

A review of church related news in the press

19th December

News from the Archbishop of York

The Archbishop of York calls on the church to model hope in times of austerity, in the third of four articles published in the Yorkshire Post.

<http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/3022/hope-and-hard-times->

Press Coverage

BBC

A photo of Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby's enthronement is one of a handful of Press Association pictures chosen by the agency's picture editor as the best of the year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-25340401>

Tel

Report on a sermon given to police at the annual Met Carol Service where Archbishop Justin said that in all likelihood the actual nativity, rather than an idyllic scene, would have been a public order nightmare, with drunken shepherds, suspicious foreign visitors and crooked officials and a potential terror threat.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10525801/Gospel-according-to-the-boys-in-blue-Welby-retells-Christmas-story-as-police-drama.html>

Ind

Report that Andrea Minichiello Williams, the head of an evangelical Christian lobby group and a member of the Church of England's General Synod, has urged Jamaicans at a conference there to keep the country's laws banning homosexuality and suggested that Tom Daley, the Olympic diver who recently came out, was gay as a result of the death of his father. Includes response from the Bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner who has "condemned" the comments saying they have no sanction in the Church of England.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/news/uk-evangelist-says-tom-daley-is-gay-because-his-father-died-9013365.html>

Mirror

Bishop of Manchester, the Right Revd. David Walker, rode into Old Trafford

on the back of a camel as he visited Primary Schools, housing projects and met migrant groups.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/rev-david-walker-bishop-camel-2940025>

Guard

A Roman Catholic bishop in New South Wales, Australia, said he wasn't aware that he had to refer complaints about priests accused of abuse to the Vatican for five years.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/19/royal-commission-bishop-unaware-he-should-have-reported-abuse>

Tel/Times

Muslim militia in the Central African Republic killed around 1,000 Christians in the capital, Bangui, around two weeks ago, in a n attack avenging earlier ones, Amnesty International has said. The figure is more than double the earliest estimates.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/centralafricanrepublic/10527108/Death-toll-in-Central-African-Republic-attacks-even-greater-than-thought-say-Amnesty.html>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/article3953319.ece>

Sun

A survey by the newspaper of the public's Christmas habits shows that just 9% plan to go to church this year.

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/features/5333748/Big-Sun-Survey-shows-how-brits-will-spend-Christmas.html>

Express/Times/Sun/Ind/Tel/Eve Stan/Mirror

Police searching for teenager Jayden Parkinson have found a body at a cemetery next to All Saints church in Didcot, Oxfordshire, finding evidence of recent disturbance at the plot.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/449443/Police-hunting-for-Jayden-Parkinson-dig-up-a-grave>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article3953239.ece>

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/5333548/Missing-Jayden-Body-is-found-in-graveyard.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jayden-parkinsons-body-believed-to-have-been-found-in-a-cemetery-9014027.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10526987/Police-searching-for-missing-teenager-Jayden-Parkinson-find-body-in-disturbed-grave.html>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/police-search-disturbed-grave-in-hunt->

[for-teenager-jayden-parkinson-9013060.html](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/jayden-parkinson-police-hunting-missing-2938139)

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/jayden-parkinson-police-hunting-missing-2938139>

Mail

Stephen Glover defends High Court judge Sir Paul Coleridge, who was reprimanded by the Lord Chancellor for giving interviews with two newspapers about the value of marriage. Glover says the reprimand says a lot about our values today.

<http://www.mailonsunday.co.uk/debate/article-2526082/What-does-say-values-judge-rebuked-speaking-marriage.html>

BBC

Hundreds of pupils at Archbishop Temple school in Fulwood are seeking to break the Guinness World Record for the number of people in a nativity scene.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-25424351>

Mail

Findings from the Pew Research Centre show that only half of Americans see Christmas as a religious holiday, but three quarters believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2525946/Only-HALF-Americans-Christmas-religious-holiday-three-quarters-believe-virgin-birth-Pew-study-finds.html>

Ind

The father of a chorister at Manchester Cathedral explains the commitment and joy involved in having a child in a choir.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/classical/features/choristers-at-christmas-in-perfect-harmony-9013820.html>

Ind

Christians in the Middle East are facing organized persecution from Muslims, Prince Charles said during a tour of a Coptic Church alongside other faith leaders.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/christians-face-organised-persecution-from-islamists-in-middle-east-says-prince-charles-9012254.html>

Mirror

A Merseyside vicar has appeared in court accused of possessing thousands of indecent images of children.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/vicar-ian-hughes-appears-court-2940202>

Eve Stand

Phoebe Luckhurst writes on the spirit of a hipster Christmas, featuring a "hot pink" Christmas tree and turkey burgers.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/too-cool-for-yule-have-a-hipster-christmas-instead-9012515.html>

Blogs

In a guest blog for **God and Politics**, Edward Kendall asks whether the proposed change in Northern Irish abortion legislation should be welcomed.

<http://godandpoliticsuk.org/2013/12/18/does-northern-ireland-need-its-abortion-laws-changing/>

Peter Ould writes on Andrea Minichiello Williams' recent remarks in Jamaica and says that there are questions regarding the accuracy and transparency of some media coverage.

<http://www.peter-ould.net/2013/12/18/andrea-jamaica-and-the-refusal-to-answer-questions/>

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News from the Church of England

The Archbishop of Canterbury preached a sermon at the Metropolitan Police Carol Service.

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5208/archbishops-sermon-at-metropolitan-police-carol-service>

News from the Church of England

Timothy Hone has been appointed Secretary to the Liturgical Commission and Worship Development Officer.

<http://churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2013/12/new-liturgy-and-worship-post-announced.aspx>

Press Coverage

Tel

Jesse Norman, one of the members of the Treasury Select Committee, said that the work of the Banking Commission, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, has established a sea change in scrutiny of legislation by Parliament.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jessenorman/100250934/we-may-have-just-witnessed-a-sea-change-in-the-business-of-parliament-has-anyone-noticed/>

Mail/Times/Sun/Mirror

Detectives searching for the body of 17 year-old Jayden Parkinson have been searching in the graveyard of a church near Didcot, Oxfordshire, following the arrest of her ex-boyfriend yesterday.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2525618/Police-searching-missing-Jayden-Parkinson-examine-grave-church-man-appears-court-charged-murder.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article3952292.ece>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/jayden-parkinson-cops-hunting-missing-2938139>

Times/Mail/Ind

Prince Charles, speaking to Christian and Muslim leaders after a tour of a Coptic Church, has warned that Christians in the Middle East are facing deliberate attacks by fundamentalist Muslims and said that relationships between the two faiths has reached a crisis point.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/faith/article3952171.ece>

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2525604/Christians-Middle-East-need-help-says-Charles-Prince-says-bridges-Islam-deliberately-destroyed.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/syrians-living-in-london-beg-prince-of-wales-to-intervene-in-conflict-tearing-apart-their-homeland-9011149.html>

Mail/Ind

A survey by the Sutton Trust reveals the lengths parents go to - including going to Church when not religious - to get their children into the best schools.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2525541/Parents-buy-second-homes-win-state-school-places.html?>

[ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2525541/Parents-buy-second-homes-win-state-school-places.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/well-off-parents-resorting-to-ethically-dubious-practices-to-get-their-children-into-good-school-9011520.html>

Tel

A Devon vicar, the Revd. Steve Goodbody, has said that people who only attend church during the festive season are treating God like an unwanted elderly relative.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10522230/God-is-for-life-not-just-for-Christmas-says-vicar.html>

Eve Stan

Residents of Harmondsworth, a village which could be destroyed by a new Heathrow runway, have spoken to the paper about their fears. The vicar of Harmondsworth's St Mary's Church, said the church has lost roughly one third of its congregation due to uncertainty over the runway.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/transport/like-being-on-death-row-residents-near-heathrow-blast-plans-for-new-runway-9010052.html>

Times/BBC/Tel

A high court judge who spoke to the media about the impact of marriage breakdown on small children and said gay marriage was a "minority" issue, Paul Coleridge, is stepping down after being reprimanded by the Lord Chief Justice and Lord Chancellor.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/law/article3952056.ece>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-25418969>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/10523138/Judge-Sir-Paul-Coleridge-disciplined-for-stating-views-on-traditional-marriage.html>

Guard

Zoe Williams says that by criticizing payday lenders, religious leaders and others are missing the key point, failing to ask why there is a need for these lenders to exist.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/17/why-wonga-exist-no-one-on-left-asks>

Mail

Pope Francis has celebrated his 77th birthday with four homeless people near the Vatican.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2525287/Pope-Francis-celebrates-77th-birthday-going-breakfast-homeless-people.html>

Guard

Robin Griffith-Jones writes about the music legacy of the Temple church in central London.

<http://www.theguardian.com/music/2013/dec/17/temple-church-london-festival>

Ind

Report that a sketch in which Rowan Atkinson played a fictional Archbishop of Canterbury received the largest number of complaints to Ofcom in the whole of 2013.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/rowan-atkinsons-comic-relief-sketch-prompts-most-ofcom-complaints-in-2013-9010435.html>

Guard/BBC

Harold Camping, a retired engineer turned evangelical preacher and broadcaster who predicted that the Rapture would take place in May 2011, has died in California.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/17/preacher-harold-camping-dies-the-rapture>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-25424916>

Letters

Guard

A letter to the paper argues that the decision allowing two Scientologists to marry in one of the religion's chapels has underscored the need to remove state perks awarded to religions.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/17/abolish-perks-religious-status-scientology>

Blogs

Spectator

Does Christmas have to start with a payday loan? No, according to the Church of England. The Church has unveiled its annual advertising campaign this morning, posing this very question to the residents of Manchester ...

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/2013/12/coe-takes-aim-at-payday-lenders-but-what-about-the-banks/>

Cantignorus Chorus, a choir founded at St. Paul's West Hackney, are

looking for a Christmas number one with their single, 'Holding out a helping hand'.

<http://www.theology-centre.org.uk/cantignorus-chorus-a-church-of-england-project-aims-for-the-christmas-charts-with-one-of-the-uks-most-surprising-choirs/>

Archbishop Cranmer discusses the impact of the Global South Secretariat of the Anglican Communion's position on the House of Bishops' Pilling Report.

<http://archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk/2013/12/global-south-response-to-pilling-report.html>