



GB Media Digest

24th - 27th December, 2013

27 December 2013

News from Archbishop of Canterbury

Archbishop sends Christmas message to British troops in Afghanistan <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5213/archbishop-sends-christmas-message-to-british-troops-in-afghanistan>

Times

Philip Collins asks "Will Welby ever make the case for God?" saying "We know what Anglicans think about food banks. We don't know their arguments against atheism." <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article3958762.ece>

BBC

Report that East Africa's leaders are to meet in Kenya to discuss growing violence in South Sudan, where more than 1,000 people are believed to have died. The article includes comment from the Bishop of Malakal, Hilary Garang who says the situation in the main town in Upper Nile state was one of lawlessness.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-25523946>

Ind

Peter Popham comments South Sudan, the world's newest

country, racked by civil war for the past fortnight, has one fundamental problem - and Bishop Santo Pio put his finger on it in his Christmas sermon in Juba Cathedral - how do you make a nation from scratch

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/south-sudan-are-we-helping-to-create-a-country-or-merely-creating-ravenous-clients-for-an-army-of--western-experts-and-consultants-9026289.html>

Tel

Report that the Church of England has carried out tens of thousands of criminal record checks on volunteers "in a move that critics claim risks driving away bell ringers and florists". The figures were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by the Manifesto Club - which campaigns against the regulation of everyday life. The article includes a full CofE quote explaining why it takes safeguarding seriously and its ongoing commitment to tighten procedures following the debate at July's General Synod.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10529107/Overzealous-Church-vets-58000-workers-in-a-year.html>

D Mail

Report that the widow of a church organist fatally injured on Christmas Eve last year called for forgiveness for his attackers at an emotional candlelit service at the spot where he was attacked. Alan Greaves, 68, was attacked on his way to play at Midnight Mass at St Saviour's Church in Sheffield. He died in hospital three days later.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2529286/A-year-murder-organists-widow-breaks-vigil.html#ixzz2oeiJSpvo>

Ind

Editorial that the argument in favour of keeping non-believers from airing their own thought, on Radio 4's Thought for the Day (BBC Today Programme) is weakening
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/sacred-cow-thought-for-the-day-should-permit-secular-and-irreligious-ideas-too-9026084.html>

Letters

Ind

The Churches have lost the argument from various
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/letters-the-churches-have-lost-the-argument-9026085.html>

Christmas Day/Boxing Day

Exp/BBC/Tel/Times/Guard/D Mail/Sun

Reports that the Archbishop of Canterbury has used his first Christmas Day sermon to highlight injustices facing Britain's poor and victims of world conflicts

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/450416/Christians-need-to-challenge-the-causes-of-poverty-says-Archbishop-of-Canterbury>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25514307>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10537689/Archbishop-of-Canterbury-urges-Christians-to-fight-greed-and-injustice.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article3957894.ece>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/25/archbishop-canterbury-plight-middle-east-christians>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2528963/Archbishop-Canterbury-use-Christmas-Day-sermon->

[highlight-injustices-facing-Britains-poor-victims-conflicts-world.html?](#)

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](#)

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5343592/Justin-Welby-Challenge-the-causes-of-poverty.html>

Sun

Bishop of Manchester David Walker writes that the commercialisation of Christmas lifts the economy and it champions generosity adding that the best Christmas also "takes seriously the fact that when Jesus came to Earth, he wasn't born to a rich couple in a palace". He asks readers to take up the challenge issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury to donate £1 to a foodbank for every £10 spent on presents

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5343068/Why-I-thank-God-for-our-commercial-Christmas.html>

Eve St/BBC/Metro/Mail/Tel

Report that at least 37 people died on Christmas Day when militants in Iraq targeted Christians in two bomb attacks in Baghdad.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/panewsfeeds/37-die-in-attacks-on-christians-9025333.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-25515946>

<http://metro.co.uk/2013/12/25/twin-baghdad-bomb-blast-kills-dozens-at-church-and-outdoor-market-4242420/>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2529146/Bomb-explodes-near-Baghdad-church-Christmas-Mass-killing-15-people-injuring-30.html>

BBC

Report that hundreds of walkers are set to join the Bishop of

Ripon and Leeds, John Packer, as he leads his final Boxing Day pilgrimage from Ripon Cathedral to Fountains Abbey.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-25399002>

Tel

The alleged fading of Christianity cannot rid it of its power to transform lives, writes AN Wilson

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10537285/Its-the-Gospel-truth-so-take-it-or-leave-it.html>

Mail

Report that a York church has been allowed to keep £100,000 in cash after a bin bag containing the money was found on the doorstep of a former vicarage owned by the St Thomas with St Maurice Church in York in August. The Church plans to use it for charitable purposes.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2529220/Its-Christmas-miracle-Church-keeps-100-000-bin-bag-doorstep-court-rules-founders-keepers.html>

Times

Tim Montgomerie writes that the ground is shifting in the abortion debate - "few people want to ban terminations but on both sides of the Atlantic there is support for tighter laws".

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article3958225.ece>

Times/Exp

Reports that Pope Francis celebrated his first Christmas as pontiff to call for peace in the Middle East including a prayer for all the children trapped by war.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/>

[article3958058.ece](http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/450424/Pope-Francis-uses-Christmas-address-to-call-for-peace-in-Middle-East)

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/450424/Pope-Francis-uses-Christmas-address-to-call-for-peace-in-Middle-East>

Blogs

Guardian

Andrew brown on the archbishop of Canterbury must acknowledge that disestablishment has already happened, and look to a future that deals with reality

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/andrewbrown/2013/dec/26/church-of-england-unglamorous-local-future>

24 December 2013

Obsv (Sun 22)

In the second in a special series, *Capitalism: Time for a New Deal*, Dr Malcolm Brown, the CofE's director of Mission and Public Affairs, argues that moral awareness, coupled with an end to monopolies, is crucial for our future economic wellbeing.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/21/morality-capitalism-missing-link-marketplace>

BBC Radio 4 Today Programme (Mon 23)

Dr Graham Kings, the Bishop of Sherborne, discusses the issue of Christians being persecuted around the world
(*listen at 7.30 am*)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03m40zg>

Sun

Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu writes that Church is for life not just for Christmas

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5342734/>

[Archbishop-of-Yorks-Christmas-message-to-readers.html](#)

Times

Bishop of Oxford John Pritchard asks "Is Christmas better with or without God?" writing that the story of the child in the manger makes us consider if our lives are merely about getting and spending

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article3957545.ece>

Mirror

Report that Archbishop of Canterbury has taken to Instagram to deliver a Christmas message. The article notes Archbishop Justin has more than 48,000 followers on Twitter

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/archbishop-canterbury-takes-instagram-deliver-2956781>

BBC/Mail/Mirror/Guard

Report on Prime Minister's Christmas message which says that it had been a significant year for the Christian faith with a new Archbishop of Canterbury and a new Pope, both having "exciting plans to rejuvenate their respective churches, which should inspire Christians around the world".

All papers note the Christian emphasis of the message

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-25501333>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2528704/Cameron-turns-God-Bible-Christmas-sermon-PM-hopes-rescue-Big-Society-concept-message.html?>

[ITO=1490&ns mchannel=rss&ns campaign=1490](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/political-christmas-messages-david-cameron-2956880)

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/political-christmas-messages-david-cameron-2956880>

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/dec/24/david-cameron-big-society-christmas-message>

BBC/Guard

A silver medieval chalice donated to a Wiltshire church more than 400 years ago has been sold for £1.3m. The cup, which dates back to the 1400s, was sold to help pay for maintenance work at St Cyriac's Church in Lacock.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-25500212>

<http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2013/dec/23/british-museum-acquires-lacock-cup>

Tel

Former Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey writes "Christians, stand up for your beliefs" saying the pressure in Britain to keep quiet about our faith must be resisted - and governments have to stop ignoring the persecution of churchgoers by Islamists in the Middle East and Africa

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10535274/George-Carey-Christians-stand-up-for-your-beliefs.html>

Ind

Christians are under pressure to be "silent about their faith" and display "increasing timidity" about admitting they have a faith at work, according to Lord Carey (writing in the Telegraph)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/christians-are-under-pressure-to-keep-quiet-about-their-faith-says-former-archbishop-of-canterbury-lord-carey-9023257.html>

Times

Report that Egyptian Christians are living in fear of kidnap and torture

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/middleeast/article3957420.ece>

Guard

Andrew Brown on a tale of two Christmases: neighbours in Ely shine light on state of the church. The Lighthouse church gives out food parcels while the cathedral offers candlelit splendour

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/23/ely-christmas-shine-light-church-state>

Guard

Editorial that the message of peace and goodwill is not a political reality for a significant minority of the world's Christians should concern religious and non-religious alike

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/23/persecution-christians-religion-editorial>

Mai/Te/BBC

A church has been banned from tolling its bells at night because the noise is 'prejudicial to health'. The bells at St Mary's Church in Ashwell, Hertfordshire, have been chiming every 15 minutes for 117 years. But after receiving 12 complaints, North Herts District Council (NHDC) was 'legally obliged' to investigate the noise

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2528472/Council-forces-church-silence-bells-night-damaging-health.html#ixzz2oNlea2Af>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/howaboutthat/10535524/Complaints-silence-church-bells-for-first-time-in-117-years.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-25446573>

Blogs

God and Politics asks do we trust politicians or the Church more in the debate over poverty?

<http://godandpoliticsuk.org/2013/12/23/do-we-trust-politicians-or-the-church-more-in-the-debate-over-poverty/>

Archbishop Cranmer blogs on the #Christmasmeans campaign

<http://archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk/>