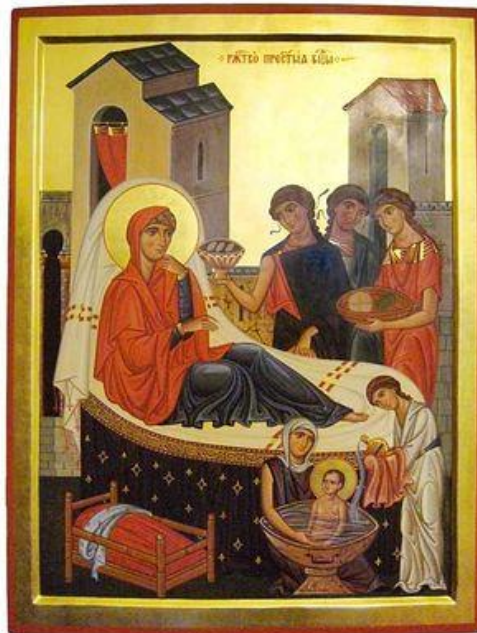


ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD NOTTINGHAM



NEWSLETTER

Sept– Oct 2023 : Cost £1.00



The Nativity of the Theotokos, Sept 8th

THE PARISH OF ST AIDAN AND ST CHAD, NOTTINGHAM

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Newsletter: Sept - Oct 2023

Fr Julian's Letter

Do you have your favourite prayers?

As I was preparing the calendar to accompany this newsletter, I was struck by the frequency with which the Mother of God is remembered. We of course begin and end the liturgical year with celebrations dedicated to the Virgin Mary. At time of writing, we are in the Dormition Fast and on the 15th August, Holy Church remembers her Dormition, her 'falling asleep, and on September 8th, her Nativity. We have the Sunday of 'The Protection of Our Most Holy Lady and Ever-Virgin Mary on 1st October.

I really enjoy the prayers of the 'Midnight Office'. There is something very special about offering these prayers when many around us are sleeping and things are so much quieter. There is one particular prayer, said as part of the Midnight Office that I find particularly beautiful and comforting. Within this prayer are the following words.

"Blessed are you and blessed are we who have you as our protection: praying day and night for us; and through your petitions the doors of the Kingdom are opened. Thus, we sing to you: Rejoice O full of grace, the Lord is with you."

Wow! Isn't it amazing to think that The Mother of our Lord is interceding for you and for me day and night.

For some the term ‘Intercession’ may be stepping into the mystical world of “Christianise”; but it is simply speaking to God on behalf of another; be that a person, people, church or community, etc. and these intercessory prayers are so important. For most of us, when praying for others, we tend to offer prayers that run along lines of; Lord, provide my friend with a job, good health, a car that works, etc, etc. If we know someone well, we might pray for his/her marriage or other relationships.

There is nothing wrong with praying for these things; in fact, the Bible encourages us to pray for everything and, doing so, quell our anxieties (Philippians 4:6). It is right to pray for health and for good things to happen (3 John 1:2).

However, most of the prayers recorded in the Bible are of another type. When Jesus was praying for others, He prayed for their faith (Luke 22:32), He prayed against temptation in their lives (Luke 22:40), He prayed for their unity (John 17:11), and He prayed for their sanctification (John 17:17). Paul prayed for the salvation of the lost (Romans 10:1); he prayed that the brothers would stay on the right path (2 Corinthians 13:7); he prayed that believers would be strengthened by the Spirit, rooted and grounded in love, able to comprehend God’s love, and filled with the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:14–19). These are all prayers for spiritual blessings; they are all “in Jesus’ name” and according to the Father’s will—prayers that are guaranteed to find a “yes” in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Praying for others is important because it fulfils a New Testament command. We are to pray for all people (1 Timothy 2:1). We are to pray for government leaders (1 Timothy 2:2). We are to pray for the unsaved (1 Timothy 2:4). We are to pray for fellow Christians (Ephesians 6:18). We are to pray for ministers of the gospel (Ephesians 6:19–20). We are to pray for the persecuted church (Hebrews 13:3). Praying for others gets our focus away from ourselves and onto the needs around us. As we “carry each other’s burdens,” we “will fulfil the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

We live in troubled times; the world needs our prayers, many in our church family are facing challenges and need our prayers. In praying for others, we help build up the body of Christ. And as we pray for others, and ourselves, we should also remember to give thanks to The Mother of our Lord for her prayers as she intercedes ceaselessly for us, for the sake of our salvation.

OUR LIFE

Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative (LOI)

In Late June, Fr Julian was able to attend the LOI Conference at Swanwick. The goal of the LOI is to reflect constructively on the history of relationships between Orthodox and Evangelicals in order to work towards better understanding and encourage reconciliation and healing where wounds exist. Through this process Evangelicals and Orthodox are mutually enriched and strengthened in the work of mission, working towards mutual respect, support and cooperation in the spirit of our Lord's prayer for His Church in John 17.

At the Conference Fr Julian was asked to lead a morning bible reflection and a time of prayer for those who were tragically murdered in Nottingham. (See below)

University of Nottingham (UoN)

Communities and organisations across Nottingham have shown their solidarity as One City united in grief and its resolve to stand against hatred and violence, in the wake of the devastating attacks which took place in June. Fr Julian left the above conference early in order to return and join his UoN Chaplaincy colleagues to support the families, friends, and all those affected by the deaths of Grace, Barnaby and Ian.

Stow Liturgy

It was with great joy that we returned to St Mary's Church, Stow to serve the Liturgy on the Feast of the Holy, Glorious and All-praised

Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul (June 29th). The Liturgy was concelebrated by Fr Julian and Fr David, who were joined by Fr Alban of the Antiochian Archdiocese. We are very grateful for the thought-provoking homily given by Dn. Ian (Thompson) and the beautiful singing provided by our choir. A beautiful day with glorious weather and sumptuous food!

St Mary (Greek) Liturgies

Fr Julian and Fr David served the Liturgy in St Mary Eleousa, Derby Rd, on two occasions in July. This was to provide cover, and continuity, whilst Fr Ioakeim was on holiday.

On 1st July we commemorated the Wonderworking Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs at Rome. Whilst on the 17th of July we commemorated the Great Martyr Marina (Margaret) of Antioch.

On both occasions we were made to feel very welcome and enjoyed excellent hospitality from our hosts and we look forward to further opportunities to worshipping with our brothers and sisters at St Marys Eleousa.

Memory Eternal

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the repose of Barry Dryden's father, Eric who fell asleep peacefully on 29th June. Our thoughts and prayers are with Barry and Katharine and may Eric's Memory be Eternal.

Wonderful News!

It is with great joy and thankfulness that we can inform you that, following lung surgery, our dear brother, John Moore, has been given the 'all clear'. John will be monitored for the next 5 years to ensure that any reoccurrence of the cancer is quickly detected.

Please continue to remember John and Kate in your prayers as they continue to convalesce and face continued health challenges.

COMMUNION WINE

Have you ever thought what wine we use for Communion and where it comes from?

There is available *Vino Sancto*. at a price, and *Nama* and other wines are available in Eastern Europe. We usually use *Mavro Daphne*, a sweet wine from Cyprus but others use *Port*.

Recently I was in the River Douro region of Portugal, where *Port* originates. Sailing up the River Douro, the hills are covered with vines lined neatly on terraces up the hillside, extending for miles and covering a vast acreage. Many of these vines are very old and all bunches of grapes have to be picked by hand because of the hilly terrain and because machinery would not be suitable, The grapes when ripe have to be collected over a two week period. You will not be surprised to hear that, as in UK, there is a shortage of labourers and numbers have to be recruited across the country.. Once collected the grapes are pressed to remove all juice, leaving only the skin and pips. **RUBY WINE** is fermented in small barrels. After two years some is bottled to give **VINTAGE PORT** whilst the rest remains in the barrels for many years to become **LATE VINTAGE PORT**. Then there are huge wooden barrels extending from floor to ceiling where **TAWNY PORT** is produced as also is **WHITE PORT** made from white grapes. So there is required great skill, traditional methods and intensive labour at the wine producing time of the year.

The Offertory Prayer used in Catholic Churches is apt.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Of course, bread too is offered in the same way, “*fruit of the earth and work of human hands*”.

Without Wine, without bread, without the work of human hands, there can be no serving of the Liturgy. We must always remember this and be grateful.

Fr David

The Nuns of Barking

When I visited Serbian monasteries and shrines in the past, I noticed that priests (during the service) while distributing blessings to their flock – always mention the local Saints. Today, I live in Great Britain and my wish is to find out about Celtic saints from the first Christian millennium, because I want them to be a part of my spiritual life. I discovered some of them...Chad, Cuthbert, Aidan, Patrick, Columba, Melangell...etc. Many of them are very closely connected with the Nature; water and green, green grass of home (like the song says), because this is a 'green country' and at all times somewhere is always green. Also, animals are around us most of the times -even in the big cities as London. You can see different kind of birds, foxes and lively squirrels. Celtic saints are often painted on the icons with otters and small rabbits.

I am encountering north-east London for the first time. Barking where I now live is a place of different cultures, people and races. One link with the past is that on the edge of the town you can see the ruins of an old monastery which was established in 666 AD, by Saint Erkenwald (also known as) 'Light of London'. Later, a nun called Saint Hildelith, was brought in with the mission to teach nuns deep Christian spirituality and sound monastic rule. Unfortunately, nuns who lived here in later times (871.) were martyred by Vikings' hands. When they didn't find the gold they were pursuing, they decided to burn the monastery - and this is the way how Barking Nuns became martyrs for the Church.

Sandra Miljkovic

Weren't we lucky? Good sides of bad

Imagine you were driving along a country lane and suddenly there was a car approaching on your side of the road, emerging at speed, downhill from a blind bend? I don't need to imagine it. There is no time to think. My reflexes worked. I swerved left and hit the brakes.

What happened next keeps coming back as a slow-motion video: a loud bang, a blackout that lasted a few seconds, acute pain, smoke and blood soaking my t-shirt. Smoke must have come from the seven airbags but, gasping for air, I managed to release my seat belt. The door was distorted by the collision and needed a firm shove to open. Then I fell out onto the road. The chest pain was severe, vision was clouded and fading, but I managed to remain conscious. The blood was from my nose and soon stopped. Realising that the carriageway might not be a safe place to be, I crawled to the back of the car. The chest pain made every breath a struggle, but it seemed a good idea to keep breathing regardless!

That first few seconds is etched firmly into my memory, subsequent events too, but in less detail. Other vehicles had arrived on the scene and their drivers had alerted the emergency services. One driver who I was later told was from a military background, had taken control of the situation. He organised others to stop the traffic and made preliminary assessments of the people in each car. My friend Fergie, our back seat passenger, was helped out of the car barely conscious. My wife, Lally, the front-seat passenger, couldn't open her door but was able to crawl out over the driver's seat. At first she seemed relatively OK, but that was the adrenaline which helped her ignore multiple fractures and injuries to the extent that she was able to take some photos of the scene.

The photos proved very useful: they show our car rammed up against a field wall and with three wheels on the verge. The car that crashed

into us is shown substantially on the wrong side of the central white line. The other driver tried to claim the accident was entirely my fault until he saw the photos Lally had taken. He has since pleaded guilty, and his insurers have paid to replace my car.

But back to the day of the accident. It was a relief to hear the ambulance sirens, they arrived after what seemed an eternity, though in the circumstances even a few minutes is a long time. We were assessed and helped to the ambulances, Fergie and me on stretchers, Lally was able to sit and share my ambulance. There we received a more detailed examination, and the Police took statements.

Fergie and I spent several days in Northern General hospital with broken ribs and shattered sternum (chest-bone), every breath and every movement causing severe pain. Lally was sent home, because she had no life-threatening injuries, just (!) broken ribs, broken left hand and torn ligament on her right foot. She couldn't stay in hospital anyway being the sole carer of her 97-year-old mum, Natasha.

Lally's internal injuries made themselves known on the following day: she could not get herself into a lying position because of the abdominal pain. For the following 6 weeks she could only sleep sitting, resting her head on a pillow on the dining table. It was two months before she could lie flat in bed.

When I was back home from hospital, I wasn't of much help: coughing, laughing, rolling over in bed and putting weight on my arms all transferred stress to the sternum which, despite strong painkillers, remained painful for several weeks. We both struggled with the simplest physical tasks. All of us had a spectacular collection of colourful bruises.

The "grapevine" proved remarkably effective: friends and neighbours brought us food, made cups of tea, helped with caring for Natasha. Our GP called us offering advice about our current state and complications we were likely to develop. Spiritual help came from

Lally's Eastern Orthodox church, the priests and their wives paid several visits, travelling from Scunthorpe and Chesterfield bringing gifts and prayers.

The story proved to be a litmus test of who we could rely on in times of trouble. It also proved how lucky we were to be alive and to receive so much support.

An aphorism comes to mind, "Don't ask God to cancel the storm, ask Him to help you survive it". He did.

Rob Hindle

Rob's wife is Lally who is a regular contributor to our Newsletter. She and her mother Natasha (loved by all) were staunch members of the Sheffield Orthodox community. Natasha's father was, one of the leading engineers of Moscow subway (metro). At the beginning of the war he was sent to Samara to take part in building Stalin's bunker (now a tourist attraction). Everyone connected with the project was either killed or sent to die in Gulag lumber camps in Siberia. Natasha's father (Lally's grandad) spent 12 years in Siberia, survived (miraculously) and later was fully exonerated. He died in 1975 and never ever spoke about his Gulag experiences

TOWN OR JUNGLE?

Most UK children are now kept on a tight rein. They have no freedom to explore because of traffic danger. Many are driven to and from school as parents consider that walking is too dangerous. They now have 'playdates' – delivered to and collected from a friend's house. They are not allowed to go out exploring on their own – again because 'it's not safe'. If they are in a car it is likely that a satnav will advise the route. Skills they do have are being computer literate from a very early age and a whizz with mobile phones. When they are aged 18+

they become adventurous and want to explore the world and with very rare exceptions all manage to get home safely.

This is a far cry from the adventures of four Colombian children (four siblings, ages 13, 9, 4 and 1 year) who were rescued earlier this year after surviving 40 days alone in the jungle in Columbia after a plane crash. The small aircraft fell off the radar. Two weeks after the crash, a search team found the plane in a thick patch of the rainforest and recovered the bodies of the three adults on board. The four small children who also were on board were nowhere to be found but sensing that they could be alive, Colombia's army stepped up the hunt and flew 100 soldiers with dogs to circle the area where the plane had crashed. During the search, in an area where visibility is greatly limited by mist and thick foliage, soldiers in helicopters dropped boxes of food into the jungle, hoping that the children would find them. Planes flying over the jungle fired flares to help search crews on the ground at night, and rescuers used megaphones that blasted a message recorded by the



siblings' grandmother, telling them to stay in one place. Some familiarity with the rainforest's fruits was also key to their survival. Rescuers, supported by search dogs, had previously found improvised shelters made with jungle vegetation. The hero of the search was Wilson – a 5yr old sniffer dog. He succeeded in sniffing out the tracks of the four children, which enabled the Columbian soldiers to locate them. The children said that Wilson stayed with them for a few days but then

disappeared into the wilderness amidst the chaos that ensued when the search party arrived. The children were airlifted back to civilization and placed under medical care.

Sadly, Wilson has never been found but the search for him was on the same scale as the search for the children and only recently has been called off

Wilson had graduated from the canine academy and joined Colombia's special forces. Some experts believe that Wilson might have struggled to find food in the jungle. He was used to having his food provided in his bowl.

The drawing on page 12 was crayoned by one of the children whilst in hospital care.

One of the wonders of nature.

After a long sleep of 46,000 years in Russian permafrost, some nematode worms were thawed out and coaxed back to life in a petri dish filled with nutritious soup. At first nothing happened but after a few weeks they became quite lively and started reproducing. Nematode worms are one of the few multicellular organisms capable of surviving in harsh environments and they are able reproduce from birth. The 46,000 year old worms died after about a month in the petri dish (a month is their natural life span) but their offspring are thriving. Those original worms in the petri dish were alive when Neanderthals, woolly mammoths and sabre-toothed tigers roamed around the region.

Frances

Back cover picture: The exterior of the Minster of Stow St Mary where we held our recent liturgy.

When the Red Arrows were based in Lincolnshire, on training flights they used the tower of Stow Minster as a navigation point.

The Minster used to have only six bells to ring for service and there was a wish to augment them to eight. Money was needed – about £25000 and that was a few years ago. At an evening ringing practice there were discussions on how to raise this money. A ten year old boy, (whose parents were out) was present in the care of his elder brother who was a ringer. This young boy came up with the idea of asking the Red Arrows if they would like to donate. The upshot is that they did and there is now a bell up in the tower embossed with their name. and some Hawk T1 aeroplanes. After the bell dedication service the whole congregation went outside to watch the Red Arrows execute an honorary fly-past over the tower.

Stow people always thought their bells far superior to those in the neighbouring villages, whence the old rhyme:

Martons Cracked Pancheons

And Torksey Egg Shells

Saxilby Ding-Dongs

And Stow Mary Bells

And that was before the gift from the Red Arrows.

At one time, the local village of Messingham had only three church bells. They were known as Ting, Tang and Pluff. It was said that Ting was made by a tinker, Tang was made by the blacksmith and Pluff was made by the saddler. There are now six bells and they all have been retuned.



The Minster Church of St Mary, Stow in Lindsey, is a major Anglo-Saxon church in Lincolnshire and is one of the largest and oldest parish church buildings in England

Stow Minster is forerunner of Lincoln Cathedral



The Harvesters Peter Bruegel the Elder c1525 - 1565

To Autumn

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.

John Keats 1795 –1821