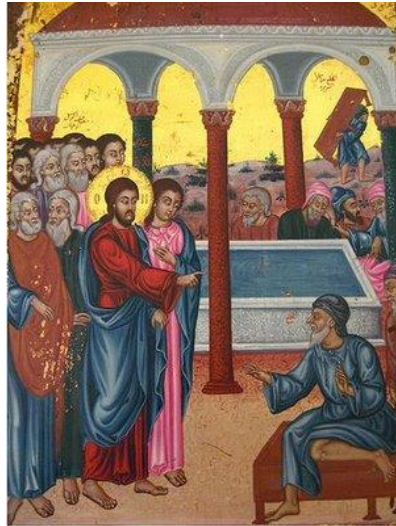


ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD NOTTINGHAM



NEWSLETTER

May – June 2020 : Cost £1.00



By Thy divine presence O Lord, raise my soul
which is terribly paralysed by all kinds of sins and misguided actions,
as of old Thou didst raise the paralytic, that saved I may cry to Thee:
O compassionate Christ, glory to Thy power.

Kontakion Tone 3
May 10th

THE PARISH OF ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD, NOTTINGHAM

Worshipping in the Church of St Aidan,

Arnold Road, Basford, NG6 0DN

Rector: Revd Fr David Gill 0115-9622351

Priest: Revd Fr Julian Lowe 0115-9780574

Deacon: Ian Thompson 01724-337521

The Advisory Council

Fr David Gill

Fr Julian Lowe

Dn Ian Thompson

Tina Lowe (Church Warden)

Katharine Dryden (Secretary and Welfare Officer)

Joanna Spencer

Dominic Pote

The Trustees

Fr David Gill

Fr Julian Lowe

Dn Ian Thompson

Tina Lowe (Church Warden)

Barry Dryden (Treasurer)

Jim Moulton

Newsletter Editor: Frances Thompson

Website: www.nottinghamorthodox.org.uk

Deanery Website: www.thyateira-deanery.uk

registered charity. (#1174715)



FATHER DAVID'S LETTER

Paschal tide

We have experienced a most unusual time of Great Lent and, for the first time, we have been unable to celebrate Our Lord's Passion and Resurrection in the usual way. However, we have continued as an active church community with our priests serving each service listed on the calendar and in our homes, joining in as best we have been able. There are many times in the past when Christians have been unable to attend church, and our elderly and sick even now, but to be in prayer in their homes, they have felt fully part of the church community as we do now.

Fr Alexander Men writes this: "...when the Lord appeared after His resurrection.... He appeared to many people but to each of them in a different way....". This continues even now. The risen Christ is unseen but manifest, Himself perceptibly to each of us. Any one of us who in our lives has sensed, even for a moment, the proximity of another world has had an encounter with the risen Lord. He comes to everyone, knocking at the door of their hearts and finds His own words for each one. Our task is to listen, to respond to that knock, for the Lord has come to save, revive and change the lives of each one of us".

And, we have witnessed a remarkable "coincidence". The power of the evil corona virus has been diminished at the time of Our Lord's Passion and Resurrection. For He has defeated the devil, "trampling down death by death and to those in the tombs He has given (new) life".

Even when we mention the Name of Jesus we are in His presence and sharing His Resurrection. This is manifestly true.

We now stand in the springtime of the year which again has brought us the flowering of our salvation. Each one of us has been visited by Our Lord in these times of difficulty, and we can again proclaim His Glorious Resurrection. His Paschal (passage) from death to life we also share as we too move into new life.

Let us, therefore, rejoice. For Christ is risen from the dead, "the first fruits of all who are asleep". Let us soak ourselves in the reality of the new life which is ours, given freely to us by God. Let us celebrate the feast of our baptism into new life; our new covenant relationship with Him; the new foundation of our life. Let us not be ashamed to say, "Lord, I believe Lord, help Thou my unbelief". Then, the Holy Spirit, the comforter, the strengthener will come to us and lead us into all truth. For Christ is risen from the dead and we are all set free to step into the new life ahead

Fr David

OUR LIFE

Our life has been disrupted by the Corona virus pandemic as we have been required to self-isolate and the church buildings have been closed. On the positive side, this has enabled us to keep in contact by telephone and text and our community has been together in strength. Once we have recovered from this, the times ahead will be very different. Let us hope that all will have appreciated that isolation, calmness, reduced activity, spending more time with the family (and in prayer) leads to a new way of life, a more balanced lifestyle, a better way forward. We hope also that the leaders of the Churches will come out of

isolation and have the inspiration and the confidence to proclaim the Gospel good news of Christ. We pray this for the salvation He has given to all who believe and we hope for an enrichment of the Church and reminder to all of the true and real purpose of life, even life with God.

Archbishop Nikitas, Clergy meeting and Deanery Assembly. 28/29 February 2020. Our Archbishop spent the most of Friday afternoon and evening with Deanery clergy and the following Saturday morning with the Deanery Assembly. He comes over as a very friendly, likeable and able Archbishop. He emphasised that we are fully a part of the Archdiocese even though our tradition and practices may differ. He intends the Archdiocese be fully bilingual and that all communication from the Archdiocesan office will be in both languages. He expressed his longing for the day when there is peace, love and unity amongst all Orthodox. He had recently visited the Exeter Parish where former Protodeacon Peter Scorer was ordained as a priest. He has also visited Holborn Parish where our Fr David had the privilege of concelebrating with him according to our own tradition. Archbishop Nikitas reminded us that Great Lent is a time, above all, for Repentance and Forgiveness and he wished us well in our efforts. His advice for the time of the Coronavirus pandemic was to remind us that the Church invites us but never forces participation. We are invited to receive the Holy Communion with faith and trust in Our Lord; the Blessed Sacrament is no longer bread and wine but the Body and Blood of the Lord. Christians, Fathers and others, have always ministered to those afflicted with communicable diseases. We go forward without fear. Present at the meeting were the Very Reverend Archimandrite Nephon Tsimalis, who is the newly appointed liaison person for the Deanery and Alexis Florides, the Diocesan Youth Worker

The full name of the Deanery is still under consideration through prayer. At the Assembly Meeting, the newly revised Statutes for the Deanery were presented and, by discussion, were amended for ratification later.

Great Lent. We were able to keep the first week of Great Lent with the Canon of St Andrew and Presanctified Liturgy. The Presanctified Liturgy could also be served the following week before the church was closed. Unfortunately, we were not able to serve publicly the Vigil and Liturgy of the Annunciation on 25 March. Fr David and Fr Julian have, in turn written a homily for each of the Sundays' of Lent.

Passion Week and Pascha. Our priests, in their separate locations, held all advertised services for Holy Thursday, Holy Friday, Holy Saturday and Glorious Pascha. They circulated notes to help members of the parish to be with them in prayer on each occasion. This included a time of prayer of anointing for all members of the parish at the end of the Wednesday Healing Service and the blessing of traditional baskets of food during the Paschal liturgy. We hope that all, following the enthusiasm for clapping for the NHS were able to stand at the door of the house and shout "Christ is Risen" at Paschal midnight!

Seminar for Youth. An initiative of our Archbishop Nikitas was to hold a day meeting for youth of the Archdiocese. All aged 18 to 30 were invited to attend with the purpose of considering how the Church could be more relevant to young people and to see what young people were asking of the Church. Sadly, this event had to be cancelled because of recent restrictions. Hopefully it will be possible to hold such an important meeting on a future occasion.

Homilies for the Sundays of Great Lent and whilst we are in self isolating are sent round to all members of the parish and are placed on our parish website.

The Fellowship Group completed the study of The Beatitudes on 16 March. The group will be convened again in due course.

Thanks for Support. Members of the parish are thanked for all the prayers of support, shopping and other help given during this time.

Annual Deanery Conference and Festival on the theme “A Cloud of Witnesses: Saints and Teachers of our day and their message to us”, arranged for the end of May, had to be cancelled.

Congratulations to Monica and Dan on the birth of **Shelby Florence Dove**, born on 22nd November at 4:05am weighing 8 lbs and 12oz.

Monica and Dan ‘s wedding was conducted by Fr David and Fr Julian at St Leo’s. On a sad note, Monica and Dan had the misfortune to be burgled during the first weeks of their marriage.

GREAT REJOICING. ON 11 JUNE THIS YEAR our parish will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Founded on the Eve of Pentecost, 11 June, 1995, ten persons, five men and five women were received into the Orthodox Church by Chrismation. Three others had already been received in the previous weeks and some several others joined to form the parish. There had, of course, been earlier Russian and Belorussian parishes in Nottingham since the late 1940’s. Some members of these earlier parishes also joined and we were blessed by their presence and their contribution to the new parish. Our first and founding priest was Fr John Lee, Dean of the Cathedral in London and he was joined by Fr Philip Steer of Walsingham for the Chrismation. It was also a blessing that some of the parish in London travelled each Sunday to give us support and encouragement. At first, we had a liturgy once each month in St Mary’s Parish Church in the Lace Market, Nottingham, but when Fr David was ordained priest by Metropolitan Anthony in October of that year, more regular services could be arranged. We always used the first and third Sundays so that we were in harmony with Fr Daniel and our other brothers and sisters in Derby who served Liturgy on the second and fourth. We should have a celebration of this “Silver Jubilee” on Sunday 7th of June preceding the day which is also the Sunday of Pentecost this year. Another wonderful coincidence.

From the **Newsletter archives 2005**

Obituary of Fr Peter who played an enormous part in the development of our parish.

Sadly, **Father Peter Brameld** fell asleep in the Lord on 24th February, 2005 following a time of illness. He had served in the Parish for 11 years following a distinguished time as Rural Dean in the local Anglican Church in Southwell Diocese (and elsewhere). He was greatly missed as a caring priest and person with an interest and loving concern for all he met. He was a man of prayer with deep spirituality and understanding. Some of his thoughts follow in this newsletter.

Fr Peter Brameld of blessed memory in his own words:

“...After I left the Church of England and moved into the ethos of the Orthodox Church, I was pleased to serve as a lay member. I enjoyed attending services and serving others just as the majority of Christians do. We must get away from the secular idea that it is the clergy who are the Church’s ‘Ministers’. By our prayers and love for one another we each have an important ministry. Christ is the Head and, as St Paul says, we are in a mysterious way, members of His Body, The Church. We belong to each other and contribute to the well-being of all by laying down our lives for each other. The Holy Spirit leads us into ever deeper union with God and one another and so makes us even more Christlike... Over the past weeks I have been especially aware of your loving prayer and support. This has been a great help to me. We all need to be helped in this way, and I do believe that we receive this when we pray for and love one another. Surely, as St Paul says... love is the best ministry of all. “

On unceasing prayer, he said: “The way of salvation, which we should think of as the re-integration of all levels of our being.... should be thought of as communion.... I am in communion when I breathe, sleep, eat and drink. wash, wear clothes, talk, read, think, walk, work, shop, watch television, etc. We do not fully enjoy and love this world because we do not make this part of our prayer and find God in all things”. (ed. We should)

Fr Dn Ian, in the tributes in the 2005 newsletter wrote:

“I never served in Nottingham without being made to feel by Peter that he was glad to see me, and many people have said the same. He had an extraordinary capacity for making people feel welcome and wanted, and also a great gift of offering help in a very unobtrusive and kindly way.”

2020 - A different Easter but one that we will all remember.

In some ways it was much calmer but there was also the realisation of how much we all mean to each other. We are really grateful to all who have tried and succeeded in making the Feast of Feasts so meaningful but Fr David, Fr Julian and Vera must be given a special mention.

Some collected comments:

This evening Fr David, Tina and I will be remembering each and every one of you by name, as we serve Matins and 'The Service of Anointing'. We will be praying for not only for you but those who are known to us.

We do hope that you will find time to join with us, from your homes.

It was moving to know that Fr Julian was reading each of our names during Wednesday night, it was good to have at least the priest's homilies for each day in Holy Week and we enjoyed Vera's lovely broadcasts of her family singing extracts from the services.

Many thanks for maintaining continuity of the life of the Parish throughout Holy Week

How was your Easter night? We found a variety of solutions.

I dusted off the Satellite TV manual and managed to find a number of channels broadcasting services from Russia, Serbia, Greece, Constantinople and Jerusalem. But we got caught out by Ekaterinburg being on a different time-zone, so missed the Paschal Matins. By channel-hopping we ended up with the liturgy by Patriarch Irineus of Serbia, which was smaller scale and less ornate than some of the others.

Beautiful singing everywhere but we prefer singing with you lot

We watched Fr Stephen in Oxford, but we ended up participating in Fr Justin's parish in Durham zoom-service which was live streamed.

I was unable to access foreign broadcasts in the end; so I watched Fr Stephen in Oxford.

Nothing so adventurous, I watched Fr Gregory celebrate

The Glasgow parish is doing a zoom session so we'll be participating there tonight I do miss the physicality of worship and struggling to keep up with the virtual side of it. Love to all of you and thank you Pote family for your singing.

The way the world changed in 2020...

Queen Elizabeth II addressed the nation at 8pm on Sunday 5th April. Shortly after this the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was admitted to hospital himself with Covid-19

The PM had previously implemented a lockdown across the country on the evening of Monday 23rd of March 2020

Good things from lockdown

Neighbours have become friends and are offering help to those unable to go out of the house.

Community spirit has increased and WhatsApp and Zoom have helped us to keep contact with friends anywhere in the world

We have had a beautiful Spring and those of us with gardens have been able to appreciate birdsong as it is not drowned by traffic. The busy world is hushed.

When the dust settles, we shall realise how much we have, how very little we need, and the true value of human connection.

The country has pulled together and Captain Tom has inspired us all.



War veteran: Originally from Keighley in West Yorkshire, Captain Moore trained as a civil engineer before enlisting in the Army for the Second World War, rising to captain and serving in India and Burma.

He walked 100 laps of his garden to raise money for the **NHS**

The 99-year-old veteran has even vowed to keep walking laps of his garden in the Bedfordshire Village of Marston Moretaine in order to raise money for the fight against the **coronavirus**.

Captain Moore has raised more than £27million so far (and still rising) on his JustGiving page, despite having an initial target of £1,000 when he began fundraising just over a week ago

What a wonderful gesture on his part and what a magnificent response from all those who donated.

Captain Tom will be 100 years old on Apr 30th this year and 90,000 birthday cards have already piled up in a makeshift sorting office near his home.

Happy Birthday!

The Proskomedie cont.

The Nine Ranks – Part 9



Removing a second particle from the same proskphora and placing it below the first, he says...

“Of the holy and glorious prophets: Moses and Aaron, Elijah and Elisha, David, Son of Jesse, the three holy young men, **Daniel the prophet**, and all the holy prophets”.

The name *Daniel* is from the Hebrew and means "God is my Judge" or "God is judging."

The **Prophet Daniel** appears in the Book of Daniel (Old Testament) as a captive carried away to Babylon, by order of Nebuchadnezzar, after the fall of the kingdom of Judah. This occurred during the sixth century before Christ. His ministry as a prophet came late in his life. He is commemorated by the Church on the December 17.

While remaining loyal to his faith in the one God, Daniel attained a high position of the court of Nebuchadnezzar and was known for his skill in the interpretation of dreams (Daniel 1:17 and 2:14) and of mysterious handwritings on the wall.

He is included in the Septuagint among the prophets and was referred to by Christ as a prophet in Mark 13:14 and in Matthew 24:15. The time and circumstances of Daniel's death are not recorded. By tradition his age at death was near 100 years. A number of places have claimed to be his place of burial, including Susa in present day Iran, Daniel's Tomb in Kirkuk in Iraq, as well as Babylon, Egypt, and Tarsus.

St. Fillan – Little Wolf



There are islands in the Ocean near the Western coast of Scotland, which, a long time ago, were inhabited by saints, by men and women who strove to follow Christ, to work for Him and to become like Him. Many years have passed and for a long time, perhaps, these people were forgotten about. But not forever. There are still some people today, who want to rediscover them, who want to remember them and to whom the saints have chosen to reveal themselves, in order to be revived in the seeking thirsty for holiness souls of today's people. One of them is Fr Seraphim - a Romanian, a monk and a priest, who founded a monastery on the Isle of Mull - **Of All Celtic Saints** on the Isle of Mull and the Scottish islands. Apart from the monastic communities he founded, he paints unusual icons and writes stories about those saints who lived centuries ago and who now want to reveal themselves to us, through the love and the hand of the holy monk One of these saints is **St. Fillan** – and this is his story! St Fillan is

an Irish/Gaelic saint from the 8th century. His name probably means "little wolf" in Irish/Gaeilge, being formed on a diminutive of faol, an old word for the animal. In Irish/Gaeilge the name Faolán is pronounced 'Fway-lawn'.

St Fillan received the monastic habit in the Abbey of Saint Fintan Munnu and came to Scotland from Ireland in 717AD as a hermit along with his Irish princess-mother St. Kentigerna, his Irish prince-uncle St.

Comgan, and his siblings. Later St. Fillan became the abbot of a monastery in Fife. He was believed to have had the powers of healing the sick and also possessed a luminous glow from his left arm which he used to study and write Sacred Scriptures in the dark. He is the patron saint of the mentally ill.

A story is told that while St. Fillan was ploughing the fields near Killin, a wolf took the life of the ox and thus Fillan could not continue. A *geis* was put on the ox, which meant the wolf had to take the place of the ox and do its work. The story may be considered more of a parable than historical truth, but the connection with the origins of Fillan's name remains obvious.

Vera Pote

And this is the story of St Fillan and the wolf, painted and told by Fr Seraphim, himself!

“St Fillan is such a treasure. I have not been able to find any previous icon of him – if you know of any, please send it to me. This icon focuses on one particular event in the Saint’s life, but tries to make something else visible. Once, a wolf killed the ox which St Fillan used to work the fields, so the wolf had to replace the dead ox and plough the fields with the saint. On the surface, this is what the icon shows.

Pray for a little while and the icon suddenly becomes the image of a confessor’s gentleness, or that of a parent’s struggle to both love and educate. This is the icon of the struggle any loving heart goes through when faced with the need to direct or to punish. Love punishes in a manner that edifies – not crushes; love corrects in a way that allows one to grow into one’s true identity (God has created the wolf to serve man, and in this obedience it finds its true meaning) – not deform one’s identity by imposing the parent’s identity on him.

When love educates, there is no battle of wills involved. In fact, there is no human will here – the only will present is that of God. Looking at their faces, it is obvious that to punish goes against the Saint’s love, while to obey goes against the wolf’s fallen nature. And yet both of them bow down to one another (see their posture) and together, they both bow to God’s will.

The hands that impose obedience look more like hands that caress, hands that bless. The one in authority has the posture of the one under obedience. When you look at their posture, one cannot distinguish who is the one in authority, who obeys to whom, for they both obey to God, and they bow down to one other.

Humanity is called to use the created world in love, not to abuse it with indifference. Humanity is called to help rekindle the true identity of the created world, not to destroy it. For after all – and this is something we should never allow ourselves to forget – that it is *our* own fall, the fall of Man that has dragged the world into its current fallen state.

The expression on St Fillan’s face reflects this very awareness: this animal has killed, this animal has fallen because of *our* fallen nature, and ultimately, because of *my own* sinfulness.”

Fr Seraphim

WE ARE HUMAN BECAUSE WE CREATE

Sometimes a kind of glory lights up in the mind of a man. It happens to nearly everyone. Then he pours outwards, a torrent of him, and yet he is not diminished. And I guess a person’s importance in the world can be measured by the quality and number of his glories. It is a lonely thing, but it relates us to the world. It is the mother of all creativeness, and it sets each man separate from all other men.

Our species is the only creative species, and it has only one creative instrument, the individual mind and spirit of a man. Nothing was ever created by two men. There are no good collaborations, whether in music, in art, in poetry, in mathematics, in philosophy. Once the miracle of creation has taken place, the group can build and extend it, but the group never invents anything. The preciousness lies in the lonely mind of a man.

And now the forces marshalled around the concept of the group have declared a war of extermination on that preciousness, the mind of man. By disparagement, by starvation, by repressions, forced direction, and the stunning hammer-blows of conditioning, the free roving mind is being pursued, roped, blunted, drugged. It is a sad suicidal course our species seems to have taken.

And this I believe: that the free, exploring mind of the individual human is the most valuable thing in the world. And this I would fight for: the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected. And this I must fight against: any idea, religion, or government which limits or destroys the individual. This is what I am and what I am about. I can understand why a system built on a pattern must try to destroy the free mind, for that is one thing which can by inspection destroy such a system. Surely I can understand this, and I hate it and I will fight against it to preserve the only thing that separates us from the uncreative beasts. If the glory can be killed, we are lost.

- John Steinbeck, *East of Eden*, 1952 (slightly adapted)

Our Parish Community

It is very heartening that our parish community has held together so well in these unusual and difficult times. There has been a great sense of friendship, acceptance and ingenuity around. Many seem to have discovered a way of marking Passion Week and celebrating Pascha by access to various sites on the internet where services were recorded and transmitted, locally or even from America. There seems to have been general appreciation of the effort made by our priests to write and circulate homilies for the various feasts and guidance through Passion Week leading to Pascha. On Paschal Sunday morning there was a flurry of e-mails with good wishes to all members of the Parish. There has been a genuine concern for each other whilst approving the alternative way of celebrating in isolation. On Bright Tuesday, Vera and three of her children visited Fr David and then several others to sing the Paschal Canon and offer gifts of the excellently slow cooked lamb prepared by Dominic; one of his culinary specialties. So, thank you everyone for making the best, the very best of this time of “lockdown” which for us should be more appropriately regarded as an opportunity for the blessing of isolation, silence and prayer, sharing in the hesychia which is usually the privilege of monks and hermits. We have risen above the absence of a church building and of being together to which all shall be blessed and congratulated. But, as Her Majesty the Queen has clearly stated, “We’ll meet again!”, hopefully soon, for Christ is Risen and all evil and demonic activity by His death and Resurrection is conquered and overcome. **Christ is Risen!**

Fr David

CALENDAR		
<i>Provisional normality from the end of May but, hopefully, will be earlier, especially for Ascension Day in Stow Minster We'll meet again when the churches are open</i>		
MAY		
Sun 3rd	3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA. Holy Myrrh-bearing Women, St Athanasios, Holy Apostle and Evangelist John, St Nicholas the Wonderworker, Sts Cyril and Methodius, Teachers of the Slavs	
Wed 13	MID-FEAST OF PENTECOST	
Sun 17	5th SUNDAY OF PASCHA. The Samaritan Woman Equal to the Apostles Emperor Constantine and mother Helena, St Melangell and St Bede	
Wed 27	Leave-taking of Pascha	
Thurs 28	The ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR To be in Stow Minster (if permitted) 10.30 am	
Sat 30 Sun 31	Afterfeast of the Ascension 7th SUNDAY OF PASCHA Martyr Wistan of Repton, Odo Archbishop of Canterbury	Vigil 5.00 pm Liturgy 12.00 noon
JUNE Sat 6 Sun 7	Saturday of Souls HOLY PENTECOST Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas Kneeling prayers to follow	Vigil 5.00 pm Liturgy 12.00pm
Mon 8	DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	
Thurs 11	SILVER JUBILEE, 25years. On the day of Pentecost 1995, Our Parish was established	
Sat 20 Sun 21	2nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Beginning of the Summer timetable All Saints of Britain, All Saints of Russia New Martyrs and Confessors of Bulgaria, Alban, Protomartyr of Britain, Glorious Forerunner and Baptist John	Vigil 5.00pm Liturgy 7.45 am
Sun 28	3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THE HOLY GLORIOUS APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL	Liturgy 12.00pm
JULY		
Sat 4 Sun 5	4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST St Sergius of Radonezh	Vespers 5.00pm Liturgy 12.00pm



Nicholas and his twin brother Mattyas

Liliana and Adrian Budica were told that their son Nicholas was not expected to survive the night but after his emergency baptism, there was a dramatic change in the wellbeing of Nicholas



Look at the boys now! **Deo gratias!**

Great and Holy Thursday
The Last Supper

