

# St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

## Nutty notions shift from Hyde Park to the U.S.

People have been harangued by the famous, infamous, notorious and nutty at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park and on Tower Hill close by the Tower of London for close on a thousand years. Speeches delivered there – sensible and stupid, intelligent and inane – have long been a popular source of entertainment for Londoners and tourists alike.

The free speech tradition came into being because they were originally places of execution where the condemned were customarily permitted regale the onlookers with final farewell speeches – often insulting to the authorities and even outright seditious.

Hyde Park's Speakers' Corner was originally the site of the notorious Tyburn Tree gallows where vast crowds, sometimes as large as 100,000, gathered to watch many of England's most infamous criminals "dance the Tyburn jig."

It is estimated that between 1108 and 1783 (when executions were transferred to Newgate Prison) more than 50,000 people met their maker at Tyburn Tree – 24 at time in the gallows' heyday.

Tower Hill, by contrast, was a place where the nobility were put to death, viewed by similarly large throngs of spectators. There, too, the condemned were permitted to make final speeches, although generally their last words tended to be polite and apologetic.

However, the saintly Archbishop William Laud, who went to his death on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1645, was vindictively denied this courtesy. The final words of the archbishop – the victim of a judicial lynching by rebellious puritan parliamentarians – gently protesting his innocence and forgiving those who had engineered his execution were deliberately drowned out by a loud roll of drums.

The free speech tradition of the two former places of execution was formally enshrined in law by Act of Parliament in 1872. It was a freedom that was enthusiastically exercised by thinkers including Karl Marx, George Orwell and The Rev. Donald Soper, a fiery Methodist preacher and politician, as well as a large assortment of loons, freaks and fanatics.

Sad to relate, political correctness is rapidly eroding free speech at the sites. Tower Hill has been transformed from a paved open space to tasteful gardens quite unsuited to function as a venue for public speakers. Petitions are being organized to save Speakers' Corner is being slowly cluttered out of existence with additions such as a band stand.

*Aficionaos* of the sort of fanatical, foolish and utterly outlandish notions once promulgated at the former execution sites can turn to American television where they can find similar lunatic stuff in abundance.

The conspiracy theories on U.S. television are, admittedly, somewhat different from those one hears at Speakers' Corner. But they are certainly no less exotic.

In Britain, for instance, the government is often the subject of bizarre and decidedly paranoid allegations – conspiring, for example, with Saudi royals to finance the international drug trade.

By contrast, one of the U.S. channels recently treated viewers to a talk show in which the host looked on without demur while a person billed as a psychiatrist confidently declared that President Trump is responsible

for more deaths than Stalin and Mao Tse Tung put together.

Like the president or loathe him, such a notion is quite unhinged. Even the most gullible and naïve should be able to see it for what it is – the product of an over-heated and tortured imagination.

But then gullibility and naivety have been the order of the day here in American for more than two years. How else can one explain the fact that so many folks – including a large proportion of our self-anointed intellectual elite – embraced the notion that the Russians conspired with Donald Trump to steal the 2016 presidential election?

One might expect the media to be gullible, but one doesn't expect to encounter it in the in the Justice Department, the FBI, the intelligence agencies and the State Department. The officials who backed the conspiracy theory should have known it was rubbish. That, after all, is why they are paid for.

## 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:** Catherine, Richard✘, Janis, Parisa, Daniel, Judy, Leona, Charlotte, Bryan, Rachel, Elizabeth, Kim, Dorothy, Donna, Skip, Dan, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Heidi, Alan, Terry, Helen, Linda, John, Neal, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Jan, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Marie, Jim, Joanna, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, Adrian, Tom, Michell, Jack, Lewey, Stephen, Pamela, David, Wade, Sifa, Theresa, Lisa, Larry Ricard & Scott

**FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE:** Caroline, Karen, Ardis, Mavis, Michael, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Chip, Elizabeth, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Catherine & Elizabeth

**IN MEMORIAM:**

**THOSE WHO MOURN:**

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

Of course the Russian try to mess with our elections. They have been at it since the Communist International (Comintern) was founded in 1919. But the aim of their "*disinfomation*" campaigns is generally to create disruption and confusion and to sow distrust in our system of free elections..

Indeed, our intelligence services should have been well aware that were the Russians to supprt a particular candidate they would be far more likely to favor a "devil they know" rather than a wild card like Trump. The ever cautious Kremlin values predictability. Perhaps it's time to ask the spooks for our money back.

What's truly amazing is that the public have been treated to the collusion fairy tale while two of the Russians' most damaging "*disinformation*" operations have run for years unremarked.

A Russian propaganda campaign has successfully undermined U.S. diplomatic relations in Africa by convincing vast numbers Africans that the CIA is responsible for the AIDs epidemic that is still devastating many countries on the continent.

A yet more damaging “*disinformation*” operation has been the creation of the “Green Movement” – the inspiration for the United Nations’ Climate Accords, not to mention Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s Green New Deal.

The campaign was conceived in the late 1960s/early 1970s to disrupt West Germany’s nuclear energy program. Funding for it was channeled through the East German Lutheran Church and the U.S.-based World Council of Churches.

As a consequence, more FBI operatives were at one time assigned to monitor activities at the World Council of Churches’ headquarters on Manhattan’s Riverside Drive than were tasked with keeping watch on the Soviet agents who frequented the U.S. Communist Party’s headquarters in the Bronx.

The campaign succeeded beyond the Kremlin’s wildest dreams. The left-leaning Green Party became a major force in the Bundestag. Germany’s nuclear reactor program was shut down and abandoned. AEG-Telefunken, the country’s giant electronic, electrical engineering and nuclear power corporation was bankrupted.

From Germany, the Green Movement spread throughout the Free World, leading to the creation of hugely expensive

environmental bureaucracies and spawning a welter of “green” regulations and legislation that have greatly hampered the West’s economies.

Supporters of the Sierra Club and Green Peace might do well to remember that those who do not learn from history will be doomed to repeat it. GPH✘

FROM THE TREASURER

## Please help us to keep the flat roof over our heads

*The time has come to replace the flat roof over the Cadwalader Room. The cost of replacing it will besome \$29,0000. The Vestry has appealed for donations to cover the cost. To date we have received checks and pledges totaling slightly more than \$9,000. So we still have a long way to go. Please prayerfully consider helping us keep the roof over our heads by sending your contribution to The Treasurer, St Stephen’s Anglican Church, 11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21057. Mark your check “Flat Roof Fund.” God bless you – 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 Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector  
The Rev. John Novicki, Vicar ·

Associate Rectors:

The Rev. Mark Newsome, The Rev. Michael Belt,  
The Rev. M Wiley Hawks

and 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)

11 am: 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

## The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 7.00 PM, September 18th

## Ladies Who Lunch

Noon, Wednesday, September 18th

Venue to be announced.

Information, call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026

## Choral Events

As announced

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