

# St. Stephen's News

**St. Stephen's Church, Timonium, Maryland**  
A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

Vol. XXI, Number 29

Edited by Anne Hawkins

July 27th, 2010

**ECCLESIA ANGLICANA II**

## Joseph of Arimathea and the metals trade

*IF THERE is one thing that really gets my goat, it's the claim that our mother church, The Anglican Church, is only 450 years old and that it was founded by King Henry VIII. I actually heard this asserted at a church meeting recently. This is a nonsense. The British Church can, in fact, lay claim to being the oldest Church in the gentile world. So let's set the matter straight:*

SINCE its earliest recorded history, the English Church has asserted that it was founded by St. Joseph of Arimathea, Our Lord's uncle, "immediately after the passion of Christ" – ("Statim post passionem Christi.")

This had never been disputed until France and Spain challenged it for political purposes in 1409. The antiquity English Church, however, was unequivocally affirmed by five Papal Councils – the Council of Pisa (1409), the Council of Constance (1417), the Council of Sens (1418), the Council of Sienna (1424), and the Council of Basle (1434).

The five councils ruled that the English Church is the oldest Church in the gentile world – despite the fact it would have been

**Ready. Get set. Give!**  
**St. Stephen's Church**  
**Community Blood Drive**  
**Monday, July 26th**  
**Parish Hall - 3.00 PM to 8.00 PM**

politically advantageous for the pope to have obliged two such powerful and influential nations as France and Spain. Thus, it seems fair to assume that the documentary evidence in favor of the English claim must have been overwhelming.

Sadly, much of that evidence is now lost to us, destroyed during Henry VIII's dissolution of the religious houses, as well as during the English Civil War in the 17th Century when ancient documents were used to make cartridges. Even so, a strong body of evidence remains: Ancient Welsh annals, writings of the Early Church Fathers, early British historians, archaeological discoveries and oral history.

All lend credence to legends that the British Church was established by St. Joseph sometime between AD 36 and AD 39, shortly after the Resurrection.

The earliest surviving historical records of the British Church were compiled long after the events that they describe took place. Gildas wrote in the 6th Century, as did Maelgwyn of Llandaff, also known as Melchinus, uncle of St. David.

It is, however, quite clear from the works of these early scholars that they were writing genuine history and that they relied heavily upon very much older documentary sources. Some scholars, for example, believe Maelgwyn was merely quoting an earlier Maelgwyn, known as Maelgwyn of Avalon (or Glastonbury), who lived and worked in the First Century.

To a considerable extent it is possible to reconstruct much of the early history of the English Church what is known as "oral history." This is the historical record painstakingly sifted from the myths and legends that, in the early years at least, were passed on by word of mouth by illiterate people. It is well established that societies in which reading and writing are unknown are, none-the-less, able to transmit history with remarkable accuracy though many generations. As a consequence, oral

St. Stephen's Church  
**CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS**  
sings  
**Choral Evensong**  
at 6.00 PM Sunday, August 1st  
Reception to follow

history has proved a valuable academic tool -- most notably in the realm of social history.

Treated with appropriate caution, it can provide scholars with an accurate picture of historical events for which no first hand documentary records exist.

Oral history offers strong support for the assertion that the British Church was established by St. Joseph of Arimathea -- who begged Christ's body from Pontius Pilate -- shortly before the Romans invaded Britain. The legends of St Joseph's presence in Britain are exceedingly ancient in origin."

At this point it is worth asking: Why would St. Joseph have come to Britain? A number of the early fathers of the Church record that St. Joseph suffered persecution, along with other leading Christians, and was compelled to flee the Holy Land. Legend -- or oral history -- says that he fled to Britain, because he was a metals trader who had frequently visited the British Isles and knew them well. Fleeing to Britain made sense. At the time of his supposed arrival -- about AD 37 -- Britain was not part of the Roman Empire. The Roman armies did not invade until AD 45. And the Celtic population was not subdued until AD 52, when their military leader Caradoc (or Caratacus, as Tacitus calls him), Crown Prince of the Silurian Clan, was betrayed and captured.

Welsh scholars contend that the rapid spread of Christianity throughout the Britain is explained by the fact that the indigenous druidic religion worshipped a trinitarian god, one person of which was known as "Yesu." Moreover, the druidic teachings echoed those of The Bible -- among them that man's responsibility to God superceded his duty to the civil authority. Claims that druidism, at least in its British incarnation, was Christianity awaiting the coming of Christ might be somewhat fanciful. But it's interesting to note that the Romans were generally tolerant of foreign religious cults and that during the period of the empire only two religious cults were officially suppressed: druidism and Christianity.

How much of this can be scientifically attested? Not a great deal. However, the remains of a small wattle and daub church has been excavated at Glastonbury, where St. Joseph is said to have settled. It is claimed archaeological evidence dates it to a time shortly before the Roman invasion of AD 45. Christian

**THE RETURN OF THE  
SILLY SUMMER SUPPERS**  
Fun neighborhood get-togethers every  
Thursday at 5.30 PM  
Join us for fine food & fellowship

symbols, moreover, have been also discovered on artifacts recovered from a Roman fort at Carleon, in Wales, thought to have been destroyed towards the end of the First Century.

What can be documented is that numerous early Fathers of the Church have left writings confirming the early arrival of Christianity to Britain. They include: Clement, 3rd Bishop of Rome, in AD 96; Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, AD 180; Tertullian of

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE  
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

being Sunday, August 1st, 2010

8.00 AM, 9.15 & 11.15 AM  
HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 10:1-13

The Gospel: St. Luke 15:11-32

FOR YOUR MORNING OFFICE

The Psalter: Psalm 115

The First Lesson: Ezekiel 14:1-11

The Second Lesson: I Thessalonians 4:1-12

Carthage, AD 192; Origen of Antioch, AD 240; Dorotheus, Bishop of Tyre, AD 300; and Eusebius of Caesarea, AD 320.r

Heretics seem to be regarded as more trustworthy than the orthodox these days, so here's what the heretic Sabellius – excommunicated by Pope Callixtus in A.D. 220 – had to say on the subject: "The first nation that proclaimed [Christianity] as its religion, and called itself Christian, after the name of Christ, was Britain." **GPH**

**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE**

**Life Line Screening on  
Friday, August 1th**

LIFE LINE Screening will be visiting St. Stephen's on Friday, August 13th, with their community preventive health screening program. They will be offering screening and tests for stroke risk, vascular disease and bone density.

The screening team will be here from 8.30 AM to 5.00 PM for more information or to pre-register, call me at the Parish Office: 410-560-6776 or call Life Line at 888-653-6441. Alternatively, you can go on the web and visit Life Line at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). **ANNE E. HAWKINS**

**St. Stephen's Traditional  
Episcopal Church**

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093  
Tel.: Office (410) 560-6776; Rectory (410) 665-1278  
Web Address: <http://www.ststephens-md.org>

RECTOR: The Venerable Guy P. Hawtin

ASSOCIATE RECTORS:

The Rev. Rhae E. Kelley and The Rev. Robert Menas

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR: Anne Hawkins (410-308-2771)

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

8.00am -- Holy Communion

9.15am -- Holy Communion (Nursery & Church School)

11.15am -- Morning Prayer (Nursery)

(1st. Sun. of the month: Holy Communion at 11.15am)

**WEEKDAY SERVICES**

Wednesday: 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Friday: Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday: 5.00PM Family Eucharist.

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List and guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the office at 410 560 6776.

**RECOVERY:** Helen, Alma, Sara, Ravi, Elizabeth, Brian, Tracey, Linda, Robert, Nancy, Sharp, Edithann, Doris, Jay, Robert, Nancy, Perry, Amelia, Shirley, Adrian, Kimberly, Dean, Barb, Tanya, Jane, Brook, Val, Helen, Joseph, Joshua, Rachel, Carl, Cal, Catherine, Sam, Ruth, Kristi, Paul, Sue, James, Patty, Antonio, Lauren-Michelle, McKayla, Randy, Jack, Grace, Bob, Fran, Carolyn, Ken, Serina, Wyatt, Bobby, Alexander, Erlene, Kathleen, Earle, Judy, Katherine, William, Betty, Cal, Trisha, Peggy, Linda, Millie, Walt, Bruce, Cienna, Tracy, Tom. Lelillah, Jennifer, Miriam, Karen, Steve, George, Eliza, Mel, John, Randy, James, Sarah, Linda, Suzanne, Marian, Edith Anne, Steven, Jeanne, Tammy; Ellen, Jim, Patricia, Bonnie, Mary Ann, Robert, Christine, Dee, Brian, Barbara, Gillian, Eileen, Matthew, George, Bryan, Jason, Jane, Joan, Frances, Ernie, Pat, Lynn, Michael, Ray, Leslie, Brandon, May, Scott, Stephen, Robert, Danny, Billy, Betty-Ann, Mildred, D'Metrius, Laura, Stacey, Frank, Alma, Christine, John, Henry, Naomi, Pam, John, Ben, Kevin, Gwen, Elizabeth, Gloria, Lee Emily, Elsie, Bruce, Regina, Lewis, Madolin, Linda, Carol, Bernie, Charlene, Josephine, Margaret, Jody, Sheila, Jo Anne, John, Geradine, Thomas, Jeanne, Sister Catherine-Grace, Maxine, Ann Sharon, Dennis, Mae, Anita, Marilyn, Lawrence, Rebecca, Dorothy, Joanne, Albion, Martha, Jackie, Charles, Tony, Edward, Kim, Vivian, Carol and Debbie.

**LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** June, Anna, Jean, Garrett, Ned, & Stephen, Rachel, Robert & Renee, Lydia; Richard, Melba, Debbie, Phyllis, Georgetta, Carolyn, Suzanne, Tony, Erik, Doris, Drake, The Norris family; Gillian, Beverley, Adrienn, Jhana, Marla, Matthew, Joan, David, Laurie, Ellen, Lynn, Mildred, Sarah Lee, Tom, Susan, Debbie, Kathy, Owen, Douglas, Amy, Jo Anne, Mary, Gregory, Isabel, Bobby, Dorothy, Darren, Scott, Rebecca, William, Charles, Joyce, Asfa, Eleanor, Kathy, Linda, James, Barry, Ann, Evelyn, Jeanette, Elizabeth, Virginia, Mildred, Chris, Micki, Stephen, Carol, Sandra, Elsie, John, Mary, Michael and David

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** LTC. R. J. Lytle, PFC Charles E. Heintz, IV, U.S. Army, Alex Bursi, US. Navy; Capt. Charles Bursi & LTC Harry Hughes, U.S. Air Force.

**COLLECTS FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY  
AFTER TRINITY & ST. JAMES**

O GOD, whose never failing providence ordereth all things both in heaven and earth; We humbly beseech thee to put away from us all hurtful things, and to give us those good things which are profitable to us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

GRANT, O merciful God, that, as thine apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, without delay, was obedient unto the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him; so we, forsaking all worldly and carnal affections, may evermore ready to follow thy holy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *AMEN.*

*Book Common Prayer, Pages 198 & 246*

Return Service Requested

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11856 Mays Chapel Road

Episcopal Church  
St. Stephen's Traditional

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