

Europe: an agent of the kingdom of God?

'Afore you go' used to be an advertising slogan on a particular brand of Scotch whisky. Don't ask me which one, I was far, far, too young at the time to even consider drinking Scotch and slogans such as this, encouraging 'one for the road' rather fell out of favour once the drink-driving laws came into force.

But might we, nonetheless, soon be toasting our Scottish friends, possibly in decent London gin, as they go their own merry way to the skirl of the pipes and the cheers of the Nationalists?

Just possibly. And I have a sneaking feeling that were I now resident in the land of my fathers (well, some of them at any rate, the more respectable ones) I might just vote 'Go', 'Be independent', 'Do your own kilted thing'.

This is not because I want to see the break-up of the UK, it's more to do with the anxiety I have about the departure of the UK from the European Union. Leaving the UK may, as some have observed, be Scotland's only chance of sticking with Europe, something, apparently, they're rather keen on.

Now before you all howl for my summary execution as a traitor to all things British, or perhaps merely English, let me say I dislike the 'Brusselsocracy' as much as the next man, Mensch, homme, Señor or whoever. David Cameron may well be right about Jean-Claude Juncker and a whole lot of other things, it's just that I



Fr Stephen: concerns about the land of (some of) his fathers

share the vision of Europe's founding fathers of a Europe united in peace and acting as a major force for good in the world, yes, as an agent for the kingdom of God.

If we natives of this sceptred isle, whether in whole or part, wish to have any influence for good over world events, something we've been used to for several hundred years, it can now only be as part of something large-

er. Who is going to listen to (part of) an offshore island? Who is going to listen to a rump of a United Kingdom should the SNP have its way?

Many folk make their assessment of the EU based on petty-fogging rules that drive us all nuts and problems about sovereignty. The real issues, like the Kingdom of God, are bigger than that.

Okay, so before I'm lynched, might I please be permitted a Lochfine kipper and large *Laphroige* on the rocks?

Fr Stephen Mitchell



Spree ensures a fun packed weekend

This year Eden Christian Trust took nearly 35 people including more than 20 children aged 8-15 to the Spree camp at Ardingly College in July where they had a whale of a time from Friday to Sunday.

There was worship time for the older group and also another for the younger group. We had tons to do but what the children wanted to do most of all was to drench one another with super soakers!

Luckily the weather meant that they



Memories from this year's Spree camping weekend in July at Ardingly College

were able to dry out quickly. It was a great weekend away for younger youth and we intend to go again next year so if you want to join us let Anthony Shipwright (ect.youthworker@gmail.com), our youth leader, know and you will be included.

Organised by Urban Saints, Spree hosts events throughout the country and this year about 1,000 children were at Ardingly.

Hilary Morgan

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The work of Edenbridge Churches in Covenant

Efforts to promote better links between the churches from different denominations in the Edenbridge area go back a long way. The Edenbridge Churches in Covenant (ECC), formed in 1982, is a successor to the Edenbridge Association of Churches, formed in April 1970. Details of the Covenant made between the churches in 1982 are on our church website www.edenbridgeparishchurch.com.

The Churches involved are: St John's United Reform Church, Marsh Green; St Lawrence's Roman Catholic Church; the Eden Church; Holy Trinity, Crockham Hill; St Peter & St Paul, Edenbridge.

Each church has ECC representatives on the ECC Council. Currently, Hilary Morgan and Anthony Shipwright are the representatives for St Peter & St Paul. For the current year (2013-14), St Peter & St Paul is also providing a secretary (Jill Wasdell) and chairperson (Bernard Oldfield) for the ECC Council.

A wide range of activities are undertaken as an outworking of this covenant.

These include:

- * the work of the Bridges Centre – Eden Christian Trust (Youth work)
- * the God's Hands project helping those in significant need – supporting the Romanian Link (Charity)
- * Edenbridge Area Traidcraft – an involvement in promoting and supporting Fairtrade as part of Edenbridge being a Fairtrade Town; supporting the work of Julie Barry, Parish Nurse and supporting Christian Aid

In addition to these ongoing projects and activities, the following have taken place or are planned for the current year:

- * providing Carol Singing (even in the rain!!) to cheer Christmas shoppers in Edenbridge;
- * providing Christmas Lunch to people who would otherwise be alone;
- * ECC Council meetings to report back and plan for future work regarding the various activities – all meetings are held at Bridges at 8 pm and everyone is welcome to attend: 17 September; 19 November;
- * representation at the induction of the new priest, Rev'd Sue Diggory, at Holy Trinity Crockham Hill, (March 26th) by Roman Catholic, United Reform, Baptist, and Anglican clergy – as well as lay representatives from the ECC;
- * ECC Lent 2014 Course – about 70 people from all five churches took part in a successful five week course in one of seven ecumenical Groups course, with leadership of groups, and hosting groups in their homes;
- * ECC services at St Peter & St Paul, Edenbridge; St John's URC, Marsh Green; the Eden Church; and at St Lawrence's RC.

Bernard Oldfield

Last Chance Animal Rescue

www.lastchanceanimalrescue.co.uk

Hartfield Road, Edenbridge,
Kent TN8 5NH

Tel: 01732 865530

Fax: 01732 865838

Registered charity: 1002349

Edenbridge Parish News

Help promote fair trade

The Edenbridge Traidcraft Box scheme needs someone to compile the monthly orders. If you can cope with e-mails and spreadsheets, and have an interest in promoting Fair Trade, contact Jean Gibbons at 01732 864529 or church rep Cindy Palmer.

Things that may be new to you

Bridges will be running a New to You sale on the evening of Friday 12 September from 7-9pm, in aid of Bridges and the Hospice in the Weald. To donate items call Mary Perrett on 01732 868186 or email thebridgescentre@btconnect.com

A good evening guaranteed

Popular quiz master 'Stephen Mitchell' and his glamorous assistant 'Barbara' will be hosting the Mexico 2015 Fundraising Quiz at St Paulinus, Marlpit Hill on

Saturday 6 September. Tickets are £8 per head including a supper but bring your own drinks and glasses. The quiz will be for teams of six although if you are on your own and want a bit of fun call Kim Maynard on 01732 505724 and she'll try to fit you in.

Welcome to the Apple Fest

Gill Musgrove reports that the Sustainable Edenbridge Group will be celebrating the apple harvest with an 'Apple Fest' at Rickards Courtyard (behind the museum) on Saturday 18 October from 10am to 2.30pm. There will be music, food, apple-based produce, and a working apple press, so bring your spare apples (plus bottles) and have a go at making some juice. To donate apples call 07764 939907.

Diary dates

Friday 12 September

ECTreme Youth Club. Taster Evening. 7.30-9.00pm. Riverside Church (opposite Quality Tandoori)

Saturday 20 September

Edenbridge Music & Arts Trust concert, Edenbridge Parish Church, 7pm
Romanian Link Grand Quiz Night, Sports Pavilion, Edenbridge Recreation Ground, 7pm

Friday 26 September

Inter Church Quiz for teams of eight. Burrswood. Tel: 01892 863637 X2232/2257 for details
Choral Spectacular by The King's Singers, Rochester Cathedral. 7.30.



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