

## THE CROSS

The City of Bath has a rich Christian heritage and much of that heritage has to do with the input that Christians, generation after generation have brought. Through that legacy we have prospered as a City. The Abbey has been at the centre of our City from the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The Cross of Christ has been at the centre of this city since the earliest times.

It seems to me that our heritage is under attack from a very small group of activists who insist on political correctness and the rights of minority groups over the majority view in so many areas of national and in this case local life. For some 50 years there has not been a problem with the cross at the Bath crematorium, no petitions for its removal, no protests, then without any democratic consultation a decision is made to have a portable Cross, one that can be wheeled in or out for convenience. It seems to me that we are influenced far too much by those who have an underlying agenda, in this case to remove the most potent symbol of our Christian heritage. We need to respect the right to these views, but we should not allow them to shape our society. The tail should not wag the dog.

The Cross is a symbol of hope, abundant life in the here and now, and in the life to come. It is appropriate that it remains at the heart of our city and at the crematorium to give hope to those who may draw strength from it. So let us resist those who would seek to rob others of the hope that is in the Cross of Christ Jesus.

Local government officials seeking to take the Cross of Christ out of our community would do well to remember the words Queen Elizabeth II in her Christmas message and in her Jubilee year is saying that we should be returning to our Christian roots. One way we can do this is to maintain the centrality of the Cross of Christ in our City.

Yours sincerely

Graham Duke