

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

VOL. XXX, No. 37 A PARISH IN THE CLASSICAL ANGLICAN TRADITION OCTOBER 1ST, 2019

FROM THE RECTOR

The Times of London and the song of the first cuckoo

The Times of London is one of the world's most ancient and venerable newspapers – a veritable institution described by an irreverent journalistic colleague as “the Tribal Notice Board of the British Establishment.”

Until the mid-to-late 1960s, its front page was covered, not with news, but with small single column advertisements – primarily death notices.

Inside, news reports ran up and down the page in serried single column ranks. Photographs were shunned except on the back page, which played host daily to remarkable examples of the photographers art.

To my mind, the shift to news on the front page – together with the introduction of “by-lines” – was a disaster. At the this point The Times lost its cachet and became just another newspaper.

Not least, before by-lines were introduced “over-writing” was virtually unknown. Reporters had no incentive to gild the lily and trended to devote to stories the number of words that they were actually worth.

After by-lines were adopted, reporters began grandiosely to style themselves “journalists.” Casting aside the traditional “who, what, where, when and how,” they started self-consciously to “write” articles rather than file unembellished reports – much to the detriment of comprehension.

That, of course, is a phenomenon that is by no means confined to The Times. These days there's hardly a newspaper in Britain or the United States that is not grossly overwritten as a consequence of this lamentable addiction to by-lines.

On her appointment as a London-based foreign correspondent for Forbes Magazine, my wife, Charlotte, sent out for a batch of British newspapers. Among them was a copy of The Times, complete with small advertisements all over the front page.

“I thought it looked a bit old fashioned,” Charlotte told me, “But it was very well written, a bit old fashioned, of course, but it wasn't until I got to a report of a famous battle – I can't remember whether it was Trafalgar [1805] or Waterloo [1815] – that I realized it was some sort of commemorative edition. It's amazing how much stuff was going on in the world back then that's still going on today.”

Students mourned the passing of the front page small ads. They provided a relatively cheap form of amusements. With great glee, we would write mock death notices. On March 15th, for example, we would place an obit that read: “Caesar, Julius, foully murdered on Ides of March, 44 BC, sadly missed by Calpurnia, Cleopatra, Octavius, Mark Anthony and the lads at the Forum.”

One enterprising chap placed a small ad in the newspaper that read: “Please send one pound” and added a Post Office Box address. On opening the P.O Box a few days later, he was amazed to discover 19 or 20 gullible souls had responded to his request and sent him money. Embarrassed, he donated it to the Salvation Army.

The letters page of The Times is an institution within an institution. The editor of the page presides over a correspondence that ranges from the serious to the comic, from the sublime to the ridiculous and the occasionally profane.

In my youth, the letters page was another favorite butt of student humor. The name of the game was to initiate correspondence on a seemingly serious subject and gradually move it in a ridiculous direction. One summer we maintained a protracted conversation on the nature of that strange Scottish dish haggis.

It ended after several satisfactory weeks when a recipe for fox haggis finally led the letters page editor to deduce that he had been “had.”

A perennial favorite of correspondents to the letters page of The Times concerns the cuckoo – a bird that in Britain is the harbinger of spring, noted for its distinctive call: a high pitched “kook coo.”

Every spring, dozens of letters would — and probably still do — arrive at the letters page from people claiming to have heard the first cuckoo.

Charlotte, fascinated, asked me to explain the Brits' apparent obsession with the cuckoo. I told that it was

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, 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 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.

partly British winter weather. It's so cold and damp that people really look forward to spring. But there is also a dark side to the cuckoo.

The bird neither builds a nest nor bothers to raise its young. Instead, it lays its single egg in the nest of a much smaller pair of song birds. When the interloper hatches, it pushes the tiny song bird chicks out of the nest to die so the parents can concentrate of feeding the much larger cuckoo.

In Britain, the expression “a cuckoo's nest” is often used as a metaphor for an impossible goal or a hopeless quest. The word “cuckoo” is also applied to human beings who find it difficult to share friends.

It is, sadly, a not uncommon trait. It is far from unknown, for example, for men or women to try isolate the person they claim to love from family and friends. Similarly, human cuckoos latch on to a circle of friends and then work to break up the group.

Like feathered cuckoos, they sing a fine song, but the fruits of their “friendship” are ugly feelings, suspicion and unhappiness. GPH✱

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Cookie Walk is coming on 2nd Saturday in December

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 14th – repeat December 14th – the date of our Twenty-eighth Annual Cookie Walk. It will take place in the Parish Hall on the second Saturday of the month rather than the first. This is the only change. Opening times will, as usual, be from from 9 AM ‘til midday. Another thing that hasn’t changed is the fact that we need the help of every family in the parish to make this event a success.

Please haul out your favorite cookie recipe and get baking. We need between five and ten pounds of cookies from each family to reach our goal of 1000 pounds of cookies. Last year we had the best selection yet, thanks to the effort of each of you! It is never too early to start preparing. Cookies and cookie dough freeze remarkably well. Below is a recipe to get you started.

Scrumptious Date Swirls

FILLING: *INGREDIENTS: 1/2 lb. Pitted dates chopped fine; 1/4 cup sugar; 1/3 cup water; 1/4 cup walnuts chopped fine.*

Combine sugar and water and bring to a boil add chipped dates and cook on a low temperature for five minutes stirring

constantly. Remove from heat, add nuts and combine. Cool mixture thoroughly before spreading on cookie dough.

DOUGH: *INGREDIENTS: 1/2 cup unsalted butter; 1/2 cup brown sugar; 1/2 cup granulated sugar; 1 3/4 cup sifted all purpose flour; 1 large egg; 1/2 tsp baking soda; 1/4 tsp salt.* Cream butter and sugars together until smooth. Add egg and beat. Add flour sifted together with salt and soda and beat mixture until well blended. Toss on a lightly floured board and knead until smooth. Roll dough to 1/4 inch making a square. Spread date mixture on top of dough. Roll dough like a jelly roll. Wrap in waxed paper and refrigerate at least six hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 400F. Slice chilled dough into 1/4 inch rounds and place on well-greased baking sheet. Bake for ten minutes or until well browned.

FROM THE TREASURER

Please help repair the roof

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.

St Stephen’s Anglican Church

11856 Mays Chapel Road, Timonium, MD 21093
Office: 410 560 6776 · Rector: 443 425-2420
Vicar: 410 878-5275 · Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector
The Rev. John Novicki, Vicar ·
Associate Rectors:
The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. C. Daniel Bursi,
The Rev. Dr. Norman Flowers,
The Rev. M. Wiley Hawks & The Rev. Mark Newsome,
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

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 Cookie Walk

*Cookie Walk will take place in the Parish Hall at
9.00 AM, December 14th*

The Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 7.00 PM, October 16th

Ladies Who Lunch

*Noon, Wednesday, October 16th
Venue: To be announced
Information, call Sara Douglas at 410-560-9026*

Choral Events

As announced

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TIMONIUM MD
PERMIT # 181

St Stephens Anglican Church
11856 Mays Chapel Road
Timonium, MD 21093