

BBC reduces the amount of religion it broadcasts

Posted: Tue, 16th Jul 2013

The BBC has published its annual report which shows that the amount of time devoted to religion on the various BBC platforms has reduced over the past year.

In the 2012/2013 period BBC1 broadcast 99 hours of religion as opposed to 102 hours in the previous year. The only channel to show a rise in the number of hours of religious broadcasting was BBC2 which went up from 27 hours in the 2011/2012 period to 47 hours in the latest period.

BBC4 showed a significant drop from 53 hours last year to only 5 hours this year.

On BBC Radio the number of hours devoted to religion went down from 1,211 last year to 975 hours this year.

Terry Sanderson, president of the National Secular Society, said: "It is good that the BBC is taking notice of its audiences at last — who according to its own research don't regard religion as an important genre and hardly ever watch it. This small reduction in hours is welcome, but it still represents an awful lot of religion."

Mr Sanderson said that it wasn't clear whether the BBC's figures included such things as the church service for Margaret Thatcher's funeral (which was broadcast in full) or the service of thanksgiving for the anniversary of the Queen's coronation. These appear to be extra to the official religious figures in the annual report.

Mr Sanderson said he welcomed a more imaginative approach to religion and a more critical examination of it. "It is impossible to ignore the part that religion is negative."

- [Share on What's App](#)
- [Share on Facebook](#)
- [Share on Twitter](#)
- [Share on Email](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feed](#)

Tags: [Thought for the Day](#)

Related Campaigns

-

[Reform 'Thought for the Day'](#)

Thought for the Day should include nonreligious contributions – or be scrapped.

[Read More](#)

Related Articles

[Nicky Campbell to deliver NSS Bradlaugh Lecture](#)

'The Big Questions' host to share insights into career and media's treatment of religion at NSS event [Read More »](#)

[When it comes to religion, the BBC is showing its age](#)

Radio 4's discriminatory 'Thought for the Day' slot is totemic of religious privilege at the BBC and should be the... [Read More »](#)

[Ep 17: Thought for the Day | RE in Wales](#)

In this week's episode, Emma Park is joined by Chris Sloggett and Helen Nicholls to discuss whether BBC Radio 4's... [Read More »](#)

[Scrap 'discriminatory' Thought for the Day, says former presenter](#)

The National Secular Society has urged the BBC to reform its Thought for the Day slot on Radio 4 after the former... [Read More »](#)

[BBC dilutes protections for religious ideas after NSS lobbying](#)

The BBC has watered down some protections for religious ideas but retained a clause placing a premium on depictions... [Read More »](#)