

**ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST AIDAN
AND ST CHAD NOTTINGHAM**



NEWSLETTER

May – June 2024



May 5th 2024 Orthodox Easter

Orthodox Church of St Aidan and St Chad, Nottingham
Archdiocese of Thyateira & Great Britain
Ecumenical Patriarchate

<http://www.nottingham.orthodox.org.uk>

*worshipping in the Church of St Aidan, Arnold Road, Basford, NG6
ODN*

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Fr Julian's letter

I had a friend who would send birthday cards and, on the back of the envelope, would write, 'Not to be open before DDDD (date of birthday)'.

And so ...

... Not to be read before 5th May 2024!

Christ is Risen!

In the Orthodox Church the feast of Easter is officially called Pascha, the word which means the Passover. It is the new Passover of the new and everlasting covenant foretold by the prophets of old. It is the eternal Passover from death to life and from earth to heaven. It is the Day of the Lord proclaimed by God's holy prophets, "the day which the Lord has made" for His judgment over all creation, the day of His final and everlasting victory. It is the Day of the Kingdom of God, the day "which has no night" for "its light is the Lamb" (Rev 21.22–25).

Our services and worship on Paschal night allow us to see the Resurrection of Christ. Not with our eyes, but with our hearts; remember our Lord's words to the Apostle Thomas: "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed".

The celebration of Pascha in the Orthodox Church is not merely an historical re-enactment of Christ's Resurrection as narrated in the gospels. It is not a dramatic representation of the first Easter morning. But rather, we are given the opportunity to experience the "new creation" of the world, an opportunity for us to enter mystically into the New Jerusalem which shines eternally with the glorious light of Christ, overcoming the perpetual night of evil and destroying the darkness of this mortal and sinful world: Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone upon you! Exult and be glad O Zion! Be radiant O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

Let me ask you, how many times a year does the Church celebrate the Resurrection of Christ? The answer is of course as many times as there are Sundays in the year. Why? Because it is Pascha. And why is it Pascha? Because the Paschal excerpts from the Gospel are read, because we sing: "Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus". When, in the Divine Liturgy, the Chalice is brought out of the sanctuary, it is the Resurrection of Christ. The Doors and the veil open, and Christ, in the Chalice, comes out of His tomb. He comes out of the tomb to let the faithful people partake of the Holy Communion: "With the fear of God, with faith, and love, draw near." And, like the Myrrhbearers, we draw nearer to Christ and witness that 'He is Risen indeed!'

Our life

Our Journey to Pascha

As I am sure you are aware Fr David has been at the Iveron Monastery for a few weeks now, and will be celebrating Pascha at the Monastery. For over 25 years Fr David has been with us for our Paschal services and celebrations, and so this year will seem very different!

Fr David has been very busy in recent times as he continues to support the Orthodox community in Dunblane, whilst ensuring urgent repairs be carried out at St Nicholas Skete.

Please pray for Fr David; that his time on the Holy Mountain will be a great blessing for him and that he will enjoy much needed rest, good health and joyful fellowship.

It is always a great joy to come together as brothers and sisters in Christ and to participate in our Lenten Services. This is especially true for services held during the weekdays. These include the 1

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, Compline, and the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete.

Thank you to all who have joined us and participated in whatever capacity.

Such sweet sorrow

The sorrow of parting is often tinged with the sweetness of memories. This is most certainly the case as we say goodbye to Yuri and Konstantina Marchenko.

Yuri and Konstantina have been members and supporters of our community for many years now and their presence with us has always been filled with joy. We pray that they may soon be settled into their new home and new community in Dorset and that there will be an opportunity for us to come together again very soon!

Chaplaincy

Our support for the Universities of Nottingham (UoN - Fr Julian) and Leeds (UoL - Fr David) continues. As with many people, the situation in Israel and Gaza has provoked strong emotional responses from the students at the Universities. This has

presented various challenges for these multifaith Chaplaincy teams.

At UoN we are exploring ‘bereavement Support’ for those who have attended our regular 6–7-week bereavement course and feel that they would benefit from participating in a support group.

Parish membership

Our Statutes require us to maintain a Parish membership list. Membership to the parish gives the individual voting rights at our meetings. It also provides invaluable statistical indications as to the health and growth of the parish. Having reviewed our current list, it is time for us to renew the list.

The criteria for Membership of a Parish, as defined by the Deanery Statutes, are as follows;

- i. Applicants are required to be Orthodox Christian 16 years old or above.
- ii. Applicants are required to have regularly received Communion in the Parish or Deanery within the previous 12 months.
- iii. Applicants are required to have been resident in the Parish for at least 12 months.

[In the event of an individual transferring from one local congregation to another, the date on which the transfer takes effect is 1st September, following a request, in writing, to do so.]

Please speak to Fr Julian if you would like to be included on the Membership List.

Parish Advisory Council and Trustees.

As we move into a new time of Resurrection and ‘new’ life. We will be looking to hold our 2024 AGM and continue our Parish

Advisory Council and Trustees meetings. If you feel that you would like to have a greater involvement in our parish life, then perhaps this would be an opportunity for you.

Education

Please hold in prayer the younger members of our parish as they prepare for, and sit, exams; together with all who are in any way involved in academia. We pray not only for academic success but also for health and wholeness in these difficult times.

May NL 2024

Update on our good friend Fr. Stephen

Fr Stephen in York has now had some successful brain surgery. He is very grateful to God and the National Health Service. He is hoping that soon he will be able to walk to his chapel which is in his garden. A pre-retirement sideline talent of Fr Stephen was leading walks for the tourists around the old parts of the city. These were very popular as he was, and still is a superb raconteur of fascinating facts.

The editor is always pleased to receive contributions for inclusion in the Newsletter

THE HOLY MOUNTAIN. - MOUNT ATHOS

It is always a blessing and a privilege to visit Mount Athos and Iviron Monastery with which I am associated.

On this occasion I had a surprise. I went into the Church (Katholikon) early on Sunday morning. Being unsure of the

temperature I was wearing too many clothes; I found the Church very hot and wondered if I should leave to get some fresh air. The next thing I knew, I was lying on the floor, with my legs held in the air by the Father Guest-master, with two other monks, one each side comforting me after my faint. Fr Leondis, the Guest-master had noticed me swaying and beginning to wobble, so he grabbed me before I fell and put me on the floor lifting my legs high. After being encouraged to sit for a while, I was escorted back to my room by the three monks and clearly informed that, at my age, I should not come into church before 4.00am. (the services start at 02.30 in winter)

A key word in the monastic life is *philoxenia*, hospitality. I had not only been given hospitality but such loving care, concern, compassion and excellent First Aid as part of their *philoxenia*. I was also pleased because on previous visits I had given instruction in First Aid and now I was experiencing it first hand, for myself.

I was reminded of a story of Metropolitan Anthony in the most recent book of his writings, *On The Light that Shineth in The Darkness*. A man in Russia, in Soviet times, who was an unbeliever had never had contact with the Church. One day, he strayed into a church to see what it looked like inside and what sort of people were there. He said that the thing he could never afterwards forget was the sense that all the people who had gathered there, had gathered with good will, gathered with mutual openness, gathered with as much love as they could muster. He had never before met a collection of people in the name of a common faith, with openness and as a result loved each other. He was so impressed by this experience that he developed a need to be with such people who loved each other. At first, he went to church, keen to be with such people but in due cause he discovered God and sought to be with Him, He became an Orthodox Christian.

We are told that we are a Light of the World. The man in Bishop Anthony's story reveals a congregation who were the Light of the World for him, whether they knew it or not. In our community, we are also a Light as we welcome all at our Liturgy and to share the food that follows. It is a good expression of Philoxenia.

This was my experience on Mount Athos. The monks, for me, were this Light, as they always are. Whenever there is loving fellowship, hospitality, Philoxenia, we experience The Light of the World whether on the Holy Mountain, or in our Parish, indeed whenever or wherever it is expressed.

Fr David

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on tour

No doubt Nottingham has regular visits by the big orchestras but a concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Scunthorpe is a rarity. Their mission, and no doubt of all the big orchestras is to enrich people's lives through musical experience. Dn Ian and I, plus our daughter Jill were present at the concert and the orchestra was, as expected, superb. The worrying thing is that the age of the audience was definitely 'mature'. I could see nobody aged around 45 or under. This made me consider the future of the big orchestras but at least the Royal Phil are aware of this problem. They have a mission in trying to address this as 25 members of the orchestra stayed overnight in our town to host a 'relaxed fun performance' the following morning. Members of the audience were invited to meet the players and try out some instruments. This was followed by a short, interactive concert with plenty of audience participation. In particular, there was a focus on making this accessible not only for children but also for adults. It was highly successful and fun for all.

On previous visits the orchestra have travelled on their own special coach but this time they came by rail. By coincidence I

was at our railway station to collect Jill who had come for a home visit which coincided with date of the concert. At the station there was chaos; over 100 extra passengers alighted and all with their musical instruments. I know there were at least 6 double basses!

By chance, on Jill's return journey home, she was on the train in the coach with the musicians and had a good chat with one of the cello players. The cellist observed that the Friday concert had had a lot of empty seats near the front which was disappointing - (the price was too high for Scunthorpe audiences) but that the Saturday relaxed performance had gone well and they are hopeful that this will help to build audiences for the future.

In conversation, Jill and the cello player discovered that they both lived near to each other in Haywards Heath, West Sussex and that the cello player's best friend lived next door to Jill! Other comments were that one player was struggling with aged parents whilst another one was finding that she was putting in more practice than she ever had to in her younger days. They all lead busy lives whether it was music related (e.g. fitting in music lessons for students) or something completely unrelated, such as making ceramics.

Jill added that by meeting and talking to these professional musicians really was an insight which made the concert extra special.

Frances

THE MAGIC OF CADFAEL

Cadfael has many devoted fans, but curiously not all of them seem to know the short stories. There are at least three of these*, and they help to link his years as a crusader with his later life as a monk. It was one of these short stories which first drew my attention to the likeable Welshman, and to the enormous talent

of his creator, Ellis Peters (pen name of Edith Pargeter). I came across it in an anthology of Christmas stories and was so impressed with it that I went avidly in search of the novels, and never paused until I had read all twenty of them.

The Cadfael novels form a historical sequence, covering the period from 1138 to 1146 during the troubled reign of King Stephen. That trouble had its origin during the previous reign of King Henry I, who made his barons swear that they would accept his only surviving legitimate offspring Mathilda (Maud) as their future monarch. In fact, when Henry died and push came to shove, they chose Henry's nephew Stephen instead. This decision led to a long drawn-out civil war during which it became clear that neither side could win, and which merely left the country open to lawlessness and disorder. The violence and reverses of that war form a recurring background to the life of the Benedictine monks of Shrewsbury Abbey, among whom Cadfael, the monastery herbalist, finds himself playing a prominent part.

Cadfael tends to be thought of as an amateur detective, but in this as in other ways the author's treatment of him is subtle. As a quasi-medical man, he is consulted on injuries and dead bodies. He is a keen observer of small details, has a deductive mind, and forensic knowledge acquired during his crusading years. But he offers most of his discoveries *en passant* as it were, sometimes in consultation with others, and not as an acknowledged sleuth. The Cadfael stories are very much more than mere detective fiction and the whodunnit element is only one thread in a rich tapestry; a mechanical device to drive the plot.

Ellis Peters is a very competent historian: accurate as to facts and with a sure grasp of period. I remember being told by a colleague that the purpose of history is to show how things change. But it has always seemed to me that the best historians are those who are able to portray the character of an age without destroying the

sense of continuity – of familiarity even. It goes without saying that the twelfth century was crueller, more violent, more indifferent to suffering than the world of today. Hence too perhaps, human traits tended to be more pronounced, though not fundamentally different. Roguery was more blatant, distress more pitiful, companionship more intimate, and pious frauds more fraudulent – or perhaps just more revoltingly pious. Also, the Norman aristocracy contained figures who were every bit as acute, cultured and sophisticated as their modern counterparts if not more so. Ellis Peters knows all this, and uses her knowledge to create a gallery of characters as unforgettable as anything in Shakespeare or Dickens. Prominent among them is the goldsmith's daughter Susanna, in *The Sanctuary Sparrow*, the seventh novel in the sequence. Several years the wrong side of thirty, tart, unmarried, practical, hardworking, aloof, she nevertheless grows on the reader, inspiring respect, and even a small spark of affection. Yet beneath that staid surface there lurks a cauldron of contradictory passions: fierce love, hatred, frustration, a corrosive power-complex, and an element of pitiless criminality. Susanna, seemingly so reasonable, is one of the most complicated and tragic figures in twentieth-century literature.

Peters' storytelling gifts are marvellous. She sets a leisurely pace, pausing frequently to consider ordinary everyday matters: the gathering of herbs, the mixing of medicines, the repair of a musical instrument, the routine of a lazaret-house, the organization of a town fair – yet such is the spell which she weaves that we never find ourselves feeling impatient or wanting her to hurry on the narrative. And her climaxes, though always riveting, are very rarely overdone. Yes, there are cruelties, brutalities, and the senselessness of enraged mobs. But the overall effect on the reader is of life as a many-coloured pageant, rich in depth and knowledge, and of the ever-present nearness of an invisible but all-embracing love. I suppose that the nearest equivalent to the

Cadfael stories would be the novels of Sir Walter Scott. But Peters sees more deeply into her characters than Scott does, and there is no trace of the latter's technicolour heroics. It would not surprise me to find that Ellis Peters is one of the three or four twentieth-century novelists who will still be read a hundred years hence.

Deacon Ian

A Long Walk – 2000K or 1243 miles!

The **Via Francigena** is an ancient pilgrimage route running from the cathedral city of Canterbury in England, through France and Switzerland, to Rome and then to Apulia, Italy, where there were ports of embarkation for the Holy Land. The Via Francigena is a 1500miles historical pilgrim WALK from Canterbury to Rome (apart from crossing the Channel by boat).

Our grandson Ander, is at present a sole pilgrim (not in a group) on the route but he meets other pilgrims making the same journey. Along the hiking route, there are pilgrimage signs and stones and possible overnight hostels. He sent a report from Arras that he is enjoying the adventure, has nine blisters which are being treated successfully with surgical spirit and that merino wool socks are an enormous help in promoting happy feet. A more recent account is that he is now on a more sombre route as he is in the region of the military cemeteries of WW1 battles of the Somme. He found it sobering to see the ages on the gravestones as these were younger than his own age of 23. The graves were well maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The next part of the route is rural and in a champagne area but quite a way ahead, if all continues to go well, in May there is the Great St Bernard Pass to be crossed.

Frances

Unusual entry: Humans eat strange foods

Anyone for Alligator chunks with onion rings?

I have not tried this yet but would if the opportunity arose.

Alligator/crocodile meat is often considered an exotic delicacy. The meat is high in protein and low in fat, People around the world enjoy the meat, but that does not mean that you would too!

Most people say that alligator/crocodile meat has a flavour similar to chicken, though it may have a mild fishy taste. which certainly is not the case with chicken. Crocodile meat is mild in flavour, with the firm and tender texture of succulent white meat. It is sometimes compared to a lighter version of pork The flavour of the dish may depend upon whether the alligator/croc meat comes from the tail, legs or ribs. It also is worth knowing that many different parts of the alligator are edible Also, although not for the faint-hearted, with so many different ways to prepare the meat, it is possible for every alligator/croc meal to be an exotic taste adventure!

A **crocodile farm** or **alligator farm** is an establishment for breeding and raising them in order to produce meat, eggs, leather for shoes, handbags and other goods! Many species of both alligators and crocs are farmed internationally. In Louisiana alone, alligator farming is a \$60 to \$70 million industry but most croc/alligator farms are located in Thailand.



Prosphora baked ready for the Liturgy



Preparation of the bread for Communion