

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Volume XXVI, Number 15

A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

21 April 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

Queen Victoria to preside over our Bottle Wheel

We are in desperate need of bottles of wines and spirits for our Bottle Wheel – one of the traditional attractions at St Stephen's Annual British Garden Party and Fête which will run from 11am to 4pm on Saturday, 2 May.

People love to hazard a dollar or two in hopes they might win a nice bottle of wine for dinner or perhaps bottle of something stronger for cocktails beforehand.

But the fact of the matter is that whether or not they win their coveted bottles is in large part up to you. Please try to search your cubbyholes and cupboards, wine cellars and fallout shelters for the bottles you stored away like squirrels and promptly forgot.

If you don't have any odd flasks or casks of something special stored away, perhaps you would consider making a trip to your local liquor store to pick up a bottle of something nice to please the good folks who so enjoy our Garden Party.

And don't imagine that you offend Her Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria who will be presiding over the affair. She really enjoyed a tippie. Indeed, she used to drink the occasional glass of Scotch with her beloved gillie [*Editor's note: Scottish manservant*] John Brown.

The couple's favourite brand was *John Begg* (advertising jingle: *Take a peg o' John Begg*). It's a whisky that is a firm favourite of The Rev. Mr Wiley Hawks [*actually, further research suggests it's been superseded by Vat 69 – Ed.*], although it is by no means as easy to find nowadays as it was a couple of years back.

John Brown, a rough-spoken gillie from Queen Victoria's Balmoral estate, was seven years her junior. He became her constant companion after the death of her husband, Prince Albert, standing guard outside her room at Windsor Castle, relaying messages to senior courtiers and barring entry to some of the highest people in the land.

It was widely rumoured that the queen was rather more than his drinking partner. We will probably never know the truth, but, when you meet her at the Garden Party, you're welcome to ask ... if you're willing to risk a whack on the head with her fan.

What we do know is that Brown, born in the local village of Crathie, went to work as a 21-year-old outdoor servant at Balmoral in 1848. The young Queen took a particular shine to him when her husband died aged just 42 in 1861.

She fell into a deep depression and rides with Brown in a pony cart were virtually the only things that perked her up. He had a lively sense of humour and cheerfully put courtiers in their place using language diplomatically described as 'blunt'.

Unlike the rest of her household, including her children, he wasn't in the least bit frightened of her. For example, when she demoted a footman for dropping a silver salver, Brown intervened on behalf of the 'puir laddie' and the young man was promptly reinstated.

But there's much more to our British Garden Party than bottles and the Bottle Wheel. For starters, there's a far greater variety of food on offer than at Queen Elizabeth II's famous Buckingham Palace Garden Parties.

Delicacies include a scrumptious English tea, not to mention Welsh and Cornish pasties and good old-fashioned hot dogs. As for pies and cakes, we'll wager you'll find a far wider and much more mouth-watering selection at our cake stall than you'll be offered in the queen's back yard.

On top of all this, you can drink choice beers and wines at our English pub while there's not so much as a beer tent at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. There's no Punch and Judy Show either.

Queen Victoria, who started the Garden Party tradition back in 1863, stepped in when Henry VIII sent us his regrets on the ground he'll somewhat preoccupied with lopping off the heads of various unfortunate spouses and skivvies.

Today the Royal Garden Parties are held three times a year during the summer months at Buckingham Palace. Another takes place in Edinburgh, Scotland at the Palace of Holyrood House, home of the late Mary Queen of Scots among others.

They rather pretty stuffy affairs. Not least, there's a dress code, so forget about dressing comfortably.

Men are encouraged to wear 'morning dress' (i.e. black swallowtail coats and pin striped pants) or at the very least 'a lounge suit'. Uniforms and 'national dress' are also acceptable. Women are expected to wear 'afternoon dress' with gloves, hats or 'fascinators' (whatever they may be).

Don't worry, however, at our Garden Party in Timonium you won't be asked to dress up like a hambone with a frill on it for Queen Victoria; she's much too laid back for that sort of thing.

You're welcome to dig out your crinoline or top hat from the attic if you feel like it, but Her Majesty will be just as happy to shake your hand if you're dressed in tee-shirts, shorts, jeans or sweats.

What's more, as some 8,000 people are invited to each royal garden party at Buckingham Palace, there's no chance for guests to corner the Queen Elizabeth for a private chinwag about Phil and the kids.

That most certainly won't be the case here at Timonium: Queen Victoria will be only too glad to shake your hand, pat your kids on the head, share a cup of tea with you or maybe even a genteel glass of wine

One way to really impress her is to become a Patron of the event. It will not only get you on to Queen Victoria's Birthday Honours List, it will earn you a special mention in our complimentary programme guide. How's that for one-upmanship?

So sign up for one of the four levels of patronage:

- Imperial Crown, for a donation of \$100
- House of Windsor, for a donation of \$75
- House of York, for a donation of \$50
- House of Lancaster, for a donation of \$25

You can also get on Her Majesty's good side by helping us out with all sorts of items we need for the party:

We are looking for: **Cakes for the Cake Stall**. Last year your cakes were so scrumptious, we sold out completely in the first two hours. Please double your efforts. It's all in a good cause.

We also need **tea cakes and dainties** for our Tea Room. We can use all the help we can get to provide mouthwatering teas for our guests.

We are also in the market for **superior quality jumble** for our Jumble Sale Stall. This is your opportunity to at last get rid of the autoharp Uncle Thomas used to twang at family gatherings and the cage that once was home to Cousin Ebenezer's parrot.

Please search your cupboards, attics, cellars, and fallout shelters for saleable treasures. You can start bringing them to the church this week.

Last, but far from least, we need volunteers to put up and take down the tents and stalls and, of course, to man them on the day. **GPH**✘

The Parish Prayer List

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

FOR RECOVERY: John ✘, Hilarie, Jack, Donald, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Edie, Cary, Judy, Julie, Phyllis, Steve, Wendy, Matthew, Adele, Starr, Helen, Emily, Kathleen, Ned, Marty, Mark, Don, Linda, Elizabeth, Mary Lou, Cathy, William, Dan, Lindsey

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Susan, Scott, Charles, Vinnie, Doug, Rusty, Ian, Lydia

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Countdown to Garden Party

How can you help make our Garden Party a success? Let us count the ways...

✓ Become a Garden Party patron! Your name will be listed in the Garden Party programme acknowledging your generosity.

Levels include:

- Imperial Crown - \$100
- House of Windsor - \$75
- House of York - \$50
- House of Lancaster - \$25

✓ Rummage through your house for unwanted bric-a-brac, collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs, etc., and drop them off on the jumble table in Quimby Hall.

✓ Sell advertisements and sponsorships for the programme. Must be received by 22 April. Letters are available in the Cadwalader Room.

✓ Pick up a poster or two from the coffee room table and post at your local 'haunts'.

✓ Search your wardrobe for fashion scarves and jewellery for the Finishing Touch table.

✓ Donate bottles of wine and spirits for our Bottle Wheel.

✓ Bake cakes, pies, cookies or breads for our Bake Table. Bake small dessert items for the tea room. Baked goods should be delivered to the church on Friday, 1 May.

✓ Lend us card tables for the tea room. Be sure to put your name on them so we can make sure you get them back.

✓ Create a beautiful floral entry for our 'All Things British' flower contest. Deliver to the church prior to 10am on 2 May.

FROM THE CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School: Savannah Safari

St Stephen's will be offering Vacation Bible School once again this summer for children ages 4 through 10. Vacation Bible School will take place from Monday, 22 June to Friday, 27 June from 9am-noon. This year's theme is 'Savannah Safari - Where Kids Discover How Love H.E.L.P.S. Others'. It is themed around life in an African village and is based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

There will be a modest \$20 fee to cover snacks, crafts and supplies. To process your child's registration, please telephone the church office on **410 560 6776** and speak to Happy Riley.

St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

Office: 410 560 6776 · Rectory: 410 665 1278

Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Ven. Canon Guy P. Hawtin, *Rector*

The Ven. Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki, *Associate Rectors*

The Rev. Mr M. Wiley Hawks, *Deacon* · Adric, *Magister Chori*

Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

SUNDAY SERVICES

8 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11 am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

6 pm: Choral Evensong (as announced: evensong.ststeve.com)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5 pm: Family Eucharist

Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

Mondays, 6.30 pm: Bridge Club

Tuesdays, 7 am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursdays, 10 am: Knitting Circle

Fridays, 10.30 am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Saturday, 2 May, 11 am-4 pm:

British Garden Party and Fête

Sunday, 3 May, 6 pm:

Choral Evensong

Wednesday, 20 May, 12 noon:

The Ladies Who Lunch

Thursday, 21 May, 2 pm:

Afternoon Tea

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Timonium, MD 21093

11856 Mays Chapel Road

St Stephen's Anglican Church

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT NO. 181