

thinking. Thus on the terrible fate of Baby P (note: who died from appalling domestic abuse under the noses of official social workers): “Whatever God and the Bible says (sic) here’s what I say: sometimes it’s good to hate”.

On abortion: “if someone feels the number of abortions that take place in this country is too high, why is it he or she is accused of being a misogynist?”

On teenage girls getting pregnant: “Teenage girls shouldn’t be having underage sex. Why? Because it’s wrong”.

On Afghanistan: “some on the Left in Britain try to give the impression that they’re opposed to fascism while marching in support of the Taliban and Saddam’s former regime... They are liars and hypocrites”.

Trenchant indeed. In the ultimate act of Socialist Betrayal he even extols McDonald’s: “as far as I can see, they sell extremely tasty food at reasonable prices”.

All these opinions and more no doubt go down well enough among some Labour voters in Glasgow South, but nothing in the book suggests what body of belief and principle pulls such views together. There are teasing references to Mr Harris’ earlier convictions as an Evangelical Christian, and even his fleeting membership of the Conservative Party.

On 25 October 2010, just before he closed the blog, Tom Harris explained why he was not, in fact, a Conservative. Even here no political philosophy is identified. He blandly lists various policy positions and concludes that he is considered “insufferably right wing” because he actually believed in what the last Labour government did: “Tony Blair remains, for me, a brilliant and principled leader who (sic) I was proud to follow in the voting lobby”.

All in all, this is not a book but a bubble of ex-blogging, floating prettily in the air until it popped. Struggling through it I found myself recalling Jeeves’ famous description of Bertie Wooster (*Thank You Jeeves*, 1934): “mentally somewhat negligible but he has a heart of gold”.

As Tom Harris himself put it about his own blog: “If you believe that politicians take themselves too seriously, you might enjoy it. If you think they should take themselves very seriously indeed, or shouldn’t have any interests outside politics, I would avoid it, frankly. Try [John Redwood](#).”

He’s right. Unlike Tom Harris, John Redwood sets a towering example of a blogging MP who links profound thought to political reality.

Charles Crawford’s blog <http://www.charlescrawford.biz/> was voted one of the UK’s top 12 Independent Blogs in the 2011 Total Politics survey.

Why I’m right... And Everyone Else is Wrong. Tom Harris MP. Biteback Publishing. September 2011.

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