

Christian Weekly News

Christian
Concern

THIS WEEK

- In her 'best interests' to die from dehydration?
- Assisted suicide to be funded with 'blank cheque'
- Trump's inauguration - does Jesus belong in politics?

FEATURED

In her 'best interests' to die from dehydration?

In the run up to Christmas, members of our legal team were fighting to help a Christian woman known at the time as 'XY'.

Now named as Hyacinth McIntosh, she died on Christmas Day following her **life support being withdrawn against her family's wishes**.

The Court of Protection ruled that Hyacinth's artificial ventilation should be removed on 14 December - because prolonging her life was deemed to not be in her 'best interests'.

However, following this ruling, the NHS also refused to provide Hyacinth with any clinically assisted feeding or hydration after removing her life support.

An expert, whose evidence was ignored, argued "even if, after extubation, [Hyacinth] lives for only a matter of days, then removal of the NG tube would be an unnecessary and unusually cruel, degrading and inhumane thing to do."

Nevertheless, this happened. Hyacinth died 11 days later - most likely due to dehydration, not because of her condition.

Pray that the attitude towards death in our nation would change, and that our law courts and hospitals would be committed to cherishing and protecting all life.

'Beyond cruelty': woman named in 'best interests to die' case >>



Assisted suicide to be funded with 'blank cheque'

This week, parliament approved a “blank cheque” for Kim Leadbeater’s assisted suicide bill, which puts no cap or budget on the amount of spending the bill would require.

MPs approved due to democratic conventions, but had serious concerns.

Our **public policy team looked at the debate**, highlighting many MPs’ critiques of the bill:

“Who will have to wait longer for an operation or GP appointment because this Parliament will authorise massive, unspecified spending in our cash-strapped NHS?”

Read: MPs approve 'blank cheque' for funding assisted suicide >>



Nurses tell court of intimidation by male colleague

On Monday, the **Darlington nurses gave evidence in court that they were 'intimidated' by a male colleague identifying as a woman** called 'Rose', after launching legal action against an NHS Trust that forced them to undress in front of him.

The nurses' case - supported by the Christian Legal Centre - has had high-profile national and international media attention, with the nurses receiving public backing from J.K Rowling, health secretary Wes Streeting, and leader of the Conservative Party, Kemi Badenoch.

[Read more: Darlington nurses give evidence in court >>](#)



Christians launch legal action over VAT plans

With the help of the Christian Legal Centre, Christian schools, parents, and pupils have **launched legal action over the government's VAT plans** for private and independent schools - including Christian schools.

The government's move is unprecedented as education has never been taxed in the UK.

Chief Executive Andrea Williams said:

“The government's policy will devastate the work of brilliant Christian schools that have been pioneered and maintained by dedicated staff working on sacrificial salaries because they believe in Christian education.”

Despite these challenges, Christian education is still well worth pursuing, and our **new website highlights the opportunities** to provide a thoroughly Christ-centred education.



Does Jesus belong in American politics?

President Donald Trump's inauguration on Monday featured impassioned prayers from Christian leaders, including Franklin Graham.

But some people are anxious about Christians being closely associated with the President. Should we be concerned or joyful when “Glory, glory hallelujah” is sung immediately before his speech?

In a new article, **chief executive Andrea Williams says Jesus Christ belongs in politics.**

She also explores the phenomenon of ‘Cultural Christianity’ and the ways many influential voices are reconsidering the Christian faith.

“We must take the opportunities that ‘cultural Christianity’ brings to encourage our family, friends and neighbours to go all the way to the source: Christ, the solid Rock.”

Does Jesus belong in our politics?

TAKE ACTION

What are you doing to reach ‘cultural Christians’?

We have heard many reports of people beginning to attend church or come to faith after hearing voices like Jordan Peterson, Tom Holland and Ayaan Hirsi speak positively about Christianity and the Church.

Do you have a story to share about someone you know coming to faith in this way? Or is your church taking deliberate steps to reach these people with the gospel?

We'd love to share inspiring testimonies like these and to encourage more churches to see the possibilities 'cultural Christianity' offers.

If you have a story you could share, would you **send us a message?**

We won't share any names or identifiable details publicly unless you tell us you are happy for us to do so.

Send us a message

IN DEPTH

Don't ignore Islam's role in grooming gangs

Our Head of Public Policy Tim Dieppe says that **only a national inquiry into grooming gangs will enable our nation to deal with these horrendous crimes** against young girls.

Tim reiterates the need to confront the reality that Islam plays a key part in this barbaric abuse.

"Only a full national inquiry with statutory powers to summon witnesses will really get to the bottom of all this. It will take time and cost a lot of money, but will be worth it and will finally enable the victims to see some justice."

Read: Grooming gangs: we can't ignore the Islamic connection >>



IN THE NEWS

End of life

New figures reveal that **“one in five” terminally ill patients “given six months by NHS doctors is still alive three years later”**. The new information has caused increased warnings from palliative care medics that “lives will be ‘tragically cut short’” if assisted suicide is legalised in the UK.

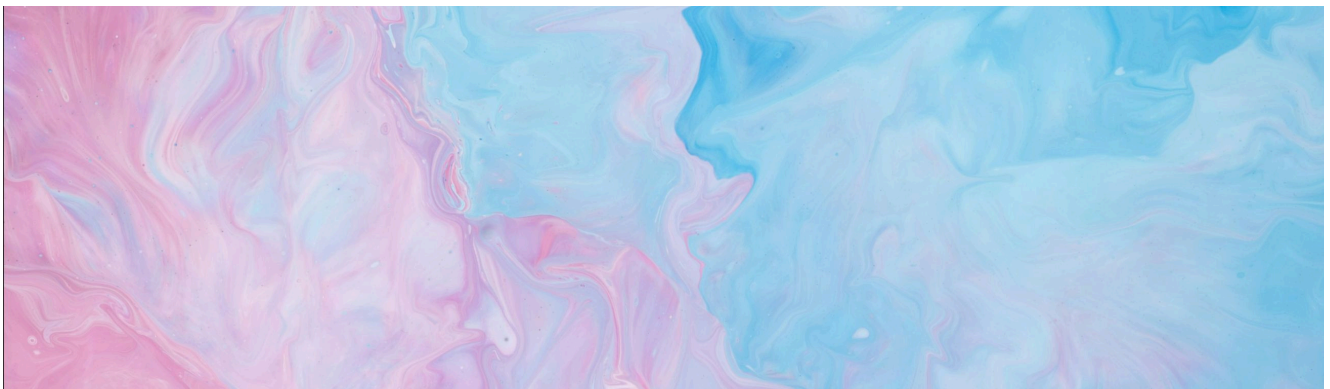
Daniel Dieppe also wrote for the Conservative Home to explain how **the assisted suicide bill “cannot be fixed at committee stage”**, saying “no committee stage could ever rectify the fatal flaws of assisted suicide and truly protect the vulnerable.”

Pray that MPs would realise the danger this bill presents and vote against it at third reading. Pray also that more medics and members of the public would oppose assisted suicide and stand for the value of life.

Islam

Our Head of Public Policy Tim Dieppe appeared on Revelation TV to discuss whether **Islam is having “undue influence over our Labour government”**.

Pray that our government would understand the risk Islam poses to our country and would challenge this increasing influence.



Education

John Frost argues in the Telegraph that home education **“helps us resist indoctrination”** and that parents who home educate are “maintaining the

principles that freedom and autonomy are intrinsically important matters and that the state does not have the right to go anywhere at will.”

Pray that the government would respect Christian home educator’s rights to educate and disciple their children at home and would amend the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill.

Beginning of life

In a rare case, **a baby was born alive in Reading** after an attempted abortion. Called Angel, the baby was severely premature (16 weeks’ gestation) and died soon afterwards. The mother chose abortion because of “significant fetal abnormalities”.

Pray that our laws would one day recognise the humanity of unborn children not just after they are born, but while still in the womb. Pray that abortion would become unthinkable and that these precious babies’ lives would be protected and valued by our laws.

EVENTS

The Challenge of Islam: book launch in London

Tickets are selling out fast for our launch of Tim Dieppe’s new book on Islam - but there is still **just enough space for you to join us in central London** as we celebrate the release of Wilberforce Publication’s new book.

The Challenge of Islam, launching on 6 February, highlights the challenges posed by Islam’s growth in the Western world and how to respond.

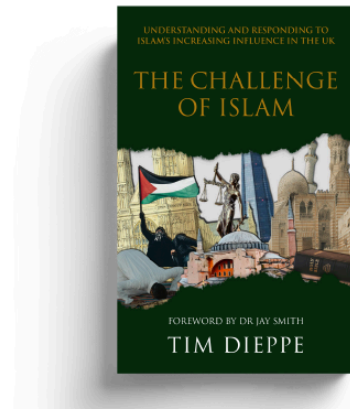
Tickets for the book launch are just £10, and also include a complimentary copy of the book (RRP £12).

Get your tickets to this book launch in central London

BOOK LAUNCH

THE CHALLENGE OF ISLAM

Understanding and responding to
Islam's increasing influence in the UK



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