

We are all aware that the social model we have lived under for the last thirty years is redundant and needs to change. But what do we change to? As I've said in recent sermons I believe we need to change *back*, back to the model of a Christian Country imbued with Christian values and customs. As the news fills with horror stories of Christians being suspended from jobs and hounded for things that a score of years before would have appeared normal such as praying for an elderly patient or asking colleagues for prayer support, we have to recognize that society has lost its way, has moved into a *cul-de-sac*, a liberal *cul-de-sac*. The trouble is we need a severe crisis to shake us into realizing this, and challenging the prevailing wisdom that sees nothing wrong with the way we have gone. So I welcome the crisis as a God given opportunity, and one that I intend to harness as much as I can to bring about the change in society that I believe is necessary. I seek allies in this and maybe you the present reader may be my ally!

First we need to ask what is not the problem. There is a lot of scapegoating around. I've pinpointed three possible scapegoats, and finally I point a vengeful finger at the Church which many of us have hitherto loved and honoured.

1. The bankers are not responsible for the same reason that neither are the football clubs responsible for the immense salaries that footballers receive. The bankers and footballers have earned lots of money because we, you and I, have valued what they have done in the same way that you and I have valued the football players. We vote with our television viewing, our share buying, our small talk of confidence, our excitement, our expectation of high returns. We have all decided to buy into the idea that 'there is no such thing as society, only individuals', as Margaret Thatcher is reputed to have said. We have all rushed to maximize what we can get for ourselves, from the products we buy from the cheap Chinese electrical gadget to the battery chicken for less than the price of a pint of beer. We maximize what we want, we maximize what we can get and we expect it to continue until we are nailed down in the oak box with gold handles. We have all been on this orgy.

The bankers have been our paid representatives. Nobody worried that the new chief executives had no degree in banking, no previous experience. We looked on with pride as a British company bought up a foreign company, and the profit account flourished. We enjoyed a good exchange rate when we went abroad on holiday; we enjoyed the fact that we as a nation were wealthy, and that that wealth depended on the excellent work of rich bankers and investment managers. What if now and then a Larson lost a packet? So what, the rest were doing well, and we kept silent, everybody. And everybody means everybody, you and I. Whoever spoke out against it were written off as cranks. Even the Labour Party decided to ditch the last vestige of socialism for the so called third way, which was essentially the 'go-grab-as-much-as-you-can' way.

2. So also the government! We mustn't make them into our scapegoats. We received as a nation immense benefit from 'Big Bang' in the city where the city agreed to regulate itself with the government's Conservative Governments encouragement, followed gleefully by the Labour administration. We all drew the benefits as foreign companies relocated to London. We turned out at the election booths to elect the party that would produce the most wealth. We loved it. They did what we wanted them to do, yes, they did what we wanted them to do, and if we deny it we fool ourselves. Furthermore Britain led the world in this. The whole world (nearly) followed suit.

3. The third scapegoat is Islam or immigration. It's easy to point the finger at somebody else and therefore avoid our own responsibly. Immigration has had its effect, and sometimes that has not been altogether positive. However it is white people, the people who dominate the City of London and the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 etc. that have led the unrelenting march towards this new and unchartered Utopia of wealth and individualism without Christianity. Islam has largely reacted against it, and did so earlier than the rest of us. There are some major concerns about Islam, but we first need to sort ourselves out, and that includes the Church of England which I believe is arguably one of the most rotten institutions in the land. I will explain.

The decision of the National Synod to ban membership of the British National Party for its clergy and other employees is a sign of its imminent end. This is not the cause of that end, and in itself the banning is neither here nor there. It won't affect hardly anybody, and in any case probably refers only to 'new' members, not existing members. The courts would throw it out otherwise. I do not support the British National Party but I would rather that the mainstream parties deal with the issues and concerns that build support for it. These other political parties do not, and furthermore neither does the Church of England. Therefore given the silence of the mainstream many ordinary people find themselves pushed towards the extreme edges. The reason for me saying this is the end, is because there really is no hope given the present attitude and dominance of the new way, the 'way-aheaders' of there every being anything else, any power or kick to lead the nation back to its roots in Christianity. The leadership has sold itself to modern society, is as committed to modern society as any atheist, and will certainly never seek to be counter cultural as the Gospel demands.

Let's ask ourselves what the issue is for society as a whole, which includes Christians and non-Christians. There are major concerns about the loss of cultural identity by the British people, the loss of the place of the Church in society and fear of what the morrow might bring. We live in a society where the chief cause of our cultural identity, the Church of England, is being eroded and destroyed. Meanwhile the Christian 'Way-aheaders' do all they can to show the public that they are not being left behind. They issue edicts and orders on anti-racism, multiculturalism and so much else. But what is it doing to defend the country's values, and the culture from which it was nurtured, and which actually I'm very proud about? Nothing! Does it stand up to be counted when its values are scorned. Nothing! It bans the British National Party.

Who is going to defend the values that inhere in a Christian society in Britain if the Church of England does not? We are living in the midst of a cultural and religious collapse and the majority of the Church of England bishops can't see it. This is not an issue where black people line up on one side, and white on the other. If we look carefully it is the two black bishops of the Church of England who do in fact stand up for British Christian values, Bishop Michael Nazir Ali and Archbishop John Sentamu. I find myself very much of one heart and mind with these two men, and very much appalled by the others who are white and worry about appearing 'way-ahead'. When it comes to speaking out and standing up to be counted they are cowering in fear, cowering in fear lest they say the wrong thing, lest they are not 'with it' enough.

Therefore let that church go one as it will, let these white bishops continue with their liberalism but without my and hopefully your support. Let those of us who desire a strong heart for the nation form the church we need for the purpose. The coming crisis will be deep and severe. Few are denying now that it will not be as serious as that of the early 30s, and potentially much worse. We

need leadership, not fearful do-gooders who can't see a crisis when it hits them at 90 miles an hour. Let the rest of us form a new church where the old values and beliefs can be reformed and lived. We must do this so that the extremists don't win, *for the Far Right will gain in the coming crisis, rest assured of that.* Ordinary moderate people must do this.