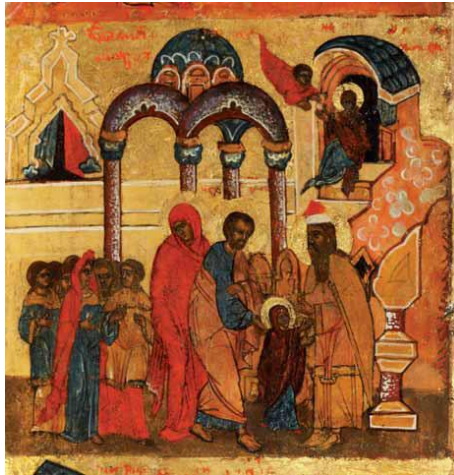


ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD NOTTINGHAM



NEWSLETTER

Nov - Dec 2017 : Cost £1.00



Today is the prelude of God's good-will and the prophecy of the salvation of men.

The virgin appears openly in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. So let us cry to her with voices: Rejoice, thou who art the fulfilment of the Creator's providence.

Troparion Tone 4
Nov 21st

THE PARISH OF
ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD, NOTTINGHAM

Worshipping in the Church of St Leodegarius,

Church Street, Old Basford NG6 0GD

Rector: Revd Fr David Gill 0115-9622351

Priest: Julian Lowe 0115-9780574

Deacon: Ian Thompson 01724-337521

The Advisory Council

Fr David Gill

Fr Julian Lowe

Dn Ian Thompson

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FATHER DAVID'S LETTER

Be aware of the Antichrist

We hardly ever mention the Antichrist or antichrists. Yet they are mentioned in the Gospels and St John in particular refers to them.

In his first epistle, St John says this, “Little children.....you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come” (1Jn.2:18). “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is the Antichrist who denies the Father and the Son” (1Jn.2:18).” Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world” (1Jn. 4:3.)

There are certainly many today who deny that Jesus is the Christ and some who see our society in crisis, perhaps as a result.

Tim Stanley, a historian and journalist, and a Catholic, in a recent article, describes, as he sees it, the present crisis of humanity which we are facing today “with moral rot at its core.”

We have a crisis of the family; half of babies born are out of wedlock. We have a crisis of decency, there are 171 hate crimes every day. We have a crisis of relationships; there is a lack of commitment to partners and children. Many seek fleeting relationships in virtual reality (on the internet). The use of pornography has become a norm for many and some are addicted to it. There is a crisis of self-worth with increase in anxiety and mental health problems; young people subject to anxiety

have increased threefold in the past five years. There is a crisis of identity; half of Britons aged between 18 and 34 believe that gender is not binary (not simply male or female), yet this is arguably the rock on which our sense of personhood is built. There is a crisis of responsibility; half of over 75's live alone with little care from families. There is a creeping towards euthanasia. There is a crisis of care. To all this may be added that there are near 200,000 abortions every year, lives which can be disposed of quietly because they are unwanted. And much more.

Our society is in crisis, however you describe it. There is a great falling away from the Church and Christian values across Western Civilisation. There is a deviation from traditional morality. Perhaps the Antichrist is not so much a person but the brood of deception hovering over the whole of society. It seems that men and women may choose to do whatever they will, be whatever they want, have whatever takes their fancy. It seems acceptable that they can live without heed to the Law of God, and with disregard for the firm principles and foundations on which our civilisation is built. The situation is very serious. Where is the moral compass?

In Dn Ian's excellent feature, *Dead Souls* (newsletter, July August), he reminds us of George Orwell's novel, *Nineteen Eighty Four*, where the inquisitor says to the hero of the book, "We shall empty you, Winston, We shall empty you and fill you with ourselves". It is a chilling thought but already partly experienced by many living under repressive regimes. It is also partly true for all of us living in a society which encourages us to absorb unhelpful and unhealthy ideas. We must be wary of being filled with thoughts, aspirations and deviations which do us no good. We must not follow the crowd. This must include having a healthy attitude to political correctness, established by a demanding minority compelling us all to conform in ways which are beyond common sense and contrary to our better judgment.

For our part, we can only turn to deep prayer, closeness to Christ in a Church which finds a way to give moral leadership, firm guidance and a call to repentance. Prayer is coming closer to God, so that we are safe, enfolded in His love and under His protection. Prayer enables the best within us, even that contained in our soul, to be to the fore. Prayer enables us to be indeed, a temple of the Holy Spirit.

When, in prayer, our whole being, body, mind, soul and spirit is lifted up, giving us life in fullness, life in God, so that in our daily living, we are enabled to discern what is good and true. Now we can take care that we are not being led away, along a wrong path, a path which draws us away from God. Now we can be alert to anything which disrupts our prayer life, which places anything or any demands above our Christian principles. There are, at present, fewer members of our society turning to Christ, which leaves us as the faithful remnant. With this privileged responsibility we stand united with the whole Church across the world and through time. Standing firmly with Christ (IC XC) with certainty that He has already overcome (NIKA), the Antichrist is already conquered. In this and this alone, we stand on firm ground.

Fr David

OUR LIFE

Our grateful thanks to Lev Pisarev, our faithful friend in Moscow, who not only brought a priest's gold vestment for the Parish but also contributed generously to the cost of it. It will be for the use of our new priest Julian.

Our grateful thanks also to Fr Theophan, who has given a priest's set in red.

Gift Day. We collected £190 which will be sent to the Orthodox Christian Churches of Syria to assist those persecuted in the conflict of many years duration. Previously it was not made clear what the Gift

Day this year would support. If any of you wish to add to the amount collected, please give your gift to Tina or a member of the clergy.

Move to St Aidan's. The Church Warden and PCC of the joint parishes of St Leo's and St Aidan's have generously agreed assistance during these autumn and winter months. We have been given a generous welcome to hold services in St Aidan's until the heating in St Leo's is restored. St Aidan's is a well appointed church and it has been a great pleasure and joy to serve the Holy Liturgy there since 15 October. The good news is that the faculty allowing the new heating system to be installed has been granted.

Parish Advisory Council. At the meeting held on 20 September, the following was agreed: To use St Aidan's Church for a temporary period; to appoint a Welfare Officer to replace Tina Lowe; to welcome Fr Dn Ian as Treasurer; to put transparent panels on the book case doors.

The Bibles so generously provided by the grant from the Nottingham City Mission will be held by Fr David and Fr Julian for use as appropriate. The website is now up and running and in a greatly improved format. Our grateful thanks to Dominic Pote who is now in charge of this and Anthony (William) Hogarth who assisted with the basic format.

The accounts for 2016 were received and approved. It was noted that there was an overspend of £1400 during that period mainly due to expenses incurred by participants in the Triannual Archdiocesan Assembly. A second appeal letter will be sent to all with a request that all who can make their donation by Standing Order or Direct Debit to assist budgeting and accounting.

Enrichment of Faith Group. At the first meeting in October we addressed the question, "What is prayer, and why do we pray?" The answer given by one of the Pote children before the meeting was

simple, succinct and full: “It is to come closer to God!” But in this we are aware that God is everywhere present and fills all things; He is in all that He has created. In this light, prayer is also an opening up and development of the soul. Without nourishment of the soul in prayer, we are incomplete human beings. The soul is the centre of our spiritual life enabling us to appreciate beauty, art, music and hence enabling us to fall in love. The soul enables us to reach out to others in love. Within our soul, our life is enriched and we become a temple of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor.6: 16). Prayer enables this because it is not us but the Holy Spirit who prays in us (Rom.8:26). Furthermore, prayer is ongoing, continuous, whether we are aware of it or not. Each breathe we take, every action we make can be prayer, for in God we live and move and have our being (Acts17:28). Prayer is to be aware of this. It is the ongoing background pulse to which we add liturgical prayer, vocal prayer and prayer of the heart to give enrichment of life. When we pray for others, including the departed, we are not so much asking on their behalf, as expressing our love and concern for them as we hold them in the presence of God.

A Break-in

We were shocked to hear that our newly-weds Dan and Monika came home to find that burglars had smashed their way into their home and done considerable damage. Dan and Monika are quite philosophical about this incident and say that the most important thing is that they still have each other.

Quiet Day at Costock.

On Saturday 14 October we gathered at the Sisters of the Holy Cross Convent, Costock for a Quiet Day. We listened to three recorded talks by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and now Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. He is a brilliant Theologian

well versed in the Orthodox Tradition, a man of prayer and of deep spirituality.

There will be a more detailed report in the next newsletter.

News about our young peoples

Luke and Daniil are working hard for their A-levels and after gaining Level 1 in car maintenance Brendan has been promoted to Level 3

St Aidan's – our temporary new venue

Oct 15th was our first liturgy there and my first acquaintance with St Aidan's church.

My first impressions:

Very easy parking and a ramp for wheelchairs and mobility scooters
We were in the porch and happy to wait until the St Aidan service was over but someone came out to usher inside. We sat quietly at the back until the lively service was over and then were given smiles and a very warm welcome by the regular congregation.

The church was very warm; in fact, tropical compared with what we had previously been experiencing. The building is a combination of modern and Edwardian Gothic. It is very light, airy and spacious with gothic arches and a high barrel ceiling.

There is a light coloured ornate wrought iron screen into the Lady chapel. The lectern looked to be late Victorian; likewise the pulpit which either never had a plinth or has lost it.

The east end is unusual as the church was never completed and instead of an east window, above the altar there is a very modern cross attached to an almost blank wall. Looking at the church from the outside it is very clear to see, 'building work stopped here.'

The font is very modern with some low screens making it into a small baptistry. The church has a play area for children and there are good kitchen and dining facilities.

Setting up for our Liturgy went more easily than we had dared hope. The choir rose brilliantly to the challenge of a new venue, new books and different acoustics.

The Little and Great Entrances were more spectacular than normal as the spaciousness permitted an unrestricted procession which resulted in a majestic sweep of vestment skirts.

All in all, everything went very well but what really stood out was the warmth and friendliness of the St Aidan congregation.

Frances

From our friend in Florida

Preparations before Hurricane Irma.

I stocked up on bottled water, food and flash lamps. There was no petrol anywhere in town or nearby and many people who could, moved out to safer places

Hurricane Irma arrives

My experience:

We have been very blessed by the winds slowing down to 65 miles per hour here. The rain was 10 inches! I had to keep running out in the dark to run water off my pool so it would not flood the house! Some family members stayed with me and I slept through the whole noisy night. My young granddaughter said she heard the tree branches cracking and branches scratching the bedroom window just as in a ghost story.

We were without power for 2 days which is nothing compared to some. Our lawns are all cleared of branches and already picked up by the city collections, so it is with thanksgiving in our hearts that we praise God!

Just as you had prayers on Sunday morning, we did too. Psalm 116 verse2 *He hath heard my voice and supplication!* That is an abbreviation!

Yes, it was devastating to the south in particular. Help and housing of mobile homes are on the way via our govt., the military etc. The power help is coming from all over the states to bring back a sense of order. We are happy to have a great governor who is a business man and gets stuff done.

There were thousands of evacuees trailing into Georgia and it slowed down all the power companies and gas tankards from reaching the south as they were returning at the same time! The rivers flooded roads and homes all over Florida.

Report from Barbara Down Under,

We have indeed had adventures! At present we are staying for a few days in Queenstown, the south west of NZ, which is very beautiful. We were due to go on a trip along Milford Sound today, generously gifted by Laura, but the weather was not good enough to fly. So we all went on the lake trip instead. This involve a trip on a genuine coal-fired steamship, where we could see the actual fires being stoked. All very dramatic! The scenery is like the Norwegian fjords, only more so. Very beautiful, dramatic and humbling. I took lots of photos. I wish there were another word than 'took' for photos. I am reminded of stories about human tribes who thought it took your soul, and I feel I need to ask permission. So I have tried to do it reverently and gratefully.

We started off in Australia, arriving 16th Sept. it all came about because we are on an international house exchange site so that we can more economically visit Laura in New Zealand. But picture, if you will, sitting in the middle of a dark and dismal British winter, and someone says to you, How do you fancy three weeks on the Sunshine Coast in September? You're going to bite off their proverbial hand, so that is what we did, and then tagged on our half of an exchange in New Zealand.

Australia was an experience - very dry, hot, harsh and brown for the most part. The word went out in the Southern Hemisphere that I was in town and so every midge around came to eat me. I can say that the climate didn't suit me! However standing by the Pacific in a good off

shore breeze kept them away, and the beaches are truly wondrous in their beauty.

We were about 50 miles north of Brisbane. We went inland to a couple of mountain villages, high enough to make your ears pop, and saw some remarkable Botanical gardens. One in particular, nearer the coast at Maroochydore, was as near unreconstructed rain forest as you're going to get if you invite people in, and this was a real highlight. It was a primeval forest, almost unreadable with my north European sensibilities. There was a sense almost of holiness, of take off thy shoes, in the grandeur of it.

We also went to the Australia Zoo, of Steve Irwin fame, and this was magnificent. I worry a bit about zoos but there is a major conservation angle with this one. We saw kangaroos - I was mildly surprised to see them eat grass - koala, parrots, wombats, emus and yes, crocodiles. Which was entirely terrifying and I don't mind if I never see another!

I tried to find an Orthodox parish but the only one that responded was very remote. However, I do know a parish in Christchurch and I plan to go there on Sunday.

All this is the merest hint of what we've experienced. Photos will help but I shall have a lot of processing to do. Meanwhile we are telling Laura how clever she is to have come and worked in this beautiful country; otherwise we would have been unlikely to see it.

Still, we shall be glad to be home again and see all our friends again. Oh and dare I say I shall be looking forward to Christmas, as we jump from spring to winter in a matter of days!!

Axel – a dog loved by all

He was born at Durage Bay which is on the Northumbrian coast. The people who bred him thought he was going blind and gave him to a group of people who try to find homes for dogs who are physically disabled but it was found that the problem was merely an aversion to ultra-violet light. His next owner treated him like a lapdog but was unable to keep him so he was taken by Elizabeth, my daughter who is

a dog trainer. We agreed to have Axel for a week whilst Elizabeth was on holiday but could not give him up. He is by far the best dog I have had and all people who know him think he is quite exceptional.

Axel took his role as being protector of people and dogs seriously. Once, when staying with Elizabeth there was another dog in the house – a bulldog with a sore shoulder and when Elizabeth went to touch him he moved towards her to attack. Axel immediately leapt up, picked up the bulldog by the neck, shook him and tossed him against the wall and then stood on him. Elizabeth's boyfriend, now partner felt that when he first visited the house Axel monitored him carefully to make sure that he wasn't going to do any harm to Elizabeth so followed him wherever he went. Axel was a big dog -we think a cross between a German Shepherd and Rhodesian Ridgeback.

Axel was particularly good with children and they loved him. He even appeared to listen attentively whilst my grandson explained some pictures from a storybook to him. He liked playing in water with them. They threw sticks and Axel retrieved them. Once on a sand dune Axel observed a retriever behaving very aggressively to two young girls on the beach. Axel raced down and to the relief of the girls chased off the retriever.

My friend Fr David looked after Axel several times when we were away. If there was a short service Axel would sometimes be taken to church. He would stay silently at the very back and when the service was over the children would all greet him, as did the adults. He was known as the gentle German Shepherd.

Two months after my wife died I was watching a TV programme and was in tears. Axel came across to me, wagged his tail furiously, poked me with his nose, licked me and put his head on my lap several times. After 20 minutes of this treatment there was no way not to respond and then Axel lay at my feet and stayed there for half an hour. It was such

a beautiful expression of trust, love and understanding of what I was going through. At the end of this I was in tears but they were very different tears from the start. Axel knew that he had got through to me and he did this three or four times.

Another talent was his ability to help other dogs. He was taken to see a small dog who was terrified of any dog. Axel understood the problem very quickly and lay down on the floor exposing his neck. The little dog sniffed all around him. When Axel got up there was concern that the little dog might be frightened again but this did not happen.

It is quite extraordinary that a dog of great strength used to protect people and other dogs. What an example to humans! He would simply not fight smaller dogs. I asked Elizabeth if she could get me another dog like Axel but she said that to have a dog like him was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I remembered when I had him that some of the early fathers of the church stated that we are meant to be guardians and protectors of creation and not exploiters. With Axel this made perfect sense. Fortunately, there are recorded events of humans having a special relationship with animals not only cats, dogs and horses but also dolphins, otters and even lions. Unfortunately, these relationships are only too rare.

Frank Johnson

The Liturgy of Preparation Part 4

The Conclusion of The Proskomedia

As the Liturgy of preparation draws to its conclusion the priest blesses the incense saying the Prayer of the Censer, and then takes the Asterisk (star cover), holds it over the censer and then places it on the diskos, saying: "And the star came and stood over the place where the young child was." The "Asteriskos" or Asterisk is placed over the Diskarion to prevent the special cover from actually touching the "Lamb" and the

smaller portions. The asterisk, as its name implies, represents the star of Bethlehem that appeared when Christ was born.

The Priest then holds each of the two smaller veils called “Kalymata” over the censer and places them on the discos and the chalice, respectively, saying appropriate prayers for each. The Kalymata symbolize the clothing and the shrouds, which were used for Christ’s burial. The third and larger Kalyma is called the Aër. The priest wraps it around the censer and then covers the chalice and diskos together, over the other two Kalymata. This is to insure greater protection against dust and insects. This larger Kalyma is called the Aer because, as it is shaken over the Holy Gifts, during the Creed it fans and cleans the air above them.

Finally, the Priest will take the censer and cense the covered Gifts while says the concluding Prayer of Oblation. Afterwards, the Priest will perform a censuring of the Prothesis. The Priest or Deacon will then continue and cense the Holy Table, the sanctuary, the entire church and the people while he recites the Psalm 50 quietly to himself. This is the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Preparation.

Although not used a a part of the Proskomedia I think it might to useful to look at a few other sacred vessels that are necessary in the performance of the Liturgy. The first is the “Lavis” or spoon. This is today, a long-handled spoon of gold or silver that the priest uses to administer Holy Communion to the faithful. In ancient times, when it was customary for the communicants to receive the Bread separately from the Wine, this vessel had the shape of a nipper, a tool that resembles tongs. The Lavis symbolized the tongs by which one of the Seraphim took a burning coal from the Altar and touched Isaiah’s lips, thus taking away his guilt and cleansing his sins (Isaiah 6:5-7). In the same way the Holy Communion that is administered to the faithful today through the sacred spoon, burns away our sins and cleanses us. The Lavis took the shape of a spoon when the Church established that

the Bread be mixed with the Wine in the Holy Chalice. This change was done for several reasons, the most important one being that there was always danger of spilling the Blood as it was administered to the communicants directly from the Chalice. With a spoon there is more control.

The “Spongus” or Sponge is a small sponge which is used for cleaning the chalice after the Liturgy. It symbolizes the sponge which was dipped in vinegar and given to Christ to drink on the Cross.

The “Mousa” is used to transfer the “Lamb” and the portions from the paten into the chalice.

The “Zeon” is a metal utensil in the shape of a small pot, which is used to heat water. Zeon means the boiling water used for the Holy Communion. This water is poured by the priest into the chalice when he is about to take Holy Communion at the close of the Liturgy. This warm or boiling water is to remind us of the warm blood and water, which flowed from the pierced side of the Saviour. It also symbolizes the warm faith with which the believers should come forward to receive Holy Communion.

Fr Julian

St Andrew’s Church in Holborn

The church was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren. It has medieval foundations with a crypt which is still in existence today. It is now a busy city church but has no Sunday congregation as very few people now live in this area. The Parish of the Dormition is fortunate in being able to serve Liturgies here on Sundays. There is no problem of two congregations wanting to be in the same place at the same time.

During the week the church is used as a conference and musical events venue, an administrative centre for various charities, and as an oasis for prayer- a contemplative space in the busy environment in the City of London.

Fr Julian's Big Day

There was a very warm welcome by the local congregation plus equally warm greetings from Archbishop John, given in both French and English. An air of excitement and anticipation filled the church. All those who could possibly make the journey from our parish were there. Monica rolled up in her wheelchair and Emilia our very small new member arrived in her pram.

The church is very light and airy with wooden pillars and carvings at the lower level and white pillars with gold embellishments in the clerestory. There were two spectacular chandeliers.

The Liturgy was served and sung beautifully with the extra dimension of the ordination of a Reader, Fr Stéphane being made an Archpriest (and presented with a gold cross) and the ordination of our Fr Julian.

This was a very moving occasion and the shouts of *Axios* for Fr Julian left no one in any doubt about his worthiness. What also came across was Fr Julian's humility.

The whole service was a joyous occasion and the agape meal afterwards was sumptuous and a triumph to the organisers. The atmosphere was bubbling and like that of a reunion where we catch up with news from friends we don't see very often.

It was a wonderful day and to Fr Julian:

Axios, Axios Axios and Many Years!

JANUARY 2018		
We wish all our readers a very Healthy and Happy New Year		
Fri 5th Jan	THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR	Vigil 7.00pm
Sat 6th	The Great Blessing of the Waters	Liturgy 10.30am St Aidan's
	Party to follow. Venue not yet decided	
Sun 7th	No services in Nottingham	Liturgy 11.00am in the Bridge chapel, Derby



The Great Entrance : Sunday Oct 19th

CALENDAR : NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2017

As a temporary arrangement we shall continue to worship at St Aidan's until new heating is installed in St Leo's. The date of change will be announced well in advance.

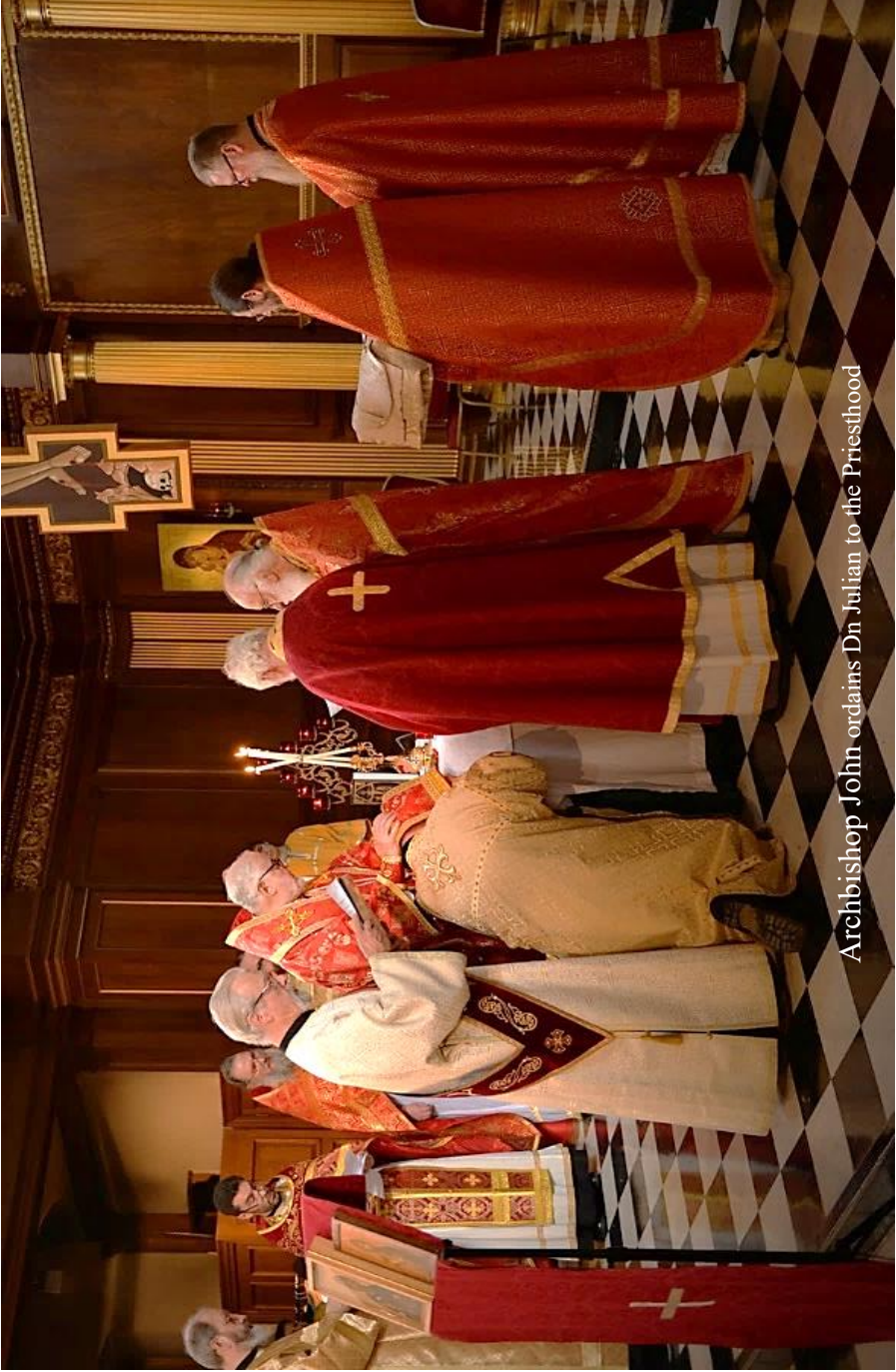
Please note that all evening services, unless otherwise indicated are in Fr David's house chapel

NOVEMBER	During the week Mon 30th Oct to Fri 3rd Nov Fr Julian will serve the Liturgy daily at 9.00am in St Aidan's	
Sat 4th	22nd Sunday after Pentecost	Vigil 5.00pm
Sun 5th	Synaxis of Archangel Michael and All Angels, St Nektarios of Pentapolis	Liturgy 12.00 noon
Wed 15th	Beginning of the Nativity Fast	
Sat 18th	24th Sunday after Pentecost	Vigil 5.00pm St Aidan's
Sun 19th	ENTRY INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	Liturgy 12.00 noon
DECEMBER		
Sat 2nd	26th Sunday after Pentecost	Vigil 5.00pm
Sun 3rd	St Nicholas the Wonderworker Children especially invited	Liturgy 12.00 noon
Sat 16th	28th Sunday after Pentecost	Vespers 5.00pm
Sun 17th	Sunday of the Holy Forefathers Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children	Liturgy 12.00 noon
Sat 23rd	Forefast of the Nativity Sunday of the Ancestors of God	Vespers 5.00pm
Sun 24th	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR	Vespers 5.00pm LITURGY 6.00PM in St Aidan's
Mon 25th	Christmas Day Merry Christmas to All!	No services



Congratulations and Many Years!

Anthony Hogarth has finished his year of studying Russian at University, and has recently started work in the Novosibirsk office of a Dutch IT company. He regularly attends his local Orthodox Church (<http://katehizis.ru>), and also has managed to find the time to marry his girlfriend Tatiana. They now have a baby daughter Agnia who you can see being held by her Godfather after her baptism in the photograph below. Anthony plans to back in the UK for a few weeks in the .Summer and sends his very best wishes to all.



Archbishop John ordains Dn Julian to the Priesthood