

THE ORANGE BANNER

"The Protestant Religion and Liberties of England I will maintain"
- William III, Prince of Orange

*"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee,
that it may be displayed because of the truth" - Psalm 60:4*

Issue No.124

July/August 2004

Celebrating the Boyne Victory!

Once again another year has quickly gone by and we find ourselves in the month of July celebrating again the great victory of King William III over King James II at the Battle of the Boyne, 1st July 1690. It was a victory that secured for us the Glorious Revolution and with it the civil and religious liberties that we enjoy to this day in the United Kingdom.

Religious freedom is something that most christian people take for granted today and few are aware of the price paid by our Protestant forefathers in the years gone by. It is only by learning from history that we will be able to avoid making the same mistakes of previous generations, and that is why it is so important to remember these great anniversaries of the past. The Protestant Reformation was a great spiritual awakening, not only in this country, but also right across Europe, and the urgent need of this generation is another Reformation. We are living in days of spiritual darkness and spiritual wickedness, and another great work of God is required to change these circumstances. Religious freedom and liberty is again under threat, and the need for a strong and active Orange Institution remains as relevant today as it ever was.

Obituary

RICHARD G. ROBERTS H.D.G.M. 1932 - 2004

Past Grand Master

Grand Orange Lodge of England

On Wednesday May 19th 2004 hundreds of members of the Orange Institution joined with close family for the funeral of Brother Richard G. Roberts at Garston Parish Church. The church was so full that people were stood up at the back. Each Province within the Grand Lodge of England was represented at the funeral, as was also the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Such was the high esteem in which this Orangeman was held.

A Memorial Service was then held, again at Garston Parish Church, on Sunday June 20th and once more many members of the Orange Institution were present to show their respect.

The following has been abridged from a larger article on Brother Roberts that appeared in the September/October 1997 issue of "The Orange Banner" when he stood down as the Grand Master: -

It was in 1947 that Richard G. Roberts joined the Orange Institution in Liverpool Province as a member of Toxteth True Blues L.O.L. 548 in No.7 District, the Lodge in which he remained for the rest of his life. It was as a three year old in 1935 that he had been put on the cradle roll.

At Bootle in 1972, at the Grand Orange Lodge of England sessions, Brother Roberts was elected to the position of Most Worshipful Grand Master; this was only two years after being elected as the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.

Over his period of twenty five years in office Brother Roberts had seen many changes within the Orange Institution - the membership of Grand Lodge getting younger; worldly influence over Orangemen having increased with the Junior movement especially suffering; and there was probably less church membership found within the Institution today.

The highlights of his period in office include the many parades across the country which have been held to proclaim our witness to the Protestant Faith; for example in Oxford, London, Barrow, South Shields and Exeter. Prior to the papal visit of 1982 a campaign was held against it to ensure that it was just a pastoral visit to his flock and not a state visit. In the end the attendances for the Pope's visit were poor and the Church of Rome made a financial loss. Another highlight for Brother Roberts was that Orange Services in the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral were established after four years of negotiations.

The disappointments over the last twenty-five years include the Orange Institution not being able to prevent the visit of the Pope in 1982 and the bad relationship between the Orange Institution in Liverpool and David Shepherd, the Bishop of Liverpool. Brother Roberts was also disappointed with the failure of the Church of England in general to stand firm on scriptural ground on important matters, for example the subject of homosexuality. The Church of England has poor leadership and it is failing to preach the gospel. By preaching the gospel truly then ecumenical progress would be prevented. It has to be remembered that the Church of Rome does not accept the ministry of the Church of England and its ultimate plan is to envelope other churches not to join with them. Another disappointment for Brother Roberts was the number of members who were expelled in 1987/88 because they wouldn't conform to the Constitution of the Institution.

With regard to the future Brother Roberts felt that the Orange Institution had a very important part to play. There were constitutional issues to be faced; for example the Coronation Oath and the Act of Settlement with the growing threat of the ecumenical movement.

Brother Roberts believed that the Orange Institution would start to grow again. People needed to realise that the Institution is based on the Reformation and our Protestant heritage, and the Constitution as established under William III. We need to be recognised for what we are and not the problems that are involved with the Orange Order in Northern Ireland.

Brother Roberts felt in an honour and privilege to have been the Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of England, a great organisation to belong to. He greatly appreciated the love and affection that he had received from ordinary members.

At the Imperial Orange Council, held during July 1997 in Belfast, Brother Roberts was elected as the Imperial Grand Master, a fitting tribute indeed to the retiring Most Worshipful Grand Master of England. This, of course, meant that he officiated at the Imperial Orange Council Sessions in Liverpool in the year 2000.

There is no doubt that Brother Richard G. Roberts will be sorely missed.

Lodge News

Annual George Marsh Service in Bolton

The annual George Marsh Commemoration Service was held, at Deane Parish Church in Bolton on Sunday April 25th. The service is annually arranged and conducted by members of Victoria's Pride L.O.L. 788. The preacher was Revd Brother P.J. Rimmer HDGC.

It was good to note an increase in attendance at the service from within the Orange Institution and hopefully this can be maintained in future years. At the conclusion of the church service a wreath was laid at the George March monument in the churchyard by the Manchester Provincial Grand Master, Brother Simon Kirby, and the commemoration was closed in prayer by Mr. Chris Richards of the Protestant Alliance and the singing of the National Anthem.

Next year will commemorate the 450th anniversary of the martyrdom of George Marsh and also the twentieth anniversary of the re-opening of Victoria's Pride L.O.L. 788 in Bolton.

Battle to Save Boyne Site!

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland and the Independent Orange Order in Ireland have joined forces to fight against proposals to build a waste incinerator on the site of the Battle of the Boyne. A joint statement has been submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Paris asking that the battlefield be included in the nearby existing World Heritage site at Newgrange.

It will be interesting to see whether the Republic of Ireland government will support this campaign.

WIL 1690

An Orangeman from Northern Ireland has secured the car registration WIL 1690 at an auction held at the end of May.

Shares in Rangers Football Club

The Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland are selling over 20,000 shares in Rangers Football Club that they have held for over thirty years. Framed share certificates signed by the Grand Master of Scotland cost £20 and further information can be obtained by telephoning 0141 4141 418.

Orange Order and the Ulster Unionist Party

The Orange Order in Ireland was instrumental in the setting up of the Ulster Unionist Council in 1905 and this council is the governing body of the Ulster Unionist Party. Since 1998 and

the signing of the Belfast Agreement there has been friction between the Orange Order and the Ulster Unionist Party with the Orange Institution opposing the Agreement and the Ulster Unionist Party supporting it.

A notice of motion to break this link has been tabled for the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland meeting in September. No doubt there are Orangemen who support the link and those who do not support the link, and the subject will be keenly debated in the months ahead. The Orange Institution has one hundred and twenty delegates who can attend the Ulster Unionist Council.

Northern Provincial Parade

We have been informed that the Northern Provincial Grand Lodge held a successful parade in Newcastle on Saturday June 19th.

Grand Lodge Junior Parade

The Grand Lodge Junior Parade and Service was held on Sunday June 27th in Crosby.

Book Review

“**The Church in Crisis**” by David N. Samuel. Published by The Church of England (Continuing), c/o 17 Greenfels Rise, Oakham, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 7TP, and priced £3.95.

In 1994 a number of Evangelicals felt compelled to leave the Church of England and to form the Church of England (Continuing). The key elements in this continuing Anglican Church were the liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer, the doctrine of the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, the ordination of clergy as per the Ordinal of the Book of Common Prayer, and use of the Authorised Version of the Bible.

David Samuel was one of the clergymen who came out of the Church of England at this time and he became a Bishop in the Church of England (Continuing). This book is a compilation of articles written by David Samuel over the last ten years, and they are a challenge not only to current members of the Church of England, but to every christian in their own church situation. Whilst one cannot agree with everything that has been written, there is certainly food for thought and then action where necessary. The Church of England is not the church it was and should be, but could the same be said of where you worship God?

Review of the Belfast Agreement

Devolved government in Northern Ireland was suspended in 2002 because of an IRA spy ring at Stormont. A review of the Agreement has been ongoing over recent months, but there is little hope of a break through because it is highly unlikely that the IRA will give up terrorism. At the end of June the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said that unless the IRA ended its paramilitary activities and decommissioned its weapons by September home rule could be

abandoned. Whether this is a bluff or a real threat we will wait to see, but past form is no indication that there will not be a u-turn at some stage.

THE GREATER CATECHISM of John Owen

Part Thirty One

Chapter 27 - OF THE LAST PRIVILEGE OF BELIEVERS, BEING THE DOOR OF ENTRANCE INTO GLORY

Question 1 - *What is the resurrection of the flesh?*

Answer - An act of the mighty power of God's Holy Spirit, applying unto us the virtue of Christ's resurrection, whereby, at the last day, he will raise our whole bodies from the dust, to be united again unto our souls in everlasting happiness.

(Job 19:25-27; Psalm 16:9-11; Isaiah 26:19; Ezekiel 37:2-3; Daniel 12:2; 1 Corinthians 15:16, Revelation 20:12-13)

Question 2 - *What is the end of this whole dispensation?*

Answer - The glory of God in our eternal salvation.

(The catechism of John Owen has now been concluded.)

Lodge Cards

NORTH ESSEX MARTYRS MEMORIAL L.O.L. 45 meets on the third Saturday each month in Harlow. Membership enquiries and visiting Brethren warmly welcomed.

STAR OF HALEWOOD BISHOP J.C. RYLE MEMORIAL L.O.L. 66 meets the first Thursday of every month at 8pm from February to December at the Orange Hall, Heald Street, Garston, Liverpool. Further details can be obtained from Brother I. Thompson, 74 Southmead Road, Allerton, Liverpool L19 5NB or e-mail ianthompson@orangenet.org.

THE IVY L.O.L. 783 meets at 6:30pm on the second Saturday in each month at the Provincial Headquarters, Everton Road, Liverpool. New members welcome.

VICTORIA'S PRIDE L.O.L. 788 meets the third Thursday of each month in the centre of Bolton. New members and visitors most welcome.

BLACKPOOL FAITH DEFENDERS L.O.L. 2001 meets the first Tuesday of every month at The Union, Chapel Street, Blackpool. For further details telephone 01253 622994.

QUEEN ELIZABETH L.L.O.L. 2001 meet on the third Saturday of the month in Corby. Visitors are always welcome. Any new member enquiries please contact by phone 01536 205450 or by e-mail to Sec11012001corby@aol.com.

There are Loyal Orange Lodges in many parts of the country. For further details of membership and the Biblical principles of Orangeism please contact the editor of The Orange Banner.

KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OUR CROWN!

Addressing a meeting in the House of Lords hosted by former Ulster Unionist Leader Rt. Wor. Bro. Lord Molyneux of Killead K.B.E. on 21st April, Philip Benwell M.B.E., National Chairman of the Australian Monarchist League and author of *In Defence of Australia's Constitutional Monarchy* said, "The Crown of the United Kingdom belongs not just to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, but also to the other fifteen Commonwealth Realms. The Australian States are united 'in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown of the United Kingdom ...'. To subject the Queen and the Crown to an authority, such as the European Constitution, which is totally alien to the other realms, goes against the spirit and intent of the Statute of Westminster 1931".

The Statute of Westminster specifies that the "British Commonwealth of Nations" is united by a common allegiance to the Crown and in formally recognising the sovereignty and independence of the nations prohibits the British Parliament from legislating on any matter which will subject the Crown to any authority, save that of the people of the Commonwealth Realms in their respective jurisdictions.

"Although I believe that the Treaties of (European) Union are wiping away a thousand years of constitutional and common law and tradition, and are totally repugnant to everything that Britain once meant, this is a matter for the people of the United Kingdom to decide upon."

"However," MR Benwell continued, "the European Constitution is a very different matter and neither the British Parliament nor the British people have any right whatsoever to do anything which may have even the potential to slightly affect the Crown and consequently endanger the constitutions of the other Commonwealth Realms."

"In 1999, the people of Australia, after a long and bitter campaign, opted to retain our constitutional monarchy by an overwhelming majority, far in excess of that attained by any mere political party. It would be totally unjust if, through the actions of the British people, the Crown we all share was undermined and our own constitution accordingly weakened."

To obtain a copy of Mr Benwell's address on the European Constitution please contact the Australian Monarchist League, P.O. Box 1068, Double Bay 1360, Australia or e-mail secretary@monarchist.org.au.

A Song for the Boyne

Come generous Brethren, on this glorious day,
In honour of William, your laurels display;
While his virtues exalted, our minds thus inflame,
And our hearts glow with rapture at the sound of his name!
This great day held most sacred, for ever shall be,
And the Boyne shall bear record to eternity!

Chorus

Victory! Victory! Was heaven's decree,
And fame loudly proclaims it to posterity.

His person was noble, he was valiant and brave; -
Determined to conquer, he conquered to save!
That hand grasped a sword, which a sceptre had swayed,
And his foes fled before him confused and dismayed:
Such valour! Such honour! And ye Gods, such a cause!
The heavens resounded with William's applause.

Victory! Victory! & c.

From his Royal example we'll never depart,
For glory's the motto on each Orangeman's heart:
We're inspired by motives whose source is above;
In our lodge sitteth friendship and brotherly love:
When a Brother is wronged his wrongs we redress,
And with pleasure relieve him when found in distress.

Victory! Victory! & c.

Let religion's fair tenets be never profaned,
No person, for opinions, be never disdained;
While our system's bright lustre shall dazzle its foes,
And our secrets profound we will never disclose;
Till this globe be dissolved, and our lodge is no more:
Let us die in that cause we with ardour adore!

Victory! Victory! & c.

Written by Brother Thomas Baron, Master of Lodge no. 7, Bolton-le-Moors, and taken from *The Orange Miscellany*.

(This Orange song is part of the Appendix written by the Grand Lodge Historian, Brother Michael Phelan, on ORANGEISM RESURGENT - Orange Lodges in England 1836 – 1876. Further parts of this appendix will be published in future issues of The Orange Banner.)

Banner Pulpit: -

The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

There is a film out this year called “The Passion of the Christ”, and I trust that it is a film that you haven’t seen and one that you won’t be seeing in the future. From evangelical reviews it appears that there are many theological problems with regard to this film.

One of the problems of the film is that it concentrates on the physical suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ as a man, without the spiritual suffering of our Lord as God, and consequently there is also no clear gospel message of as to why the Lord Jesus Christ suffered on the cross. Therefore the Christ presented in this film is not the Christ of the Bible, and it is therefore a deception that will unfortunately deceive many, but hopefully not you. The film, however, may give you the opportunity to speak of the real Lord Jesus Christ to people who otherwise would have no interest whatsoever.

The Lord Jesus Christ is revealed in the pages of scripture as being truly God and truly man, having these two distinct natures in the one person. And it is to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ that we will be turning our thoughts with the grace of Almighty God, and so I trust it is a subject that is worthy of your closest attention as we examine the teaching concerning our Lord and only Saviour that is found the word of God.

Now question twenty-one of the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks, “Who is the Redeemer of God’s elect” and the answer given is, “The only Redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so continueth to be God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever”.

In these days of ecumenism and multi-faith movements, where it is taught that there is saving truth in all religions for those people who are sincere and earnest, it is worth spending a moment initially considering that small word “only”, “The only Redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ”. For this word “only” is used in the pages of scripture to teach us some vitally important things that you need to know in order to be saved and to receive eternal life.

“Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”
(Matthew 4:10)

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”
(John 17:3)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

And in the Shorter Catechism answer it speaks of the only Redeemer, and this is a confirmation of Acts 4:12 where we read,

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

So Almighty God alone is to be worshipped and served, and further in John 14:6 the Lord Jesus Christ says,

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

The Lord Jesus Christ is, therefore, the only Redeemer of God’s elect, he is the straight and narrow that leads to God and any other way is simply the broad road that leads to destruction and eternal loss.

A question that needs to be answered is why is the Lord Jesus Christ the only Redeemer of God’s elect? And the answer is that the Lord Jesus Christ alone is qualified to be our Redeemer and that is because of his eternal deity as God and his true humanity as man.

Let us consider for a moment what this statement means. It means that the Lord Jesus Christ is God; that he is of one substance or essence with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.” (John 20:28)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

“For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth *them*; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.” (John 5:21)

From these four verses of scripture it can be seen that the Bible teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ is God; that he has the attributes of God, that he is able to do the mighty works of God, and that he is given the worship that properly belongs to God. In other words the Lord Jesus Christ is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth. He is God.

Now this divine person, who was always God in the fullest sense of the word, but in the appointed time of the Triune God he became man by taking to himself a complete human nature.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,” (Galatians 4:4)

God the Son became man without ceasing to be God, that is the divine nature was united to the human nature in the one person and now forever. And so at times we find in the gospel narratives that our Lord and Saviour wept over Jerusalem, that he was tired on a long journey and that at times he was hungry. He is indeed truly man as well as truly God.

Now to redeem means to buy something back that has been lost, for example a slave, or spiritually to buy us back from our bondage and captivity to sin. We are all sinners who have fallen short of the glory of God and we are all in need of a Redeemer. The price that the Lord Jesus Christ paid to redeem us from our sin was his own life. A life of perfect obedience to the law was given to give us a righteousness before a holy God and also an atonement for sin when he suffered and died at Calvary.

“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
(Matthew 20:28)

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Our only Redeemer is then the Lord Jesus Christ. The title Lord is used because he is God, he is called Jesus, that is Jehovah the Saviour, because he shall save his people from their sins, and he is called Christ because he is the anointed Messiah.

It was necessary that our Redeemer should be man for as God he was incapable of suffering death for his people. The covenant of works was with man with Adam being our representative head and in the covenant of grace the Lord Jesus Christ as man stands in our position as our representative to fulfil the law on our behalf and to take upon himself the punishment for sin that we so deserve. In man we fell into sin and in the man Christ Jesus we are redeemed from that sin. Only a perfect man could obey the law of God without sin or blemish.

It was necessary that our Redeemer was also God because that alone gives the atonement of Calvary such infinite worth as to pay the price of sin for all who will trust in him alone for salvation. His death alone could satisfy the infinite justice of a holy God. He took upon himself the wrath of God that we righteously deserve. If the Redeemer was only man he could only have paid the price of his own sin and not our sin. In other words we would still be dead in our trespasses and sins, and without the salvation of God.

So who is the Lord Jesus Christ and what is he to you?

Is he the Son of God who came into the world to save sinners?

Is he the one who loved you and died for you?

Is he the only Redeemer, both God and man in the one person, who has purchased redemption for all who will call upon his name?

Are you outside of Christ and his purchased salvation or are you rejoicing in the Redeemer that God sent into the world? There is a Redeemer for you to believe on for salvation, but will you so believe and receive the gift of eternal life? Amen.

(The sermon notes from the George Marsh Service held on April 25th 2004)

Twelve Rules for Promoting Harmony Among Church Members

Pastor Thomas Smyth

Rules 7-12

7. To watch against shyness of each other, and put the best construction on any action that has the appearance of opposition or resentment. (Prov 10:12)
8. To observe the just rule of Solomon, that is, to leave off contention before it be meddled with. (Prov 17:14)
9. If a member has offended, to consider how glorious, how God-like it is to forgive, and how unlike a Christian it is to revenge. (Eph 4:2)
10. To remember that it is always a grand artifice of the Devil, to promote distance and animosity among members of Churches, and we should, therefore, watch against everything that furthers his the Devil's end. (James 3:16)
11. To consider how much more good we can do in the world at large, and in the Church in particular when we are all united in love, than we could do when acting alone, and indulging a contrary spirit. (John 13:35)
12. Lastly, to consider the express injunction of Scripture, and the beautiful example of Christ, as to these important things. (Eph 4:32; 1 Pet 2:21; John 13:5,35)

(Adopted from "The Encyclopedia Puritannica Project CD Rom)

Daily Bible Readings

July 2004

Ezekiel

1. Ch.42:1-20
2. Ch.43:1-17
3. Ch.43:18-27
4. Ch.44:1-14
5. Ch.44:15-31
6. Ch.45:1-25
7. Ch.46:1-24
8. Ch.47:1-23
9. Ch.48:1-20
10. Ch.48:21-35

Daniel

11. Ch.1:1-21
12. Ch.2:1-23
13. Ch.2:24-49
14. Ch.3:1-18
15. Ch.3:19-30
16. Ch.4:1-18
17. Ch.4:19-37
18. Ch.5:1-17
19. Ch.5:18-31
20. Ch.6:1-17
21. Ch.6:18-28
22. Ch.7:1-14
23. Ch.7:15-28
24. Ch.8:1-14
25. Ch.8:15-27
26. Ch.9:1-27
27. Ch.10:1-21
28. Ch.11:1-12
29. Ch.11:13-29
30. Ch.11:30-45
31. Ch.12:1-13

August 2004

Revelation

1. Ch.12:1-17
2. Ch.13:1-18
3. Ch.14:1-20
4. Ch.15:1-8
5. Ch.16:1-21
6. Ch.17:1-18
7. Ch.18:1-24
8. Ch.19:1-21
9. Ch.20:1-15
10. Ch.21:1-27
11. Ch.22:1-21

Matthew

12. Ch.1:1-25
13. Ch.2:1-23
14. Ch.3:1-17
15. Ch.4:1-25
16. Ch.5:1-20
17. Ch.5:21-48
18. Ch.6:1-18
19. Ch.6:19-34
20. Ch.7:1-14
21. Ch.7:15-29
22. Ch.8:1-17
23. Ch.8:18-34
24. Ch.9:1-17
25. Ch.9:18-38
26. Ch.10:1-15
27. Ch.10:16-42
28. Ch.11:1-15
29. Ch.11:16-30
30. Ch.12:1-21
31. Ch.12:22-50

