



Sea of Faith Network  
London Day Conference 2013

## SECULAR RELIGION?

with  
Stephen Batchelor  
Don Cupitt  
Richard Holloway

Saturday 21 September 2013

10.30am – 5.00pm

St John's Church  
Waterloo Road  
London, SE1 8TY

[www.sofn.org.uk/](http://www.sofn.org.uk/)



**St John's Church, Waterloo Road**, is at the south end of Waterloo Bridge, adjacent to IMAX cinema. It is opposite Waterloo Station (BR main line and Northern, Bakerloo and Jubilee Underground lines).

Coming by Jubilee, follow the Way Out sign for **Waterloo NOT South Bank**. At exit, turn left onto Waterloo Road. Bakerloo or Northern passengers follow the Way Out sign for **Trains Not South Bank**. Exit onto Main Line Station; take **Exit 2** to Waterloo Road.

Buses 1, 4, 26, 59, 68, 77, 139, 168, 171, 172, 188 and 381 stop nearby.

### Refreshments

Coffee and tea will be provided during registration and the afternoon break.

### Lunch

You may bring your own packed lunch and drink. There are cafes and pubs in the area where lunch can be bought.

REGISTRATION FORM (please detach)

**SO F** Conference **Saturday 21 September 2013**

Please reserve ..... places @ £17.00 ..... total £ .....

Please reserve ..... places @ £15.00 (concessions) ..... total £ .....

If you can include a donation to help defray costs and concessions it would be appreciated. total £ .....

I enclose a cheque payable to **SEA OF FAITH NETWORK (LONDON)** Grand Total: .....

Name: ..... Phone: .....

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Please send completed cheque and form to: **John Seargeant (SoF), 61 Fordington Road, London, N6 4TH**  
If you would like an immediate acknowledgement, please send sae. Final details will be sent nearer the time.

## Secular Religion?

Secular Religion: an oxymoron or the future?

Is the definition of 'secular' 'that which is not religion'?

Is the definition of 'religion' that which is not secular?

Is 'secular religion' a contradiction of terms, an oxymoron; or

is there a definition or re-definition of 'secular religion' that makes the phrase useful in describing an attitude, outlook, or way of life, that is relevant in today's godless society?

Can one be a Buddhist and not believe in karma and re-incarnation?

Can one be a Christian and not believe that Jesus is God and our Saviour; not believe in heaven, life after death, or God?

Can one be a secular monk, priest, or bishop?

Is our plenary session panel a trinity of heretics, or an aggregate of insight and wisdom?

How can we positively and practically re-define religion (if necessary) to be satisfying, life-enhancing and valuable?

Is it necessary to conserve the form, or substance, or both of traditional religion?

If not, what form or substance could replace or progress traditional religion?

**Our world-famous trio of authors and speakers will stimulate and challenge you!**

**SEA OF FAITH NETWORK** started in 1984 as a response to Don Cupitt's book and TV series of the same name.

The Network's statement of intent is 'to explore and promote religious faith as a human creation'.

The Network has no creed and welcomes people from all faith communities, and those with no involvement in any organised religion.

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## Programme

10.30 Registration & Coffee

11.00 Introduction by Chair: Patti Whaley

11.15 Stephen Batchelor: ***Towards a Secular Buddhism***

12.15 Break

12.30 Don Cupitt: ***What's Left of Christianity?***

13.30 Lunch

14.30 Richard Holloway: ***Secular Religion: an Oxymoron or The Future?***

15.30 Tea

16.00 ***Speakers' Plenary Panel and Audience Questions***

17.00 Close

## Speakers

### Stephen Batchelor

...Stephen Batchelor is a British author, teacher, and scholar, writing books and articles on Buddhist topics and leading meditation retreats throughout the world. He is a noted proponent of agnostic or secular Buddhism. Stephen engages in a critical exploration of Buddhism's role in the modern world, which has earned him both condemnation as a heretic and praise as a reformer. His recent memoir is titled:

**"Confession of a Buddhist Atheist"**

### Don Cupitt

...Don Cupitt is an English philosopher of religion and scholar of Christian theology. He has been an Anglican priest and a lecturer of the University of Cambridge. He is now a Life Fellow of Emmanuel College and is known as a prolific writer, broadcaster and commentator .

His latest book is:

**"The Last Testament"**

### Bishop Richard Holloway

...was Bishop of Edinburgh from 1986 and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church from 1992 until 2000 and is now regarded as one of the most outspoken and controversial figures in the Church, having taken an agnostic worldview, commenting widely on issues concerning religious belief in the modern world. His own theological position has become increasingly radical and he has recently described himself as an "after-religionist".

His best-selling autobiography is called:

**"Leaving Alexandria: A Memoir of Faith and Doubt"**

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