

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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FROM THE RECTOR

Who keeps watch on the government watchdogs?

An Englishman's home, it seems, is no longer his castle. Apparently, Britons can now be prosecuted for politically incorrect thoughts expressed in the privacy of their living rooms. News of this will make visiting the land of my birth a decidedly uncomfortable experience. It's not that I habitually utter politically incorrect ideas, but I would very much like to be able to . . . if I felt so inclined.

Besides that, a decade spent reporting on the communist regimes of Eastern Europe has given me an abiding aversion to being spied on by government snoops. It was impossible to avoid the snoops. The necessities of daily living were invariably in short supply, but the things one could always rely upon finding were the omnipresent eyes and ears of the secret police.

Nor did the surveillance by the secret police end when we crossed the threshold of our homes and hotel rooms. Mostly the telephones were bugged rather than the light fittings. Thus the phones were used not only to record our calls but to listen to the conversations taking place in the rooms.

In response, we used to pile pillows over the phones the moment we stepped through the door . . . unless, of course, we felt like playing mind games with the snoops – an amusing pastime, though not without its dangers.

In Moscow, it frequently took several hours to get a phone call through to Britain or America. The phone service, you see, had to locate a suitable English-speaking KGB snoop to monitor the call. This was more than a little irritating, but not without its funny side.

Shortly before we married, I placed a call to Charlotte from my hotel room in Moscow. It took four hours to get through, and when we were finally connected she told me, much to my surprise, she had found a new apartment for us in London at a very reasonable rent.

The only drawback, Charlotte explained, was she had to buy some decidedly peculiar furniture that went with the apartment, *viz.* "two mushroom tables, a huge Danish purple seating stand, etc., etc."

Our snoop on the line clearly detected the amazement in my voice. For upon hearing the fact that we had acquired a table made out of a front door, she broke into the call. "Zat iss enuff!", she shrieked, and promptly disconnected us. I howled with laughter.

She obviously imagined that my new CIA control was passing on to me coded instructions that posed a real and present danger to the Soviet state. Those mushroom tables, seating stand and front door-table must have kept a whole team of KGB code breakers busy for a month. The downside was that I couldn't get another phone call through to the outside world for the rest of my stay.

The point of the story is that the unthinkable is happening here in the West. Our governments have acquired systems for snooping on us that would make the communist secret police green with envy.

Even before the new Orwellian measure, Britons were already being constantly monitored by an estimated four and a half million centrally-linked closed circuit TV cameras – one camera for every 15 citizens.

A million cameras are deployed in London, while the rest are distributed throughout the country – even in remote country districts where, fox hunting aside, crime is largely an event that happens elsewhere.

What is the purpose of all this surveillance? It doesn't do much to solve crime.

Even the London Metropolitan Police statisticians admit only one crime has been solved for every 1,000 cameras deployed – and that at a cost of a whopping \$35,000 per crime.

Nor do they seem to deter crime. One crime victim reported that the closed circuit camera overlooking his backyard neither deterred the criminal who invaded his property and viciously assaulted him, nor did it secure a conviction though the assault was recorded on tape.

So what purpose do these cameras serve? First, they raise vast amounts of revenue, automatically recording the slightest traffic infraction – the accidental crossing of a yellow line, for example – for which the authorities levy hefty fines.

Second, they scrutinize people's behavior – how they act, what they do and with whom they associate. They are used

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: Mavis, Pam, Eileen, Rebecca, Catherine, Bill, Richard, Janis, Daniel, Leona, 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, Eileen, Ravi, Theresa, Larry Ricard, Judy & Scott

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Sam, Cameron, Jim, Diana, Caroline, Karen, Ardis, Mavis, Michael, Ian, Melba, Vinnie, Doug, Chip, Elizabeth, Lisa, Carey, Jacob, Casey, Beth, Kath, Rebecca, Colin & Christian.

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.

to monitor public meetings, demonstrations, smaller protests and even spontaneous gatherings. And they routinely eaves drop on the intimate affairs of the unsuspecting.

Don't believe government snooping can't happen here. It already has. Washington is covered with security cameras. Baltimore, too, has its share, together with aerial surveillance.

Assurances that the cameras are merely being used to deter terrorists criminals, aggressive drivers, speedsters and folks who run red lights is by no means reassuring. If experience in Britain is anything to go by, this is simply the camel's nose under the tent.

Many Britons seem to have persuaded themselves that constant surveillance makes them more secure. But as Benjamin Franklin astutely observed: "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."

The problem was defined by the Romans more than two millennia ago. "*Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*" they asked: Loosely translated, it means: "Who keeps watch on the government watchdogs?" Who, indeed? GPHE

FROM THE CLERGY

Thanksgiving Day Service

Despite Covid19, we still have much for which to give thanks. We shall be holding our Thanksgiving Day Eucharist, as usual, on Thanksgiving Day, November 26th at 10.00 AM — repeat 10.00 AM. Let join together to show God our appreciation for his all blessings before we tuck into turkey and all the trimmings on Thursday, November 26th.

FROM PARISH LIFE

COVID Cookie Walk2020 and Knitting Auction

Even though we are all limited by the pandemic, the knitting auction will take place starting 1 November 2020 at the church, and end on 19 December 2020.

We have over 50 items to auction. Each is lovingly done by someone in our knitting Circle. There are lots of hats, scarves, sweaters, shawls and mitts for your buying and gifting pleasure. As usual, we will have a “Buy it Now” at the bottom of each bid sheet, so you can get your item immediately. Each item’s starting bid is the cost of the yarn. Each of our knitters has spent hours knitting to

bring you this fabulous array of handmade items. The more you bid, the more we can give to our charities, which include St. Stephen’s Church (www.ststeve.com), Christ Child Society of Baltimore (www.christchildbaltimore.org) and The Heifer Project (www.heifer.org). Please stop by anytime the church is open to view and bid on these lovely items.

Jellies and Jams will be available after 1 December 2020. The price is \$6.00 per jar. Our wonderful soup mix will also be available for \$5.00 a package. Jezabel Sauce, that spicy condiment, will be selling for \$5.00 a jar.

Homemade cookies (prepackaged) will be available by the 1 pound box for \$12.00. Cookies will only be available on December 19th between 9:00 am and noon.

Our Sunday service schedule

Holy Eucharist at will be said at 8.00 AM and 9.15 AM. Morning Prayer will be said 11.00 AM with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. Sunday School takes place at 9.15 AM

We are continuing our videos of Feast Day and Sunday Eucharists. These are posted on the **parish website** (www.ststeve.com), **Youtube** and **Isaac the Eagle’s Facebook** page from 9.00 AM onwards every Sunday and Day of Obligation. They are listed at the bottom of the Home Page, under “Recent Blog Posts. A new midweek “broadcast” talk by the rector can also be found on the website every Wednesday or Thursday.

Meanwhile, please mail your offerings to the Treasurer’s Mail Box: **St Stephen’s Anglican Church, P.O. Box 6161, Timonium, MD 21094.** GPH✉ & JPN✉

St Stephen’s Anglican Church

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www.ststeve.com

The Very Rev. Guy P Hawtin, Dean & Rector
The Rev. John Novicki, Vicar ·
Associate Rectors:
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)
11 am: 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

For Our Country.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth.

In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

St Stephen’s Anglican Church
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