



Share Jesus with 'joy and delight' - Archbishop of Canterbury

In his presidential address to the General Synod yesterday, the Archbishop urged the Church of England to approach evangelism and witness with "joy and delight".

Evangelism is "as much a part of the life of the church as worship," the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday reaffirmed his commitment to evangelism, telling the Church of England's General Synod that it is "the calling of the whole Church".

Addressing the synod in London yesterday afternoon, the Archbishop opened his presidential address with a joke at his own expense.

Noting that many Christians respond to the thought of witnessing with "nervousness, uncertainty and guilt" rather than delight, he said: "The strategic response to this is clearly for a long-term, iterative and interactive, metric-based, evidence generated development of competencies across the widest possible range of stakeholders in order to achieve maximum acceleration of disciple input with the highest possible return on effort and capital employed. "That last paragraph is, of course, complete rubbish. To be honest, I just put it in in order to reassure you, as it is well known that I am in fact a businessman who put on the wrong clothes this morning."

In his first presidential address to the synod last July, Welby labelled evangelism as one of his three main priorities in ministry. "We need new imagination in evangelism through prayer, and a fierce determination not to let evangelism be squeezed off our agendas," he said.

Yesterday, he returned to this commitment, telling the synod: "Witness and evangelism are expressions of the overflow of the love and joy of the grace of God into our lives, and the life of His whole Church and His whole world."

Sharing the Good News should be "about as guilt-inducing as breathing", he added. "They are as much a part of the life of the Church as worship."

Text of address at -

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5493/share-jesus-with-joy-and-delight-archbishops-presidential-address-to-synod>

Archbishop Warda addresses Synod about the persecution of Christians in Iraq

Christianity in Iraq is going through one of the worst and hardest stages of its long history, the

Archbishop of the Chaldean Diocese of Erbil, Iraq, has told the C of E General Synod.

In an address at Church House, Westminster, Archbishop Bashar Warda said Iraqi Christians who have been forced to flee their villages during the past year are in "desperate" need of financial and material support.

The Archbishop's speech is available [here](https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/02/archbishop-warda-addresses-synod-about-the-persecution-of-christians-in-iraq.aspx).

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media-centre/news/2015/02/archbishop-warda-addresses-synod-about-the-persecution-of-christians-in-iraq.aspx>

Seven religious orders audited by child safety watchdogs have 'considerable work' to do

Only two religious orders audited by child safety watchdogs have demonstrated good compliance with rules to protect youngsters from abusers.

Irish Independent - Following reviews last autumn, the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland (NSBCCCI) warned seven congregations have considerable work to do on the issue.

The two orders praised by the review team were the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, an order with 18 priests working and living in London, Dublin and in the Cavan-Monaghan area, and the Dominican Sisters, based in Dublin, Galway, Wicklow and in the North, working largely in education.

Teresa Devlin, chief executive of the NBSCCCI, warned that much work was needed for seven orders to fall into line with the official child protection standards.

"In relation to the large reviews, I'm disappointed that, for the majority of Orders, the whole area of safeguarding is only being bedded down in the last couple of years," she said.

"Of the nine only two orders have demonstrated good compliance with the standards, and have demonstrated their commitment to putting in place good safeguards for children as well as prompt responses to allegations of abuse. For the other seven there is considerable work to be done."

The board found poor record management in many cases making an assessment of child protection practice difficult.

Opportunities to safeguard children were missed, known abusers were allowed to remain in ministry in 1990s.

The board - the Catholic Church's own watchdog in Ireland - found management plans relating to accused priests and nuns have improved significantly over time but it warned there is still room for improvement, in terms of clarity of roles, review of restrictions, and sharing of information.

It noted that support for complainants is good in many cases with evidence of pastoral support, outreach and direct contact with survivors of abuse.

The board warned of variable delays in reporting allegations to the civil authorities up until 2009 but it also said some practices did not improve until 2013.

"A series of recommendations have been made within each report and the board expects that these will be acted upon," Ms Devlin said.

The board has requested the orders to make progress reports on the recommendations in nine months.

In the case of the Franciscan Friars, the watchdog points out that there were three "prolific" abusers within their ranks, although allegations had been levelled against 28 friars since 1975.

A significant number of the sexual abuse allegations relate to two friars, both of whom were convicted and served prison sentences.

One remains under supervision within the Order while the other left in 2003.

The watchdog said the Franciscans either delayed or failed to notify state authorities about the abuse and also delayed taking action under the Order's own canon law.

Furthermore, the Order had poor records of contact with victims and of monitoring friars under supervision.

More at -

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/seven-religious-orders-audited-by-child-safety-watchdogs-have-considerable-work-to-do-30980141.html>

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/work-to-be-done-on-child-safety-30979915.html>

Archbishop Martin speaks on child protection

Archbishop Eamon Martin has said there are now “robust and fair procedures in relation to the safeguarding of children” in Ireland.

Derry Journal - The All Ireland Primate issued a statement following the publication of a letter by Pope Francis regarding the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

Speaking on Friday and referring directly to the letter, Archbishop Martin said: “I look forward to discussing its importance with the other members of the Episcopal Conference at the next meeting of the Bishops’ Conference. As the Holy Father points out, ‘Families need to know that the Church is making every effort to protect their children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home.’

“The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland has been working with our dioceses, religious congregations and missionary societies to ensure that there are in place robust and fair procedures in relation to child safeguarding. The commitment of

volunteers in parishes and Church organisations throughout the country is a vitally important part of the Church working to build up a culture of credible safeguarding practice. It is my hope that the newly-established Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors will continue to build up and enhance this good work,” he said.

NI transport chief quits post to answer religious calling

The chief executive of [Northern Ireland](#) public transport company [Translink](#) is to quit his £155,000 (€208,000) per annum post to become a religious preacher.

[Irish Times - David Strahan](#), who was only appointed to the position in October, said he is resigning so he can devote his life to “preaching the gospel”.

He is the second high-profile Northern Ireland person in recent months to leave a senior post to pursue a religious vocation.

In October, [BBC](#) Northern Ireland’s political correspondent [Martina Purdy](#) stood down from her post to enter a convent in west Belfast.



David Strahan

Mr Strahan said he will continue in his job until September to allow a successor to be appointed to Translink, the company which runs Northern Ireland's rail and main bus services.

"I know many people may not understand this decision but, as this is a very personal matter, I ask that the media respect my privacy.

"I will not be making any further public comment on this issue," he said.

More at -

<http://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/ni-transport-chief-quits-post-to-answer-religious-calling-1.2097155>

www.newsletter.co.uk/news/business/head-of-translink-quits-to-preach-gospel-1-6569056#.VNi2BahLLol.twitter

<http://www.irishnews.com/news/surprise-departure-from-translink-1412081>

Top evangelical wishes God's blessing on transport boss
<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/top-evangelical-wishes-god-s-blessing-on-transport-boss-1-6570055>

No campaign to close Catholic teaching college: Farry

Northern Ireland's Employment Minister has denied embarking on a crusade to close a Catholic-based teacher training college.

News Letter - Campaigners claim the long-standing St Mary's University College in the heart of west Belfast could be forced to shut if its £1.1 million specialist institution premium funding is axed.

Stephen Farry told Assembly members during Question Time: “Let me be very clear at the outset.

“There is no crusade against St Mary’s University College, though at times, listening to comments coming from the college and other political parties, perhaps there is a crusade against me in terms of all of this.”

Mr Farry has come under fire since he proposed removing “premia” funding for both St Mary’s and Stranmillis College in south Belfast because of pressures on his departmental budget.

Both institutions have been awarded the funding in recognition of their small status.

Mr Farry said the reform should be embraced because the current system was not working or delivering.

He also claimed measures could be put in place to protect a particular religious ethos.

He added: “We have to recognise that we have a system at present which is not working and delivering. It is very much an artificial system.”

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/no-campaign-to-close-catholic-teaching-college-farry-1-6570190>

'No crusade' against college - Belfast Telegraph
<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/no-crusade-against-college-30977584.html>

John O'Dowd: Catholic primary teaching requirement 'should go'

Education Minister John O'Dowd has said he would like to see the certificate in religious education that is required to teach in Catholic primary schools scrapped.

Mr O'Dowd said any decision about the issue lies with the first and deputy first ministers.

He said he had written to them several times about it, but had not received an answer.

The certificate is not required for teaching in secondary schools.

St Mary's teacher training college in Belfast says the certificate assists teachers to educate children according to Catholic principles.

However, the DUP's Nelson McCausland said its requirement was viewed as discriminatory.

During question time in the assembly, Mr O'Dowd also said he did not want to see any reduction in the numbers of people being trained at St Mary's and Stranmillis teaching colleges, as the loss of the centres would have implications for the economy.

In reply to a question from Trevor Lunn of Alliance, the minister said the current annual intake was 165 for St Mary's University College and 169 for Stranmillis University College, and that numbers had been cut by 30% in recent years.

Mr Lunn said that only 18% of new teachers found jobs within a year of graduation, and asked how the minister could justify training places "for probably more than 50% more than the number of teachers we actually need".

Mr O'Dowd said he believed it would be a mistake "to lose that economic driver which is in our communities", and that "what we can do instead is we can close our teacher training colleges down and send all those young people over to England".

More at -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-31313817>

Church's Ministry of Healing Quiet Day

The Dublin & Glendalough Diocesan Committee of the Church's Ministry of Healing Ireland has organised a Quiet Day on Saturday March 7. Led by the Ven Susan Watterson, this day of reflection entitled 'Watching, Waiting & Walking' will take place at the The Mageough, Cowper Road, Rathmines, from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Soup, tea and coffee will be provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring a sandwich to complete their lunch. For further information or to register your attendance please contact the diocesan representative Felix Blennerhassett on mobile: 087-214 9400 or email felixblen@eircom.net. There is no charge for admission.

David Tennant - Former Moderator's joy at TV accolade for son

The father of David Tennant and ex-Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has spoken of his joy at seeing the former

Doctor Who star honoured for a career in acting recently.

David dedicated his special recognition accolade at the National Television Awards to his father, the Very Rev Sandy McDonald.



Very Rev Sandy McDonald with son David Tennant

Mr McDonald said: "Obviously I was delighted especially for David. For a relatively young man (43) he has had a great career.

"The event brought a great deal of joy. Friends from all over have been ringing since the broadcast. Some people I have not heard from for years have been in touch to say how delighted they were. It was good to talk to them.

Some have been generous in their interest in the work I have done in the Church.

"David's mum and I tried to persuade him to do something in life that would be more permanent than acting, that would give him a longer career.

"The rector of his school wanted him to go to university to study English as he is a very good writer.

"But he was really keen to be an actor and he was accepted by the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, now called the Conservatoire, the first time he applied. I am a proud father."

Lord Williams appointed President of Church Army

Church Army has announced the appointment of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Rowan Williams, as its new President.

Inspire Magazine - The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Lord Williams of Oystermouth is the eighth President in Church Army's 132-year history.

"I am deeply honoured to be asked to take up this position," said Lord Williams, "There can be

few organisations that have done as much as Church Army to support the highest quality of innovative ministry and outreach in our Church, and to encourage lay and clergy alike in their calling to speak and act the Good News effectively and imaginatively.”

“I look forward with great enthusiasm to a closer connection with Church Army and to supporting all its members as best I can in prayer and solidarity.”

Church Army Chief Executive, Mark Russell, said: “I am delighted Lord Williams has agreed to serve as Church Army’s new President. Rowan Williams has been a good friend to Church Army and to me personally for many years. He is passionately committed to what we do, and we are delighted he has this new link with Church Army.”

Lord Williams’ appointment follows the announcement in December last year that Archbishop Desmond Tutu was stepping down as Church Army’s President.

More at -

www.inspiremagazine.org.uk/Stories/Personal?storyaction=view&storyid=817

Media digest

News Letter

The DUP conscience clause is about fundamentalists, not Christians - writes commentator Alex Kane

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/the-dup-conscience-clause-is-about-fundamentalists-not-christians-1-6568137>

UTV

Children 'not raising online concerns'
More than half of children in Northern Ireland do not raise the alarm after seeing something online which makes them uncomfortable.

<http://www.u.tv/news/Children-not-raising-online-concerns/0dcf70aa-4510-42d5-b323-ca043d23bb4f>

BBC

Fr Pierre 'Jalapeno' Pepper primed to pack a punch for charity. The punching priest may sound like a character from the comedy, Father Ted. But in County Offaly, one cleric is hoping to deliver a knockout blow for charity.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-31305585>

Eve Standard/Mail/Guard

Articles and comment about HSBC and tax avoidance revelations in Switzerland, which says the former boss of HSBC, Stephen Green, was unwilling to comment on why the bank under his control appears to have run such a scheme. They state Lord Green, an ordained Church of England priest, had attacked the broken ethics in his industry during the financial crisis. They ask about his conversations with the Archbishop of Canterbury, especially as last week Justin Welby said people should pay their taxes where they make their money.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/business/markets/jim-armitage-if-hsbc-exchair-and-decent-man-lord-green-was-on-thin-ice-banks-are-too-big-10034082.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2946763/The-heavies-gurn-groan-HSBC.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2946763/The-heavies-gurn-groan-HSBC.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/feb/09/guardian-view-hsbc-files-damning-dossier>

[http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/09/ex-hsbc-boss-stephen-green-the-ethical-banker-with-](http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/09/ex-hsbc-boss-stephen-green-the-ethical-banker-with-questions-to-answer)

[questions-to-answer](http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/09/ex-hsbc-boss-stephen-green-the-ethical-banker-with-questions-to-answer)

ITV

Further report on the Archbishop of Canterbury backing MPs calls for the introduction of 'internet Asbos' says he also admitted he was often "deeply embarrassed" by the failings of the Church of England in tackling anti-Semitism. It comes after MPs called for prevention orders for

hate crimes under proposals to tackle rising levels of anti-semitism. Justin Welby said he would ensure that the Church of England paid attention to its contents as he acknowledged failings in the past. Refers to vicar Stephen Sizer who apologized after posting a link to an internet article blaming Israel for the September 11 terror attacks. (see below)

<http://www.itv.com/news/2015-02-09/welby-admits-coe-failings-as-he-backs-internet-asbos/>

BBC/Tel/Int Business Times/Mail/Huff Post

Reports that the Reverend Stephen Sizer, vicar of Christ Church, in Virginia Water, Surrey, who posted a link to an article that blamed Israel for the 9/11 attacks has been banned from using social media for six months. The Bishop of Guildford said his "anti-Zionist agenda has become a liability" and that Dr Sizer had also agreed to refrain from commenting on Middle East issues, following a diocesan investigation into the incident.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-surrey-31298113>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11399986/Vicar-who-blamed-Israel-for-911-attacks-is-banned-from-writing-about-the-Middle-East.html>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/reverend-stephen-sizer-banned-social-media-after-he-blamed-israel-9-11-1487218>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2946831/Priest-banned-using-social-media-sites-six-months-posting-anti-Semitic-comments-claiming-Israel-9-11.html>

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/02/09/israel-911-stephen-sizer_n_6644630.html?utm_hp_ref=uk

BBC

Report that the Archbishop of Erbil has told UK peers and MPs that Christians in Iraq "do not have much time left" without direct military action on the ground. Archbishop Bashar Warda said air strikes were "not enough" to defeat Islamic State militants and said Iraq's Christian population was declining and that he would speak to the UK government about further action.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-3130395>

BBC/ Christian Today/Guard

Report that the Church of England's first female bishop, Libby Lane has used her first official public appearance to highlight the "evil" of human trafficking. The new Bishop of Stockport called for more support for victims, at the launch of Manchester Airport's Travel Safe Week, saying the evil will not go away without commitment and struggle. According to children's charity Unicef, 1.2 million children are trafficked every year.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-31299326>

<http://www.theguardian.com/law/2015/feb/09/rev-libby-lane-first-female-bishop-condemns-human-trafficking>

BBC

Article by former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams for [BBC Newsnight](#) looking at the history of Christianity and its strong roots in the East. He says many Christians read their Bibles and books of prayers in Arabic and there was a period when there were probably as many Christians in Asia as in Europe. He writes that Christianity is not just about European - let alone American - power and the Arab and Iranian world is not just Muslim in its history.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-31173047>

Mirror/ Eve Standard/Tel

Reports that a young girl was among four people killed when a tipper truck ploughed [into cars and pedestrians](#) after hurtling down a hill near a school. The child, who was a pedestrian, and three adults in a car, died at the scene in Lansdown Lane in Upper Weston in Bath. The Rev Patrick Whitworth of All Saints Church is quoted saying the community was in shock.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/bath-lorry-crash-young-girl-5135421>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/four-people-dead-following-crash-with-tipper-truck-10034761.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/11401597/Four-dead-after-tipper-truck-goes-out-of-control-in-Bath.html>

Mail

Report that the former Bishop of Gibraltar was assaulted just weeks before his death by a carer, a court heard. It states the Rt Rev John Satterthwaite was suffering from dementia when he was 'subjected to unnecessary humiliation and degradation' by carer Kate Rogowski. The bishop, known around the world for his past roles in the Anglican church, died aged 88 just weeks after the assault. Rogowski, 25, was found guilty of assault after a trial at Preston Magistrates Court and was given an eight-week jail term.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2945778/Respected-bishop-slapped-carer-weeks-death.html#ixzz3RJpciXZg>

Tel/Mail/BBC

Reports that church leaders have been accused of a lack of flexibility after evicting a yoga class from a church hall because of its links to "alternative spiritualities". They state Revd James Stevenson and the Parish of Bishopston and St Andrew's decided the buildings should be used for Christian acts of worship and nothing of a spiritual nature "outside of Christ". Teacher Naomi Hayama collected more than 500

signatures pleading with the church council to change its decision, but now has until the end of the month to find a new home for her classes.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/11400824/Church-accused-of-lacking-flexibility-after-it-bans-yoga-class-for-being-too-spiritual.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2946826/Church-bans-Christian-yoga-class-using-hall-activity-links-alternative-spiritualities.html?](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2946826/Church-bans-Christian-yoga-class-using-hall-activity-links-alternative-spiritualities.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

[http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-31311797#sa-ns_mchannel=rss&ns_source=PublicRSS20-sa)

[bristol-31311797#sa-](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-31311797#sa-ns_mchannel=rss&ns_source=PublicRSS20-sa)

[ns_mchannel=rss&ns_source=PublicRSS20-sa](http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-31311797#sa-ns_mchannel=rss&ns_source=PublicRSS20-sa)