

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

Volume XXVII, Number 3

A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

2 February 2016

FROM THE RECTOR

The English Church and people: Portrait of a unique relationship

The title of the Venerable Bede's *History of the English Church and People* is best understood as a compound noun of the type often encountered in German. *Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaftskapitän* (trans. Danube Steamship Company Captain) is a classic example of the form.

This is not simply an eccentric literary conceit. Bede and his 7th Century contemporaries regarded the English Church and the English people as not merely inextricably entwined, but as two facets of the same coin.

For them, the Church and the people were one and the same thing. To speak of one was to speak of the other.

It was a situation evident in the manner in which the realm was governed. Unlike the kingdoms and principalities not only in Europe, but also in its close neighbours Scotland, Wales and Ireland, there was no such thing as a separation of Church and State in England.

The same great Synod, the *Witanagemot* (*Witan* for short), was responsible for the administration of affairs both spiritual and temporal. Bishops and clergy joined at the *Witan* with the laity – nobles, magnates and representatives from the shires – to elect a king and jointly govern the realm with him.

This system continued until 1066 when the Norman Duke William laid claim to the English crown and invaded England. William's troops killed England's elected King Harold during the Battle of Hastings, and shortly afterwards suppressed the *Witanagemot*.

Traditions, however, die hard. A century and a half or so later, a reconstituted *Witanagemot* emerged – albeit with a newly coined Norman French name *Parliament* – and the ancient alliance of English clergy and laity set about acquiring the powers the *Witan* had enjoyed.

The uniquely close relationship between England's church and people has exerted a profound influence on the development on all aspects of life – temporal and spiritual – throughout the English-speaking world.

It has not only shaped our government institutions, framed our legal system, moulded our social institutions, inspired our sense of duty and honour, and created our language, it has brought into being the concept of the modern, unified nation state.

Indeed, were it not for the unique relationship between the English Church and people, it is likely the political geography of the British Isles prior to the present era would closely resemble that of Europe during the 16th and 17th Centuries – a constantly squabbling gaggle of mini-states.

It is also probable that the world would be a very much more dangerous place because it is unlikely that great democracies like the United States, Britain, Canada,

Australia, New Zealand and India would have been brought into being.

This year's Lenten Study will explore the extraordinary influence of the unique relationship between the ancient English Church and people has had not just on our own nation, but on English-speaking peoples throughout the world – even those who do not share our Christian faith.

The first of the five-part series will begin after Evening Prayer at 6.45pm on Wednesday, 17 February, and will continue at the same time on each Wednesday evening until 17 March. Each session will be completely contained so you can miss one but not lose the thread of the story.

As usual we will be offering you both food for both body and soul – not least a choice of hearty soups, beverages and the best bread in Baltimore. If you don't think that you'll need more than that, just bring a sandwich.

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, ring the parish office on 410 560 6776.

FOR REPOSE OF SOUL: Jack

FOR RECOVERY: Hilarie, Jack, Cal, Phyllis, Edie, Bill, Terry, Helen, Jim, Adele, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Rosemary, Robert

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Scott, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Ned, Cindy, Anne, David

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; Lt Cdr Emma Hawkins, RN

Join us to learn, among other things, how the Book of Common Prayer created the English language as we speak it today.

Discover how the relationship between the English Church and people accounts largely for the difference in the development of North and South America.

Explore the role this unique relationship played in the creation of America's representative republic.

Discover why we consider a person who is on trial for a crime innocent until his guilt has been proven to the satisfaction of a jury of his peers.

Learn why King Edward VIII had no choice but to abdicate when he decided to marry Mrs Wallace Simpson. **GPH***

ON THE KALENDAR

Shrove Tuesday Supper on 9 February

Saint Stephen's Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper takes place on 9 February at 5.00pm. These famous suppers are not only gastronomic events, they are also real inflation fighters. The price has remained unchanged for 26 years. We challenge you to find anything in Baltimore with a comparable record!

For a mere \$5 per adult you can feast on scrumptious pancakes and a heaping helping of the finest sausages the city has to offer. (You could manage seconds? Be our guest!) Naturally, there will be lashings of syrup, butter, and apple sauce, with low calorie equivalents for folks watching their weight. Beverages will be available at nominal cost. Kids under 12 can tuck in for half price (\$2.50) for the first two, and the other kids you bring along – your own or anyone else's – eat free. We challenge you to find a better deal in town than that! It can't be done! We have managed to hold our prices steady without compromising quality because the Pancake Suppers are not fund raisers but family affairs aimed at fostering fellowship and fun. If we make a profit, it's entirely accidental.

Join us for fellowship, fun and fantastically good food at this year's Pancake and Sausage Supper. It's the best value in Baltimore. Doors open at 5.00pm and close at 7.30pm.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

The Ladies will lunch on the 17th

The Ladies Who Lunch will meet at the **Padonia Ale House**, on Wednesday, 17 February at noon. The Ale House is located in the Padonia Shopping Centre at 61 East Padonia Road in Timonium. Why not join them for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship – what more could you want? Please ring Joyce Perlberg on **410 252 2680** to make your reservation; she will need a final count by the 15th.

FROM THE MUSIC OFFICE

Now hiring choirboys – apply today!

Saint Stephen's Choir Academy, the voice-training programme which provides the boy choristers for our parish choir, is looking for new recruits. If you know a family member, friend, neighbour, or random kid on the street who enjoys singing, wishes to receive a *free* classical music education, and who might be interested in getting paid in the process, please contact the Admissions Director, Mrs Cheryl Nickol, on **410 329 6399** or at **admissions@choiracademy.org**

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, The Rev. Robert Ludwig, *Associate Rectors*

The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, *Pastoral Care Chaplain*
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

Monday, 6.30 pm: Bridge Club

Tuesday, 7 am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursday, 10 am: Knitting Circle

Friday, 10.30 am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Tuesday, 2 February, 7pm

Parish Life Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 9 February, 5 pm

Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper

Wednesday, 10 February, 10 am & 7 pm

Ash Wednesday services

Wednesday, 17 February, 12 noon

The Ladies Who Lunch meet at Padonia Ale House

Wednesday, 17 February, 6.45 pm

Lenten Studies begin

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St Stephen's Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093

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