



## GB Press Coverage

31 December 2013

### Mirror

Business heroes and villains of 2013: Who deserves credit and who owes a debt?

List of heroes includes Justin Welby - Archbishop of Canterbury - "Not technically a City figure, but Justin Welby has used his new job to strike the fear of god into business chiefs"

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/money/city-news/business-heroes-villains-2013-who-2974299>

### Tel

Report that one of Britain's most respected theologians insists that Monty Python's Life of Brian, is in fact a "remarkable tribute to the life of Jesus". During an interview on BBC Radio 4's Today the Rev Prof Richard Burridge, Dean of King's College London, and a member of the Church of England's General Synod, said that those who called for the satire to be banned after its release in 1979 were "embarrassingly" ill-informed and missed a major opportunity to promote the Christian message.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10543149/Monty-Pythons-Life-of-Brian-extraordinary-tribute-to-Jesus-says-theologian-decorated-by-Pope-Francis.html>

### BBC

Range of local reports on New Years Honours for people who have served their local community including the parish church.

Harriet Foges from Guildford is appointed MBE for her work with children and families. She has also worked as a voluntary child protection officer for her church.

Mike Kewley from the Isle of Man was awarded the BEM for 40 years' service to local government and the community.including the Parish of Rushen's parochial church council.

Betty Baines, 67, from Diss,has been appointed MBE for her

services to campanology. Currently master of the Ladies Guild of Change Ringers' eastern district, she has taught hundreds of people to ring church bells since the 1980s.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-surrey-25551172>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-25549433>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-25549357>

### **Sun/Guard**

Reports that UKIP leader Nigel Farage appears to have backtracked insisting Britain should help just the Christians fleeing Syria after being criticised by his party for demanding the UK take in refugees from the civil war.

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/dec/30/nigel-farage-asylum-syrian-refugees-christians>

### **Mail**

Report that police forces have announced they will take a softer approach to mothers who are caught stealing food to feed their hungry families. Article includes that Church Action on Poverty have claimed as many as 500,000 people used aid from food banks this year, describing the situation on their website as 'a national disgrace'.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2531059/Police-going-easy-mothers-steal-food-simply-live.html#ixzz2p2KUsnz1>

### **Ind**

Report that the Pope apparently gave his blessing to the Bishop of Malta's anti-gay adoption Christmas sermon

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-francis-shocked-by-gay-adoption-says-bishop-of-malta-9030505.html>

### **BBC**

Report that for five years St Barnabas Church in Erdington in Birmingham stood derelict, a blackened, charred shell of a Victorian building, gutted by fire but following a £5m restoration and transformation in 2012 the church is now celebrating a year since it reopened its doors. Local people say its become more important to the community than ever before.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-25454057#>

### **Letters**

Welby, God and the language of belief

"Will Welby ever make the case for God" (Opinion Dec 27) misses the point. From various including Rt Rev Professor N. T. Wright (former Bishop of Durham)

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/letters/article3961317.ece>

## **Blogs**

### **Archbishop Cranmer**

Cranmer discusses recent media coverage of a temporary wall erected at St James's, Piccadilly, the 'Apartheid Wall', part of the Bethlehem unwrapped series

<http://archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk/2013/12/thank-god-for-lucy-winkett-and-st.html>

(Guardian - original article at: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2013/dec/27/church-protest-realities-modern-bethlehem>); and an open letter from Daily Mail columnist Melanie Philips (<https://www.embooks.com/blog/single/a-church-of-hate>)