

The Lord Chamberlain's Office

**National Ceremonial Services
The Coronation in context**

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The Ecclesiastical Household

Canon Paul Wright LVO

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Ecclesiastical Household

Sub Dean
Domestic Chaplain to The King
Deputy Clerk of the Closet
Sub Almoner
Staff officer of the Ecclesiastical Household
Chaplain to the Gentlemen at Arms
Chaplain to the Yeomen of the Guard

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National Ceremonial Services



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Church and State



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Coronation



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Three themes endure

- National ‘protestantism’
- Deep catholicism or medievalism
- Remembrance
- Nostalgia?

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State Religion

The theological background

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Summary

- State ceremonial services developed out of the Reformation conflict
- They changed significantly in the great age of Reform
- The experience of Empire reshaped it again
- The Great War was a defining moment – and prayers for the dead returned

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The Cenotaph



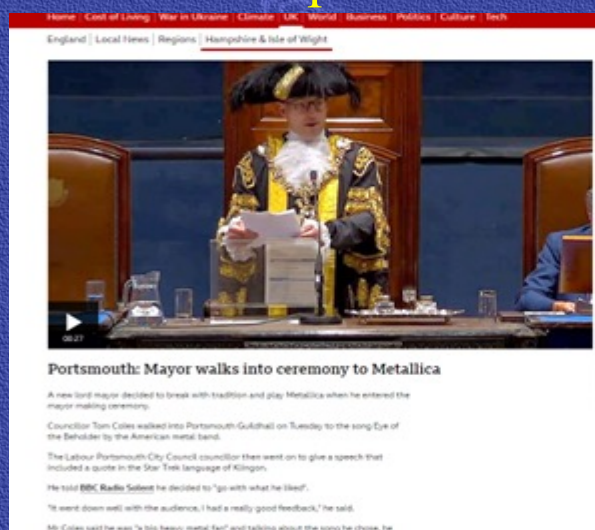
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State Religion

The challenge

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Other options?



The screenshot shows a news article from the BBC website. The main headline is "Portsmouth: Mayor walks into ceremony to Metallica". The sub-headline reads: "A new lord mayor decided to break with tradition and play Metallica when he entered the mayor making ceremony." The article text continues: "Councilor Tom Coles walked into Portsmouth Guildhall on Tuesday to the song Eye of the Beholder by the American metal band. The Labour Portsmouth City Council councillor then went on to give a speech that included a quote in the Star Trek language of Klingon. He told BBC Radio Solent he decided to 'go with what he liked'. 'It went down well with the audience, I had a really good feedback,' he said. Mr Coles said he was 'a big heavy metal fan' and talking about the song he chose, he

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Change and decay?



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Continuity and change?

- What is civic Religion today?
- Where do we see accommodation to the secular age?
- Formal dinners – Lincoln's Inn
- Where do we see continuity?
- Armed Forces?

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State religion today

- Ceremonial protestantism
- Medievalism – Coronation, funerals, Maundy
- Traditional
- High church or low church
- Short!

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The Coronation



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The date

- The Coronation date is traditionally St George's Day
- Coronation Day was 23rd April, in the Orthodox Julian Calendar



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St John ante Portam Latinam

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.



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The Coronation

- A fusion of the deeply catholic and deeply protestant
- A British orthodoxy
- Rich in symbolism – and mystery
- The Chapel's part in the story

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Yesterday, today and forever



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The Cross of Wales



4

Servant Kingship



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The Angel



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The Royal Maundy

- Ship
- Coins
- Touch
- Flowers
- Yeoman



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Remembrance Sunday Orders of Chivalry



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London Bridge



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The invention of tradition

- Royalty
- Pageantry
- Gothic spaces
- Medievalism
- Music
- Common Prayer/KJV/traditional worship
- Familiarity – *as it was in the beginning*

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Legacy

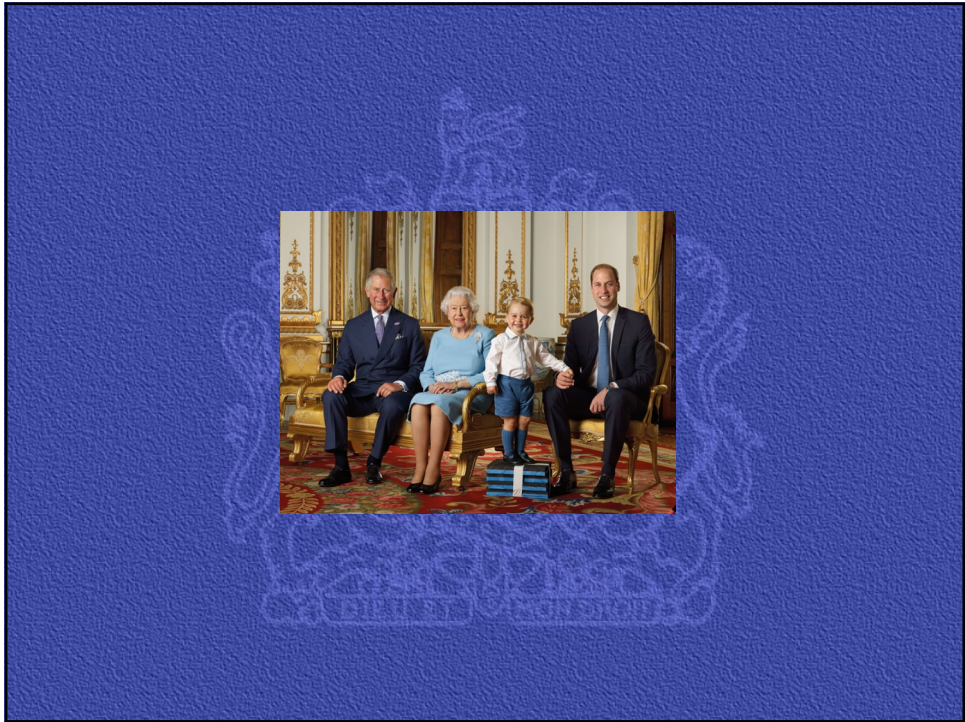
- *Now her death has unlocked a latent appetite for religious ritual, even transcendence – often among avowed atheists and agnostics. Many who rarely set foot in a church have found themselves popping in for a service or to sign the book of condolence. How remarkable that in our age of unbelief, this traditional funeral – an unambiguous statement of Anglican faith – drew one of the biggest audiences in TV history. Cynical secularists usually dominate social media, but this week they've sounded vaguely ridiculous. Many viewers reported being more moved by the simpler Windsor committal than the pomp and pageantry of the Abbey service and procession. They were mesmerised by the religious elements, not in spite of them.*

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The beauty of holiness



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