

# About our Family

Have you ever wondered what the beautiful window on the courtyard side of our Nave means? Or why the Vicar is so excited about our [ststephensbeaumont.com](http://ststephensbeaumont.com) website having a link to the Anglican Communion website under the Education tab? At the Vicar's request **The Reverend Father Jay Tillitt** has written the first installment of a series about why the **Anglican Communion** is so important and why its website should be visited often.

Once upon a time, there flowed out of the mists of Divine Providence, a display of land portions we know today as the British Isles.

It was rumored that as peoples and tribes settled there, St. Paul, on his myriad travels, breached these island shores to spread the Gospel.

Further, into Medieval times, the Faithful spoke of St. Joseph of Arimathea, who had given his own tomb to house the body of the crucified Christ, had sailed to England. It was said that he carried the most sacred of objects, the Holy Grail. It was verified that being a merchant, he was on business. The Grail was the cup Jesus had used at the Last Supper to establish The Mass, The Great Thanksgiving, for all time and eternity.

Popular opinion dictated Joseph then traveled to Glastonbury, home of one of the most massive Benedictine monasteries in England. This location was known for its unusual tremblings of earth. It was felt, that meant this was a holy place, personally touched by God. Pilgrimage was unusually strong. An electrical force from the ground is still felt today.

At Glastonbury, Joseph stored the Grail for protection down the Great Well. The Well, housing the Grail, brought pilgrims for a special blessing to the monastery.

Today these stories of Church Lore thread themselves through every Anglican/Episcopal soul. It is our legacy.

In the 1900's, a visionary set of Church representatives, met to bring together an ongoing voice of the Church. The Anglican World Magazine, International Film and Media, online streaming, historical documentaries and daily news coverage as it happens in all phases of Anglican life are presented online through the ANGLICAN COMMUNION NEWS SERVICE. (ACNS)

---Officially, we are titled: THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION. Today, we are a Worldwide Ecumenical-Inclusive Christian Spiritual Outreach. The Church is approaching 100 million souls. (officially 85 million...out of date.) Between 6-7000 persons become part of the Anglican Communion daily. **(Continued on Next Page)**



**(From previous page)** ---The Communion is the Third largest body of Christians. It is comprised of 160-65 countries, territories, island republics and nations. Numerous languages are spoken through our liturgies, sacraments, rites and ceremonies. Worship is expressed in the language of the people wherever they live. Multiple, bilingual rites are employed everywhere we gather.

--- The Communion is a federation of 40-45 Provinces worldwide. We are united, although self-governing, in “Bonds of Affection”. Every Province is representative of its own culture, customs. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the titular Patriarch of the Church. He is considered as “Primus Inter Pares”. First Among Equals. Polity, is traditional: Bishop, Priest, Deacon as from Biblical/Apostolic times.

--- The Communion was discovered by Pope Gregory I with a young Benedictine monk, Augustine, in the slave market in the City of Rome (c. 6th cent). While there, the Pope noticed some blond people for sale. Upon asking who they were, Augustine replied that these people were Angles (English). The Pope said they look like angels. Blond hair was unknown.

--- The Pope directed Augustine to go and convert these peoples. Augustine arrived in England to spread the Gospel (c. 596-7). Augustine arrived in Canterbury, where The Cathedral became the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion. But Augustine discovered that Christianity was already fully established under our own rite: THE SARUM RITE. It was begun at Salisbury, two days journey outside of London at the time. The two Churches, Anglican and Rome (the Latin Rite) were brought together in 664 at the Synod (Council) of Whitby in the town of that name at the famous convent by St. Hilda of Whitby. This is how Anglicanism came under the Roman Church.



**NEXT:** In his second installment, Father Tillitt will concentrate on the importance of keeping up with today’s ANGLICAN COMMUNION NEWS SERVICE. In the meantime, take some time to tour the Anglican Communion website [anglicancommunion.org](http://anglicancommunion.org) which can also be accessed through our own website.