

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*

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The Glorious Revolution Settlement and European Union!

The Battle of the Boyne, 1st July 1690, was the defining moment of the Glorious Revolution and the confirming of a constitutional monarchy in this country. This link between the monarchy and a democratic parliament has been a pattern of government that has now stood the test of time for over three hundred years.

The threat to the sovereignty of this country now comes from the ambitions of the European Union politicians who seek to take more power away from individual countries and to invest it themselves. A legal European Constitution was to be another step in this direction, but referendum defeats in France and the Netherlands have now put this into question. Whether the Eurocrats will listen to the voice of the people and turn into another acceptable direction remains to be seen or will they just ignore these referendum results and plod on regardless? The quest for closer European union does not come from the people of Europe, but from politicians and civil servants who think that they know best. Long may this country remain safe under the settlement of the Glorious Revolution!

Lodge News

Star of Halewood – Bishop J.C. Ryle Memorial – L.O.L. 66

On Wednesday 20th April L.O.L. 66 held their 4th annual commemoration service for John Charles Ryle, first Anglican Bishop of Liverpool. The service is held at Ryle's graveside, which can be found at "All Saints" Church Childwall, Liverpool. The service consists of a number of Bible readings and prayers, a short reading taken from one of Ryle's many works and the ten-minute sermon.

This year the theme was on "Sacrifice", giving our selves to God's will and work. The speaker was a well-known personality to the Liverpool Orange world, Mr Roy Hughes and it was a great pity that it was limited to just ten minutes.

The event was well attended by members of L.O.L. 66 and this year the weather, though windy was at least dry.

On Friday 22nd April the first of our two annual lectures was given at the Orange Hall, Heald Street, Garston, Liverpool. The speaker was Mr Chris Richards of the Protestant Alliance, and his subject was the 450th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Archbishops Latimer and Ridley. As well as the Grand Master and Grand Chaplain of England, Bro Phil Rimmer HDGC, and many other members of the Orange Institution attending, we also had many members of the general public present, and the lecture was warmly received.

As part of the proceedings the Grand Chaplain dedicated a banner on behalf of the lodge.

The second of our annual lectures will be in October when Mr Ian Henderson will be speaking on the life and times of Pastor George Wise.

If any of your readers would like to be notified of any of our future events please contact Ian Thompson either via the Grand Lodge Directory (L.O.L. 66, Liverpool Province) or at the following e-mail address – ianthompson@orangenet.org.

Ian Thompson - Secretary

George Marsh Commemoration

On Sunday April 24th Victoria's Pride L.O.L. 788 held its seventeenth annual thanksgiving service to commemorate the martyrdom of George Marsh in 1555. The service is held at Deane Parish Church in Bolton where George Marsh and his family worshipped God. This year it was the 450th anniversary of his martyrdom to the very day.

Members of the lodge conducted the service and the sermon was preached by the Revd Brother P.J. Rimmer H.D.G.C. on the parable of the lost sheep in Luke chapter fifteen. The attendance was encouraging with about fifty people present, and this included a number of first time visitors of which one was a Church of England minister.

At the conclusion to the service inside the church the Manchester Provincial Grand Master, Brother R. Ashe, laid a wreath at the George Marsh monument in the churchyard. Brothers Jonathan and Samuel Rimmer of Fylde Young Defenders Junior L.O.L. 282 were then presented with badges and certificates by the lodge Mistress to mark ten years service in the Junior Section. This has included representing the Grand Lodge of England in a number of International Scripture Exams.

Mr Chris Richards of the Protestant Alliance then addressed the congregation with regard to practical lessons to be learnt from the life of George Marsh, and the service was then closed in prayer by the Revd Stephen Holland, the new Wycliffe Preacher for the Protestant Truth Society in the north west of England. The singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close.

The lodge has produced an anniversary booklet to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the martyrdom of George Marsh and these can be obtained from The Orange Banner at a cost of £1.50 including postage.

George the Martyr, a Church of England church in Bolton named after George Marsh, also had a 450th anniversary service and a full-page article on George Marsh and this service appeared in the Bolton Evening News on April 23rd under the heading "The Bolton Martyr". Though the lodge service had been advertised in the Bolton Evening News there was sadly no mention of it in the article, and also no mention of Deane Parish Church where there are several things of interest with regard to George Marsh. These include a memorial stain glass window and a wooden engraving of his martyrdom on the front of the Lord's Table.

A first time visitor to the service later informed us how much he had enjoyed the service and then looking through the papers of his late father he had found an advertisement for a 400th anniversary service for George Marsh's martyrdom in 1955!

Grand Lodge Parade in Blackpool

Most readers will be aware that the Grand Lodge of England Parade planned for last September in Blackpool during the Grand Lodge Sessions had to be cancelled at the last minute, a decision that no doubt disappointed many people. A successful re-arranged parade took place on the afternoon of Saturday May 14th.

Each Province with the Grand Lodge of England was represented and there were many visitors from Scotland present. At the cenotaph a wreath was laid and the Grand Master and the Grand Chaplain briefly addressed the members present. Though it was a little windy the sun was shining and the parade was well received by the public on the route.

(On arriving home from the parade the editor of The Orange Banner found out that there had been an arson attack on their church building. Please pray that the church will be kept safe from further acts of vandalism.)

Grand Lodge Juniors

Members of the Junior Institution took part in the Liverpool Lord Mayor's Parade on Saturday June 4th with the Grand Lodge Junior Parade being held the following weekend on Sunday June 12th. The parade was to the People's Church on Netherfield Road.

The Liverpool Provincial Junior scripture examinations took place in May and this year they were based on the Old Testament book of Jonah.

Northern Provincial Parade

The Northern Provincial Parade will be held (DV) on Saturday July 23rd in Northallerton in North Yorkshire. The parade is marshalling at 12.45 in Romanby Road for a 1pm start time. A social will be held in the evening at the Sundial Hotel on Darlington Road, Northallerton. For further information contact Brother Ian Weaver on 01325 241784 or lol265nsow@yahoo.co.uk.

The Freedom of Religion Bill

A number of senior Conservatives support this Bill, including Edward Leigh, MP (who introduced it into the House), Ian Duncan-Smith (one of the less effective leaders of the Conservative Party in modern times), William Hague (no surprise, given his opposition to the continuation of the British Empire Medal), Francis Maude, Bernard Jenkin and John Bercow (who resigned from the Shadow Cabinet in 2002 over allowing homosexuals to adopt children). They are now allied also with Irish Republicans, such as Kevin MacNamara, who is also sponsoring this Bill.

The Bill calls for an amendment to the Act of Settlement and several other pieces of legislation to allow a member of the Royal Family to marry a "person of any religion or none" (i.e. a Roman Catholic) and not lose their place in the succession. The existence of the Act of Settlement is an affront to the human rights of other members of the Royal Family. Edward Leigh, MP (Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee) said when introducing this Bill, that Prince William could marry an "atheist" or a 'Satanist but not a Roman Catholic! He even gave a nod of approval, as an argument in support of this unsavoury Bill, towards the official connivance which has led to a self-proclaimed "Satanist" joining a Royal Naval Ship last-year! (Such a development is completely contrary to the ethos of the British Armed Services). Leigh claims that

the Bill's focus is narrow and uncomplicated. Surely a gross understatement, as this could lead potentially to the return of religious strife in England and an unravelling of the Reformation.

He also claimed that the 16 Realms do not need to be consulted - which Philip Benwell (Chairman of the Australian Monarchist League) strongly contests. Leigh's speech makes no predictions for the future - it merely 'asserts' that the Act of Settlement does not belong in the 21st Century and must be swept away - regardless of the historical and political consequences. I doubt if those empty-headed Conservatives who are supporting the Bill, have really considered what changes there would be in Britain, if we returned to the Church of Rome. Indeed the "Euro realism" professed by people like Leigh, Bercow and IDS is completely bogus, because a return to Rome rule would also mean Britain under total EU rule.

Leigh should be reminded that Roman Catholicism only remains strong in third world countries suffering also desperate poverty. Roman Catholic countries in Western Europe have largely rejected Roman Catholicism, partly for secular, humanist reasons, but also because of Rome's record during the Second World War, when people like Monsignor Visa (Leader of the Slovak People's Party of Hlinka and executed in April 1947 by the restored Czechoslovak Government), or Archbishop (later Cardinal and indeed leader of the Ustasha Government in its final days) Alois Slepina, who was imprisoned for 17 years; (men were sentenced to death for less, compared with the crimes he committed in Croatia) indeed open collaboration with the Nazis was practiced in states such as Croatia and Slovakia during the Second World War. Some 800,000 Orthodox Serbs were murdered by the Catholic Ustasha between 1941-45. The Chief of the Jasenovac Concentration Camp located on the Sava River, was a Franciscan Brother named Miroslav Filipovitch, who was later condemned to death as a war criminal.

The Wartime Catholic Slovakian Government even paid the Nazis!, (500 Reichmarks per Jew) to imprison its entire Jewish population in the Auschwitz/Birkenau Death Camp during March 1942. Yet Leigh demands forgiveness for the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, as he did during the debate of 8th March! Should we not shout, shamefacedly, about Slovakia? Should we not also openly shout about Ustasha crimes in Croatia?

The pamphlet "Ravens Wolves", deals with the atrocities in Croatia as does another pamphlet, called "Ustasha under the Southern Cross". Tom Bower's book "Ratlines" also explains how the RC Church helped the Ustasha leader. Ante Pavelitch, escape to Argentina in 1948.

While Leigh would, I am certain, denounce all these events, personages and organisations, I personally would be extremely against any attempts to return this country to Roman orbit, given its record during World War Two. It does not even mention Rome's ongoing support for terrorist organisations in Ireland and the many recent financial, paedophile and sexual scandals which have rocked the Church over the past few years.

We should not forget the Gunpowder plot - our objections are clear and practical. They are not grounded in bigotry, but in a knowledge of history and current affairs. It has recently been reported that the victims of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests have been awarded the equivalent of £52 million in settlement, from the American Diocese of California. This is the largest amount ever paid out, by any US Diocese.

But the Rome-inspired, politically-correct campaign against the Lewes bonfire celebrations continues. RC Councillor, Joe O'Keefe, says that he has no objection to the bonfire itself, but to the burning of papal effigies and what he describes as "its virulent anti-Catholic nature". He claims that his own effigy was burnt last year.

John Selwyn-Gummer MP, a former Conservative Minister and Party-Chairman, writing-in the Catholic Herald on Boxing Day 2003, stated that English Catholics, during 2004, had to make it their firm intention

to secure the conversion of England and indeed the whole of the British Isles. Rome's aim remains the same as it has for centuries - the spiritual conquest of Britain.

What of Rome's support for Sinn Fein throughout the 20th century? an organisation intimately linked with the IRA which tried to wipe out the Conservative Party hierarchy only 20 years ago. All this is too recent to be allowed to be dismissed as history. Those who want a return to Rome rule need to justify the record of their Church and it is an impossible task. It is in fact indefensible!

Allan Robertson
Deputy Master, LOL 1689, London

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 via 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.

CITY OF CHESTER L.O.L. 375 meets second Monday of each month in the centre of Chester. Visiting Brethren always welcome. Membership enquires from Cheshire and North Wales please phone Dave Reynolds on 0151 3563358.

BLACKPOOL FAITH DEFENDERS L.O.L. 2001 meets the first Tuesday of every month in Blackpool. Telephone 07787858614 for further details.

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 Secllol2001corby@aol.com.

BLACKPOOL FIRST FLUTE BAND – for further details see www.freewebs.com/blackpoolfirstflute.

For further details of membership and the Biblical principles of Orangeism please contact the editor of The Orange Banner.

The Heidelberg Catechism

Unfortunately we have been unable to continue this series on the Heidelberg Catechism in this issue of The

Orange Banner because of the length of other articles. It is hoped (DV) to continue the series in Issue 131.

English Orangeism and the Great War

By
Brother Jack Greenald

Part Four

Support Back Home

Lodges back in England gave practical support to those injured in the War. At the regular monthly meeting of the Protestant Reformers Memorial LOL 758 held in October 1915 in Liverpool, the lodge heard a report from Bro Briggs, the secretary of the Protestant Reformers Church, informing them of the assistance and comfort given to wounded soldiers, sailors and prisoners of war by several committees of the Church.

The members of the Bolton lodges entertained injured Orangemen serving in the Ulster Division, who were being treated at Townley's Hospital in the town in October 1916. These included Sergeant Johnson of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, from Dungannon, William Curry of the Young Citizens Volunteers, from Belfast, Private J Hughes of Strabane, and Private J McClure of Newtownards. At the end of July 1916 Rifleman William Curry of the Y.C.V's wrote to the Master of his lodge, St. Silas LOL 181, from hospital in Bolton, commending the kindness shown to him by the members of the Bolton Ladies LOL.

The Orange Ward

In October 1916 an appeal fund was launched on behalf of a hospital ward exclusively for the use of Ulstermen and Orangemen, at the Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital, Trent Bridge, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

The President of the Hospital was Lady Bruce, an Honorary Agent for Lady Carson's Fund for the Ulster Division, and one of the most active workers in the hospital was Bro R G Wilkinson of LOL 257 Birkenhead. Sir Edward Carson became the Honorary Patron of the appeal fund.

The Duke of Portland officially opened the 'Ulster Recreation Hut' and 'Orange Ward' on 16 January 1917. The Ulster Hut contained a large recreation room and two smaller rooms, billiard tables and a piano; with facilities for reading, games, refreshments, meetings and concerts. Among those present at the opening were Colonel Sir Henry Bruce, a member of the Ulster Unionist Council, and commander of the County Londonderry Division of the Ulster Volunteer Force, Lady Bruce, and the Rev Dr Ewart, Grand Secretary of the Loyal Orange Institution of England.

Sir Edward Carson sent a letter of apology saying: 'I am very sorry that my urgent public duties at the Admiralty will prevent my attending the opening of the Ulster Recreation Rooms... you have my best wishes for a very successful gathering'. Sir James Stronge, Grand Master of Ireland, sent the following message: 'I am glad to hear that the collection for the Ward is so successful. All arrangements seem to be most satisfactory. It is very kind of my friends to ask me to declare the Ward open. It would have been a very great pleasure for me to do so, but since I was in Glasgow, in Xmas week, I have been laid up with influenza. I hope, and feel sure, that the ceremony will be well performed, and that the Ward will be useful as long as the War lasts - and worthy of those who have fought so well for our country'.

Further Casualties

News of more Orange casualties was reported as the war dragged on. In November 1915, the Lily of the North LOL 255 from Liverpool reported that Bro George Moss had been killed in France, leaving a widow and six children. An impressive memorial service was held in St Peter's Church in Everton. Another Liverpool lodge 'Excelsior' reported the loss of Bro W Ryland. Bro Harold Overton, a member of the Gillingham lodge, died when H.M.S. 'Natal' was blown up in December 1915. Shrapnel killed Bro Louis Pitts, a member of a Bradford lodge, on 21 September 1916.

Company-Sergeant Major T Wareing, the Master of LOL 237 Preston, was killed in action in France on 9 September 1916. He had previously been wounded on 15 June at Festurbet. Bro William Preston, a sergeant serving with the 7th King's Liverpool Regiment, was killed in action in France on 25 September. Before the war he had been the Honorary Secretary of the Central Division of the Liverpool Ulster Volunteer Force. Bro Smillie, a member of a Birmingham lodge, was also killed at the front.

In December 1916 it was reported that Bro Lieutenant E W Martin, of LOL 779 London, had been killed in action during the attack and capture of Longueval. His Colonel stated: 'he displayed great gallantry and coolness. When the time came to assault, he was the only officer left in his company, and he led the assault with great gallantry and dash... We have lost a splendid and gallant officer'.

The news of the death in France of Bro J Moreland was reported in November 1917. He had been the treasurer for nine years of Earl of Roden LOL 184 from Manchester and he was well respected in the Manchester District Lodge.

The Liverpool Province held a memorial service on behalf of the brethren who had given their lives during the war. It was held on 21 October 1917, at St Chrysostom's Church, Everton. A report stated that a large procession with several bands made their way to the church. The Rev H Patrick preached the sermon taking his text as John 15 v 13: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends', and he spoke with great feeling when referring to the many brethren who had given their lives on the battlefields of Europe.

Banner Pulpit: -

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

(These are the sermon notes from the George Marsh Thanksgiving Service held in Bolton on Sunday April 24th 2005)

In Luke chapter fifteen we find an account in the form of a parable of the work of each person within the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Now a parable can be simply defined as an earthly story with a heavenly meaning, and it was a means of teaching that was often used by the Lord Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry.

In this account of the lost sheep we see our sinfulness in always going astray from the Lord and the lengths to which he went to rescue us, and then the joy with which he finds us. Now in reading the scriptures you will often find that they compare people with sheep, and to some of you this may seem rather strange and not very flattering to the human race. You may be thinking that surely there must be a more appealing animal than a sheep to depict us, perhaps such as a lion, an animal that we normally associated with strength. There is nothing very attractive about sheep, but when Almighty God looks down upon us from his throne in heaven and sees our foolish ways, God sees in us the likeness of sheep.

Compared with many other animals sheep can indeed be described as weak and foolish and defenceless. Sheep normally need a shepherd to watch over them and to lead them to green pastures where they can feed, and to protect them from a possible attack by wild animals. Sheep are in reality weak and they are also foolish and they often wander away from the protection of their shepherd. The shepherd will have led them to good pasture and in ignorance they imagine that everywhere else they go must also be good pasture. They don't realise that their safety is due to the diligent work of their shepherd. They're easily tempted to leave the safety of the flock and to wander off on their own. And unlike their shepherd the sheep have no knowledge of the possible dangers and pitfalls of the area round about them. Once they wander from the protective care of their shepherd sheep become very susceptible to attack from wild animals and perhaps large birds of prey. There may also be steep cliffs or muddy bogs that could bring danger. There also may be the danger of rustlers who are on the look out for stray sheep.

Now the use of sheep in the pages of holy scripture to describe us is not the picture that we get from society today. People tell us that we can and must decide everything for ourselves, that we are self-sufficient and that basically we do not need any help and guidance from God. Are these people correct? The answer is, of course, no they are not. Just take a good look at the world in which we live, and you will quickly see how accurate and correct the assessment of a holy and just God is. The world in general and the lives of so many individual people are in a total mess. There is misery and failure all around us. How much like sheep we really are!

The truth of the matter is that we do need somebody with wisdom to show us and to guide us in the way of daily life. We are surrounded by all kinds of danger without even necessarily realising it. Satan is the great enemy of the soul, and he is invisible to our eyes, and he is the thief of human souls, and he will take you as far away from God as he possibly can. Like wandering sheep we so often reject the care of the Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd and bishop of souls, and we head off on our own without him. Soon you may fall into a deep gully of sin or fall into a fast flowing stream of temptation, and you cannot get out. Or wandering far away you may find yourself in a place where there is nothing spiritually to eat, and no food for the soul. You do not understand the word of God and your soul starves. You may try to feed on the entertainment of this present evil world, but inside your soul will still be hungry and starving. You are cut off from God, and ready to die and to be lost eternally.

Now in this passage of scripture before us we read of one particular sheep that went astray out of a hundred sheep. Ninety-nine were safely grazing in the green pasture, but one of them was missing. This foolish sheep had left the safety and the security of the flock and it had set out all on its own. Soon it was lost and it faced starvation and possible death.

The shepherd in charge of the flock noticed that one of the sheep was missing, and so immediately he made plans to go out into the wilderness to search out and to find the missing sheep. No doubt it would have been difficult to find a single sheep and even possibly dangerous to search in the mountainous regions of that area. Perhaps the search would take many days? There was also the danger of wild animals that the shepherd may have to face. Yet the shepherd persevered in his search until he found it. He may have seen it from a distance or have heard its bleating. Tenderly he picked up the lost sheep and examined it, and then he lifted it up on to his shoulders to carry it back home. The trip home, no doubt, was a lot quicker as it was probably downhill, and now the shepherd was a very happy man for he had found his lost sheep.

But this was not the end of the parable, for the main point that the Lord Jesus Christ made was about the rejoicing that took place on the return of the shepherd with the lost sheep. As soon as he was back home he passed his good news to all of his friends and all of his neighbours so that they could also share his joy – “Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost”.

The spiritual meaning of this message points to the amazing love and kindness and compassion of

Almighty God. He feels for unworthy and proud and arrogant people who reject him and go astray from him. He not only pays an infinitely high price to save them from eternal disaster through the atoning death and sacrifice of his only begotten Son at Calvary, but he also rejoices greatly as each saved and born again believer is brought into his kingdom by his grace.

If you are outside of Christ how can you reject the God who created the heavens and the earth, the God who sees us, the God who knows us, the God who feels for us, and the God who goes to such lengths to save his people from their sins?

Now the Lord Jesus Christ is, of course our good shepherd. In John 10:11 he says, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep", and he left his Father's house in heaven and he came down to earth to be born of virgin in that humble stable in Bethlehem. According to Luke 19:10 he came to seek and to save that which was lost. In other words the Saviour sacrificed his own life in order to rescue and to save us from our sin.

To receive this purchased salvation one needs to be converted, one needs to be born again, one needs to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Seeking the salvation of God should be the main priority of your life, but have you asked for and received the grace of God yet? It is a very important question for each one of you to answer.

In drawing to a close it should now be remembered that it was to the Pharisees and scribes who were behind the telling of this particular parable. In their pride they did not see themselves as lost sheep. They believed that God was very pleased with them and their religious activities, and they had no compassion for the sinful people who had come to hear the Redeemer preach. In fact they criticised our Lord and Saviour for having anything to do with such sinful people!

By telling this parable the Lord Jesus Christ was warning these hypocrites that unless they recognise themselves as lost sheep and sinners needing forgiveness and reconciliation with God, they would never cause the angels in heaven to rejoice over their salvation.

Perhaps today you are trusting in something other than Christ for salvation. Some people trust in church attendance or church membership or the membership of a religious society, whilst others may trust in their baptism. Religious works will never get you to heaven.

Give up your pride and humbly admit that you are a lost sheep, without any hope of heaven, and cry out to the Saviour of lost sinners to be saved.

This is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and this is the gospel of George Marsh whom we remember with thanksgiving to God today, may it also be the gospel that makes you wise unto salvation and that brings rejoicing in heaven over your salvation. Amen.