

#Christasmeans twitter campaign

On Christmas Eve, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby (@ABCJustin and @lambethpalace), and the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu (@johnsentamu) will be using the hashtag #Christasmeans in order to spread the message of the real meaning of Christmas.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, congregations and clergy in the 12,000 parishes of the Church of England are being encouraged to get out their mobile devices and finish the sentence: Christmas means... to let as many people as possible know the joy and meaning of Christmas to the 10 million people who make up the UK's 'Twitterati' and further across the world.

#Christasmeans follows on from last year's successful #ChristmasstartswithChrist campaign which reached more than 9 million people in 24 hours. During a 12 hour period from mid-

night on Christmas eve through to lunchtime on Christmas day over 9,000 tweets were sent using the hashtag.

"We are delighted that #christasmeans gives us this opportunity for parishes to take the good news of the first Christmas beyond churches and into people's lives and homes," says the Revd Arun Arora (@RevArun), Director of Communications at the Archbishops' Council. "Whilst for some people Christmas means the John Lewis Advert, the Harrods window or crippling debt, around the country on Christmas Day #Christasmeans hymns, cribs, nativity and most of all joy"

The hashtag #Christasmeans goes live on Christmas Eve. Tweets can be expected from carol, crib and midnight services, before carrying on into Christmas morning services.

Archbishop speaks at Church Urban Fund conference

Archbishop Justin has said that Christians cannot escape participating in politics because seeking justice and the common good are 'absolutely central' to their faith.

In a keynote address to the Church Urban Fund's 'Tackling Poverty Together Conference', the Archbishop said that for Christians, loving our neighbour places 'responsibilities' upon us.

'We don't speak about common good and justice because we think we have some automatic right to be heard,' he said, 'but because loving our neighbour places responsibilities upon us. We have responsibilities to speak,

even when it might be easier to stay quiet, to point to injustice and to challenge others to join us in righting it.

The Archbishop praised the Church Urban Fund (cuf.org.uk) for its 'focus on delivering projects through local partnerships, [which] cuts through one of the great political challenges of the present day – how one actually makes a difference on the ground'.

More at: www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5181/seeking-justice-is-absolutely-central-to-christian-faith-says-archbishop

Church ministry playing vital role in every community

Ministry stats for 2012, published by the Research and Statistics Division of the Archbishops' Council, show a change in patterns of ministry over the past 10 years with numbers remaining largely constant. The overall number of diocesan licensed clergy declined by 1% in the decade between 2002 and 2012. The number of full-time stipendiary clergy was 7,798 in 2012, a fall of 2% since 2011.

They now represent 69% of all licensed clergy compared to 80% in 2002. Over the

same period the number of self-supporting ministers increased by 50% from 2,091 in 2002 to 3,148.

The number of ordinations has remained broadly stable since 2002. In 2012 22% of recommended candidates were under the age of 30, compared to 15% in both 2002 and 2007. This reflects a focus in the dioceses on encouraging vocations among younger people.

The statistics can be viewed at:
bit.ly/17xAqDP

Archbishop of York Visits Egypt

The Archbishop of York has spent five days visiting the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

Bishop Mouneer Anis invited the Archbishop to preach at the services for the 75th Anniversary of All Saints Cathedral, Cairo during November. All Saints Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese and is located at

the centre of a city of 26 million people, in Zamalek.

Speaking about his visit the Archbishop said: "All Saints Cathedral is an amazing place, and the prayers for the 75th anniversary celebrations gave such a great sense of the Holy Spirit moving in the Diocese."

More at: www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/2993/archbishop-of-yorks-visit-to-egypt-

News in Brief

Daily Media Digest

The Daily Media Digest is a multi-media service rounding up daily news in the national press relating to the Church. The weekday emails are available via a signup form, and is available online on the Church of England website's media centre and on the [@c_of_e](https://twitter.com/c_of_e) twitter page each morning.

To sign up for daily emails, please complete the form found here: eepurl.com/DI95D

Female representatives to House of Bishops

The final result from the elections for female representatives to attend the House of Bishops have been announced. The Rev Libby Lane, Dean of Women in Ministry, Chester Diocese, has been appointed as representative for the NW region.

The full list of representatives can be found at:
bit.ly/1crdJE5

Interviews from @c_of_e

The Archdeacon to the Army, Peter Eagles talks about Remembrance in the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.

bit.ly/19JXIKX

Revd Ron Lancaster, Vicar and owner of Kimbolton Fireworks, talks about combining making fireworks with his role as a vicar:

bit.ly/16G3Klg