Prophet Elias News

News and Views for the Orthodox Church of the Holy Prophet Elias in Devon
October 2024

For service times see Noticeboard on P4
(See also appended sheet for schedule of services October to December)

AXIOS!

The Ordination of Deacon Philip



Ordination



First Liturgy as Deacon

On Saturday 21st September we had the great joy of confirming Philip's ordination with our shouts of 'Axios! He is worthy!' It was a beautiful occasion, which we will record more fully in our November issue.

'The first deacons were appointed to express the compassionate love of the Church. The Church is charity, the Church is love, and nothing more. And if it becomes something else, it ceases to be the Church in all its fullness… Already in the first centuries of Christian life, when the Church was all aquiver with love, it chose people with a deep heart, a living heart, men of prayer, to make them its instruments of love amongst those who were poor, who had been touched by misfortune, cast down by grief.

This love, which is the task of the deacon, was later applied by the Church in a special way: it joined the deacon to the celebration of its sacraments. In this role he protects the prayer of the priest and at the same time leads the faithful in prayer. It is he who gives you the subject of your prayer. In response to the petitions he pronounces you repeat 'Lord, have mercy', or put yourselves in the hands of God saying 'To Thee, O Lord'. Or in confessing the truth of the Church, you respond with 'Amen'. This is a great love: step by step the deacon leads us into the mystery of the liturgy, he draws us into its depths, depths which you could not reach alone in your spiritual lives.'

From Metropolitan Anthony's sermon at Fr Peter's ordination as Deacon in October 1973

Do the Works of Love

If you find that you have no love but desire to have it, do the works of love and the Lord will see your desire and effort and put love in your heart.

Saint Ambrose of Optina (10th September)

Pray Simply

Pray simply. Do not expect to find in your heart any remarkable gift of prayer. Consider yourself unworthy of it. Then you will find peace. Use the empty, cold dryness of your prayer as food for your humility. Repeat constantly: I am not worthy, Lord, I am not worthy! But say it calmly, without agitation. This humble prayer will be acceptable to God.

Saint Isaac the Syrian says, 'God's grace comes of itself, suddenly, without our seeing it approach. It comes when the place is clean.' Therefore, carefully, diligently, constantly clean the place. Sweep it with the broom of humility.

Saint Macarius of Optina *Letters 1,43* Quoted in *Seasons of the Spirit* SPCK 1984

Reassurance from Saint Paul

Personally, I have to admit that I often find Saint Paul's letters daunting. He has a way of making me only too aware of how far I fall short of what is expected of me. That is as it should be, of course, but it can sometimes be discouraging. At such times, I do find huge reassurance in this passage from Romans, where he openly admits to just such falling short himself. MO

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans Chapter 7: 14-25 (New International Version)

Prophet Elias News *is the newsletter of the Parish of the Holy Prophet Elias, Devon, Deanery of Great Britain, Archdiocese of Thyateira (Ecumenical Patriarchate) - Archbishop: His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas (Lioulias)*

Rector: Fr Patrick Hodson – hodson44@btinternet.com Archpriests (retired) Fr John Marks, Fr Nikanor Wilkins
Serving priest: Fr Brandon Gallaher b.gallaher@exeter.ac.uk Tel: 07837 983433
(Fr Trayan Goranov can be contacted at otrayan@gmail.com Tel: 07800 644 599 to arrange confession)
Deacon: Dcn Philip Scorer philip.scorer@gmail.com Tel: 07812 170139
Parish Secretary: Edward Skidelsky hpeliasdevon@gmail.com
Parish Warden: To be announced

Contributions for the November issue should reach the Editors at martinolsson827@btinternet.com *or by post at Little Linhay, Bondleigh, EX20 2AJ by Monday 21st October, please.*

Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are entirely those of the named authors or identified sources and should not be taken as representing the views of the parish as a whole.

This Month We Celebrate

On Tuesday October 1st**: The Protecting Veil of Our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God**
Saint Romanos the Melodist (6th C)
Saint John the Hymnographer of Mt Athos (14th C)

On Wednesday 2nd: Hieromartyr **Cyprian** and Virgin Martyr **Justini** of Nicomedia (c250)
We wish **Father Daniel** and all in the **Parish of Saint Cyprian** in Uganda
a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Thursday 3rd: Hieromartyr **Dionysios the Areopagite, Bishop of Athens** (96)
We wish **Dionisius A** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Sunday 6th**: Holy Apostle Thomas**
We wish **Thomas S** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years !**

On Wednesday 9th: **Holy Apostle James,** the son of Alphaeus
The Righteous **Abraham** and his nephew **Lot**
Saint **Dionysios (Denys)** of Paris (c250)

On Thursday 10th: **Saint Ambrose of Optina** (1891)

On Friday 11th: **Apostle Philip of the Seventy**, one of the Seven Deacons
Saint Theophanes, Confessor and Hymnographer, Bishop of Nicea (c850)
Synaxis of the **Elders of Optina**

On Saturday 12th: **Saint Symeon the New Theologian** (1022)

On Sunday 13th: Commemoration of the **Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council** (787)

On Monday 14th: **Saint Paraskevi (Petka)** of the Balkans, whose relics lie at Iasi in Romania (11th C)
Saint Cosmas the Hymnographer, Bishop of Maiuma (c787)

On Wednesday 16th: The Centurion **Longinus**, who stood by the Cross of the Lord.

On Thursday 17th: **Saint Lazarus** whom Christ raised from the tomb, Bishop of Kition in Cyprus.

On Friday 18th: **Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke**
We wish **Luke D** and **Luke K** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Saturday 19th**: The Saint Demetrius Commemoration of the Dead**
Translation of the relics of **Saint John of Rila (Rilski)** Patron Saint of Bulgaria (1238)
We wish **Father Trayan** and **all our Bulgarian friends** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**
Saint John of Kronstadt (1908) (also December 20th)
Saint Frideswide of Oxford (735)
We wish **Father Seraphim** and **all members of the Parish of the Annunciation in Oxford**
a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Wednesday 23rd: **Holy Apostle James the Lord's Brother**
We wish **James T** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Saturday 26th: **Glorious Great Martyr Demetrios** of Thessaloniki (c306)
We wish **Father Gregory Palamas, Presbytera Elizabeth and all members of the Parish of Saint Dimitrios and Saint Nikitas** in Plymouth a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Monday 28th: **Saint Stephen** of Saint Savas' Monastery, Hymnographer (794)
Saint Job, Abbot and Wonderworker of Pochaev (1651)

On Tuesday 29th: Martyr Anastasia of Rome (3rd C)
We wish **Anastasia T** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

On Wednesday 30th: **Saint Issui** of Patricio (6thC) Patron Saint of the Children's Camp in South Wales.

On Thursday 31st: **Saint Aristobulus** of the Seventy, First Bishop of Britain (1st C)
Saints Spyridon and Nikodim the Prosphora-bakers of the Kyiv Caves (12th C)

I Will Sing Unto the Lord

One of the groups of saints we celebrate across the year are the hymnographers, who have contributed so much to the richness of our liturgical life. This month we have several, including Saint Romanos the Melodist and Saint John (Koukouzelis) of Mt Athos on 1st, Saint Theophanes Graptus (11th), Saint Cosmas of Maluma (14th) and Saint Stephen of Saint Savas' Monastery (28th). Saint Romanos, the patron saint of church singers, is the author of – among many others - the kontakion of the Nativity: *Today the Virgin gives birth to Him who is above all being…*

Noticeboard

(See also service schedule for October to December on appended sheet)

Saturday October 5th: Vespers 6.0pm
Sunday 6th: 15th after Pentecost (Luke 3) Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Saturday 12th: Vespers 6.0pm
Sunday 13th: 16th after Pentecost (Luke 4) Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Saturday 19th: Vespers 6.0pm
Sunday 20th: 17th after Pentecost (Luke 6) Divine Liturgy 10.30am

Saturday 26th: Vespers 6.0pm
Sunday 27th: 18th after Pentecost (Luke 7) Typika 10.30am

Saturday November 2nd: Vespers 6.0pm
Sunday 3rd: 19th after Pentecost (Luke 5) Divine Liturgy 10.30am

followed by Bring and Share Lunch and Parish AGM at Saint James' Hall

All services in Saint Anne's unless stated otherwise

*For services in the Torquay parish either visit https://www.facebook.com/standrewtorquay/?locale=en_GB or telephone Robert Skrivanos on **07971 316416**.* *For services in Plymouth visit* plymchurch.com

*For services in the Romanian parish (Exeter and Newton Abbot) consult https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064673836911 or telephone Fr Julian on **07469 262827**.*

Posbury St Francis Annual Lecture

Radical Hope: the Roots of Courage in Inevitable Climate Change - Dr Bethany Sollereder

Monday, October 7 - 8:30pm
Queen's LT1, Queen's Building, University of Exeter
There will be a drinks reception from 6:15pm, prior to the lecture.

In a world where the climate has already changed, we need a hope that stretches beyond simply stopping change. This lecture will draw from theology, history, and the natural sciences to argue for ways we can build hope in a world where climate change is already occurring and will continue to happen.
Event co-sponsored by the Posbury St Francis Trust and the Exeter Centre for Ethics & Practical Theology

Dr Bethany Sollereder is a Lecturer in Science and Religion at the University of Edinburgh. She specialises in theology concerning evolution and the problem of suffering and is currently working on the theological aspects of climate change. Bethany received her PhD in Theology from the University of Exeter. She is the author of *God, Evolution, and Animal Suffering: Theodicy without a Fall* and *Why is there Suffering? Pick your own theological expedition.*

The event is free, but you will need to book tickets. To book, go to:
Posbury St Francis Annual Lecture Tickets, Mon, Oct 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite

War Horse Concert with Michael Morpurgo

Exeter Cathedral Wednesday 13 November 2024 7 – 8.30pm

We are delighted to welcome renowned author Michael Morpurgo to Exeter Cathedral, to read an abridged version of his world-famous children's war novel, *War Horse*. Musician Ben Murray will accompany Michael's reading with music and songs from the theatre production based on the novel, originally performed at the National Theatre, London.

One of Michael Morpurgo's most beloved books, *War Horse* is written from the perspective of a young farm horse, Joey. Set during the First World War, the story follows Joey's experience of being taken from the fields of Devon to the Western Front, encountering a variety of characters along the way. Joey is sold to the British Army and thrust into the midst of war. On the battlefield, he charges with his officer towards the enemy, witnessing the horror of the frontline. But even in the desolation of the trenches, Joey's courage touches the soldiers around him.

This performance is suitable for audiences aged nine or older.

Tickets:
Adults: From £15
Child: From £5 Book your ticket

From *Cathedral Life*

SERVICES OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024

October

5 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
6 Sun	15th after Pentecost (Luke 3) Divine Liturgy 10.30am
12 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
13 Sun	16th after Pentecost (Luke 4) Divine Liturgy 10.30am
19 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
20 Sun	17th after Pentecost (Luke 6) Divine Liturgy 10.30am
26 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
27 Sun	18th after Pentecost (Luke 7) Typika 10.30am

November

2 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
3 Sun	19th after Pentecost (Luke 5) Divine Liturgy 10.30am, followed by Bring & Share Lunch and **Parish Annual General Meeting** (at St James's hall)
9 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
10 Sun	20th after Pentecost (Luke 8) : Remembrance Sunday Divine Liturgy 10.30am, with Panikhida for the Fallen
15 Fri	Beginning of the Nativity Fast
16 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
17 Sun	21st after Pentecost (Luke 9) Divine Liturgy 10.30am, with Panikhida for Road Crash victims
23 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
24 Sun	22nd after Pentecost (Luke 13) : Afterfeast of the Entry of the Mother of God Typika 10.30am
30 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm

December

1 Sun	23rd after Pentecost (Luke 14) Divine Liturgy 10.30am
7 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
8 Sun	24th after Pentecost (Luke 10) : Eve of the Conception of the Mother of God Divine Liturgy 10.30am, followed by Bring & Share Lunch (at St James's Hall)
14 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
15 Sun	25th after Pentecost (Luke 11) : Holy Forefathers Divine Liturgy 10.30am
21 Sat	Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ Vespers 6.0pm
22 Sun	26th after Pentecost : Ancestors of Christ Divine Liturgy 10.30am
24 Tues	Eve of the Nativity of Christ Vigil 6.0pm
25 Wed	Nativity according to the flesh of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Divine Liturgy 10.30am
28 Sat	Vespers 6.0pm
29 Sun	30th after Pentecost Typika 10.30am