



Dr Michael Heather

General Synod is responsible for the Postmodern State Religion

As Hegel says we cannot jump out of our time. Whether we like it or not we've moved into a postmodern age— 'whatever that means' used to be the description. Yet ignorant no longer for we're all now experiencing the 'postmodernism' World. 'Save the Parish' is a pretty slogan but what it means both local and global is not easy, let alone how to implement it. How to preserve in a transformed age the past great achievement of the Anglican Church in serving God everywhere on Earth?

In England the General Synod needs to get up to speed with members elected with appreciation of the needs and underlying postmodern forces operating in 21st Century Society. Reversing some recent Pastoral Measures may be a start but deeper radical changes have to be put into urgent effect to prevent what we don't want imposed on us. The profound unwritten constitution of the Established Church of England seems not to be appreciated even by some constitutional lawyers.

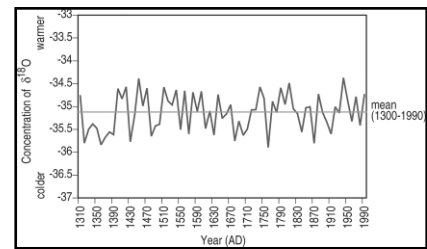
Founded in diversity Postmodern Theology is difficult to particularise. Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947) is acknowledged by some as its founder although not by him. My take on the theology can be found in the Book Review at [Process Studies, Vol. 44, No. 1 \(Spring/Summer 2015\), pp. 136-139](#). Two centuries of Modernism which Whitehead called 'muddle headed' have failed but still continues. Worth a read is a recent but depressing [Cumberland Lodge Report](#) from a humanist perspective envisaging disestablished religion.

The General Synod should reclaim its equal standing with the other separate powers of State. Our monarchy has lasted over a thousand years without a written code unlike those of France which has had five different Republics since their Revolution. Likewise the Roman Empire lasted a thousand years without a written constitution but was sustained by a 'state religion' with a deified Emperor to emphasise that they were all controlled by Fete. A similar principle underpinned Greek democracy by lot. Today's equivalence to the Fates is Natural Law which for two centuries has been displaced by reductionist positivism with disastrous consequences. The notion that Parliament is supreme rests only on wishful thinking and only for so long as recognised by the Common Law as part of Natural Law. The following need to be overhauled by General Synod:

- To maximise the use of parish churches with diverse types of worship by offering free use to any recognised organisation including other faiths rather than to be hijacked by secularists as concert halls. These will be better locations for the proposed seeding of 10,000 new laity led churches rather than schools and gyms— a hang over from the community churches of the last century
- The Law has a lot to answer for. It is possible to avoid the consequences of one's action through the use of a limited liability company by virtue of the far-reaching decision of [Salomon](#). Multinationals are causing havoc around the World as a consequence.
- The notorious Smythe and Bishop Ball cases at the top have greatly weakened the Church's power to control its own pastoral care. It is now subjugated to the bureaucratic costly secular regime. Compare the resulting expense for the [Exeter Diocese](#) and the [gobbledegook](#).
- In comparison to other Churches few real problems exist in Anglican circles with racism, safeguarding, gender bias, LBGTQ+, modern slavery, etc. Although there is still discrimination

against those opposing women's ordination. The 'flying bishops' scheme has fallen apart now the Bishop of Ebbsfield has seceded.

- Closer scrutiny of the proposal to sell off swathes of church land for housing
- A consensual postmodern approach to calculate the common fund
- Churches with listed buildings should benefit from enhanced local rateable valuations
- The Church has always had higher standards in education and science. Eton is but a comprehensive school. Why can't Church schools achieve the same?
- Greenland ice core graph shows natural climate change independent of commercial trading in emissions
- All truth is partial truth and old differences need to disappear
- Postmodern science awaits nuclear fusion, quantum computing beyond low temperatures and personalised medicine to cure COVID-19.
- The theology of the priesthood of all believers needs to be revisited
- If the established church is the state religion it should serve all faiths and be available for many different types of religious service possibly with free use rather than to allow secularists to take over these places of worship as community concert halls
- Some want no contact with those of different backgrounds. Why should they have to?
- The trend for no-fuss funerals could be exploited with or without funeral directors.
- Baptisms and simple registry style weddings should be explored as well as banqueting opportunities extended for full weddings
- Volunteer recruitment for guided tour as part of mission. Visitors just wander around aimlessly not knowing what they're looking at. An organised welcome and witness talk is worth a dozen Sunday sermons to the converted.
- If overseas visitors are targeted government grants are available.
- We are supported by the continuous prayer of those with a monastic calling but the rest of us are as leaven called to engage with the World.



We elders are not wiser than young but we've had more experience. Here's my brief bio:

After seven years studying classics & divinity; physics (BSc), instrumentation (MSc), experimental geophysical internal gravity waves(PhD), artificial intelligence and law (Post-Doc Research Fellow & Council of Europe Expert), teaching in schools, the education branch of the Royal Air Force, colleges, polytechnic and Universities, lecturer in mathematics & chapel acolyte (College of the Venerable Bede), lecturer in legal philosophy, litigation & trust accounts, solicitor (including immigrant Indian subcontinent clients). Called to the Bar (Lincoln's Inn). Published 400+ interdisciplinary research papers many [downloadable](#). Five years methodist lay preacher (Somerset & Leicester circuits), confirmed by bishop of Jarrow (Durham Cathedral community roll). Currently regular worshiper at St Mary's Totnes, Member of Totnes Deanery Synod and Exeter Diocesan Synod, Volunteer Dartington Hall and Totnes Transition Town. Community Radio broadcaster, producer and presenter on religion and for those with dementia. Life Fellow Royal Statistical Society and Royal Society of Medicine; Chartered Engineer, Member of Institute of Physics, Institution of Engineering and Technology, and British Computer Society, Member of the Foundation of Trinity College Cambridge,