

its own destruction. Whom God has joined together, let no man put asunder—not even if it is expedient to do so.

As for the ordination of women, the battle will now be heating up and entering what may well turn out to be its final stages. A few years ago, it would have been taken for granted that the march of progress, and the knowledge that the women concerned would not go away until their demands were met, might have swayed the vote in their favour, quite apart from other considerations. That may still prove to be the case, but the conservative mood of the moment may yet hold surprises in store for us. Yet whatever the final outcome, there is little cause for rejoicing. Once more, the plain teaching of the New Testament has been set aside ('Paul was a man of his time') and the issue has been fought between Church traditionalists who will not step in where Rome fears to tread, and liberals who see themselves as God's messengers to a hidebound Church. Even those few who have thought to look at the Scriptures have too often come away with their minds firmly rooted in the principle of cultural relativity—a convenience which absolves them from many things. Doctrine may be returning to the agenda of General Synod, but we are still a long way from having a Church which listens to, and obeys, the voice of the Bible, whatever the cost. May God grant us the courage to make this voice heard in the years ahead.

GERALD BRAY

In Memoriam

Raymond Johnston, who had been chairman of the editorial board of the *Churchman* since the beginning of 1984, passed away at the age of 58 on 17th October. By training a modern linguist and a teacher, who had also been a lecturer in Education at the University of Newcastle on Tyne, he had made himself one of that now rare breed, a capable lay theologian. Of recent years he had devoted his energies to moral questions, and in particular to the maintenance of Christian moral standards in the church and in society, which led him to leave university work and accept appointment as full-time director of the Festival of Light (later, Care Campaigns). In this capacity, he devoted himself to informing the general public by addresses and popular literature, to briefing members of both Houses of Parliament, and to countless other ways of countering moral decline. Within the church, he was an active member of the General Synod, and before that of Church Assembly, where he vigorously pursued

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