



Revamp your wardrobe (no shopping required)

INSIDE
TIMES2

The Spanish
kisser? He's a
mother's boy
Carol Midgley

Passengers left to sleep on floor amid air traffic control chaos

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

Airlines came under fire last night for failing to provide hotel rooms to stranded passengers as the fallout from the biggest air traffic control meltdown in 20 years continued to cause chaos.

Holidaymakers complained that they had been left to sleep on terminal

floors after their flights were cancelled late on Monday, while fights broke out at some European airports, including Palma de Mallorca, with passengers scrambling to secure beds. A quarter of a million people have had their flights from or to Britain cancelled over the past 48 hours.

Rory Boland, the editor of Which? Travel, said: "Already we're seeing

worrying reports of passengers being left stranded without support, and airlines failing to properly communicate with their passengers or fulfil their legal obligations, such as offering timely rerouting or providing overnight accommodation."

Airlines said that they were block-booking rooms as fast as possible. They added that anyone stranded could book

their own accommodation and would be reimbursed. Under UK and European law, airlines are bound to provide a "duty of care" to their customers when there is disruption. This includes food, drink and overnight accommodation.

However, passengers will not be entitled to compensation because the IT meltdown was the fault of Nats, the

UK's air traffic controller, and not the airlines.

A full investigation by Nats, overseen by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), began yesterday. It will report in "days not weeks", with a copy sent to Mark Harper, the transport secretary.

At least 280 flights were cancelled yesterday, significantly fewer than the **Continued on page 4**

Britain isn't a Christian nation now, say clergy

Survey finds attitudes in church are changing

Kaya Burgess
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Ryan Watts

Britain can no longer be described as a Christian country, three quarters of Church of England priests believe, a survey by The Times has found.

The most wide-ranging poll of front-line Anglican clergy has found a desire for significant changes in teaching on sex, sexuality, marriage and the role of women, to bring the church more into line with public opinion.

It reveals that a majority of Anglican priests want the church to conduct same-sex weddings and drop opposition to premarital and gay sex, in results said by campaigners to be "absolutely huge".

The poll has also uncovered high levels of stress among priests, many of whom feel overstretched amid fears that the church's efforts to arrest the decline in attendance will fail and concerns that this might ultimately lead to the Church of England's "extinction".

The survey analysed responses from almost 1,200 serving priests, the catch-all term for ordained individuals who can celebrate sacraments such as Holy Communion. The respondents mainly included vicars, rectors, curates, chaplains and retired priests who still serve, representing about 6 per cent of all active Church of England clergy.

The first tranche of results reveals:

- A majority of Church of England priests, at 53 per cent, want the church

to start marrying gay couples, with 37 per cent opposing it. This is an almost total reversal of figures from 2014.

- Sixty-three per cent want the church to drop its opposition to premarital sex and 65 per cent its opposition to gay sex.

- More than 80 per cent would support a woman as Archbishop of Canterbury and 63 per cent want an end to the system that allows parishes to reject female priests and bishops.

- Only 15 per cent of priests back the removal of slave trader memorials from church property, but 67 per cent want to see information added to explain links to slavery.

- Thirty-three per cent of working age priests have seriously considered quitting their roles over the past five years, with 40 per cent feeling "overworked or overstretched".

- Sixty-seven per cent of priests think that the church's efforts to stop and reverse the decline in attendance will fail.

Asked whether they thought "Britain can or cannot be described as a Christian country", 24.2 per cent answered: "Yes, Britain can be described as a Christian country today". The proportion of those who said Britain can be called Christian "but only historically, not currently" was 64.2 per cent; 9.2 per cent answered "no".

Figures from the 2021 census showed that the proportion of people identifying as Christian in England and Wales had fallen below half for the first time to 46.2 per cent, with the strongest **Continued on page 2**



OLIVER QUARTLY

Carnival marred by machete violence

A young man with a zombie knife on a street crowded with revellers at the Notting Hill carnival in London. Violence at the two-day festival was the worst for seven years. Ministers are to ban such weapons with sellers facing up to two years in jail. **Page 7**

Scientists pour cold water on beer goggles

Kaya Burgess

The world may seem more rose-tinted after a few pints but "beer goggles" cannot make someone appear more attractive, scientists have found.

When it comes to dating and alcohol, Dutch courage is real but beer goggles are not, researchers say, concluding that booze can give you the confidence to approach someone but does not make them appear better looking.

Scientists studied the role of mild inebriation in courtship, particularly the way people judged appearances and how confident they felt about asking an attractive person out. In the study, at the University of Pittsburgh, 18 pairs of men in their twenties were asked to rate

the looks of people in photographs and videos. They were shown images that tallied with their sexuality.

The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs noted: "The researchers did not find evidence of beer goggles: whether or not participants were intoxicated had no effect on how good looking they found others."

However, after drinking alcohol, the participants were almost twice as likely to say they would like to meet the individuals they rated as attractive. The men had been told they would have the chance to meet some of these people, to ensure they chose only those they were willing to face. The men were invited in pairs to mimic a realistic social situation. In one scenario, the men were given

drinks to take their blood-alcohol level to the drink-driving limit in the US, equivalent to almost two pints of beer in an hour. A 68kg man would have been given 150ml of vodka with cranberry juice, about three double shots, to drink over 36 minutes. In another scenario, they were given a non-alcoholic drink.

Dr Michael Sayette, who led the study with Dr Molly Bowdring, said that alcohol could give men the confidence to approach attractive people in a way that "may be appealing in the short term but possibly harmful in the long term", suggesting they may go on to regret "risky sexual behaviour" while under the influence.

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