

"The biggest demonstration against a Pope in modern times"



The Battle of Bideford:
religious privilege and secularism go head-to-head in court



Bideford Council offices

We need your support!

The NSS regards acts of worship in council meetings as a key secular issue concerning the separation of religion from politics. Our legal advisers also argue that the practice breaches the European Convention on Human Rights. With this in mind, our lawyers have filed our complaint about Bideford Town Council's prayers at the High Court and served the papers on the Council. The Council then had either to agree to stop the practice or inform the court why they should be lawfully allowed to continue with prayers as part of council meetings.

We are pleased that Bideford decided on the latter course as the point can only be settled, and a precedent set, through a legal case between opposing parties. If Bideford had declined to fight we would have had to challenge another council. It wouldn't have been difficult: the majority of councils, even at county or regional level, still conduct prayers in their meetings.

Fortunately, Bideford Council's

continues on page 2, col 1 ►

Pope protest stirs secularism as a mass movement

The Pope was barely off the plane before he laid into "aggressive secularists" who he seemed to suggest were the enemy of good order and "decent" values in Britain. It seemed anyone who disagreed with any aspect of the Papal visit – be it the enormous cost to the taxpayer, the cover up of child abuse, the sexism and homophobia, the cruel teachings on condoms in the fight against AIDS – had become an enemy of the state.

We were ready for him. The NSS had sprung into action as soon as

the Papal visit was announced. We created the *Protest the Pope* website and brought together a coalition of activists to arrange the opposition to the Pope's presence in this country.

We greeted the Pope by organising a press conference for the survivors of sex abuse, from England, Scotland, Ireland and Australia. Thirty film crews and battalions of journalists from all over the world turned up. NSS member Sue Cox, an abuse survivor, who had come forward to spearhead this

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◀“Bideford” continued

lawyers are acting *pro bono* and therefore the council tax payers of Bideford will not have to shoulder any burden. They are reportedly working “with the Christian Institute to defend the case”. Whoever is paying for the case, they have brought out the big guns, retaining James Dingemans QC. He acted for the Christian registrar in Islington who refused to conduct civil partnerships, and also for the headteachers of private Christian schools who wished to challenge the law against beating children. Neither was successful, but of course each case has to be judged on its own merits.

Costs

The next stage is for the High Court to decide whether: the case has a reasonable chance of succeeding;

we have the standing to bring it; and our case is of sufficient public importance. If all these tests are passed, it will then consider in the light of that wider public importance the extent to which the unsuccessful party should have to bear the costs of the winning party. The Society has argued for minimal exposure to the winning party’s costs, something our opponents are challenging. The effect of our proposal is that we will have roughly the same amount to bear whether we win or lose. The alternative is a massive cost if we lose and a minimal one if we win.

Given the involvement of the Christian Institute, it is likely that if we do win, they will appeal. Both James Dingemans’ cases noted above were appealed, one to the

Court of Appeal and the other to the House of Lords (now Supreme Court).

We would like members and supporters to dig deep into their pockets. It is a long time since we made a direct appeal to members for money. Our lawyers are convinced that this is a winnable case, and it is certainly a worthwhile one. This is set to become a symbolic battle between secularism and religious privilege.

Our fighting fund is £20,000 short of our target. Please do what you can to help. Donations can be made online by clicking the Donate button or by cheque made out to NSS and sent to the office.

[Frequently asked questions](#) about this campaign can be found on the NSS website.

Cherie Booth cover-up exposed

In her capacity as a judge, Cherie Booth QC (the professional name of Cherie Blair) gave a suspended sentence to a man who had committed a serious assault on the grounds that he was “a religious man”. The defendant had assaulted another man twice in a bank queue, breaking his jaw. The defendant’s claim of self defence was not backed up by the security cameras.

The NSS reported the sentencing remarks to the Office for Judicial Complaints (OJC) on the basis that the man had apparently been treated more leniently on religious grounds. Both the reports and our complaint caused considerable publicity. This was partly because of Ms Booth’s connections, but we would have made the same complaint whichever judge had acted in this way.

The OJC reviewed the case and issued a press release stating that Recorder Booth’s actions did not constitute judicial misconduct, and no disciplinary action was necessary. It was therefore widely reported that Mrs Blair had been completely exonerated – and, implicitly, that our complaint had been baseless.

A few days later a letter arrived from the OJC. It revealed that, in fact, there had been no denial that the

words in question were used and our complaint had been “partially substantiated”. While Recorder Booth would not be formally disciplined, she would receive “informal advice from a senior judge” – an embarrassing rap across the knuckles.

The OJC ignored our request to issue another statement putting the full facts before the public. We issued our own statement some days later prompting large numbers of journalists to call the OJC for an explanation.

The OJC emailed us describing as “unfortunate” our late receipt of the information. It then [threatened us](#) that any disclosure would breach Section 139 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. In [his blog](#), legal expert Joshua Rozenberg queried whether there could be such a breach.

We pointed out that in equity if not in law, any right to confidentiality had been lost through the OJC’s publication of a misleadingly incomplete statement.

The story then became about the pressure on the NSS and that Recorder Booth had not, after all, escaped scot-free. The OJC emerged with egg on its face and the whole episode got a widespread airing.

Rap on the knuckles for Cherie from top judge

CHERIE Blair has suffered the humiliation of a secret dressing down from a top judge after sparing a Muslim criminal from jail because he was ‘religious’, it emerged last night.

The revelation has given rise to accusations of a cover-up by the Office for Judicial Complaints – because it originally issued a statement claiming Mrs Blair had been cleared of wrongdoing while sitting as a judge.

The secret tribunal claimed last week that an investigation found her decision to give a lenient punishment to Shamsio Miah did not amount to misconduct.

However, yesterday it emerged that a complaint by the National Secular Society that religious belief should not earn a convict a lighter sentence had actually been ‘partially substantiated’ and Mrs Blair will receive

By Ian Drury

‘informal advice’. The former prime minister’s wife was sitting as a part-time judge at Inner London Crown Court in January when she gave Miah, 25, a suspended six-month jail sentence after he pleaded guilty to assault.

Despite Miah admitting breaking a complete stranger’s jaw in a bank queue brawl, Mrs Blair refused to send him to jail, claiming: ‘You are a religious man and you know this is not acceptable behaviour.’

Last week, the Office for Judicial Complaints said ‘no disciplinary action was necessary’ even though Mrs Blair had flouted an Appeal Court ruling that no religious belief should have special protection in law.

Last night a letter emerged revealing that Mrs Blair – who sits under her maiden name

Booth – would not be formally disciplined. But it admitted she would receive ‘informal advice from a senior judge’ – an embarrassing rap across the knuckles.

The letter said that Lord Chancellor Ken Clarke and the Lord Chief Justice Igor Judge had expressed ‘some concern about the impact [of the comments] on the public perception of the judiciary and the sentencing process.’

‘All judges must, of course, be very mindful of how they express themselves when dealing with sensitive issues of equality and diversity – including religion, race and sex – so as not to create the impression that some individuals can expect more leniency than others.’

It added: ‘They have agreed, however, that Recorder Booth should receive informal advice from a senior judge about the comments she made in this

particular case, but that is not a formal disciplinary sanction.’

Keith Porteous Wood, executive director of the National Secular Society, said: ‘This has the feeling of a cover-up. Why did the OJC put out such a partial and misleading statement about this case?’

‘Why didn’t it make clear that there were concerns about Recorder Booth’s comments? Then it tried to silence the complainants by heading its letter to the NSS as “Restricted”.’

‘We welcome them stating their concern that remarks should not be made in court that could be thought to imply that defendants should be treated differently because of their religion or belief.’

‘This is a timely reiteration of the fundamental of justice that everyone should be treated equally by the courts whatever their religion, or lack of it.’

One of a number of articles on this topic – from the *Daily Mail*, 19 June 2010

Academies Act reveals new Government's pro-religious bias

One of the most radical reforms of education, the Academies Bill, was pushed, almost torpedoed, though Parliament before the recess to enable academies to start from the new school year. Nevertheless, far fewer schools than were anticipated are in the first batch.

The Society made detailed suggestions to education Ministers, Baroness Massey (Labour) and the LibDems about amendments to the Academies Bill. These related to the status of faith schools – fairness and community cohesion concerns, the proportional increase of religious schools, admissions privileges, employment discrimination, collective worship, religious education, and sex education.

The rapid passage of the Bill meant that these important concerns raised were swept aside. We want to pay particular tribute to Honorary Associate Baroness Massey (Labour). She fought so valiantly to make so many valid, indeed crucial, points. So in the Commons



did new Lib Dem MP for Cambridge, Dr Julian Huppert. Sadly, both made minimal progress.

On the other hand, the Government accommodated bishops' demands for converting schools to be able to retain their admissions criteria, which can result in 100% selection on religious grounds. There is also growing evidence that the 50% maximum religious admissions quota that the previous Government imposed on religiously designated academies will be entirely abandoned in practice, if not formally.

The new Free Schools academies are deeply appealing to religious groups keen to stamp their dogma on a captive audience, sometimes before they have developed their critical faculties.

Religiously designated academies and Free Schools are therefore going to be opened on a large scale. Nearly half of the first batch of sixteen Free Schools are religious. Two are Jewish, and one



each Sikh and Hindu. Three are Christian. The result? Public funds are going to be used to massively increase the self-imposed segregation of minority faith academies and the outrageous unfairness of privileged selection in church or Christianity-based academies.

The few to benefit from religiously designated academies will be those in minority faiths who prefer separatism over integration – and also the dwindling number of active Christians. Society at large will be the loser in the longer term: with every minority faith academy that is opened, another opportunity has been wantonly squandered to build cohesion through inclusive schooling.

Those who will personally suffer more immediately will be the majority of the population who are religiously unconcerned – and neither prepared to lie about their beliefs nor to go to church to secure state funded education for their child in their local school.

Victory in the battle to retain community school provision

We're pleased to report that Swanage First, the community school in Dorset threatened with closure, will now remain open as a primary school.

The National Secular Society became involved after the school was initially earmarked for closure by Dorset County Council in a shake-up of its education provision. Swanage First is the only community school in a 14 mile radius, and its closure would have left parents with no realistic option but to send their children to faith schools. In June 2009, the NSS instructed solicitors to write to Dorset County Council, pointing out legal objections to reducing diversity of provision and denying parents the choice to send their children to a non-faith school.

Fortunately, thanks to an effective local campaign given further weight by active intervention at national level by the NSS, parents will still have an option other than leave their children's education in the hands of the Church.

We are now closely monitoring events in other areas where religious groups are seeking to gain a monopoly of education provision. If you are aware of faith schools opening, are concerned about the lack of diversity of educational provision in your local area, or "religious creep" caused by a community school joining a federation with a faith school, please let us know by contacting Stephen Evans at admin@secularism.org.uk

“Easily the largest public protest Benedict XVI has ever faced on one of his foreign trips, and one of the largest protests against a Pope in modern history”

– National Catholic Reporter

campaign, rapidly became a leading spokesperson in this field and proved herself an accomplished media personality. Her moving articulation of the plight of so many who have been abused by priests – and the church letting them get away with it – was widely reported.

Fuelled by the Pope’s insulting messages – especially one associating atheism with the Nazis – it became clear, even by the end of his first day here, that opposition to the visit was mounting. It was further strengthened by our press conferences, a raft of opinion polls breathtakingly critical of the Vatican and its policies – and the season of films we staged cataloguing the Church’s misdeeds.

The media’s sickly fawning coverage also served to enrage Benedict’s critics. By the penultimate day, between 10,000 and 20,000 people amassed (according to estimates) in the very heart of London, “protesting the Pope” in a good humoured and witty parade.

The UK press reaction to the march was overwhelmingly negative. The *Guardian* said we “traipsed through the streets”, the *Daily Telegraph* labelled us “secular fanatics”, the *Daily Mail* said the demonstration was “mean spirited, bordering on lunacy”. The broadcast

media were no less biased.

Despite the negativity, we gave scores of interviews to TV, radio, electronic and print media and significantly raised our profile at home and all over the world. The *New York Times* and *Washington Post* mentioned the NSS’s involvement even-handedly. Even the news agency with papal links, Zenit, referred to the protest – although they pretended that the number of protestors was 5,000.

We also fielded a respectable protest at the Birmingham beatification. Senior volunteer John Dillon played a leading role on radio and TV arguing our case.

The Catholic hierarchy will also be wincing at several polls confirming that the Church’s position on ethics is ludicrously out of step with modern life, even for Catholics, and that the handling of child abuse has been deeply damaging.

The Pope is being forced into making ever more contrite apologies over child abuse, but even the latest one and the stage-managed meetings with victims are just PR stunts. Only when all the secret files are handed over to prosecuting authorities will we know the apologies are sincere. This was a common theme of speakers at the end of the march. They included Richard Dawkins, Johann Hari, Terry



NSS President Terry Sanderson being interviewed

Sanderson (whose speech was carried live on BBC 1) and Geoffrey Robertson QC. The latter’s damning book *The Case of the Pope* was published to coincide with the visit. It added authority to the substance of the attacks made on the Vatican’s handling of child abuse by our Executive Director Keith Porteous Wood at the UN. It explains why,



Protestors were getting their message out.



Papal events were attended by far fewer than expected. We had the opposite problem.



Will the meerkat inherit the Earth?

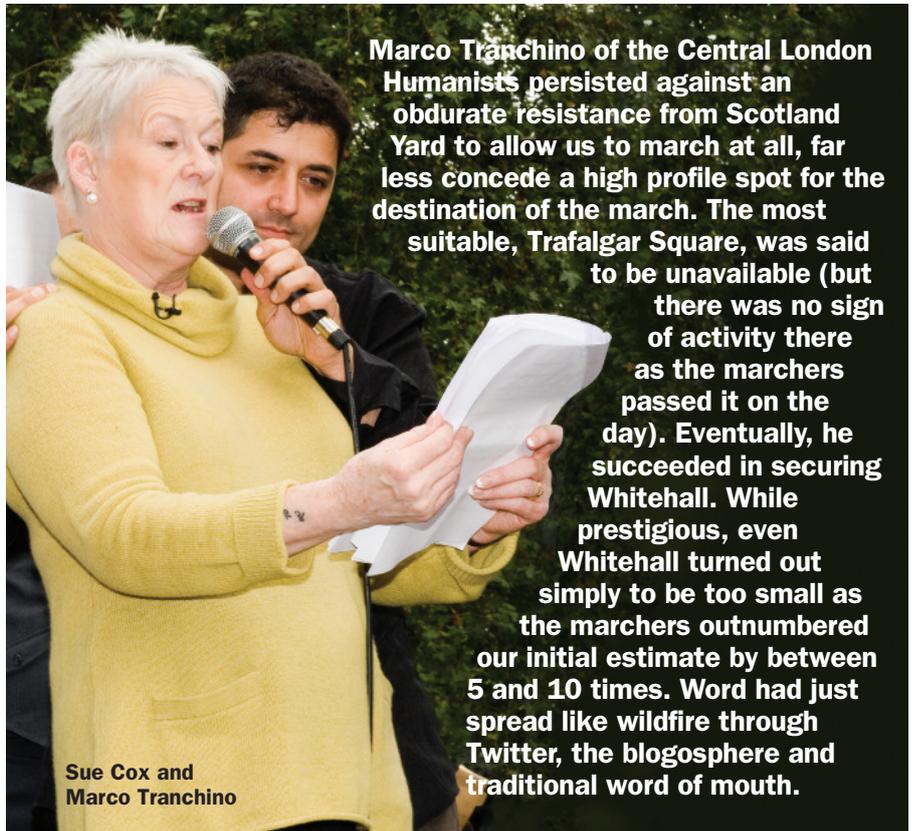
legally, the Vatican is not even a sovereign state, and therefore its head does not have immunity from prosecution.

We will continue to press the Government to answer our questions on costs. We are convinced the costs to the public purse will turn out to be at least £50 million, a multiple of any figure conceded so far.

Keith has dismissed on TV the Pope's claim to be "shocked" by the abuse. After 30 years of being responsible for policing it, Joseph Ratzinger knows more about both the scale and the detail of it than anyone, and is being very much less than candid.

The Pope criticised the UK's "aggressive secularism" – understandably, as he has most to lose from it. The Vatican, a state representing a religion, is the very antithesis of secularism. It is because of that absence of secularism that the Vatican has managed to largely evade the criminal authorities' involvement in child abuse – so far. It is also why this 'state' has been able to exert such leverage at the UN. It has been able to enforce its deeply harmful policies, for example on contraception in the developing world. The policies of this state imposed on the UN, some of which are near-genocidal, are those dictated by the absolute religious monarch and a handful of elderly apparently celibate men, despite these policies being despised by the vast majority of the followers of the Church.

Some of the marchers had travelled great distances to be there.



Sue Cox and Marco Tranchino

Marco Tranchino of the Central London Humanists persisted against an obdurate resistance from Scotland Yard to allow us to march at all, far less concede a high profile spot for the destination of the march. The most suitable, Trafalgar Square, was said to be unavailable (but there was no sign of activity there as the marchers passed it on the day). Eventually, he succeeded in securing Whitehall. While prestigious, even Whitehall turned out simply to be too small as the marchers outnumbered our initial estimate by between 5 and 10 times. Word had just spread like wildfire through Twitter, the blogosphere and traditional word of mouth.

The march represented a stirring of secularism in this country. The traditional British indifference to religion is rapidly turning into resistance to its unwanted encroachment into private lives. This may, let us hope, have been the first manifestation of a newly resurgent secularism that will resist the demands, echoed by Benedict and the Government, for an ever more privileged domination by religion of the public square.

The Government's insistence that religion is going to play a central role in society may be one that many people in Britain see as a

threat rather than good news. As the Pope has shown with his indefensible lack of action over child abuse, being a church is no guarantee of morality.

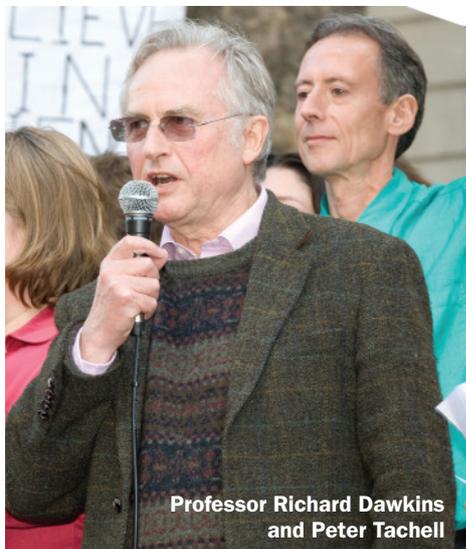
There will be resistance. The Government should be warned – we will not see our modern, secular democracy handed over to unrepresentative and often inhumane religions.

A short film capturing the march and rally can be seen at

<http://bit.ly/Protestvideo>

Download your own Martin Rowson papal cartoons at

<http://bit.ly/Rowson>



Professor Richard Dawkins and Peter Tatchell

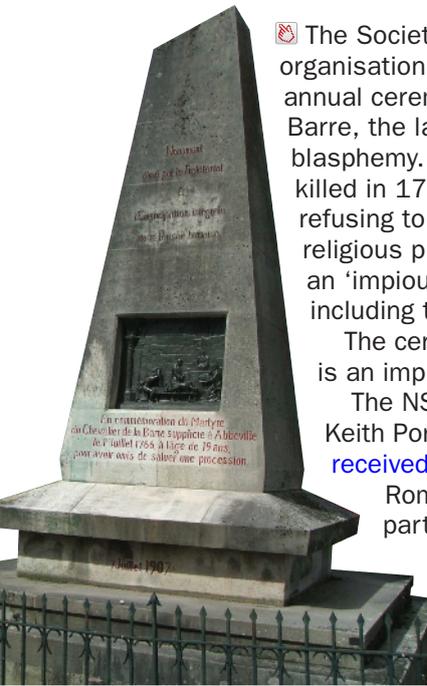


Abuse survivors speak at the press conference



Father Ted would have approved

NSS commemorate French secular hero



The Society was invited to join our sister organisation Libre Pensée in France to speak at an annual ceremony to commemorate Chevalier de la Barre, the last person to be executed in France for blasphemy. The nineteen year old was tortured and killed in 1776 in Abbeville in northern France for refusing to raise his hat or kneel down when a religious procession passed by as well as singing an ‘impious’ song and reading irreligious books – including the work of Voltaire.

The ceremony was held in Abbeville where there is an impressive monument to la Barre (left).

The NSS was represented by the President and Keith Porteous Wood. His **enthusiastically-received speech** dwelt on how the power of the Roman Catholic Church is growing, particularly in international circles, and how that huge power is often used for nefarious purposes.

International Humanist News sought permission to reproduce the speech, and it is their cover story.

Making a stand against sharia

In June, the NSS was represented by Council member Gerard Phillips at the demonstration against Sharia in Whitehall and at the launch of the new report *Sharia Law in Britain: A Threat to One Law for All and Equal Rights*. The report, to which vice President Carla Revere and Keith Porteous Wood contributed, outlines what Sharia law is, how it is practised in Britain and exposes the way in which some Sharia Councils and Muslim Arbitration Tribunals are circumventing British law and human rights legislation. The report also reveals the gross injustices to women and children in particular.



Gerard Phillips



Carla Revere

MEDIA

The summer can be a quiet time for the media, but not this year. The NSS has been busy in print, online, on radio and television. Our commentary on the Pope’s visit has made most of the national papers and local ones in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and around the world (see front page). It was also picked up internationally by Reuters, the Irish media and Agence France Press, among others. In addition to print media, we were on *Newsnight* and *Today* and were covered by BBC Radio, NBC and Sky News. We commented on the child abuse cover-ups, the cost to the tax payer as well as the Pope’s right to comment on UK equality legislation and freedom of expression. Our Pope Nope T shirts made the news from Ireland to Australasia as well.



Pic: David Wimssett

Our council prayers campaign in Bideford has been covered in the local press in the UK and Eire, by the Press Association and the *Telegraph* as well as on BBC Radio.

The Cherie Booth story and subsequently the cover up were reported internationally, as well as in UK national and regional papers.

Our criticism of Archbishop Vincent

Nichols’ attack on the (Labour) government was also widely covered in the UK papers.

Our objection to halal meat being served in schools and restaurants without any indication has resulted in television coverage, internationally and nationally – even a front page story in the *Daily Mail*.

Other stories we commented on included the Boys Brigade, the

alleged healing power of prayer, the Church’s evangelising Christmas poster, *Thought for the Day* and Catholic adoption agencies wanting to exclude gay couples.

Wales

NSS opposition to hospital chaplains in Wales was covered in the national and local press, as was our response about the creationist Noah’s Ark zoo farm.

Scotland

When former Lord Chancellor and Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Clashfern and the Scottish Bible Society sent Bibles to Scottish courts telling them that they should take biblical law into account when dispensing justice, the NSS’s comments were reported in the *Scottish Daily Express*, the *Herald*, the *Sunday Herald* and One News Now. Our comments about Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols also featured in the *Press and Journal*.

Kosher and halal meat labelling

In June, MEPs voted in favour of proposed changes to draft legislation so that meat and meat products from animals not stunned before slaughter must carry the label 'Meat from slaughter without stunning'.

Before the vote, the NSS wrote to all British MEPs and sympathetic MEPs from other countries urging them to vote (and encourage others to vote) in favour of the amendment. Feedback from Strasbourg suggests our lobbying could have had a positive influence on the result.

The amendment has another stage to go before consideration by

the Council of Ministers. We have written to Jim Paice, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food, asking the Government to support the amendment and to end religious slaughter exemptions.

A significant proportion of meat from animals not stunned before slaughter is sold on the general market throughout Europe and can be purchased by consumers who would not buy the meat if they knew how it was slaughtered.

In July, Keith attended a meeting of the Farm Animal Welfare Council to raise these issues.

Although it is often claimed that

pre-stunned meat is not acceptable to the kosher/halal market, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and New Zealand are among countries where pre-stunning is compulsory and has been accepted by Jewish and Muslim communities.

The NSS believes that, in addition to meat sold in shops, the source of meat served in schools, canteens, hospitals and restaurants should be clearly indicated in menus or other appropriate ways so that consumers can make an informed choice. Labelling would of course benefit those who do wish to buy such meat.

Submissions

 We have submitted another [consultation response on Personal Health and Social Education \(PHSE\)](#). Given the increasing rates of STIs among young people, and high rates of unplanned teenage pregnancy, it is especially important that all pupils are protected by receiving factual, unbiased teaching of PHSE. No school should be allowed to evade teaching this information, even (especially) if they object to it on grounds of religious dogma.

Over the summer we submitted another [consultation report to the BBC](#) about the religious bias in radio programmes, particularly the *Today* programme.

Secular Medical Forum

In July, the doctors' regulatory body (the GMC) published new guidance on End of Life Treatment and Care. Against [SMF advice](#), the GMC has opened the door for doctors with 'religious, moral or other personal beliefs' to withdraw from providing care if they object to a competent patient's decision to refuse such treatment. Doctors must ensure that arrangements have been made for another doctor to take over. Dr Antony Lempert, Chair of the SMF, was interviewed on Radio 5 Live breakfast and Radio West Midlands about very religious doctors who appear far less likely to discuss end of life decisions.

At the instigation of the SMF, the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) has been conducting an investigation to determine whether or not the GMC is failing in its duty of care to protect children by failing to regulate against harmful unnecessary surgery such as circumcision.

At the British Medical Association meeting in Brighton in July, several SMF members spoke to around 500 delegates on a range of subjects including end of life care, homeopathy and religious attempts to change people's sexual orientation.



Chaplaincy in Wales

In May, the Director of Nursing of the Royal College of Nursing in Wales (RCNW) hosted a meeting in Cardiff to discuss the future of the NHS chaplaincy services in Wales. The secular perspective was represented by NSS member Alan Rogers and by SMF Chair, Antony Lempert.

The meeting was a positive response to Alan's proposal that a charitable trust for NHS chaplaincy services be formed to relieve the NHS in Wales of an annual financial burden of £1.3 million. Such a trust could be funded wholly by those organisations wishing to continue the provision of chaplaincy services much as now. Further meetings are planned with the RCNW to explore Alan's proposal in more depth.



Lord McIntosh of Haringey

It is with the greatest sadness that we report the death on 27 August 2010 of Lord (Andrew) McIntosh, a long time Honorary Associate. He had been battling with cancer for several years, but would not let his failing health stand in the way of continuing to work.

He was a brilliant politician and greatly respected in both the House of Lords and the Council of Europe, by political opponents and allies alike. His obituary in the *Observer* described him as “embodying decency and public service”.

He will be sorely missed as one of our champions in both the House of Lords and the Council of Europe where he worked closely with Keith Porteous Wood, often to great effect. Keith writes: “It was a

measure of his courage that I received a farewell call from him a fortnight before he died. He said how he wanted to put on record how much he admired what we had done, and how proud he was to have played a part in it”.



Lord McIntosh (left) pictured in discussion with Ken Livingstone in the 1980s.

Donations

Thank you to all our members who have made donations over the summer to the NSS general fighting fund. Many have been motivated to assist our fight against council prayers. The NSS Council is particularly grateful for the three generous donations of £2,500, £1,000 and £500.

We are, however, £20,000 short of our target for council prayers, so really need you to help. You can make a donation to this fund using your credit card securely at www.secularism.org.uk/donate.html or by sending a cheque made out to “NSS” to NSS Fighting Fund, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL. Any money raised and not used in this campaign will be used for the general purposes of the Society.

As well as one-off donations, we very much appreciate the growing number of members who are taking out standing orders as these allow us to commit to future campaigns as well as funding our current work. You can join them by clicking the Donate button on the website, where you can also request a standing order form. Alternatively, you can contact the office.

We do not receive any public funding, so your support is always welcome.

Volunteers

As ever, we greatly appreciate the help of all of our volunteers who give us so much of their time and their skills. Particular thanks to:

BRAD DAVIS of WhiteLight for graphic design

BARRY THORPE for research work

CLAUDINE BAXTER and ALASTAIR BANTON for their work in the office and at events

DENNIS PENALUNA and DOMINIC WIRDNAM for campaign work

JIM NUGENT for accounting work

TREVOR ASTON at Trevor Aston Photography for photography work.

JOHN DILLON and Dr DAVID HOLOHAN for being excellent media spokespersons in connection with the papal visit. John for appearing for us on TV and Radio as well as in the *Financial Times* no less, over the Cofton Park, Birmingham Papal jamboree and David for being our representative for French-speaking broadcasters.

Also thanks to our members who gave out leaflets and wore our Pope Nope T shirts at various Gay Prides around the country and the London march.

Newsline

Our email newsletter is published every Friday and circulated to many thousands of members and supporters, but crucially also to the media who are increasingly using it as a resource. It keeps them up to date with our activities and secular issues around the world. If you would like to join our readers, you can sign up here: www.secularism.org.uk/newsline.html



Twitter

Follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/natsecsoc) for the latest news, views and campaign updates. Retweeting is also a great way to help us get our message out there. We're [@natsecsoc](https://twitter.com/natsecsoc) – or click the link from our homepage.

Facebook

[Friends of the NSS](https://www.facebook.com/natsecsoc) is our home on Facebook. Join the group for news updates, to connect with other supporters and become part of the conversation.

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