

**PUSEY
HOUSE
OXFORD**



**CENTRE FOR
CULTURAL
WITNESS**

The Public Legitimacy of the Church of England

McDonald Centre for Theology Ethics and Public Life Annual Conference

In partnership with the Centre for Cultural Witness (Lambeth Palace) & Pusey House

June 10th 2024

9am Registration

9.30am Welcome and introduction

Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Director, Centre for Cultural Witness, former Bishop of Kensington.
Revd Prof Joshua Hordern, Professor of Christian Ethics, Faculty of Theology and Religion, Harris Manchester College, McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics and Public Life, University of Oxford.

9.45-11am Loyalty (Chair: Joshua Hordern)

The establishment of the Church of England is a fact we inherit from our history. This inheritance has constitutional and missional significance. But should we maintain a loyalty to this element of the Church of England's inheritance of faith? How should we evaluate what we have inherited from the past? What difficulties and opportunities surround the Church's participation in public life? These are some of the questions we will consider in the first session as we discuss what kind of public legitimacy the Church of England has, what kind of loyalty it should elicit and what future public role the Church of England should pursue.

Rt Revd Dr Eleanor Sanderson, Suffragan Bishop of Hull in the Diocese of York.
Dr Jonathan Chaplin, Honorary Fellow of Wesley House, University of Cambridge.
Dr John Ritzema, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Pharos Foundation and Pusey House.

11:00-11:30 tea and coffee break

11.30-1 History (Chair: Graham Tomlin)

Walter Bagehot famously described the Crown and the House of Lords as the 'dignified' part of the English Constitution, which elicits the loyalty and confidence of the people in the political system, in part by its pageantry and performance of ancient rites and rituals. The Church of England has played a distinct role in shaping the nature and culture of this nation. Since the Act of Supremacy (1534), the monarchy has been intimately tied to the established church as its supreme governor, a fact of which we were reminded in the coronation of 2023. Meanwhile, Bishops of the Church of England, and in the past, of the Churches of Wales and Ireland also, contribute to the deliberation of the House of Lords. This session will explore this settlement and its current significance in English and UK life.

Tom Holland, historian, author, co-host of *The Rest Is History* podcast.
Catherine Pepinster, historian and former editor of *The Tablet*.
Canon Prof Mark Chapman, Professor of the History of Modern Theology, University of Oxford.
Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC, formerly MP for Beaconsfield and Attorney General.

1-1:45pm Lunch (Revd Mark Stafford, Chaplain of Pusey House, will say grace.)

1.45-3:15pm Transcendence (Chair: Graham Tomlin)

In a world that increasingly focusses on the material, the presence of those who believe in transcendence, and in dimensions of depth to reality, and who seek to order their lives accordingly, are a fact in our society. They are not going away any time soon. What legitimate ways are there in politics to recognise that which transcends politics? What is the role of the establishment of the Church of England in sustaining a space for different churches and faiths to flourish in freedom? Do we need a ‘sacred canopy’ or a ‘naked public square’ in order to cooperate politically on what matters for the common good?

Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Bishop of London.

Shermara Fletcher-Hoyte, Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic, and Multi-Cultural Relations for Churches Together in England.

Daniel Greenberg, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards.

3.15-3:30pm short break

3.30-4.45 Place (Chair: Joshua Hordern)

By being a national church, and by inheriting the mediaeval system of parishes and dioceses, the Church of England naturally lives within the borders of a nation and the bounds of each local parish. What are the merits of the established church being rooted in the local life of a people? Do we have a greater or a lesser need for roots today? Do attachments to place hinder the energy of the Church’s mission to every person and nation? George Herbert and Robert Herrick, two celebrated Anglican poets, were country parsons, serving long ministries in a single parish. Was there something distinctively Anglican in their love of place? This session will explore the significance of the Church’s rootedness in place and parish for its ongoing legitimacy in the nation.

Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, Suffragan Bishop of Ramsbury in the Diocese of Salisbury.

Dr Maria Power, Senior Research Fellow at the Las Casas Institute for Social Justice at Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford.

Rt Revd James Newcome, retired Bishop of Carlisle, former member of the House of Bishops in the House of Lords.

4.45-5.15 concluding remarks (Chairs: Graham Tomlin & Joshua Hordern)

Revd Dr Malcolm Brown, Director of Faith and Public Life, Church of England.

The Venerable Dr Edward Dowler, Archdeacon of Hastings & Dean (designate) of Chichester.

5.30pm Evensong (Pusey House Chapel)

6:15pm drinks for invited guests (Pusey House Library)

7pm dinner for invited guests (Hood Room)