

# Christian Weekly News 16/08/2024

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## THIS WEEK

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- Archbishop 'whitewashed' complaint in 'egregious' blacklisting case
  - Christian dance group call for investigation after being unfairly cancelled
  - Buffer zones 'a step backwards' in this country
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## **FEATURED**

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**Welby ‘whitewashed’ complaint in blacklist case**

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Rev. Dr Bernard Randall lost his job as a school chaplain after preaching a sermon on 'competing ideologies' in his school chapel, where he said that students shouldn't feel compelled to believe in any ideology.

But it is his treatment at the hands of the Church of England that is most unreasonable. He has been blacklisted in his diocese and has been unable to pursue further ministry, with his agreement with the church's teaching labelled as a 'risk factor'.

This week, his story has made headlines with the revelation that the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of Derby have both been criticised by the President of Tribunals for errors made in his case. But six months after the judgment, Bernard is still blacklisted.

Bernard is still challenging his treatment with the help of the Christian Legal Centre. The story was covered by the [The Telegraph](#), the [Free Speech Union](#), and [Christian Today](#) among others.

We have started a [petition](#) to get the Archbishop of Canterbury to apologise to Bernard and give him his life back.

[Sign and share our petition](#) today to call on the Church of England to stop blacklisting Bernard – to stop punishing this faithful minister because of his beliefs.

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[Sign and share the petition](#)

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## When will bishops be held to account?

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Bernard Randall wrote for the Critic this week, asking when bishops will be held to account.

He explained:

“Gregory Jones KC, acting for the President of Tribunals (the Church’s most senior legal officer), found that the Archbishop was plainly wrong on nine of the headings, a ruling running to 98 paragraphs on 33 pages. ‘Plainly wrong’ is a very high bar, much higher than just ‘I would have reached a very different conclusion.’ In legal speak it means no reasonable person could have reached that conclusion. This suggests that the Archbishop was acting from something other than a rational evaluation of the case. Ouch.”

Bernard also spoke about his case with Patrick Christys on GB News, as well as Lembit Öpik on TNT radio.

[Read the article >>](#)



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## Dancers cancelled for challenging gender identity

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Last October, Praise Academy of Dance Barbados was disqualified from a national dance competition after their performance challenged gender identity.

Though based in Barbados, the group reached out to the Christian Legal Centre for support. Subsequently, they called for an investigation into their disqualification.

The senator responsible for upholding the group's disqualification has now admitted 'there was a real perception of bias' when he made his ruling.

[Christian Today](#), the [Christian Post](#), and [Barbados Today](#) also covered the story this week.

[Read more and watch the group's dance routine >>](#)



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## Prayer outside abortion centres can save lives

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Fox News reported on Christian Legal Centre client Claire Brennan this week, who was the first arrested in Northern Ireland for praying outside an abortion facility.

The outside of an abortion centre might be the final chance a pregnant mother has to reconsider her decision. However, the Telegraph reported today that the Home Office is going to consider banning silent prayer outside abortion clinics by introducing 'buffer zones'.

"The implementation of buffer zones around the country is a step backwards for freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to pray," our chief executive, Andrea Williams told the BBC. "We can't criminalise the mere presence of people."

"Those women saved my daughter's life," said 'Sarah', who also shared her testimony on the BBC.

[Watch more >>](#)

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### TAKE ACTION

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## **Last chance to oppose Scottish assisted dying**

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The Scottish Government's call for evidence on its proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults Bill ends tonight.

Use our guide (it takes less than 15 minutes) and take this final opportunity to stand for life by responding to the consultation.

[Read more >>](#)

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## **Stay informed by watching our videos**

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On our YouTube channel, you'll find a range of videos on our cases, up-to-date commentary on current events that relate to Christianity in the UK, our Round The Table livestreams, and teaching on [Gospel Issues](#) where we talk about the key issues in society.

If you already watch our YouTube videos, can you share a video with your friends?

[Subscribe to our YouTube channel >>](#)

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## IN THE NEWS

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### Gender

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The Telegraph told the story this week of a man who 'deeply' regrets his decision to undergo surgery in order to live as a transgender woman.

"The surgery itself was a brutal experience in which he lost almost three pints of blood. After regaining consciousness he knew he had made a monumental mistake almost immediately."

Pete Benjamin had a different experience but similarly came to regret his surgery. You can [read and watch his story on our website](#).

[Read about regret over gender transition >>](#)

[Read and watch Pete Benjamin's ex-trans story >>](#)

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## Islam

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Last week, an Islamist plot to terrorise a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna was foiled.

But news of Islamist aggression is scarcely reported, and many MPs avoid talking about the threat from Islamists.

Lord Pearson spoke boldly in the House of Lords last month about the threat of Islamist terrorism, however, and our Head of Public Policy Tim Dieppe wrote on X that “the plot against a Taylor Swift concert shows the real danger they pose.”

But Islam will not ultimately prevail, and CBN reported this week on scores of Muslims who are turning to Christ in the Middle East.

Pray that many Muslims who are living in the UK would turn to Christ too.

[Read more about Muslims turning to Jesus >>](#)

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## Education

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This week, Lord Pearson also asked of the government: “what guidance they have issued on whether teachers should be required to use preferred gender pronouns for pupils whose legal sex remains the same as their biological sex.”

This question was probably prompted by the case of Christian Legal Centre client, and teacher, [Joshua Sutcliffe](#).

The government would not confirm that teachers should be allowed to refer to pupils by their legal sex but said that it is looking at consultation responses and will also consider evidence in the Cass Review.

[Read the transcript of the Question and Answer >>](#)

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## IN DEPTH

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## Respond with faith and courage

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Rev. Dr Joe Boot, author of [The Mission of God](#) (Wilberforce Publications), wrote this week on the need for Christians to be bold in the face of opposition, rather than recoiling in order to conform to the patterns of the world.

“It is only where the battle is fiercest that the fealty of Christ’s soldiers is proved.”

[Read more >>](#)

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