

Christian Weekly News 20/12/2024

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THIS WEEK

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- His name is the greatest
 - Gozen Soydag was sacked for upholding Scripture at Catholic school
 - Sudiksha's story wins journalism award
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FEATURED

His name is the greatest

“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6 ESV)

We praise the Lord for Jesus. He is by far and away the greatest gift
this world has ever known.

This Christmas we long for Jesus’ holy name to be glorified in our
nation - he is the reason that Christian Concern exists.

In a short Christmas message, chief executive Andrea Williams shares
how the desire for his name to be known as the greatest motivates all
our work.

Thank you for standing with us this year. We’re planning to take a break
from sending these emails next week until our next Christian Weekly
News on 3 January.

Happy Christmas, and let’s raise the name of Jesus high in 2025!

Sacked for upholding Scripture at Catholic school

Last week, we revealed that Gozen Soydag, a Christian educational behavioural assistant, had launched legal action after losing her job for social media posts about marriage.

This week, the Daily Mail put together a small biography of Gozen's life, including her coming to faith in her twenties, what led to her success on social media (see @wifeinthewaiting and @ladygozen), and her sacking for posts about marriage.

“Gozen is certainly no sackcloth and ashes Christian. In person she is lively and even (whisper it) fun.”

Gozen was also interviewed by Jacob Rees-Mogg on GB News, where she was able to explain her experience at the school and share how her freedom of speech was being attacked because she shared biblical truths, despite her work being praised prior to the complaints.

Please continue to pray that God would vindicate Gozen, and that her story would inspire Christians in the UK to be bold in proclaiming the beautiful truth about God's good plan for marriage and sexuality.

[Read the Daily Mail's biography >>](#)

[Watch our sit-down interview with Gozen >>](#)

[Watch Gozen's interview on GB News >>](#)



Sudiksha's story wins journalism award

Inderdeep Bains, the Daily Mail journalist who exposed the tragic story of the late Sudiksha Thirumalesh has won a media award and a 'Highly Commended' nomination for her efforts.

Sudiksha, who was supported and whose family continues to be supported by the Christian Legal Centre, was given huge media attention and several front page headlines as people were shocked at the way doctors and judges treated this desperately ill young woman.

While Sudiksha's condition was serious, it did not affect the functioning of her brain. But as Sudiksha sought life-saving treatment rather than simply accepting that she was going to die, she was labelled 'deluded' by doctors and judges.

There are still other people in similar situations to Sudiksha who are being supported by the Christian Legal Centre (CLC). Only last week did we reveal that the CLC is supporting a family who are being gagged by a transparency order, and whose ill mother is being threatened to have her life support removed.

Pray for these people's wellbeing. Pray that our culture would cherish life and not adopt the attitude that it could be in some people's 'best interests' to die. Pray for Christian Concern as we continue to stand in these end-of-life cases.

[Read more >>](#)



TAKE ACTION

Write your MP a message of hope this Christmas

We often encourage our supporters to write to their MPs in response to various bills that are being debated in parliament.

Only last month were we encouraging our supporters to talk to their MPs and ask them to vote against the assisted suicide bill.

But Christmas presents a unique opportunity to engage our MPs.

Could you send a positive message of hope, reminding your MP of the Christmas story and saying you're praying for them?

[Find your MP's contact details](#)



IN DEPTH

Is the puberty blocker ban actually good news?

Last week, we shared the story of the government's announcement that the current ban on puberty blockers will continue.

Carys Moseley analyses this news that puberty blockers will be banned indefinitely across the UK, but she also examines the inconsistencies and dangers of allowing a clinical trial for children.

“Whilst it is good to see that the routine prescription of puberty blockers is now banned across both the NHS and the private sector, serious concerns remain about the planned clinical trial on children.”

[Read Carys' assessment of the government's announcement >>](#)



The fate of Syrian Christians under jihadist rule

Dr Martin Parsons, CEO of the Lindisfarne Centre for the Study of Christian Persecution, examines the widespread implications of the jihadist takeover of Syria, and argues that the UK government should think about the fate of Syrian Christians under jihadist rule before removing the terrorist designation from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

Please pray that Syrian Christians would be protected from violence perpetrated under jihadist rule, and that the UK would stand up and protect these vulnerable Christians who risk persecution and death for their faith.

[Read more >>](#)

Christendom produces creativity and beauty

Did you know that Handel's Messiah was composed "at the very same time as the Great Awakening, where churches were springing up all across the highways and byways of this same nation, not as a result of artistic brilliance but by the urgent preaching of the need for heart conversion to Christ"?

Christian Legal Centre client Dr Aaron Edwards explores the origins of Handel's Messiah, and why "secularism continues to be haunted by the spectre of Christendom."

[Read: Handel's Messiah the Great Awakening >>](#)

IN THE NEWS

Church

Following Justin Welby's resignation, Steven Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, has now faced calls to resign this week for inaction after overlooking abuse committed by a bishop.

Nevertheless, Rev. Dr Bernard Randall is still regarded as a 'safeguarding risk' and banned from ministry because he told students that they didn't have to blindly accept LGBT ideology.

Pray that the Church of England would protect vulnerable people, including children, from the real harms they face, rather than banning innocent men like Bernard from ministry.

[Read more in the BBC >>](#)

[CofE force faithful chaplain out of ministry >>](#)

End of life

Kim Leadbeater MP said that her bill on legalising assisted suicide, which passed its second reading three weeks ago, represented “Parliament at its best.”

But Madeline Grant responds in the Telegraph that “this may be partly because she now has the right to assemble the committee which will scrutinise the Bill. If that sounds like a recipe for a stitch-up then that’s because it is.”

“A rushed, unscrutinised Bill will have catastrophic consequences when its safeguards inevitably fail; consequences for which Leadbeater and her allies will be directly responsible.”

Please continue to pray that this bill will be struck down and rejected at the third reading.

[Read: Leadbeater has ‘stacked the deck’ on assisted suicide bill >>](#)

Education

A bill has been put forward to Parliament proposing a register that would identify children in England who are not currently attending school, as well as increase power for local councils.

The bill comes in response to the murder of 10-year-old Sara Sharif, whose father and stepmother were sentenced for her murder this week.

Pray that the parliamentary reaction to the tragedy of Sara would not result in difficulties to Christian parents who are faithfully home educating their children.

Crackdown on home education may bring more harm than help >>

Beginning of life

Independent public health consultant Kevin Duffy explains how information from the Hospital Episode Statistics reveal that abortion complications rates are much worse than reported by abortion providers.

A new official report acknowledges a significant gap between the numbers of abortion complications reported by abortion providers and the numbers of those being treated for these complications at NHS hospitals. The former showed only 1.5 complications per 1,000 abortions and the latter twelve times more, 18 per 1,000. But Kevin Duffy points out that if the OHID included the complications termed 'medical abortion - incomplete, without complication', the reported rate would be 45 complications per 1,000 abortions: thirty times more than current official reporting.

If the government doesn't require this annual reporting of complications, it would be responsible for the deliberate under-reporting of more than ten thousand cases of post-abortion complications treated by our NHS hospitals each year.

Pray that the truth about abortion complications would be exposed and that the government would hold abortion providers to account rather than minimising the life-threatening risks posed for the pregnant mother as well as the death of her unborn child.

[Read more >>](#)
