



The Catholic Parish of St David and St Patrick Haverfordwest



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Secretary of State for Wales,
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10th December 2015

Re: Conservative Christian Fellowship Lecture.

Dear Rt Hon. Stephen Crabb MP,

I write this brief note to offer you thanks and gratitude in your recent comments at the Christian Fellowship Lecture. And, not only to offer my thanks, but to commend you for allowing your faith to inform your conduct in public life and for having the courage to say so. It is a sad fact that, as our communities are more often and more readily exposed to 'radicalised religion' or, as you put it, 'hard-edged' secularism, so the general image of religion becomes skewed and distorted. Members of the public then (rightly) baulk at religion in the political, moral and social sphere because the image portrayed to them is one of hypocrisy, intolerance and, in some cases, violence.

It is my opinion that if more people were able to give an account of their faith - showing the hope with which it imbues them, the joy which it gives them and the integrity which comes with holding a philosophically honest morality - then we would be in a much better position as a society to tackle all manner of social issues, fostering mutual respect and development. Faith would then be more readily able to inform and be informed by social and political issues. As Pope Benedict XVI said in his address to Politicians at Westminster Hall 5 years ago: "I would suggest that the world of reason and the world of faith - the world of secular rationality and the world of religious belief - need one another and should not be afraid to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue, for the good of our civilization. Religion, in other words, is not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation."

Sir, thank you for contributing so positively to our national conversation and I wish you every blessing in your service to our community as our MP,
I remain yours sincerely,

Fr Liam Bradley
PhB, MA, MEng, STL