



## GB news bulletin

10th February

### Church support for flooded communities

**Churches are doing what they can to support communities affected by the flooding that has swept over large parts of the south-west of England.**



Christian Today - Reverend Jane Twitty of Muchelney, Somerset, looks after four local parishes and has swung the church at the centre of one of the isolated communities into action.

The village has been the focus of a great deal of press attention since the floods turned it into an effective island, only accessible by boats run by the fire brigade.

Speaking to Christian Today, she said "As soon as the flood started, the church has been open 24/7 for anyone who wants to come in, for any reason"

Taking advantage of the church's position, sat atop the highest point in the village, the community has been storing and providing food, keeping the town up to date with newspapers, and acting as an emergency local post office. It has become the community's sanctuary hub, a central point to keep the wheel of village life turning.

"There's also tea lights there," said Reverend Twitty, "In case anyone needs them, for prayer".

To help grease the emergency service's wheels, they have even been offering hot drinks to the firemen who ride the boats in and out of the stricken community.

"It's really not easy for people," Reverend Twitty told Christian Today. "It's been going on so long. It's taking hours to make short journeys. While it is great that we've got the boat service now, it really is an excursion to use it. It's not just a hop in the car."

In an attempt to keep spirits up, the church services have had people writing down the positive things to come out of the recent events, such as an increased sense of community closeness, and the support of the firemen.

The church has also been the centre of a tractor taxi service provided by members of the congregation. Other acts of generosity have included people with holiday homes offering emergency lodgings to take care of those displaced by the rising water, and the giving up of time to organise the payloads coming in on the boats. More at -

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/flood.hit.farmers.experiencing.stress.and.anxiety/35678.htm>

## **Glasgow church set for eco-regeneration**

**A church in north Glasgow is set to help its surrounding community flourish after receiving a grant to embark on an exciting environmental project.**

A church in north Glasgow is set to help its surrounding community flourish after receiving a grant to embark on an exciting environmental project.

Tron St Mary's – which sits across from the Red Road flats in Balornock – has received over £200,000 from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund to provide the church and parish with the opportunity to undergo an environmentally friendly regeneration.

Jean Slimmon, the session clerk for the church who has attended Tron St Mary's for over 20 years, said: "This is truly fantastic news for the church and the surrounding area.

"There's a lot of work to be done but it's a challenge we are all very excited about

"This isn't simply about the church itself but about the people who live in the parish.

"This is a great church with people who contribute so much for the community."

The grant will see a full-time project co-ordinator employed who will help manage an array of state-of-the art eco-innovations.

There will be a community growing project in the church grounds and wider area with a community share of up to 30 local gardens. The potential of developing the grounds at the site of demolished flats at Red Road is being explored.

The church, which was the setting for a scene in Ken Loach's award-winning movie *The Angel's Share*, will become more energy efficient with double glazing, insulation and new energy efficient lighting controls.

Courses will be held for those in the parish on growing and cooking.

Fuel poverty will be tackled through home surveys, leading to energy saving improvements. More at -

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2014/glasgow\\_church\\_set\\_for\\_eco-friendly\\_regeneration](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2014/glasgow_church_set_for_eco-friendly_regeneration)

## **C of E launches legacy web site**

The Church of England has launched its new Church Legacy website [www.churchlegacy.org.uk](http://www.churchlegacy.org.uk) with essential information for individuals considering leaving a "lasting gift" to their local church in their Will.



The website provides further information on leaving a legacy, example wording for your Will, and information for Solicitors and for PCCs. Church Legacy also shares parish stories where a legacy gift has helped transform a church's future.

Legacies, of whatever size, are a hugely valuable source of income to parish churches, contributing £44.8 million to parish income in 2011, that's almost £3,000 per parish church per year.

Eleanor Gill, National Legacy and Funding Officer, said: "Legacies are a fundamental part of Stewardship and our Christian Giving; leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can give thanks to God for the gifts of your life and lifetime.

"The website helps to communicate how gifts in Wills, are a lifeline for many of our churches, and enable them to grow their church's ministry to young people, refurbish the kitchen, set up a support group for the community or preserve their historic church bells."

## **Archbishop congratulates Presiding Bishop on honorary Oxford degree**

**Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has welcomed news that the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, is to be awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by the University of Oxford.**

He said: "I am delighted by the news that the Most Revd Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori is to receive an honorary Doctor of Divinity from the University of Oxford. This award, richly deserved, reaffirms Bishop Katharine's remarkable gifts of intellect and compassion, which she has dedicated to the service of Christ. Prior to becoming ordained, Bishop Katharine pursued a career in oceanography, and her enduring deep commitment to the environment has evolved into a profound dedication to stewardship of our planet and humankind, especially in relieving poverty and extending the love and hospitality of Christ to those on the edges of society. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said of Bishop Katharine, "In her version of reality, everything is sacred except sin." It must be noted, too, that Bishop Katharine's achievements serve – and will continue to serve – as a powerful model for women seeking to pursue their vocations in the church."

## Pope appoints new Bishop of Paisley

### **Pope Francis has appointed Father John Keenan as Bishop of Paisley.**

Evening Times - The Diocese of Paisley has been vacant since September 2012, when Bishop Philip Tartaglia became Archbishop of Glasgow.

Bishop Elect John Keenan was born in Glasgow in 1964, he later went on to study at the University of Glasgow and was Chaplain at Holyrood from 1997 to 2000, and the University of Glasgow Chaplain from 2000 to present.

His installation will take place at St Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley on Wednesday March 19, the Feast of St Joseph.

He will be Scotland's youngest Bishop following his ordination.

He said: "While nervous at my appointment, I have been very uplifted at the congratulations and good wishes I have received so far which have given more confidence.

"Everyone I speak to says Paisley is a wonderful diocese with good priests and people full of faith.

"I am looking forward to being with my brother priests, many of whom I already know really well, and getting to know the people and the parishes of the diocese. I hope just to settle in and listen a lot." More at -

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/u/pope-appoints-new-bishop-of-paisley.1391862949>

## Media Review

### **Bible reading gap**

Widespread ignorance exists among children and parents about the contents of the Bible, research from the Bible Society has suggested. In a foreword to the report, Bishop of London Dr Richard Chartres said sharing Bible stories "is as vital now as it has ever been". A quarter of adults think superman is in the Bible.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-26078614>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2553576/The-Bible-ignorant-youngsters-tell-Noah-Adam-Third-children-didnt-know-Nativity-story-came->

[Holy-Book.html](#)

## **York visit to Kenya**

Archbishop Sentamu is with the Most Revd Dr Eliud Wabukala, the Archbishop of Kenya in the Diocese of Butere, Kenya for a 3-day visit to celebrate the 100 years since the Gospel arrived in Butere.

<http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/3039/archbishop-of-york-visits-kenya>

## **Railway chaplains ministry**

A day in the life of one of Britain's 22 railway chaplains working for the Railway Mission 'can involve marriage ceremonies, suicides and many more touching situations'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10622655/i-conduct-weddings-on-trains.html>

## **Bishop to open real ale festival**

The Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Right Revd. Robert Paterson, will open a three day Campaign for Real Ale festival in April.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-26034381>

## **Success of ethnic groups**

In a critique of a new book, "The Triple Package" which looks at why certain ethnic groups are more successful than others, Emma Brockes notes that the Mormon Church's assets are worth significantly more than those of the Church of England.

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/feb/05/the-triple-package-what-really-determines-success-book-review>

## **Dispute over Bishop of Bath's residence**

News report that former Dean of Wells Richard Lewis says (in a letter to the paper) that the Church Commissioners has an "unspoken" plan to sell off the historic Wells Palace after they bought alternative living accommodation for the new Bishop of Bath and Wells. A spokesman for the commissioners said there was no secret plan and the decision had been taken on grounds of

sustainability of ministry, privacy and appropriateness of residence.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10622627/Churchgoers-fear-secret-plan-to-sell-bishops-palace-says-former-Dean.html>

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