

Christian Weekly News 06/12/2024

 mailchi.mp/christianconcern/christian-weekly-news-3571541



THIS WEEK

-
- Nurses have shown ‘tremendous courage’ says Shadow Equalities Minister
 - Highlights from the assisted suicide debate
 - Premier League footballer cautioned for saying ‘I love Jesus’
-
-

FEATURED

‘They’ve shown tremendous courage’

On Monday, the Shadow Equalities Minister, Claire Coutinho, met with the Darlington nurses in Parliament and said that equality and diversity policies need revising, not just in the NHS, but in workplaces across the country.

The Darlington nurses have brought a high-profile legal challenge, supported by the Christian Legal Centre, against County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust after being forced to undress and share a changing room with a man.

Following a meeting with Health Secretary Wes Streeting a few weeks ago, the Darlington nurses produced proposals to NHS Trusts on ensuring that changing rooms, showers or toilets may only be shared based on biological sex, not self-declared gender identity.

Please continue to pray that the high-profile nature of this case would help to spread the message that we are all made in God's image, and that he created us male and female (Genesis 1:27). Pray also that women's safe spaces would be better protected.

[Read more >>](#)

[Watch: Darlington nurses meet with Wes Streeting >>](#)



Highlights from assisted suicide debate

Last Friday, we rallied outside parliament as MPs debated and voted to allow the assisted suicide bill to pass its second reading.

Carys Moseley produced an analysis of this House of Commons debate on Kim Leadbeater's 'Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill'.

The five-hour debate captured a number of key arguments from MPs, including Danny Kruger, Robert Jenrick, Carla Lockhart, and Tim Farron, which you will be able to watch in this analysis.

"We are the people who protect the most vulnerable in society from harm, yet we stand on the brink of abandoning that role."

[Read and watch highlights from the debate here >>](#)

[Watch us rally outside parliament >>](#)



Help us speak about Jesus in public life

The endeavour to present Jesus Christ to the heart of society is hard work, and we are already preparing to stand for him in relation to Islam, gender, marriage, education, abortion, assisted suicide, and free speech among other things.

We need more Christians financially supporting our work today and in the future to enable this unique ministry.

Every gift makes a real difference as we keep standing for Jesus.

Can you donate today to help make sure we're ready for 2025?

Can you donate today. to help make sure we're ready for 2025?

Help us to stand for Jesus Christ in public life in 2025

A large group of people are protesting in front of the Houses of Parliament in London. The protesters are holding various signs, including "DO NO HARM", "ASSIST US TO LIVE", "DON'T OPEN THE DOOR TO ASSISTED SUICIDE", and "THE BILL SAFEGUARDS AREN'T SAFE". A woman in a white coat is visible on the right side of the image.



Justin Welby resignation speech prompts outcry

Yesterday, Justin Welby spoke in the House of Lords about his reasons for resigning as Archbishop of Canterbury.

As Chief Executive Andrea Williams previously wrote, Welby should have resigned long before, due to his persistent departure from the gospel and church teaching.

However, he resigned last month due to fallout from the Church's coverup of child abuse, as exposed by the Makin Report.

Welby's resignation speech in the House of Lords came across as light-hearted, and he was accused of not taking seriously enough the harm done to victims. He apologised earlier today.

[Watch Justin Welby's speech >>](#)

[Read Andrea Williams's article on Welby's resignation >>](#)



'I love Jesus' is offensive in the Premier League

Last week, Crystal Palace FC's captain Marc Guéhi was placed under immense pressure to wear an LGBT+ armband to commemorate the Premier League and Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign.

He wrote 'I love Jesus' on the armband at the weekend and was promptly reprimanded - but nonetheless chose to write 'Jesus loves you' when he played again on Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, Muslim footballers have refused to wear gear promoting LGBT ideology, but did not face the same criticism, pressure, and reprimands as those experienced by Marc.

Our Chief Executive Andrea Williams spoke on LBC about the religious discrimination Marc Guéhi is facing, reiterating that he has every right to express his Christian belief that marriage is between one man and one woman.

We have published an article highlighting some of the many Christian Legal Centre clients who have faced similar experiences for expressing their Christian beliefs.

Christian freedoms cases over the years: we love Jesus too >>

Support us as we bring the hope of Jesus to the heart of society.



TAKE ACTION

Send a message of courage this Christmas

Along with the Christian Legal Centre, we are supporting many Christians in the UK who have faced serious consequences, including losing their jobs, because they made a stand for Jesus.

Even when they win their legal cases, it can be a long and lonely wait for justice.

Could you encourage a Christian Concern client to stand firm this Christmas?

Why not take a few minutes to send an uplifting message to one of our clients, encouraging them for standing strong despite the price they have paid for following Jesus. This is what brothers and sisters do.

Send your message of courage to one of our clients this Christmas



Assisted suicide - keep your MP accountable

The pro-life campaign against assisted suicide made a big difference, and meant that the vote was much closer than anyone expected when it was first announced.

Many minds were changed as we, and others, exposed the multiple problems with the bill.

It has been reported that more than 30 MPs who voted in favour did so in spite of concerns about the bill, and may well vote against when it comes back for the third reading.

You can find out how your MP voted [here](#).

Please [write to your MP](#) to respond to their vote on this bill. Your message will show them that you noted how they voted and will help them to feel accountable for their vote.

[Find your MP's email address and contact them](#)

IN DEPTH

The Nation's Gospel Volume 3 has been launched

Last week, over 100 people attended the launch of *The Nation's Gospel Volume 3 (1900 - 1945): Revival to Reports* in central London.

Head of Public Policy [Tim Dieppe reports on the launch](#), and reflects on author Jeremy Thomas' impressive insights into British Church history.

"It will surely stand as a standard reference work on British Church history of that period for decades to come."

[Read Tim's report on the book launch >>](#)

[Order The Nation's Gospel Volume 3 \(1900 - 1945\): Revival to Reports](#)



IN THE NEWS

Education

A GB News documentary, featuring Chief Executive Andrea Williams and Christian Concern clients Nigel and Sally Rowe and Joshua Sutcliffe, exposed how children are 'punished' for misgendering teachers, and teachers are banned from the profession due to the 'resurge' of transgender policies.

Pray that awareness will increase about the harm transgender policies are doing to school children and teachers alike, and that Joshua Sutcliffe's ban from teaching will be lifted.

[Watch the documentary >>](#)

End of life

GB News interviewed Philip, a former Christian pastor who has been diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer and lung cancer, as he spoke against the assisted suicide bill and shared his hope in Christ.

The Guardian reports that MP Diane Abbott has warned GPs may start offering assisted suicide as a cheaper alternative to hospice care.

The Independent published the hopeful analysis that 'More than 30 MPs who voted in favour of assisted dying could still change their minds' and vote against it at third reading.

Give thanks for the increasing public opposition to assisted suicide, and pray that MPs will understand the dangers of this legislation, and vote against it at third reading.

Islam

Our Head of Public Policy Tim Dieppe was interviewed on Talk TV to voice concerns about possible Islamic blasphemy laws in the UK, following calls during Prime Minister's Questions to ban the 'desecration of religious texts' including the Qur'an. Tim also took the opportunity to share why Jesus is the only way to God, and why Christianity is the one true religion.

The Daily Mail reports on accusations of antisemitism and bias after the Oxford Union held a 'shambolic' 'fiasco' of a debate which "labelled Israel an 'apartheid state responsible for genocide'".

Meanwhile, the Telegraph revealed that attempts to ban 'Islamophobia' are merely the law catching up with the current reality, as "Britain already has an 'Islamophobia law' – we're just too scared to admit it".

Pray that freedom of speech will be protected, and that there will be increasing awareness about the prevalence of Islamic influence in the UK.

[Watch Tim Dieppe on Talk TV >>](#)



Freedom of speech

In the first conviction of its kind in Northern Ireland, pro-lifer Claire Brennan was convicted and fined for saying 'The Lord's Prayer' in an abortion clinic censorship zone. She will appeal her conviction, with the support of the Christian Legal Centre.

Christian Concern client Stephen Green, a Christian preacher who held a sign with Psalm 139:13 on it outside an abortion clinic, lost his appeal after being convicted for protesting abortion in a 'buffer zone'.

Please pray that these Christians will both get justice, that the Christian Legal Centre will have wisdom in handling Claire's appeal, and that women will continue to be offered life-saving alternatives and information outside abortion clinics.

[Claire Brennan to appeal after conviction in censorship zone >>](#)

Beginning of life

The BBC shared the story of a man who was “jailed for 12 years after assaulting a pregnant woman and giving her medication to cause a miscarriage”.

The man was convicted of two counts of assault, and a charge of intending to procure a miscarriage.

Pray that life in the womb would be so cherished that any violence done to unborn babies, as well as women, would receive harsh justice. Pray that criminals, and not unborn children, would receive the penalty for violence against women.

[Read more >>](#)



EVENTS

21-23 Feb: Christ-centred education, Derbyshire

The Christian Schools' Trust conference 2025 will gather those from across many Christ-centred schools and beyond, who want to be distinctively Christian in every aspect of school life.

Christian Concern's Head of Education Steve Beegoo will be speaking, along with a range of excellent speakers and seminars over three days.

[Find out more >>](#)
