

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH • TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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THE LENTEN STUDY

## The democratic ways of the oldest gentile church

This year's Lenten Study – entitled Our Odd Anglican Ways – will take a close look at the ancient British Church. It will examine its influence on constitutional concepts on both sides of the Atlantic, with a particular emphasis on the way in which the church shaped our understanding of the rights of the individual and the manner in which we govern ourselves.

Studies will take place in the Parish Hall at 6.45 PM after Evening Prayer, beginning on Wednesday, March 13th. They will continue each Wednesday, concluding on Wednesday in Passion Week. As usual we are providing hearty soup, beverages and the best bread in Baltimore.

It is reasonable to contend that more nonsense is spoken about English Church history than any other jurisdiction in Christendom. Many people, for instance, seem convinced that the church was founded, out of whole cloth, so to speak, by King Henry VIII (he of six wives) in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

This is utter rubbish. For the unique English concepts that underpin our justice system and form of government are based on Christian traditions that are very different from those of the other ancient Christian jurisdictions, including those of the Roman Church.

It is often claimed that history is written by the victors. This is not true – at least, it has not been true for the last 150 years or so. Histories are usually written by historians, and this is, most decidedly, a mixed blessing.

The problem is that, more often than not, historians have an axe to grind: a particular *weltanschauung* or social theory to propound. This, naturally, tends to distort the picture they present to the world.

History, far from being a dispassionate appraisal of past events, is frequently heavily tinged with partisanship, polemic and propaganda. This, lamentably, is especially true in the sphere of Church history.

Nor should it be surprising. The competing claims of various jurisdictions and denominations to be the sole repositories of the Christian Truth inevitably foster bitter partisanship. Rarely has partisanship more gravely distorted the historical truth than in history of the Church of England. Students of Anglican history today are sandbagged not only by Roman, Orthodox and Protestant propagandists and apologists, but also by fellow Anglicans of different liturgical and theological persuasions.

As a consequence, at this point in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there seems to be a general acceptance of the notion that the English Church, as we know it, came into

being as the result of St. Augustine's mission to Kent in the year AD 597. Indeed, The Most Rev. Robert Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, made obeisance to the theory during his visit to the Vatican as have other senior Anglican prelates in the recent past.

It is however, high time we set the record straight: Augustine did not establish the English Church. Far from it, in fact.

When he arrived in Kent – an obscure Saxon kingdom in Southern England – it was virtually the only part of the British Isles that remained almost entirely heathen. I say almost entirely because there was a Christian presence in Kent: priests, monks and a bishop from the Celtic Church in Gaul (now France) who ministered to Queen Bertha, a Christian princess from Gaul, who was consort of the Kentish king.

## 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 prayer list, or visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office (410) 560 6776.

**FOR RECOVERY:** Daniel, Leona, Charlotte, Bryan, Rachel, Elizabeth, Dorothy, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Robert✕, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, Adrian, Tom, Michell, Al, Kathy, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, Judy, Elizabeth, Wade, Sifa, Theresa, Lisa, Larry, Dan & Scott

**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Bethany, Caroline, Ardis, Mavis, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Cindy, Jacob, Casey, Beth & Kath

**IN MEMORIAM:** Michael Miller

**THOSE WHO MOURN:** Severn Miller & family

**ON ACTIVE SERVICE:** Lt. Col. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; MSGT Michael Holter, USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army.

The West and North of the British Isles were, to all intents and purposes, wholly Christian. And there was an extensive network of Christian missions throughout the rest of Britain.

Far from converting Britain to Christianity, Augustine found that the task had largely been accomplished by a Church one rarely hears about these days. It was the indigenous British Church -- commonly called the Celtic Church; the Church that we, today, call the Church of England.

Claims that Augustine was Primate of Britain are, to put it politely, quite empty. Britain already had its own Primate – the Archbishop of Carleon, the successor to St. David, the patron saint of Wales, who had died some 20 years before Augustine's arrival.

The British Isles also boasted 120 bishops and thousands of priests, not to mention many thousands of monks and nuns, serving a church which was already more than five centuries old. GPH✕

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

# Begosh & begorragh! It's our St Patrick's Day feast

*Oh, I woke me up this morning and I heard a joyful song  
From the throats of happy Irishmen, a hundred thousand strong*

*Sure it was the Hibernian Brigade*

*Lining up for to start the big parade*

*So I fetched me Sunday bonnet and the flag I love so well*

*And I bought meself a shamrock just to wear in me lapel*

*Don't you know that today's March seventeen?*

*It's the day for the wearing of the green.....*

Have we got a treat for you! This year March 17th – St Patrick's Day – falls on a Sunday and this give us a golden opportunity for after-church fellowship. The Parish Life Committee heartily invites you to join us for a Grand Saint Patrick's Day luncheon immediately after the 11AM service..

There will be all the usual fare: Mouth-watering corned beef, cabbage and that good old Irish favorite - potatoes, and all will be accompanied by the appropriate beverages. Don't worry! If you don't buy the idea that "Guinness is good for you," there will be plenty of other beverages to choose from.

The cost for all this – a mere \$10 (Beverages extra.)

To attend this gala event, reserve your place on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Reservation forms will be available in the Cadwalader Room.

FROM THE TREASURER

## Please send in your pledges

Churches, like families, need to plan their budgets, but, also like families, they find it hard to do so if they are unable to forecast what their income will be. St. Stephen's is i drawing up its budget for the year, but cannot finalize things until you have all sent in your annual pledges.

We realize that making a pledge is a chore at a time of the year in which there are more than enough chores already. But pledges are our "security blanket" And, like Linus in the Peanuts cartoon, we need our "security blanket. BOB REYNOLDS

## St Stephen's Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093

**Office:** 410 560 6776 · **Rectory:** 443-425-2420

**Pastoral Care:** 410 252 8674

[www.ststeve.com](http://www.ststeve.com)

The Rev. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*

The Ven. Michael Kerouac, *Vicar* ·

*Associate Rectors:*

The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki,

The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, The Rev. Robert Ludwig. &

The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers

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

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**8am:** Said Eucharist

**9.15am:** Sung Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

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

Choral Services (as announced) – [evensong.ststeve.com](http://evensong.ststeve.com)

### **WEEKDAY SERVICES**

Wednesday, **6pm:** Evening Prayer

Friday, **12 noon:** Healing Eucharist

Saturday, **5pm:** Family Eucharist

## Calendar of Events

### WEEKLY

**Monday, 6.30pm:** Bridge Club

**Thursday, 10am:** Knitting Circle

Noon: Bible Study

**Friday, 10.30am:** Bible Study

### MONTHLY & SPECIAL

## “Our Odd Anglican Ways”

(The Lenten Series)

*Wednesdays, March 13th to April 10th, 6.45 pm*

## Ladies Who Lunch

*Wednesday, Noon, March 20th*

*venue to be announced!*

*Reservations: Call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026*

## St Patrick's Day Lunch

*Sunday, March 17th, after the 11 AM Service*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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