

# German agnostics look on the bright side of life

David Crossland, Berlin

March 30 2018, 12:01am, The Times

- [Europe](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Law](#)



*Monty Python's Life of Brian* is among hundreds of films that are banned from being screened on Christian holidays ALAMY

German agnostics have won a battle to screen *Monty Python's Life of Brian* on Good Friday after taking their case to the constitutional court.

About 500 people will gather in a nightclub in Bochum in the Ruhr region today to watch the comedy that was accused of blasphemy on its release in 1979 and remains banned from public showing on religious days.

The event is being organised by a group opposed to the dominance of the churches in Germany. It wants to overturn a wider law banning dancing, sports events and the screening of hundreds of films on Good Friday and other Christian holidays. "We're going to commit the ultimate provocation by dancing when *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life* comes on," Martin Budich, 67, a retired teacher, said.

The group appealed to the court after being fined for a previous screening. The court rejected the case and told them to seek a special permit. The city granted one for this year only. The campaigners will fight again next year.

Mr Budich said: "We're not opposed to the entire law but against the passage that says on quiet Christian holidays everyone has to be sad and depressed, even non-Christians. It's outdated." He never tires of the film. "It wonderfully satirises religious dogmatism," he said.