

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

3 May 2016

FROM FR ROBERT LUDWIG

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

(Continued from the previous issue)

On this side of the pond, Maypoles fared no better at the hands of the Puritans. A contract trader turned abolitionist from Devonshire named Thomas Morton settled in Quincy, Massachusetts, and established a utopian commune of sorts with his freed servants. Morton, a freethinking Anglican of sorts, gave his Puritan neighbours fits with his wit, his pen, his fun loving nature, and his tolerant religious stance. He once said he found two sorts of people in New England: Christians and Infidels. The Infidels he found 'most full of humanity, and more friendly than the other'.

Morton's Maypole so infuriated the Puritans that in 1643, as the Roundheads were clashing with the Royalists 3000 miles away, America's first Hippie was arrested and imprisoned. This war was so famously silly, prolonged, and heated that Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote, 'were jollity and gloom were contending for an Empire' in *The Maypole of Marymount*, a short story about the struggle.

In the years that followed, Maypole raisings have celebrated royal anniversaries: in 1760 to mark the accession of George III, and in 1887 and 1897 to mark milestones of Queen Victoria's reign. The ribbons and more organised dancing were making their debut around this time.

The Maypole and associated dancing we know today can be attributed to one John Ruskin who introduced it at Whitelands College in 1881 after creating a series of dances and the pageant itself. These dances and the resurgence of the Maypole was so successful that in 1890's and beyond, Maypoles were fashioned even in the bleakest parts of London with a lamppost playing the part of the freshly cut tree. In 1951 a pole approximately 84 feet tall was raised at Barwick-in-Elmet, Yorkshire, and one brave soul climbed it to spin a weather vane atop. In 1975, May Day was made a public holiday again in England for the first time since 1640; and in 1977 and 2002, Maypoles were erected to celebrate the Queen's Jubilees.

Custom dictates the pole be brought in from the woods and erected in some public place, where it remains year round. They are traditionally pine or birch, and between 12 and 60 feet tall, and painted either red, white, and blue, or red and white as a barber's pole. All of which brings us to our new Maypole.

Our new Maypole will be about 12-13 feet high, and of Lodgepole Pine; a species known for strength and straightness. Like the Maypoles of the past we will erect it on the Green, and while it will not be there all year, it should make for good fun at the Garden Party. It was found in a place known for poles and trees, Colorado. The good people at United Wood Products Incorporated were only too glad to help and were quite unsurprised by our needs, so they graciously donated the pole, and another to boot. With the help of our Parish Life Committee our new Maypole is with us now.

So, barring the invasion of itinerant Puritans, we look forward to good fellowship, jolly dancing, and more than a little frivolous fun on May 7th at the Garden Party. So leave your ducking stools and pyres at home and come enjoy these blessings along with delicious food, sumptuous tea, and refreshing stouts and ales. **RMHL**✘

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

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, Sophia, Nancy

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...

- ✓ If you haven't already signed up to help, check for any available opening in a booth or the tea room
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Donate bottles of wine and spirits for our bottle wheel. Leave in the auxiliary kitchen.
- ✓ Bake cakes, pies, mini-cakes or breads for our Bake Stall. Baked goods should be delivered to the church on May 6th or 7th.
- ✓ Bake small sweets or savouries for the Tea Room. Tea Room baked goods should be delivered to the church by 10am on Saturday, 7 May.
- ✓ Lend us card tables for the tea room. Be sure to put your name on them so they can be returned to you.
- ✓ Create a beautiful floral entry for our flower show, 'The Queen's 90th Birthday'. Deliver your arrangements to the church on Friday, or no later than 10am on Saturday, 7 May.
- ✓ Join us Friday, 6 May for the big set-up!

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!

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Timonium, MD 21093
11856 Mays Chapel Road

St Stephen's Anglican Church

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