



Renowned Lisburn hymn writer Keith Getty receives OBE



From left to right: John Getty, Kristyn Getty, Eliza Getty, Keith Getty, Helen Getty. At Holyrood Palace in Scotland, following investiture ceremony with Queen Elizabeth II.

Keith Getty received from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the insignia commemorating the OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) last week.

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The occasion marked the first time the award was made to an individual involved in the world of contemporary church music. The Lisburn-born hymn writer who was selected for his contribution to “Music and Modern Hymn Writing” attended the investiture with his wife Kristyn at a ceremony in Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh.

Beyond their work as hymn writers, Keith and Kristyn Getty have spent the last decade as ambassadors of the genre. Their hymns, often written in collaboration with Stuart Townend, include the eponymous “In Christ Alone” which was the number one most frequently-sung in UK churches for a record-setting nine, consecutive years. An estimated 100 million people are singing Getty hymns in church services each year, with their unique ability to be sung in contemporary and more traditional contexts of church music.

Keith Getty says, “When I first received the call, I was pretty surprised. It is an honour for us as a family and also for the great hymn-writing heritage we have here in the UK of which we are a tiny part. I am very grateful to her Majesty the Queen, and it was a great privilege to have her give the award in person.”

The broader work of the couple is recognized around the world. From spearheading an annual global hymn sing with participation by millions in 100-plus countries, to their own performances for American Public Television and regularly for the BBC, to concerts and tours presented with their band of Irish and American virtuosos at Christmas and throughout the year at such notable venues as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Centre in Washington, DC, London’s Royal Albert Hall, and the Houses of Parliament, and for

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world leaders such as US Vice President Mike Pence, former US President George W. Bush and former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, the couple is leading a world-wide revival of congregational hymn singing.

Getty continues, “I'm so grateful to my wife Kristyn, and also profoundly thankful for Stuart Townend, whose hymn writing partnership and brilliance have inspired us in every way. Kristyn and I feel utterly privileged to be able to serve the church in such a way and will continue to write and lead people in singing to build deep believers.”

Last year, Keith and Kristyn's first book, *Sing! How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family, and Church*, was published internationally by B&H (Lifeway) to the critical acclaim of readers and media alike. The Gettys' next Getty Music Worship Conference: Sing! will be hosted in Nashville, TN from September 10th - September 12th, and it is anticipated there will be 7,500 attendees from around the world..For four free songs by the Gettys, see -

<https://www.gettymusic.com/4freesongs-uk>

Archbishop of York dances with joy as England beat Sweden

The Archbishop of York danced a jig when Dele Alli scored as the General Synod of the Church of England took time out to watch the England victory, delegates have said.

The Church's main legislative body is meeting at York this weekend - with almost 500 delegates attending, including bishops, clergy and lay members.



Archbishop Sentamu and Mark Russell

But they agreed to pause the proceedings on Saturday afternoon for the World Cup quarter-final clash between England and Sweden, with picture posted on social media of delegates watching the match on a huge screen in the chamber, at York University.

One attendee, Irishman Mark Russell, chief of the Church Army, posted a picture of the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, dancing after Alli's second-half goal and said the second most important figure in the Church of England prayed for the team.

Mr Russell said: "The General Synod of the Church of England show the #ENGSWE game in the chamber! As our Archbishop prays for the team! This is awesome!"

Dr Sentamu tweeted through the game, singling out Jordan Henderson, Raheem Sterling and Alli for his praise and encouragement.



Members of the C of E General Synod took time out to watch the World Cup

At the end of the match, he posted: "Team England. You have done it and we gladly rejoice! Rest well and know that you are in our prayers! Peace to you all!"

Earlier, the archbishop said on Twitter: "TEAM ENGLAND it's your time to shine! Ps play the beautiful game as a TEAM: Together Each Achieves More! Take Risks!"

A vicar delegate joked: "A ripple of gentle applause breaks out in the synod chamber after a good pass. Give it half an hour and there'll be people throwing beer at the screen,

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holding each other back from fist fights and a new synodical vocabulary."

Public consultations ahead of papal visit begin

The first of four public meetings ahead of the papal visit to Ireland next month took place in [Mallow](#) Co Cork on Wednesday evening last.

The meetings, in each province, are being held on the four Wednesdays of this month. Their theme will be "What do we need to say to [Pope Francis](#) about the Irish Church?"

The format comprises a 10-minute introductory talk by the chair who will then open proceedings to the floor. People will be encouraged to speak openly and honestly.

A summary of each meeting will be prepared and a press release issued after the four meetings with the main issues highlighted. The summary will be forwarded to Pope Francis.

Organised by the Association of Catholic Priests (ACP), last week's meeting was in Mallow's Mercy Centre and was chaired by Redemptorist priest Fr Gerry O'Connor, a member of the ACP leadership team.

It is intended that everyone who wishes to do so will be afforded an opportunity to have their say.

On Wednesday, July 11th the public meeting will take place at the Árd Rí Hotel in [Tuam](#), Co Galway. It too will begin at



7pm and follow the same format as that at Mallow. On this occasion the chair will be Fr [Brendan Hoban](#), co-founder of the ACP.

Fr Hoban will also chair the meeting in Dublin on July 18th. It takes place at 7pm in Dublin City University's St Patrick's Campus, at E-Block, Drumcondra Road Lower.

The final, 'Ulster', meeting takes place in Cavan town at the [Kilmore Hotel](#), beginning at 7 pm also, on July 25th. It will be chaired by Fr Gerry O'Connor.

Priest wants to take God out of the Irish constitution

A priest wants the Catholic church to stop compromising on hospitals and schools and to separate church and state.

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A Mitchelstown priest has been branded a 'dictator' after telling members of his congregation to 'go to Mass at Kingston College', saying their beliefs are 'more in line with the Church of Ireland', the Avondhu Press reports.

During his homily on Sunday night in the Church of Our Lady Conceived Without Sin, Fr Gabriel Burke said the Catholic Church should be handing over most of their schools and that they should 'wash their hands with the hospitals in which they are involved.

“We should push the Government to take God out of the constitution altogether. The bishops should write to the Government and say take out the preamble to the constitution that says in the name of the most Holy Trinity because, from a Christian point of view, what you have now is something blasphemous in that you have what we would consider as Christians 'sham marriages' and the child now killed in the womb – and you're doing that in the name of God.

"I believe in the absolute separation of Church and State and I would prefer if we took our schools out of the State system so that we would have Catholic schools that are genuinely catholic.”

C of E to establish independent body to handle sexual abuse cases

The Church of England's governing body has decided to create an independent body that deals with the Church's sexual abuse cases.

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On Saturday members of the General Synod met in York for and voted unanimously in favour of developing an independent ombudsman service which would handle complaints relating to how safeguarding cases have been managed in the church.

The decision came after members of the Church's legislative body heard a report by the National Safeguarding Steering Group (NSSG).

The report asked the almost 500 members of the General Synod to strengthen support and engagement with victims and survivors of abuse, as well as implement more robust processes for clergy selection and discipline.

It also urged the hundreds of bishops, clergy and lay people to support increased oversight and scrutiny in regards to safeguarding.

A victim of sexual abuse addressed the synod for the first time ever during the safeguarding debate. Jo Kind received a standing ovation after talking about the harm caused to victims when the Church has been defective on sexual abuse.

She called on the Church of England to have a full focus on survivors and not "half an eye on reputation protection".

WEB news review

+++Archbishop of York's Presidential address to C of E General Synod

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<https://www.archbishopofyork.org/news/news-2018/presidential-address-general-synod>

+++ Question and answer session with **Terry Waite**, former special envoy of Abp of Canterbury, who was held **hostage** for five years before his release in 1991

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/home/author-and-former-hostage-terry-waite-on-surviving-captivity-in-beirut-and-finding-solace-in-suffolk-hxgbfsqt3>

+++ **Pope Francis appoints first layperson as head of Vatican communications**. Pope Francis has appointed Paolo Ruffini, 61, an Italian layperson with wide experience in print, radio and television, as the new Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication. [Read the full story.](#)

+++ **The Church Commissioners of the C of E** partnered with New York State to get ExxonMobil to disclose the impact of climate change on their business. Having a seat at the table is crucial to hold companies to account and get the change we need. **Rowan Williams** backs tougher CofE stance on fossil fuel investments: 'the only just human future is one where we acknowledge the neighbour's jeopardy as ours too.'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/07/07/moral-christians-must-press-church-england-pull-money-fossil/...>

+++ The World Council of Churches (WCC) has unveiled a new design for the **Thursdays in Black campaign** during its Central Committee meeting last month. The design aims

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to emphasize the journey and solidarity of the global campaign against rape and violence and give new momentum to a movement that recognizes the resistance and resilience of women in the face of violence.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/conference-explores-digital-media-and-orthodox-pastoral-care>

+++“Behold, I make all things new”: The 1968 Uppsala Assembly of the **World Council of Churches** opened - not with a sermon by **Martin Luther King** as planned before his assassination, but with his spirit and dream very present: [https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/behold-i-make-all-things-new-wccs-fourth-assembly-in-uppsala-4-20-july-1968 ... #WCC](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/behold-i-make-all-things-new-wccs-fourth-assembly-in-uppsala-4-20-july-1968...#WCC)

+++Report on churches that back **gay conversion therapy**. Last year C of E Synod backed a ban on it. Bishop of Newcastle and Jayne Ozanne are quoted.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hundreds-of-churches-join-group-backing-gay-therapy-b0qvslnqk>

+++**Magnificat in stone**. Southwark’s cathedral resident cat, Doorkins Magnificat features on a new stone corbel. Comment by the Dean - on behalf of the cat...

<https://www.standard.co.uk/go/london/arts/southwark-cathedrals-resident-cat-gets-her-own-gargoyle-a3881051.html>

+++**A wooden pew to sit on** is good for the soul

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<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a-wooden-pew-to-sit-on-in-church-is-good-for-the-soul-tmd3pk7sl>

News briefs



+++ The **Rev Danielle McCullagh**, curate at Lisburn Cathedral, conducted a service in Lisburn on Sunday at 11am to remember the fallen of the Battle of the Somme. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2Ky2u92>

+++**Prince Louis of Cambridge**, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's youngest child, was baptised yesterday in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace in London by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

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+++ ICC Programme Officer **Dr Damian Jackson** has written a thought provoking article on Community Sponsorship of Refugees. Read it here- <https://www.irishchurches.org/news-blog/5327/community-sponsorship-of-refugees-can>

+++ On Wednesday the **Virginia Choral Society** from the USA, will give a concert at 8pm in **Holy Trinity Church, Westport**, in aid of the Organ Restoration Fund, and they will sing again on Friday, with the Newark Chamber Orchestra, at 8pm in Christchurch with Mariners, Dun Laoghaire.

+++ Next Friday '**Summer Music at Sandford**', in Sandford parish church, Ranelagh, will continue with a lunchtime piano recital at 1.10pm I by Derek Moylan.

+++ **Rev Richie Cronin** was installed as minister in Aghada and Trinity Cork congregations of the PCI on Saturday, 30 June. Pray for Richie, his wife Erika and their four young children as they settle in to life and work in Cork

+++ Congratulations to **Rosemary Field**, RSCM Deputy Director, who has become a Fellow of the Guild of Musicians and Singers <http://ow.ly/3UmG30kPLUm>



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