

€16,000 donation from Dublin diocesan hospital appeals to partner Diocese of Jerusalem



The maternity unit of St Luke's Hospital

This week a total of €16,000 is being donated to two hospital appeals in Dublin diocese to its partner Diocese of Jerusalem.

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The United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough and the Dublin & Glendalough Council for Mission has agreed to donate €15,000 to Al Ahli Hospital's appeal following the collapse of the outpatients' department in the Gaza hospital.

Meanwhile, St Patrick's Cathedral, through its Charitable Giving Fund, is making €1,000 available to St Luke's Hospital, Nablus, towards the purchase and equipping of a new ambulance which will ensure that the hospital can continue to operate.

Archbishop Michael Jackson thanked St Patrick's Cathedral for responding to the international appeal for St Luke's Hospital and said he was confident that their contribution, along with that from the United Dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough, would make a difference to the ministry of our partners in the Diocese of Jerusalem. In commending both initiatives Archbishop Jackson welcomed this practical outworking of the link between both dioceses which has been brought about by The Epiphany Agreement signed in January 2016.

“This is a coming together of St Patrick's Cathedral, our diocesan link, the Council for Mission and the Diocese of Jerusalem,” the Archbishop stated. “Healthcare is one of the main ways in which the Diocese of Jerusalem carries out its ministry to all people in the Land of the Holy One. Through hospitals and clinics, members of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem treat professionally all who seek their help, no matter what their faith or social background, in what is a truly humbling Christian witness. Through these

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The basement of Al Ahli Hospital into which the outpatients' department collapsed

donations we play our part in ensuring this vital ministry can continue.”

The Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral, the Very Revd William Morton, saw the appeal for St Luke’s Hospital and moved to make money available from the Cathedral’s Charitable Giving Fund which was in the process of being allocated.

“We were delighted to be able to assist in this worthy cause to enable St Luke’s Hospital to continue its life saving work in the Palestinian community between Jerusalem and Nazareth,” the Dean commented. “We were aware of the link between Dublin & Glendalough and the Diocese of Jerusalem and when we saw that the hospital in Nablus

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was under threat of closure because of the need of a new ambulance we saw an opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.”

Just before Christmas Archbishop Suheil Dawani in Dublin's partner Diocese of Jerusalem launched an urgent appeal for funds when the outpatients' department at Al Ahli Hospital collapsed into the basement. Nobody was injured when the 120 year old building collapsed due to environmental stress. Outpatients have continued to access treatment in temporary facilities but these are causing overcrowding and delays at the hospital.

The hospital is run by the Diocese of Jerusalem and has 80 beds of which 50 are used. It offers free healthcare to all the people of Gaza City with about 3,500 outpatients seen each month and 400 patients admitted.

The hospital's consultant engineer and a construction team have assessed the damage and made recommendations for reconstruction. “Their findings provided useful insights about the deficiencies of the bar joists in the clinic that were manufactured between 1900 and the late 1950s, and still being used well after 1960”, the diocese said. “These were the chief culprits behind the catastrophic failure of the building – but so were the infrequent renovations, the latest occurring in 1993.” It is estimated that the reconstruction of the clinic will cost \$150,000 USD.

People wishing to respond to the appeal can do so directly to the Diocese of Jerusalem at <http://www.j-diocese.org>

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Dublin & Glendalough previously supported Al Ahli Hospital in raising funds for the renovation of the on call staff facilities and solar panels which help ensure electricity supply, which in Gaza continues to be regularly interrupted.

St Luke's Hospital in Nablus is also run by the Diocese of Jerusalem. An international fundraising campaign is under way to buy an ambulance to secure the future of the hospital. Its accreditation was at risk under rules from the Palestinian Ministry of Health which require hospitals to have a well equipped, safe and operational ambulance. St Luke's ambulance was 15 years old and since 2003 has carried thousands of patients from Nablus and the surrounding areas. It was used in 2,100 emergencies in 2017 alone. But its increasing unreliability meant that 2,000 calls had to be diverted to other hospitals. In England, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Anglican Communion Fund began a crowd funding campaign and in the United States, the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem raised funds.

Donations can be made to the Friends of the Anglican Communion Fund at <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/nablusambulanceappeal>

Ex-UUP election candidate Rev Lesley Carroll takes Prisoner Ombudsman role

A Presbyterian minister and former Assembly election hopeful has been appointed the new Prisoner Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

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Rev Dr
Lesley
Carroll will
take up office
on March 1
for a term of
three years.
Her
appointment,
made
following an
open



competition, was announced by Peter May, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Justice.

The Prisoner Ombudsman plays a key role in the criminal justice system by investigating and reporting on deaths in custody and investigating complaints in prisons and making recommendations as necessary.

“I would like to congratulate Lesley on her appointment. The role of the Prisoner Ombudsman is a challenging and vital one in the criminal justice system. I am confident Lesley will bring her extensive experience and skills to the role. I wish her every success for her term of office,” Mr May said.

“I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to Brendan McGuigan for covering the responsibilities of the Prisoner Ombudsman since the retirement of the previous Ombudsman in August 2017. With his support, the important work of the Prisoner Ombudsman’s Office continued until an appointment could be made.”

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Rev Dr Carroll served in congregations in north Belfast as well as being Convener of the General Assembly's Church and Society Committee for seven years.

She is currently Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and works at Victim Support NI to enable victim experiences of the justice system to be understood and influence change.

She was a member of the Roe House assessment team within Maghaberry Prison and a member of the Consultative Group on Dealing with the Past. In 2016,

Rev Dr Carroll swapped the pulpit for the polls when she stood as an Ulster Unionist Party candidate in the Assembly election. She failed to secure a seat in the North Belfast constituency and left the party in 2017. Report courtesy *News Letter*.

Meet Judas in Holy Week

The Church of Ireland Commission on Ministry will host a Holy Week retreat on the theme of Judas Iscariot.

Through addresses, daily worship, silence and contemplation, Bishop Michael Burrows will explore the mystery and problem of Judas. As the week continues, he will challenge participants to ask how meeting Judas in a new way may also be an encounter with some unfamiliar aspects of ourselves.

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This will be a residential retreat in the Church of Ireland Theological Institute beginning with lunch on the Monday of Holy Week and ending on the morning of Good Friday. Retreatants will have the option of attending the Good Friday liturgy at a local parish church, or at one of the cathedrals in Dublin.

Some places will be available for non-resident participants who wish to join in the whole retreat programme. The cost of the retreat, including accommodation and all meals, will be €250 or €120 for non-residents.

For further information please contact Dr Bridget Nichols at bridgetnichols@theologicalinstitute.ie or at (00353) (1) 499 7279.

News Conference to introduce the Moderator-Designate

Presbyterians will meet across Ireland next Tuesday evening (5 February) in the Church's 19 presbyteries to select the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the most senior office bearer and principal public representative of the Church.

The result of the annual election will be posted on the presbyterianireland.org on Tuesday evening and across our social media platforms, Twitter and Facebook. It will also be issued generally by email with a photograph of the Moderator-Designate.

This year there are four ministers who are eligible to be considered:

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- Rev David Bruce, Secretary to PCI's Council for Mission in Ireland
- Rev William Henry, minister of Maze Presbyterian Church
- Rev Albin Rankin of Stormont Presbyterian
- Rev Mairisíne Stanfield of First Presbyterian Church, Bangor

A news conference will take place with the Moderator-Designate

as they will be known, at 11 am on Wednesday, 6 February, Assembly Buildings, Belfast.

As in previous years, it will take the following format:

1. Introduction by Rev Trevor Gribben, Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
2. Personal statement by the Moderator-Designate
3. Moderator-Designate Q&A Session
4. One-to-one interview opportunity.

Key musical appointment at New Irish Arts

The Board of New Irish Arts has announced the appointment of David Gibson as its new Associate Musical Director. The Board states, "Orchestra, choir and audience members will recall David's stunning performance as soloist in his superb new *Fantasy for Piano and Orchestra* at our recent Christmas concerts. Youth choir members have

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responded brilliantly to his conducting, and to his sense of humour, in several concerts this year. This new appointment recognises David's



emerging public role and also his contribution to orchestrating and producing events behind the scenes.

“David is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music who lives in Manchester, where he is pursuing a diverse freelance career in music. But he is also someone who has demonstrated great commitment to the ethos and aims of New Irish Arts over several years. His Christian faith is undoubtedly a greater part of his identity than his musical talent. “

The Board looks forward to a continued partnership of creativity as he works alongside their Creative Director, Jonathan Rea in the musical leadership of New Irish Arts.

Church tackles gambling with call for football shirt logo ban

The Church of England is taking on the Premier League by calling for betting firms' logos to be banned from football teams' shirts.

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The Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Rev Alan Smith, has tabled a General Synod motion calling for new laws to combat children being “groomed into gambling” by “all pervasive” advertising.

He said banning the gambling firm logos – worn in sponsorship deals by nine of the 20 Premier League clubs – and curbing pitchside hoarding promotions would help counter a potential “epidemic of childhood gambling.”

Impressive pay out

How clubs benefit from gambling

9 out of 20 Premier League clubs and 17 of 24 Championship teams have shirt sponsorship deals with gambling firms.

£47.5m a year – the amount the Premier League clubs make from the deals.

£10m the largest individual deal between West Ham and Betway.

£1.5m the smallest individual deal between Huddersfield and Ope Sports.

“I think [a ban] would be a really good idea. My personal view is we need to get far, far more radical. You simply cannot live in this country without being confronted endlessly,” he said.

“I know families who will not let their children watch football matches on TV because they feel their children are being groomed into gambling.”

He cited a recent case where he had met a family of a young boy who was given a football shirt by his parents for Christmas but said it was not a “proper one” because it did

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not have a betting logo on it. “That was a real wake up call for me,” he said.

The sponsorship shirt deals with the nine Premier League clubs are worth almost £50 million a year, with West Ham the biggest with £10 million from Betway, followed by Everton with £9.6 million from SportPesa and Crystal Palace and Newcastle (striker Salomon Rondon is pictured below) with £6.5 million apiece from ManBetX and Fun88 respectively. The Championship would be hit even harder

PRAYER POINTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

PRAYER ITEM #1

A week ago, a dam at an iron ore mine in south east Brazil collapsed, killing more than 80 people. Hundreds more are still missing. Please pray for the community coming to terms with the disaster. Pray for comfort for the families who have lost loved ones. And pray other dams in the area will remain stable.

PRAYER ITEM #2

The people of the Somali region in the east of Ethiopia are suffering greatly due to ongoing internal conflicts and violence, as well as the presence of international terror groups. Please pray for solutions and that God would reveal himself to the people there.

PRAYER ITEM #3

Over two weeks in March, churches across Bristol will be running events to mark 50 years of Tearfund, and raise more support to end extreme poverty. Please pray that the events will make an impact on global poverty and that these final Jubilee celebrations go well!

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with 17 of its 24 clubs having shirt sponsorship deals with betting companies.

A Gambling Commission audit from last year revealed that the number of problem gamblers aged 11 to 16 stood at 55,000. Dr Smith said: “A whole generation of young people have taken on a range of views and attitudes about the norm of gambling.

“We have changed the enjoyment of sport from sport in itself to something that’s to do with money and betting.”

The motion, which will be debated later this month by the Synod, the Church of England’s parliament, also proposes a levy on gambling firms to fund research into the scale of the problem, education programmes, and treatment for addicts. Dr Smith said the NHS estimated the cost of treating addicts at between £260 million and £1.2 billion a year, while there were claimed to be two suicides a day linked to gambling. There are 400,000 problem gamblers and a further 1.6 million at risk of addiction, according to the industry regulator. “The best thing would be for the gambling industry to self-regulate. The FA and others need to wake up very quickly to how damaging this is going to be,” he added.

Trevor Birch, head of sport at Duff & Phelps, the global adviser, said a ban would mean “short-term financial pain” for clubs but, as when tobacco sponsorship was banned in Formula 1, other sponsors would replace the gambling firms.

The Premier League said all clubs with betting sponsors were required to “conform with all the statutory and regulatory obligations” in regards to such advertisements, while the English Football League said it was striving to

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ensure all messages targeted at under-18s did not allude to betting.

The FA said it made a “clear decision” on its link to the industries when it ended a partnership with Ladbrokes in 2017.

Pope reaches out to Christian minority on first visit to Gulf

Pope Francis will make a landmark visit to the United Arab Emirates this week, where he is due to meet government officials, senior Islamic clerics and hold a stadium mass for 135,000 low-paid South East Asian migrant workers.

It is the first time a pontiff has visited the Gulf region, where the majority of the population is Muslim, most laws and customs are based on Islam, and there are restrictions on the promotion of Christianity and other non-Islamic religions.

Bishop Paul Hinder, of the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia, which covers the UAE, Oman and Yemen, described the visit as “an important step in the dialogue between Muslims and Christians” and urged that it “contribute to mutual understanding and peacemaking in the Middle East”.

Despite the dominance of Islam, the UAE is home to more than one million practising Catholics, mainly blue-collar workers from the Philippines, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Last year the government found itself in the international spotlight over the jailing of British academic Matthew Hedges, who was convicted of espionage but later released.



Last week, a Reuters report detailed how the UAE had used state-of-the-art cyber-espionage tools to track human rights activists, journalists and foreign adversaries from Iran, Qatar and Turkey, as well as critics of the monarchy.

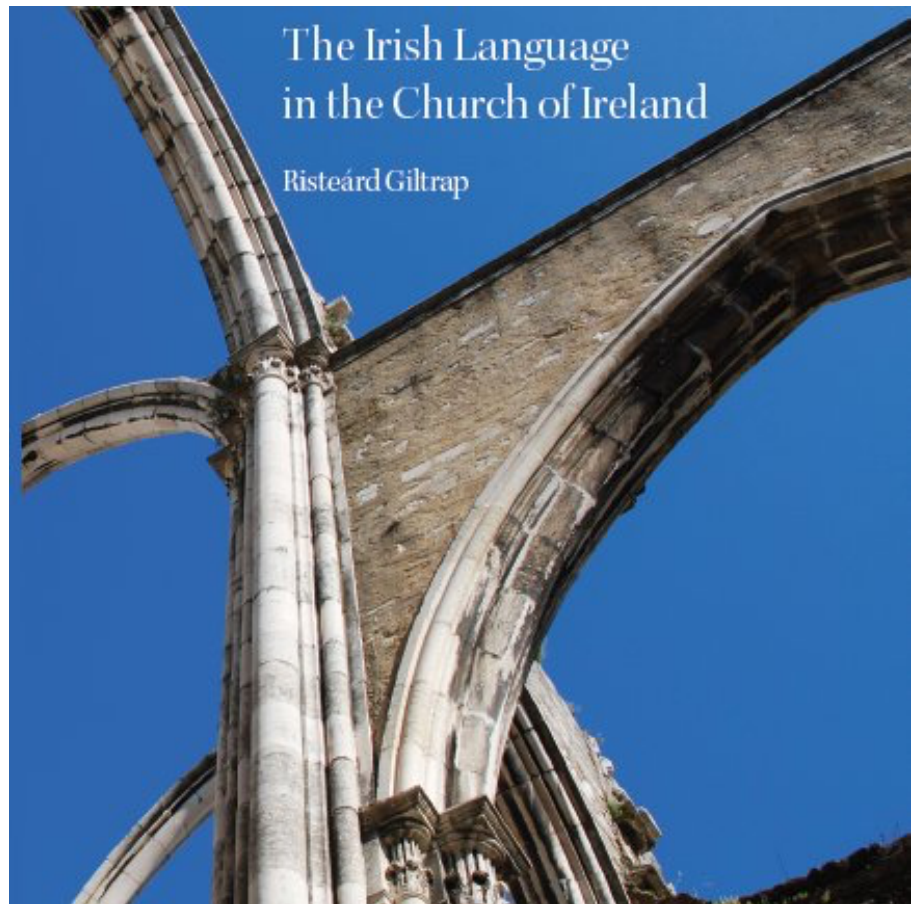
Hedges, now back home in the UK after spending seven months in largely solitary confinement in a UAE jail. “I do hope that more tolerance is practised in the UAE, but the reality is that with the level of paranoia felt amongst those in charge, I don’t think it will be,” he told *The Sunday Telegraph*.

News briefs

+++ Archbishop of York’s fundraising for African bishop’s cancer treatment - Following fantastic generosity from a number of individuals, family & friends, Bishop Hannington has commenced treatment. Archbishop Sentamu said, “We now need to raise £45,000 to meet the remainder of the £190,000 bill for treatment. Thank you to those who have given their support.” Justgiving.com

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+++Launches of The History of Irish in the Church of Ireland - An Ghaeilge in Eaglais na hÉireann is hoding book launches in Belfast (Skainos) 1 March and in Manorhamilton 2 March.



+++St. Peregrine Novena Mass in Lisnaskea - Fr. Martin Hughes is a Dublin Diocesan Priest. He will speak at the 7.00pm St. Peregrine Novena Mass in Holy Cross Lisnaskea on Tuesday 12th February about his recent diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer. All Welcome.

+++Ruth and Brexit at Belfast Cathedral- You are invited by the Corrymeela Community to a series of discussions on Brexit, Borders and the Book of Ruth each Wednesday during Lent 12noon to 2pm corrymeela.org/events/174/rut...

+++Cold welcome at York - Tweet received - "That's it here at York Minster! Please give a warm welcome - in these bitterly cold conditions - to the new Dean of York; The Rt Revd Dr Jonathan Frost"

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+++Forgiveness at the 4 Corners Festival - The annual event for schools in Belfast was held in Ulster University, with Beryl Quigley talking about the killers of her husband. She said: 'I choose to forgive' . At the end of the event Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Emmet McDonough-Brown said: 'For me, forgiveness is a deeply personal act. Many years ago, and after much soul searching, I came to the conclusion I would try to release the anger and hurt at the murder of my father by forgiving his killer. It's not easy, and not everyone will want to – or be able - to do it, but my view is that we have hurt each other too much in this place we all call home, and now we have to start to heal. If we are ever to reconcile our society, each of us will have to confront the challenge of forgiveness.'

+++New Presbyterian resource on social media - congregations are invited to download this new guide to 'Developing your congregation's use of social media' and check the link for a book giveaway to help you manage social media channels for your congregation bit.ly/2DFKapo

+++Galilee Spirituality Centre - "In 2019 we at Galilee Spirituality Centre will continue our commitment to supporting people – ordained or lay – from all Christian denominations - whose main work is Christian ministry. We understand that this call brings its own particular challenges. We believe that as well as other supports there is a need for pastoral and theological reflection which makes connections between our experience of ministry, our faith and the Christian tradition. We will continue to provide nourishment through pastoral and theological reflection by providing regular stand-alone events; theological reflection

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groups, and individual support. All welcome. "See website: www.galilee.ie

+++Face to Face with Lady Paisley - Episode 4 of 'Eamonn Mallie: Face to Face with...' (Series 2) continues Tuesday 5th February at 10.45pm on UTV. His guest this week is Mrs Eileen Paisley.

+++Quote for today -

We are a part of the great circle of humanity gathered around the fire, the hearth, the altar. -- Denise Levertov

February 4 & 3 in Christian history

February 4, 856: Rabanus Maurus, a theologian and educator mentored by Alcuin, dies at age 80. His "retirement" from school administration at age 66 was followed by a career as archbishop of Mainz, Germany.

February 4, 1555: English reformer and theologian John Rogers becomes the first Protestant martyr under "Bloody" Mary I when he is burned at the stake for heresy.

February 4, 1906: Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer is born in Breslau, Germany. Author of *The Cost of Discipleship* (1937) and *Letters from Prison* (1944), he opposed the Nazis as one of Germany's Confessing Church leaders. Believing that Hitler was like a madman "driving a car into a group of innocent bystanders," he joined a plot to kill him, but the plot was discovered and Bonhoeffer was arrested and eventually hanged—just days before Allied troops liberated the concentration camp where he was held (see issue 32: Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

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February 3, 865 (traditional date): Anskar, the first archbishop of Hamburg and called the "Apostle of the North," dies. Missionary to Denmark and Sweden, he converted many, including the King of Jutland .

February 3, 1468: Johann Gutenberg, who developed a printing press with movable type that helped the Protestant Reformation (by allowing the easy dissemination of reformers' writings), dies at age 67.

February 3, 1809: German composer Felix Mendelssohn, a very devout Lutheran, is born in Hamburg. His "Elijah" oratorio is considered second only to Handel's "Messiah," and he is responsible for rediscovering Bach, whose music had been forgotten for 80 years.

February 3, 1864: The Christian Union, composed of Protestant congregations opposed to "political preaching" during the Civil War, is formed in Columbus, Ohio.

News links

[Alf McCreary: 'My parents provided a positive example of everyday Christian faith with no real ...](#)

Belfast Telegraph

Interview with Bishop Ken Good of Derry & Raphoe. That was quite remarkable, because my father, Canon Raymond Good, was a **Church of Ireland** rector in Co Cork. My mother was called Jean.

[Roman Catholics like me back the DUP because it is the only Christian party in Ireland](#)

Belfast Newsletter

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[Dr] Paisley, a well-known Protestant fundamentalist minister, was the founder and leader of the Free Presbyterian **Church** of Ulster. He would lead ...

[Anglican minister: **Church** leaders at odds with God over transgender service](#)

Belfast Newsletter

Tim Anderson, rector of St Elizabeth's **Church of Ireland** in Dundonald, east Belfast, made the remarks after around 1,000 active Church of England ...

[Is God an ethical investor?](#)

Corporate Knights Magazine

From the centuries of wealth accumulated by the Roman Catholic **Church**, to the ... The Roman Catholic **Church**, which has a long history of screening out ... the Catholic **Church**, the argument was based on the need to meet **Ireland's** ...

[Man admits €100000 criminal damage at Dublin church](#)

Irish Times

A Dublin man who poured diesel inside a **church** causing an estimated ... damage at St Agnes' **Church**, St Agnes' Road, Crumlin on July 26th, 2017.

[Muslim community in **Ireland** mark World Hijab Day](#)
[RTE.ie](#)

According to Eshan Massod's "British Muslims-Media Guide" (2006), Muslim theologians differ on whether it and the niqab constitute a **religious** ...

[Cathedral set to hand out £168k to big raft of causes this Sunday](#)

Belfast Newsletter

A pot of £168,000 is to be split between 220 different charities, the **Church of Ireland** has said. The money, raised during the 2018 annual Black Santa ...

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[Church of England calls for social media giants to be fined up to £50m if they fail to protect children ...](#)

Daily Mail

The **Church of England** has slammed social media companies and accused them of not doing enough to protect children online from abuse and ...

[Ban gambling adverts from football shirts says Church of England](#)

Daily Mail

Church of England leaders want the gambling logos of football club sponsors to be banned from players' shirts. They are also demanding an end to ...

[BP bows to investors: To align goals with Paris Climate Agreement](#)

Digital Journal

BP has bowed to pressure from investors, including the **Church of England**, by backing a plan to explain how its strategy and investments are ...

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