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[Time to stop pretending we have a 'national church'](#)

Posted: Fri, 18 Oct 2019 by [Stephen Evans](#)

As affiliation to Anglicanism continues its rapid decline the Church of England's privileges are increasingly unsustainable, says Stephen Evans. Let's disestablish the church and embrace a secular state. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Church of England](#), [Statistics](#)

[Don't take lessons on democracy from Church of England bishops](#)

Posted: Fri, 04 Oct 2019 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

The bishop of London has lamented the state of British democracy while delivering a sermon at the annual judges' service. Perhaps someone should point out the undemocratic nature of her own position, says Chris Sloggett. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Church of England](#), [Democracy](#), [Law](#)

[The C of E can't be allowed to keep shielding abusers from accountability](#)

Posted: Thu, 09 May 2019 by [Richard Scorer](#)

A damning report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has highlighted the need for independent oversight of the Church of England's safeguarding procedures and a mandatory reporting law, says Richard Scorer. [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Church of England](#)

[Religious power and privilege failed the victims in the Peter Ball affair](#)

Posted: Sat, 11 Aug 2018 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

In this long read NSS president Keith Porteous Wood explains how all arms of the law co-operated to protect the now former bishop Peter Ball for decades and refutes claims that "it couldn't happen now".

Peter Ball started misusing his religious power to sexually... [Read More »](#)

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Anglicanism's 'purple circle' of bishops cannot be trusted over child abuse

Posted: Sat, 28 Jul 2018 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

NSS president Keith Porteous Wood reflects on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's hearings into the case of the abusive bishop Peter Ball.

Under the guise of schemes with names such as "Give a Year to God", former Church of England bishop Peter... [Read More »](#)

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The Church of England provided the perfect cover for Peter Ball's offending

Posted: Mon, 23 Jul 2018 by [Richard Scorer](#)

Opening statement by lawyer Richard Scorer of Slater and Gordon, also an NSS vice president, at the IICSA inquiry's hearings into the case of Peter Ball, the former bishop of Gloucester.

Chair and members of the panel: Mr O'Donnell and I represent five survivors... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Church of England](#)

Church schools are faith schools. Pretending otherwise is dishonest

Posted: Fri, 20 Jul 2018 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

The Church of England's pretence that 'its' schools aren't faith schools is a dishonest attempt to avoid association with the unpopularity of faith-based schooling, and at odds with their actual policy, argues Alastair Lichten.

When the term 'faith school'... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church of England](#), [Education](#), [Faith Schools](#)

[Seven secularist steps that would strengthen democracy in the UK](#)

Posted: Wed, 04 Jul 2018 by [Megan Manson](#)

In recognition of National Democracy Week 2018, Megan Manson reflects on what still needs to be changed to make the UK a truly democratic, secular state. [Read More »](#)

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[The seal of the confessional and child abuse: a religious privilege too far](#)

Posted: Mon, 25 Jun 2018 by [Richard Scorer](#)

Some clerics want exemptions from reporting requirements on abuse when it's revealed in the confessional. Accommodating their demands would undermine efforts to tackle child abuse, says Richard Scorer.

The controversy over the seal of confessional in clerical... [Read More »](#)

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[The British people deserve better than the fawning over Michael Curry](#)

Posted: Thu, 21 Jun 2018 by [Chris Sloggett](#)

As a poll shows public ambivalence to a much-hyped sermon at the royal wedding, Chris Sloggett says the fuss around Michael Curry has distracted from an opportunity to ask critical questions about religion's public role.

In March the Independent Inquiry into... [Read More »](#)

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[Bishop Rachel's prejudiced thinking highlights the problem of state-sponsored religion](#)

Posted: Wed, 13 Jun 2018 by [Stephen Evans](#)

The bishop of Gloucester is entitled to question whether atheists can truly have deep love or hope, writes Stephen Evans. But the state shouldn't indulge the view that the religious are morally superior to others.

The bishop of Gloucester drew criticism this... [Read More »](#)

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Bishops must be accountable – and not just to themselves

Posted: Fri, 23 Mar 2018 by [Richard Scorer](#)

Abridged version of the winding-up speech by lawyer Richard Scorer of Slater and Gordon, also an NSS vice president, at the IICSA inquiry's hearings into the handling of child sexual abuse in the diocese of Chichester.

This has been the first opportunity for... [Read More »](#)

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Church dysfunctionality laid bare by child sexual abuse inquiry

Posted: Sun, 11 Mar 2018 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

As the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse turns its attention to the Church of England, Keith Porteous Wood says it must act on evidence which has highlighted the desperate need to hold the C of E to account.

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Church of England](#)

The C of E cannot be trusted to deal with safeguarding complaints in house

Posted: Mon, 05 Mar 2018 by [Richard Scorer](#)

On the first day of hearings into child sexual abuse in the Church of England, NSS vice-president Richard Scorer told an inquiry that protecting children requires independent oversight and mandatory reporting.

Earlier today I addressed the Independent Inquiry... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Church of England](#)

Will Anglicanism reign supreme at the next coronation?

Posted: Fri, 12 Jan 2018 by [Stephen Evans](#)

As the BBC focuses on the Queen's coronation, Stephen Evans says the next initiation of the UK's head of state will be a major test of the monarchy's ability to evolve and reflect the nation it serves.

On Sunday the BBC will broadcast an hour-long film on the... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church & State](#), [Church of England](#), [Monarchy](#)

How to win (cathedral) friends and influence people

Posted: Wed, 10 Jan 2018 by [Ed Moore](#)

The Government is hailing the work done under a fund for the restoration of cathedrals. But NSS treasurer Ed Moore asks if it is really a taxpayer-funded opportunity for Church of England archbishops to grab power.

As Chancellor Osborne's 2014 First World War... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Church of England](#), [Church repairs](#)

Church of England's links with insurer undermines justice for survivors of clergy abuse

Posted: Wed, 26 Jul 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Anglican abuse victims believe the Church's close links with its insurer results in lower settlements to victims. NSS executive director Keith Porteous Wood thinks they've got a point, and offers solutions to put things right.

An insurance company connected... [Read More »](#)

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[Anglican stance on women and gays could trigger disestablishment](#)

Posted: Sun, 14 May 2017 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

Keith Porteous Wood argues that, with the CofE's hierarchy so at odds with the values on equality held by the country at large, an Anglican vicar is right to question its status as the 'national church'.

Andrew Foreshew-Cain, the first Anglican vicar to have... [Read More »](#)

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[CofE talks to the electorate, but is anyone listening?](#)

Posted: Mon, 08 May 2017 by [Terry Sanderson](#)

Religious leaders are free to speak out on politics, but they shouldn't expect their views to be given any special weight, and politicians shouldn't assume that clerics speak for anyone but themselves, argues Terry Sanderson.

The Church of England has [published...](#) [Read More »](#)

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[The bitter bit: Church of England suffers from Chancel Repair Liability](#)

Posted: Wed, 05 Oct 2016 by [Ed Moore](#)

The legal requirement to repair church chancels has surprisingly started to impact the Church Commissioners. Here's what they did about it.

The National Secular Society has [long campaigned](#) to remove Chancel Repair Liability (CRL), which dates back to the time... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Chancel Repair Liability](#), [Church of England](#)

[Governor's perspective: beware an increasingly assertive religious ethos in 'Church schools'](#)

Posted: Tue, 16 Aug 2016 by [A Governor](#)

The NSS is regularly contacted by governors and staff at Church of England schools who are pressured by their diocese to promote a more rigorous 'Christian ethos' - whether or not it's

suitable for their school community. Here's one governor's account of increasing... [Read More »](#)

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The House of Lords and religion

Posted: Fri, 12 Aug 2016 by [Keith Porteous Wood](#)

The Parliamentary recess provides welcome respite from the frenetic activity of the political battles being fought out in the chamber and corridors, allowing us to stand back and have a wry look at the institution itself, writes Keith Porteous Wood.

With the... [Read More »](#)

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Church documents expose an even bigger cover-up than suspected in the Peter Ball case

Posted: Tue, 19 Jul 2016 by [Richard Scorer](#)

The recent release of more internal Church of England documents relating to the Peter Ball case exposes an even bigger cover-up than previously suspected, writes specialist abuse lawyer Richard Scorer.

To recap: Peter Ball was a prominent Church of England... [Read More »](#)

Tags: [Child Abuse](#), [Church of England](#), [George Carey](#)

When is a community school not a community school?

Posted: Wed, 06 Jul 2016 by [Alastair Lichten](#)

Religious organisations are pushing for an increased role in non-religious community schools. This seriously risks blurring the line between faith and community schools, writes Alastair Lichten.

I've asked before "[When is a faith school not a faith school?... Read More »](#)

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Church of England bishops are more elitist than David Cameron's cabinet

Posted: Tue, 05 Apr 2016 by [Ed Moore](#)

A small, almost entirely Oxbridge-educated elite are given automatic seats in Parliament. How do

we allow this to continue, asks Ed Moore.

In 2015 a widely debated report from the [Sutton Trust](#) pointed out just how many of David Cameron's new Conservative cabinet... [Read More »](#)

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