



## **Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2015: In God's Hands by Desmond Tutu**

No matter what struggles and injustices human beings endure, we are in God's hands and our names are engraved on his palms.

That is the central theme of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2015, written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Drawing on Archbishop Tutu's lifetime of fighting for justice and against oppression and prejudice in South Africa and around the world, *In God's Hands* is an intimate meditation on the human condition.

In his foreword to the book, Archbishop Justin Welby writes that Archbishop Tutu is 'one of the most extraordinary Christian leaders alive today, or to have lived in the last century or more.'

The BBC has published a series of [weekly online resources](#) *In God's Hands* based on the themes of Archbishop Tutu's book.

Starting in the first week of Lent and ending in Holy Week, the resources provide readings, reflections and prayers for individuals and church groups inspired by its themes, which will also be reflected in Sunday Worship (0810-0850) and the Daily Service (0945-1000 BBC Radio 4 LW and digital radio) on Radio 4, and in Local Radio Sunday morning programmes.

In the book, Archbishop Tutu reveals what has sustained him through his often turbulent life: the unshakeable belief that human beings are created in the image of God and are infinitely valuable.

Each one of us is a God-carrier, a tabernacle, a sanctuary of the Divine Trinity, he writes, and God loves us not because we are loveable but because he first loved us. This turns our values upside down –showing us that the Gospel is the most radical thing imaginable.

In his foreword, Archbishop Justin Welby says the vision that has emerged from Archbishop Tutu's profound struggles 'is one that calls all people to share his hope, regardless of where they come from or what they experience.

'It is a global vision for a divided and cruel world.'

*Explore the resources on the BBC website:*<http://bbc.in/1AruMGn>*and on the programme web pages.*

## **Presbyterian moderator Ian McNie 'would have concerns about woman leader'**

The new moderator of the Presbyterian Church says he would have concerns about a woman taking on the leadership of the church.

BBC - The new moderator of the Presbyterian Church has said he would have concerns about a woman taking on the leadership of the church.

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Rev Liz Hughes, who was one of the four up for nomination, was outvoted for a second year.

Mr McNie said he shared the view of many people and that was based on their interpretation of the Bible.

"Those who are not all that in favour, if you want to put it like that, of women's ordination don't hold that point of view from the position of personal preference," he told the BBC's Good Morning Ulster.

"They hold that position from the point of view that as they interpret the scriptures, the leadership role within the church is not necessarily the leadership role within society - that men and women complement each other, and consequently, possibly that's why many people have taken the view that they take and that's why the church has not embraced the election of a woman moderator.

"I would have a conviction that, like many other people within all major denominations, that there are some concerns about that issue, and yes, I would share that conviction as well."

Mr McNie said the Presbyterian Church had led the way in ordaining women, and paid tribute to its first woman minister Ruth Patterson as "a great ambassador for women within the church".

"The Presbyterian Church chose to go down the route of ordaining female ministers in 1974, and when that decision was taken, corresponding to

that the church was saying at that point we're prepared to have a woman moderator if she's elected," he said.

He will take over as moderator from Rev Michael Barry and will officially take up office as the 176th moderator on 1 June.

### **Belfast Telegraph - Presbyterians opt for conservative Ian McNie as new Moderator**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/presbyterians-opt-for-conservative-ian-mcnie-as-new-moderator-30962706.html>

### **Belfast Telegraph - New Presbyterian moderator believes that bible 'interpretation' does not support women as church leaders**

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/new-presbyterian-moderator-believes-that-bible-interpretation-does-not-support-women-as-church-leaders-30963687.html>

## **We need to get an insight into the culture of small schools - Principal of the C of I College of Education**

It is easy to identify the challenges faced by small schools as there has been much discussion involving educators, parents, management and patron bodies regarding the threats to small schools in the last five years - writes Dr Anne Lodge in the Irish Independent. Dr Lodge is Principal of the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE) and is leading the study into small schools. She writes -

We have far less insight into their culture, and whether there are specific benefits that they offer to learners, parents and teachers as well as the potential challenges that such teaching and learning environments present.

We also have limited insight into the perception of small schools by those who make education policy, draft curricular content and materials and evaluate the effectiveness of schools. This is in stark contrast to the situation in both Finland and England where there has been significant investment in research investigating the cultures and educational climates of small schools.

A collaborative study into small Irish primary schools was launched last week. It was initiated and will be overseen by the Church of Ireland College of Education (CICE). It is being funded

by the Church of Ireland General Synod Board of Education (RI), the Church of Ireland Primary Schools Association, the Governors of the CICE and Dublin City University (DCU).



***To date, there has been no systematic investigation of the cultures, benefits and challenges of small schools in the Republic of Ireland drawing on the views of teachers, pupils, parents and policymakers***

This new study aims to address a gap in our understanding of the cultures of small schools from a wide range of perspectives.

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We are particularly conscious of this in the CICE, where we prepare and support our students to do school placement and subsequently seek employment in small schools working with multi-level classes.

The new study aims to begin to address the gaps in our understandings of small Irish primary schools.

It proposes to engage with schools in the Protestant sector because they are a relatively small cohort that are to be found in both urban and rural locations across the State.

A study conducted by David Tuohy and myself in 2011 with parents of children in primary schools under Protestant patronage yielded very interesting insights into the culture and learning environments of those schools from the perspective of parents.

The new study will provide additional insights into the cultures and educational climates of small schools from a range of perspectives, including those of principals, teachers, members of boards of management and children. It will also seek the views of education policymakers.

It proposes to examine both the challenges and benefits of teaching and learning in a small school context. This will enable us to compare the Irish experience of teaching and learning in small schools with data analysed in Finland and the UK.

It will report by September 2015.

## **Teacher training in Northern Ireland 'a racket', says Employment Minister as he reveals cuts**

Minister blasts costly and divisive system as he unveils cuts to Stranmillis and St Mary's colleges

Belfast Telegraph - The current system of teacher training in Northern Ireland has been blasted as a "racket" by the minister responsible.

Employment and Learning Minister Stephen Farry also said the system was "fragmented, costly and perpetuating division" as he unveiled how he planned to make the £43.3m budget cuts demanded of his department.

There will be £26m of cuts to higher and further education. Of these, £14m will be cut from higher

education - at Queen's University Belfast and the Ulster University - while £12m will be cut from the further education budget at our six further education colleges.

Mr Farry has announced plans to cut a special £1.1m subsidy 'premia' payment which both St Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College receive each year to help them survive.

These institutions are two of five that train teachers in Northern Ireland along with Queen's, Ulster University and the Open University.

Supporters of St Mary's have waged a vocal campaign to have the premia payment restored.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/education/teacher-training-in-northern-ireland-a-racket-says-employment-minister-as-he-reveals-cuts-30962594.html>

## **Belfast's 4 Corners Festival in full swing**

Belfast's third annual 4 Corners Festival is in full swing, with a range of events already attracting people into nooks and crannies of the city that

they might normally never enter - we find out more from Dr Gladys Ganiel, a member of the festival committee and associate professor in Conflict Resolution at the Irish School of Ecumenics



***Fr Martin Magill, Linda Ervine, Lord Mayor Nichola Mallon, Chris Wilson and Rev Steve Stockman at the launch of the festival at City Hall***

News Letter - The 4 Corners Festival, which bears the tagline 'Bringing Belfast Together,' is organised by a small group of Christians.

It came to life over cups of coffee between Rev Steve Stockman of Fitzroy Presbyterian in south

Belfast and Fr Martin Magill, parish priest at Sacred Heart in north Belfast. Both had been reflecting on their experiences of visiting unfamiliar parts of the city.

Fr Magill had attended several events during the East Belfast Festival, while Rev Stockman and musicians from Fitzroy had ventured to what was then Magill's parish in west Belfast to perform a programme called 'The Gospel According to Christy Moore.' Both were surprised and inspired by the people and places they discovered by moving out of their comfort zones.

As the 2013 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity approached, they floated the idea of a 'fringe' festival that would complement the already well-established activities of that week.

They hoped that events scattered throughout the four corners of the city would prompt others to experience new areas of their city, inspiring them to cross boundaries in their everyday lives.

The events of this year's festival focus on the themes of imagination and generosity. The programme is wide-ranging, including art exhibitions, music, discussions, storytelling, talks, a prayer breakfast, and a dinner for refugees.

The organisers welcome people from all faith backgrounds and none to attend the events, most of which are free of charge or ask only for a donation.

“There’s nothing like the arts to reach into people’s souls and stimulate new ways of looking at the world,” said Rev Stockman.

“Christianity has been a source of inspiration for artists, poets and musicians through the ages and it’s our hope that the festival follows in that tradition. It will take creativity – not just political talks – to transform our city from one where there is segregation and division to one where there is reconciliation.”

Tonight’s headline event is a discussion titled ‘3 Mayors for all 4 Corners’ at 8pm at the Ulster Museum, featuring current Lord Mayor Nichola Mallon and the last two Lord Mayors, Gavin Robinson and Máirtín Ó Muilleoir.

They will be sharing stories from their years in office, providing examples of when they saw imagination and generosity among the people of Belfast. Musician Chris Wilson will perform ‘Imagining a City Without Walls,’ a song commissioned for the festival.

An exhibition on 'Religion and Spirituality,' featuring 20 local artists, is running at the Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts through the duration of the festival.

Curated by Bronagh Lawson, it features print, painting, sculpture and digital works. Lawson also organised art exhibitions in four churches in four corners of the city: Jennymount Methodist, Church of St Nicholas, Church of the Nativity and Belmont Presbyterian.

More at -

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/belfast-s-4-corners-festival-in-full-swing-1-6556531>

## **Ex-BBC journalist Martina Purdy joins fellow nuns at Armagh Mass**

Former BBC political correspondent Martina Purdy has made one of her first public appearances after becoming a nun

Belfast Telegraph - She was at St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh for a special Mass along with other members of her order and met Archbishop Eamonn Martin.

She made her decision to enter a convent last year, giving up a highly successful career as one of the most recognisable faces in local television news.



***Martina Purdy (right) and other nuns from the Adoration Sisters order at St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh***

The new nun entered the Adoration Sisters order after 25 years in journalism in a move that surprised many. She said at the time: "I know many people will not understand this decision. It is a decision that I have not come to lightly, but it is one that I make with love and great joy. I ask



for prayers as I embark on this path with all humility, faith and trust." She went on to ask that the privacy of the Adoration Sisters - a self-described "contemplative community" which makes altar breads - be respected as she faces "the new challenges" of her life. More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/sister-act-as-exbbc-journalist-martina-purdy-joins-fellow-nuns-at-mass-30958422.html>

## Youth Leaders go on Weekend Retreat to Kerry



***Time out from the annual Cork, Cloyne and Ross Youth Leaders' Weekend – a walk on blustery Inch Strand, County Kerry***

Thirty youth leaders from the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross attended the annual CDYC (Cork Diocesan Youth Council) youth leaders' weekend from 30th January to 1st February. It was held in Annascaul, Co Kerry.

This year Bishop Richard Henderson, retired bishop of Tuam, Killala and Achonry, led a retreat. His talks were about the book of Jonah and he encouraged those present to reflect on its meaning for the Church today. Bishop Henderson's teaching was interspersed with music from Taizé and silence, culminating in a celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday morning. John and Viri Kingston fed those present with gorgeous Mexican food, and the beautiful surroundings of the Kerry mountains were an ideal location. On Saturday there was time out for a cold and blustery walk on Inch Strand.

## **Restoration of Belfast's 'Methodist Cathedral' begins**

It lay decaying for years, home only to pigeons and the ferns which have colonised its walls.

Belfast Telegraph - Now, restoration work has started on a church that has the dubious honour of being the first Belfast building on a list of the 100 world monuments under greatest threat.



***The interior of Carlisle Memorial Church, which is to have its shell restored in the first stage of renovations***

Carlisle Memorial Church - dubbed the Cathedral of Irish Methodism - was added to the 2010 World Monuments Watch List as decay took hold.

But yesterday Belfast Buildings Trust (BBT) launched the first phase of renovation work with a visit from project funders, who have come up with £850,000 for the vital work.

This first phase will deliver a shell restoration and provide space for communities from across the city to work together on a programme of capacity building and civic engagement.

BBT's ambition is to fully regenerate Carlisle Memorial Church by 2020 in partnership with the Horatio Group, one of Northern Ireland's leading hospitality employers, to include a hospitality training academy for young people.

More at -

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/praise-be-restoration-of-belfasts-carlisle-church-begins-30962366.html>

## **New Royal School of Church Music festival service book commemorates Magna Carta**

A new festival service book to commemorate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Magna Carta* has just been published by the Royal School of Church Music

(RSCM). Like previous RSCM service books, *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done* contains a complete order of service including readings and prayers, and a comprehensive range of hymns, anthems and worship songs for churches to select.

The service takes social justice as its theme, and includes a total of twenty works by a range of composers - both ancient and modern - including William Byrd, James MacMillan, Bernadette Farrell, Margaret Rizza and Philip Wilby. The book also includes a new anthem by Malcolm Archer called *Walk humbly with your God*, which has been specially written for this publication. Interspersed between the readings and prayers is a wide range of musical options to suit all tastes, abilities and musical resources. For example, users can choose between *Give me justice*, a short anthem by the Scottish composer James MacMillan, and Bernadette Farrell's popular *Christ be our light*. Those using the book can also opt for responsorial psalm singing or traditional Anglican chant. *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done* is a ready-made service equally suitable for choral festivals performed by hundreds and for smaller local services. There is also a suggested outline 'order of service' for a

Choral Evensong on the same theme using music within the book, including *Responses* by Thomas Ebdon, and Herbert Sumsion's setting of the Evening Canticles in A major.

*Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done* has been devised by Michael Hampel, Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral, Andrew Reid, Director of the RSCM, and Tim Ruffer, the RSCM's Head of Publishing. In their introduction they write: "Magna Carta was the solution to a political crisis in Medieval England... but several of its most significant tenets are still the law of the land eight hundred years later. This service speaks of how we live in the world under God's rule and how we shape our own societies and communities to be icons of God's Kingdom."

Copies may be ordered by email, phone or online through RSCM Music Direct: [www.rscm.com/shop](http://www.rscm.com/shop) or email [musicdirect@rscm.com](mailto:musicdirect@rscm.com), or telephone 0845 021 7726. Significant discounts are available for RSCM affiliate and individual members.

## **Court rules US Episcopal diocese and churches can keep property**

A South Carolina court has ruled that the Diocese of South Carolina and its parish churches are the owners of their property, not The [Episcopal Church](#).

In a decision handed down Tuesday, Circuit Court Judge [Diane Goodstein](#) wrote that the diocese and its churches are "the owners of their real, personal and intellectual property."

Goodstein wrote that The Episcopal Church "has no legal, beneficial or equitable interest" in the diocese and its property.

The ruling marks the latest development in the acrimonious split between the two factions.

In 2012, the conservative Diocese of South Carolina separated from the more liberal national Episcopal Church over a variety of theological issues. The breakaway churches sued to protect the use of the diocesan name and half a billion dollars' worth of property.

"The decision protects our freedom to embrace the faith Anglicans have practiced for hundreds of years - and not the new theology being imposed on TEC's dwindling membership," said [Jim Lewis](#), counsel to the bishop.

## Media digest

### **Eve Standard**

Liam Byrne MP - chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Inclusive Growth - writes on inequality in society and how society can change course. He says the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby will deliver a speech on the 'The Good Economy' and priorities for reconnecting wealth creation with social justice today. He says the event will also feature a panel discussion with some of Britain's leading thinkers on how to accelerate a consensus for reform and for creating a "fair shares" society, now and in the future.

<http://www.standard.co.uk/comment/comment/liam-byrne-business-should-lead-the-way-in-creating-a-more-equal-society-10020640.html>

### **Guard/Ind/Mail/International Business Times/ Tel/FT/BBC**

Articles on the debate in the House of Commons this week when MPs voted to approve a method of mitochondrial donation - a modified IVF which combines the DNA of two parents to a donor woman, making the UK the first country in the world to allow the creation of so called "three-parent" babies. They state after a heated debate



the government motion was passed in a free vote by a majority of 254 votes. The motion was opposed by the Church of England which was concerned about the safety of the technique. Further comment on the issue also included below in *Telegraph* by Michael Nazir Ali, the former Bishop of Rochester and chaplain, Jemima Thackray.

<http://www.theguardian.com/science/2015/feb/03/mps-vote-favour-three-person-embryo-law>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/threeparent-babies-britain-votes-strongly-in-favour-of-law-change-10021265.html>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2938841/MPs-clear-way-three-parent-babies.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-31069173>

[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4f9aab02-ab9f-11e4-8070-00144feab7de.html?](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4f9aab02-ab9f-11e4-8070-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3Qf2cbBdG)

[siteedition=intl#axzz3Qf2cbBdG](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4f9aab02-ab9f-11e4-8070-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3Qf2cbBdG)

<http://www.ibtimes.com/uk-legislators-vote-legalizing-three-person-babies-born-through-mitochondrial-180345>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/03/three-parent-baby-uk-churches\\_n\\_6603838.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/03/three-parent-baby-uk-churches_n_6603838.html)

<http://www.theguardian.com/science/2015/feb/03/tears-long-wait-ends-breakthrough-mitochondrial-disease>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11386898/Three-parent-babies-Why-is-the-Church-refusing-to-alleviate-human-suffering.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/11386070/Three-parent-babies-an-ethical-boundary-is-being-crossed.html>

<http://www.standard.co.uk/comment/comment/sarah-sands-this-baby-should-unite-scientists-and-the-church-10020586.html>

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2937964/A-look-UKs-proposal-make-babies-3-people.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2937964/A-look-UKs-proposal-make-babies-3-people.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

## **Mail**

Item that composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies is to start work on the one last job he promised to do during his time as Master of the Queen's Music. It states he will write an all-day church service for Westminster Abbey's choir, even though he is a self-confessed atheist. Sir Peter, 80, who stepped down from the royal role last year, said the piece will last all day and he hopes the Queen will attend for some of it.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2938906/SEBASTIAN-SHAKESPEARE-Ghislaine-fleeing-NYC-amid-Epstein-sex-scandal.html#ixzz3Qkw2Wspl>

## **Guard**

Article on Tesco closing stores includes mention of a site in Wolverhampton, where plans for a large supermarket have come to nothing. It quotes the vicar of All Saints church in Wolverhampton which looks out on to the proposed site. The Revd Sarah Schofield says the children who were born the year Tesco took on the site are now starting their GCSEs and

says she thinks the site, which was the old Royal Hospital, will stay as it is for another few years.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/feb/03/betrayed-by-tesco-kirkby-bridgwater-wolverhampton-let-down-by-supermarket-regeneration>

## **BBC**

Report that a 40-year-old man, who exposed himself in a church porch and wore a war memorial wreath on his head, has been given a suspended sentence. Toby Millett, of Harkstead near Ipswich, pleaded guilty to engaging in indecent behaviour at St Peter's Church in nearby Freston in December. Millett was given a four week jail sentence suspended for 12 months.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-31110457>

## **Times**

Matthew Paris comments on engraving of 10 commandments in a stone slab in All Saints Parish Church in Youlgreave, with the commandment about not making any graven images. He says although it is directed against idolatry, the sentence is unambiguous. And he writes that maybe the difference between most Christians and most Muslims is that Muslims actually believe their religion?

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/article4343554.ece>

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