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[The Occupy Movement: Religion, Politics and Commerce Collide](#)



Jane Bryant, The One Click Group

Amidst rancour on behalf of the [boyz of St Paul's Cathedral](#) where religion, politics and commerce have so potently collided, the Christmas parable for the winter of 2011 is in full swing.



People not profit, camp OccupyLSX at St Paul's Cathedral, London

Turning its face against the Occupy movement taking place in over 900 cities around the globe, St Paul's Cathedral management has shut the church's vast wooden doors for the first time since the Blitz during the Second World War declaring that the protesters at camp Occupy LSX are to be cast out.

Citing access difficulties (contested) and loss of restaurant and visitor revenue created only by its very own closure decision, the Cathedral management has produced its own internal Health & Safety report that decrees risk as the only dead dodgy leg the church is being propped up on. Quite what that risk actually consists of is a complete mystery to all as management is keeping this controversial serpent report folded to its bosom as closely as Judas Iscariot clutched his 30 pieces of silver.

Perplexed Ben from OccupyLSX Legal says: "We have spoken to Health & Safety at the local Council and the Fire Brigade and there are no immediate concerns. Everything raised with us in the past has been addressed. What we really want to know is what the concerns of St. Paul's actually are so we can address them. I think if they have concerns and if there is a danger to the public that we are not

aware of, this is information not being shared with us so we cannot really address the situation. My personal opinion is that this a little bit irresponsible.”

St Paul’s has now closed all dialogue with the protesters.

Bring In The Lawyers!



St Paul’s Cathedral Canon Giles Fraser initially gave his blessing to camp OccupyLSX

Currently huddled with their lawyers discussing injunctions, the Cathedral’s management difficulties are compounded by the fact that the protesters were initially given permission to reside in the courtyard by St Paul’s very own Chancellor Giles Fraser and that the OccupyLSX camp is pitched on a property patchwork quilt split between the Church and the City of London Corporation with nobody really knowing who owns which bit.

The woes of St. Paul’s management have been enhanced by many religionists who do not concur with the corporate view and are using the power of the pulpit to promote dissent.



Reverend Dennis Nadin said he would write to the dean of the cathedral demanding an explanation about the exact "health-and-safety reasons" under which it was closed on Friday (Source: The Independent)

Adam Force, age 26 and working with the media collective at camp OccupyLSX said “We had a bell ringer from St Paul’s speak at our General Assembly and he told us that what is going on at the Cathedral is a somewhat fractious issue. Now I don’t think so many people would be so foolish as to overlook the possibility that they are not acting in the interests of their churchgoers and the people who go to prayer there, they are acting in the interest of the Corporation of London. I think that’s a concern many of us have around here.”

The terrible irony for St. Paul's is that if it had kept its nerve and its doors and restaurant open, it would now be basking in positive PR and enjoying an unprecedented financial windfall to boot. What a nice change that would have made from the clergy paedophilia headlines, women bishops and gay rights that have been the church's publicity stock-in-trade for years.

What makes the Occupy movement so different from those that have gone before them? "Some people are discovering for the first time what their politics are and a really diverse range of views on what should be done. The Occupy movement is a brilliant, amazing platform and certainly takes you out of your comfort zone when you are having some of these chats. I think this is the best way to try and create an alternative," said Ben from OccupyLSX Legal.

Occupy London buds out at Finsbury Square



Occupy Finsbury Square

Expanding from the St Paul's Cathedral campsite to deal with the overflow, Occupy Finsbury Square (#OccupyFS) has now been set up as the new eco bud of the Occupy London movement. Less than a mile away from the original St. Paul's campsite with grass rather than cobbles to site the tents on, compost toilets under construction, a new kitchen and all the systems being put in place, the Finsbury Square space has a little bit more room.



Tents springing up apace over at Occupy Finsbury Square

"Finsbury Square is much more open and we have made a little camping town, with the kitchen nicely set up. I'm going to get my Mum down here," said Tom, age 25, OccupyFS camp resident and helping with the computer technology side of things.



Margarida at OccupyFS: People are rising up in 900 cities around the world

Margarida, age 25, has taken some time off from her job with a printing management company that works with London Boroughs processing data. “We have reached this magnificent age where information is free. With the internet I am free not to have to take someone else’s word for it but actually research and find out by myself and put in practice something that *Animal Farm* teaches us: critical thinking,” she said.



Previous resident Pat O’Malley supporting Occupy Finsbury Square

Pat and Dennis O’Malley who now live in Dublin used to live opposite Finsbury Square and up in London for the weekend, just couldn’t resist visiting their old home. “It is just fascinating. When we heard about the protesters in Finsbury Square, we happened to be in London and so we thought we’d come up and have a look,” said Pat. “I do support their ethos and their presence because I certainly feel that we’ve all been abandoned particularly by the banks and what they have done. They get off scot free and everybody else is suffering, particularly people of our age, some of whom had bank shares and everything else.”

The couple have six children. “One was an architect, one an engineer and one was a politician, ha!” said Pat. “Three of them are unemployed, not totally unemployed but not doing well anymore because of the type of jobs they were in, so it’s very hard.”

The Occupy movement opens wide to include everyone, despite what the mainstream media would have you believe to the contrary.

Occupy London Half Term

Next on the OccupyLSX and OccupyFS agenda is the *Mothers and children invited to Occupy London for Occupy Half Term* day starting tomorrow, Wednesday 26 October.



[Occupy London Press Release](#)

A group of mothers and children from Cambridge has issued an invitation to every mother in the UK to join them on Wednesday 26th October 2011 at Occupy London Stock Exchange at St Paul's Churchyard. This is an opportunity to find out more about the camp, which is part of the global movement for real democracy aiming to challenge social and economic injustice in the UK and beyond.

All children on half term and their carers are invited to this bridge-building event, where parents and children can question those involved in the occupation about their reasons for being there. Parents and carers unable to attend can track Occupy Half Term with their playgroups and schools online.

Click for the full text of the press release [HERE](#).

Politics at St. Paul's, mainstream media and management

Back at camp OccupyLSX and moving to my favourite steps of a building in the lee of St Paul's, I got chatting with four national British press photographers who seemed to be looking for anything and everything they could find to discredit the protesters. Not because as people they're built this way you understand, but because this is what their management has largely decreed they wish the story line to be.

This is the same mainstream media that has been up to its neck in twisting the facts in an often reprehensible and sometimes criminal manner since God was in nappies as the recent hacking scandal has so vividly revealed.

The Occupy movement makes many of the dead trees media and their ilk viscerally uncomfortable as it produces its own newspapers, websites, Facebooks, Twitter accounts via its own direct-to-the-public relations without having to go through the interface of Rupert Murdoch et al.

It's really tragic for the management of St Paul's that they appear unable to grasp the real life occurring in their courtyard for which if they held true to their religious convictions, they should surely support.

It is not the modern Blitz that has closed St Paul's Cathedral this time, but the corporate politics of Mammon, one of the primary issues that the church was set up to proscribe. Whether this auto-tarnishing of the Anglican Church at its very own hands will prove to be an even greater threat than the bombs is open for considerable debate.

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25 October 2011