

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

26 April 2016

FROM FR ROBERT LUDWIG

Maypole but no ducking stools at our Garden Party (part i)

The other day I was talking with Priscilla Huffman about the Garden Party. After a few chuckles and fond remembrances of some successes and failures of last year we remembered that we were 'sans maypole' or, as the Romans would say, '*sine Gaudium*' this year due to some calamity or other.

This got me thinking about Maypoles, not only how to attain one (more on that later), but the history as well. After all, I thought, such an odd behaviour must have some interesting tale to tell; and interesting is a good word. My personal history with Maypoles involves me reprimanding my teachers in second grade for talking during the dance, but the real history is far more intriguing.

Now one cannot have a Maypole without a May Day or 'Beltaine' as the Anglo-Saxons called it. May Day was a festival of all the good things one imagines: Spring, fertility, renewal, planting, and as the Anglo-Saxons specifically called it, a time of milk and honey.

The Maypole arose as a symbol of this promise and bounty. Its origins clearly suggest earlier influence of the Druids (the original tree-huggers); however these connections were exaggerated out of all proportion by the Puritans in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Maypoles are mentioned in historical accounts of the 14th century, including Chaucer. He reports a Maypole in Cornhill, City of London, and a will dated 1373 bequeaths one in Pendleton.

Other early sources suggest the maypole was also a rite of youthful passage, and the collection of a fresh tree from the wood often led to friendly woodland encounters; which for that time, were given license. The tree, as it were, was then brought to the village green, stripped of its boughs with the exception of the top few (which were often adorned with flowers and greens), and erected.

The pole of that time would have had no ribbons and would have been danced around with general merriment and frivolity. The manner and traditions varied from village to village, and prizes and games were often the fare.

The 'merriment and frivolity' eventually led to the Maypole receiving unwanted attention, and as early as the later years of the reign of Elizabeth I the Puritans were pulling down Maypoles around England. In the year 1644 they were outlawed and in 1652, under Oliver Cromwell, Parliament banned them from the realm entirely.

It is a point of historical interest some of the most accurate and detailed descriptions of these poles were recorded by the Puritans. These descriptions include globes of flowers with the Blessed Virgin perched atop or inside with baubles and bells.

With the Restoration of the Monarchy, came the renewal of the traditional May Day festivities and Maypoles began to festoon the towns and countryside. The most noted of these was erected on the Strand, London in 1661, where it stood faithfully, at a whopping 143 feet in height, until 1717 when a fellow named Isaac Newton accidentally pulled it down under the weight of a telescope. **RMHL**✘

(To be concluded in the next issue)

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

It's nice to be noble; be a patron of our fete

May Day! May Day! May Day! It's almost upon us. There are just three weeks to the St Stephen's Annual Garden Party and Fête. This means time is running out for you to join the ranks of the nobility by signing up as one of our noble patrons.

Prime Minister Lloyd George felt free to sell patents of nobility to special friends and acquaintances, and so do we. Patrons may choose from four ranks of nobility:

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

What are the benefits of patronage? Aside from the undying gratitude of all the yeomen, serfs, villeins and cotters in the parish, our noble patrons will receive a free hot dog, a beverage of their choice, and a prominent mention in our profusely illustrated programme.

Why not sign up? The Garter King of Arms awaits ...

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 RECOVERY: Hilarie, Cal, Phyllis, Edie, Bill, Terry, Helen, Jim, Adele, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Aida, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Rosemary, Robert, David, Jan, Susie, Beth, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Pam, Charlotte

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

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

But don't stop there. Please attend the Parish Life Committee meeting on Tuesday, 19 April – the last meeting before the big event – to help us finalise our plans.

There are also sort of things we need to help make the event a success. 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 teacakes and dainties for our Tea Room. We can use all the help we can get to provide mouthwatering teas for our guests.

Card tables and chairs to go with them are also on our wish list. And tea pots, too. Not the George II sterling silver heirloom that you inherited from the Custis side of the family, but the pretty little pot that Aunt Mabel gave you a couple of Christmases ago would do very nicely.

We are also still in the market for superior quality jumble for our White Elephant Stall. This is your opportunity to at last get rid of the zither 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.

And we are badly in need of bottles of wine and spirits only for the Bottle Wheel.

Last, but very far from least, please volunteer to help. We need as many folks as possible both for set up on Friday, 6 May, and on Party Day, Saturday, 7 May. **The Parish Life Committee**

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Countdown to the Garden Party

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

- ✓ Sign up to work in a booth or the tearoom. Sign-up sheets are on the Garden Party table in the hallway. (Can't miss the rabbits!)
- ✓ Donate bottles of wine and spirits for our bottle wheel. Leave in the auxiliary kitchen.
- ✓ Sell advertisements for the programme. A cover letter with instructions and a sample page are available on the Garden Party table.
- ✓ 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, 6 May.
- ✓ Lend us card tables for the tea room. Be sure to put your name on them so they can be returned to you.
- ✓ Lend us teapots for the tea room, but not your best Limoges.
- ✓ Create a beautiful floral entry for 'The Queen's 90th Birthday' flower show. Deliver to the church prior to 10am on Saturday, 7 May.
- ✓ Become a Garden Party patron! Your name will be listed in the

Garden Party programme acknowledging your generosity. Leave cheques in the church office for Cindie Baker.

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.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School 2016

St Stephen's Vacation Bible School, for children ages 4–10, will take place once again this summer during the week of 20–24 June from 9am–Noon. The cost is \$20, and there are scholarships available upon request. This year's theme is *Creation Days*. We will explore the seven days of Creation in the Book of Genesis. Please phone the church office on 410 560 6776 and speak to Happy Riley to begin your child's registration. We hope you will bless us with your children, and please have them bring a friend!

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

Sunday, 1 May, 6 pm

Choral Evensong, featuring the new boy choristers

Saturday, 7 May, 11 am–4 pm

St Stephen's British Garden Party & Fête

There will be no Afternoon Teas offered in April or May

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