

Ep 20: Lee and Lizanne Harris – compulsory worship

Video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oh0Sv2Je824&feature=youtu.be>

0:00:04.990,0:00:09.650

(Emma Park - EP): What happens when your children's school uses its assemblies as a platform for

0:00:09.650,0:00:13.700

religious indoctrination? How much discretion do headteachers have in the

0:00:13.700,0:00:18.050

content of school assemblies? And is Christian worship still appropriate in

0:00:18.050,0:00:22.850

an increasingly multicultural and non-religious society? You are listening to

0:00:22.850,0:00:27.350

the National Secular society podcast posted by Emma Park (EP). Today I'm going to

0:00:27.350,0:00:31.550

be answering these questions by looking at a case study. This concerns a primary

0:00:31.550,0:00:35.120

school in which stories from the Bible were taught as the literal truth by

0:00:35.120,0:00:39.559

church representatives, as part of a weekly assembly. The school in question

0:00:39.559,0:00:43.819

was Burford Primary School in the Cotswolds. I'm joined now by Lee and Lizanne

0:00:43.819,0:00:48.019

Harris whose children attend the school to tell me about their experiences in

0:00:48.019,0:00:53.539

resisting its enforced evangelising.(EP): So first of all Leigh and Lizanne Harris,

0:00:53.539,0:00:58.940

thank you very much for joining me on the National Secular Society podcast. So,

0:00:58.940,0:01:06.439

you're here to tell us about your experience in opposing the collective

0:01:06.439,0:01:09.829

worship requirement, or difficulties with it, in your local

0:01:09.829,0:01:15.409

school. So could he tell us a bit about which school it was that you were

0:01:15.409,0:01:20.090

sending your children to, and what what happened. Lizanne Harris (LiH): Our children they still

0:01:20.090,0:01:24.259

currently attend this school. It's called Burford Primary School and it's based

0:01:24.259,0:01:31.460

in Burford, Oxfordshire in the Cotswolds. It is a state school with no religious

0:01:31.460,0:01:39.289

character to it. However, it does form part of the Academy trust of ODST which

0:01:39.289,0:01:46.399

is Oxfordshire DiocesanTrust, Schools Trust. (EP): How much influence does the ODST

0:01:46.399,0:01:52.700

have over the character of the schools within the Trust? (LeH): So we can only say

0:01:52.700,0:01:59.659

anecdotally Emma. So, before the

Trust got involved; so that our school has been; sorry,

0:01:59.659,0:02:03.170
our children have been involved in the school for longer than the Trust

0:02:03.170,0:02:09.080
has been involved with the school. So the the collective worship piece - which is

0:02:09.080,0:02:14.030
primarily the crux of our case - existed before

0:02:14.030,0:02:21.469
the Academy for the Trust came in. All we can say is that a large part of our

0:02:21.469,0:02:27.889
objection and what led to our case is that it is a non-religious school led

0:02:27.889,0:02:34.670
in a Christian way. So, in other words, the language that is used in

0:02:34.670,0:02:40.639
the classes and in assembly and throughout the school is Christianity's -

0:02:40.639,0:02:45.139
basically the true religion, the Christian God is the one true God - and

0:02:45.139,0:02:51.290
there was no dilution of that within the

0:02:51.290,0:02:56.000
school and when the Trust came into play, in our

0:02:56.000,0:02:59.810
view, that was just it. It was just solidified. (EP): Okay so let's just

0:02:59.810,0:03:04.609
take it back a bit when you were looking for a school for your children. Were you

0:03:04.609,0:03:09.230

specifically looking for a non faith-based school. (LiH): Yes, yes we were

0:03:09.230,0:03:15.290
looking for a non faith-based school. We are in the Cotswolds and our

0:03:15.290,0:03:20.959
catchment area, you only tend to have one school in your catchment area so for us

0:03:20.959,0:03:25.609
Burford Primary School, it was across the road from us, we were in the catchment,

0:03:25.609,0:03:29.000
all of their friends would go to that school, so for us that's what we were

0:03:29.000,0:03:36.250
looking for in a school. And the fact that it had no religious character to it.

0:03:36.250,0:03:40.849
The other schools that sit in surrounding villages, it might be worth

0:03:40.849,0:03:45.319
noting, are C of E schools. So that's our choice really. We either had Burford

0:03:45.319,0:03:49.699
Primary School which was in catchment area or we had to look outside the catchment

0:03:49.699,0:03:54.019
area and it would be , next I think, three schools in the catchment in the

0:03:54.019,0:03:57.409
surrounding villages are Church of England schools. (EP): Okay and how many

0:03:57.409,0:04:01.579
children do you have at the school? (LiH): We have two, two children at the school.

0:04:01.579,0:04:06.620
(EP): And could you just say so you thought you said thought this was a non-

0:04:06.620,0:04:11.599
religious school, so you sent your
children there. Then what happened? (LiH): So

0:04:11.599,0:04:19.070
after we raised it with the teacher. She
confirmed that every Wednesday, the

0:04:19.070,0:04:26.000
volunteers from the church of St. John the
Baptist would come in and teach Bible

0:04:26.000,0:04:32.030
stories to the children. Which kind of raised
alarm bells to us because we like I said

0:04:32.030,0:04:39.470
before we didn't know that this collective
worship law existed so it was it was quite a

0:04:39.470,0:04:43.880
shock to us to find out that this was
this was being done in a non-religious

0:04:43.880,0:04:47.810
school. (EP): And this was happening in the
assemblies was it? (LiH): Indeed assemblies

0:04:47.810,0:04:52.430
every Wednesday morning. (EP):) Okay
and who exactly was coming in from the

0:04:52.430,0:04:57.770
church to teach them? (LiH): So they are
volunteers from the church and they form

0:04:57.770,0:05:06.860
part of a group called "The Open Book" and
apparently it's a national group. They've got a

0:05:06.860,0:05:11.720
website and they form sections
or groups in churches and then go to the

0:05:11.720,0:05:18.170
local schools to teach the open assemblies.
(LeH): So it's
worth saying Emma, the two things:

0:05:18.170,0:05:22.820
firstly, the the school didn't openly

communicate to the fact that the school

0:05:22.820,0:05:26.480
did occur, sorry that the church did come in
regularly on a Wednesday. I think that was the
first

0:05:26.480,0:05:31.490
thing. The second thing was we
learned that there was no dilutions to

0:05:31.490,0:05:37.220
the language. In other words they were
going in and positioning Christianity as

0:05:37.220,0:05:41.480
truth. It wasn't some people believe all
Christians believe it was exerted very

0:05:41.480,0:05:46.940
heavily as truth. And the third part is
that some of the language that was being

0:05:46.940,0:05:52.100
replayed to us was what we considered to
be remarkably divisive which is kind of

0:05:52.100,0:05:57.710
what what triggered our move to
remove the children in the first place.

0:05:57.710,0:06:01.490
So it would be language along the lines
with the fact that they were being they

0:06:01.490,0:06:06.500
were being raised for life in a
Christian country which isn't a tone of

0:06:06.500,0:06:12.020
voice or language that we would expect
to come from a non-religious school.

0:06:12.020,0:06:15.530
(EP): So what sort of stories were they
telling the children? Do you have any

0:06:15.530,0:06:21.200
examples? (LiH): So they would do the
story of Noah, that was one, the Easter story

0:06:21.200,0:06:29.300
of crucifixion. (LeH): But they were acted..the
issue is.. (LiH): But they were also acted. They
weren't just telling the stories then what

0:06:29.300,0:06:32.689
the Bible stories as truth and as fact as if they

0:06:32.689,0:06:37.879
actually happened, but they're also
acting out stories as well. (EP): So

0:06:37.879,0:06:42.019
this is the primary school, so small
children, and they're telling them that

0:06:42.019,0:06:46.189
the story of Noah actually happened. (LiH):
And this is from reception age as well so that's

0:06:46.189,0:06:52.999
from five years old. (LeH): So also Emma, if
you took
away just that basic principle on its

0:06:52.999,0:06:58.309
own part of the reasons why it's escalated.
Number one it was conveyed as truth that

0:06:58.309,0:07:04.969
was our first initial issue.
Number two some of the some of the way

0:07:04.969,0:07:09.889
in which it was acted out was quite
graphic. So for example things like that

0:07:09.889,0:07:13.849
"the Good Samaritan" where
somebody gets beaten or the

0:07:13.849,0:07:19.639
crucifixion. So they in some
instances we learned that the form

0:07:19.639,0:07:25.729
tutor needed to tell a watered down
nicer version of the story to the

0:07:25.729,0:07:31.309
children before they get sent into the

Assembly in preparation for what they
0:07:31.309,0:07:36.739
were about to see. So my view is that if you
need to do that in the first place, if you

0:07:36.739,0:07:41.209
have to dilute your message so massively -
number one it's the wrong message and

0:07:41.209,0:07:45.889
number two we didn't want this
conveyed to our kids as

0:07:45.889,0:07:50.029
truth and thirdly we thought
the way it was done was massively

0:07:50.029,0:07:54.409
inappropriate for their age. (EP): Sure so I
mean what in the, you said "beatings" in

0:07:54.409,0:08:00.699
the case of the Good Samaritan, how is
that acted out? (LiH): We've got a second
hand

0:08:00.699,0:08:06.259
never allowed to go, when we raised it
with the teacher and then escalated

0:08:06.259,0:08:09.829
to the headteacher and asked to go in
and sit on one of these assemblies we

0:08:09.829,0:08:14.179
were told, no we weren't allowed because
if they allowed us to go in and sit on

0:08:14.179,0:08:18.769
this assembly they would then have to
allow parents to go in and sit in on

0:08:18.769,0:08:24.289
subjects such as Maths and English so
they kind of likened it to the

0:08:24.289,0:08:33.069
the curriculum which it's not. It's not part of
the curriculum. (EP): Have you ever since

been allowed into an assembly? (LiH):
although

0:08:33.069,0:08:45.709

No, although now part of the result of our case is that parents, should they wish to go in and sit in one of these assemblies, they are now allowed to. (LeH): The important point I think on that one is when we did ask initially

0:08:45.709,0:08:48.170

are now allowed to. (LeH): The important point on that Emma is that basically we were told a polite version of

0:08:48.170,0:08:52.940

"It's not our concern and they'll teach the kids as they see fit." It's only as

0:08:52.940,0:08:57.020

a consequence of what's been a reasonably long legal process that part

0:08:57.020,0:09:01.460

of the concession that they've offered is that parents are now welcomed to go in

0:09:01.460,0:09:06.530

and sit in on them. (EP): Okay so so let's take your story a bit further then. So having

0:09:06.530,0:09:12.770

learned this, what did you first do? (LiH): So first of all we raised it as a

0:09:12.770,0:09:18.290

complaint to the headteacher. And she came back and said basically what Lee

0:09:18.290,0:09:27.170

had just said. That it wasn't really our concern. She was acting within the law and she was allowed to do it. (EP): Was it the headteacher's

0:09:27.170,0:09:33.350

Was it the headteacher's decision to do this..? (LiH): Yes it is the headteacher's decision to do this. So

0:09:33.350,0:09:39.220

then we escalated the complaint to the head of Governors. And she basically

0:09:39.220,0:09:45.830

sided with the headteacher and didn't think that we had any, it wasn't a..

0:09:45.830,0:09:49.040

(LeH): We were told there was no there was no

conversation. Yeah there was no

0:09:49.040,0:09:53.270

conversation. We basically, the line that we were hit with repeatedly

0:09:53.270,0:09:58.880

was the collective worship law exists. Therefore as a school it is at

0:09:58.880,0:10:02.690

the headteacher's discretion and therefore she is operating within the

0:10:02.690,0:10:13.940

law, and we were... (LiH): And our only option was to withdraw the children which is what we did. Us an another two families at we did along with two other families at

0:10:13.940,0:10:18.650

that point withdrew the children from the collective worship assemblies.

0:10:18.650,0:10:22.910

(EP): Okay so you and two other families withdrew their children from the

0:10:22.910,0:10:28.010

assemblies once a week (LeH): at that stage.. (EP): And what was the effect of that , why were

0:10:28.010,0:10:33.440

you unhappy with that? (LiH): Yeah we were unhappy with it, because number one

0:10:33.440,0:10:36.890

we don't want to exclude our children from any sort of activity that the

0:10:36.890,0:10:41.930
school are doing or to make them feel
excluded because their classmates are

0:10:41.930,0:10:45.410
going off to to an assembly then they're
having to stay back

0:10:45.410,0:10:51.560
behind with the teacher and not really
do anything. It was fine at that time

0:10:51.560,0:10:56.120
because they were allowed to all
stay together in the same class but I

0:10:56.120,0:10:59.480
don't know what changed and then as they
got older and

0:10:59.480,0:11:05.209
more people removed their children they
ruled, then separated again out into their

0:11:05.209,0:11:09.829
own classrooms so it's different age
groups. So rather than the children that

0:11:09.829,0:11:12.500
were going to go see "The Open Book"
assembly they
were all together and rather than

0:11:12.500,0:11:18.130
keeping the withdrawn children together they
then chose to separate them out again

0:11:20.170,0:11:25.910
which we were really unhappy with. (EP): And
how did your children react to this? (LeH): Do
you know what we said that we've

0:11:25.910,0:11:29.389
had a lot of interviews on this when
when of course the case was still

0:11:29.389,0:11:34.010
undecided and we said repeatedly we're
really lucky with our kids. I think

0:11:34.010,0:11:38.300

fundamentally if you asked them how they
felt in school , they weren't nuts about

0:11:38.300,0:11:43.820
it I mean they I think they
felt a little bit excluded because

0:11:43.820,0:11:48.380
literally what they were being put in a
side room at that time. You got to

0:11:48.380,0:11:51.440
remember this has played out over a lot
of years so when they were little

0:11:51.440,0:11:56.300
to an extent they they didn't understand
quite so much. As they've got older and

0:11:56.300,0:11:59.990
they've got a little bit more savvy and
they've questioned it they

0:11:59.990,0:12:04.790
don't want to be part of it or they've elected
themselves not to be

0:12:04.790,0:12:09.470
a part of it. We've always ensured
they've had the choice. But as Lizanne

0:12:09.470,0:12:14.089
said , the sad par of it for them really
was the necessity for them to be

0:12:14.089,0:12:21.350
excluded and whereas a lot of our
case hinged upon our right, or the

0:12:21.350,0:12:26.029
kids' human rights, for a meaningful
alternative, let's not forget what forces

0:12:26.029,0:12:30.800
that in the first place. Well first the collective
worship law is

0:12:30.800,0:12:36.880
a divisive law because the second you
say that Christianity needs to be

0:12:36.880,0:12:43.010
observed as truth within that school
you can of course withdraw your children

0:12:43.010,0:12:48.680
but it forces their withdrawal it forces
the alternative. And there are many many

0:12:48.680,0:12:53.149
schools that have got a remarkable
amount of diversity and bigger cities

0:12:53.149,0:12:57.199
clearly than the Gospels where they do
manage to run assemblies without

0:12:57.199,0:13:01.760
exerting one religion
as truth and they managed to run them

0:13:01.760,0:13:06.649
inclusively and that was our
recurring point with the school. It is at

0:13:06.649,0:13:11.000
your discretion you can change it and
you can choose to include our children

0:13:11.000,0:13:14.630
but you're not. (EP):
What was your sense of among other

0:13:14.630,0:13:20.589
parents? Were most of them happy with
the way that the worship was carried out?

0:13:20.589,0:13:24.649
(LiH): Well a lot of them didn't even know it
existed.

0:13:24.649,0:13:28.990
Again like us it's not something you
look you when you're looking at

0:13:28.990,0:13:34.820
primary schools and there is there is a
constituency of Christians in this area

0:13:34.820,0:13:40.970
so to them it wouldn't, I can't imagine
that it would be an issue for them.

0:13:40.970,0:13:46.070
You have the parents that also like
us aren't happy with it but won't

0:13:46.070,0:13:49.430
withdraw their children because they
don't want their children to feel excluded

0:13:49.430,0:13:54.290
and there were quite a few
parents in that school that wouldn't do

0:13:54.290,0:14:04.850
that. And only up until I think last last March
April time when
we made it more aware to parents that this

0:14:04.850,0:14:09.649
was still going on, but then other
parents did decide to take

0:14:09.649,0:14:13.550
their children out and again there was a
parent last year who's had a daughter in

0:14:13.550,0:14:18.440
year six who was livid when she found
out that this was going on. She'd been

0:14:18.440,0:14:23.600
there for six years six seven years and
it took for another parent to tell

0:14:23.600,0:14:29.720
her about this assembly for her to remove her
children as well. So I think
you've got quite a mixed batch of

0:14:29.720,0:14:32.839
parents there yeah. (EP): So basically the
school is giving you a really invidious choice,

0:14:32.839,0:14:38.449
either you have to be exposed to
this very sort of evangelical

0:14:38.449,0:14:44.570
Christian worship or they're excluded. And
did you notice the Christian worship

0:14:44.570,0:14:48.529

having an effect on your children while they were undergoing it all? Have any

0:14:48.529,0:14:55.550

parents said that they've noticed in their children..? (LiH): Well no, stories where they said you know they were coming home said God created

0:14:55.550,0:14:57.910

they were coming home and they were saying that God created the world in seven days or you know

0:15:00.940,0:15:06.140

there was the years ago no this man called Noah lived to be 800 and he saved

0:15:06.140,0:15:09.860

all the animals. It's just stories like that well they're nice they're okay

0:15:09.860,0:15:14.089

stories but they're not true. And that's what we had to do: we had to then unpick

0:15:14.089,0:15:18.740

that from what the school was telling them. Which we don't know as parents we don't

0:15:18.740,0:15:21.380

want to do. (LeH): But we don't want to be in a position where we're contradicting the

0:15:21.380,0:15:25.660

school that we send our children to, to be educated, informed in. That was the

0:15:25.660,0:15:30.220

first thing. The best we had available at the moment again I still see this as it

0:15:30.220,0:15:36.070

is, despite our case, a consolation prize we have to remove them, we have to take

0:15:36.070,0:15:39.970

them out away from their friends somewhere else. So I do think it affected

0:15:39.970,0:15:44.830

them. I think it's naive to say that it didn't affect them but again that this

0:15:44.830,0:15:49.170

is played out over a very formative age, over a seven-year period.

0:15:49.170,0:15:54.670

So we've just had to make sure that we do our part as parents to balance

0:15:54.670,0:15:58.720

that conversation and in many cases that's meant contradicting the school

0:15:58.720,0:16:05.200

that we send them to. (EP): And you are in a very uncomfortable situation to be in. (LeH): For the children again, plea for the children again

0:16:05.200,0:16:08.590

and we raised time and again with the headteacher and the governors

0:16:08.590,0:16:12.610

before we went down the legal process. And that was to say, in the eyes of the

0:16:12.610,0:16:17.350

children, if a grown up is saying it, as far as they're concerned on behalf of

0:16:17.350,0:16:20.830

the school they are going to take it we're telling them we ask them to listen to

0:16:20.830,0:16:26.950

their teachers we ask them to go to school to learn, so in their view it's

0:16:26.950,0:16:30.280

another grown up in the context of the school. If it is a member the clergy

0:16:30.280,0:16:34.770

telling them there's something which is true, it is very very difficult to

0:16:34.770,0:16:39.820

unpick that all or to explain to children of that age that line.

0:16:39.820,0:16:44.770

It wasn't one occasion this was played out over a

0:16:44.770,0:16:45.700

long period of time. (EP): So what happens once a year when they would go to the church?

0:16:45.700,0:16:50.190

(LiH): So

0:16:50.190,0:16:56.800

they have the Easter service which is in obviously April March time and then

0:16:56.800,0:17:01.270

you've got the Harvest Festival which is in October time which again you know if

0:17:01.270,0:17:04.870

you were to go back to the origins of these festivals they're

0:17:04.870,0:17:09.250

not actually Christian festivals. They stem back hundreds and thousands of

0:17:09.250,0:17:14.200

years before, before Christianity came in. So for us again they say they're

0:17:14.200,0:17:17.530

teaching us the meaning of teaching the children the meaning of the harvest

0:17:17.530,0:17:21.010

festival and the meaning of Easter. Well they're not really, they're teaching the children

0:17:21.010,0:17:26.320

the Christian part of that festival. (LeH): And also things that the part of what you

0:17:26.320,0:17:29.740

would have seen played out in the press; things like the things which we have

0:17:29.740,0:17:33.550

managed to get turned around, things like the Leavers' Assembly for example was

0:17:33.550,0:17:40.330

held at the church and so at the end of that the children's time

0:17:40.330,0:17:45.220

within the school, one of the objections we raised was they were given a Bible

0:17:45.220,0:17:50.740

at the back end of their leaving school (LiH): ...at the Leavers' Assembly ... (LeH): and we're told this is your guide for

0:17:50.740,0:17:54.190

life, "when you leave school, whenever if you are ever not sure about

0:17:54.190,0:17:58.270

anything, you turn to this book". That was the leaving you know that's the

0:17:58.270,0:18:02.530

leading present on the back end of their entire education over that period. Now, we've

0:18:02.530,0:18:06.010

managed you know that's one of the areas where we've been successful and we're

0:18:06.010,0:18:11.590

grateful for that that we've got that overturned. We're, I hope and I know that

0:18:11.590,0:18:17.170

we've challenged their thinking in that regard but there were a hundred

0:18:17.170,0:18:21.960

instances Emma where I think we can point to where it was just not

0:18:21.960,0:18:26.110

essential or appropriate to use the church; it just became the default

0:18:26.110,0:18:30.940

because of the relationship that existed. (LiH):
Yes and then what really took the

0:18:30.940,0:18:36.010
biscuit for his last year it was when
the headteacher from what I could tell
received a

0:18:36.010,0:18:40.780
phone call from the church to say that
they had a guy called Warren Furman. Noow

0:18:40.780,0:18:45.010
I don't know if you've heard of Warren
Furman? He was "Ace" from the Gladiators

0:18:45.010,0:18:50.920
back in the 90s and he was going around
touring schools giving assemblies. (EP): And

0:18:50.920,0:19:03.100
what was what's his story? (LiH): He is he is a
evangelical ministry whose, if you go on his

0:19:03.100,0:19:08.740
website, his sole purpose is to turn
people in children to Jesus. Now

0:19:08.740,0:19:12.940
bearing in mind that we had already
removed our children from these sort of

0:19:12.940,0:19:17.560
assemblies, our children and the other
children that had been removed were made

0:19:17.560,0:19:21.520
to attend this assembly. Even our
children raised their hands and said, "I don't

0:19:21.520,0:19:29.590
think we should be going to see this man".
And the headteacher said "No no you have to
go to this assembly". And

0:19:29.590,0:19:33.850
there was no communication to
parents that he was coming to the school;

0:19:33.850,0:19:39.310
there was no learning objectives

associated with his visit; he was not

0:19:39.310,0:19:43.180
told that there were children of
different beliefs in this school, so his

0:19:43.180,0:19:48.280
language was definitely not tapered. We
only found out about it when the

0:19:48.280,0:19:52.830
children came home and told us that a
Gladiator had been to see them at school.

0:19:52.830,0:19:57.040
(LeH): The remarkable thing about this (sorry
to chime in on here). The remarkable thing

0:19:57.040,0:20:00.820
for us right that's all incredibly valid. The thing
which really stood out like a

0:20:00.820,0:20:05.470
sore thumb to us was this was a talk
from a visitor, a visitor unknown to the

0:20:05.470,0:20:08.620
school. There was no research, there was
nothing taken through the visitors'

0:20:08.620,0:20:12.310
policy, this was a grown man
unknown to the school allowed to come in

0:20:12.310,0:20:17.650
and talk directly to the children,
just based upon the association with the

0:20:17.650,0:20:22.810
church no no nothing else, no other
process. And these are all things which

0:20:22.810,0:20:27.820
when we started to address
the relationship between the church and

0:20:27.820,0:20:40.450
the school, as parents we were again
batted away more times I can count. This is
the relationship that exists.
we we weren't every are our concerns

0:20:40.450,0:20:44.770
Parents were never given credence, we're always told along with the collective worship

0:20:44.770,0:20:48.850
law and along with the human rights of our kids for an alternative, we were told

0:20:48.850,0:20:52.660
repeatedly "There's no conversation to be had here". It didn't matter how far we

0:20:52.660,0:20:56.470
escalated it and how many governors we sat in front of, the answer was still the

0:20:56.470,0:21:01.510
same. (EP): So you eventually went to High Court with this; how many years did you

0:21:01.510,0:21:06.460
try to challenge the school within the school body or the governing body before

0:21:06.460,0:21:10.450
you went to..? (LiH): We were constantly we were constantly saying this isn't right.

0:21:10.450,0:21:15.670
Something's got to change here. Because we then removed our children from

0:21:15.670,0:21:21.900
the Easter service and the Harvest Festival. Now these can go these

0:21:21.900,0:21:25.840
festivals can go on for like an hour and a half. Now we just, I had had

0:21:25.840,0:21:29.080
conversations with the class teachers and said look they're not going to the

0:21:29.080,0:21:33.220
Harvest Festival in October, they're going to be in your care for an hour and a

0:21:33.220,0:21:37.960

half. They can't just be left to their own devices, they need to have some sort

0:21:37.960,0:21:43.960
of activity that is of educational worth and the teacher seemed

0:21:43.960,0:21:48.010
fine with it. But then when I went to go collect the children ,it's three o'clock at

0:21:48.010,0:21:52.390
pickup time and they've been left in a meeting room on iPads for an hour and a

0:21:52.390,0:21:57.730
half with the teaching assistant. Now that for me, I could have taken them home

0:21:57.730,0:22:05.280
early and given them an education myself. Not for them just to be sat they said. That was the kind of process that they need to

0:22:05.280,0:22:09.420
have, It's not good enough just to be sat in a room. They need to have an education,

0:22:09.420,0:22:12.360
They are in your care from nine o'clock in the morning to

0:22:12.360,0:22:16.380
three o'clock in the afternoon. It is your duty as a school to educate our

0:22:16.380,0:22:22.950
children. (EP): So what you're saying is there just was no provision for any ... (LiH): And when we

0:22:22.950,0:22:28.050
questioned it with the headteacher she turned round to us and said that it was

0:22:28.050,0:22:32.130
down to us to provide an education for the children during that period of time

0:22:32.130,0:22:36.420

which they can we escalated to the governors and the governors then ruled

0:22:36.420,0:22:41.310

it would be discriminating to the other children that go to the festivals if our

0:22:41.310,0:22:47.790

children got an education at that time which was just bizarre. (LeH): So Emma so part of

0:22:47.790,0:22:52.830

your question was what what led us to that. So what Lizanne just described was

0:22:52.830,0:22:56.850

a between the events with Warren Furnam was probably one trigger point

0:22:56.850,0:23:00.720

and the second bigger point was the Harvest Festival

0:23:00.720,0:23:03.780

when the kids were just left for an unacceptable period of time with

0:23:03.780,0:23:08.880

no education at all and again just left in a side room. I then wrote a piece; this

0:23:08.880,0:23:14.490

is probably our introduction to the NSS; I wrote a blog piece about our

0:23:14.490,0:23:20.460

experiences and if I'm being very candid and I'm not entirely sure if we ever did

0:23:20.460,0:23:24.630

it with a view to it getting any real response but we did want to share it

0:23:24.630,0:23:27.960

because we thought, we knew that there was a conversation to be

0:23:27.960,0:23:30.530

had here.

0:23:39.800,0:23:43.830

(LiH): So when we got in touch with the NSS they were really helpful and they gave

0:23:43.830,0:23:49.620

us a lot of ammunition to go for when we escalated the complaint right to the

0:23:49.620,0:23:53.340

top the governor's. (LeH): Yeah so we did this and this is an important point

0:23:53.340,0:23:58.890

really because we didn't know the rights for our kids but I think

0:23:58.890,0:24:01.890

that was the first thing. We knew as parents that we wanted to stand up

0:24:01.890,0:24:05.700

for them but we didn't really know anything about any other cases, we didn't

0:24:05.700,0:24:12.300

really know what we had available to us. That was our, I know you've not asked

0:24:12.300,0:24:15.960

us to speak to the NSS but I do think it's important to mention that in the

0:24:15.960,0:24:20.760

absence of you guys picking it up we wouldn't have moved it, we would have found it

0:24:20.760,0:24:27.179

difficult to have moved it forward. (EP): And the school didn't give you any guidance on your rights? (LeH): No, no no no

0:24:27.179,0:24:31.320

I think that even to this day I think they have less idea of the rights of

0:24:31.320,0:24:37.890

our children than we do. So when you when you offered to publish my

0:24:37.890,0:24:43.620

initial piece which I wrote and that

genuinely gave it traction and began

0:24:43.620,0:24:56.670

that began that conversation. (EP): And that was December 2018? (LiH): No, you published it before December 2018 I must have been

0:24:56.670,0:25:02.340

it must have been October time maybe just before September, October time. (EP): And could you take us through what happened

0:25:02.340,0:25:10.920

after that? (LiH): So once that blog had been published ODST sent a very nasty letter, very

0:25:10.920,0:25:20.550

bullying letter to you guys (NSS) saying that it was, lots of stuff in there, lots of bullying terms in there,

0:25:20.550,0:25:28.440

and that you should take it down. (LeH): Well, no we agreed to refine one bit and related

0:25:28.440,0:25:34.340

to to their funding agreement but what they couldn't do was to to point out any

0:25:34.340,0:25:39.179

inaccuracies because of course it was anecdotal when it was our the the

0:25:39.179,0:25:43.830

experience we had had actually been recorded through the school - literally the

0:25:43.830,0:25:47.130

governors meeting had been recorded so they couldn't renege on what had actually

0:25:47.130,0:25:54.540

happened. So when we went out we we learnt, as it's well known, the Humanists

0:25:54.540,0:25:59.910

became involved in our case because what they aided us with was to understand the

0:25:59.910,0:26:05.309

human rights of the children and what they were entitled to and told us

0:26:05.309,0:26:10.350

that we were entitled to the meaningful alternative. (EP): So the Humanists UK also got in touch with you then? (LeH): That's correct... (LiH): On the strength of the

0:26:10.350,0:26:13.220

blog that you published. (LeH): Yes

0:26:15.650,0:26:21.210

so they they well we were a little bit like the NSS. We were

0:26:21.210,0:26:25.860

in conversation with the Humanists because we were we follow and I guess stand

0:26:25.860,0:26:30.929

behind the values of both but nonetheless the Humanist helped us

0:26:30.929,0:26:37.150

understand a little bit more about the human rights of our children and also shared the

0:26:37.150,0:26:40.990

experience of some other parents. But what we hadn't we hadn't realised at

0:26:40.990,0:26:46.179

that point and I and I don't know and hopefully it's of interest to - to the

0:26:46.179,0:26:51.700

audience of how this case got escalated. We didn't really know that, no parent

0:26:51.700,0:26:56.710

had really challenged the collective worship law and the meaningful alternative

0:26:56.710,0:27:01.750

with a, and were prepared to sort of push through on the case. So the

0:27:01.750,0:27:06.850

interesting thing for us is when we first when we launched

0:27:06.850,0:27:10.650
our proposal for the judicial review and we were granted

0:27:10.650,0:27:16.660
the right to take it to the High Court, the Press was significant for us on just

0:27:16.660,0:27:22.299
on that day alone. I mean it hit many of the major news channels and

0:27:22.299,0:27:27.340
newspapers just by the fact that we were challenging it. So what was remarkable

0:27:27.340,0:27:32.500
about that particular day albeit a tsunami of emails and calls over that

0:27:32.500,0:27:39.640
time was just - we hadn't realised how many people this affected outside

0:27:39.640,0:27:49.059
of us, and .. (LiH): and how many people felt the same way as us as well... (LeH): Yes it was genuinely overwhelming. you're welcome

0:27:49.059,0:27:57.850
(EP): Did you get stories of other people having similar experiences? (LiH): Yes we had a letter written to us saying that they had

0:27:57.850,0:28:04.150
also challenged it within their school but obviously hadn't gone as far as us.. and it

0:28:04.150,0:28:09.160
eventually had 'The Open Book' removed from the school and so obviously the

0:28:09.160,0:28:15.700
headteacher of that school felt under pressure to remove them. (LeH): Yeah and Lizanne and I we took a little is an annoyed we took a bit of a

0:28:15.700,0:28:20.890
view on how engaged we were about this process because we agreed to do a limited

0:28:20.890,0:28:24.400
number of press interviews because we thought you know neither one of us are PR

0:28:24.400,0:28:28.240
people, we just wanted to be able to do what we do, do the right thing by our

0:28:28.240,0:28:33.220
children. But we weren't happy to talk about the facts of the case. But we

0:28:33.220,0:28:37.630
did over a period of time start to look at the news reviews and things

0:28:37.630,0:28:44.830
on social and once you get past a nasty demographic of extreme people which are

0:28:44.830,0:28:47.650
very much we would "we hope that you and your children burn

0:28:47.650,0:28:55.060
in hell" and various variations of that. Once you get past those, 95% of it were

0:28:55.060,0:29:00.040
people engaging and I have to make make the point not just people that share the

0:29:00.040,0:29:05.230
people you would put under the category of "atheism" but people of differing religions and also

0:29:05.230,0:29:09.250
of Christianity that just said look we wouldn't look to exert our... that this isn't

0:29:09.250,0:29:13.480
what we do in our school. It is quite interesting that many

0:29:13.480,0:29:17.470
people see this as a divisive thing on
behalf of aethism and it's really not.

0:29:17.470,0:29:21.670
Because what Lizanne and I've been really
open with is that we are huge supporters

0:29:21.670,0:29:26.230
of the RE curriculum because ultimately
we want our children to understand how

0:29:26.230,0:29:32.110
other people think and believe. So what
we had a great amount of support on is

0:29:32.110,0:29:36.910
where you have people going "no, regardless
of your religion belief or

0:29:36.910,0:29:41.260
non-belief for this to be exerted on
young children at such an influential

0:29:41.260,0:29:46.060
age is just it's just not acceptable".
(EP): So did the case actually get heard in

0:29:46.060,0:29:55.390
the High Court or did you settle? (LeH): No,
well we did and again
we've been asked why we settled and the

0:29:55.390,0:30:00.820
clear answer is that is we
had a clear set of criteria that we

0:30:00.820,0:30:06.700
asked the school for which never changed
and ultimately the court

0:30:06.700,0:30:11.260
view is have we or haven't we been
offered what it is that we asked for in the

0:30:11.260,0:30:16.510
first place and so far so far in writing
they've agreed to their

0:30:16.510,0:30:22.600
concessions although they are yet to

implement them. But the I mean I'm happy

0:30:22.600,0:30:27.160
to be quite vocal on this. They they did
not want this to see the inside of a

0:30:27.160,0:30:32.560
court room, and I'm absolutely certain of it,
because what they stood to lose

0:30:32.560,0:30:37.480
if it made its way to the High Court and
if the decision didn't

0:30:37.480,0:30:43.420
go their way then of course the impact
would have been beyond just our set of

0:30:43.420,0:30:49.150
circumstances in our school. So it was
made very clear to us that they, by our

0:30:49.150,0:30:55.000
lawyers, that it's in their interest
to settle before it hit the High Court. I

0:30:55.000,0:30:58.700
personally would have liked to have seen
how it played out. (EP): Sure so the school
have

0:30:58.700,0:31:03.320
basically acceded to your demands but I
understand that they have only

0:31:03.320,0:31:08.570
agreed to change their assemblies
to be more inclusive until your children

0:31:08.570,0:31:12.890
leave the school. Is that right? (LiH): No they
haven't they haven't agreed for the

0:31:12.890,0:31:17.210
assemblies to be inclusive at all. They
are going to continue with the

0:31:17.210,0:31:21.860
collective worship assemblies. However our
children and the children that are already

0:31:21.860,0:31:27.710
withdrawn are going to be provided with
a meaningful educational alternative. (LeH):
So

0:31:27.710,0:31:34.250
um they've met the terms in
other words for us, as parents until our

0:31:34.250,0:31:37.970
children leave the school. You are quite right,
and one of the things I think the

0:31:37.970,0:31:42.950
school needs to be continually
challenged on outside of our case I mean

0:31:42.950,0:31:47.540
by other parents and also by the broader
educational bodies that have an

0:31:47.540,0:31:53.450
influence over this. If this is going to
stop the second our children leave

0:31:53.450,0:31:58.040
the school what effectively the school
are saying is that they are happy to

0:31:58.040,0:32:04.220
keep a divisive environment for the
children in their care. What a lot of

0:32:04.220,0:32:08.090
the press statements the school have
come out with and the trust for

0:32:08.090,0:32:13.130
that matter: they've said they
continue their commitment to inclusivity.

0:32:13.130,0:32:16.340
And I'm sorry they just don't get away
with saying that and I don't care

0:32:16.340,0:32:21.080
whether we've resolved this inside or
outside of court or not. You can't say

0:32:21.080,0:32:26.090
you want an inclusive environment for

those children and divide assemblies

0:32:26.090,0:32:31.880
based upon belief. You can't say that for
20% of the kids assemblies during the

0:32:31.880,0:32:36.680
week, this is us, we believe
this, we're going in this room. You don't

0:32:36.680,0:32:38.720
believe it
so you go and sit in that one until

0:32:38.720,0:32:42.890
we're finished. You can't call yourself
an inclusive school when you do that. So

0:32:42.890,0:32:47.360
whereas I'm, it is a significant win of
course it is to get a meaningful

0:32:47.360,0:32:51.650
alternative it's still a consolation
prize to inclusivity as far as I'm

0:32:51.650,0:32:55.550
concerned with those kids. (EP): So
basically the schools have agreed that

0:32:55.550,0:32:59.930
on the Wednesdays there will be a
meaningful secular alternative to

0:32:59.930,0:33:04.820
the religious collective worship. I'm
also out in the Harvest assembly the

0:33:04.820,0:33:07.160
end-of-year assembly and the Easter.

0:33:07.160,0:33:09.770
(LiH): Yes they will look at other venues

0:33:09.770,0:33:12.860
before using
the church. They've got a list of criteria

0:33:12.860,0:33:18.700
and that they need to acknowledge before
using the church. They will no longer

0:33:18.700,0:33:24.140
hand out Bibles at the Leavers'
Assembly which is a good win. (EP): So

0:33:24.140,0:33:27.500
as far as your children are concerned
are you happy with the concessions the

0:33:27.500,0:33:33.170
school has made. (LiH): Yes it's nice that
they're going to educate our children

0:33:33.170,0:33:40.160
now in those periods of time. What would
be nice is if they did see that the

0:33:40.160,0:33:43.880
collective that worship law doesn't
provide an inclusive environment and

0:33:43.880,0:33:50.510
that these "Open Book" assemblies are
still excluding children and it needs

0:33:50.510,0:33:54.950
to go, it needs to go. (LeH): Yeah we've got
we've got to
take the leap on the one hand we

0:33:54.950,0:33:59.450
can't play down it's a significant win. If you
look at the fact that this

0:33:59.450,0:34:04.400
has never been taken to a judicial
review before. It's never been given the

0:34:04.400,0:34:08.030
opportunity to have exposure in a High Court
and this is the first time it's

0:34:08.030,0:34:11.480
been challenged and as a result we've
won the right for a meaningful

0:34:11.480,0:34:15.010
alternative for the children in which
case we've got to take that as a huge win.

0:34:15.010,0:34:19.909

But I did say at the very beginning and
Lizanne and I agreed when we took on this

0:34:19.909,0:34:27.500
process, it is a consolation prize
because the we can't

0:34:27.500,0:34:32.540
say that it's a good thing for the
kids that they still have to be excluded

0:34:32.540,0:34:37.340
and it is the collective worship law
which is which creates a divisive

0:34:37.340,0:34:41.870
environment. (EP): Sure yeah so as long as
the collective worship law allows

0:34:41.870,0:34:46.460
schools to have Christian only
assemblies then children are

0:34:46.460,0:34:50.960
always going to be excluded. (LiH): We also
need

0:34:50.960,0:34:55.730
to be clear that you know Ofsted don't
enforce this law. They don't measure it.
The Department of Education they don't

0:34:55.730,0:35:00.230
measure it at all. There are schools that
just ignore it and so just because we

0:35:00.230,0:35:10.490
live in the Cotswolds in a I don't know what
you'd call it , it is predominantly "Christian"
that it is okay, but it's not. (LeH): Yes the thing
we

0:35:10.490,0:35:16.070
we always found remarkable Emma is that
it surely the inclusivity of the

0:35:16.070,0:35:20.240
kids has got to be the most important
thing because if you if you're putting

0:35:20.240,0:35:24.050

the relationship of an outside body, it's an outside church,

0:35:24.050,0:35:27.260

I mean even if you keep the collective worship law in whatever guise you

0:35:27.260,0:35:31.760

interpret it, the school is under no obligation to go to that local church

0:35:31.760,0:35:36.500

and invite them in for 20% of the kids assemblies of the week

0:35:36.500,0:35:40.370

they are under no obligation to do that whatsoever, no part of the law tells them

0:35:40.370,0:35:43.850

that they need to bring in that church once a week to talk to those children.

0:35:43.850,0:35:49.250

So what's always been remarkable to us is that relationship appears to be more

0:35:49.250,0:35:54.200

important to keep intact than the inclusivity of the kids. (EP): And despite the

0:35:54.200,0:35:57.830

fact that the school is not a faith school that's simply a member of the

0:35:57.830,0:36:01.730

Christian Academy trust the school has been effectively acting like a faith

0:36:01.730,0:36:05.540

school in the way it's treated your children and other children who aren't Christian. (LiH): Yes,

0:36:05.540,0:36:10.310

I mean if you look at the collective worship policy that is now on the school

0:36:10.310,0:36:14.180

website

it is pretty much verbatim to the

0:36:14.180,0:36:18.680

collective worship policy that is in the Church of England school in the next

0:36:18.680,0:36:24.890

village, so it's acting in our opinion it is acting like a faith school.

0:36:24.890,0:36:31.520

(LeH): And we're also talking in what's happened so far. We've won this

0:36:31.520,0:36:39.470

judicial review. There is a new headteacher coming into the school from next

0:36:39.470,0:36:45.110

term. At this stage we don't know whether or not that new headteacher

0:36:45.110,0:36:50.030

will share the views of the previous headteacher or whether or not she would

0:36:50.030,0:36:55.580

choose to depart from that. Clearly we've we've got our expectations on what

0:36:55.580,0:36:59.120

that should be.

And then in turn if the meaningful

0:36:59.120,0:37:02.900

alternative is applied, how well it's applied. Because there's been a lot of

0:37:02.900,0:37:07.820

conversation right and broadly speaking it's important that the school

0:37:07.820,0:37:12.110

has backed down based upon their previous actions. (LiH): But you also have to say

0:37:12.110,0:37:17.630

that it's ODST as well that has backed down which is

also very big in itself because ODST are

0:37:17.630,0:37:27.020
a big Christian body so for them to back down as well is very significant. (EP): But of course it's only for your

0:37:27.020,0:37:32.540
course it is only for your children and it's all going to stop once your children leave so it's not ... (LiH): Unless

0:37:32.540,0:37:37.400
other parents step up and say they want the same which they are more than

0:37:37.400,0:37:42.130
entitled to do. So the children that are already withdrawn as well, they have

0:37:42.130,0:37:46.460
stated that they want their children to be part of this meaningful

0:37:46.460,0:37:51.410
alternative. When our children leave there are they are more in they are well within

0:37:51.410,0:37:55.010
their rights to go "you've done it for this long you need to carry it on now for

0:37:55.010,0:37:59.809
my children or we will open up the Judicial Review (JR) again". (LeH): So what what's great what's really

0:37:59.809,0:38:05.240
really good news is that our JR or our judicial review rather I should say does set a

0:38:05.240,0:38:10.910
precedent. It says that this can be challenged so what it should do is to

0:38:10.910,0:38:15.260
open the door to all other parents not just of our school but also similar

0:38:15.260,0:38:20.569
schools that are in a similar situation or parents who are in a similar situation with

0:38:20.569,0:38:26.720
similar schools. They can point to our case now and they can say "well no these

0:38:26.720,0:38:32.869
parents have won the right" so when you asked before if we were pleased and when you look

0:38:32.869,0:38:35.869
at it in that way well well yes of course if this opens a door for other

0:38:35.869,0:38:40.400
parents and as a consequence their children then we have to take that

0:38:40.400,0:38:44.329
as something that we're delighted with. (EP): That's great. Well what would you advise

0:38:44.329,0:38:48.319
to any parents who are in a similar situation to you looking to challenge

0:38:48.319,0:38:56.329
schools? (Li and Le H)" Don't take "no" for an answer! (Le): I mean we say in every level of authority within

0:38:56.329,0:39:02.000
the school that the governors as well we were in many

0:39:02.000,0:39:06.859
different ways told "no", told in strong terms how it

0:39:06.859,0:39:12.740
would affect us, oh it would be out of place for me to say some of the

0:39:12.740,0:39:16.910
language and the tone that have been used by people either within the school

0:39:16.910,0:39:24.260
or associated with it, told many times not to pursue it and got extreme views

0:39:24.260,0:39:29.809
on social media which were which
would be enough to pull off a lot of

0:39:29.809,0:39:33.950
people. And as far as we're concerned we
kept on going back to our original

0:39:33.950,0:39:38.539
intentions. "We're not doing this for us
but this is done solely with the

0:39:38.539,0:39:42.740
children in mind". I'd like to say that we
did it originally for other people;

0:39:42.740,0:39:47.359
that would be disingenuous. We did it
really a hundred percent with our

0:39:47.359,0:39:50.240
children in mind.
What we were delighted with though when

0:39:50.240,0:39:53.599
we found out the feedback of other
parents is that we learned that it is

0:39:53.599,0:39:58.130
going to help other children and it is
going to change the broader picture and

0:39:58.130,0:40:04.789
I think we've grown to appreciate and be
thankful for that because of course it

0:40:04.789,0:40:08.509
does open the door further parents. So
definitely don't take no for an answer

0:40:08.509,0:40:13.759
and also be balanced on it. I do
genuinely hope that Lizanne and I've

0:40:13.759,0:40:18.079
never been inflammatory about our views.
We've always said all the way along what

0:40:18.079,0:40:22.759
we're looking for is a good balance - RE
curriculum in its own context - and

0:40:22.759,0:40:28.000
inclusivity for the children. Everything
else is just opinion-based. But that's

0:40:28.000,0:40:31.309
fundamentally what we want for the
children. (LiH): I would also like to encourage

0:40:31.309,0:40:36.259
parents as well that have been in this to
follow
suit ,to use our case as an example,

0:40:36.259,0:40:40.670
because hopefully the more people that
stand up and say "no this law isn't

0:40:40.670,0:40:44.869
acceptable anymore" then hopefully it
will change it will make the government

0:40:44.869,0:40:50.269
and Department of Education take a look and
say okay
if so many parents are against this and

0:40:50.269,0:40:54.170
don't see it as relevant maybe we should
look at changing it. (EP): So do you think this

0:40:54.170,0:40:59.390
time I mean on that point beyond
individual parents resisting the

0:40:59.390,0:41:02.539
collective worship and individual schools
do you think it is time now for a change

0:41:02.539,0:41:07.849
in the law? (LiH) Oh absolutely. (LeH): It's such
an
archaic law. We're also the only country

0:41:07.849,0:41:14.269
in ?? that enforces it. I
genuinely just through our experience in

0:41:14.269,0:41:18.170
the last year we got a sense of it when
it was just us. When you when you open up

0:41:18.170,0:41:25.099
the conversation it is on borrowed time.
All it will take is for it to hit the

0:41:25.099,0:41:28.670
inside of a court room with the right
case and again our case would have

0:41:28.670,0:41:33.710
been a good example of that
should the Academy not or the

0:41:33.710,0:41:43.250
Trust not have met our terms. I'm a
hundred percent certain of it but yeah it's had
its day. (LiH):
It's an archaic law and it also it

0:41:43.250,0:41:47.869
contradicts the RE curriculum which is
is taught and should be taught in a

0:41:47.869,0:41:51.740
balanced way. But then when you have this
collective worship law saying well no,

0:41:51.740,0:41:55.220
Christianity is truth your teachers
may say yes some people believe this, come
people believe that.

0:41:55.220,0:41:59.809
This law is contradicting
what the teachers are teaching in the RE

0:41:59.809,0:42:03.940
curriculum because they are saying
that Christianity's the truth and you just

0:42:03.940,0:42:09.040
can't have this is this day and age, there's no
room for it.

0:42:09.040,0:42:12.910
(LeH): And to finish on that Emma we've
mentioned it
before but one of the things which we

0:42:12.910,0:42:17.860
found and the reason why I do think it's

on borrowed time is because we've

0:42:17.860,0:42:22.390
been told time and again by it by our
school that they were raising our kids

0:42:22.390,0:42:25.900
for life in a Christian
country and our biggest opposition to

0:42:25.900,0:42:30.490
that was well well no we're not. We are
raising our children for life in a

0:42:30.490,0:42:37.330
multicultural Britain which we're
remarkably proud of. So fundamentally we

0:42:37.330,0:42:41.830
already know just who from our experience in
the last year is that schools within cities

0:42:41.830,0:42:45.390
can't enforce this because of course you
have children of multiple faiths

0:42:45.390,0:42:49.690
multiple religions and different beliefs
therefore they need to run their

0:42:49.690,0:42:54.550
assemblies in an inclusive manner. And
that's only going to increase.

0:42:54.550,0:42:58.000
Schools aren't going to be able to
implement this on on a practical level

0:42:58.000,0:43:03.700
which means that really
collective worship for Christianity's is

0:43:03.700,0:43:08.440
only ever going to diminish so it's on
borrowed time it's a matter of how

0:43:08.440,0:43:12.850
quickly people step up to accelerate
that process. (EP): But writing is on the wall

0:43:12.850,0:43:19.560

if you like. (LiH and LeH: Indeed, yes, absolutely. (EP): Okay, Lee and Lizanne Harris, thank you very much. (LiH and LEH): Thank you Emma.

0:43:23.859,0:43:29.329

(EP): That was episode 20 of the National Secular Society podcast posted by Emma

0:43:29.329,0:43:33.349

Park. Further information about the topics discussed in this episode is

0:43:33.349,0:43:38.420

available on the NSS website at secularism.org.uk/podcast.

0:43:38.420,0:43:42.319

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0:43:42.319,0:43:46.640

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0:43:46.640,0:43:51.880

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0:43:53.900,0:43:55.960