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Being salt and light today

Recent weeks have seen a number of encouragements.

The Christian Institute has frequently highlighted Ofsted's lack of accountability in its inspections of Christian schools. The High Court has now rebuked it for behaving as if it is infallible. We can pray that this makes a positive difference.

We are grateful too that once again marriage has been protected from redefinition in Northern Ireland.

The Government is intent on making changing sex a matter of simply filling in a form. Government ministers are calling for churches to start carrying out same-sex weddings. So there is much to do.

To help us continue to defend Christian freedoms in the UK in the years to come we are investing in new Bible teaching resources and new technology. You can read more on this inside. Thank you for all your support.

Schools' watchdog complaints process 'unfair and irrational', rules High Court

Ofsted's controversial complaints process has been dealt a blow by the High Court in a ruling highlighting the education watchdog's wholly inadequate complaints system.

Judge Martin McKenna quashed a report which would have put the London-based Durand Academy into special measures. He called it 'irrational' for Ofsted not to permit a school to challenge a report it "considers to be defective".

He said the schools' watchdog believes its own processes are so 'effective' that its decisions "will always in effect be unimpeachable".



Judge McKenna added: "The absence of any ability effectively to challenge the report renders the complaints procedures unfair".

The Chairman of the Academy's Board of Governors said that challenging Ofsted had taken months and hundreds of thousands of pounds.

John Denning, The Christian Institute's Education Officer, welcomed the ruling. He said: "Ofsted's complaints process is a sham. It holds the judgments of inspectors to be infallible and allows them to attack schools on the basis of their own personal biases.

Christian and Jewish schools have been punished simply for holding true to their beliefs."

"As we have seen in the case of Durand Academy, schools are forced to resort to costly legal action if they are to have any hope of overturning a verdict."

In 2014, Grindon Hall Christian School was rated 'Inadequate' despite having some of the best exam results in its area. The draft Ofsted report attacked the school's Christian ethos. Another Christian school was rated 'Inadequate' on the basis of only 35 minutes of lesson observation.

Northern Ireland High Court dismisses same-sex marriage cases



Royal Courts of Justice in Belfast

The High Court in Belfast has dismissed two legal cases which sought to have same-sex marriage introduced to Northern Ireland.

In one, an anonymous man known as 'Applicant X', who entered into a homosexual marriage in London three years

ago, sought a declaration that the union was valid under NI law. In the other, two gay couples in civil partnerships claimed they were entitled to get married in the Province.

Handing down his ruling, Judge O'Hara stressed that the law on marriage falls under the

remit of the Northern Ireland Assembly, adding that as a member of the judiciary, he must "respect the separation of powers".

In both cases it was claimed that the law on same-sex marriage in the Province violates human rights. The judge rejected this argument.

Callum Webster, The Christian Institute's Northern Ireland Officer, said he was "greatly encouraged" that the law on marriage has been upheld.

"The definition of marriage as between one man and one woman is beneficial for all society, and it is excellent news that it has not been changed by this ruling."

Attempts to introduce same-sex marriage to Northern Ireland have failed five times in the last five years.

Watering down of Named Person scheme 'not enough', say lawyers

A "serious lack" of clarity and safeguards highlighted by senior judges have still not been addressed by the Scottish Government's

Named Person plans, lawyers have warned.

The Christian Institute led a successful legal challenge to the scheme at the UK Supreme Court. After this ministers watered down their plans in a new Bill.



But the Faculty of Advocates said the revised plans do not go far enough. It also warned that teachers' and social workers' jobs could be made "considerably more difficult" by the scheme's legal jargon.

Campaigners welcomed the comments, with the No to Named Persons group saying the Scottish Government needs to "scrap the scheme altogether".



John Swinney MSP announced the watered-down scheme in Holyrood on 19 June 2017.

Investing for the future

At the Institute we are honoured to keep over 50,000 people informed about our work.

To assist with this, we are investing in a new, sophisticated database system – our current one is 25 years old!

Costing £40,000, the system will speed up much of our day-to-day work while still keeping your details secure.



Would you like us to visit your church?



We visit over 200 churches a year to talk about the work of The Christian Institute.

If you would like your church to be one of them contact us at: development@christian.org.uk

Parents would be criminalised by Welsh Govt smacking ban



The campaign to stop parents who smack their children being criminalised by the Welsh Government had its official launch in Cardiff in July.

Be Reasonable, a grassroots campaign of parents and supportive groups opposed to the Welsh Government's plans, is backed by The Christian Institute and the Family Education Trust.

A ComRes poll of more than 1,000 Welsh adults published by the group revealed that three quarters opposed making smacking a criminal offence. A similar number thought the

ban would not help protect vulnerable children.

Dr Ashley Frawley, a sociology and social policy academic from Swansea University, called the planned change in the law "a gross interference in family life". She added: "It's entirely unnecessary because the law already protects children from abuse".

The launch was held at Cardiff Bay, a few hundred yards from the Welsh Assembly. It attracted significant media interest from the BBC, ITV, LBC and the national newspaper of Wales, the Western Mail.

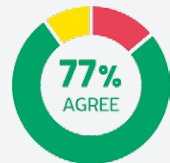
What Wales says

Should parental smacking of children be a criminal offence?



I would be concerned that a smacking ban might flood police and social workers with trivial cases which mean they struggle to stop serious abusers.

It should be the role of parents and guardians to decide whether or not to smack their children.



www.bereasonable.wales = Don't know

The online poll was conducted by ComRes which interviewed 1019 Welsh adults between 13 and 25 January 2017. Data were weighted to be demographically representative.

Ofsted fails Jewish school for lack of 'LGBT British values'

Ofsted inspectors failed a Jewish school three times because it refused to endorse homosexuality and transsexualism.

The schools' regulator consistently marked down Vishnitz Girls School, a private school in Hackney, North London, for declining to give pupils a full understanding of 'British values'. This is despite the fact that the most recent inspection records it performing well in other areas.

However a Christian school threatened with closure by Ofsted has now received a

positive report from the regulator. Trinity Christian School in Reading remained open and is now allowed to expand its intake.

The Government is set to consult on plans for Relationships Education which will be taught as a statutory subject in primary schools across England.

This is an initiative which is intended to focus on safety issues but could be hijacked by LGBT activists.

Since announcing the new subject, Education Secretary Justine Greening has said she will continue to champion the LGBT



agenda while in office and highlighted that the Government has allocated £3 million for pro-LGBT initiatives.

However, prominent educationalist Dr Joanna Williams has challenged the promotion of trans

ideology in school, saying it is leading to "confusion about gender identity".

Dr Williams criticised schools which blur subject knowledge with "the promotion of particular values". Doing this, she said,

Govt to push ahead with trans agenda

Education Secretary Justine Greening, who also holds the Equalities brief, has announced that the Gender Recognition Act will be reviewed, saying 'intrusive' medical checks should be removed.

Currently, an adult who has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria and lived for two years as a person of the opposite sex can apply for a gender recognition certificate. Fewer than 5,000 have been granted since the 2004 law was enacted.

Both Prime Minister Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn have spoken out in support of changes to the law.

But a top paediatrician warned that "a grave injustice" was being inflicted on children. Parents group Transgender Trend



also warned that women's safety could be compromised if "any man can identify as a woman with no tests and gain access to spaces where women might be getting undressed".

Miss Greening's announcement came as Transport for London dropped the term "ladies and gentleman" so as not to 'exclude' transsexuals, and senior doctors

said male transsexuals should be given womb transplants so they can have children.

Read online



A caring society should not foster gender confusion

Cl comment at christian.org.uk/gender-confusion

Churches should 'embrace gay marriage', says equalities minister

The role of the church is to follow God – not the world. But Justine Greening has claimed churches should “keep up with modern attitudes” and carry out same-sex weddings.

The Education Secretary and Equalities Minister said she did not want to “prescribe” how faith groups deal with the issue, but that it was important for the church to be “part of a modern country”.

The Spectator's Melanie McDonagh said the remarks were evidence of the “authoritarian aspect of modern liberalism”.

The Swedish Prime Minister recently said religious ministers in its state church cannot “refuse to marry same-sex couples”. Currently the Church of Sweden allows its ministers to opt out of weddings, baptisms, and funerals for any reason.

But Stefan Löfven indicated that he would back making support for same-sex marriage a requirement for ordination.



🕒 Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

British soldiers forced to hoist 'rainbow' flag

Christian servicemen and women recently faced being forced to endorse the LGBT agenda as part of a British Army initiative.

To coincide with an annual celebration of LGBT rights, “all army

establishments” were required to raise the LGBT ‘rainbow’ flag, an army campaign video stated.

The Christian Institute learned that army personnel refusing to do so risked being disciplined.

A serving soldier told the Institute that on his base, the flag would replace the unique regimental flag. He said to replace the regimental standard “is a great dishonour to all who have served – and died – under it in the past”.



Former MI6 operative, and Institute supporter, dies

Christian Institute supporters come from all walks of life. Few, however, are former MI6 operatives and community standards campaigners.

Born in 1922, Miss Ann Whitaker began working for MI6 after graduating finishing school – helping Airey Neave in his famous escape from Colditz.

Though a regular churchgoer, it was not until she was in her thirties that she came to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

She went on to campaign against sex shops, to assist Mary Whitehouse in her efforts to clean up the media, and to found a Christian school.

A long-time and vocal Institute supporter, she died peacefully in May, aged 94.



🕒 Miss Whitaker

An exciting new DVD project

In recent months we've been busy producing a teaching series on the Christian worldview to help believers apply their faith in the world. It will cover topics like discipleship, common grace, a biblical view of work, marriage, pro-life issues and being a Christian citizen.

Each professionally made DVD presentation will feature well-known evangelical figures and has an accompanying study guide.

Accessible and faithful to the Bible, it will help establish clear biblical convictions – particularly

preparing a younger generation of believers for life's ethical challenges.

The Bible has lots to say about everyday life and how we should engage with the unbelieving society around us.

We aren't called to retreat into our church communities, neither can we compromise on God's unchanging word – we are called to live to God's glory in all that we do.

This initiative aims to help Christians, young and old, to be faithfully present in the world as salt and light.



Presenter: Dr Chris Sinkinson

The series should be ready for use early next year.

Your legacy would help Christians to be salt and light

None of our work would be possible without the generosity of our supporters. Leaving a gift in your will to The Christian Institute would enable us to continue working to preserve Christian freedoms for future generations.



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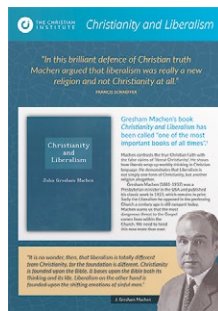
New publications from the CI



The Reformation

On 31 October 1517 Martin Luther published his 95 theses. His act sparked the Reformation in Europe – “the greatest revival of the Christian church since Pentecost”. Christians still have much to learn from its story 500 years on.

Read now:
christian.org.uk/reformation-briefing



Christianity and Liberalism

Gresham Machen's book contrasts the true Christian Faith with the false claims of 'liberal Christianity'. With liberalism still rampant in the professing Church today, we need to take heed of his warnings.

Read now:
christian.org.uk/liberalism