

**SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER 2021****SAT 00:00 Midnight News (m001288c)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 00:30 Wintering by Katherine May (m001288f)**

Episode 5

'Some winters happen in the sun,' writes Katherine May. 'This particular one began on a blazing day in early September, a week before my fortieth birthday.' When her husband becomes dangerously ill, it coincides with a moment in May's life when she is facing professional and personal stress and an uncertain future, and it ushers in a period of what she calls 'wintering'. 'Everybody winters at one time or another; some winter over and over again,' she explains. 'Winter is a season in the cold, a fallow period in life when you're cut off from the world, feeling rejected, sidelined, blocked from progress.'

Described by The Observer's reviewer as 'a reading cure' and 'a tale of hard-won celebration', May's book is an honest, reflective, sometimes humorous account of her struggle to deal with her own bad times. She considers the healing power of rest and retreat and the consolations of nature, exploring the many ways in which we experience winter, both seasonal and personal, and offering some strategies for weathering the dark times in the year and our own lives.

Katherine May's other books include The Electricity of Every Living Thing, her memoir of being autistic, and two novels, The Whitstable High Tide Swimming Club and Burning Out. She is the editor of The Best, Most Awful Job, an anthology of essays about motherhood, and her essays and journalism have been widely published in the UK and America. She lives by the sea in Whitstable.

Reader: Melody Grove

Abridged and produced by Sara Davies

**SAT 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m001288h)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**SAT 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m001288k)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**SAT 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m001288m)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**SAT 05:30 News Briefing (m001288p)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0012sm8)**

A reflection and prayer to start the day with Catherine De Souza, Senior Leader of City Church in Cardiff.

Good morning. Next week I'll be watching a filmed recording of my daughter's first school nativity, after the school took the decision not to hold performances with parents attending in person. Earlier this year many of us would have expected this Christmas to be much more normal than last year. Many might reasonably have hoped to return to our familiar Christmas celebrations. But instead, we might now not be sure what to expect.

For lots of people Christmas brings a variety of expectations; some people look forward to celebrations and fun, perhaps waking up excited about the day and hopefully receiving a present that they like. Other people expect to experience sadness and grief as Christmas is a stark reminder of the loved one who is no longer with them to join the celebrations. Still others expect it to be a stressful time when they get to the end of the day worn out after mediating between family members who didn't really want to spend the day together.

We're now in a time of advent which for Christians is a time of anticipation, of expectation. It's a time of preparing our hearts for Jesus. For 1000s of years, God had spoken through the prophets to tell people to expect their messiah, the one who would come to save them. And when this messiah was born, the angel said to the shepherds "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

Whatever we are expecting this Christmas, whatever uncertainty we might be in, we can be confident that Christmas can be a season of great joy because Jesus the Messiah has been born.

God, thank you that in times of uncertainty we know that you are unchanging. Thank you that no matter what we are

expecting this Christmastime, we can expect joy as we celebrate the wonderful news that you are not distant but instead that you came to be God with us, Emmanuel. Amen.

**SAT 05:45 Four Thought (m00127xx)**

Prison Sentence

Philippa Greer discusses the imprisonment of people convicted of genocide.

Philippa is a human rights lawyer who has worked around the world. In this powerful talk she tells the story of a visit to West Africa to prepare for the funeral of a man who had recently died in prison. This man had been convicted of genocide, but Philippa reveals that many such prisoners will eventually be released, and what that suggests to her about the use of prison as a response to the most serious crimes against humanity.

Producer: Patrick Cowling.

**SAT 06:00 News and Papers (m0012fb3)**

The latest news headlines. Including the weather and a look at the papers.

**SAT 06:07 Open Country (m001283g)**

Wizards and steam trains on the West Highland Line

In 'Wizards and Steam Trains on the West Highland Line', folk musician Ingrid Henderson explores the communities and landscapes which influence her life and work. She lives in Glenfinnan, on the shores of Loch Shiel, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard before setting off on his much-romanticised, doomed mission to reclaim the English crown for the Stuarts. But in recent years Charlie has been almost supplanted by a fictional rival - Harry Potter. Thousands of tourists are drawn to the area, eager to see the Jacobite steam train, aka Hogwarts Express, crossing the magnificent Glenfinnan viaduct - an iconic scene in the Potter films.

Ingrid talks to Jacobite historian, Charlie MacFarlane, about this clash of cultures and - up at the viaduct - chats with Harry Potter fans who have travelled from as far afield as China, Brazil and the USA to see the Hogwarts Express. She finds out about the history of the West Highland Railway Line with museum curator, Hege Harnaes, as it celebrates its 120th anniversary and takes the train to the fishing port of Mallaig, at the end of the line. It's her home town, where her musical career started.

Former schoolteacher, Denis Rixson, recalls the heyday of the town's fishing industry and Ingrid describes how the coast and waters of this part of Scotland have inspired some of her work.

Produced by Kathleen Carragher

Photo: Alan Wilson, Friends of Glenfinnan station

**SAT 06:30 Farming Today (m0012fb7)**

11/12/21 Farming Today This Week: Trees felled by Storm Arwen, Defra Secretary on pig crisis, post-Brexit farm payments

A fortnight ago today we were waking up to many reports of fallen trees and extensive damage caused by storm Arwen. Now that it's been possible to assess the extent of that damage, it's clear just how serious it was. In Scotland a fifth of the annual timber harvest was been felled in one go. We hear about the challenge of processing it all at once.

Unless the Government takes action there will be no British pig industry left - that's the latest warning from the National Pig Association which says the crisis on farms is getting worse despite ministers' attempts to alleviate it. It estimates more than 16,000 pigs have now been culled on farms, and says more will follow. But the Defra Secretary George Eustice tells us that he's done all that was asked of him.

There are big changes facing UK farmers over the next few years, with the mammoth task of shifting from one long-standing agricultural policy, the EU's CAP, to four new policies for farm payments across the UK. We look at new systems being planned for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Presented by Caz Graham and produced by Beatrice Fenton.

**SAT 06:57 Weather (m0012fbc)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 07:00 Today (m0012fbh)**

Including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**SAT 09:00 Saturday Live (m0012fbm)**

Brian May

Nikki Bedi and Mobeen Azhar are joined by Brian May, musician and astrophysicist, who played guitar on Buckingham Palace, and with the rock band Queen and is fascinated by stereoscopy AKA 3D.

Also we have: journalist and broadcaster Camilla Tominey on her experiences growing up with her mother who had alcoholism.

Johanna Basford joins us, she worked for years as a commercial illustrator - her work can be found on wallpaper, beer cans and even as tattoos - she had the idea of creating adult colouring books. Her books have since sold 21 million copies and been translated into 28 languages.

and Bear Grylls whose latest project is to encourage adventure. Plus, comedian Mel Giedroyc chooses her Inheritance tracks: Hit me with your rhythm stick by Ian Dury and the Blockheads, and Sit in your lap by Kate Bush. And your Thank you.

Producer: Corinna Jones

**SAT 10:30 Soul Music (m0012fbs)**

U2 - I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For

More gospel than rock, this 1987 hit has inspired great change in people's lives and created memories for music lovers across the world.

Brendan McManus was a corporate high flyer with an inexplicable sense that his life needed to change direction. This song was the tipping point that encouraged him to make a huge decision.

Raghav Prasad writes a music blog about the songs he grew up with as a young man in India. This track takes him back to the 'chummy' where he lived in Bombay (now Mumbai) when he was starting out on what became a globe-trotting career. This song reflects both his continued urge to travel but also how he regards his Hindu faith.

Neil Brand is a musician and broadcaster and a regular Soul Music contributor. He explains that the roots of this track are more gospel than rock.

Pauline Henry was the lead singer of The Chimes. Their version of this track, with Pauline's stirring vocals, not only changed her life but was said to be Bono's favourite interpretation of the song.

Rory Coleman is a world-class athlete and life coach who loves nothing more than to run for hundreds of miles across inhospitable terrain. However, in his 20s, his life was out of control. Something had to change and this song provided inspiration.

Gail Mullin, in Kansas City, describes how much her husband loved U2 and especially this track. Shortly before he died he received a personal letter from Bono explaining what motivated him to write this song.

Scroll down on the Soul Music webpage to the 'related links' box for more info about all the guests.

Produced for BBC Audio in Bristol by Karen Gregor

**SAT 11:00 The Week in Westminster (m0012fbw)**

Financial Times' political editor, George Parker, speaks to former Conservative chief whip, Mark Harper, and Shadow Commons leader, Thangam Debonnaire, about the Prime Minister's difficult week and next week's vote on new Covid restrictions. In what was meant to be the Government's crime week, the former Conservative Lord Chancellor, Ken Clarke, gives his view on the Government's predicament and its new policies on prisons and drugs. Conservative MP, Alicia Kearns, and the Director of the Institute for Government, Bronwen Maddox, debate whether the Foreign Office is fit for purpose following revelations this week about the evacuation of Kabul. And Labour peer, Lord Grocott, discusses his latest attempt to do away with hereditary peers in the House of Lords with Charles Courtenay, the 19th Earl of Devon.

**SAT 11:30 From Our Own Correspondent (m0012fc0)**

Insight, wit and analysis from BBC correspondents, journalists and writers from around the world

**SAT 12:00 News Summary (m0012fc4)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 12:04 Money Box (m0012fc8)**

Pioneer Zopa exits peer-to-peer lending

Sixteen years after it appeared as the first of its kind in the world, Zopa has announced it's leaving the peer-to-peer lending business to focus on banking activities. Peer-to-peer matches

people who want to lend money with individuals or businesses that need it. What will it mean for Zopa investors, borrowers and the wider industry?

A new partnership is set to increase protection for people who are in debt to loan sharks. The collaboration between the Vulnerability Registration Service and the Illegal Money Lending Team will enable utility suppliers, mobile phone firms and other organisations to identify and support more of their vulnerable customers.

A married couple have two full state pensions - but one is much higher than the other. We explain why.

This week Bank of England Deputy Governor Ben Broadbent warned that inflation in the UK will "comfortably exceed 5 percent" by the spring. Rock bottom interest rates on savings accounts are well below that meaning the spending power of money in them will erode over time. So might investing be the way to protect savings against rising inflation?

Presenter: Paul Lewis  
Reporter: Dan Whitworth  
Producer: Charmaine Cozier  
Researcher: Drew Miller Hyndman  
Editor: Emma Rippon

**SAT 12:30 Dead Ringers (m001287t)**  
Christmas Specials 2021

Episode 1

Topical satire as we run up to Christmas. With climate change catastrophe, sleaze in parliament, a continuing pandemic, there will be no shortage of laughs.

With Jon Culshaw, Lewis Macleod, Jan Ravens, Debra Stephenson and Duncan Wisbey.

Written by: Tom Jamieson and Nev Fountain, Ed Amsden and Tom Coles, Laurence Howarth, Edward Tew, Jane McUtcheon and Vivienne Riddoch, Sophie Dickinson, Athena Kugblenu, Rob Darke and Cody Dahler.

Producer: Bill Dare  
Production Coordinator: Caroline Barlow  
A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

**SAT 12:57 Weather (m0012fcf)**  
The latest weather forecast

**SAT 13:00 News and Weather (m0012fcj)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 13:10 Any Questions? (m0012881)**  
Carla Denyer, Ben Goldsmith, Dame Margaret Hodge MP, Lord Willetts

Chris Mason presents political debate and discussion from the Ceres Hall, Devizes, with the co-leader of the Green Party of England and Wales Carla Denyer, the financier and environmentalist Ben Goldsmith, the Labour MP Dame Margaret Hodge and the Chair of the Resolution Foundation and Conservative peer Lord Willetts.  
Producer: Camellia Sinclair  
Lead broadcast engineer: Tim Allen

**SAT 14:00 Any Answers? (m0012fcn)**  
Have your say on the issues discussed on Any Questions?

**SAT 14:45 Drama (m0012g5j)**  
Lola vs Powerman

Lola Versus Powerman and the Moneygoround is an album by the Kinks which was released in 1970 when the band's songwriter, Ray Davies, was in the middle of a legal struggle for the rights to his songs.  
The album's no-holds-barred appraisal of the music industry, including song publishers, unions, the press, accountants, business managers and life on the road was thought to be a tour-de-force achieving success both critically and commercially for the group. Some of Ray Davies' most iconic songs were written for this album, including 'Lola'.

RAY DAVIES and PAUL SIRETT have adapted the album into a brand new drama for BBC Radio 4.

Cast  
SONGWRITER ..... Lee Ross  
LOLA ..... Emma Frankland  
EVERYMAN ..... Ben Norris  
MAMMON ..... Tim McInnery  
SATAN ..... Kyle Soller

LUST ..... Sharon D Clarke  
DAD ..... Harry Myers  
BROTHER/SOUND ENGINEER ..... Carl Prekopp  
MUM/ WIFE ..... Becky Wright

Songs by RAY DAVIES. New versions produced by RAY DAVIES at KONK  
Piano & Organ, Harvey Brough  
Guitar, Bill Shanley  
Sound engineer music, Matt Jaggar

Medley LEE ROSS  
You Still Want Me BEN NORRIS/ CARL PREKOPP  
Get Back In Line HARRY MYERS  
Art School Babe LEE ROSS  
Denmark Street BEN NORRIS/ CARL PREKOPP  
Got To Be Free THE CAST  
Top Of The Pops BEN NORRIS / THE KINKS  
Strangers by DAVE DAVIES\_ BEN NORRIS/ CARL PREKOPP  
This Time Tomorrow BEN NORRIS / EMMA FRANKLAND  
The Good Life TIM McINNERY and The Kinks  
Powerman TIM McINNERY / BEN NORRIS  
Rats by DAVE DAVIES\_ SHARON D CLARKE  
This Time Tomorrow BEN NORRIS  
Look A Little On The Sunny Side EMMA FRANKLAND  
A Long Way From Home HARRY MYERS  
Starstruck EMMA FRANKLAND  
The Moneygoround BEN NORRIS  
Look a Little on the Sunny Side EMMA FRANKLAND  
Lola EMMA FRANKLAND and The Kinks

Producer/director drama Karen Rose  
Sound engineer and designer David Thomas  
Production coordinator Sarah Tombling

**SAT 16:15 Woman's Hour (m0012fcs)**  
Jazz musician Zoe Rahman, IVF regulation, County Lines, Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace

Musician and composer, Zoe Rahman has won a MOBO, a British Jazz Award, and this week Zoe was awarded the 'Impact Award' at the 2021 Ivors Composer Awards.

Julia Chain the chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, made a plea for the 1990 Act governing fertility clinics and practice in this country to be updated. She argues that after 30 years, the science and culture around IVF has changed so much, and that the law needs to catch up.

This week Ministers revealed a 10-year drugs strategy which includes £300m for combating more than 2,000 county lines gangs. Sahira Irshad and Jen Jones are part of Mums United, a group of local mothers fighting against rising gang violence in Sheffield.

23-year-old Vee Kativhu was told Oxford university wasn't for people like her - she proved her teachers wrong by graduating recently from there with a degree in in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. She's now studying International Education Policy at Harvard. Her popular Youtube channel gives out studying tips and she has a new book out - Empowered: Live Your Life with Passion and Purpose.

Last week the government set out how it will improve life for women in the armed forces, in response to the Women in the Armed Forces report which came out in July. It found that service-women who were victims of bullying, harassment, discrimination and serious sexual assault were being 'denied justice' by a 'woefully inadequate' military complaints process. We heard from the Secretary of State for Defence, MP Ben Wallace.

Presenter: Anita Rani  
Producer: Dianne McGregor

**SAT 17:00 PM (m0012fcx)**  
Full coverage of the day's news

**SAT 17:30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson (m0012fd2)**  
The Liz Truss Foreign Secretary One

Nick Robinson talks to the Foreign Secretary Liz Truss about mounting threats abroad, whether she's modelling herself on Mrs Thatcher and why she avoided Christmas parties last year.

**SAT 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m0012fd6)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**SAT 17:57 Weather (m0012fdb)**  
The latest weather reports and forecast

**SAT 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0012fdg)**  
The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 18:15 Loose Ends (m0012fdk)**  
Elvis Costello, Amelia Bullmore, Natasha Bowen, Dan Saladino, Jaz Delorean, Kay Young, George Egg, Clive Anderson

Clive Anderson and George Egg are joined by Elvis Costello, Amelia Bullmore, Natasha Bowen and Dan Saladino for an eclectic mix of conversation, music and comedy. With music from Jaz Delorean and Kay Young.

**SAT 19:00 Profile (m0012fc7)**  
An insight into the character of an influential person making the news headlines

**SAT 19:15 This Cultural Life (m0012fdp)**  
Douglas Stuart

Author Douglas Stuart talks to John Wilson about some of the aspects of his life that inspired him to write his multi award-winning debut novel Shuggie Bain. The book tells the story of a young boy growing up in poverty in Glasgow in the 1980s, and is based on Stuart's own childhood and relationship with his mother who struggled with alcohol addiction. He also discusses his career as a fashion designer and his latest work Young Mungo.

Producer: Edwina Pitman

**SAT 20:00 Archive on 4 (m000kfvf)**  
Poetry For Sale?

Why are so many brands using poets and poems to sell their products now? Does it work? And is it new? Through poems, interviews and archive material, poet and copywriter Rishi Dastidar explores the long relationship between poetry and advertising – from the poets who have worked in advertising and those writing new poems for brands; to the companies which have used classic poems in their marketing; to the language itself and how poetic techniques work on us, and why advertisers might want to use them.

Rishi finds recordings of Clive James, WH Auden, Allen Ginsberg, Fay Weldon and George Orwell in programmes from the BBC Archives. And to bring things up to date, he speaks to: Portland-based Matthew Dickman, author of four collections of poetry and copywriter for some of the biggest ads of the last ten years, for brands such as Nike and Chrysler. To poet Jo Bell (Kith; How to be a Poet), who has written for Nationwide's advertising campaigns; and to Jim Thornton, Deputy Executive Creative Director of advertising agency VCCP, who commissions poets to write for Nationwide's ads. He also speaks to poets Will Harris (Rendang, Mixed-Race Superhero) and Clare Pollard (Incarnation; Editor of Modern Poetry in Translation) about why some poets don't feel comfortable writing for ads.

As copywriter, Rishi Dastidar has written for a wide number of brands including O2 and Barclays. His second poetry collection, Saffron Jack, was published in the UK in 2020 by Nine Arches Press.

Image Credit: Jeremy Deller - More Poetry Is Needed, 2014  
St Mary's Car Park, Swansea - Commissioned by Locwys International for Art Across The City, Swansea, 2014  
Courtesy of The Artist and The Modern Institute/ Toby Webster Ltd., Glasgow  
Photo: Locwys International

Produced by Mair Bosworth

**SAT 21:00 Brief Lives (b04gcdtd)**  
Series 7

Episode 5

Brief Lives by Tom Fry and Sharon Kelly. Ep 5 of 6  
Sarah has always had a difficult relationship with her father, Saul. So matters become complicated when she and her sister Rebecca cross swords over the care of him. And Frank and Cheryl make a momentous decision about their future.

Frank.....David Schofield  
Sarah.....Kathryn Hunt  
Ronnie.....Rachel Austin  
Cheryl.....Mandi Symonds  
Saul.....Stuart Richman  
Rebecca.....Verity May-Henry  
Judge.....Malcolm Raeburn  
Director/Producer Gary Brown

**SAT 21:45 The Poet and the Echo (b09r3y04)**

Hope Is the Thing with Feathers

Writers choose poems as inspiration for new stories.

Episode 5/5

Hope is the Thing with Feathers

A man tries to revive his marriage.

A poignant story inspired by Emily Dickinson's poem about hope stirring, even in the darkest of times. By the poet and short-story writer, Kathryn Simmonds.

Credits

Writer ..... Kathryn Simmonds

Reader ..... Robert Jack

Producer ..... Kirsty Williams

A BBC Scotland Production for BBC Radio 4.

**SAT 22:00 News (m0012fdy)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SAT 22:15 Moral Maze (m00127vn)**

60 Years of the Contraceptive Pill

It's 60 years since the contraceptive pill was made available on the NHS. It has had a revolutionary impact on women's lives and on society. In 1961 women often married at an early age and many were expected to stay at home and raise a family while men went out to work. The ability for women to have control of their own fertility meant they could choose to have children and a career on their own terms. The availability of the pill undoubtedly changed the nature of sexual relationships, even if it was not the single cause of the sexual revolution. While many view sex without the possibility of pregnancy as integral to a woman's moral agency, social conservatives argue that separating sex from reproduction threatens the traditional family unit, which they see as the foundation of a stable society. More recently, there has been a backlash by some women against hormonal contraceptives to try to reclaim autonomy over their bodies. 60 years on, we live in a very different society but can we say we have made progress when it comes to attitudes towards women and sex? Teenage girls report sexual abuse in schools and on social media, while concern is growing among experts about the impact on children of readily-available pornographic images. If this isn't where we hoped we might be, where do we go from here? Where now for women's liberation? Is it time for another sexual revolution? With Dr. Sarah Jarvis, Caroline Farrow, Emma Chan and Louise Perry.

Producer: Dan Tierney.

**SAT 23:00 Quote... Unquote (m00127fz)**

Frank Gardner, Sathnam Sanghera, John Lloyd

The celebrity panel game about quotations, hosted by Nigel Rees, returns with a series celebrating its 500th programme.

This episode features:

- Frank Gardner, BBC Security Correspondent, bestselling author and thriller writer.
- Sathnam Sanghera, writer for The Times, presenter for Channel 4, and author of 'EmpireLand'
- John Lloyd, Quote...Unquote's co-creator and original producer, who went on to create such delights as QI, The News Quiz and Blackadder.

Reader of the Quotations: Charlotte Green

Production Co-Ordinator: Sarah Nicholls

Producer: Ella Watts

Executive Producer: James Robinson

This programme is a BBC Studios Audio production.

**SAT 23:30 Uncanny (m0012g94)**

Case 8: The UFO in the Playground

Danny Robins returns to his investigation into the Todmorden UFO case to assess new evidence that has come in from listeners - and also hears from two compelling new witnesses, one in Wales and one in Africa, who both experienced UFO encounters as children.

Do their experiences shed any light on the ongoing mystery of possible alien contact with humans? Is the truth out there?

Written and presented by Danny Robins

Editor and Sound Designer: Charlie Brandon-King

Music: Evelyn Sykes

Theme Music by Lanterns on the Lake

Produced by Danny Robins and Simon Barnard

A Bafflegab and Uncanny Media production for BBC Radio 4

**SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER 2021****SUN 00:00 Midnight News (m0012ff2)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**SUN 00:15 The Poetry Detective (m0011k22)**

Episode Three

A new series about the poems we carry with us through life. Poems that speak to us so strongly that we return to them in times of confusion or fear... loneliness or joy... love or doubt. Some of us might scribble these words on Post Its and stick them next to the mirror or on the fridge door. Some of us send them to friends or read them at funerals. Some of us mutter them under our breath like a mantra in moments of stress. Some of us ink them permanently into our skin. How much do we know about these words that move us so deeply? What are the stories behind the poems that we carry and that carry us in turn?

The poet Vanessa Kisuule speaks to people about the poems - and bits of poems - that mean the most to them. She finds out why the poems matter, and then unfolds the backstory of the poem itself - who wrote it, what was the context it came out of and how does it work on us?

In this week's episode - poems that offer invitations and make demands.

There is a poem by Rainer Maria Rilke that has always meant a huge amount to the poet Richard Scott - with the stunning last line 'you must change your life'. We speak to Rachel Corbett, author of 'You Must Change Your Life: The Story of Rainer Maria Rilke and Auguste Rodin' about the encounter between poet and sculptor and the huge impact it had on Rilke.

And Dr Altaf Saadi tells us about a Lucille Clifton poem she has carried in her pocket for many years and that has given her strength as a woman of Iranian-Iraqi heritage who came to the US a month before 9/11. A poem that Tara Betts also carries with her - as a tattoo covering her left arm.

Produced in Bristol by Mair Bosworth for BBC Audio

**SUN 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0012ff6)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**SUN 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0012ffb)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**SUN 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0012ffg)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**SUN 05:30 News Briefing (m0012ffi)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 05:43 Bells on Sunday (m0012fdh)**

St Stephen-in-Brannel, Cornwall.

Bells on Sunday comes from the parish church of St Stephen-in-Brannel, Cornwall. The village of St. Stephen lies within the medieval Royal manor of Brannel on the southern edge of Cornwall's China Clay district. Within the church's granite exterior there lies a fine Norman font and two Tudor period aisles. There are eight bells cast by John Taylor of Loughborough in 1909, with a tenor weighing thirteen and a quarter hundredweight tuned to the note of F sharp. We hear them ringing Stedman Triples

**SUN 05:45 Profile (m0012fc7)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

**SUN 06:00 News Summary (m0012fhh)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 06:05 Something Understood (b06nl727)**

New Homes, Strange Lands

Mark Tully explores the pleasures, the pain and the potentials of making your home in a new country, both for those who choose to do so and for those forced to by circumstance.

He talks to Syrian poet, writer and refugee Ghias Aljundi about his experiences of becoming a British citizen and he draws on the work of musicians and writers from all round the world.

who have lived in more than one country.

There are readings from the work of Salman Rushdie, V.S. Naipaul and Gustavo Perez Firmat and music from Hans Gal and Maryam Mursai.

The readers are Samantha Bond, Sam Dastor and Ivan Pilo.

Presenter: Mark Tully

Producer: Frank Stirling

A Unique Broadcasting Company production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 06:35 Natural Histories (b081lk12)**

Raven

Our relationship with ravens can be traced back many thousands of years. According to Norse mythology the god Odin had two ravens named Huginn (meaning 'thought') and Munnin (meaning 'memory'). He would send them out each day to fly around the world and then return to perch on his shoulders and tell him of what they had seen and heard. With its black colouration, croaking calls and diet of carrion, the raven has long been considered a bird of ill omen, but this oversimplifies our relationship with these highly successful birds as Brett Westwood discovers when he eavesdrops on their conversations at night, meets a man who has reared a raven and talks to a scientist who has long been fascinated by their powers of intelligence. Ravens are more like us than you might like to think.

Original producer : Sarah Blunt

Reversion producer : Andrew Dawes

First broadcast in a longer form : 8th November 2016

**SUN 06:57 Weather (m0012fhf)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 07:00 News and Papers (m0012fhh)**

The latest news headlines. Including a look at the papers.

**SUN 07:10 Sunday (m0012fhk)**

A look at the ethical and religious issues of the week

**SUN 07:54 Radio 4 Appeal (m0012fd3)**

Bone Cancer Research Trust

Former bone cancer patient and paracyclist Sally Hurst makes the Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of the charity Bone Cancer Research Trust.

To Give:

- UK Freephone 0800 404 8144

- You can donate online at [bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4](http://bbc.co.uk/appeal/radio4)

- Freepost BBC Radio 4 Appeal. (That's the whole address. Please do not write anything else on the front of the envelope). Mark the back of the envelope 'Bone Cancer Research Trust'. Cheques should be made payable to 'Bone Cancer Research Trust'.

Please note that Freephone and online donations for this charity close at 23.59 on the Saturday after the Appeal is first broadcast. However the Freepost option can be used at any time.

Registered Charity Number: 1159590

**SUN 07:57 Weather (m0012fhn)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 08:00 News and Papers (m0012f9t)**

The latest news headlines. Including a look at the papers.

**SUN 08:10 Sunday Worship (m0012f9w)**

Jazz Carols

A service of jazz carols from Highfields Church, Cardiff, led by the Rev Dave Gobbett.

With reflections and readings, and music from Highfields' own jazz band featuring Matt Featherstone.

Carols include:

O Come All Ye Faithful

See Amid The Winter Snow

The First Nowell

Hark The Herald

**SUN 08:48 A Point of View (m0012883)**

I Read the News Today, Oh Boy

A junk shop, a wooden chest, and some old newspapers from 1941 get Sarah Dunant pondering how we can deal with a world turned upside down.

"The last time the world shook", Sarah writes, "there was an element of learned resilience". But today, she believes, most of us don't have the benefit of that.

Producer: Adele Armstrong

**SUN 08:58 Tweet of the Day (b03dx2qh)**

Pied Wagtail

Tweet of the Day is a series of fascinating stories about our British birds inspired by their calls and songs.

Martin Hughes-Games presents the pied wagtail. In winter, pied wagtails can often be seen roosting in towns and cities in large flocks. By day, pied wagtails are often obvious in fields feeding on insects but they're equally at home on our streets gleaning prey from pavements and road surfaces.

**SUN 09:00 Broadcasting House (m0012f9y)**

The Sunday morning news magazine programme. Presented by Paddy O'Connell

**SUN 10:00 The Archers Omnibus (m0012fb0)**

Writer, Caroline Harrington  
Director, Jeremy Howe  
Editor, Jeremy Howe

Pat Archer ..... Patricia Gallimore  
Tony Archer ..... David Troughton  
Tom Archer ..... William Troughton  
Natasha Archer ..... Mali Harries  
Susan Carter ..... Charlotte Martin  
Eddie Grundy ..... Trevor Harrison  
Ed Grundy ..... Barry Farrimond  
Kirsty Miller ..... Annabelle Dowler  
Johnny Phillips ..... Tom Gibbons  
Fallon Rogers ..... Joanna Van Kampen  
Lynda Snell ..... Carole Boyd  
Hazel Woolley ..... Annette Badland

**SUN 11:00 Desert Island Discs (m0012fb4)**

Jack Thorne, screenwriter

Jack Thorne is a writer who has enjoyed great success with his scripts for the stage, cinema and television, winning five BAFTA awards for his TV work.

His theatre credits include the international hit play Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, which has won major awards in London and New York. For television, his recent successes include his adaptation of His Dark Materials, from the books by Philip Pullman, and The Virtues, co-written with Shane Meadows, and starring Stephen Graham.

Jack was born in Bristol in 1978. His mother was a care worker, and her experiences partly inspired his 2021 TV drama Help, set in a care home during the pandemic.

As a student at Cambridge University, Jack became involved in student drama, but had to halt his studies for a year when he became seriously ill with cholinergic urticaria, which he describes as an extreme form of 'prickly heat... which feels like you're burning from the inside.' While he enjoys better health now, this experience informed his writing, and he has campaigned for more opportunities and better representation for disabled people, on both sides of the camera. In 2021 he gave the MacTaggart Lecture at the Edinburgh Television Festival, in which he argued that TV has failed disabled people.

Presenter Lauren Laverne  
Producer Sarah Taylor

**SUN 11:45 Witness (b01lh96z)**

Water polo and the 1956 Hungarian uprising

In November 1956 the Hungarian uprising against Soviet rule was quickly quashed. Tanks were sent into the capital Budapest and rebels were rounded up. But the Olympics in Melbourne later that month, gave the country's water polo team one last chance to stand up to the USSR. Before his death in April 2012, Hungarian water polo player Ervin Zador, spoke to Witness about the clash which became known as the 'blood in the water match'.

**SUN 12:00 News Summary (m0012fhp)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 12:04 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m00127g7)**

Series 76

Episode 2

The 76th series of Radio 4's multi award-winning 'antidote to panel games' promises more homespun wireless entertainment for the young at heart. This week the programme pays a return visit to the Hexagon Theatre in Reading where Jan Ravens and Omid Djalili are pitched against Tony Hawks and Barry Cryer, with Jack Dee in the chair. At the piano - Colin Sell. Producer - Jon Naismith. It is a BBC Studios production.

**SUN 12:32 The Food Programme (m0012fbg)**

The Meaning of Cod

How did cod become such an important fish in so many different and diverse parts of Europe? In search of the past, present and future of cod, Dan Saladino travels to the west coast of Norway and the Arctic island of Lofoten.

Presented and produced by Dan Saladino.

**SUN 12:57 Weather (m0012fbl)**

The latest weather forecast

**SUN 13:00 The World This Weekend (m0012fbp)**

Radio 4's look at the week's big stories from both home and around the world.

**SUN 13:30 The Listening Project (m0012fbv)**

Behind the bar of Life

Fi Glover presents four conversations between strangers about life in the hospitality industry, two little girls with profound deafness, eco-friendly Christmases and the new Republic of Barbados.

This week: Shumana and Helen chat about working in the hospitality industry and why so many people are leaving; Jennie and Pamela reflect on how their lives have been enhanced by their profoundly deaf daughters; Charlie and Paul on how to have an eco-friendly family Christmas without losing any of the Christmas magic; and British Bajans Peter and Robert talk about the impact Barbados becoming a republic has had on their lives.

The Listening Project is a Radio 4 initiative that offers a snapshot of contemporary Britain in which people across the UK volunteer to have a conversation. The conversations are being gathered across the UK by teams of producers from local and national radio stations who facilitate each encounter. Every conversation lasts up to an hour and is then edited to extract the key moments of connection between the participants. Most of the unedited conversations are being archived by the British Library and used to build up a collection of voices capturing a unique portrait of the UK in this decade of the millennium. You can learn more about The Listening Project by visiting [bbc.co.uk/listeningproject](http://bbc.co.uk/listeningproject)

Producer: Mohini Patel

**SUN 14:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m001287f)**

GQT at Home: Orchid Hunting and Clay Soil Planting

Kathy Clugston hosts the horticultural programme featuring a group of gardening experts, including Anne Swithinbank, Chris Beardshaw, and Christine Walkden, who are on hand to answer the gardening queries of a virtual audience.

This week, the panellists offer up their advice on managing mistletoe, adding lime to soil, and planting for those ever-so British wet conditions.

Beyond the questions, Anne Swithinbank chats to Mike Waller and Sean Cole about hunting for orchids in the wild and Juliet Sargeant joins us from Brighton to tell the tale of her two favourite elm trees.

Producer - Daniel Cocker  
Assistant Producer - Bethany Hocken

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 14:45 A Home of Our Own (m0010giz)**

Clarence Drive, Glasgow

Lynsey Hanley tells the story of Simon who lives in a four bedroom Glasgow tenement.

Every home has a story to tell about the UK's housing crisis. Simon lost his parents at a young age, meaning he had sufficient capital to purchase a property outright when he was just 20 years old. Out of tragic circumstances, Simon has been able to build a secure life and doesn't have the money worries that

many people have to contend with.

Lynsey explores how property ownership has changed Simon's life and outlook, and examines what his experiences tell us about the UK housing market.

Melanie Backe-Hansen looks at the history of Simon's tenement and Professor Paul Cheshire puts his story in context.

Producer: Laurence Grissell

**SUN 15:00 Drama (m0012fbz)**

Howl's Moving Castle

In the land of Ingary, Sophie Hatter is resigning herself to an uninteresting life working in a hat shop, when a castle appears above the town of Market Chipping and refuses to stay still.

Visiting the shop one day, the dreaded Witch of the Waste transforms Sophie into an old crone. Setting off into the countryside to seek her fortune, Sophie soon runs into the sinister moving castle. But the castle belongs to the dreaded Wizard Howl whose appetite, they say, is satisfied only by the souls of young girls.

First published in 1986, Howl's Moving Castle's reputation has grown over time to become recognised as a fantasy classic and, in 2004, it was adapted as an Oscar-nominated animated film by Studio Ghibli.

Cast:

Narrator: Robert Bathurst  
Old Sophie: Julia McKenzie  
Howl: Iwan Rheon  
Michael: Angus Imrie  
Calcifer: Dan Starkey  
Miss Angorian: Gwyneth Keyworth  
The Witch of the Waste: Pippa Bennett-Warner  
Young Sophie: Dakota Blue-Richards  
Neil: Gerran Howell

Written by Robert Valentine  
Based upon the novel by Diana Wynne Jones  
Sound Design: Richard Fox  
Music: Evelyn Sykes  
Directed by Simon Barnard

A Bafflegab production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 16:00 Open Book (m0012fc3)**

Claire Keegan

A seasonal theme of light and darkness, inclusion and exclusion, runs through this edition of Open Book, presented by Chris Power.

Chris interviews the Irish author Claire Keegan about her intensely compassionate new novel, Small Things Like These, set in a small rural town in 1985. Her protagonist, Bill Furlong, a timber- and coal-merchant with five daughters, makes a discovery about what goes on behind the locked doors of the convent which looms above the town - a discovery that will challenge the precarious security of his own household. Claire confesses that she never does any research for her novels, and draws entirely on the power of the imagination, but that she writes as many as 40 drafts before publication. And she explains why it is harder to write about cruelty than kindness.

The actor and author Alan Cumming answers Open Book's returning question, what is the book you would never lend? And, inspired by a new book by Peter Davidson, Chris chairs a discussion with authors Charlotte Mendelson and Andrew Michael Hurley about the motif of the lighted window in art and literature.

Producer: Beaty Rubens

Book List – Sunday 12 December and Thursday 16 December

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan  
Foster by Claire Keegan  
Antarctica by Claire Keegan  
Walk the Blue Fields by Claire Keegan  
The Trick is to Keep Breathing by Janice Galloway  
Baggage: Tales from a Fully Packed Life by Alan Cumming  
The Lighted Window by Peter Davidson  
The Exhibitionist by Charlotte Mendelson  
The Loney by Andrew Michael Hurley  
Starve Acre by Andrew Michael Hurley  
The Haunting Season: Ghostly Tales for Long Winter Knights by Andrew Michael Hurley  
Iliad by Homer  
The Sparsholt Affair by Alan Hollinghurst  
Street Haunting by Virginia Woolf  
Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf  
Wuthering Heights by Charlotte Bronte  
Number 13 by M. R. James

The Wedding Group by Elizabeth Taylor  
Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin  
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame  
Oysters by Anton Chekhov

**SUN 16:30 Packing Up The Family Home (m000mqnl)**

It may be one of the least discussed rites of passage, but is nonetheless loaded with enormous emotional weight - clearing out the family home.

With their dad having recently moved into a care-home and their mum long since passed, Geoff Bird and his siblings set about sorting, sifting and clearing half a century's-worth of stuff.

Among the masses of broken ornaments and faded certificates they also find some forgotten treasures and surprising glimpses into the lives of their parents. Part family-portrait, part meditation on the nature of things and the charge they carry, 'Packing Up The Family Home' serves to remind us of just how far our homes provide the stage upon which so much of the joy and the tragedy of our lives is played out.

**SUN 17:40 Profile (m0012fc7)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Saturday]

**SUN 17:54 Shipping Forecast (m0012fcc)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**SUN 17:57 Weather (m0012fcg)**

The latest weather reports and forecast

**SUN 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0012fcl)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4

**SUN 18:15 Pick of the Week (m0012fcr)**

Julie Hesmondhalgh

The best of BBC Radio this week.

**SUN 19:00 The Archers (m0012fcw)**

Tom receives an unexpected gift and there's another mouth to feed at No.6 The Green.

**SUN 19:15 It's Not What You Know (b09wt185)**

Series 5

Episode 4

What does Russell Kane's think his best personality trait is? What's Fern Britton's party trick and who does Ivo Graham believe is the funniest person he knows?

All these burning questions, and more, will be answered in the show hosted by Joe Lycett, where panellists are tested on how well they know their nearest and dearest.

Produced by Matt Stronge.

It's Not What You Know is a BBC Studios production.

**SUN 19:45 Gambits (m0012fd0)**

7: Sacrifice

The next in a dazzling new short story series set in Little Purlington - a seemingly ordinary English village, but which is anything but. Today, in 'The Rook', a woman living secretly in the local folly finds herself under suspicion for the strange happenings in the village...

Today, we learn why chess tutor Mary finally returned to the village - and what led her to leave...

Reader: Jasmine Hyde

Writer: Eley Williams is the author of *Attrib.* and *Other Stories*, and a debut novel, *The Liar's Dictionary*.

Producer: Justine Willett

**SUN 20:00 Feedback (m001287k)**

The audience for the BBC World Service is booming but misinformation and conspiracy theories are flourishing as well.

Roger Bolton talks to the outgoing Controller of BBC World Service English, Mary Hockaday, about those concerns and the increasing threats to the lives of journalists.

And Jane Garvey explains how she extracts such frank and intimate revelations in her *Life Changing* series, which includes a former nun describing how she learned about sex at 60.

The Out of Your Comfort Zone listeners assess a 5 Live

podcast and series presented by husband-and-wife team, Greg James and Bella Mackie, about love and marriage.

Presenter: Roger Bolton  
Producer: Kate Dixon  
Executive Producer: Samir Shah

A Juniper Connect production for BBC Radio 4

**SUN 20:30 Last Word (m001287h)**

Sir Antony Sher (pictured), Roger Phillips, Judy Totton

Matthew Bannister on

Sir Antony Sher, one of the finest actors of his generation, who was also a writer and a painter. We have a heartfelt personal tribute from his husband, the Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company Gregory Doran.

Roger Phillips, the colourful plant photographer who produced many authoritative books on wild flowers, trees and plants but was perhaps best known for his work on mushrooms.

Judy Totton, the music business publicist who worked with clients like Status Quo, Toyah Willcox and the Great Train robber Ronnie Biggs. Her friend Joan Armatrading pays tribute.

Producer: Neil George

Interviewed guest: Gregory Doran  
Interviewed guest: Martyn Rix  
Interviewed guest: Lyla Foy  
Interviewed guest: Joan Armatrading  
Interviewed guest: John Taylor

Archive clips used: Opus Arte, King Lear - Royal Shakespeare Company 2017; BBC Radio 3, Free Thinking - Antony Sher 06/05/2015; Illuminations Media, Macbeth - Royal Shakespeare Company 2003; Roger Phillips' YouTube Channel, Wild Food Forager: Foraging for Morel Mushrooms in the Forest 24/05/2019; YouTube: Happy Tibet, Tibetan Prayer Dechen Monlam 26/10/2017.

**SUN 21:00 Money Box (m0012fc8)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 on Saturday]

**SUN 21:25 Radio 4 Appeal (m0012fd3)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 today]

**SUN 21:30 Rutherford and Fry on Living with AI (m0012g12)**

AI in Warfare

What if a despotic leader could programme a swarm of drones to kill a set of identified targets with just the push of a button? Due to ever expanding AI capabilities this extreme dystopian vision may not be technically unfeasible. In this second of a four part series responding to this year's BBC Reith lectures from Stuart Russell, Adam Rutherford and Hannah Fry unpick the role of AI in warfare.

Joining them to help them navigate the battlefield of information is Ulrike Franke, a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations who specialises in the future of warfare.

Together they will be investigating 'lethal autonomous weapons' - these are weapons that can find, choose and kill human targets without human supervision. We will be discussing how advanced this technology actually is - some think the world may have already experienced the first ever autonomous strike in Libya. What are the repercussions of this technology for safety on the battlefield, and what are the wider geo-political ramifications?

Stuart Russell has deep concerns over the development of these types of weapons and Rutherford and Fry pick apart some of the ethical debates this technology raises. Who would be responsible if a system malfunctioned and killed a civilian? What's to stop it getting into the wrong hands? Should we even be creating these weapons in the first place - do we instead need a convention banning them? And is that even possible?

**SUN 22:00 Westminster Hour (m0012fd7)**

Radio 4's Sunday night political discussion programme.

**SUN 23:00 Think with Pinker (m0012831)**

Don't expect a zebra

Why medical students are advised - if you hear hoofbeats behind you, don't expect to see a zebra. In his guide to thinking better, Professor Steven Pinker explores Bayesian reasoning.

Steven is joined by Talitha Williams, professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College and author of 'Power in Numbers The Rebel Women of Mathematics', and by Siddhartha Mukherjee, professor of medicine at Columbia University and the author of the Pulitzer Prize winning 'The Emperor of All Maladies A Biography of Cancer'

Together they'll help you evaluate ideas, recalibrate your credences and maybe even think a little better.

Producers: Imogen Walford and Joe Kent  
Editor: Emma Rippon

Think with Pinker is produced in partnership with The Open University.

**SUN 23:30 Something Understood (b06nl727)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 06:05 today]

**MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2021****MON 00:00 Midnight News (m0012fdc)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 00:15 Sideways (m00127v4)**

22. Inspiring Bill Strickland

Back in the 1960s, Bill Strickland was a listless teenager but life as he knew it was about to change forever.

One afternoon, while skipping class, something caught his eye - the door to one of the art rooms was ajar and he could hear the whirring of a potter's wheel. Stopping a moment to take a look, Bill beheld a sight that would change the course of his life. At the wheel was a ceramics teacher, Mr Frank Ross, spinning a lump of clay into a beautiful bowl. He was witnessing a profound metaphor - he could make his life into something beautiful as Mr Ross made bowls from clay.

Mr Ross had lit a fuse within Bill. He went onto university and eventually set up the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, an afterschool arts programme in his neighbourhood of North Side, Pittsburgh. The programme is designed to intercept the often difficult lives of teenagers in the area, to put them on a path toward a positive future with the help of inspirational teachers.

And it works. Thousands of kids come through the programme each year and Bill's work has been recognised by the White House, among others.

Matthew Syed explores how teachers have the power to transform the world, one student at a time. It's a big responsibility taken seriously by the likes of history teacher Shalina Patel. Shalina goes beyond the textbooks to engage her students.

Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore explains why adolescence is such a formative time in terms of brain development and suggests we reconsider the way we talk about and teach teenagers.

Presenter: Matthew Syed  
Producer: Claire Crofton  
Series Editor: Katherine Godfrey  
Music, Sound Design & Mix: Rob Speight  
Theme music by Ioana Selaru  
A Novel production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 00:45 Bells on Sunday (m0012fdh)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 05:43 on Sunday]

**MON 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0012fdm)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**MON 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0012fd5)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**MON 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0012fdx)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**MON 05:30 News Briefing (m0012ff1)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**MON 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0012ff4)**

A reflection and prayer to start the day with Catherine De Souza, Senior Leader of City Church in Cardiff.

Good morning. Yesterday my 4-year-old daughter was in our church's nativity playing a sheep. She loved practising her lines in the run up to the performance - there was a bit of artistic licence in the play in that the sheep were able to talk and sing and dance! The children were all very sweet, but of course the depiction of cute and cuddly sheep and shepherds is quite different to the reality of shepherds in Jesus' day.

The shepherds in the familiar Christmas story were living out in the fields, they were watching their sheep and protecting them against predators. These were people living outdoors, ready to ward off wild animals or thieves. At that time, shepherds were low on the social ladder. They were on the margins of society and the religious leaders of the time looked down upon them, deeming them dishonest and untrustworthy. It seems they weren't even allowed to give testimony in law courts.

These shepherds that heard the news about the birth of Jesus were living outside of the town and keeping themselves to themselves. But then the angel came to announce the birth of the Saviour, not to the most educated, or the richest, or the most powerful, but to the shepherds! In that act God reframed the shepherds' identity. These people who were looked down upon were now given worth.

Perhaps this Christmastime as we see depictions in crib scenes or children's nativity plays, we might remember as we see the shepherds that God can transform identities, as He chooses those who others might routinely overlook.

God, thank you that you chose to share the most wonderful news with the most unlikely people. Thank you that you raise up those who are looked down upon, and give worth to the lowly. Help each one of us to know the beauty of being identified and transformed by you. Amen.

#### **MON 05:45 Farming Today (m0012ff9)**

13/12/21 - The soil 'postcode lottery', post-Covid cheese sales

Soil scientists at Rothamsted Research are calling for a national strategy for managing soils to maximise carbon capture. They've raised concerns that payments under the newly announced Sustainable Farming Incentive - which will reward farmers in England for working to improve their soils - could create something of a postcode lottery, as some soils are able to sequester more carbon than others.

Specialist cheese makers are seeing a marked increase in interest from consumers in the wake of COVID. During the first lockdown, many cheese makers saw sales crash, with restaurants shut and supermarket deli counters closed down. But we hear how online sales grew, and have remained high since then.

Presented by Caz Graham

Produced for BBC Audio in Bristol by Heather Simons

#### **MON 05:56 Weather (m0012fff)**

The latest weather forecast for farmers.

#### **MON 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b08twh2)**

Neil Anderson on the Golden Eagle

Wildlife cameraman Neil Anderson describes hiking and abseiling on a cliff-side in the Scottish Highlands to track down a golden eagle nest for Tweet of the Day.

Producer Tom Bonnett.

#### **MON 06:00 Today (m0012fhr)**

News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

#### **MON 09:00 Start the Week (m0012fht)**

Living in the Matrix

What if virtual worlds become indistinguishable from the real one? In 1999 the science fiction film, *The Matrix*, depicted a dystopian future in which people are unknowingly trapped inside a simulated reality, run by intelligent machines. As the fourth film, *The Matrix Resurrections*, is about to be released, the writer Naomi Alderman considers the influence this movie franchise has had in the last two decades, and how far virtual reality has become part of everyday life.

The philosopher, David J Chalmers, proposes that the Matrix scenario could be the future, but that rather than trapped, humanity can lead a meaningful life in virtual reality. Chalmers is one of the leading thinkers on consciousness. In his latest book, *Reality+* he provocatively argues that VR is not escapism. And that we may even be living in a computer simulation already – and if that is true, it's not so bad.

Philippa Garety is Professor of Clinical Psychology at Kings

College London and has been at the forefront of treatments for problems associated with psychosis, including hearing voices and hallucinations. She is currently working on innovative treatments using digital technology, including avatars and virtual reality, to alleviate suffering. In a clinical setting VR can be managed as a safe environment for patients who struggle in the real world, as a place they can confront and understand their delusions.

Producer: Katy Hickman

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Caption: (L-r) CARRIE-ANNE MOSS as Trinity and KEANU REEVES as Neo/Thomas Anderson in Warner Bros. Pictures, Village Roadshow Pictures and Venus Castina Productions' "THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

#### **MON 09:45 On Seamus Heaney by Roy Foster (m0012fhw)**

Episode 1

A vivid and enlightening account of one of the 20th century's greatest poets. From rural childhood in County Derry to global prominence and a Nobel prize, Seamus Heaney's work is placed in the context of his life, country and beyond.

Heaney's career as an educator takes off and his first poems are published, as tensions in Ulster rise.

Read by Adrian Dunbar

Written by R F Foster

Abridged by Anna Magnusson

Producer: Eilidh McCreadie

#### **MON 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0012fhz)**

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

#### **MON 11:00 The Untold (m0012fj1)**

Preparing for the President

The staff of Cornwall Airport Newquay prepare to receive President Biden and other world leaders for the G7 summit in June.

The stakes couldn't be higher for airport boss Pete Downes. This is President Biden's first foreign trip since taking office and receiving a huge aircraft like Air Force One presents a big challenge for this tiny airport.

Preparations begin months in advance. Pete and his team must oversee the construction of a whole new parking area for the world leaders' aircraft, as well as a brand new building. Then they must seamlessly coordinate the arrival and departure of scores of aircraft carrying prime ministers, presidents and their entourages.

For a weekend, the eyes of the world will be on Cornwall. Should anything go wrong, the team know it will be international news.

Producer: Laurence Grissell

#### **MON 11:30 Loose Ends (m0012fdk)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 18:15 on Saturday]

#### **MON 12:00 News Summary (m0012fj4)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

#### **MON 12:04 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012fj6)**

Episode 1

It is 1985, in an Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal and timber merchant, faces into his busiest season. As he does the rounds, he feels the past rising up to meet him — and encounters the complicit silences of a people controlled by the Church.

The long-awaited new work from the internationally bestselling author of 'Foster', 'Small Things Like These' is an unforgettable story of hope, quiet heroism and tenderness.

The Author

Claire Keegan was born and grew up on a farm in Wicklow, Ireland. Her first collection of short stories 'Antarctica' was awarded the Rooney Prize for Literature. Her second short story collection 'Walk the Blue Fields' won the 2008 Edge Hill Prize for Short Stories. In 2021, the Ireland Francophonie Ambassadors' Literary Award was awarded to the French translation of 'Small Things Like These'.

Reader: Don Wycherley

Writer: Claire Keegan  
Abridger: Doreen Estall  
Producer: Michael Shannon  
Exec Editor: Andy Martin  
A BBC Northern Ireland production.

#### **MON 12:18 You and Yours (m0012fj9)**

News and discussion of consumer affairs

#### **MON 12:57 Weather (m0012fjc)**

The latest weather forecast

#### **MON 13:00 World at One (m0012fjf)**

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment, with Sarah Montague.

#### **MON 13:45 The Hackers (m0012fjh)**

Series 1

Phreaks

Biella explores the earliest hacking subculture - The Phone Phreaks - an entire subculture that learned to manipulate the phone system with plastic whistles and tone generating blue boxes, and played a part in birthing the modern digital world. She talks with Phil Lapsley, author of 'Exploding the Phone' and a UK hacker who was one of the last generation of traditional phone phreaks about the joy and the risks of the earliest type of hacking.

#### **MON 14:00 The Archers (m0012fcw)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Sunday]

#### **MON 14:15 Faith, Hope and Glory (m0012fjm)**

Series 2

Hope and Jim

by Roy Williams

1953. Hope and Jim have attempted to make a life together in Britain since the loss of their baby, Eunice, 7 years earlier, but Jim's infidelities have reached a point that not even Hope can ignore.

Hope ..... Danielle Vitalis  
Jim ..... Martins Imhangbe  
Celia ..... Shanika Warren Markland  
Garrison ..... Justice Ritchie  
Lizzy ..... Grace Cooper Milton  
Earl .... Chris Jack  
Vincent ..... Neil McCaul  
Sallow ..... Roger Ringrose  
Clement ..... Stefan Adegbola  
Matron ..... Christine Kavanagh  
Mrs Greene ..... Jasmine Hyde  
Sheila ..... Leilana Bermudez  
Baby Eunice ..... Olantra Worrell

Directed by Sally Avens

Radio 4 has commissioned Faith Hope and Glory an ambitious new series telling brilliant intimate domestic stories that together illuminate the emergence of modern Britain. Series 2 is set in 1953 the year of the Coronation, the publication of the Kinsey Report on female sexual behaviour and the sinking of the Princess Victoria passenger ferry with the loss of 133 lives.

In Series 1 we met Hope and Eunice friends from Antigua who came over to London, following Hope's husband Jim. In 1946, Hope and Jim had a baby that they named after Eunice, but when Jim was unable to hold down a job, and Hope had to work full time, they asked Eunice who was not enjoying life in Britain, to take the baby back to Antigua to Hope's family.

At Tilbury Docks Eunice was tempted into a bar when she heard music and left the pram outside, when she returned the baby was gone. After a futile search for the baby, and too ashamed to admit what she had done, Eunice fled to Cardiff where she changed her name to Faith and started a new life with Trevor a dockworker and musician.

Hope and Jim believe both the baby and Eunice to be dead as the boat they were to sail on was lost at sea.

In fact the baby was found by Gloria and Clement, a childless celibate couple, who decided to bypass any adoption procedures, raise her as their own and call her Joy.

Joy's life spans the entire series, up to the present day.

The writers are Roy Williams, Winsome Pinnock and Rex Obano

The cast includes Shiloh Coke as Faith, Danielle Vitalis as Hope, and Pippa Bennett Warner as Gloria, together with Gary

Beadle as Trevor, Martins Imhangbe as Jim and Stefan Adegbola as Clement.

**MON 15:00 Quote... Unquote (m0012fjp)**  
Helen MacDonald, Salena Godden, Nick Robinson

The celebrity panel game about quotations, hosted by Nigel Rees, returns with a series celebrating its 500th programme.

This episode features:

- Helen MacDonald, naturalist and author of "H is for Hawk"
- Salena Godden, acclaimed performance poet, author and novelist
- Nick Robinson, host of the Today programme and former political editor of BBC News and ITV News

Reader of the Quotations: Charlotte Green  
Production Co-Ordinator: Sarah Nicholls  
Producer: Ella Watts  
Executive Producer: James Robinson

This programme is a BBC Studios Audio production.

**MON 15:30 The Food Programme (m0012fbg)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 12:32 on Sunday]

**MON 16:00 The Exploding Library (m001282m)**  
Mother Night, by Kurt Vonnegut

In this new literature series, a trio of comedians explode and unravel their most cherished cult books, paying homage to the tone and style of the original text - and blurring and warping the lines between fact and fiction.

"We are what we pretend to be. So we must be careful about what we pretend to be."

So reads the warning at the beginning of the novel Mother Night, in an author's introduction written by Kurt Vonnegut himself. Yet in this world of unreliable narrators, editor's "corrections" and weirdly omniscient first-person testimony, nothing is really what it seems.

Purportedly the "confessions of Howard J. Campbell Jr", an American expat-turned Nazi propagandist-turned Allied spy (allegedly), Vonnegut's warped collection of bizarre characters and slippery narratives invite us to cast aside our black and white notions of morals and guilt and survey the gazillions of greys in between.

Comedian Daliso Chavonda considers the strange world of people playing versions of themselves in public - comedians, spies, politicians and, to an extent, all of us. How do you deal with people perceiving you differently to your "real" self? And, for that matter, how do you know who you "really" are?

Presenter: Daliso Chavonda  
Producer: Steven Rajam  
An Overcoat Media production for BBC Radio 4

**MON 16:30 Beyond Belief (m0012fjs)**  
Boxing

Straight after Oleksandr Usyk dethroned Anthony Joshua on points in a boxing masterclass in London, the new world heavyweight champion told a crowd of 65,000 that: "The only thing I wanted to do with this fight is to give praise to Jesus Christ."

A fortnight later, the world's other heavyweight champion, Tyson Fury proclaimed to a global audience of 920,000 that Jesus helped him knock out Deontay Wilder to retain his title.

Why have boxing and Christianity become so deeply embedded in each other's corners? Ernie Rae goes toe to toe with the theology behind the punches with stories of some of the sport's biggest names and those at its grassroots today.

How do Christians in the fight game reconcile love thy neighbour with delivering knockouts? Especially when we know much more about the long term brain damage boxers are exposed to.

To answer these questions and more, Ernie is joined by:

Pastor Lorraine Jones, Chief Executive Officer and founder of Dwayneamics, a boxing gym in Brixton.

Amy Koehlinger, Associate Professor of History and Religious Studies at Oregon State University and author of the upcoming Rosaries and Rope Burns: Boxing and Manhood in American Catholicism from 1880 to 1970.

Gordon Marino, former boxer who covered the sport for the Wall Street Journal and HBO. A boxing trainer with 30 years'

experience, professor of Philosophy at St Olaf College, Minnesota and author of The Existentialist's Survival Guide: How to Live Authentically in an Inauthentic Age.

Plus, as he prepares for his next fight, boxer, Jazza Dickens tells Ernie precisely why he believes God "strengthens his hands" whilst keeping him and his opponent safe no matter what he does in the squared circle.

Producer: Julian Paszkiewicz  
Editor: Helen Grady

**MON 17:00 PM (m0012fjv)**

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

**MON 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0012fjx)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**MON 18:30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue (m0012g7c)**  
Series 76

Episode 3

The godfather of all panel shows pays a visit to Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre. Marcus Brigstocke and Rory Bremner are pitched against Pippa Evans and Andy Hamilton with Jack Dee in the umpire's chair. Colin Sell accompanies on the piano. Producer - Jon Naismith. It is a BBC Studios production.

**MON 19:00 The Archers (m0012fjz)**

Mia's making a bold statement while Stella shows a firm but fair hand.

**MON 19:15 Front Row (m0012fk1)**

Live magazine programme on the worlds of arts, literature, film, media and music

**MON 20:00 The Army Girls (m0012fk3)**

80 years after female conscription, the final few tell their extraordinary World War Two stories as part of the ATS. By war's end, 290,000 women of all backgrounds had served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. It may have had a less glamorous image than its naval and air force counterparts but the ATS was by far the biggest military service for women. Initially the ATS had a reputation for dull demeaning work. That changed in 1941. In December of that year, for the first time in British history, young single women had to join Britain's war effort. Their choice of jobs expanded dramatically. Dr Tessa Dunlop unpacks some of the controversies that accompanied putting girls, en masse, into military uniform. With a rich cast of veterans she examines the impact and legacy of Britain's female army. Class, comrades, conflict, loss, love, work - for a generation of young women military service was life-changing.

Presenter: Dr. Tessa Dunlop  
Producer: John Murphy

Archive in the programme from BFI National Archive and British Pathe

**MON 20:30 Crossing Continents (m001282k)**

Poland's Fractured Borderlands

Thousands of people - mostly migrants from the Middle East - are camped in freezing weather at the Poland-Belarus border. Many have spent thousands of dollars to fly into Belarus on tourist visas, with the hope of an easy crossing into the EU. They're pawns, trapped in a battle of wills between Belarus' autocratic president, Aleksandr Lukashenko, and Poland and the European Union. The Polish government is taking a tough line, imposing an exclusion zone along the border and sealing off the area to journalists and aid workers. Migrants caught in the forest are arrested and sent back to Belarus. Several, including two children, have died from the cold and more deaths are expected as winter sets in. Meanwhile local residents are divided about how to deal with the humanitarian disaster unfolding on their doorstep. For Crossing Continents, Lucy Ash visits towns and villages in the area to see what impact the crisis is having on people's lives.

Reporter: Lucy Ash  
Produced by: Lucy Ash and Eva Krysiak  
Editor: Bridget Harney  
Research: Grzegorz Sokol

(Image: Polish volunteers provide relief to injured migrants stranded in the icy forest. Credit: Agnieszka Sadowska / Agencja Wyborcza.pl)

**MON 21:00 Wild Inside (m00127y3)**

Jungle royalty - the Jaguar

Wild Inside embarks on something we hardly ever witness - a look inside some of nature's most wondrous animals. It's a rare chance to delve deep into some enigmatic and very different wild animals - from a reptile, to a mammal to a fish - unravelling the intricate internal complexity inside three of the most amazing animals ever to evolve. What makes the ultimate predator? What are the keys to successful survival in an ever-changing environment? Whilst we've gained a lot by observing their behaviour from the outside, to truly understand these animals, we need to look at what's on the inside too.

Ben Garrod, Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Science Engagement at the University of East Anglia, together with friend and expert veterinary surgeon Dr Jess French, open up and investigate what makes each of these animals unique. During each animal post mortem, they're joined by experts in comparative anatomy, evolution and behaviour as they put these enigmatic animals under the knife. Along the way they reveal some unique adaptations which give each species a leg (or claw) up in surviving in the big wild world.

The series begins with one of the truly exotic loaners of the cat family - which at just over two metres long, covered with beautiful gold and black rosette markings, is pure jungle royalty - the greatest of the South American big cats - the Jaguar

Part 2: One of the largest predatory reptiles - the Burmese Python whose extraordinary singular body plan has enabled nearly 4000 species of snakes to succeed in inhabiting nearly every part of the planet.

Part 3 : The largest bony fish you might never have heard of - the bizarre looking Oceanic Sunfish which is being spotted increasingly in UK waters

Presenters: Prof Ben Garrod, Dr Jess French  
Producer: Adrian Washbourne

**MON 21:30 Start the Week (m0012fht)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**MON 22:00 The World Tonight (m0012fk6)**

In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

**MON 22:45 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012fj6)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 today]

**MON 23:00 Wireless Nights (m0012fk8)**

Series 7

On The Edge

Jarvis goes into hospital for a routine procedure, and the anaesthetic gives him some very strange nocturnal visions.

As Dr Ed Patrick administers the anaesthetic, Jarvis is transported far, far away. One moment he's on a Scottish lighthouse at midnight with artist and writer Peter Hill, who spent time as a lighthouse keeper in the 1970s.

Then, in the blink of an eye, he's in a blizzard in the far north of Norway with Sunniva Sorby and Hilde Fåln Strøm, who became the first women in history to overwinter solo in the Arctic.

The visions just keep coming as ice turns to fire, and Jarvis finds himself on the top of a mountain watching forest fires burn through the night with author Philip Connors who spends half of every year as a fire lookout high up in the mountains of New Mexico.

In a night of vivid encounters, everyone Jarvis meets has stepped away from their every day lives, to live life on the edge.

Doctor and comedian Ed Patrick is the author of 'Catch Your Breath: The Secret Life of a Sleepless Anaesthetist' Peter Hill is the author of 'Stargazing: Memoirs of a Young Lighthouse Keeper' Philip Connors is the author of 'Fire Season: Field notes from a wilderness lookout'. Details of the work of Sunniva Sorby and Hilde Fåln Strøm are at heartsintheice.com

Producer: Laurence Grissell

**MON 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0012fkb)**

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament.

**TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2021****TUE 00:00 Midnight News (m0012fkd)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**TUE 00:30 On Seamus Heaney by Roy Foster (m0012fhw)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 on Monday]**TUE 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0012fkg)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**TUE 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0012fkj)**

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**TUE 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0012fkl)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**TUE 05:30 News Briefing (m0012fkn)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**TUE 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0012fkq)**

A reflection and prayer to start the day with Catherine De Souza, Senior Leader of City Church in Cardiff.

Good morning. Many of us find waiting difficult, whether it's standing in queues or sitting in traffic; whether it's waiting for results or waiting for an answer, waiting isn't usually something we enjoy. And in fact we live in a society of quick fixes where fad diets are preferred over healthy eating plans and millions play the lottery hoping to become rich overnight.

If we want to see how much quick fixes are prized we need only look at how popular TV talent shows are and reality TV programmes. Our culture loves the 'overnight success' story – little work for maximum outcome. But this isn't a completely new phenomenon.

Take The Beatles, whose 'Let It Be' album is now back in the Top 40 – they are supposedly one of Britain's most famous 'overnight successes'. They were often described as having 'burst' onto the scene, as if their fame and success happened all of a sudden. But it didn't; they went through a number of names including: the Blackjacks, the Quarrymen, Johnny and the Moon Dogs, before they settled on The Beatles. They had other band members, including various drummers before finally settling on Ringo Starr. And they did hundreds of gigs in tiny venues, spending two years in Germany doing as many gigs as they could get bookings for. So they were an overnight success – that was years of hard work in the making!

When we look at timings in light of a lifetime, or even in light of eternity it can help us to get perspective. That even in the waiting we can know that God's timing is perfect. He's never too early or too late and even when we're waiting for an answer to our prayers, we can know God's presence with us in the waiting.

God, even though waiting can be hard, thank you that you are with us in our waiting. Help us to enlarge our perspective and to be confident that your timing is perfect. Amen.

**TUE 05:45 Farming Today (m0012fks)**

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

**TUE 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b09plntm)**

Tony Juniper on the Corn Bunting

Environmentalist Tony Juniper recalls his delight at seeing a Corn Bunting; a bird whose song was part of his childhood, before the population declined mainly as a result of changes in farming practices but is responding and returning to areas where insects and seeds are plentiful.

Tweet of the Day has captivated the Radio 4 audience with its daily 90 seconds of birdsong. But what of the listener to this avian chorus? In this new series of Tweet of the Day, we bring to the airwaves the conversational voices of those who listen to and are inspired by birds. Building on the previous series, a more informal approach to learning alongside a renewed emphasis on encounter with nature and reflection in our relationship with the natural world.

Producer: Sarah Blunt  
Photograph: Nick Brown.

**TUE 06:00 Today (m0012fs6)**

News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**TUE 09:00 Things Fell Apart (m0012fs8)**

6. Many Different Lives

This story is about how the unique experiences of a little girl growing up unconventionally in America in the 1970s seismically changed the face of feminism in the 90s and beyond. It's a story too about the invention of a word - one that's contributed to a ferocious schism in the British culture wars.

Written and presented by Jon Ronson

Produced by Sarah Shebbare

Original music by Phil Channell

**TUE 09:30 Four Thought (m0012fsb)**

Painting a different history

Tara Munroe reveals what she learned when she rescued some badly damaged paintings which were due to be thrown out.

Tara is an arts curator and researcher. Ten years ago she found a pile of paintings marked with the words 'for disposal'. She was immediately intrigued, and as she began to research them, she became more and more drawn into their story, and how it connected with her own history. Now, a decade on, she is hoping to return them to the gallery walls, where they belong.

Producer: Patrick Cowling.

**TUE 09:45 On Seamus Heaney by Roy Foster (m0012fsd)**

Episode 2

A vivid and enlightening account of one of the 20th century's greatest poets. From rural childhood in County Derry to global prominence and a Nobel prize, Seamus Heaney's work is placed in the context of his life, country and beyond.

In California for a year of teaching, Seamus finds distance from home affords a new perspective on Ulster.

Read by Adrian Dunbar

Written by R F Foster

Abridged by Anna Magnusson

Producer: Eilidh McCreadie

**TUE 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0012fsg)**

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

**TUE 11:00 Wild Inside (m0012gym)**

The Burmese Python

Ben Garrod and Jess French delve deep inside the predatory Burmese python to examine its extraordinary body plan that enables it to catch, constrict and consume huge prey whole.

Producer Adrian Washbourne

**TUE 11:30 Moving Pictures (m0012fsj)**

April by Francesco del Cossa

Cathy FitzGerald invites you to discover new details in old masterpieces, using your phone, tablet or computer.

Each thirty minute episode of Moving Pictures is devoted to a single artwork - and you're invited to look as well as listen, by following a link to a high-resolution image made by Google Arts & Culture. Zoom in and you can see the pores of the canvas, the sweep of individual brushstrokes, the shimmer of pointillist dots.

This episode takes a closer look at a fresco by Francesco del Cossa that adorns the wall in the Palazzo Schifanoia in Ferrara. The fresco takes us from the realm of the gods - a garden of love presided over by Venus - to the city far below, where the region's ruler, Borso d'Este, shows off both his magnanimity and his elegant pinstripes. We meet the court jester, go to the races, and discover why Renaissance princes liked to shimmer.

To see the high-resolution image, visit [www.bbc.co.uk/movingpictures](http://www.bbc.co.uk/movingpictures) and follow the link to explore April.

Interviewees: Carol Plazzotta, Ita Mac Carthy, Timothy McCall, Kristen Lippincott and Giorgia Mancini.

Producer and presenter: Cathy FitzGerald

Art history consultant: Leah Kharibian

Executive producer: Sarah Cuddon

Engineer: Mike Woolley

A White Stiletto production for BBC Radio 4.

Picture credit: (c) Musei di Arte Antica di Ferrara

**TUE 12:00 News Summary (m0012fsl)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**TUE 12:04 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012fsn)**

Episode 2

It is 1985, in an Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal and timber merchant, faces into his busiest season. As he does the rounds, he feels the past rising up to meet him — and encounters the complicit silences of a people controlled by the Church.

The long-awaited new work from the internationally bestselling author of 'Foster', 'Small Things Like These' is an unforgettable story of hope, quiet heroism and tenderness.

The Author

Claire Keegan was born and grew up on a farm in Wicklow, Ireland. Her first collection of short stories 'Antarctica' was awarded the Rooney Prize for Literature. Her second short story collection 'Walk the Blue Fields' won the 2008 Edge Hill Prize for Short Stories. In 2021, the Ireland Francophonie Ambassadors' Literary Award was awarded to the French translation of 'Small Things Like These'.

Reader: Don Wycherley

Writer: Claire Keegan

Abrider: Doreen Estall

Producer: Michael Shannon

Exec Editor: Andy Martin

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**TUE 12:18 You and Yours (m0012fsq)**

News and discussion of consumer affairs

**TUE 12:57 Weather (m0012fss)**

The latest weather forecast

**TUE 13:00 World at One (m0012fsv)**

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment, with Sarah Montague.

**TUE 13:45 The Hackers (m0012fsx)**

Series 1

The Worm

In 1988, the first major computer worm shook the early internet to his core, disabling computers across the network and even causing panic in the Pentagon. Biella uncovers the story with Eugene Spafford, the first person to analyse the worm that caused so much chaos, and finds out why worms can still be so devastating decades later.

**TUE 14:00 The Archers (m0012fjz)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Monday]

**TUE 14:15 Faith, Hope and Glory (m0012fsz)**

Series 2

Faith and Trevor

by Winsome Pinnock

Faith is living quietly in Cardiff attempting to put her old life behind her. When Trevor and her have a chance to cut a record and go on tour she refuses fearing the exposure. But a young girl off the streets presents them with a radical solution to their problem.

Faith ..... Shiloh Coke

Trevor ..... Gary Beadle

Eira ..... Kathryn Drysdale

Colin/Manager ..... Michael Begley

Jim ..... Martins Imhange

Music composed & played by Peter Ringrose

Directed by Sally Avens

**TUE 15:00 Short Cuts (m0012ft1)**

The Day After

Josie Long presents short documentaries and audio adventures on the days after a life-altering event and imagining better futures.

Three children look for the memory of their father on a baseball field, a resettled community wonders where they belong to and the writer Lola Olufemi offers experiments for imagining an alternative world.



Andromeda is a Baseball Diamond  
Produced by Ariel Mejia

#### Resettlement

Featuring Geraldine Brown, Jeanette Brown, Linda Slade Byrne, Hana Deir and Cecil Penny. All took part in the Fisheries Household Resettlement Program in Placentia Bay. Produced by Rebecca Nolan

Experiments for the Day Before Yesterday's Tomorrow  
Featuring Lola Olufemi  
Produced by Tej Adeleye

Programme image taken by Marilyn Marsh, courtesy of the Marine History Archive.

Curated by Alia Cassam and Andrea Rangecroft  
Series Producer: Eleanor McDowall  
Executive Producer: Axel Kacoutié  
A Falling Tree production for BBC Radio 4

#### TUE 15:30 Loosening the Old School Tie (m00121wr)

Private schools, which educate seven per cent of children, have long dominated many of the professions and institutions in Britain, including in the world of politics. The Covid-19 pandemic has amplified the disparities with the state system. But are there signs this dominance is about to change? Ben Wright asks whether the privileged education they provide is under threat.

He talks to Jane Lunnun, Head of Alley's School, Nick Hewlett, Head of St Dunstan's College, Barnaby Lenon, Chair of the Independent Schools Council, Sir Peter Lampl, Chair of the Sutton Trust, the historian David Kynaston, the former Education Secretary Justine Greening, the Shadow Education Secretary Kate Green and Dr Sam Lucy, Director of Admissions for Cambridge University among others.

Producer: Peter Snowdon

#### TUE 16:00 The Lotte Berk Technique (m0012ft3)

Barre, a series of minuscule, punishing exercises which mix pilates, ballet, and yoga, is the global fitness phenomenon of the 2020s, but its history is complicated and controversial.

Lotte Berk, a Jewish dancer who fled Nazi Germany for London, found herself out of work and developed the technique to maintain her dancer's body. In her classes she encouraged women to have better sex, with positions called The Prostitute, Naughty Bottoms and The Sex. Her clientele included Joan Collins, Pru Leith and Edna O'Brien.

Eventually she sold the rights to her workout, and barre evolved into a sanitised and lucrative segment of the fitness industry with its sexual empowerment message diluted.

Musician and broadcaster Nadine Shah, battling a bereavement and gearing up for her first tour in two years, feels the need for exercise and is captivated by the story of Lotte and her Technique.

With the help of her daughter Esther, who still taught her mother's method into her 80s, Nadine goes in search of Barre's erotic spark, and so begins a story of love, sex, feminism and striving to feel good in your body.

#### TUE 16:30 Great Lives (m0012ft5)

Rory Sutherland on Johnny Ramone

Johnny Ramone is a founding member of the seminal New York punk band, the Ramones. Famed for their blisteringly short songs played at breakneck speed, the Ramones burst onto the scene in 1976 with tracks like 'Blitzkrieg Bop', 'I Don't Wanna Walk Around With You' and 'Judy is a Punk'. When they played The Roundhouse in London journalist Chris Salewicz was there, and afterwards he said all the British punk bands started to play their songs twice as fast. But, as advertising expert Rory Sutherland reveals, it's Johnny Ramone's contradictions that really form the basis for his choosing him as a great life. Johnny was a staunch Republican at a time when punk was perceived as a largely left-wing movement. In fact, for Rory, anything that aims to disrupt the status quo can be punk - including Brexit! Johnny studied tapes of the Ramones performances to ensure that they looked, sounded and moved in what he felt was the right way, and his aim was to make a million dollars and retire early. Matthew Parris presents, ready to shout "1,2,3,4".

Producer for BBC Audio in Bristol: Toby Field

#### TUE 17:00 PM (m0012ft7)

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

#### TUE 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0012ft9)

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

#### TUE 18:30 The Casebook of Max and Ivan (b099wv45) Series 2

Case #139 - Help! The Aged!

Cack-handed private eyes Max and Ivan are in a state of penury, with mad landlord Malcolm going to extreme lengths to get his hands on their rent. Nonetheless, Max seems ready to jack in the business when he discovers that his Great Uncle Bernard (guest star Richard Wilson) might be in trouble.

But when he and Ivan investigate Bernard's retirement home and meet the terrifying Sister Geraldine, all might not be as it seems.

Written by Max Olesker and Ivan Gonzalez  
Developed by John Stanley Productions  
Produced by Ben Walker  
A Retort production for BBC Radio 4, first broadcast in October 2017.

#### TUE 19:00 The Archers (m0012fnw)

Tom gets a load off his mind and Mia has a bright idea.

#### TUE 19:15 Front Row (m0012fte)

Live magazine programme on the worlds of arts, literature, film, media and music

#### TUE 20:00 The Great Pyramids of Albania (m0012ftf)

Throughout 1996, Albanians sold their houses and their livestock to buy into pyramid schemes that were doomed to fail. By the year's end, this new kind of financial product had swallowed up almost 50 per cent of the country's annual income, and touched nearly every adult's life.

How did an entire country fall victim to scammers? Gavin Haynes explores the psychology of one of history's great mass delusions, 25 years on.

He heads to Albania to hear how, in something like a fable, Europe's most repressive Communist state was suddenly turned loose into a capitalist Wild West it was ill-prepared for. And how the knock-on effects of financial meltdown pushed the country to the brink of total anarchy.

At the heart of his journey is an ongoing mystery - what became of the life's savings of so many ordinary people?

With:

Prof. Dr. ARBEN MALAJ, President of the Institute of Public Policy and Good Governance, MP for Vlore  
LAZER SOKOLI, Lawyer and former prosecutor  
ETLEVA DEMOLLARI, Director of the House of Leaves Museum of Secret Surveillance, Tirana  
REMZI LANI, Executive Director of the Albanian Media Institute  
Dr ARTAN HOXHA, Chief Executive Officer Tirana Business School  
GJERGJI and MARIETA SPIRI - musician and violinist in Gjirokaste and their daughter STEFANIE; GEZIM ZILJA - former Mayor of Vlore  
GENC DEMIRAJ - theatre technician in Vlore and former video journalist/camera person  
Dr. JONILA GODOLE, Executive Director of the Institute for Democracy Media and Culture, Tirana  
ERION VILLAJ - Mayor of Tirana

Presenter: Gavin Haynes  
Producer: Caroline Finnigan  
Executive Producer: Katherine Godfrey  
Fixer: Edit Pula  
Engineer: David Smith  
Music Sound Engineer: Martin Appleby  
Actor readings by Orli Shuka  
A Novel production for BBC Radio 4

#### TUE 20:40 In Touch (m0012fth)

News, views and information for people who are blind or partially sighted

#### TUE 21:00 All in the Mind (m0012fp2)

Programme exploring the limits and potential of the human mind. Producer: Deborah Cohen.

#### TUE 21:30 Things Fell Apart (m0012fs8)

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

#### TUE 22:00 The World Tonight (m0012ftk)

In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

#### TUE 22:45 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012fsn)

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 today]

#### TUE 23:00 Leaving the Family Home (m0012ftm)

Following on from 'Packing Up The Family Home' in which Geoff Bird and his siblings cleared and sold their parents' house, he now sets out to chart the emotional rupture that comes when your own children grow up and leave.

When Geoff and his wife Sarah's eldest daughter left, they were in part unprepared for the extent of the impact it would have, blind-sided by the excitement of her heading off to fulfil her potential and begin her new life.

Now their next daughter Tilly is on her way too, Geoff speaks with friends and family about their own experience of flying the nest to try and unpick this complicated and profound rite of passage. He argues that the reason it is given relatively little attention speaks to the way we continue to undervalue the domestic space, and hears from Frank Cottrell Boyce and his mum as they share recollections of the time Frank left for Oxford University - "You'll hear songs about heartbreak but there's nothing about when your kids go. You have these massive aspirations for them - and what is aspiration but pushing someone away, beyond you, and that feeling they won't come back."

Produced by Geoff Bird

#### TUE 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0012ftp)

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament.

### WEDNESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2021

#### WED 00:00 Midnight News (m0012ftt)

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

#### WED 00:30 On Seamus Heaney by Roy Foster (m0012ftd)

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 on Tuesday]

#### WED 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0012ftt)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

#### WED 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0012ftw)

BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

#### WED 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0012ftt)

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

#### WED 05:30 News Briefing (m0012fv0)

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

#### WED 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0012fv2)

A reflection and prayer to start the day with Catherine De Souza, Senior Leader of City Church in Cardiff.

Good morning. On this day in 2001 the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa reopened to visitors. It had been closed for 11 years while a team tried to stabilise the structure. Italian authorities spent some £25 million on this task, without ever fixing its famous lean. Although millions of people have climbed its 251 steps, one of the most popular things for tourists to do is pose for a photo pretending to hold up the tower. Well, these experts spent years trying to do just that!

The outcome of this great task was positive in that the tower's foundations were fortified, but it didn't solve everything. It's predicted that over time the tower will continue to lean further and eventually return to the precarious position that caused it to close in the first place.

God's restoration, in contrast, is complete. Take the Apostle Peter, for example - a man who denied Jesus three times, claiming not to know Him at the most crucial moment. But he repented, he turned the other way. Acts chapter 2 tells us that Peter preached boldly, that he went on to share the good news with a large crowd of people and 3,000 were saved.

Peter went from fearful denier to bold proclaimer, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The man who had denied even knowing Jesus went on to preach a sermon where thousands came to Christ - that's a pretty awesome day for any preacher!

Where we might feel weak, God has the power to restore and we can trust that His restoration is full and complete.

Lord, how wonderful it is to reflect on your power to restore. When we feel weak, may we know your strength and where we are facing what looks broken, may we experience your incredible restoration. Amen

**WED 05:45 Farming Today (m0012fv4)**

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

**WED 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b08wpd52)**

John MacPherson on the Herring Gull

Wildlife photographer John MacPherson recalls a childhood memory of his mother and a herring gull for Tweet of the Day.

Producer Maggie Ayre.

**WED 06:00 Today (m0012fn9)**

News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**WED 09:00 The Reith Lectures (m0012fnc)**

Stuart Russell - Living With Artificial Intelligence

AI in the economy

Professor Stuart Russell explores the future of work and one of the most concerning issues raised by Artificial Intelligence: the threat to jobs. How will the economy adapt as work is increasingly done by machines? Economists' forecasts range from rosy scenarios of human-AI teamwork, to dystopic visions in which most people are excluded from the economy altogether. Was the economist Keynes correct when he said that we were born to "strive"? If much of the work in future will be carried out by machines, what does that mean for humans? What will we do?

Stuart Russell is Professor of Computer Science and founder of the Centre for Human-Compatible Artificial Intelligence at the University of California, Berkeley.

The lecture and question-and-answer session was recorded at Edinburgh University.

Presenter: Anita Anand

Producer: Jim Frank

Editor: Hugh Levinson

Production Coordinator: Brenda Brown

Sound: Neil Churchill and Hal Haines

**WED 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0012fnf)**

Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

**WED 11:00 Rutherford and Fry on Living with AI (m0012gfp)**

AI in the Economy

The refrain 'robots will take your job' is one heard with increased frequency, but how quickly is automation of the labour force really happening and would it really be such a bad thing if many jobs were powered by artificial intelligence?

In this third episode, inspired by this year's BBC Reith lectures from AI expert Stuart Russell, Adam Rutherford and Hannah Fry - together with expert guests - imagine what the future of work might look like. Will the move towards increased use of artificial intelligence in areas like healthcare, customer service and manufacturing see jobs disappear or will it simply create new ones we cannot yet imagine?

Economists are divided on what the effects of machines doing our jobs will be. Some argue it could lead to wide scale unemployed, or skilled workers being forced into lower skilled jobs. Others believe this might be an opportunity to reshape our socio-economic systems to one where workers are freed from tedious repetitive jobs and instead have more leisure time to pursue their own interests and find meaning outside of work. Will we all one day receive a universal basic income and stop asking each other what we do for work when we meet someone new?

**WED 11:30 Maureen & Friends (m000cmzd)**

Maureen & Friends

From pesky rodents to Jane Austen. The irrepressible Maureen Lipman performs her comic monologues in the BBC Radio Theatre.

Producer: David Hunter

**WED 12:00 News Summary (m0012fnh)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**WED 12:04 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012fnk)**

Episode 3

It is 1985, in an Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal and timber merchant, faces into his busiest season. As he does the rounds, he feels the past rising up to meet him — and encounters the complicit silences of a people controlled by the Church.

The long-awaited new work from the internationally bestselling author of 'Foster', 'Small Things Like These' is an unforgettable story of hope, quiet heroism and tenderness.

The Author

Claire Keegan was born and grew up on a farm in Wicklow, Ireland. Her first collection of short stories 'Antarctica' was awarded the Rooney Prize for Literature. Her second short story collection 'Walk the Blue Fields' won the 2008 Edge Hill Prize for Short Stories. In 2021, the Ireland Francophone Ambassadors' Literary Award was awarded to the French translation of 'Small Things Like These'.

Reader: Don Wycherley

Writer: Claire Keegan

Abridger: Doreen Estall

Producer: Michael Shannon

Exec Editor: Andy Martin

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**WED 12:18 You and Yours (m0012fnn)**

News and discussion of consumer affairs

**WED 12:57 Weather (m0012fnp)**

The latest weather forecast

**WED 13:00 World at One (m0012fnr)**

Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment, with Sarah Montague.

**WED 13:45 The Hackers (m0012fnt)**

Series 1

Hail Satan

Hackers have long been portrayed as the bad guys, but Biella uncovers how the ethical Grey and White Hat hackers created the modern security industry, despite the risk to their careers, and fierce opposition from major tech and software companies who wanted to keep any vulnerabilities in their products hidden from the public eye. She talks with Chris Wysopal, member of the high-profile hacker think tank the L0pht, about the struggle for security, and how that fight may have inadvertently damaged a key part of hacker culture in the long term.

**WED 14:00 The Archers (m0012fnw)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 14:15 Faith, Hope and Glory (m0012fny)**

Series 2

Gloria and Clement

by Rex Obano

When Gloria's friend announces she is getting married and Clement discovers his boss in a compromising situation, they find themselves behaving out of character and forced to reassess their beliefs about their true natures.

Gloria ..... Pippa Bennett-Warner

Clement ..... Stefan Adegbola

Mabel ..... Dorothea Myer-Bennett

Ida ..... Emma Handy

Eddie ..... Joseph Ayre

Sallow ..... Roger Ringrose

Jim ..... Martins Imhangbe

Mr Poole ..... Michael Begley

Waitress/Assistant ..... Jasmine Hyde

Joy ..... Olantra Worrell

Directed by Pat Cumper

**WED 15:00 Money Box (m0012fp0)**

Felicity Hannah looks at the financial world of NFTs, non-fungible tokens. Along with experts and users, they discuss what they are, their value and how to trade them.

**WED 15:30 All in the Mind (m0012fp2)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 21:00 on Tuesday]

**WED 16:00 Sideways (m0012fp4)**

Matthew Syed explores ideas that shape our lives, making us see the world differently.

**WED 16:30 The Media Show (m0012fp6)**

Social media, anti-social media, breaking news, faking news: this is the programme about a revolution in media.

**WED 17:00 PM (m0012fp8)**

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

**WED 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0012fpb)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**WED 18:30 Mark Steel's in Town (m0012glr)**

Series 11

Whitby

There's one thing you definitely can't miss in Whitby and that's the ruined abbey up on a cliff looking down on the town. It's also hard to miss the jawbone of a blue whale set atop the opposite hill and the fact that Dracula was a researched and written here by Bram Stoker. You'll not go wanting if you are in search of a chip either. Mark Steel manages to dodge the seagulls and presents his findings to a local audience at The Brunswick Centre.

The full box set of all episodes (with well over 50 towns visited) is available now wherever you get your podcasts.

Written by and starring...Mark Steel  
With additional material from Pete Sinclair  
Production Coordinator...Beverly Tagg  
Producer...Julia McKenzie  
A BBC Studios Production.

**WED 19:00 The Archers (m0012flw)**

Will begins to smell a rat while Harrison saves the day.

**WED 19:15 Front Row (m0012fpd)**

Live magazine programme on the worlds of arts, literature, film, media and music

**WED 20:00 Moral Maze (m0012fpg)**

Live debate examining the moral issues behind one of the week's news stories. #moralmaze

**WED 20:45 On Seamus Heaney by Roy Foster (m0012fjp)**

Episode 3

A vivid and enlightening account of one of the 20th century's greatest poets. From rural childhood in County Derry to global prominence and a Nobel prize, Seamus Heaney's work is placed in the context of his life, country and beyond.

Now settled outside Dublin, Heaney is ploughing a furrow that will lead to his longest, most audacious poem yet.

Read by Adrian Dunbar  
Written by R F Foster  
Abridged by Anna Magnusson  
Producer: Eilidh McCreadie

**WED 21:00 The Young Farmers (m0010hp7)**

Midsummer

Giving voice to the trials and triumphs of young farmers.

From springtime to harvest we follow three different groups of young people at the beginning of their farming lives.

This episode is presented by Col Gordon, a farmer's son from the Highlands. He considers some of the possible changes to come within farming as we visit the midsummer rally staged by the Scottish Association of Young Farmers, at Dalgety Bay in Fife.

Featuring Grant Barr, Connie Hunter, Jennifer Jones and Adam Mathison.

Producer: Martin Williams

**WED 21:30 The Media Show (m0012fp6)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:30 today]

**WED 22:00 The World Tonight (m0012fpl)**

In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

**WED 22:45 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012fnk)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 today]

**WED 23:00 Ruby Wax Talking Human (m0012fpn)**  
Episode 1

Ruby is joined by neuroscientist Ash Ranpura and Buddhist monk Gelong Thubten to talk honestly and swap experience, with insight and humour, about being happy and being human.

Ruby has done two very funny and wise shows for Radio 4, combining stand up with a conversation about mental health. Now she's back with her friends Ash and Thubten for four engaging, entertaining, informative and intimate late night conversations about how the mind works, happiness, compassion, self-compassion and how to be human (there's no manual!).

The rollercoaster of the last two years has created soaring stress levels, confronted us with the big realities, including uncertainty and loneliness, redefined our relationship with technology and shown us the value of compassion.

Over four weeks, Ruby, Ash and Thubten discuss all of the above, what they mean for the mind and for us as humans and what their coping strategies have been.

They're all experts in their field. Ruby has a masters in Mindfulness-based Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and a glittering comedy career. Thubten has taught mindfulness all over the world from Google to the UN, and Ash is a neuroscientist and clinical neurologist.

Host: Ruby Wax  
Guests: Ash Ranpura and Gelong Thubten  
Producer: Liz Anstee

A CPL production for BBC Radio 4

**WED 23:15 The Skewer (m0012fpr)**  
Series 5

Episode 7

Your new news fix. Jon Holmes's The Skewer returns to twist itself into current affairs.

**WED 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0012fpt)**

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament.

**THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER 2021**

**THU 00:00 Midnight News (m0012fpw)**

The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 00:30 On Seamus Heaney by Roy Foster (m0012fpj)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 20:45 on Wednesday]

**THU 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0012fpy)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**THU 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0012fq0)**  
BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**THU 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0012fq2)**

The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**THU 05:30 News Briefing (m0012fq4)**

The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0012fq6)**

A reflection and prayer to start the day with Catherine De Souza, Senior Leader of City Church in Cardiff.

Good morning. I used to live in London and one of the things I learnt whilst living there was that London requires alternatives to driving. Obviously, there are buses and the Tube, but lots of

people cycle and I thought it seemed like a healthier and greener way of getting around. So I bought myself a bike. A friend of mine is a bit of a bike enthusiast and she very kindly offered to go out with me the first time I took my bike out in the city. So we set out, cycled along the riverbank and then turned onto the main road. I was cycling along thinking I was doing pretty well, peddling away, keeping a safe distance from the cars and following her direction.

Then strangely she just stopped. Now I'm not fully sure what went through my mind at this point, but I do remember briefly thinking "it's strange that she's stopped, maybe it's my turn to ride in front" so I kept on peddling and I rode past her. I looked to my left briefly as I overtook her at a crossroads – then I looked to the right as I saw the cars speeding towards me. I had gone into a major crossroads and had ridden into the path of oncoming traffic. I turned round to see the look of shock on my friend's face as it occurred to me – she had stopped for a red light!

Sometimes in life we leave it too late to stop. We might think we have to keep peddling, but actually we need to rest, not just as a last resort because we're exhausted, but as a regular rhythm. God created the sabbath for this very purpose – a time for us to pause from our toil and our work, and instead to just rest in His presence. In this Christmas season, let's remember to regularly rest, taking the time to slow down and encounter God in our sabbath.

Lord of the sabbath, thank you that you created us to work and rest. Help us to build rhythms into our lives that cause us to pause both mentally and physically. Bless our rest as you bless our work. Amen.

**THU 05:45 Farming Today (m0012fq8)**

The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

**THU 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b09k6g11)**

Doug Allan on the Snow Petrel

Recollecting about his encounters with birds in Antarctica, wildlife cameraman Doug Allan recalls ringing Snow Petrels with mixed feelings.

Producer: Sarah Blunt  
Photograph: Doug Allan.

**THU 06:00 Today (m0012f11)**

News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**THU 09:00 In Our Time (m0012f15)**

A Christmas Carol

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Charles Dickens' novella, written in 1843 when he was 31, which has become intertwined with his reputation and with Christmas itself. Ebenezer Scrooge is the miserly everyman figure whose joyless obsession with money severs him from society and his own emotions, and he is only saved after recalling his lonely past, seeing what he is missing now and being warned of his future, all under the guidance of the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Yet To Come. Redeemed, Scrooge comes to care in particular about one of the many minor characters in the story who make a great impact, namely Tiny Tim, the disabled child of the poor and warm-hearted Cratchit family, with his cry, "God bless us, every one!"

With

Juliet John  
Professor of English Literature and Dean of Arts and Social Sciences at City, University of London

Jon Mee  
Professor of Eighteenth-Century Studies at the University of York

And

Dinah Birch  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Cultural Engagement and Professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool

Producer: Simon Tillotson

**THU 09:45 On Seamus Heaney by Roy Foster (m0012fmv)**  
Episode 4

A vivid and enlightening account of one of the 20th century's greatest poets. From rural childhood in County Derry to global prominence and a Nobel prize, Seamus Heaney's work is placed in the context of his life, country and beyond.

Already acclaimed across Irish, UK and American literary circles, Heaney is about to be recognised on the global stage.

Read by Adrian Dunbar  
Written by R F Foster  
Abridged by Anna Magnusson  
Producer: Eilidh McCreadie

**THU 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0012f19)**

Women's voices and women's lives – topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

**THU 11:00 Crossing Continents (m0012flc)**

Denmark's Red Van

Every weekend night in Copenhagen's red light district of Vesterbro, a group of volunteers pull up and park a red van. This is no ordinary vehicle. The interior is lit with fairy lights. There is a bed – and a ready supply of condoms. The Red Van constitutes a harm reduction strategy like no other. It is designed for use by women selling sex on the streets – somewhere they can bring their clients. Just as health workers might argue addicts should have a safe place where they can take their drugs to prevent overdoses, the Red Van NGO's volunteers believe they are creating a more secure environment for Copenhagen's sex workers or prostitutes. For Crossing Continents, Linda Pressly reports from Copenhagen.

Series editor: Bridget Harney

**THU 11:30 Faith in Music (m0012f1f)**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Scottish, Catholic composer Sir James MacMillan considers the faith lives of three very different composers.

Over the centuries, composers have created musical masterpieces that many listeners have come to regard as spiritual touchstones. For example, Mozart's Requiem, Mahler's 2nd Symphony, Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis. But what did these composers actually believe about God, faith, judgement, an afterlife and redemption? And do we need to share these beliefs in any way, in order to have a spiritual experience as listeners to their music? Answers to these questions are complex, fascinating and challenging.

Brought up in a Catholic household, feisty and free-thinking Mozart was sacked by a Catholic Archbishop, then (like his contemporary William Blake) went on to embrace Freemasonry. He continued to attend Church throughout his short life but lived under the rule of Emperor Joseph II who banned a great deal of Church music in Austria at the time.

Mozart's operas are full of characters with ambiguous morals and the plots can be seen as suffused with myths of Eden and Christian promises of forgiveness and redemption. Maybe listeners turn to Mozart for spiritual consolation not because (as depicted in Amadeus) he was the voice of God, but because he is supremely human.

James MacMillan talks with Mozart scholars Professor Cliff Eissen from King's College London, Professor Nicholas Till from Sussex University and Dr George Corbett from the School of Divinity at St Andrews University.

Produced by Rosie Boulton  
A Must Try Softer production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 12:00 News Summary (m0012fs4)**

National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**THU 12:04 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012flk)**  
Episode 4

It is 1985, in an Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal and timber merchant, faces into his busiest season. As he does the rounds, he feels the past rising up to meet him – and encounters the complicit silences of a people controlled by the Church. The long-awaited new work from the internationally bestselling author of 'Foster', 'Small Things Like These' is an unforgettable story of hope, quiet heroism and tenderness.

The Author  
Claire Keegan was born and grew up on a farm in Wicklow, Ireland. Her first collection of short stories 'Antarctica' was awarded the Rooney Prize for Literature. Her second short story collection 'Walk the Blue Fields' won the 2008 Edge Hill Prize for Short Stories. In 2021, the Ireland Francophone Ambassadors' Literary Award was awarded to the French translation of 'Small Things Like These'.

Reader: Don Wycherley  
 Writer: Claire Keegan  
 Abridger: Doreen Estall  
 Producer: Michael Shannon  
 Exec Editor: Andy Martin  
 A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**THU 12:18 You and Yours (m0012flm)**  
 News and discussion of consumer affairs

**THU 12:57 Weather (m0012flp)**  
 The latest weather forecast

**THU 13:00 World at One (m0012flm)**  
 Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment, with Sarah Montague.

**THU 13:45 The Hackers (m0012flt)**  
 Series 1

Press Ganged

Biella uncovers the story of how in the 1980s and 90s the French government forced hackers to work for them, drawing young men who had skirted the law into the depths of international cyber warfare.

**THU 14:00 The Archers (m0012flw)**  
 [Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Wednesday]

**THU 14:15 This Thing of Darkness (p0b22yrv)**  
 Series 2

Part 6

The winner of the British Podcast Award for Best Fiction 2021 returns with a gripping drama about trauma, obsession and why we harm the things we love.

Part 6 of 7

Written by Lucia Haynes with Anita Vettesse; monologues by Eileen Horne.

Dr Alex Bridges is an expert forensic psychiatrist and psychotherapist, assessing and treating perpetrators of violent crime. Having realised Sarah poses an immediate threat to Paul's family, Alex has to find a way to tell Paul she has betrayed his trust.

With their baby's life on the line, and their marriage in crisis, revelations come thick and fast. What else is she set to lose?

Alex ... Lolita Chakrabarti  
 Ros ..... Lois Chimimba  
 Sarah ..... Melody Grove  
 Paul ..... Robert Jack

Series created by Lucia Haynes, Eileen Horne, Gaynor Macfarlane, Anita Vettesse and Kirsty Williams.  
 Series consultant: Dr Gwen Adshead  
 Produced by Kirsty Williams and Gaynor Macfarlane

A BBC Scotland Production directed by Kirsty Williams

**THU 15:00 Open Country (m0012flz)**  
 The Wall

In AD122 following the orders of the Emperor Hadrian, work began to protect the north-west frontier of the Roman Empire. Hadrian's Wall was more than just a barricade. Stretching almost 80 miles from coast to coast and featuring mile castles, barracks, forts, ramparts and settlements it is testimony to the vision and skill of the Roman Empire. As the wall approaches its 1900 Anniversary in 2022, Open Country heads to Northumberland to explore our relationship with walls and their importance with an archaeologist, artist, naturalist and drystone waller.

Produced by Sarah Blunt for BBC Audio in Bristol.

**THU 15:27 Radio 4 Appeal (m0012fd3)**  
 [Repeat of broadcast at 07:54 on Sunday]

**THU 15:30 Open Book (m0012fc3)**  
 [Repeat of broadcast at 16:00 on Sunday]

**THU 16:00 Think with Pinker (m0012fm1)**  
 You Can't Think That!

Are some thoughts too evil to think? Sometimes we avoid seemingly rational lines of reasoning, not because of logic, innuery or ignorance, but for morality. In his guide to thinking better, Professor Steven Pinker explores the trade-offs between taboos and our ability to reason clearly.

Steven's joined by Philip Tetlock, professor at the University of Pennsylvania, author of 'Super Forecasting' and the psychologist who originated the modern study of taboo. And by Sally Satel, a psychiatrist and senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. When she needed a kidney transplant, and then another, should she have been able to simply buy one online?

Producers: Imogen Walford and Joe Kent  
 Editor: Emma Rippon

Think with Pinker is produced in partnership with The Open University.

**THU 16:30 BBC Inside Science (m0012fm3)**  
 The James Webb Space Telescope

The launch of the James Webb Space Telescope is only days away. Scheduled for lift off on 22 December, the largest and most complex space observatory ever built will be sent to an orbit beyond the moon.

James Webb is so huge that it has had to be folded up to fit in the rocket. There will be a tense two weeks over Christmas and the New Year as the space giant unfurls and unfolds. Its design and construction has taken about 30 years under the leadership of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

With its huge 6.5 metre-wide primary mirror, the giant observatory promises to extend our view across the cosmos to the first stars to shine in the early universe. That's a vista of Cosmic Dawn: the first small clusters of stars to form and ignite out of what had been a universe of just dark clouds of primordial gas. If the James Webb succeeds in capturing the birth of starlight, we will be looking at celestial objects more than 13.5 billion light years away.

Closer to home, the telescope will also revolutionise our understanding of planets orbiting stars beyond the solar system.

BBC science correspondent Jonathan Amos reports from the European Space Agency's launch site in French Guyana from where James Webb will be sent into space. He talks to astronomers who will be using the telescope and NASA engineers who've built the telescope and tested it in the years leading to launch.

Producer: Andrew Luck-Baker

Image: James Webb Space Telescope. Credit: Adriana Manrique Gutierrez, NASA animator

**THU 17:00 PM (m0012fm5)**  
 Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

**THU 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0012fm9)**  
 The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**THU 18:30 Relativity (m000ltrs)**  
 Series 3

Episode 6

The third series of Richard Herring's comedy drama, Relativity, builds on the warm, lively characters and sharply observed family dynamics of previous series.

His affectionate observation of inter-generational misunderstanding, sibling sparring and the ties that bind will resonate with anyone who has ever tried to get their grandparents to sign up to the climate emergency at a major family dinner. Amid the comedy, Richard broaches some more serious highs and lows of family life. In this series, he focuses on the roller coaster ride of first time parenting, how to maintain a long standing marriage and brass rubbing.

Richard Herring is a comedian, writer, blogger and podcaster and the world's premier semi-professional self-playing snooker player.

Episode 6

Holly and Jane are both back at home, as Pete and Jane try to work things out. Ian and Chloe have made it up, Ken and Margaret are relieved to have their house back. So celebrations for Holly's 18th birthday look set to go swimmingly- until the vegan cake debacle. Even a brief appearance by Richard Osman can't lighten the mood.

Cast:

Margaret.....Alison Steadman  
 Ken.....Phil Davis  
 Jane.....Fenella Woolgar  
 Ian.....Richard Herring  
 Chloe.....Emily Berrington  
 Pete.....Gordon Kennedy  
 Holly.....Tia Bannon  
 Mark.....Fred Haig  
 Nick.....Harrison Knights  
 George.....Danny Kirrane  
 Richard Osman.....Richard Osman

Written by Richard Herring  
 Sound design by Eloise Whitmore  
 Producer: Polly Thomas  
 Executive Producers: Jon Thoday and Richard Allen Turner  
 An Avalon Television production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 19:00 The Archers (m0012fmc)**

Writer, Katie Hims  
 Director, Dave Payne  
 Editor, Jeremy Howe

Ruth Archer ..... Felicity Finch  
 Pat Archer ..... Patricia Gallimore  
 Tony Archer ..... David Troughton  
 Tom Archer ..... William Troughton  
 Natasha Archer ..... Mali Harries  
 Harrison Burns ..... James Cartwright  
 Martyn Gibson ..... Jon Glover  
 Will Grundy ..... Philip Molloy  
 Mia Grundy ..... Molly Pipe  
 Tracy Horrobin ..... Susie Riddell  
 Chelsea Horrobin ..... Madeleine Leslay  
 Jazzer McCreary ..... Ryan Kelly  
 Kirsty Miller ..... Annabelle Dowler  
 Lynda Snell MBE ..... Carole Boyd  
 Blake Goddard ..... Luke MacGregor  
 Stella ..... Lucy Speed

**THU 19:15 Front Row (m0012fmf)**

Live magazine programme on the worlds of arts, literature, film, media and music

**THU 20:00 The Briefing Room (m0012fmh)**

David Aaronovitch presents in-depth explainers on big issues in the news.

**THU 20:30 The Spark (m001286x)**

Mark Williams on the future of trade

Shipping strategist Mark Williams tells Helen Lewis how examining the challenge of decarbonising shipping reveals a future which looks radically different to today, in a world where population, oil extraction and economic growth have all peaked, and trade is transformed.

Producer: Phil Tinline

**THU 21:00 BBC Inside Science (m0012fm3)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:30 today]

**THU 21:30 In Our Time (m0012fl5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 09:00 today]

**THU 22:00 The World Tonight (m0012fml)**

In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective.

**THU 22:45 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012flk)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 today]

**THU 23:00 Fred at The Stand (m0012fma)**

Series 3

Anuvab Pal, Krystal Evans, Richard Morton, Thanyia Moore and Mark Nelson

Fred MacAulay is back at The Stand Comedy Club in Newcastle, doing what he does best - making people laugh.

A fantastic selection of some of the best of stand-up comedians working in the UK right now. Some you'll know and some you won't - yet.

In this edition, Fred perfectly encapsulates the mindset of a Scottish audience before introducing Anuvab Pal to the Newcastle stage. Anuvab shares his perspective of Indian colonisation, before American stand-up Krystal Evans jokes

about having a very young baby during the pandemic.

Mark Nelson makes a triumphant return to the series, as his kids learn to swim with the help of his best shark impression.

Funny Woman champion Thanyia Moore shares her lockdown woes and, to take us out with a song, longstanding Geordie comedian Richard Morton updates some classic rock n' roll for the more discerning audience.

Fred At The Stand is the closest thing your ears are going to get to an actual night in a comedy club.

Produced by Richard Melvin  
A Dabster production for BBC Radio 4

**THU 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0012fmq)**  
News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament.

#### FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 2021

**FRI 00:00 Midnight News (m0012fms)**  
The latest news and weather forecast from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 00:30 On Seamus Heaney by Roy Foster (m0012fmv)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 09:45 on Thursday]

**FRI 00:48 Shipping Forecast (m0012fmx)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**FRI 01:00 Selection of BBC World Service Programmes (m0012fmz)**  
BBC Radio 4 presents a selection of news and current affairs, arts and science programmes from the BBC World Service.

**FRI 05:20 Shipping Forecast (m0012fn1)**  
The latest weather reports and forecasts for UK shipping.

**FRI 05:30 News Briefing (m0012fn3)**  
The latest news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 05:43 Prayer for the Day (m0012fn5)**  
Radio 4's daily prayer and reflection.

**FRI 05:45 Farming Today (m0012fn7)**  
The latest news about food, farming and the countryside.

**FRI 05:58 Tweet of the Day (b08ze0qv)**  
Alex Gregory on the House Sparrow

Rower and two times Olympic Gold medallist Alex Gregory tells the story of his childhood pet, a house sparrow called Sparky.

Tweet of the Day has captivated the Radio 4 audience with its daily 90 seconds of birdsong. But what of the listener to this avian chorus? In this new series of Tweet of the Day, we bring to the airwaves the conversational voices of those who listen to and are inspired by birds. Building on the previous series, a more informal approach to learning alongside a renewed emphasis on encounter with nature and reflection in our relationship with the natural world.

Producer Mark Ward.

**FRI 06:00 Today (m0012fw5)**  
News and current affairs, including Sports Desk, Weather and Thought for the Day.

**FRI 09:00 Desert Island Discs (m0012fb4)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 11:00 on Sunday]

**FRI 09:45 On Seamus Heaney by Roy Foster (m0012fw7)**  
Episode 5

A vivid and enlightening account of one of the 20th century's greatest poets. From rural childhood in County Derry to global prominence and a Nobel prize, Seamus Heaney's work is placed in the context of his life, country and beyond.

In the wake of his award come international fame and increased demands on Heaney's time.

Read by Adrian Dunbar  
Written by R F Foster

Abridged by Anna Magnusson  
Producer: Eilidh McCreadie

**FRI 10:00 Woman's Hour (m0012fw9)**  
Women's voices and women's lives - topical conversations to inform, challenge and inspire.

**FRI 11:00 The Spark (m0012fwc)**  
Carole Hooven and testosterone

Helen Lewis talks to Harvard evolutionary biologist Carole Hooven about what recent research reveals of how testosterone shapes all our lives, from social divisions, to politics, to culture.

Producer: Phil Tinline

**FRI 11:30 Disordered (m0012fwf)**  
Disordered: The Health Assessment

A sitcom, written by George Mason, and starring Jamie Sives, Rosalind Sydney, Gail Watson, Matthew Gilmour Wright, Steven McNicoll, Jenny Ryan and Moray Hunter, about Hector - an optimistic but struggling 42-year-old single father living in Edinburgh who has long term mental health issues.

His son William is 10 years old and is wise beyond his years. His self-orientated, acid tongued ex-partner Amanda brings waves of destruction while his caring, thoughtful neighbour Susan calms the waters. With seemingly impossible dreams of being a successful writer, Hector faces day to day struggles, juggling lack of money, manoeuvring of the benefits system and the often selfless task of being a good single father.

In this pilot episode, The Health Assessment, Hector finds his acerbic wit is not sufficient to counter an unsympathetic health assessor who threatens to remove his benefits - while an unwelcome visit from ex-wife Amanda, who threatens to remove son William from his keeping, leaves Hector in a fragile state. Thankfully his friend and neighbour Susan is there to help keep Hector's head above water.

Disordered is a funny but moving sitcom about one man's struggle to improve his life whilst navigating mental health issues. The writer George Mason has personally struggled with mental health issues over 27 years. Most recently he has been focused on blogging about mental health. He openly discusses his own mental health issues in the hope he can help others and raise awareness.

Cast  
Hector- Jamie Sives  
Health Assessor- Steven McNicoll  
William- Matthew Gilmour Wright  
Susan- Rosalind Sydney  
Amanda- Gail Watson  
Paramedic- Moray Hunter  
Doctor- Jenny Ryan

Produced and Directed by Moray Hunter and Gordon Kennedy  
Programme Manager: Tayler Norris  
Sound Engineer and Editor: Lee McPhail  
Recorded at Castlesound Studios, Pencaitland, Scotland

An Absolutely production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 12:00 News Summary (m0012fwh)**  
National and international news from BBC Radio 4

**FRI 12:04 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012fwk)**  
Episode 5

It is 1985, in an Irish town. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, Bill Furlong, a coal and timber merchant, faces into his busiest season. As he does the rounds, he feels the past rising up to meet him — and encounters the complicit silences of a people controlled by the Church. The long-awaited new work from the internationally bestselling author of 'Foster', 'Small Things Like These' is an unforgettable story of hope, quiet heroism and tenderness.

The Author  
Claire Keegan was born and grew up on a farm in Wicklow, Ireland. Her first collection of short stories 'Antarctica' was awarded the Rooney Prize for Literature. Her second short story collection 'Walk the Blue Fields' won the 2008 Edge Hill Prize for Short Stories. In 2021, the Ireland Francophonie Ambassadors' Literary Award was awarded to the French translation of 'Small Things Like These'.

Reader: Don Wycherley  
Writer: Claire Keegan  
Abridger: Doreen Estall  
Producer: Michael Shannon

Exec Editor: Andy Martin  
A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**FRI 12:18 You and Yours (m0012fwm)**  
News and discussion of consumer affairs

**FRI 12:57 Weather (m0012fwp)**  
The latest weather forecast

**FRI 13:00 World at One (m0012fwr)**  
Forty-five minutes of news, analysis and comment, with Jonny Dymond.

**FRI 13:45 The Hackers (m0012fwt)**  
Series 1

Aaron

Biella explores the legacy of Aaron Swartz. From the age of 14, Aaron was a prolific hacker, inventor and activist. He was integral in the creation of Creative Commons and the Internet Archive, co-founder social media site Reddit, and was passionate in his activism work that culminated in the dismissal of the Stop Online Piracy Act in the USA. But Aaron took his own life at the age of 26 when he was charged with violating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, facing decades in prison and millions of dollars in fines - a court case that many at the time felt was completely unjustified.

Biella speaks with Harvard Professor Lawrence Lessig who worked with Aaron on the Creative Commons project, and a Lisa Rein, co-founder of 'Aaron Swartz Day' that works to carry on projects started or inspired by Aaron's work, and discusses why it's important to remember Aaron's story, the legacy of his work, and to find out if a recent Supreme Court ruling on the CFAA means that people like Aaron may be safer in the future.

**FRI 14:00 The Archers (m0012fmc)**  
[Repeat of broadcast at 19:00 on Thursday]

**FRI 14:15 Pilgrim by Sebastian Baczkiewicz (m0001hjt)**  
The Winter Queen

Episode 1

The immortal wanderer, William Palmer faces a new challenge when he discovers a mystery and a plan for revenge served very cold. A two-part adventure for the Winter Solstice.

Pilgrim ..... Paul Hilton  
Mrs Bronson ..... Fenella Woolgar  
Roxanna ..... Carolyn Pickles  
Sam Notice ..... Tony Turner  
Matt ..... Cameron Percival  
Donny ..... Tayla Kovacevic Ebon  
Jack Sweet ..... Don Gilet  
Klara ..... Jeanette Percival  
Lloyd ..... Lewis Bray  
The Girl ..... Agnes Bateman

Directed by Marc Beeby and Jessica Dromgoole

THE LEGEND: In 1195, while on a pilgrimage to Canterbury, William Palmer (Pilgrim) was cursed with immortality by the King of the Greyfolk for denying the presence of 'the other world' - a world of strange, unpredictable faeries, of magic and ancient ritual - which co-exists with our everyday reality. Ever since then it has been Pilgrim's fate to walk the line between the worlds of magic and of men, doing what he can to maintain the balance between the two.

**FRI 15:00 Gardeners' Question Time (m0012fww)**  
Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex: Postbag

Peter Gibbs and the team are at Herstmonceux Castle, East Sussex. Juliet Sargeant, Matt Biggs, and Matthew Pottage answer the gardening queries.

Producer - Jemima Rathbone  
Assistant Producer - Aniya Das

A Somethin' Else production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 15:45 Short Works (m0012fwy)**  
Every Ballymena Man's Dream

An original short story specially commissioned by BBC Radio 4 from the writer Gerard McKeown. As read by Seamus O'Hara.

Gerard McKeown is a writer from Ballymena, Northern Ireland. He was recently longlisted for the Retreat West 2020 Short

Story Award and the 2019 BBC National Short Story Award. His work has appeared in numerous anthologies including 'Still Worlds Turning' 2019 and 'The Black Dreams: Strange Stories from Northern Ireland' 2021.

Reader: Seamus O'Hara  
Writer: Gerard McKeown  
Producer: Michael Shannon

A BBC Northern Ireland production.

**FRI 16:00 Last Word (m0012fx0)**

Matthew Bannister tells the life stories of people who have recently died, from the rich and famous to unsung but significant.

**FRI 16:30 Feedback (m0012fx2)**

Radio 4's forum for comments, queries, criticisms and congratulations

**FRI 17:00 PM (m0012fx4)**

Afternoon news and current affairs programme, reporting on breaking stories and summing up the day's headlines.

**FRI 18:00 Six O'Clock News (m0012fx6)**

The latest national and international news from BBC Radio 4.

**FRI 18:30 Dead Ringers (m0012fx8)**

Christmas Specials 2021

Dead Ringers LIVE

For the first time broadcast live, from the Radio Theatre, London with look at the big issues, from political sleaze to the feeling of not having bought enough potatoes.

With Jon Culshaw, Lewis Macleod, Jan Ravens, Debra Stephenson and Duncan Wisbey.

Written by: Tom Jamieson and Nev Fountain, Ed Amsden and Tom Coles, Laurence Howarth, Edward Tew, Jane McUtcheon and Vivienne Riddoch, Sophie Dickinson, Athena Kugblenu, Rob Darke and Cody Daher.

Producer: Bill Dare  
Production Coordinator: Caroline Barlow  
A BBC Studios Production for Radio 4.

**FRI 19:00 Lemn Sissay's Poetry Rebels (m0012fxb)**

The Slam Poets

Since it was invented in 1986, the poetry slam has spread all over the world. But what is it about putting one poet up against another that makes it so successful?

Lemn Sissay examines the natural drama at the heart of the slam and asks whether poetry can survive the judgment of the crowd. Kat Francois explains how winning the UK national slam transformed her career, while Marc Smith insists that the competition he invented was only ever meant as a game.

Written and presented by Lemn Sissay  
Sound design by Charlie Brandon-King  
Produced by Richard Lea and Joe Hallam

A Bafflegab production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 19:15 Screenshot (m0012fxd)**

The DNA of Netflix hits Bridgerton and Squid Game

Crowd pleasers Squid Game and Bridgerton could not be further apart in subject matter, but they are currently the two most streamed programmes in Netflix's history. We get under the bonnet and behind the mask of these phenomena by examining their precedents on both the big and small screen, tracing how previous works have covered similar themes in so many different ways.

Ellen looks at the death-match films from cinema history that form the DNA of Squid Game, with the help of The Purge creator James DeMonaco, critic Anna Bogutskaya and academic Dr Jinhee Choi.

And Mark is joined by screenwriter Andrew Davies and historical consultant Hannah Greig to investigate Bridgerton's self-consciously modern style influences in historical drama, from The Draughtsman's Contract to Sofia Coppola's derided but influential 2006 picture Marie Antoinette.

Screenshot is Radio 4's guide through the ever-expanding universe of the moving image. Every episode, Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode journey through the main streets and back roads

connecting film, television and streaming over the last hundred years.

Producer: Freya Hellier  
A Prospect Street production for BBC Radio 4

**FRI 20:00 Any Questions? (m0012fxg)**

Daisy Cooper MP, Tim Stanley

Chris Mason presents political debate and discussion from St Luke's School, Redbourn with a panel which includes the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats Daisy Cooper MP and The Telegraph's Parliamentary Sketchwriter Tim Stanley.

Producer: Camellia Sinclair

Lead broadcast engineer: Andy Lenton

**FRI 20:50 A Point of View (m0012fxj)**

Weekly reflections on topical issues from a range of contributors.

**FRI 21:00 Poison (m0012fxl)**

Omnibus

Jacob Zuma, South Africa's former president, believes the world is out to poison him. He's claimed that the CIA, MI6, local traitors, and perhaps even one of his wives, have tried to kill him. No wonder he has ordered toxicologists to test everything he eats. But is Zuma the victim of an elaborate international conspiracy that has its roots in the Cold War and South Africa's liberation struggle? Or is he simply trying to distract attention from a mountain of corruption allegations? In this documentary the BBC's Africa correspondent, Andrew Harding, digs into a mystery that links a case of poisoned underpants, to a plot to kill Nelson Mandela, to this year's riots that left 300 South Africans dead.

'Poison' is the story of one man's toxic obsession and the battle for South Africa's future.

Presenter: Andrew Harding  
Producer: Vauldi Carelse  
Sound mix: James Beard  
Series editor: Bridget Harney

**FRI 22:00 The World Tonight (m0012fxn)**

In-depth reporting, intelligent analysis and breaking news from a global perspective

**FRI 22:45 Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan (m0012fwk)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 12:04 today]

**FRI 23:00 Great Lives (m0012ft5)**

[Repeat of broadcast at 16:30 on Tuesday]

**FRI 23:30 Today in Parliament (m0012fxq)**

News, views and features on today's stories in Parliament