

# HOLY HAPPENINGS

Volume 26 Issue 5

June 2018

## CHURCH & CROWN

*Like so many British celebrations in the past, I, like millions of others, found myself up early in the morning to watch the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. When it comes to beauty pageantry and splendor no one does it better than the British and no Church does it better than our own Anglican Church. However, even after viewing this marriage held among the beautiful backdrop of St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, I couldn't forget a most recent article I read and of which I would now like to share with you. It is called "The Church and Crown: The Quest for Relevancy", and I hope you find it as interesting as I have.*

In the mid 1990s, the popularity of the British monarchy reached its lowest depths in recent memory. The controversy surrounding the divorce of Princess Diana and Prince Charles left the Royal Family seeming cold and out of touch. The young Princess was, after all, referred to as "the people's princess," a label that implies certain members of the Royal family did not receive the people's affection. However, the monarchy managed to retain an overall positive image though the controversy and beyond. The Queen's popularity at its very lowest was 66%. Compare that with congress's record low approval rating of 9%.



### CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

*Sunday*  
*Holy Eucharist - 8 & 10 a.m.*  
*Tuesday, 11:30*  
*Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.*

**NURSERY AVAILABLE**  
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Mon. thru Fri. - 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Parish Office 781-335-2030  
Rector 781-974-7392

E- Mail:  
office@holynativityweymouth.org

WEBSITE:  
www.holynativityweymouth.org

The Rev. Harold G. Birkenhead, Rector  
The Rev. Brad Hultman, Asst. Priest  
Casey Hannan, Organist & Choirmaster  
Peg Driscoll, Secretary  
Tim Birkenhead, Sexton  
Ron Russo, Warden  
Steve Williams, Warden

In recent years the Queen's popularity has done nothing but move upward, peaking in 2012 when the Queen held an approval rating of 90%. Similar levels of support are shown for the monarchy as an institution. 66% of the country thinks it preferable to retain the monarchy instead of becoming a republic. A majority of 53% actually believes the country would be worse off if they ditched the monarchy for any other system. As you can imagine, there has been no serious movement to abolish the monarchy, and both Liberal and Conservative politicians have stated their support for retaining the Crown.

Contrast this with the recent history of the Church of England. 65% of the country still regards itself as Christian, but public opinion regarding the nation's church is a bit more volatile. Out of the 53 million inhabitants of the country, only a little over one million people attend an Anglican service weekly. Hardly a day goes by when the Church is not embroiled in some controversy which the media is all too happy to report as just another chapter in the long and inevitable decline of the established Church. In the past year the Church made news for renting out its unused spaces to pagan, actual pagan, congregations. The Church is losing members so quickly it can't afford to maintain all its parish facilities and many are being forced to close altogether.

*Continued Page 4*

## Wardens' Report

If you haven't noticed, the window project has been completed. The windows look great and we want to thank all of you for your contributions. As always, the parishioners here at Holy Nativity are very generous. Without your support, a project of this scope would have put a strain on the parish and possibly might have been put off longer. We want to thank all who participated on this project. As always, Jim Kimball lead the crusade to get this done. Thanks Jim. And let's not forget the Vestry members as well.

We continue to chip away at the some of the projects that have started, some noticeable and some not so noticeable. We recently had the kitchen cleaned, and we intend to have it cleaned on a monthly basis. That being said, we would like all food not refrigerated put into containers. Not only will it prolong the product life, but provides a cleaner environment. There are many other organizations who use our facilities, so new kitchen rules will be posted soon for everyone to adhere to, in order to avoid the situation that we are getting squared away with now. We are currently looking at regular pest control to limit the mice situation. With everyone's help, we can keep the kitchen clean and free of debris. We will also be using more disposable plastic table cloths and avoid the reusable ones that were also causing an issue.

The church grounds continue to be groomed. The old tree stump has been removed and the new tree planted. The property really looks great and it receives many compliments from guests and visitors.

### *Wardens' Report con't*

Another big thank you to Dave McIntyre who replaced and repaired the bottom of the ramp recently. Your response to the repair needs around the church is most appreciated.

One last item to mention—at our last Vestry meeting, we took a moment to congratulate Fr. Harry on the 25th anniversary of his ordination into the Priesthood. We are all truly blessed to have you here, Fr. Harry, and are so thankful that you made us part of your journey with God.

May God Bless you all and please have a safe and blessed Spring.

Peace from your Wardens,  
Ron Russo and Steve Williams

### *Sunday School Report con't*

Gardens located within the building. The Healing Gardens are a quiet space where patients, families and friends can go for quiet reflection.

I would like to thank the congregation for their support and especially Shirley Devore, Sheila DeMore and Michelle Patel for all of their love and support for making this a very special year.

I would like to leave you with this thought...."If given a choice between being right and being kind, choose kind."

Maryann Gurney



## Sunday School

Another year of Sunday school is winding down. We started the year painting our "Kindness Rocks"! and participating in many acts of kindness throughout the year. In the fall we donated "Birthday Party" shoe boxes to the food pantry. The shoe boxes had cake mixes, frosting, candles, and birthday plates and napkins. We also wrote letters to soldiers for Carepac shipments, and hosted coffee hour.

During Lent we had a very successful bake sale with the help of the congregation. We donated some of the proceeds to the Prada family in South Africa and purchased items for the New England Wildlife Center. Many of you donated fleece blanket kits that the children spent Sunday mornings tying and putting together. On a rainy spring morning, we visited at South Shore Hospital and donated 23 blankets to the Pediatric Ward in memory of Donna Kimball.

On Sunday morning, June 3, we will bless the Kindness Rocks at the 10:00 service and on Monday afternoon, June 4, we will bring our Kindness Rocks to the Dana Farber Cancer Center located just a block from our church.. The rocks will be placed in the Healing.

**Vestry**

Next Vestry meeting is Wednesday, **June 20**, at 7:30 in the Asher Stoddard Hall, following a service of compline at 7pm in the Sanctuary.



**Recipe Corner**

**ANTI-PASTO SALAD BOWL**

*Marinade:*

- 1/2 c. salad or olive oil
- 1/2 c. red wine vinegar
- 2 Tbsp. finely chopped onion
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 2 Tbsp. chopped parsley
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. sugar
- Dash of pepper

*Vegetables:*

- 2 medium green peppers, sliced
- 2 medium red peppers, sliced
- 1/2 lb. fresh mushrooms, sliced 1/4 inch thick
- 1 c. pitted black olives

Combine ingredients for marinade. Toss vegetables with marinade, coating well. Refrigerate, covered for several hours or overnight. To serve, remove vegetables with slotted spoon to serving dish.

Excellent for cook-outs or buffets. Serves 8 to 10.

*From 'Bountiful New Beginnings'  
Submitted by Pat Shepherd*

**Holy Land  
Pilgrimage with  
Bishop Gayle Harris**

Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Manny Faria for "Encounters in the Holy Land," a mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, Sept. 28-Oct. 10.

The mission pilgrimage will combine visits to holy sites, in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley, Nazareth, Galilee, Nablus and Ramallah, with opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, health care and peacemaking ministries. The deadline for registering is June 20.

The group will meet three times before the trip for orientation and community building.

Estimated cost is \$4,100 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by July 15.

The pilgrimage, which Bishop Harris leads annually, is an opportunity for anyone who is interested in experiencing the land of the birth of the Christian faith; who is willing to listen and learn from sisters and brothers in God who live their faith in a different culture and context; and who want to engage in the mission of God beyond their doorstep.

Inquiries about joining the mission pilgrimage are welcome. More information is available by contacting Bishop Harris's office at 617-482-4826, ext. 445 or e-mail to [vscotland@diomass.org](mailto:vscotland@diomass.org).



**As a Parish,  
We pray for:**

- Brooke
- Christine
- Corinne
- Cornel Sampson, Jr.
- David Lang
- Devin
- Donna
- Drew
- Ellie Gowen
- Ewen
- Garrett
- George W.
- George
- Ginny Blanchette
- Hazel Brunelle
- Jim Murphy
- John
- John & Billie Greene
- Kasday Family
- Katie Westhaver
- Kennedy Family
- Madelyn Ward
- Matt Janeway
- Myrtle Perkins
- Nancy
- Paige
- Pat
- Patrick Leahy
- Phil Stephan
- Ray Thorne
- Rick
- Rocky
- Sophia
- Thomas MacPherson
- Tommy Chadbourne

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*Fr. Harry's article continued from page 1*

Skeptics of the establishment are also more vocal than the critics of the monarchy. In 2011, one of the three major political parties introduced a bill to expel the Anglican Bishops from the House of Lords arguing their presence is an “anomaly” in modern secular democracies. With an approval rating at 90%, the monarchy easily transcends political lines, however, attitudes towards establishment are much more partisan. The Church is more likely to find its most vocal critics coming from the left and its most ardent supporters coming from the right.

But why is the division between the two so striking? Surely the increasingly secular elite of Britain have something to do with raising their voices against the Church, but why haven't they also criticized the monarchy? Every year millions of people tune into the Queen's Christmas message, the content of which is always overtly Christian. Prince Charles has become increasingly outspoken about matters of faith in the public square, and the largest and most anticipated events associated with the monarchy are typically religious in nature. When the Archbishop goes to Canterbury Cathedral the church suffers losses in attendance, but when Prince George is christened millions try to catch a glimpse of the service.

It simply doesn't make sense. The same country that nearly sent a minister to jail for talking about the gospel on a sidewalk anxiously tunes in every year to listen as a kind elderly lady talks about the birth of Christ. In short, the monarchy has retained all its ancient form and outdated practices, and its members retain many of their ancient beliefs about God, country, and other quaint things, yet they continue to capture the hearts and minds of the English people. Meanwhile, the Church of England screams for relevancy. It rewrites its prayer book, “evolves” on its doctrine, demystifies its chapels, and in general tries to please everyone and ends up pleasing no one.

It's entirely possible all this can be boiled down to the Anglo-Saxon fondness for stability. The most radical Englishman is still more Burkean than the Continental Conservative. When explaining their support of the Royal Family most will typically say they find the stability in an otherwise chaotic politic system comforting. The men dress like gentleman and the women dress like ladies and they go about doing the sort of things you would expect Royals to do. They don't scream for attention. They just do what they have always done.

Suppose the Church of England were to adopt this model. Imagine that its priests dressed and sounded like Christian priests, that its services sounded like ancient Christian services, and that they went about doing things you would expect Christians to do. What if people desired some stability in an otherwise chaotic world? The monarchy is comforting because you can clearly see it and you know where it stands. It's like standing above the Grand Canyon on a clear day and taking in its beauty. The Church of England is despised because it is constantly shifting. It's like standing in the same spot near the Canyon on a foggy night. What was once beautiful is now potentially deadly.

I'm not naïve enough to assume a return to orthodoxy will instantly solve all the Church's problems. Conservative churches have many problems of their own. However, it remains a fact that if you know where a person stands, whether you agree with them or not, they win a certain kind of respect. The person who tries to play both sides because he wants to be liked by everyone always comes off as a fool and ends up losing the respect of everyone. The desire to primarily be relevant must ultimately lead to a sacrifice of substance. It also assumes the Christian religion should be adapted to things below rather than things above.

During the revolutionary period, thinkers in America and France used religious reasons to argue for disestablishment. Trying to out-Christian thousands of years of Christian thought, they sometimes argued the state should not be involved in the Church because government officials are theologically ignorant and the Church would be corrupted by their influence. Recent events in England show a curious case where the opposite is true. Take the recent controversy over the Prayer Book. The leadership of the Church of England removed the terms “sin” and the rejection of the devil from the Baptism Rite in the name making the language more accessible and easy to understand. Meanwhile, Charles, the Prince of Wales, has said in numerous speeches that the Prayer Book ought not to be tampered with. Speaking on proposed revisions he said, “A good many changes were made just to lower the tone, in the belief that the rest of us wouldn't get the point if the word of God was a bit over our heads. But the word of God is supposed to be a bit over our heads. Elevated is what God is. And for meddling with the Prayer Book there isn't even a scholarly excuse. The idea is to put great thoughts within our reach by changing the words. But the words are the thoughts.”

Perhaps the Church should take a few lessons from the Crown. There is nothing wrong with being a little old fashioned. People may even find great comfort in it.

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**Coffee Hour Hosts Needed**

Please consider hosting a Sunday coffee hours. Coffee supplies are provided. All you need to bring is some light refreshments to share. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Asher-Stoddard Hall.



**Food First Sunday**

Food First Sunday will be Sunday, June 3. The Weymouth Food Pantry would appreciate donations of low fat salad dressings.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the Weymouth Food Pantry.

**A**

**Newsletter**

**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for **JULY/AUGUST** Holy Happenings will be Thursday, June 14. Articles may be submitted via snail mail, dropped off in the bin on the office door or sent by email to the church office. Thank you.

**Home Communion**

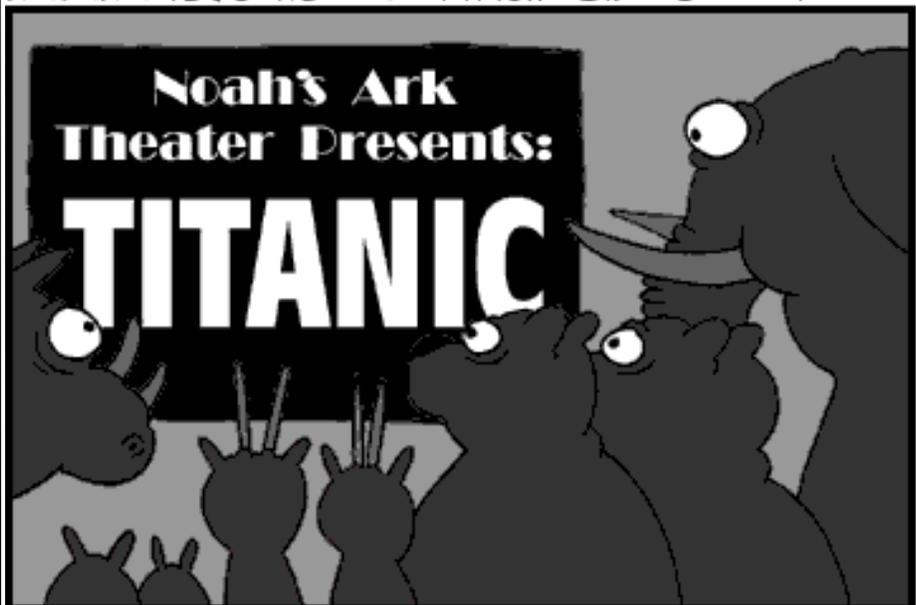
If you or a loved one is unable to get to church to celebrate the Eucharist at any time during the year, please call the office at 781-335-2030 to schedule a Home Communion with Fr. Harry or Fr. Brad. The visit will be arranged at your convenience.



**Tuesday Morning Eucharist and Luncheon**

Mid-week Eucharist and luncheon continues weekly on Tuesdays at 11:30 until and including June 19. Come and enjoy quiet worship, followed by a light lunch with fellowship and good conversation. Starting June 26, this service will take a break for the summer. Watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters

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Thanks to Marcine

02-11-1998

**HOLY HAPPENINGS**

Church of the Holy Nativity  
8 Nevin Road  
South Weymouth, MA 02190

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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MAILED  
May 29, 2018

**Important Dates**

**June 2**  
**Knit Wits**

**June 2**  
**Last day of Confirmation Class**

**June 10**  
**Parish Cookout**

**June 14**  
**Holy Happenings article dues**

**Mission Statement**

The family of the Church of the Holy Nativity is called to be a caring community, committed to spiritual development; encouraging growth in each member's personal relationship with God, through Christ; by providing educational opportunities for youth and adults as well as Christian Formation for all, going forth to share God's message of love and forgiveness.



**Important Dates**

**June 17**  
**Fathers' Day**

**June 20**  
**Compline & Vestry**

**June 21**  
**Women's Evening Group Pot Luck**

**June 24**  
**Book Sale**  
**Last day of Adult Ed**