

The demise of the Church of England has been predicted before, but the Lambeth Conference will be the gathering for the funeral. So worn out and miserable is the church today that no one will bother to stay on for the baked meats.

Archbishop Peter Akinola, the Primate of Uganda, says: “There is no longer any hope for unified communion.” Traditionalist bishops will not even attend the Lambeth Conference which is run by the modernising tendency that has destroyed the Church of England.

According to the newspapers, the causes of this final schism are the modernising tendency’s acceptance of homosexuals and women as bishops. But these are only pretexts, the last rips in a shroud that has been moth-eaten for a generation.

The rot began in the 1960s when, rather than confront the secularising movements in western society, the churches cheerfully embraced it. Then the church diluted its doctrines, ditched the best version of the Bible and discarded The Book of Common Prayer.

The magnificent cadences of the English Bible were replaced by the doggerel of new versions and the services which many people still knew by heart were thrown out in favour of modern liturgies so banal they are laughable. Because the new words would not fit the old tunes, the 500 years tradition of English church music was discarded in favour of jogging-for-Jesus settings by tin-eared trendies

The wound was inflicted suddenly, viciously. I can put a precise date on it – March 1963. Bishop J.A.T Robinson published his fabulously hyped paperback *Honest to God* and claimed “Our image of God must go.” Soon the shops were full of five shillings books by leading churchmen denying the Virgin Birth, the Resurrection and the Gospel miracles.

The debunking of traditional faith was accompanied by the abandonment of morality. Chapter six of *Honest to God* smashed the Ten Commandments and replaced them with what Robinson called “situation ethics” which redefined morals as “doing the loving thing in the situation in which you find yourself.” This meant doing as you damn well liked.

We supported the decriminalisation of homosexuality, for it was wrong for men acting consensually in private to be imprisoned for their sexual proclivities. We never imagined this would lead to today’s obscene open air pantomime of Gay Pride – the love that dare not speaking its name now shrieking at us in high camp along the high street, and sodomy accorded the same moral weight as Christian marriage.

Abortion law “reform” would, they said, put an end to distressing back-street abortions. No one thought this would result in abortion as a form of contraception - 190,000 destroyed fetuses last year. The church welcomed the “reforms” and rejoiced in them as “the new morality.” In fact it was the beginning of the demoralising of the nation, the first excited steps down into the antinomian sewer we now inhabit.

What was once a mortal sin is now only a lifestyle choice.

The church authorities have caved in. The Church has resigned. We have been penetrated by the ideas that are working against us.

They have surrendered to the new regime of democracy, universal rights, diversity, and the moral relativism which can no longer distinguish between right and wrong. Libertarianism will not do. We have Commandments from God, few in number but very specific.

It is not too much to say that the church which should preach Christ has become Antichrist. The modernisers' church has collapsed because the people in the pews were instinctively conservative. They could not abide the destruction of their beloved church by the trendy hierarchy among the bishops and in the Synod. And so they voted with their feet.

So what will happen next? The church will not split neatly in two. Individual congregations will make their own arrangements.

I am not without hope. At least the tomfoolery we have endured these last forty years has been revealed for the failure and disgrace it always was. I recall something T.S. Eliot said just before the Second World War:

“For the immediate future, perhaps for a long way ahead, continuity may have to be maintained by a very small number of people indeed.”

And I keep saying my prayers – traditional version