



# Help! I just can't stop shopping

Hannah Betts

INSIDE  
TIMES2

## Tories blast Welby for 'parroting' Labour view

Archbishop tells unions to take on economic evil

**Kaya Burgess**  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Conservative MPs attacked the Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday for "parroting Labour policy" after he criticised the government and described the gig economy as "the reincarnation of an ancient evil".

Days after backing tax rises for the rich, the Most Rev Justin Welby said that he would ignore pleas to "stay out of politics" as he delivered one of his most strident speeches at the TUC conference.

He said that there was "something wrong with the tax system" if it allowed online giants such as Amazon to "leech off the taxpayer". He also made an impassioned plea for a "new unionisation" of Britain, noting that "Christian socialists" had played a key role in the founding of unions and the Labour Party.

He added that ministers should scrap the universal credit policy, insisting: "If they can't get it right, they need to stop rolling it out." He further challenged the government to put food banks and night shelters out of business by removing the need for their services.

The speech prompted criticism from Conservatives, including Charles Walker, MP for Broxbourne, who said that the archbishop was backing "John McDonnell's point of view". Mr McDonnell, the shadow chancellor, welcomed the address and said that the archbishop was simply "telling it like it is".

Archbishop Welby said before his speech that senior clergy were often

told to "stick to religious and spiritual matters and stay out of politics". He confessed before taking the stage that he would not be heeding those calls, noting: "I have a feeling today might be another one of those days."

The Tory MP Ben Bradley tweeted: "Not clear to me when or how it can possibly be appropriate for the Archbishop of Canterbury to be appearing at TUC conference or parroting Labour policy."

Mr Walker said that the archbishop should "have the courage to remove his dog collar" and become a politician, adding: "There are a diversity of views as to what is best for the economy, but [he] only seems interested in presenting John McDonnell's point of view."

The archbishop said in his speech that his words were "political, but not party political", adding that it was "dangerous when left or right claim God is solely on their side".

Archibald Tait had been the first Archbishop of Canterbury to talk to TUC leaders in 1879, a first step in ending the church's "scandalous hostility" towards unions, Archbishop Welby said. Since then, Lord Carey of Clifton is the only serving archbishop to have addressed the TUC, in 1997.

Archbishop Welby told delegates that workers were still being oppressed, noting: "The gig economy, zero-hours contracts, is nothing new, it is simply the reincarnation of an ancient evil." He added: "There must be a new unionisation, or there will only be a new victimisation."

Mr McDonnell said: "He is simply



**Homecoming** Josie Russell, 31, who survived a hammer attack in Kent 2 years ago that killed her mother and sister, said in an interview yesterday that she moved with her fiancé to the north of England to start a new life.

fulfilling his responsibility as a religious leader, which is to tell it like it is. He is not taking any party political sides. I welcome and hope his views and ideas will be addressed by all political parties.

Asked whether the archbishop should stay out of politics, Mr McDonnell said: "As that something Jesus did?"

Archbishop Welby said that his own family had "depended very much on the living wage of £7.83 per hour should

Tories blast Welby

British Airways has been named as the most polluting transatlantic airline amid concerns over its reliance on "inefficient" long-haul aircraft such as the jumbo jet.

The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) placed it bottom out of 20 leading airlines, finding BA burnt more fuel per passenger than any of its competitors. The study found it used 22 per cent more than the industry average on routes between North America and Europe. Last year BA burnt 69 per cent more fuel on average than the best carrier, Norwegian.

Researchers criticised BA's over-reliance on "inefficient" aircraft such as the Boeing 747 and the Airbus A380 superjumbo, which are being phased out by many other long-haul carriers.

The ICCT report said that airlines that predominantly used very large aircraft — Lufthansa and British Airways — had the lowest overall fuel efficiency on transatlantic flights. "This is largely because aircraft with four engines have generally higher fuel burn per passenger than those with two," it said.

"This, combined with the fact that fuel is typically the single largest operational expense for airlines, helps explain the industry-wide trend of retiring ageing Boeing 747 aircraft and the sluggish market for the superjumbo

Graeme Paton Transport Correspondent

# Fuel-guzzling jumbos send BA to top of pollution table

plan the industry-wide trend of retiring ageing Boeing 747 aircraft and the sluggish market for the superjumbo Airbus A380. Only British Airways is bucking this trend by wanting to purchase more A380s.

The study was based on an analysis of the number of passenger-kilometres flown for every litre of fuel burnt. It found that Norwegian, which relies on Boeing 787 Dreamliners for transatlantic routes, was the most efficient with 44 passenger-kilometres per litre. This was 33 per cent higher than the industry average. BA recorded 27 passenger-kilometres per litre of fuel.

The figures are skewed by the fact that Norwegian gets more people on to flights than almost any other carrier. A BA spokesman said it had a "greater share of the premium market on the North Atlantic" than other airlines, adding that the number of first and business class seats on each plane was "the main reason its fuel efficiency per passenger appears lower". He added: "We are investing heavily in modern, fuel-efficient aircraft, including the 787, A380 and A350, and by 2020 will have received more than 100 new aircraft in a decade. We are well on course to deliver a 25 per cent improvement in carbon emissions reduction by 2025."

increase to £8.75. He added: "If you earn money from a community, you should pay your share of tax to that community. But when vast companies like Amazon and other online traders [can] get away with paying almost nothing in tax, there is something wrong with the tax system."

An Amazon spokeswoman said: "We pay all taxes required in the UK and every country where we operate."

The archbishop said that poverty can increase "vulnerability to the populism that stirs hatred", warning of the "rise of ancient demons" such as antisemitism, Islamophobia and extremism.

Gavin Ashenden, a former chaplain to Lords reform call, page 26

Homeowners and people with substantial savings should face a one-off "asset tax" of £30,000 when they reach 65 to fund England's care system for the elderly, a think tank has proposed.

Such a charge would raise £7 billion a year and enable care in residential settings and in people's homes to be delivered free, rather than based on a means test as now, the Social Market Foundation said. It argued that it was not fair to force people of working age to pay more tax to fund care for older people, as most younger taxpayers missed out on the property boom that has left others with substantial assets.

The Social Market Foundation said that the charge of £30,000 should be levied on anyone with assets worth more than £150,000 and paid when they turned 65 or deferred until their death. James Kirkup, the foundation's director, said: "The farthest way to fund care is to ask those who have built up valuable assets to put some of that wealth into a system that will protect them and others from the catastrophic lottery of care costs they face today."

Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

# £30,000 asset tax proposed for over-65s

Mr Hanningan said co-operation between the US and Britain still went on at a level below that of the West Wing thanks to the near-seamless links between their intelligence agencies.

Mr Trump is said to have been furious at the State Department's decision to expel 60 Russian spies posing as diplomats, in solidarity with Britain over the Salisbury poisoning, having believed the number would be token. He has stayed silent since the department's announcement of new sanctions on Russia in punishment for that poisoning, as mandated by Congress.

Last night Gordon Brown, the former prime minister, said that Mr Trump's protectionism was the biggest barrier to building international co-operation, and warned that there could be a repeat of the 2008 financial crash because the world had not remedied the causes. He told *The Guardian*: "We are in danger of sleepwalking into a future crisis. There is going to have to be a severe awakening to the escalation of risks but we are in a leaderless world." He said the co-operation seen in 2008 had been replaced by a world in which nationalism was in the ascendant.

Matt Dickler



When the Saturday a done at W ham Hotsp Sports, he motorbike watch Satfo travelling st and chasin seasons. N Football L through, he will get fo given that — as a pun England ( arguing in that the FA