

Church House London

Communications Update July 2009

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Bishop's Water Warning for Parliament

The Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham, Rt Revd George Cassidy, has joined representatives from the faith, community and voluntary sectors in lobbying Parliament for a fairer deal on water charges. Read the full story [here](#)

Protecting life is the most important thing

The Church of England website has published a new easy-to-read section called 'Protecting Life - Opposing Assisted Suicide' at www.cofe.anglican.org/protectinglife. It summarises quickly and simply the Church's position in the sometimes confusing assisted suicide debate, listing key principles behind its position, offering a short guide to terms used in the debate, and providing a downloadable Powerpoint file of key points for use in churches. More [here](#)

Community life debated at General Synod *Good Childhood Inquiry*, urban life and faith, and ministry with people with learning disabilities all featured in July's sitting of General Synod along with financial issues, legislation and other governance issues.

A preview can be found [here](#) with voting details on main website www.cofe.anglican.org/news **What is General Synod?** For a helpful background report click [here](#) *A full summary with audio links and a shorter summary with no links (suitable for parish magazines) will be sent out shortly*

Challenge from Archbishop of York Dr Sentamu's sermon at York Minster during General Synod on the consequences of suffering that arise from deaths caused by violence both at home and abroad and a warning to Synod. Read the full text [here](#)

Top of the podsThe Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, the Director of the Archbishops' Council's Mission and Public Affairs Division, is a genuine admirer of what Charles Darwin achieved with his writings. Hear what he had to say in a podcast celebrating 150 years of *On the Origin of Species* at <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/podcast>. Other recent Church of England podcasts include Father Edward Lewis, Chief Executive of the Hospital Chaplaincies Council, on his passion for hospital chaplaincy. To listen to Edward and other recent podcasts, visit <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/podcast/previouspodcasts.html>.

Archbishop of Canterbury addresses General Convention[Text](#) of Dr Williams sermon preached during a Eucharist at The Episcopal Church (US) General Convention this month held in the Convention Centre, Anaheim, California

Church calls for sexual health campaigns to take precedence over condom advertising

Advertising standards codes: Church gives view on topics ranging from doctors endorsing products on-air to the use of sacred music in radio adverts

The Church of England has called for greater investment in public health programmes aimed at teenagers, rather than supporting proposals that could see 'round the clock' advertising of condoms, in a submission to the committees responsible for regulating the content and scheduling of advertising in the UK. More [here](#)

Ready Steady Slow the countdown continues

Ponder the planet with the Church of England's 2009 Advent campaign and enjoy some creation time-out. The online Advent calendar www.whywearewaiting.com (from November 29 but take a look now and sign up) will have daily videos, podcasts, thoughts and challenges on environmental issues linking with the vital UN Climate Change talks in Copenhagen this December. **Meet the Advent team at the Greenbelt Festival August 28 – 31. More details next month.**

Appointment to Chair of Church Buildings Council announced

Anne Sloman has been appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to chair the Church Buildings Council, the new statutory body created last year to succeed the Council for the Care of Churches and the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches. The CBC supports dioceses and parishes in their stewardship of more than 16,000 church buildings. More [here](#)

Update published on Clergy Pensions Scheme

The Church of England has published a second and more detailed report on the impact of the credit crunch and recession on the financial position of the Funded Clergy Pension Scheme. The report puts forward various options relating to the future of the scheme. More [here](#)

The Human Genome Project: investigating identity and history

A new book, *God, ethics and the human genome: theological, legal and scientific perspectives*, helps the Church and individual Christians explore the questions raised by advances in genetic science and medicine over the last few decades. How far should we intervene in 'natural' processes? How far should we go to alleviate suffering? What constitutes a worthwhile life? Can the human genome be 'owned'? What does it mean to be made in the image of God? More [here](#)

Archbishop of Canterbury's response to DFID White Paper

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, welcomed the launch this week of the Government White Paper, "Building our Common Future", which commits additional support for the world's poorest people affected by conflict, climate change and the global economic crisis. More details [here](#)

Next Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham is announced... on a bus

A University of Nottingham graduate and a 'children's advocate' has been appointed to the top Church of England job in Nottinghamshire. **The new Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham is to be the Rt Revd Paul Butler** (53) who is currently the Bishop of Southampton – a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Winchester. More [here](#)

New Bishop to the Forces announcedThe Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has announced the appointment of the Rt Revd Dr Stephen Venner as Bishop to the Forces. Dr Venner succeeds the Rt Revd David Conner, the Dean of Windsor who has served in this role since 2001. Dr Venner will act on Dr Williams' behalf and carry out Episcopal duties within the UK's Armed Forces. He will have pastoral oversight of Anglican Chaplains and the Anglican Church within the Forces. Full details [here](#)

Church House Publishing - agreement signed

The Archbishops' Council has signed an agreement with Anglican charity Hymns Ancient & Modern to publish liturgy, key reference titles and other resources for the Church. More [here](#)

College inspection report published

The Church of England published the inspection report on one of its ministerial training colleges: St Mellitus College and Chelmsford and London Reader training. More [here](#)

MORE NEWS from the Archbishop of Canterbury

'Inspiration, Truth and the Search for Understanding'

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, yesterday hosted a seminar at Lambeth Palace entitled "Inspiration, Truth and the Search for Understanding", with the aim of examining how faith and science can contribute to a richer knowledge and a deeper understanding of the nature of truth. The Seminar was chaired by Madeleine Bunting from the *Guardian*. More details [here](#)

Archbishop calls for commitment to sustainable peace in Sudan

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, issued a statement in support of 'Sudan Day of Action' which called for a renewed commitment to sustainable peace in Sudan. The Sudan Day of Action, was organised by Baroness Cox and the Sudan Action Group, it aimed to raise awareness for the desperate plight of the people of Sudan. More [here](#)

Archbishop in Istanbul

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, spent a week in Istanbul chairing the eighth Building Bridges Seminar and spending three days as guest of His All Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch. More [here](#)

Archbishop of Canterbury: Statement for Armed Forces Day

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, published a statement in support of Armed Forces Day, 27th June. Read the statement [here](#)