



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Pop tunes rather than hymns at funerals



No more poignant expression of the spiritual darkness that has descended upon our nation could be given than the reports in the media that bereaved families increasingly prefer pop songs to hymns at funerals, according to the nation's biggest undertakers!

Former favourites were hymns such as "Rock of Ages" and "To Be a Pilgrim." These apparently have been ousted by songs by Robbie Williams, Celine Dion and Sir Elton John!

According to *The Times* newspaper of August 5th, the Co-operative Group's funeral service gathered information about music choices from its 560 branches and reported that more than two thirds said pop music was increasingly chosen by families and friends. Lorinda Sheasby, of the Co-op, said: "We are receiving more and more requests for popular music as people attempt to personalise funerals and choose songs that are relevant to them." The knowledge set forth in the Bible of what lies beyond the grave and the solemnity of death and the need to prepare to meet God has gone from the nation. It is a tragedy for the dying and those left to mourn. The gross ignorance and despair of the Dark Ages has returned to this once favoured nation.

What an indictment this is of the modern churchmen and their Christless gospel. The retiring Bishop of Manchester, Christopher Mayfield, has been reported as saying that Christianity is on the brink of dying out. "As England moves further and further away from its Christian heritage and becomes a multi-faith community, I fear we could become a totally non-religious community." What does he see as the solution? Bishop Mayfield said the church should try to copy the spirit generated in his city by the Commonwealth Games. He said the question was 'how we engender any real feeling of the kind of togetherness we witnessed during the Games in a society that has moved very strongly down the line of individualism.'

What a fool! Was it by generating such a spirit that England was first evangelised? Was it by such a spirit that George Whitefield and John Wesley saw the land revived under God's blessing in the 18th century? I think not.

The curse of the United Kingdom is Christless men preaching a Christless message in Christless churches. That has bred a Christless generation. Hence the popularity of the empty comforts of drink, drugs, pleasure-seeking, and pop songs at funerals.