



The Archbishop of York's latest book, Dear England, will be published on Thursday 4 March



To launch the book, the Archbishop was in conversation with Adrian Chiles on Wednesday 3 March at 7pm.

You can watch their conversation [here](#)

Tickets to the event were free but people were asked to consider donating to the Archbishop of York Youth Trust. Find out more and donate here: <https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/support-us>

In the book, the Archbishop writes a letter to the country on why the Christian narrative still makes sense today.

'I'm writing this because I want to explain to you why I am a Christian and why I am trying to follow the Christian way ... I am someone who has moved from scepticism to faith ... it has shaped me afresh ... Somewhere and somehow on the pathway of my life, as I had sought to make sense of what it is to be human and what inhabiting this world could mean, I came to reckon that there is a God and that God is the source, the impetus and the pre-condition of everything ... I want to try and show you that it is reasonable to believe.' *Stephen Cottrell*

Inspired by a conversation with a barista who asked him why he became a priest, this is the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell's extended answer to that question - as well as the letter he'd like to write to a divided country that no longer sees the relevance or value of the Christian narrative.

Archbishop Stephen is a much-admired voice within the church, but in this book he writes for a more general audience, and those who might call themselves spiritual seekers - as well as anyone who is concerned about the life and unity of the UK. A short, beautiful book, it is both contemplative and deeply practical, drawing on the Archbishop's desire is to 'commend the Christian faith to those who don't believe and who don't go to church'.

'Why am I writing this letter that thinks it's a book? It is because I believe in God and I want to change the world. But I don't believe in God in quite

the same way as I believe the sky is blue and the sun rises in the east. It is much more like I believe that love is real and that Chopin's nocturnes make me cry. Some things are achingly real, but harder to demonstrate, though dig beneath the surface and we all deal in the common currency of love. And I want to change the world - heart by heart. I cry out for the indignities and privations of the world. I long to see change and I thirst for justice. But I begin with the heart, believing that if my heart can change, then the world can change too. ' *Stephen Cottrell*

## **Praise for Dear England**

'Stephen Cottrell writes about Christ as if He were here now. As if redemption were possible for all of us, as if the void that threatens to engulf us all could be filled by a personal relationship with Christ in the present. He is a compelling writer.'

*Russell Brand*

'A deeply thoughtful exposition of faith's transformative power, Dear England gave me hope, not only for the future of Christianity, but for a changed world too.'

*David Lammy MP*

'In this gentle and accessible book, the Archbishop of York takes the reader by the hand to explore big questions of faith, meaning and belonging. In doing so he explores with clarity and insight the changes we face, refreshing both those of us for whom our faith has become perhaps jaded and tired, as well as those of no faith at all. At the same time he invites us all to think again about our purpose and belief - and in so doing provides a route map for our increasingly uncertain future.'

*Dame Julia Unwin, Chair of Future of Civil Society*

'Here's a refreshing, candid, unabashed and, mercifully, jargon-free letter to all of us. The faith that Stephen Cottrell shares in this book is not shrink-wrapped in the usual churchy clingfilm, but unwrapped and open, exposed to current events, to politics, to the 'thousand natural shocks' we all feel in our daily living; and the faith he commends here is all the more robust, and all the more approachable for that exposure. Dear England will be helpful not only to the half-attracted, half-repelled enquirers to whom it is addressed, but also to all those believers who would like help in giving an account of the hope that is in them.'

*Revd Malcolm Guite, Girton College, Cambridge*

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