
Keith Getty OBE: 'This is the most exciting generation in history to be a Christian'



CCLI estimate 40-50 million people sing Keith Getty's songs. The Ulsterman is best known for writing 'In Christ Alone' and 'See what a morning' (both with Stuart Townend).

Last week it was announced Getty is to be awarded an OBE for services to music and modern hymn writing. Premier Christian Radio's Loretta Andrews spoke to Keith Getty shortly after the news was announced...

June 26

Keith, congratulations on being awarded an OBE. How did you feel when you heard?

It's a funny cocktail of emotions. You're shocked and it seems odd and you're embarrassed. But you're also delighted and biting your arm off cause you can't tell anyone! Ultimately I'm just very grateful. There are many other people who deserve it more than we do, but I'm very grateful.

So you had to keep the news under wraps for a while?

Yes you get very strongly worded letters in very posh language saying you can't tell anyone. I had 2-3 months where I couldn't say anything.

So what's next – a visit to see the Queen I suppose?

Yes, my wife is already looking at what hat she's going to buy! We're hoping to visit the Queen although my wife does want to ask Kate [Middleton] some questions about fashion. We'll see how it works out!

Does it feel a bit funny to receive an OBE when it's ultimately about God?

June 26

I think of it as an encouragement. It's like anyone giving you thanks. If anyone is thanking you for anything you do in life, ultimately it's an encouragement and that's healthy.

John Stott was a big believer in public honours because he said it's important to recognise those who help others and encourage them in what they do.

I've never been good enough to do anything by myself. All the things I've done are usually because I've been around someone who was usually a lot cleverer. So even when they listed why I got this award, it was as much the brilliance as three or four other people, as much as any contribution I made.

Every time we do a poll here at Premier Christian Radio, 'In Christ Alone' comes out favourite along with '10,000 Reasons'. There seems to be something special about that song. Why does it resonate with so many?

Do you know what I wouldn't give to know what it was that was the special potion!? I definitely think it was one of Stuart Townend's finest. Certainly our best combination.

I can never explain – and neither can Stuart- why a song has done what it's done. But it opened

June 26

the door for us to write modern hymns and begin this era of writing hymns for the church.

I always think of Charles Dickens who said 'we live in the best of times and the worst of times'. It's the most exciting generation in history to be a Christian. There are more believers in the world today, we have the chance to have the Bible in every language, the opportunity to communicate the gospel are more diverse and immediate than ever and Premier Christian Radio is a good example of that But at the same time the challenges are so great. We need a new canon of songs that help teach the Bible and are deep and rich and passionate about the gospel and this incredible good news.

What's next for you?

We're looking forward to launching our first book. Kris and I have toured together, written songs together. But nothing prepared us for the stress and intensity of writing a book. If you're married do not write a book together!

You've survived it so well done! What's it about?

We thought let's find a book that teaches people to sing and get congregations excited. We couldn't find a single book anywhere .There's

June 26

lots of books for worship leaders but there isn't anything for normal Christians about singing.

The second most common command in scripture is to sing. So it must be important and be good for our whole spiritual lives.

Singing is an important witness. Look at the revival movements – people note how singing was important.

Singing transforms every part of our lives. The puritans wouldn't let a man take the Lord's Supper on a Sunday if he wasn't praying and singing with his family each day. I think that's a bit of a stretch but it is interesting how important it was to building up a rich family life.

To hear the full interview listen to [Premier Christian Radio's 'Drive' program](#) from 3pm on Monday 26th June

Cork to Camden town via 5 peaks for Christian Aid

14 punctures, 3 sets of tyres and 4 chains later Nick Simon will complete a 10,000-mile cycle, that took him across Africa in 2016 and now the length of Ireland and the UK in 2017, The [Cork.ie](#) reports

June 26

Adventure cyclist Nick Simon will be completing a 10,000 mile cycle this summer in aid of Christian Aid projects in Africa. Having already completed a staggering 8,000 miles which took him from Cairo to Cape Town in 2016, Nick will be completing the last leg of his cycle from Cork to Camden Town this summer. The Very Revd Nigel Dunne (Church of Ireland Dean of Cork) will see Nick off on his adventure, after the 11.15am Choral Eucharist this Sunday (25th June) at 12.15 noon from St. Fin Barre's Cathedral. Nick hopes to reach his target of UK £80k before reaching the well-known London borough on 7th October 2017

5 peaks

Not only is he cycling the 2000 miles that will take Nick across Ireland and Britain he will also climb the 5 highest peaks along his travels. 5 highest peaks across 5 nations starting in Kerry; Carrantuohill Mountain, Slieve Donard Mountain, Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon 3,560.

Speaking about his journey so far Nick said; *"It was a big challenge but a privilege to cycle 8,000 miles independently through Africa for Christian Aid in 2016. The CtCT Challenge took me through 11 countries from Cairo in Egypt to Cape Town in South Africa: Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi,*

June 26

Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The aim was to raise funds to reduce extreme poverty. Christian Aid works to reduce extreme poverty and social injustice and supports people of all faiths and none. Its work is carried out through partner organisations in countries where people are supported to move a few steps out of extreme poverty into a situation where they can move forward independently. As I travelled through Africa, I met with 16 of the charity's partners working in a broad range of areas. ”

Donations - <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/nick.simon>

Relic of Patron Saint of Luxembourg links Carlow's two cathedrals

On Saturday last the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory, the Rt Revd Michael Burrows, joined the Most Revd Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin, as the relic of St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg, was walked between Carlow's two cathedrals via the Barrow Way.

St Willibrord is one of the most important saints in Europe and he has appeal across the many

June 26

Christian communities particularly for Catholics, Anglicans and Old Catholics.

On the 5th of June 2017, while in Echternach, a group of 40 people from the Leighlin dioceses, led by Bishop Nulty and Bishop Burrows, were presented with a 'Relic of St Willibrord' for display in Carlow.

A group of thirty people from Echternach will now travel to Carlow and as part of their visit they, along with people from Leighlin dioceses and beyond, will 'Walk with Willibrord' as the relic will be walked in an 11 km public procession along the Barrow Way from St Laserian's cathedral, Old Leighlin, to the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow, where it will be permanently housed. Everyone is welcome and the walk can be joined at several locations. For details of starting times see http://cashel.anglican.org/?page_id=4503 or www.kandle.ie

Moderator signs Armed Forces Covenant

The Church of Scotland is strengthening its commitment to supporting military personnel, veterans and their families.

June 26

Right Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly, signed the Armed Forces Covenant at Edinburgh Castle on Saturday night.

He said the Church was committed to supporting military chaplains, who serve in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, and ministering to “everyone wherever they are to be found and whatever their needs.”

The Covenant represents a promise by the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly.

But signing it is not an endorsement of defence policy and the Church’s ability to challenge the UK Government on any aspect of it will not be impinged.

There are around 260,000 veterans in Scotland, almost 6% of the population.

When families are added to the number, the Armed Forces Community represents almost one in 10 of the country’s people.

Recognising veterans

The Covenant states: “We recognise the value serving personnel, regular and reservists,

June 26



Right Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly, with military chaplains at the general Assembly 2017

veterans and military families contribute to our organisation and our country.

“Therefore we, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, will endeavour in our business and charitable dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant.”

The principles are

- No member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of

June 26

public and commercial services compared to any other citizen

·In some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.

Under the agreement to support people “pastorally, liturgically and organisationally”, presbyteries will appoint Veterans’ Champions to support parish ministers who will signpost people to the appropriate agency to ensure they get the help they need.

The Church will continue to recognise the sacrifices made by others by marking Remembrance Sunday and similar occasions. It will provide support in the employment of veterans and look favourably upon employee and office holder requests for leave and flexible working by spouses with partners on deployment and compassionate leave.

Commitment to chaplaincy

The Covenant will give churches an opportunity to identify veterans in their local communities that the armed service charities are struggling to pinpoint.

June 26

Ministers will be encouraged to learn more about local military bases, reserve centres and Cadet training facilities.

The Covenant will give the Church the opportunity to engage in joint research into the living circumstances of veterans and their families to help inform future support packages and Scottish Government policy.

Speaking ahead of the event, Dr Browning said: “The Church of Scotland remains committed to supporting the work of military chaplaincy.

“It is mindful that much of the work done is not at the front line but on the home-front and that forces personnel are to be found in many different communities across our nation.

“Jesus teaches us to reach out to everyone, weak and strong, young and old, friend and foe, and to remember that not everyone is at the centre of things, but often on the margins. “Where we can, we will help.”

Personal sacrifices

The Covenant will also be signed by Captain Chris Smith MA FCIPD, Naval Commander Scotland and Northern Ireland), Major-General

June 26

Mike Riddell-Webster CBE DSO, Governor of Edinburgh Castle, and Air Vice Marshal Ross Paterson CB OBE ADC Air Officer Scotland - the RAF's senior officer in Scotland.

It will be endorsed by Colonel Martin Gibson, chairman of Veteran's Scotland and Eric Fraser, the Scottish Veterans Commissioner.

To date more than 1,500 organisations across the UK have signed the Armed Forces Covenant, including businesses and charities such as the Church of England.

Gordon Craig, convener of the Church of Scotland Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces, said the Armed Forces Covenant was about "providing support for a great number of Scotland's families".

"While their experiences, aspirations, vulnerabilities, successes and failures are varied, veterans ultimately share only one thing in common," he added.

"They contracted themselves to a job that required them regularly and uniquely to make considerable personal sacrifices in the service of the nation.

June 26

“The wording of the Covenant will allow the Kirk to demonstrate its support of this group of people pastorally, liturgically and organisationally.”

[Diocese of Hereford and Hereford Cathedral sign Armed Forces Covenant](#)

Hereford Times

THE **Church of England** in Herefordshire has made a commitment to the armed forces by signing a covenant. The Diocese of Hereford and Hereford ...

Hollywood Parish remembers young officer awarded VC posthumously

Today, Monday 26 June, the Church of St Philip and St James, Hollywood will hold a service to commemorate a young soldier who died in France 100 years ago.

The soldier was 21 year–old John Spencer Dunville, second son of Colonel John and Mrs Violet Dunville of Redburn House in the town. It was on 26 June 1917 that Second Lieutenant John Dunville of the 1st (Royal) Dragoons died from his wounds after leading a party of soldiers to cut the barbed wire near the German lines near Epehy, France. Although wounded, he remained between the enemy’s fire and the

June 26

engineers cutting the wire so that the mission was successfully completed.

Such was his bravery, he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross which was received by his father John Dunville from King George V at Buckingham Palace in August 1917. The Victoria Cross VC is the highest British military decoration awarded for valour “in the face of the enemy”.

Although John Dunville is buried in Villiers Faucon Cemetery in France, there is an inscription on the memorial stone on the family grave in the old Priory Graveyard as well as part of a Ligustrum (privet) bush from his grave in France.

The organ in Holywood parish church was a gift from the family in memory of their son.

They also erected a memorial plaque which is situated near the choir stalls, where wreaths will be laid during the commemorative service on 26th June. A memorial stone, similar to one unveiled recently in Whitehall, London, will also be unveiled and dedicated.

The vicar of Holywood, Canon Gareth Harron, said the service will be a fitting tribute to the

June 26

courage of John Dunville VC who died for his country at such a young age.

Members of the Dunville family along with the Mayor and Councillors of Ards and North Down Borough Council, local dignitaries and those interested in the history of John Dunville will attend the service.

News briefs

+++ Down Appointments - Revd Adrian McCartney to be incumbent of Belvoir Parish and Revd Emma Rutherford to be incumbent of Stormont.

Adrian has been leading Boring Wells, a fresh expression of church in Down and Dromore, for nearly fifteen years. Boring Wells is a relational network of people who are dedicated to keeping mission as the primary call on their lives, whether in work or play or corporately as the church. In recent years Adrian has been leading a community based in St Christopher's, Mersey Street and before that, in Moneyreagh. Adrian has also had a variety of roles in Summer Madness for most of its 30 years. He is looking forward to his new adventure with and among the people of Belvoir Parish as their rector.

June 26

Emma is currently serving in the Diocese of Connor as Diocesan Curate with special responsibility for Glencairn and Whiterock parishes in West Belfast. She is no stranger to Down and Dromore, nor to East Belfast having been employed for 4 years as the family and children's worker in Knocknagoney Parish. Emma left to train for ordination in September 2009. She came back to the diocese in 2011, this time as deacon intern in St Jude's Ballynafeigh, before she moved on to serve her curacy in the Diocese of Connor. Emma was appointed to Glencairn in 2013 with the addition of Whiterock in 2015. She senses a very strong call to Stormont and is looking forward to this new chapter of ministry.

The dates of both institutions will be announced in due course.

+++ Limerick concert - The lunchtime concert in St Mary's cathedral, Limerick, on Wednesday, beginning at 1.15pm, will be given by cellist Frank Schaefer accompanied by pianist Ethna Tinney. Their programme will include music by Brahms and Saint-Saens.

+++ Cork Council commissioning - On Thursday, St Pater's Day, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne & Ross, Dr Paul Colton, will preside at a

June 26

celebration of the Eucharist on St Fin Barre's cathedral where a the new Diocesan Council will be commissioned.

+++ Summer Music at Sandford - continues at lunchtime on Friday when the male voice ensemble, Shepard Singers, will give a recital of works by John Sheppard and William Byrd. The recital begins at 1.10pm.