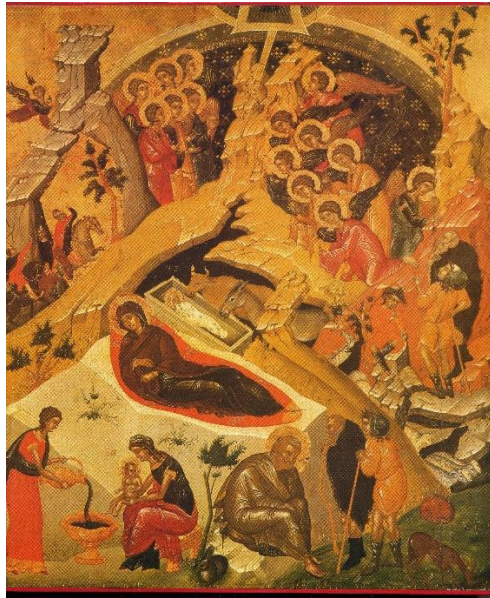


ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD NOTTINGHAM



NEWSLETTER

Nov –Dec 2020: Cost £1.00



Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has arisen upon the world as the light of knowledge; wherein it those who served the stars were taught by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high, O Lord, glory to Thee

Troparion, Tone 4 Dec 25

THE PARISH OF ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD, NOTTINGHAM

Worshipping in the Church of St Aidan,

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FATHER DAVID'S LETTER

Freedom from Fear. Return to our Christian Foundations

We, presently, are living in a society wracked with fear and anxiety related to the Coronavirus, the way it has been portrayed and its very serious consequences for many. This action is unusual in a nation which is known for its resilience, coping skills in all adversity and, indeed, stiff upper lip. We have lived with viruses for years, even centuries, and we know that to learn to live with the virus is the only way; by our present knowledge, we cannot eliminate them. Coronaviruses and other 'flu producing viruses affect us every year; they may be severe when they first appear but in subsequent waves they are modified to be less severe and eventually they disappear. I was at University in 1957 when the Asian 'flu attacked. It was as severe as the present Covid 19, very unpleasant for those who caught it and many died; and yet we carried on, living with it in our midst with no change to our daily life. Then there was Hong Kong 'flu in 1968 and later several others including Swine 'flu in 2009 and intermittent outbreaks of Sars (severe acute respiratory syndrome) - coronavirus related). Where are they now? Perhaps they have contributed to the usual winter 'flu which is very unpleasant for those who have the misfortune to have a serious attack, and there are between 10,000 and 17,000 deaths every winter, usually in the aged because it causes severe pneumonia. This Coronavirus will probably

be no worse than this, in the coming winter and we have to learn to live with it. To help us do this, of course, we must be careful and vigilant, especially if aged or otherwise vulnerable. At the same time, we should be glad that younger, fitter people have mild attacks and so gain immunity which contributes to communal resistance (herd immunity) which helps everyone. Hopefully there will soon be vaccination, particularly for the aged and vulnerable. So, we must not engage in Fear and we must try to avoid being anxious; for us, who are faithful prayerful Christians, we remember that at all times we are close to Our Lord who protects us and close to His mother who also is our protector ever since, on the Cross, Our Lord said, “ Son, behold your Mother, mother behold your son”. Then there is our Guardian Angel and for many of us a close awareness of the prayerful protection of our Patron Saint. For many of us also, there are the special awareness saints like St Seraphim of Sarov and St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne and many others.

What I have outlined above is associated also with a changing society, indeed a fragmenting society in which we live. It is as if we have lost so many aspects of our life, as a nation, which were fundamental to our stability. Now, students at University must be protected from opposing views to their own; if they are subjected to these, it is claimed, their safety is compromised and their personal freedom has been infringed. People can go to the Register Office and change the designated sex on their birth certificate. All institutions are encouraged to have training courses for their staff to ensure that they are “Woke” and not in any way subject to institutional racism and other offending tendencies. Black lives do matter but so do the lives of the neglected children of poor white families and those in present day slavery. Our attitudes to climate have to be changed but not by physical disruption of other people’s lives. There also is also an attempt to change our history; eminent pillars of society of earlier generations , often great benefactors have to be placed in critical light: Sir Hans Sloane, the

founder of the British Museum, a most distinguished physician, collector and botanist gave the whole of his life-collection and a large endowment to found the British Museum; now his bust has been removed from the founder's plinth because he married a wife whose father owned a sugar plantation in the West Indies and employed slaves. And so it goes on, subtly and not so subtly, undermining the very foundations of our society with disastrous effects. We are again standing in the light of Adam and Eve; they did what they thought might be acceptable but were wrong and had no idea of the devastating consequences which would ensue. Nor do so many of this generation, heading blindly into devastation.

I say all this, not as a political epistle but to emphasise that we, Orthodox Christians must stand with complete faith in Our Lord and His Holy Mother and the Saints, without fear. Also we must pray that our society returns to its Christian foundations and becomes a society again of good sense with respect and dignity for all, past and present. If this country does not turn again to God, the disintegration will continue. We pray that this will not be so. Let us pray that all turn again to Christ the True Redeemer. Let us pray that Apostles with prophetic voice will emerge again. Let this be the new normal!

Isaiah 55: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy and eat; come, buy wine and milk without money, without price! Why spend money on what fails to satisfy? Listen carefully to me,listen, and you will live!

Matthew 11:28. Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you (and free you from all that afflicts you).

Fr David

OUR LIFE

Meeting of Trustees

OUR LIFE Meeting of Trustees on 3rd October. Parish finances were discussed and are in good order. Barry Dryden, Treasurer, has been able to collect Gift Aid from HMRC. This scheme enables us to increase gifts to the Parish from tax payers by 20%. This also applies to plate offerings. The Trustees agreed that we should have a guidance policy for management of Parish Funds. It was agreed that the General Reserve Fund should be maintained at £9000 to provide security for all contingencies which might arise. We shall continue to contribute 10% of income to support the Deanery and Archdiocese. Some years ago we decided at the Parish Advisory Council that 10% of our income should be given to charitable causes. It was agreed that this policy should be followed if at all possible. These arrangements will be reviewed annually and Trustees will endeavour to transfer an annual sum to the Building Project Reserve Fund. It was agreed that the sum of £500 will be paid to St Aidan's PCC to support their parish even though we have not used St Aidan's over the past months from March to July. If you have not already done so, we hope that you will make an extra contribution to our parish to cover the loss of plate offerings whilst we were closed for services during the period. As before, we encourage you to make contributions by direct debit or standing order to facilitate claims from Gift Aid and to enable our Treasurer to know the parish income we may expect. Margaret Handley had managed the plate offerings for many years. She has done this task diligently with regular visits to the Bank to pay in receipts. We thank her for this valued contribution which will now be continued by Tina, the Parish Warden

The Fr. John Lee Memorial Fund. This was set up some years ago with the initial aim of supporting a children's programme. Fr John, our founding priest, was especially interested in young people's formation

and children's activities. From the initial sum raised by our Gift Day donations we were able to buy books for use during the Liturgy. We should be glad to hear of other ideas which we should pursue. Please speak with Tina or Fr Julian.

Eternal Remembrance. We have been greatly saddened to learn of Fr Peter Scorer's falling asleep. He has been such a central figure in the life of our deanery and its predecessors (Diocese of Sourozh and Vicariate). His links with Metropolitan Anthony have always been informative and inspiring and in recent years he has been chairperson of the Metropolitan Anthony Foundation. He was Protodeacon for many many years being content to remain as such without ordination to the priesthood. In recent times he expressed the thought that he would like to be able to celebrate the Liturgy before his death. This became prophetic.; he was ordained priest earlier this year, when another priest was needed in Exeter; he died in September after a very short but serious illness. His central role in the training of deacons, his skill as MC at the Annual Conference Sunday evening party, his marvellous deep bass voice and his prominent role in so many ways will be greatly missed. His words were always wise and helpful and his absence in this respect will be to our detriment. May he rest in Peace amidst good things.

Eternal Remembrance. Paul Snell of Caistor was a good supporter of our parish, He and his wife were regular attenders at our visits to Stow Minster. Paul has been a member of the parish in Louth and always a good friend. He was convinced that St Simon Zelotes was martyred in Caistor as one tradition asserts and he was thrilled when I was able to bring a photograph of an icon, on the roof or the narthex in one of the monasteries on Mount Athos, confirming this. Paul fell sleep in the Lord in the last days of September.

Divine Liturgy will continue to be served at 10.30 am on the first and third **Saturdays** of each month in the foreseeable future.

Setting up the Church. Our grateful thanks to and great appreciation of Tina Lowe, our Parish Warden. In these present circumstances she sets up the Church each Friday evening for Liturgy the following day. Afterwards she not only clears away our set-up but she also has to clean the church where we have used it. It may be possible to offer some help especially with the clearing and cleaning after our use of St Aidan's. For your consideration.

Our Young People. Daniil Gerov Pote and Luke Spencer continue well in their studies at Universities of Durham and Leicester respectively. All others are doing well in primary and secondary school. Brendan Gatenby continues his apprenticeship in engineering. We continue to hold all of them in our prayers.

God's Speed. Andrew James Williams, regular member of our community, returned to USA Texas after completing his Master's degree in Creative Writing at Nottingham University. It was our privilege to receive him into the Orthodox Faith and we were impressed by his fidelity whilst with us. Keep him in your prayers; may he be greatly blessed in the future ahead of him.

The Nine Ranks – Part 12



Removing a third particle from this same prosphora

and placing it below the second, he says:

“Of the holy, glorious and all-praised Apostles Peter and Paul, **of the Twelve** and of the Seventy, and all the holy apostles

An **Apostle** is one who is sent out by our Lord Jesus Christ to spread the gospel that he is the Messiah, that he is risen, and that we are being saved as a result.

The word *apostle* comes from the Greek *αποστολος*, literally meaning ‘one who is sent out’. Originally a military term referring to a sortie sent out against the enemy, *apostle* has in the Christian context come to refer to a missionary spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our Lord originally appointed twelve apostles as his initial Church community, commissioned with the task of sharing the faith. As told in the Gospels, Judas Iscariot was originally one of them, but with his apostasy and death, he was replaced with Matthias. Their collective feast day is June 30. The Apostles' names are listed at Matthew 10:2, Mark 3:14, Luke 6:12, Acts 1:13, 26.

After Judas' replacement, the Twelve consisted of the following:

Simon Peter: (crucified)

Andrew, the First called: brother of Peter (crucified)

James (son of Zebedee, also called ‘the Great’: (beheaded)

Phillip: (crucified)

John the Theologian: brother of James (reposed in a miraculous manner)

Bartholomew (also called Nathaniel): (Crucified, flayed and beheaded)

Thomas: (pierced with 5 spears)

Matthew (also called Levi): brother of James (burned alive)

James: Son of Alphaeus (crucified)

Jude (also called Lebbaeus): Surnamed Thaddeus, brother of James the brother of our Lord (crucified)

Simon the Zealot (also called “the Canaanite”): (crucified)

Mattias; Replaced Judas Iscariot (stoned and beheaded)

Lessons of the Pandemic:

Adjustment, Flexibility and Politeness

When people are talking about the positive sides of the pandemic I usually shut up. I can't see anything remotely nice about the death toll approaching a million, normal life coming to a standstill, and a pretty grim future facing the world.

I'm not a pessimist by nature, but my interpretation of "think positive" is "learn to adjust". The idea is not altogether original, I must have nicked it from Darwin's theory about the survival of the fittest: organisms best adjusted to their environment have most chances to survive. The current pandemic is certainly offering a variety of adjustment practices. I can hardly imagine the challenges faced by millions of people who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic, or stay locked in tiny apartments, or cannot undergo routine medical treatments and suffer from serious health issues other than Covid 19. My heart bleeds for the youngsters deprived of socialising or, even more for the fragile old people left to their own devices because of shielding.

People over retirement age are most vulnerable to the virus, but paradoxically, we are more fortunate than others. We don't have to go to work, we have fewer ambitions and social needs, we may like staying at home and enjoy the peace and quiet. And yet, we do need to see other people occasionally, so that's where it becomes difficult. "Would you like to pop over to our garden for a cup of coffee?" asks our neighbour calling me at 4 pm.

"Oh, thank you, I'd love to! When and what time?"

"Now!" she says. "While the sun is shining. I'm really sorry for such a short notice... It's OK if you are busy, I understand..." my neighbour keeps apologising.

I am, indeed, quite busy killing weeds (what an engrossing occupation).

“Give me ten minutes!” I interrupt. Just enough to wash my hands and change... Perhaps apply some make-up?.. Perfume?..

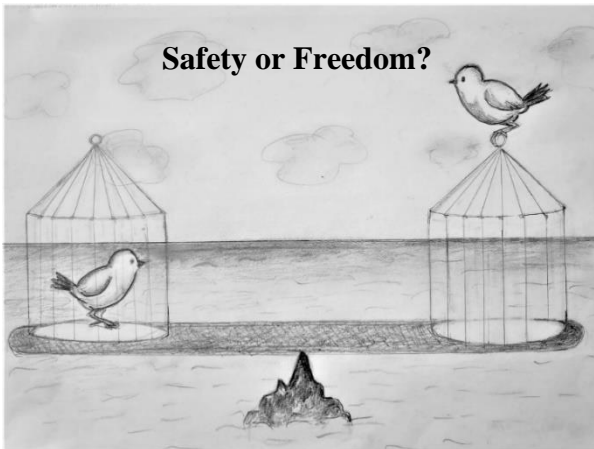
Meeting for a drink and a chat is now a luxury we can only afford in good weather, and British weather is certainly adding to the overall uncertainty. It’s difficult to plan outdoor events in advance, most appointments are subject to change. The phrase “weather permitting” has almost become a prayer. Such flexible appointments are a bit of a challenge for older people like us who are used to writing things down in a diary and structuring their lives around the schedule.

Is it impolite to invite someone without a prior warning? I do not mind it at all. In fact, I’m quite happy when we have guests (outside, of course) who were just passing by and decided to see us in three dimensions.

This spontaneity has obvious benefits. First, you don’t have to come up with a special meal or to expect one – a cup of coffee and a biscuit will be just fine. Second, knowing that someone could turn up unexpectedly is a good motivation not to spend the whole day in a dressing gown. And most importantly, we learn to be undemanding: if the other party cannot make it, we will understand, no offence taken. Rules of politeness are undergoing subtle transformations. It is encouraging to see that people have become more aware of social distancing. Even the young and macho seem to acknowledge your presence and step aside on a narrow path. New patterns of behaviour are turning into habits - we are adjusting just fine! And yet, certain things pose a real challenge and shake us up. I’m talking about situations when politeness clashes with safety, or rather the feeling of safety.

Consider this, for example. Our dearest neighbour John has just returned from Heathrow airport where he was meeting someone from Spain at the height of the pandemic. “I’ll pop over for a coffee tomorrow!” he shouts from his porch. I wave back, and spend a sleepless night. Three people at our home are shielding for various

reasons. The virus could kill them. I know all about asymptomatic transmission, and yet... How can I tell John not to come? How can I ask him to stay away from us for two weeks? Having coffee with John will be thoroughly irresponsible on my part, but what shall I do? I believe each of us has the right to do what we perceive to be safest. In addition to Government advice, safety requirements vary according to personal circumstances. With vulnerable people in our household, I will refuse an invitation to a pub, party or any public gathering. The risk of bringing the virus home outweighs all other considerations, including politeness. I hope people will understand me, as I understand those who wash strawberries with soap and do not approve of food sharing. A bit of paranoia? Perhaps. But don't criticize poor souls who overestimate hygiene and distancing; they are far less dangerous than those who underestimate it.



I hope priorities will be gradually sorted out, and we will remain nice and polite to each other without being reckless or judgemental.

Olga Grishina

Lock-down and breakdowns, summer in England and memories of travels in summers past and the miracles of the saints and the Lord and His Mother

But now that summer is ending and the rain has come, lock-down still seems to be continuing. We are sitting around our kitchen table, listening to the rain, writing about our lock-down and break-down experiences, drinking tea and eating cinnamon rolls which Anna made. I like to imagine that we are in the vast Russian land, that we have a big “*samovar*” in the middle of the table, and that we are reading Russian writers. I often think that there has to be a prayer for times of rainy weather, and a prayer during times of sadness and gloomy moods and for dark mornings. But we can make our own prayers! The Russian writer, son of a priest and a confessor of the faith, who spent years in communist exile, Sergei Foudel, wrote: *“Unless we have learned to grieve for others, we have not even begun to pray. This is why St Anthony the Great said: “Let’s learn to love sorrow in order to find God!” He did not say “let us look for sorrow,” but “let us love” it, because sorrow is the cup offered us by Christ, and drinking it, we begin to partake of prayer.”*

The rain brings back *memories* of our travels through Europe, memories of other years and ends of summers. We look at them like photo-albums, or drink from them like from bottles of Ray Bradbury’s dandelion wine. We remember Septembers in rain in past years when we have been travelling back to England, and also the many times we have **broken down**, and the times God and the saints, or our Guardian angels have miraculously helped us - like they did last year when our van broke down near Belgrade!

* * *

We got lost on a wrong exit near Belgrade. We hit a curb, and on a busy crossroad we broke a power-steering pipe. Dom discovered in panic that he wasn’t able to move the van. It has just got dark, cars

behind us were beeping, and driving past us angrily. We managed to reverse the van in a space which seemed safe (in pitch dark), in the middle of nowhere. Serbia was the only country on our breakdown policy which was not covered, and our mobile phone provider charged extortionate rates for using the phone. So we had no idea how to get help. Cars kept passing by, annoyed that some foreign van was in their way; the children were scared and crying, I was too, but I decided that if I didn't do anything, no one would save us. So I said a prayer to St Nicholas, our protector during all our travels, and to the Mother of God, and I ran to one of the cars which was trying to pass us by, and I started talking to the people inside in Bulgarian (Serbian and Bulgarian are not too far apart). They turned out to be really kind people, two men and two women, in a small old car, and they tried to help us by giving us some power-steering fluid (which Dom poured in and sadly watched pour out the other end onto the dust beneath the van). So when this didn't work, the Serbians phoned a break-down service. Dom spoke to the man at the breakdown call centre, who luckily spoke English... and this is how these unknown people saved us! I am not going to tell more about the absurdity of everything which happened when eventually the break-down guy arrived, but thankfully we had enough money to pay him, to also pay the taxi driver, who took half of us in his car, and who kindly phoned and found a garage which was right next to a hotel. An amazing story, of the good Serbian (Samaritan) heart! And then, in the hotel, we were given two rooms for the price of one, and breakfast, and we had somewhere clean to stay, and wash ourselves, and sleep, and very kind receptionists. And the garage fixed the damaged pipe the next day.

After noon, we continued on our road, through Serbia, and Croatia, on small roads, in the heat of the last summer days. Later that day the weather broke, leaves were spiralling with the winds in the air; it all smelled like European autumn. At this moment I received a message from Fr Julian asking how we were and I was very happy to hear from

him! Thunderstorms were coming and it was clear that we wouldn't be able to stay in a campsite anymore, but on the internet I managed to find a small hotel, called St Nicholas! We took the hotel, and although the food and the rooms weren't brilliant, the feeling that we were dry and safe, that we had food and somewhere to stay and recharge, was amazing – and the kindness of the lady who served us – too! Dom thought this was the tastiest beer he'd ever tasted! I'd agree with him. From this hotel I kept a little geranium stem which I broke off a geranium plant on the window sill, which is now flowering in our garden!

We remember beautiful little German villages and towns on rainy days, and cool September mornings, and tree branches hanging heavy with fruit in pretty villages in Alsace. We remember the cloudy sky and the white rocks of Dover, saying goodbye to Europe, on the ferry.

* * *

With autumn comes this feeling of strange sadness. But it reminds me that there must be a place where summer never ends, because the light of Christ's countenance always shines! And so, with the closing of the Church year, with the last of its Feasts I am being reminded that hopefully, like the God-bearer, and *because* of Her, we will one day be received in the hands and the bosom of the Lord. It reminds me of Father Joseph Foudel, the father of S. Foudel, who would say at the end of every sermon, quoting Bishop Dimitri of Rostov: "Rejoice, sinners! The righteous shall be led to heaven by St Peter the Apostle, and the sinners – by the Mother of our Lord Herself!" (from the book *Light in the Darkness* by Sergei Foudel, p.101)

Vera Pote

STRANGE TALES FROM THE PACIFIC

Primitive peoples tend to have a lively sense of the supernatural. Before about 1960 it was not all that uncommon to hear of explorers

and colonial administrators who had returned from remote parts of the globe with tales of ghosts, magic, or other unaccountable happenings on which they were willing to stake their distinguished reputations. It seems to me a huge pity and a missed opportunity that churchmen and theologians didn't show more interest in such things. The few who did so tended to be puritans or fundamentalists, and they, of course, attributed all such happenings to diabolical agency. Their message was clear: 'Don't listen to such things on peril of your soul!'

Personally I believe that people who live close to nature, without any of the refinements of civilization, do tend to have a heightened awareness of the unseen and the mysterious, and that this faculty is granted to them by a wise dispensation to help them in the battle for survival. None of the things I am going to mention seems to me to have any connection with what some people would call 'black magic', but they are certainly very queer.

The examples which I offer are taken from two books by Sir Arthur Grimble (1888-1956), a British civil servant who spent twenty years as an administrative officer in the Gilbert Islands, rising to the position of Resident Commissioner. He was later appointed Governor of the Seychelles (1936-42) and then of the Windward Islands (1942-48) – both of them highly important and distinguished positions. After his retirement he became a popular broadcaster, and his two published works (*A Pattern of Islands* and *Return to the Islands*) enjoyed immense popularity and featured regularly as set texts for GCE 'O' Level. Here are just three of the unaccountable happenings which he recorded.

The Boat that Came Home. A Hawaiian boat-builder found himself marooned on one of the Gilbert Islands and in return for hospitality he built a boat for the locals. His 'shipyard' was in a woody creek, for it was a fixed idea with him that if you wanted a boat that would always come home, you must build it out of sight of the sea. 'Build her at a

place like he had chosen, looking at trees and land-locked water, and she'd remember it in her bones forever.'

During the First World War the vessel was impounded by the Japanese, along with other local craft, and when the war was over, all these small boats were towed out to sea and had their bows blown off with time-charges of guncotton, and left to founder. But this particular boat survived the explosives, and after twelve months and thousands of miles of tossing about in the Pacific, drifted in to that very same creek and came to rest exactly where she was built (*Return to the Islands*, pp.56-61).

The Calling of the Porpoises. A Gilbertese fisherman told Grimble that he was too thin, and consequently didn't look like a chief. The remedy, he thought, was for Grimble to eat porpoise meat, and after some discussion it was decided that the fisherman would ask his cousin, who had the gift of porpoise calling, to put himself into a trance, and decoy a shoal of the creatures into the lagoon. He did so; the porpoises duly arrived, and beached themselves on the sands (*A Pattern of Islands*, pp.172-176).

The Whistling Ghosts. This episode involved several inexplicable occurrences. An important industry in the Gilbert Islands was the production of copra (coconut oil), and in 1918 a Japanese trading company, who was their chief customer, decided to discontinue the shipping of copra from the southernmost islands. At that time there was no telephone link, and the only way of getting news to these remote islands was by word of mouth. Grimble accordingly set sail for Onotoa, the nearest of the islands, and was astonished to be told, as soon as he arrived, that a well-known character of Tarawa, the island from which Grimble had just come, had died of a stroke. He had been very much alive when Grimble had left, so how had the news reached them, if indeed it was true? (which it was). When he reached Arorae, the next island, the same news awaited him. Again, how had it got

there? Eventually a native policeman explained that one of his in-laws, an aged woman, had received the news from some of her departed relatives, who still visited her and communicated by means of whistles. Grimble visited the woman, heard the eerie whistles, and was challenged by the woman to put a question to the ghosts. He asked them when the Japanese ship would next arrive (the service having been discontinued). They replied (according to the old woman) ‘in twenty-three days’ time.’ Actually they were slightly wrong. Twenty-two days later it came to pick up two copra lighters which had been left on the island and which were now needed elsewhere (*A Pattern of Islands*, pp.258-64).

Deacon Ian.

A Dorset Saintly Mystery -- Saint Candida.

An Agatha Christie type mystery for you to follow the clues on the internet.

If you want to dig deeper I can give you some reading....

So - Who was this saint and what is so special about her?

I was pleasantly surprised when I saw St. Wite mentioned in the last Parish magazine. Our eldest daughter is named Candida, a beautiful name.

Clue 1

Why does she have so many names? Saint White or Wite, Candida or Gwen.

Nothing is known about the saint. Look at the excellent introduction to Saint Wite of Whitechurch Canonicorum (Google Search) in Saint Wite Dorset County.

Many of the saints venerated by early British, Breton, Welsh, Cornish and Irish Christians were holy people who travelled widely as missionaries. Saint Pol de Leon, Saint Patrick,

Other saints of the Celtic fringe are less well known and many traditional stories have evolved over the centuries.

Saint Bertram of Ilam aka Saint Bertelin of Stafford is local example. The puzzle of who these saints were is like a tangle of knots.

We know that the church was founded by King Alfred. (As in St Ninian's Candida Casa) - Check it up if you don't know. It was built of white stone -so does the name of the church reflect the stone church or the Saint?

The Shrine of Saint Candida is situated in the church of Saint Candida and the Holy Cross in Whitchurch Canonicorum in the Char Valley at the far west of Dorset in a relatively remote area.

Clue 2

It is the only shrine in England to still contain a reliquary of a saint (or is it)?

-Some would argue there are others....

Clue 3

This form of shrine tomb is common in the fourteenth Century; a stone base acting as a grave covering or as a support for a raised coffin of stone of 'Foramina' type with 'Port Holes' and a slab on top. These quatrefoil "port holes" enabled pilgrims to go in to the shrine to gain near contact to the saint in hope of a cure. Sometimes pilgrims would sleep in the shrine, if there was sufficient room. This wasn't the case with Saint Candida's. It is recessed, possibly cut to shape when it was moved. There is enough room to put your head in but nowadays prayers are put on paper slips in the port holes (*Information from Dorset Museum*). Saint Bertram's tomb at Ilam is of a similar type.

The reliquary is not contemporary with the tomb. The base being older than the large slab on the top



Here rest the relics of St Wite

Clue 4

Saint Candida's relics were found when the stone shrine cracked due to ground movement.

There must have been earlier shrines as the form of the reliquary is not pre-Conquest. The lead box was just the end of a longer split lead coffin. The bones were of small older woman.

Altars stood in former chapels close to the presumed site of the shrine indicating that this was a well-used area within the church, not as it presently stands, a recessed tomb chest standing in an obscure position for shrine of such importance could easily be overlooked as a simple tomb. Benedictines occupied the church at one time and they continued building. When they moved to another site pilgrims provided a steady income to continue building.

Clue 5

So how did this, of all shrines remain? It is not in its original position so why was it moved and when? To make it less visible? Was it purloined by someone for their own use?

At the height of pilgrimages, the shrine was an important one and local people may have removed items for safe keeping. There are many records of this happening and also of relics and sacred items being smuggled to the Netherlands and Belgium.

Clue 6

At the 'Reformation' the theft of anything of monetary worth would have been taken So how did it survive?

Canny parishioners may have stripped the shrine of its hangings and furniture, leaving it a simple tomb.

An excellent history of the tales attached to Saint Candida has been produced by Dorset County Museum

St. Candida is also revered in Brittany as Saint Blanche and in Wales as Saint Gwen and in one location as Saint Candida.

Are we any closer to discovering who Saint Wite/ Candida really was?

I think we are!

Brother Iain Obl, SB

First bus journey since March.

I was coming back home from town and behind me on the back seat was a young man who asked me if I was having a good day. He told me that yesterday had been terrible for him as he had been beaten up. He had two black eyes, bruises and a cut face. I offered sympathy and asked if he had told the police. His reply was that he couldn't tell them as he was doing something wrong and liked to sort things out in his own way. As an afterthought he added that his aggressors had even nicked the trainers off his feet. I wonder if he was wearing expensive Nikes or was this to make sure he could not make a quick getaway? He had two extra-large carrier bags with him containing dozens of plastic boxes (all the same) of something out of my view and his plan

was to sell them. Rather ruefully he added that it was a case of dog eating dog. End of conversation.

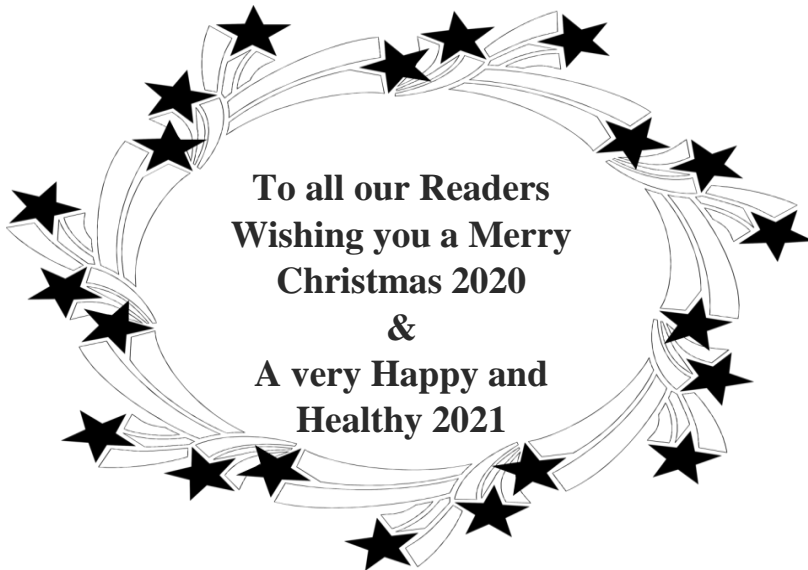
He then took out his phone and told someone that he had the stuff, was on the bus and would be in Aldi carpark in a few minutes.

I had reached my stop so got off the bus. I don't think this fellow was really cut out for a life of crime! He would never make a master criminal.

Frances

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Dn John and Vera Slavtcheva-Petkova on the birth of their daughter Ioana on Sept 24th. The family moved from Nottingham to Chester in 2012. We miss them and their lovely children Zoya, Nadia and Jordan. We have yet to meet little Ioana.



We will continue to serve **Divine Liturgy at 10.30am on the Saturdays before the 1st and 3rd Sundays** of each month according to our former pattern. Other Saturdays will be used for Feasts from time to time and there will be a Liturgy on the Fifth weekend when 4th not used. We continue to use Saturdays because of the better morning time and so that we are not following the St Aidan's congregation on Sunday which would have to be later because of extra cleaning after each use of the church.

CALENDAR NOV – DEC 2020		
Divine Liturgy is served on the Saturday before the first and third Sunday of the month. This may not be the first Saturday of the month.”		
Sat Oct 31 Nov 1	21 st Sunday after Pentecost Sts Cosmas & Damian, St Cadfan of Bardsey	Liturgy 10.30am
Sat Nov 14 Sun15	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost Holy apostles Philip and Matthew	Liturgy 10.30am
Sat 21	Entry of Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple Great Martyr Catherine Extra Liturgy for the Feast	Liturgy 10.30am
DEC		
Sat 5 Sun 6	26 th Sunday after Pentecost St Nicholas the Wonderworker	Liturgy 10.30am
Wed 9	Conception of the Most Holy Birthgiver of God	
Sun 13	Sunday of the Holy Forefathers	
Sat 19 Sun 20	26 th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday before the Nativity The Ancestors of Christ	Liturgy 10.30am

Dec Wed 23	Eve of the Nativity of Christ Compline and Matins	7.00pm
Thurs 24	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST	Vespers 5.00pm Liturgy 6.00pm
Fri 25th	Christmas Day	
	JANUARY 2021	
January Fri 8	The Holy Theophany of our Lord and Saviour	Vigil 7.00pm
Sat 9	Great Blessing of the Waters	Liturgy 10.30



Fr Peter Scorer reposed in the Lord, Sept 11th 2020

Memory Eternal

Вечная память