



Archbishop Justin Welby says Christians must be reconcilers in face of Brexit division

The Archbishop of Canterbury believes churches must "strive for reconciliation" in the face of Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, as some politicians try to "drive a wedge between people".

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Most Rev Justin Welby also urged Europe's politicians to deliver "fair and sustainable solutions" for the UK-EU relationship after Brexit.

In a joint message released with German Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, he said: "European relationships are changing, not least as a result of Brexit.

"We do not know what will happen and what the relationship between the UK and EU will look like after 29th March 2019.

"However, what we do know is that the relationship between the Church of England and the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland goes back over many centuries - long before the European Union.

Bishop Heinrich, the council chair of the Evangelical Church in Germany, has been on a two-day visit to London hosted by Archbishop Justin.

Their statement continued: "As churches, we urgently appeal to all politicians to find fair and sustainable solutions for the future coexistence of the UK and the EU."

"As some politicians and political forces seek to drive a wedge between people so it is all the more important that the churches continue to strive for reconciliation and to speak out prophetically for a Europe where the values of human rights and human dignity are central, based in the great Christian traditions of our two countries when at their best."

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In August 2017, Archbishop Justin drew criticism from several MPs when he said that the chances of negotiating a deal before the UK's planned EU exit date of March 2019 were "infinitesimally small".

‘Gay cake case’: Events to be held across NI to ‘mark the win for Ashers’

The Christian Institute is to hold a series of events across Northern Ireland to “mark the win for Ashers Baking Company” in the so-called gay cake case.

Last month the UK’s highest court found in favour of the Newtownabbey-based firm, ruling that it hadn’t discriminated against a gay customer for refusing to fulfil his order for a cake carrying the slogan ‘Support Gay Marriage’.

Gareth Lee’s complaint of discrimination, backed by the NI Equality Commission, sparked a costly four-and-a-half-year legal battle as Ashers’ owners, the McArthur family, battled to clear their name.

The McArthurs, who were supported by The Christian Institute, insisted that they had refused Mr Lee’s order only because the message requested went against their firmly-held Christian beliefs.

After losing two previous court challenges in Belfast, last month five Supreme Court judges in London ruled that Ashers had acted lawfully and hadn’t discriminated against Mr Lee on the grounds of his sexuality – a ruling widely hailed as a victory for freedom of conscience.

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Ashers Baking Company owners Daniel and Amy McArthur outside the Supreme Court in London.

To mark the outcome of the legal battle, The Christian Institute is now planning a series of meetings to “acknowledge the goodness and faithfulness of God throughout the case” and “explain the implications of the ruling for Gospel freedom and freedom of speech.”

Events will take place at:

The Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick, November 30, 12:30pm; The Lodge Hotel, Coleraine, November 30, 8pm; The Seagoe Hotel, Portadown, December 6, 8pm; Corick House Hotel, Clogher, December 7, 12:30pm and The Iron Hall Evangelical Church, Belfast, December 7, 8pm.

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The events will be led by speakers from The Christian Institute, but it's understood the McArthurs won't be attending.

Knock mass for road accident victims

A special mass to remember victims of road traffic accidents was held at 12 noon yesterday Sunday 18 November in the Knock Shrine Basilica. As part of 'World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims', this mass was offered for those who have lost their lives or have been injured as a result of road traffic collisions.

Bishop Fintan Monahan, Bishop of Killaloe, recently issued a statement on road safety ahead of the 'Blessing of the Roads' ceremony last October bank holiday weekend.

The Bishop said: "All human life is both sacred and fragile. Alarmingly, for 2018 to date, 120 people have died on our roads. The largest cohort of deaths relate to drivers at 52, followed by pedestrians at 32, then passengers at 18, motorcyclists at 11 and pedal cyclists at 7. This loss of life is avoidable."

ONE Dublin Student Gospel Music Services, featured on RTÉ Radio

Last Friday (16th November) members of the planning team for 'ONE Dublin' – Student Gospel Music Services, featured on RTÉ Radio One's 'The Leap of Faith' programme.

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The Services, which are an initiative of ACT 3 (Anglican Chaplaincy Team at Third Level), were successfully launched on Sunday 21st October in St Thomas's Church on Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin 1. Since then, there has been growing interest across a variety of sectors, in the pioneering ministry of 'ONE Dublin'.

Friday's radio interview featured DCU Church of Ireland Chaplain Philip McKinley and University Students, Matthew Hewston and Nzuzi Malanda, who have been part of the planning for ONE Dublin Services. The programme explored the background and purpose of 'ONE Dublin', as well as wider issues regarding the relationship between Christian faith, University life and contemporary society.

RTÉ Radio One's 'The Leap of Faith' is a thought-provoking, half-hour programme which features a wide variety of people, "whose life experiences cause them to call on their beliefs". Presenter Michael Comyn says that the late evening show, "seeks to discover what religion does for people – and occasionally to them"

The next 'ONE Dublin' – Student Gospel Music Service takes place on Sunday 18th November at 7.30pm in St Thomas' Church. The theme is 'Remembrance' and the preacher will be UCD Church of Ireland Chaplain Scott Evans.

Music will be provided by Gospel Musicians Rilwon Jaiyeola and Rebirth. For further details of 'ONE Dublin', see 'WeAreOneDublin' on Facebook and Instagram and for updates and podcasts of 'The Leap of Faith', see the RTE Website – www.rte.ie.

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Death of churchman who was kitman for NI international team

Legendary Northern Ireland team kitman, Derek McKinley, has sadly passed away. A goalkeeper in his youth, he became kitman at Portadown and was brought into the international set-up following the death of Bobby McGregor in 1981.

His first match as a kit attendant was the World Cup qualifier against Israel in November 1981 that saw Northern Ireland qualify for the World Cup in Spain in the summer of 1982.

Derek acted as Northern Ireland's main kitman for 30 years, hanging up his last batch of international shirts in October 2011 in a European qualifier in Italy. He was kitman for six international managers: Billy Bingham, Bryan Hamilton, Lawrie McMenemy, Sammy McIlroy, Lawrie Sanchez and Nigel Worthington.

He operated for the Irish Football Association at two World Cups and he was the go-to person for generations of Northern Ireland players. Derek counted many of them, such as Martin O'Neill, Pat Jennings, Gerry Armstrong, Norman Whiteside and David Healy, as his friends.

In November 2011 a plethora of Northern Ireland greats turned out at a tribute dinner in the Culloden Hotel, Cultra, to mark his retirement and three decades of service.

Thirty former and current internationals were there, including eight players who helped Northern Ireland to the famous

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1982 World Cup victory over Spain and more than half of the squad who travelled to Mexico for the 1986 World Cup.

In total Derek clocked up 230 senior international 'appearances' along with numerous stints with youth and B squads. He subsequently became an ambassador for the IFA's Football For All campaign. Derek grew up in St Simon's C of I parish on Belfast's Donegall Road. He was a member of the Church Lads Brigade. He later was a committed member of St Colman's Parish in Dunmurry.

Armagh Cathedral Organ Recital

Revd Dr Peter Thompson will give the next organ recital on Sunday 25 November 2018 at 4.15pm in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh.

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Peter is the Cathedral's Assistant Organist and has supported the organ recital series in the past. Speaking ahead of this year's recital, he said, "2018 is the centenary, both of the ending of the First World War, and of the death of Sir Hubert Parry. To mark both these anniversaries I will play a selection of Chorale Preludes by the English composer Parry, on hymn tunes associated with Remembrance, including St Anne, 'O God our Help in Ages Past', Eventide, 'Abide with me', and Rockingham, 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'. The first and third of these are amongst the most popular Georgian hymn tunes in use today, and connect with Armagh's Georgian Festival".

Continuing with the Georgian theme, Peter added, "I will play a pair of voluntaries by the famous John Stanley, and the less well-known John Travers. Bach's magnificent Prelude and Fugue in C minor BWV 546 is almost contemporary with these English voluntaries. Regarded as one of Bach's grandest and most majestic works, it is often associated with Remembrance-tide events".

The programme will conclude with three of Vierne's 'Vingt-quatre pièces en style libre', a collection of pieces which is a French contemporary of the Parry Chorale Preludes, having been published at the onset of World War I in 1914. The third of the pieces chosen from this collection is the magnificent 'Carillon de Longpont', dedicated to Vierne's brother who was killed in 1918, a mere few months before the Armistice.

The Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Gregory Dunstan, said, "Peter's recital comes towards the end of a month's Remembrance of the Armistice in 1918, and on the evening

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of Georgian Day. His sensitively-chosen programme will remind us of the enormous relief at the end of the First World War, and of the enduring grief in the lives of so many who survived.”

Admission to the recital is free with a retiring collection most welcome towards the further endowment of the Cathedral choir through the Archbishop’s Choir Fund.

Cathedral launches own brand gin

A North of England cathedral is harking back to medieval times today with the launch of its own brand of gin.

Branded 'Cathedra' and made by [Brindle Distillery](#) in Lancashire, Blackburn Cathedral's gin is aimed at capitalising on the gin revival and generating revenue for the cathedral's ministry.

'This is not a novelty; this is a cathedral doing business,' said the dean, Very Rev Peter Howell Jones.

'Blackburn is not a tourism centre, it is not a rich part of the world, and we need to reach out to markets beyond our town and region to be sustainable long term.

'Gin is on trend; it is a developing market, and there is a long history of monastic communities brewing mead, wines and beers.' He added: 'I wanted to create a brand that would work across the country; that could create a income stream from which all English cathedrals can benefit.'

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In the shorter term, the dean hopes Cathedra will be one of a number of fundraising ventures to raise the £1m match-funding needed to redevelop Blackburn's crypt into a community and conferencing facility, and an exhibition and heritage space that tells the region's rich history of Lancashire's cotton towns and

the faith that underpinned them.

He also hopes it will provide an income stream to support the cathedral's education and music development programme, currently reaching 6,500 children across 160 schools.

'It's about engaging with people; that's our core business,' he added.

Cathedra gin will first be unveiled to an audience of business leaders and civic dignitaries at the Dean's Dinner in Blackburn Cathedral tonight, when it will be offered alongside Prosecco as an aperitif. It is also available [online](#).

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Jones himself has previously demonstrated an entrepreneurial flair. While serving as vice dean at Chester Cathedral he opened a falconry centre in the grounds and was instrumental in bringing last year's Ark exhibition to the cathedral. The exhibition included Damian Hirst's Golden Calf alongside works by Jacob Epstein and Elizabeth Frink, and featured over 90 different artists securing the cathedral the 2017 'Tourism Experience or Event of the Year' in the local Cheshire Life Awards.

'It is imperative that cathedrals commercially engage with different groups of people. We should not be afraid to engage with all aspects of society,' he said.

Magheralin parish hosts its annual Festival of Art

The Church of Ireland Parish of Magheralin hosts its annual Festival of Art from Thursday to Saturday, November 22-24. This popular event has been running since 2007 and remains as popular as ever with the public and visiting artists alike.

This year, in addition to works by artists from many parts of the country, the Parish is privileged to host a display of photographs showing Magheralin Village "past and present". This display, part of which dates back as far as the late 19th century, has been assembled by local amateur historian, Aaron McCormick.

Commenting on these attractions, coordinator, Colin McLoughlin, emphasised the desire of the Parish to make

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the promotion of art and the artist's skill an integral element of the event in this friendly Village setting.

The people of the Parish are keen to make everyone welcome, whether they come as exhibitors, purchasers of art or as interested observers. There will also be the opportunity to relax over tea or coffee and light refreshments, before the madness of the Christmas season commences.

Funds raised from this event will go towards essential restoration works to the 19th Century Parish Church and to Charlene's Project.

The Disappearance of George Mathews, Presbyterian Historical Society lecture by Attorney General NI

A lecture will be given by by Mr John Larkin, QC, Attorney General for NI. Once a powerful and greatly respected figure in Irish Presbyterianism, George Matthews was also an accomplished and ambitious fraudster whose activities threatened to undermine Presbyterian congregations and the Church's charitable funds in the mid-nineteenth century.

The lecture will be given on
Thursday, 22nd November 2018 at
8.00 p.m. in Fisherwick
Presbyterian Church, 4 Chlorine
Gardens, Belfast BT9 5DJ.
Everyone is welcome.
Refreshments provided.



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