

# Vol. 8, No. 5, - 17 December, 2014

**News from Our Anglican World**

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*Editor's Notice: The newsletter CHC members and friends have received from me from time to time over the last 7½ years has had to change its name. It seems the internationally distributed internet newsletter produced by "Anglican Ink" has adopted the name we coined in 2007, the "Latest Anglican News". Bowing to its prominent position in our Anglican world and having no desire to incur its wrath, this writer will henceforth refer to his ramblings as "News from Our Anglican World".*

"We have no liberty to try to lower the law's standards and make it easier to obey... Today's advocates of the "new morality", or "situational ethic", are in principle trying to do exactly that ..." --- John R. W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, p.81

"We should take our stand boldly for what is true, good and decent whether in our neighborhood, in our college, profession or business, or in the wider sphere of national life, including the mass media." --- John R. W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, ibidem, p.67

"In every generation of the Christian era there have been those who could not accommodate themselves to Christ's attitude to the law." --- ibidem, p.72

"...Greatness in the kingdom belongs to those who are faithful in doing and teaching the whole moral law." --- ibidem, p.75

"Both our Lord and his apostles did not shrink when necessary from the task of exposing and overthrowing false teaching. Distasteful and even dangerous as it is, we cannot conscientiously avoid the same task ourselves. Indeed, in today's church, ravaged by many grievous wolves, there is a great need for good and faithful shepherds, who will not only feed the sheep but rout the wolves." --- John R.W. Stott

## **Church of England RIP**

Following is an article from his blog, by the Reverend Doctor Peter Mullen, which splendidly captures the anguish in today's Anglican Communion. Our readers should consider with his words; "all those wonderful, faithful, orthodox, devout and true bishops from Africa" the addition of the bishops of the Anglican Church in North America, in which the REC and CHC find their home.

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## **Ooh, we have got the willies!**

I've seen some correspondence among my fellow believing Christians in what's left of the Church of England in which they declare that they are dismayed by the determination of the powers-that-be to "fast track" the soon-to-be consecrated women bishops into the House of Lords.

Sex-discrimination, you might say, at the sacerdotal level

One of the letters I saw asked, "Does this mean the Church of England is busted flush?"

Of course the Church of England is a busted flush and it has been so for decades: from the 1960s when it gave up believing the New Testament, the Resurrection, the Virgin Birth and Our Lord's miracles; through the 1970s and 1980s when it replaced the matchless liturgy of the English Church with trash and doggerel.

And so into the 21st century and Archbishop Rowan Williams' last sermon before he retired in which he told us that "The Church has a lot of catching up to do with secular mores."

Whatever happened to "Be ye not conformed to *this* world...?"

And now, and according to Mullen's First Law of Ecclesiastical Polity which states that every succeeding Archbishop of Canterbury is bound to be worse than his predecessor, Justin "Oil" Welby has gone and cancelled the 2018 Lambeth Conference of all the bishops from the Anglican Church worldwide

Why?

Because he can't face the prospect of all those wonderful, faithful, orthodox, devout and true bishops from Africa coming to London and telling him that he's got it all wrong about homosexuality and women in the episcopate.

So what will happen?

It's easy to foretell because we have the model before us in the case of The Episcopal Church of the USA (ECUSA) which over the last three or four decades has become so secularised and accommodating of progressive values that it has ceased to be a Church in any sense of the word.

The Church of England (C. of E.) is now only the politics of the PC soft left, *The Guardian* and the *BBC*, with all its fashionable causes from socialism-lite, appeasing the Muslim fanatics and the pagan fantasy of global warming

ECUSA – and now the C. of E. - are frankly apostate – and proud of it

So what is the believing Christian to do? Some of my friends look east to the Orthodox Church. For myself, I am content to discover a little authentic Christianity wherever it can be found: a faithful Protestant sect, a traditional Anglo-catholic outpost, a chapel where the gospel is preached

Anything but this shameful, politically-correct, utterly secularised, completely compromised hypocritical, time-serving, contemptible shambles the C. of E has now become

(The Rev. Dr. Mullen is a British clergyman ordained in the Church of England. He distributes a newsletter entitled “All Things Considered” - revpetermullen.com)

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### **The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar - Our Christian Brethren**

If you drive east on Plano’s 14<sup>th</sup> Street, just beyond Los Rios Boulevard, on the left (north) side of the road you will see an imposing church building topped with a beautiful copper dome. It is the Mission of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a parish of the Mar Thoma Church, a Christian denomination based in the state of Kerala in India.

Bishop Sutton was invited there in late November, as the Dean of the Province and Ecumenical Affairs of ACNA to be the keynote speaker at a Service of Felicitation for three Mar Thoma Bishops celebrating 25 years as prelates. Approximately 400 people were present for the important occasion. Choirs from the four area Mar Thoma congregations joined to sing special music for their bishops on the occasion.

It is traditionally believed that this church was founded as early as AD52 by Jesus’ disciple, Saint Thomas, in his travels to India. It may well have predated Saint Peter’s founding of the Roman Church. This makes the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar one of the oldest denominations in Christianity, and mention is made in the records of the Council of Nicaea (AD 325), of the presence of a Bishop John from India.

Quoting from their website, “The Church defines itself as ‘Apostolic in origin, Universal in nature, Biblical in faith, Evangelical in principle, Ecumenical in outlook, Oriental in worship, Democratic in function, and Episcopal in character.’ Many of these same phrases would be found in a definition of our branch of Anglicanism.

Again, to quote from their history, “It was quite natural for Thomas to come to India with the Gospel as the disciples went to different parts of the world in accordance with the Great Commission given to them by Jesus. In the true Apostolic tradition he is believed to have preached first to the Jewish settlers there, and then worked among the Hindus. Through ministry of the Word and the many miracles which tradition attributes to him, he brought many high caste Hindus to the Christian faith. It is believed that St. Thomas

proceeded to India and died a martyr's death at a place now called St. Thomas Mount, in Madras." In an interesting side note their history from the 19<sup>th</sup> century includes a comment that, "There was a nucleus of people in the church who longed for the removal of unscriptural customs and practices which had crept into the church over the centuries. They envisioned a reformation in the Church in the light of the Gospel of our Lord". That sounds familiar to us at CHC as well.

The Church has now over 1166 parishes, divided into twelve dioceses. It has been active in education from secondary schools, through universities and theological seminaries. Ecumenically, it is active in many international Christian organizations and is in full communion with the Anglican Church.

Isn't it fascinating that this Christian church, headquartered in faraway India, with such an interesting history, has a home here in North Texas. In their literature these Christian friends state "Let us therefore surrender ourselves under the mighty hand of God so that He may exalt us and use us for His glory in the years to come." Again, a charge that is echoed at CHC.

Blessings,

Rudy Schenken

Parish Administrator

Church of the Holy Communion

Dallas, Texas