



## Image of the day - Lincoln Cathedral

April 8, 2021

## **Lambeth Award for C of I cleric for his work during pandemic**

**Church of Ireland cleric, The Reverend Dr Brendan McCarthy has been awarded “The Canterbury Cross for Services to the Church of England. For outstanding work in his capacity as the Church of England’s Medical Ethics, Health and Social Care Policy Adviser during the Covid-19 pandemic.”**

The Archbishop of Canterbury announced the recipients of the 2021 Lambeth Awards yesterday. The awards, which recognize outstanding contributions to the church and wider society, have been given to over 30 people. They include scientists, musicians, academics, activists, peacemakers, doctors and clergy.

In an interview with the Church Times earlier this month Dr Brendan McCarthy said -

“It’s amazing to think I’ve been doing this for 11 years. My role as the C of E’s Adviser for Medical Ethics, Health, and Social Care Policy covers everything from before birth (embryology) to after death (organ donation). But currently my focus is on advising the Church in its response to Covid-19.

“I was a hospital chaplain for seven years, then, for 14 years, I co-ordinated a community organisation that incorporated pastoral, social, and business outreach to the community.



## The Reverend Dr Brendan McCarthy

“For six years, I was an adviser to the Parades Commission of Northern Ireland; so I’m familiar with working with groups that have to make important decisions under pressure.

“We’re all Zooming like never before. My daughter and I lead two community choirs, and we also have a theatre company; so we continue with that. There are virtual pub quizzes with a pint of Guinness or a cup of tea, and a virtual clink of glasses. We do play readings together. Someone told me: “I’m sorry I can’t make it tonight. I’m too busy Zooming with other people.”

“I’d been following the development of the outbreak closely since the start of the year with growing concern. A watershed moment for me was the death on 7 February of Li Wenliang, the heroic Chinese doctor whose early warnings were suppressed.



“I’m neither English nor a member of the Church of England; so I think I can speak with a degree of impartiality. I believe that the Church’s response has been better than anyone could have expected. No one, anywhere, was prepared for this, but the Church has concentrated its energies in playing its part fully in a national effort to minimise the effects of the virus, and to create positive ways of enabling people to deal with the challenges that it has brought.

“What’s impressed me most is the collegiate way in which people have worked together. Both within the Church and wider society, there has been a great pooling of minds, resources, and energies, with egos taking a back seat. In the words of Benjamin Clementine: “The greatest heroes in life are the anonymous.” That’s how it should be”.

## **The recipients**

The recipients span the globe and the breadth of church life and beyond. They include Isaac Borquaye, the MOBO Award-winning rapper and author, better known as Guvna B; Elizabeth Harris-Sawczenko, former director of the Council of Christians and Jews; and the Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul, former primate of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

Archbishop Justin Welby said: “During the pandemic, we have seen just how vital the contribution of churches is to the fabric of our society. As well as finding creative ways to worship together safely, churches have been feeding the hungry, reaching out to the lonely and offering hope to those struggling in the midst of the crisis.

April 8, 2021

“This year’s Lambeth Awards recipients, not all of whom are Christians, embody this spirit of service - not just during the pandemic but, for many of them, through decades of faithful work. I commend them and their efforts, and look forward to the time when we meet to celebrate their contributions to society.”

Archbishops of Canterbury have long recognised outstanding individuals for their efforts, and the current form of the Lambeth Awards was developed in 2016.

List of recipients at -

<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/news-and-statements/archbishop-canterbury-announces-2021-lambeth-awards>

## **Controversial Swiss theologian Hans Küng dies**

**The influential and controversial Swiss theologian Hans Küng died Tuesday at the age of 93.**

The German Catholic Church’s official website said that Küng died on the afternoon of April 6 at his home in Tübingen, southwest Germany.

Küng served as a theological adviser at the Second Vatican Council but repeatedly clashed with Rome in the years that followed.

The tensions culminated in a 1979 declaration by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) that Küng



## Swiss theologian Hans Küng

had “departed from the integral truth of Catholic faith, and therefore he can no longer be considered a Catholic theologian nor function as such in a teaching role.”

The CDF cited his opinions on the doctrine of infallibility, expressed in his 1971 book “Infallible? An Inquiry,” as one of the reasons for the move.

From the 1990s, Küng championed the idea of a “global ethic,” emphasizing common ethical values in the world’s major religions.

Leading tributes to the theologian on April 6, Bishop Georg Bätzing, president of the German bishops’ conference, said: “With the death of Prof. Dr. Hans Küng, theological scholarship loses a renowned and controversial researcher.”

April 8, 2021

“In his work as a priest and scholar, Hans Küng was concerned to make the message of the Gospel understandable and to give it a place in the lives of the faithful.”

“I am thinking in particular of his efforts with regard to a living ecumenism, his commitment to interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and the Global Ethic Foundation he founded, with its important research and projects on peace, justice, and the integrity of creation.”

He continued: “Hans Küng never failed to stand up for his convictions. Even if there were tensions and conflicts in this regard, I thank him expressly in this hour of farewell for his many years of commitment as a Catholic theologian in communicating the Gospel.”

“The dialogue of religions in the effort for a global ethic was of great concern to him. Hans Küng was deeply influenced by the Second Vatican Council, whose theological reception he endeavored to achieve.”

Küng was born on March 19, 1928, in Sursee, in the Canton of Lucerne, Switzerland. After studying philosophy and theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, he was ordained in 1954.

Reflecting on his life in a 2002 book, Küng said that after the 1979 Vatican ruling he remained “a Catholic priest in good standing.”

“I affirm the papacy for the Catholic Church, but at the same time indefatigably call for a radical reform of it in accordance

April 8, 2021

with the criterion of the Gospel,” he wrote in “The Catholic Church: A Short History.”

In his tribute, Bätzing recalled a landmark meeting between Küng and Pope Benedict XVI in September 2005. The two men were colleagues at the University of Tübingen in the latter half of the 1960s, but reputedly fell out over their theological differences.

Küng described the audience, which lasted several hours, as a “very constructive and even a friendly conversation.” But he continued to criticize Benedict XVI’s theological vision, claiming in a 2012 interview that the German pope had “a medieval idea of the papacy.”

Concluding his statement, Bätzing said: “Hans Küng leaves behind a rich theological legacy. We mourn a figure who may now find his peace in the hand of God.”

Catholic Herald. 07.04. 2021 AT 09:10

## **A message of hope to the people of Myanmar from the secretary general of the Anglican Communion**

**In response to the ongoing situation that continues to unfold in Myanmar, Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, the secretary general of the Anglican Communion – a family of 41 national and regional churches in more than 165 countries – has issued a message of hope to the people of Myanmar and called on Christians around the world to pray for the country and her people.**



April 8, 2021

Idowu-Fearon said:

“On Easter Day we celebrate the triumph of life over death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was Good News for the world two millennia ago; and it is still Good News for the world in 2021.

“Today, as this ultimate Good News story is celebrated around the world, I call on Christians everywhere to set aside time to pray for the people and country of Myanmar – that wisdom will prevail and enduring peace will come.

“And to the people of Myanmar, I say: You are not alone. You are not forgotten. You are not abandoned. The world is watching as this situation unfolds and we are praying that a durable solution will be found bringing peace to all.”

### **A prayer for the nation and people of Myanmar**

Lord of the heavens and the earth,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for the rising from the dead of your Son Jesus Christ  
and for the never-ending love he offers us all.  
Grant, we pray, resurrection life to the nation and people of  
Myanmar,  
that sadness may turn into joy,  
aggression into amity,  
despair into hope,  
and anxiety into calm,  
that the people may be reconciled.  
This we ask in the Name of the Risen Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit  
One God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Tribute - David McElderry

### **Organ builder widely regarded as a leader of his profession**

David McElderry, who has died aged 64, was considered by many as Northern Ireland's leading organ builder, and had been the managing director of the Wells Kennedy Partnership of Lisburn since the death of his colleague and mentor, Christopher Gordon Wells.

David Howard McElderry was born on March 24 1956 at Whitehouse, Co Antrim, a northern suburb of Belfast, where his father was a general medical practitioner. He was educated at Campbell College, a boys' school with fine buildings and an extensive campus that espoused the ethos of an English public school.

The school has a splendid Central Hall, with a pipe organ, which acts as the college chapel. When a blocked gutter on the roof caused rain damage to the organ Wells was contracted to carry out repairs. Observing this, the young student persuaded Wells to allow him to help, and thereafter he assisted on tuning visits during school holidays leading to a lifelong passion and commitment to the instrument.

Despite gentle family pressure to follow his father into medicine, McElderry left school aged 18 to be employed by Wells-Kennedy, attracted by the challenges of acquiring practical skills as well as the intellectual demands of engineering and design. His initial involvement was as a

April 8, 2021

management trainee rather than as a trade apprentice, but this developed to embrace all aspects of the craft. In time he would join the board of the Institute of British Organ Building.

McElderry was gentlemanly and self-effacing and, in a niche industry where strong personalities and egos are not hard to find, and where lucrative contracts from churches are often thin on the ground, it is almost inevitable that organists and organ builders are occasionally prone to enthuse over the work of some while being less complimentary of the output of others. McElderry let the workmanship and craft of his colleagues and himself at Wells Kennedy speak for itself.

Driven by a desire to create work of quality rather than by mercenary or purely commercial motives, which would  
[Queen's University](#)



April 8, 2021

have been at odds with his personal ethic, he was always willing to assist others if they sought advice or practical assistance.

He and his associates produced many new instruments, restored and rebuilt numerous church organs across Ireland and Scotland, as well as carrying out significant rebuilds of cathedral organs at Newry, Armagh and Londonderry. An important aspect of his work was looking after large civic organs, sometimes referred to as Town Hall organs. Two of these had been installed by English organ builders in the 19th century, on a lavish scale, in the Guildhall, Derry, and the Ulster Hall, Belfast.

McElderry also provided small house organs for discerning clients in Ulster and in Edinburgh, where Wells Kennedy built two fine instruments for Church of Scotland congregations. These were for the churches of St Andrew & St George and at Palmerston Place, beside the cathedral. These organs stand comparison with the work of the UK's best builders.

One of McElderry's recent projects was to create an innovative and handsome new organ for the Portico Arts Centre in Portaferry, Co Down, subsequently opened in grand style by the Prince of Wales.

McElderry was quiet and at times reserved, but sociable and clubbable with friends. A past president of the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters, he enjoyed sharing his expertise on visits to the best-known organs of Britain and Europe.



April 8, 2021

He maintained a personal involvement in choral singing, especially with the choir at St George's parish church in Belfast. He had a wide interest in all types of music, and this informed his wider vision when it came to creating musical instruments of true calibre.

David McElderry never married.

*David McElderry, born March 24 1956, died February 15 2021*

Daily Telegraph 07.04.2021

## **Books, Broadcasts, resources and webinars**

### **New Book Explores the Spirituality of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Christian Mystic and Freedom Fighter**

**Nobel Peace Prize-winning South African Anglican bishop Desmond Tutu, renowned for his anti-apartheid activism, is a Christian mystic and saint, says Michael Battle in his new book, Desmond Tutu: A Spiritual Biography of South Africa's Confessor (WJK Books, March 16, 2021).**

Battle, director of the Desmond Tutu Center in New York, has known Archbishop Tutu for more than 25 years, and has seen up close the deep spirituality that helped Tutu dismantle apartheid. It is rooted in ancient Christian practice, and in the African concept of Ubuntu, human interdependence. The first biography of its kind about

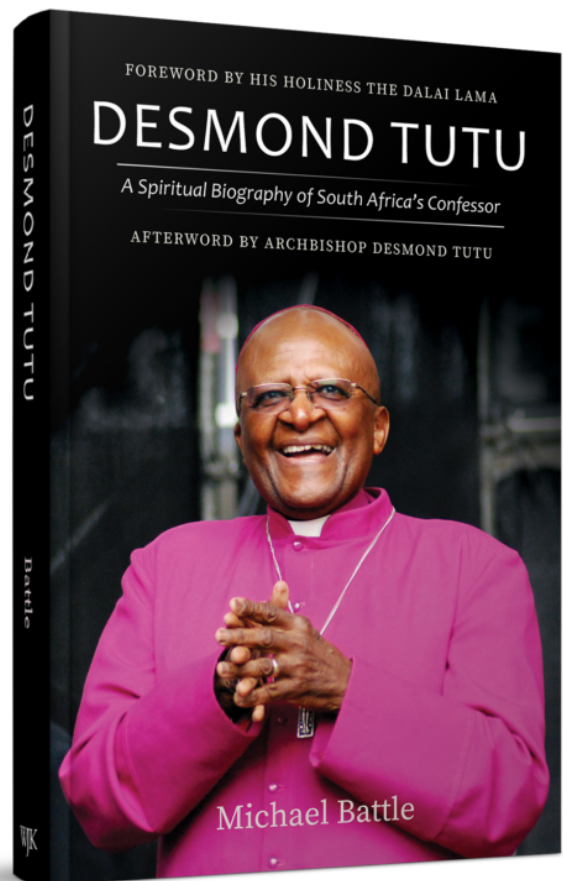
April 8, 2021

Desmond Tutu, the book examines how Tutu's Christian mysticism shaped his commitment to restorative justice and reconciliation.

“Tutu's life and work are crucial for both the wellbeing of the world and the survival of the church that seem equally bent toward crisis and culture wars,” Battle says. Tutu's fight against apartheid was a spiritual battle, one with lessons for resisting the growth of Christian Nationalism today. “Getting the oppressor to see God in common with the oppressed was Tutu's greatest contribution,” Battle writes. “For the oppressor to confess that their god was ultimately diminished in the religion of apartheid is a miracle that we all need to replicate.”

Understanding Tutu as a Christian mystic is essential to understanding his accomplishments. “The aim of the mystic's life is to achieve union with God,” Battle explains. The way that Tutu tried to reach this goal animated his political life. He explores Tutu's life through the three stages of ancient Christian mysticism:

Purgation: “Many of the traditional markers of a self-contained institutional church leader were eventually purged from Tutu's style of leadership as he was forced into primary role of resisting the evils of apartheid.



April 8, 2021

**Illumination:** As Chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and for the world, Tutu is a Confessor: "He elicits truth-telling that heals souls. In the current political climate of fake news and post-truth, practices of spirituality such as confession show how religion and politics work hand in hand to provide cohesion and coherence."

**Union:** as a global Elder and sage, Tutu "represents a deeper understanding of holiness or saintliness. Tutu's saintliness is not for himself, but becomes a worldview in which we all can share a holy life."

"Tutu's worldview of Christian mysticism counteracts the system of apartheid. His Ubuntu theology incorporates the African Bantu perspective of personhood with a mystical image of God's diversity in unity. In short, Ubuntu means humans beings need each other in order to be human. This interdependence is just as true in the divine life of God," Battle writes.

Tutu's unique combination of faith and political leadership led Battle to coin the phrase "political spirituality." Tutu's understanding of how spirituality leads to politics developed from the Ubuntu sense of community and interdependence. As Tutu said: "Politics and religion speak of life and all life belongs to God who is Lord of all life. Love of God and love of neighbor are two sides of the same coin, how can you say you love God whom you have not seen, when you hate your sister and brother whom you have."

Battle has observed Tutu's spiritual life since 1993, serving as his chaplain, praying, driving, and even jogging with him. He witnessed firsthand his asceticism and the centrality of

April 8, 2021

contemplative prayer, meditation, and the sacraments in Tutu's life, providing him with energy and creativity to face monumental tasks. Examining Tutu's mystical spirituality and saintliness offers a mirror for the rest of us. Through Tutu's spiritual life, "we see what often goes neglected in our own lives, because the spirit life is hard to see," Battle says. "The work of reconciliation is hard to perceive, especially if one does not know something needs to be reconciled." Battle, whose work as a theologian has focused on how Black identity and Christianity help us better see practices of peacemaking and reconciliation, offers Tutu as an exemplary of someone who brings Black and Christian identity together.

Tutu, who can no longer travel due to health issues, continues to wield spiritual, moral, and political influence, speaking truth to power along with other wise elders such as his close friend the Dalai Lama. After all, "How can Tutu retire from God?," Battle asks.

In fact in the afterword, Tutu writes: "When I am no longer on this planet in the physical form, I pray that I would have made a contribution in forming both a more mature consciousness and conscience for those who say they believe in God. We cannot say that we believe in God if we hate each other —much less say we love God and do the same....God is love. Spiritually, there is not much more to say than this."

The book costing 50\$ is available to order here -  
[[ <https://www.wjkbooks.com/Products/0664231586/desmond-tutu.aspx> ]



April 8, 2021

## About the Author

Michael Battle is Herbert Thompson Professor of Church and Society and Director of the Desmond Tutu Center at General Theological Seminary in New York, and President and CEO of the PeaceBattle Institute. The author of eleven books, including *Reconciliation: The Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu*, he focuses his ministry on nonviolence, Christian reconciliation, human spirituality, and Ubuntu (the African worldview of community). Battle lived in residence with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa for two years and was ordained a priest in South Africa by Tutu in 1993. In 2010, he was given one of the highest Anglican Church distinctions as “Six Preacher.”

## Media review

### **White Irish top of wages league table: race report**

Belfast Telegraph

A report that found people who identify as 'white Irish' typically earn considerably more than the average white Briton challenges old stereotypes, an economist has said. The Sewell Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities (Cred) found that the average earnings of Chinese, Indian and 'white Irish' exceed those of white British people - with the Irish topping the list, having average earnings 41% higher than the white British.

[[] [https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/white-irish-top-of-wages-league-table-race-report-40274301.html?utm\\_](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/white-irish-top-of-wages-league-table-race-report-40274301.html?utm_) ]



*Salisbury Cathedral (left), and Winchester Cathedral (right)*

## **Salisbury Cathedral part of new 2000-mile cycle route**

Salisbury Journal

All 42 Church of England cathedrals are set to be linked by a new 2,000-mile loop route. The route, which will run from Newcastle to Truro, will be ...

[[] <https://www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/19212042.salisbury-cathedral-part-new-2-000-mile-cycle-route/> ]

## **Reports IoM faces ten church closures due to Covid-19**

Manx Radio

There are reports that 10 churches could close across the Isle of Man this year according to a leaked document shown to the BBC.

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

April 8, 2021

The Island was mentioned as just one of the areas where places of worship have suffered due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The issue is explained as a financial one as many have been unable to attend church causing a sharp decline in donations to the Church of England.

In a report on Countryfile Charlotte Smith explained how rural buildings were being particularly affected:

[[] <https://www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/reports-iom-faces-ten-church-closures-due-to-covid-19/> ]

## **Top Archbishops accuse Government of 'broken promise' over foreign aid cut**

Evening Standard

In a dramatic intervention, the spiritual leader of the Church of England and his Roman Catholic counterpart urge Boris Johnson to U-turn, saying: ...

[[] <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/foreign-aid-cuts-government-archbishop-canterbury-westminster-b927986.html> ]

## **Cleric criticises Bishop of Waterford over alleged Covid breach**

Irish Examiner

[[] <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/munster/arid-40258952.html> ]

## **Pointers for prayer**

Mighty God,  
in whom we know the power of redemption,  
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.



As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life, uphold us with knowledge of the final morning when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son, we will share in his resurrection, redeemed and restored to the fullness of life and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

Living God,  
long ago, faithful women  
proclaimed the good news  
of Jesus' resurrection,  
and the world was changed forever.  
Teach us to keep faith with them,  
that our witness may be as bold,  
our love as deep,  
and our faith as true. Amen.

Creator of the universe,  
you made the world in beauty,  
and restore all things in glory  
through the victory of Jesus Christ.  
We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured



April 8, 2021

by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed,  
the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love,  
and peace,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Love divine,  
in raising Christ to new life  
you opened the path of salvation to all peoples.  
Send us out, with the joy of Mary Magdalene,  
to proclaim that we have seen the Lord,  
so that all the world may celebrate with you  
the banquet of your peace. Amen.

## Speaking to the Soul

**As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! They said to each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”**

Luke 24:30-32 NLT

Isn't it a great moment when the penny drops? Suddenly everything makes sense. Everything falls into place. This was the experience of these two followers of Jesus. The stranger who they had met as they trudged wearily home to Emmaus had given them a long explanation from the Scriptures. The stranger had accepted the invitation to share a meal and it was only as he broke bread that, suddenly, everything became clear. Their mysterious stranger had been none other than Jesus himself!

In my experience, it can take a long while for the penny to drop in our Christian lives. It is perfectly possible to hear about God's love, forgiveness, patience and generosity for years without them really making much sense. It is often only in the rough and tumble of life that deep spiritual truths become real for us. The Holy Spirit takes hold of the teaching that we have received and shines his light on it. It's a wonderful and liberating experience, and through it we grow in strength and maturity.

It is clearly very significant that the moment of revelation was as Jesus broke bread. As followers of Jesus he invites us all to remember his death through breaking bread and drinking wine together. I believe that we should approach this service with huge expectations. As we remember his death which happened so long ago, we meet the living Jesus who is present with us as we gather. Through his Spirit we should expect him to reveal more of himself to us ... and we shouldn't be surprised when another penny drops!

## QUESTION

What spiritual truths has God made real for you recently?

## PRAYER

Thank you, loving God, for giving me your Spirit so that I can learn more each day about living for you. Amen

