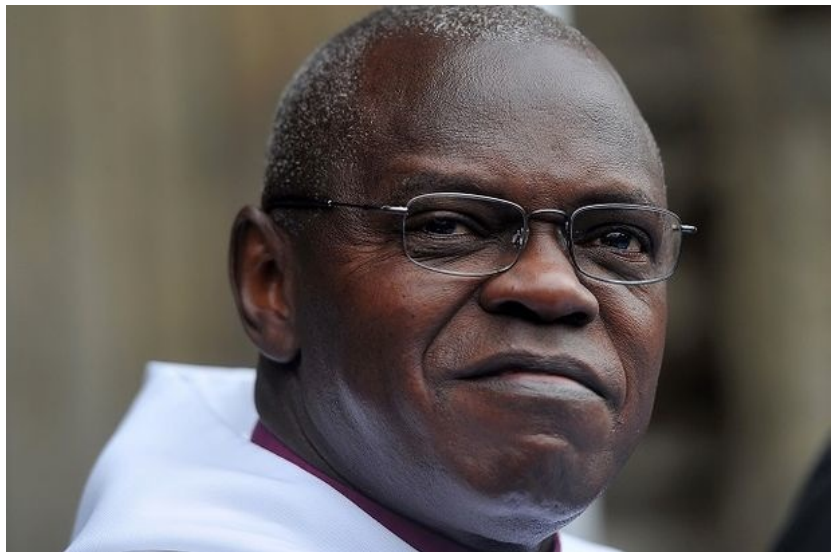


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Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu pleads with firms: Pay the living wage to workers

**A commission chaired
by Dr Sentamu warned
that spiralling living
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“double squeeze” on the lowest paid**



Daily Mirror - Millions of workers will not benefit from the economic recovery unless they are paid a living wage, according to a new report.

A commission chaired by Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu warned that spiralling living costs and stagnating wages were creating a “double squeeze” on the lowest paid.

The report, the first produced by the independent commission, said over five million workers were paid less than the so-called Living Wage, set at £7.65 an hour (£8.80 in London), compared with the adult national minimum rate of £6.31.

The number of workers paid below the higher rate increased by 9%, or 420,000, over the past year, it was found.

Housing costs have tripled in the last 15 years while energy bills have rocketed by 88% in the past five years, research by the commission showed.

Low paid workers are hit hardest by rising prices and stagnating wages, said the report.

Dr Sentamu said: "The idea of making work pay is an empty slogan to millions of people who are hard pressed and working hard, but find themselves in a downward social spiral.

"They are often in two or three jobs just to make ends meet. Meanwhile the UK taxpayer picks up the bill in tax credits, in-work benefits and decreased demand in the economy.

"With the economy showing signs of recovery, employers that can pay a Living Wage must do so. They should choose between continuing to make gains on the back of poverty wages, or doing the right thing and paying a fair wage for a hard day's work."

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/archbishop-york-dr-john-sentamu-3130110#ixzz2tJhloaxO>

C of E Dioceses given three months to vote on women bishops

It was not the "hell-for-leather gallop" suggested by one member. The General Synod, none the less, set a brisk pace for the passage of the women-bishops legislation on Tuesday.



Reassurance: the Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Revd James Langstaff, talking to the press after the Synod debate

As a result, the way was opened for a woman to be appointed a bishop "in the early months of next year", the Bishop of Rochester, the Rt Revd James Langstaff (*above*), said after the debate.

Church Times - The Synod was swift in its own proceedings. Comfortable majorities were secured for both the draft Declaration from the House of

Bishops and the draft procedure for the resolution of disputes, with few queries from the floor.

The Draft Measure and Draft Amending Canon were both revised quickly - in full Synod, without a revision-committee stage. Amendments concerning the Equality Act fell, after reassuring speeches that parish representatives and patrons would have enough protection against claims under this legislation.

Bishop Langstaff, who chaired the steering committee that produced the new package, acknowledged: "We cannot, in the end, guard against legal challenge with 100-per-cent assurance." But, he said, there was "no doubt at all" that a PCC resolution "held on the grounds of the strongly held religious convictions of a significant number of those worshipping in the parish" was permitted by the Act.

The Synod also carried the first consideration of the rescinding of the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993, thus dismantling the present provision for those unable to accept the ministry of women priests.

Finally, members voted to suspend a clause of the Standing Orders to reduce from six months to three the period of time that diocesan synods will have to vote on the draft legislation when it is referred to them.

A few objections were raised to this. The director of Reform, Susie Leafe, spoke of "the pressure for us to get with the programme". Every poll and vote had suggested that about 25 per cent of regular worshippers had theological convictions that meant that they would seek provision under new arrangements, she said, and it was "vital" that diocesan synods, churches, and deaneries had time to understand the "package in which they are being asked to participate. . . We are missing an opportunity to build trust in every place where trust is most needed."

The Synod voted, however, in favour of the procedural motion by an overwhelming majority of 358 to 39, far in excess of the 75 per cent required. More at -

<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2014/14-february/news/uk/dioceses-given-three-months-to-vote-on-women-bishops>

Welsh churches boost Fairtrade awareness

Welsh churches are set to highlight issues of poverty and justice next week, as they encourage congregations to buy fairtrade products at the beginning of Fairtrade Fortnight.



Ruth Prince at Usk Farmer's Market

Sunday 23 February has been named as the next stage of the Church's attempt to become a Fairtrade Province, which requires 70 per cent of its churches in every diocese to commit to using fairtrade products wherever possible.

So far, 40 per cent of churches have signed up to the initiative, and organisers are hoping that next Sunday will inspire more congregations to get involved.

Ruth Prince has been selling Fairtrade products at her church in Llangybi for eight years, and is backing this new push to encourage more churches to join in and consider the wider consequences of their purchasing power.

"Local churches and parishioners can make a real difference in supporting fair trade," she said.

"Just by using fairtrade tea, coffee or sugar at church events...it lends the Church's moral authority to the movement. But also, by raising awareness in a very practical way, we can show that we are helping people in poorer countries.

"This isn't charity or being patronising; it's giving producers and farmers in developing countries the dignity of a proper reward for their labour.

"By including producers and farmers in the developing world in our worship and intercessions in church, we're supporting them through faith, as well as demonstrating Jesus' teaching to look after one another."

Derrick Stephenson, of Llandaff Cathedral, agrees. "Churches are influential on what we learn, and how we behave. Through our involvement we all can make an impact and show we care," he said.

Prince hopes that one day, all shops and supermarkets will stock fairtrade products, and believes it's up to consumers to demand that they do.

"It's the customers who have the power. The power of pester! If shops know that's what they want, they'll stock it. So it's up to us to ask for it where we don't see it," she said

The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, the Right Reverend John Davies, is also urging churches to join the fairtrade movement, calling it an opportunity to "help promote equality and justice in food production across the globe".

"These days we are made aware of the high cost many producers have to pay in order for us to enjoy our cuppa. Fortunately, however, thanks to the fairtrade movement, we have the option to choose products that have been produced without people being exploited or made to work in dangerous or unprotected conditions," he said.

Reverend Carol Wardman, the Bishops' Advisor for the Church and Society, added that the Church must "lead the way" in committing to the promotion of fairtrade, in order to "show that we are a church of love in action".

Churches will be using special prayers and themed services to focus on the issues surrounding fairtrade, resources for which can be found at www.churchinwales.org.uk, where a Fairtrade pledge form is also available.

Moderator's new ring and traditional cross

A new ring and traditional cross have been unveiled in Edinburgh by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

The originals went missing at Edinburgh Airport last year and have never been found despite appeals for information and the offer of a reward.



The Right Reverend Lorna Hood with the new cross and ring

The Right Reverend Lorna Hood was able to see the funny side when she was later mistaken for a jewel thief as she attended a fitting with a duplicate of the missing treasure.

Jewellery shop staff had recognised the copy of the lost gold ring and called the police.

The replacements have been created by Hamilton & Inches, Scotland's leading jewellery store based in Edinburgh.

Mrs Hood said, "The jewellers have done a fantastic job replicating the details of the cross, chain and ring. I don't intend to let it out of my site. I won't quite wear it to bed but I will cherish it and look after it well."

C of E urges men to stand against gender-based violence

The Church of England's General Synod this week condemned all forms of gender-based violence.

A haunting debate on the issue took place on the first day of the General Synod in London.

The Synod approved a motion moved by Philip Fletcher, chair of the Mission and Public Affairs Council appealing to the Church to act further to combat gender-based violence.

The motion was preceded by a presentation to the Synod by Mandy Marshall, co-director of Restored, a coalition of organisations that are committed to ending gender-based violence.

In the presentation, Ms Marshall called on the Synod to urge the Church to take seriously 'the devastating issue of gender based violence'.

She told how "one in four women in the UK will suffer abuse in their lifetime", and that "two women a week are killed by their partner or former partner in the UK".

She then presented the context in which she called the Church to act in addressing gender-based violence, including recent UN legislation and a heightened recognition of all forms of abuse.

"Gender-based violence is all of our responsibility," she said.

Mr Fletcher moved the motion, inviting Synod "to take this opportunity for the Church of England to stand with the Provinces of the Anglican Communion, recognising our common life in Christ and our urgent desire to work towards a world free of gender-based violence".

The motion, which was overwhelmingly approved, moved "that this Synod, believing that all people are made in the image of God and that all forms of violence based on gender represent an abuse and violation of that image".

It expressed support for measures to bring perpetrators to account and change their lifestyles, and initiatives to "encourage boys and men to stand against gender-based violence".

Tribute paid to Revd Dr Kenneth Greet

Tribute has been paid to the Revd Dr Kenneth Greet, former President and Secretary of the Methodist Conference, who died this week.

"Kenneth will be remembered with affection and with pride by the Methodist people," said the Revd Ruth Gee, current President of the Methodist Conference. "He was eloquent in speech, a fine preacher, a great orator and a prolific writer. All these gifts were undergirded and enriched by his great personal faith and integrity. He was passionate about social justice and deeply committed to working for peace, a commitment that was evident in every part of his life. He loved his family and he cared for and loved the

Methodist people. Kenneth will be greatly missed, we thank God for his life and witness which will continue to inspire and challenge us."

Born in 1918, Kenneth Gerald Greet entered presbyteral ministry in 1943. After training at Handsworth College, he held early appointments in Herefordshire and Ogmore and in 1947 was appointed to the Central Hall in Tonypandy. This attracted one of the largest congregations in Wales and became well known for its extensive programme of social work.

After seven years, Dr Greet was taken out of this appointment to become Secretary of the Christian Citizenship Department (DCC). For the next thirty years his base was at 1 Central Buildings, Westminster. In 1971, he succeeded Dr Eric Baker as Secretary of the Methodist Conference, a post which he held until 1984. During this time, he was also elected President of the Conference 1980-81.

Dr Greet has held a large number of key offices during his ministry: Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, Chairman of the Executive of the British Council of Churches, member of the Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Chairman of the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches, Chairman of the World Methodist Council, Chairman of the European Methodist Youth Council and President of the Methodist Peace Fellowship. On his retirement, Dr. Greet became Chairman of the Governors of Southlands College, seeing the college through its transition to become part of Roehampton University.

He travelled widely during his ministry, preaching and lecturing regularly. His most notable appointments include delivering the Beckly Lecture, the Willson Lecture (Kansas City) and the Cato Lecture (Sydney).

Dr Greet wrote a number of books on subjects ranging from ethics and morality to marriage, love and the Spirit as well as contributing a monthly article to the Methodist Recorder for over 25 years. He broadcast frequently on radio and television and held doctorates from the universities of Surrey and Ohio.

Salisbury Diocese launches emergency appeal for Sudan

The Diocese of Salisbury has launched an appeal to support the South Sudanese Church as it works to relieve the needs of people caught up in fighting, and support long-term reconciliation.

A report published last week by Médecins Sans Frontières says that the speed and scale of the violence over the past six weeks in South Sudan has escalated dramatically, and although a ceasefire is in place in parts of the country, conflict still reigns supreme in others.



A man carrying his belongings stands amongst the remains of buildings destroyed by the recent fighting, after government forces retook from rebel forces the provincial capital of Bentiu, in Unity State, South Sudan.

Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, has spoken out about the crisis and visited the country this month.

Preaching to Christians at All Saint's Cathedral, Juba, he urged support for "the long and hard work" of reconciliation in the country.

His visit has taken on an increased significance in the light of South Sudan's recent tragic events and he was able to glimpse the full extent of the horrors in person, driving Bor, where there had been 250,000 people living at one point, and seeing dead bodies on the near-empty streets were almost empty. When he arrived at St Andrew's Cathedral, he blessed a mass grave before the bodies of 20 clergy and lay workers were laid inside.

The Diocese of Salisbury is linked to the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan, and said that two weeks ago it had received an email from Bishop Hilary Garang saying he had never known so much death and violence.

The Episcopal Church is working on the ground to end the crisis and supporting people affected by the violence through its development arm, the Sudan Relief Agency (SUDRA).

The Diocese of Salisbury has already sent £13,500 to meet immediate needs and is running an appeal until Easter to raise additional funds in support of the response being coordinated by the Episcopal Church and SUDRA.

The funds raised will be shared between responding to the immediate humanitarian response, followed later by more targeted projects to rebuild lives and livelihoods, and ensure long-term stability in the world's youngest country.

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of Salisbury's partnership with the Episcopal Church of the Sudan and South Sudan.

Around £240,000 was sent by the diocese last year in support of the Church's work, including £90,000 towards medical care.

The Salisbury Diocese is asking local Anglicans to give generously to the appeal.

"The people of Wiltshire and Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth have taken the Sudanese to heart and will want to contribute to meet their needs now," the diocese said.

Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/sdbf