Prophet Elias
Bi -monthly News

News and Views for the Orthodox Church
of the Holy Prophet Elias in Devon
January and February 2025

Christmas Message 2024 from our Rector Fr. Patrick

'A strange and most wonderful mystery do I see: the cave is heaven; the Virgin the throne of the cherubim; the manger a room, in which Christ, the God whom nothing can contain, is laid. Him do we praise and magnify.' *Nativity Canon: Canticle 9.*

As we approach the final days of the Nativity Fast, we look forward with expectation to the joy of the coming feast and the special services in which we will take part and pray that God will bless us all in the coming year. It seems that the last year has been a good one for the Parish of the Holy Prophet Elias. After a period of some difficulties, a much more stable situation has emerged, with regular services and renewed parish life. A particular joy has been the ordination of Philip Scorer to the diaconate. It is also good that a new generation has stepped up to take on the duties of various parish officials. We are grateful for the hard work and time so generously given by Martin and Celia over many years to support the parish in many roles, but in particular in producing the parish newsletter in various forms over recent years with great care and diligence. We hope they will continue to support the life of the parish but with much less effort and responsibility.

May the parish continue to grow and develop and continue its outreach as God wills.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

With love in Christ,

Fr Patrick

Feast of Theophany

When Thou, O Lord wast baptized
in the Jordan
the worship of the Trinity was
made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore
witness unto Thee, calling Thee
the beloved Son,
and the Spirit, in the form of a
dove, confirmed His word as sure
and steadfast.
O Christ, our God who hast
appeared and enlightened the
world.
Glory to Thee!



Note: Remember to bring bottles to take home holy water after the Blessing of the Waters following the Liturgy on **Sunday 5th January**.

Sunday 2nd February - Feast - Meeting of our Lord in the Temple

Prayer of St. Symeon

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation. Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Note: On the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord – also known as Candlemas - we bring candles to church to be blessed for us to bring the light of Christ into our homes.

Prayer for the Blessing of Candles

"O Almighty God, Pre-Eternal God, Who didst command Thy servant Moses to make ready a preparation of purest oil to be a light before Thy presence: Do Thou mercifully pour out the grace of Thy blessing upon these candles, that they might bring brightness to the people outwardly, as by Thy gift the brightness of the Holy Spirit shines inwardly in our thoughts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to Whom is due all glory, honour, and worship, together with Thee, O Father without beginning, and Thy Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen."

Liturgy – Combe Martin

Fr Brandon and Deacon Philip will serve a Liturgy on Saturday 1st February in the Chapel of SS Symeon and Anna in Combe Martin on the eve of the feast of The Meeting of our Lord –the patronal feast of the chapel.

SERVICES JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2025

January

4 Sat — Vespers 6.0pm

5 Sun — EVE OF THE THEOPHANY (28th after Pentecost)
Divine Liturgy (St Basil) 10.30am with Blessing of the Waters,
followed by Bring & Share Lunch in St James's Hall

6 Mon — THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD & SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

11 Sat — Vespers 6.0pm

12 Sun — SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY (29th after Pentecost)
Divine Liturgy 10.30am

18 Sat — Vespers 6.0pm

19 Sun — 30TH AFTER PENTECOST
Divine Liturgy 10.30am

26 Sun — 31ST AFTER PENTECOST (Sunday of the Ten Lepers)
Typika 10.30am

February

1 Sat — FOREFEAST OF THE MEETING
Divine Liturgy 10.30am at Combe Martin
Vespers 6.0pm

2 Sun — THE MEETING OF OUR LORD & SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
(Sunday of Zacchaeus)
Divine Liturgy 10.30am
followed by Bring & Share Lunch at St James's Hall

8 Sat — Vespers 6.0pm

9 Sun — SUNDAY OF THE TAX COLLECTOR & THE PHARISEE: BEGINNING OF THE TRIODION
Leavetaking of the Meeting
Divine Liturgy 10.30am

15 Sat — Vespers 6.0pm

16 Sun — SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON
Divine Liturgy 10.30am

23 Sun — SUNDAY OF MEATFARE (Last Judgement)
Typika 10.30am

March

1 Sat — Vespers 6.0pm

2 Sun — SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE (FORGIVENESS SUNDAY)
Divine Liturgy 10.30am, followed by Lenten Vespers and Rite of Forgiveness

3 Mon — **First Week of Great Lent –** Further information regarding services to follow in the next issue

We celebrate…

DECEMBER

28 December 2024 **Apostle Nicanor** the Deacon
Saint Hilarion (Troitsky) Archbishop of Vereya
Hieromartyr under the Bolshevik yoke (1929)
We wish **Father Nicanor** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

29 December 2024 **Prayer for the New Year**
The Holy Innocents, Infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem
Righteous John the Barefooted, Fool for Christ's sake (Ukraine, 1849)"
Saint Joseph the Betrothed, **David** the King, and **James** the brother of God

JANUARY

01 January 2025 **The Circumcision of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**
Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia (379)
We wish **Vassilis D** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

02 January 2025 **Saint Sylvester** of Rome (335)
Saint Seraphim Wonderworker of Sarov (1833)
We wish **Seraphim A H** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

03 January 2025 **Saint Genevieve** of Paris (5th C)

04 January 2025 **Saint Nikiphoros** the Leper Chios, Greece (1964)

05 January 2025 **Eve of Theophany**

06 January 2025 **THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

07 January 2025 **Synaxis of the Holy, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John**
Saint Brannock of Brauton

07-13 January 2025 **Afterfeast of Theophany**

09 January 2025 **Hieromartyr Philip**, Metropolitan of Moscow, challenger of Ivan the Terrible (1569)

10 January 2025 **Saint Gregory** of Nyssa (395) and his wife **Saint Theosevia** the Deaconess (385)
Saint Theophan the Recluse (1894)

11 January 2025 **Saint Theodosios** the Great (529)

12 January 2025 **Saint Tatiana** of Rome (c230)

13 January 2025 **Saint Hilary** of Poitiers, opponent of Arianism (367)
Saint Just of Cornwall (6thC)
Saint Kentigern (Mungo), first bishop of Glasgow and Strathclyde (c612)
We wish **All** in the Parish of **Saint Bega**, **Saint Mungo** and **Saint Herbert** in Keswick
We remember **Fr John M**. **May his Memory be Eternal!**

14 January 2025 **Saint Nina**, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia (c339)
Hieromartyr Platon of Tallinn (1919) and all the **New Martyrs** of Estonia

15 January 2025 **Saint Ita** of Killeedy, Ireland (c570)
We wish **Ita G** a **Happy Feast and Many Years!**

16 January 2025 **Veneration of the Precious Chains of the Holy Apostle Peter**
Saint Fursey of Burgh Castle, Enlightener of East Anglia (650)

17 January 2025 **Saint Anthony** the Great (356)
We wish **Eddie B** and **Tony R** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**
We remember **Christa Antonina S - May her Memory be Eternal.**

18 January 2025 **Saint Athanasios** the Great (373) and **Saint Cyril** (444) Archbishops of Alexandria

19 January 2025 **Saint Makarios** the Great of Egypt (391)
Saint Mark of Ephesus – `The Pillar of Orthodoxy` (1444)
Saint Breward (Branwalader) of Cornwall and the Channel Islands (6thC)

21 January 2025 **Saint Maximus** the Confessor (662)
Virgin Martyr **Agnes of Rome** (c304)
We wish **Agnes O** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**

24 January 2024 **Saint Ksenia** of St Petersburg (1803)
We wish **Shusha S** and **Xenia C** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**
25 January 2025 **Saint Gregory** the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople (389)
26 January 2025 **New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia**
27 January 2025 Translation of the Relics of **Saint John Chrysosotom** (438)
28 January 2025 **Saint Ephraim** the Syrian (373)
Saint Isaac of Nineveh (7th C)
We wish **Isaac O** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**
29 January 2025 **Saint Gildas** the Wise (Llanilltud, Wales c570) Historian of Britain
30 January 2025 Synaxis of the Ecumenical Teachers and Great Hierarchs **Basil the Great**, **Gregory the Theologian** and **John Chrysosotom**
31 January 2025 Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Healers **Cyrus** and **John** (311)

FEBRUARY

01 February 2025 **Holy Martyr Tryphon** of Campsada in Syria (250)
Saint Bridget of Kildare (c525)
Forefeast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple
02 February 2025 **THE MEETING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**
Sunday of Zacchaeus
03 February 2025 **Righteous Symeon** the God-Receiver and **Prophetess Anna**
Saint Nicholas Archbishop of Japan (1912)
First Saint of the Japanese Orthodox Church
We wish **Father John**, **Dawn** and **ALL** parish members in North Devon, **Symeon L**, **Anya K** and **Felicia F** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**
07 February 2025 Saints **Emmelia**, **Nona** and **Anthousa**, Mothers of the three Great Hierarchs (4thC)
08 February 2025 Great Martyr **Theodore Stratelates** ('The General') (319)
09 February 2025 Leavetaking of the Meeting of our **Lord in the Temple**
Sunday of the **Publican** and the **Pharisee**
Beginning of the **Lenten Triodion**
New Martyrs **Fr Dimitri Klepinin** (1944), **Elias Fondaminsky** (1942) and **George (Yuri) Skobtsov** (1944) Co-workers with **Saint Maria of Paris**
10 February 2025 **Hieromartyr Haralambos**, Bishop of Magnesia (202)
11 February 2025 **Hieromartyr Blaise**, Bishop of Sebaste (c316)
Empress Theodora, Restorer of the Icons (c867)
Saint Caedmon of Whitby, Monk poet. (c680)
13 February 2025 **Apostles Aquila and Priscilla**, fellow workers with **Saint Paul**
14 February 2025 Repose of **Saint Cyril**, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Enlightener of the Slavs (869)
15 February 2025 **Apostle Onesimos** of the Seventy
Saint Anthimos of Chios (1960)
16 February 2025 Sunday of the **Prodigal Son**
17 February 2025 We wish **Bojidar P** a **Happy Feast** and **Many Years!**
18 February 2025 **Saint Colman**, Bishop of Lindisfarne (676)
19 February 2025 **Apostles Archipus** and **Philemon** of the Seventy, and **Martyr Apphia**, wife of Philemon
23 February 2025 **Sunday of Meatfare of the Last Judgment**
Saint Polycarp of Smyrna (167)
24 February 2025 1st and 2nd Findings of the Honourable Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and **Baptist John**
26 February 2025 Holy Martyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Photini, **the Samaritan Woman**
27 February 2025 **Saint** Raphael (Hawaweeny) Bishop of Brooklyn (1915) First Bishop to be canonised in America.
28 February 2025 **Saint John** Cassian the Roman (435)

Letter of thanks from the Torquay Parish



The Greek Orthodox Church of St Andrews

St Andrews Church, St Efrides Road, Torquay, TQ2 5SG

To the parish of the Holy Prophet Elias,

We are writing to express our deepest gratitude and thanks for the gift made to St Andrews of the Holy Gospel Book.

It is very much appreciated, Father Trayan remembers you in our prayers and we wish you all the best.

With our thanks, the parish of St Andrews Torquay.

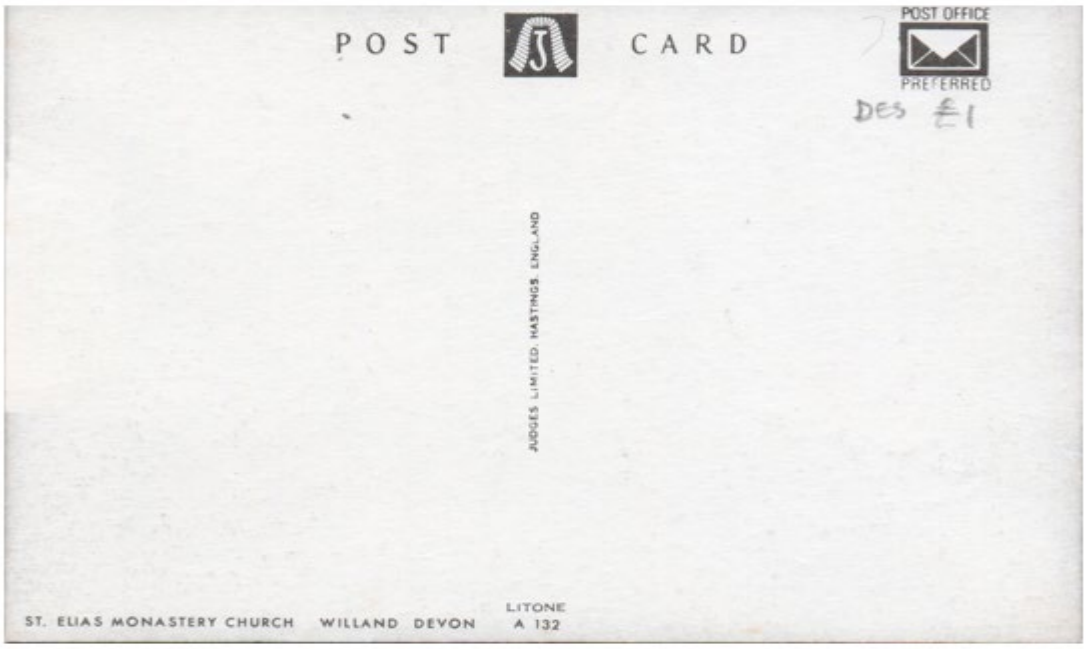
Yours Sincerely,

R. J. Skrivanos

R.J Skrivanos

Copy of a postcard recently found in an antique shop in Exeter by one our parishioners of the St Elias Monastery Church in Willand.





The church of St Elias in Willand (near Cullompton) – the cradle of our parish - was established by Archimandrite Barnabas (Burton) (1915-96), whom we remember at every service as one of the founding members of our parish. Fr John Marks, Fr Peter Scorer (1942-2020) and Fr Nikanor Wilkins with their families were amongst the original members of this present community of the Orthodox Parish of the Holy Prophet Elias (Exeter and Combe Martin, near Barnstable). After Archimandrite Barnabas' departure to Wales, the chapel of St Elias was served by Fr Benedict Ramsden. Fr Benedict, whom we also remember at our services, with the future Fr Gregory Palamas Carpenter of Plymouth then leading the choir, had already founded a community in the chapel of St Anne's in Exeter. Frs John and Peter, encouraged by Fr Barnabas, began holding regular services in the house chapel in Combe Martin (in the home of the Marks family). After a few years, as the parish grew, along with Fr Nikanor, the community in Combe Martin, with the blessing of Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh began to also use the chapel of St Anne's, receiving the baton from Fr Benedict. Fr Benedict then went on to found parishes throughout Devon and Cornwall. Orthodoxy in Devon continues to grow with a new generation of clergy (Fr Trayan Goranov of Torquay, Frs Brandon Gallaher and Philip Scorer of the Holy Prophet Elias led by Fr Patrick Hodson) and dynamic laity building on the legacy of our founders.

Payment Information

We now accept payment by mobile phone for candles, collection, and donations.

Please scan a QR code

Donations

Candles

Collection

Uganda

VISA mastercard Pay Pay

Exeter Bach Choir

Four of our parishioners will be singing the Bach B minor Mass with Exeter Bach Choir in Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 8th March.

https://exeterbachchoir.co.uk/ or https://tinyurl.com/yeytpwmt

10% of tickets purchased before 31st January 2025
When booking use discount code EARLYBIRD

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Armenian miniature painting: *"Adoration of the Magi"* by Aristakes Tzeruni, Aghtamar Gospels, 1391

Happy Christmas! **Gelukkige Kerstfeest!** **Joyeux Noel!**

С РОЖДЕСТВОМ ХРИСТОВЫМ! **Καλα Χριστουγεννα!**

Craciun Fericit! **Mbagaliza Christmass!**

مجيد ميلاد عيد **God Jul!**

Frohe Weihnachten! **Nadolig Llawen!**

AND BEST WISHES FOR 2025

from

Martin and the Trustees of Bishop Spartas Trust

Daphne Lock – Memory Eternal

Daphne Lock fell asleep in the lord on the morning of 16 December. Daphne had been a lifelong member of the Combe Martin community. Funeral to be held in Ilfracombe in her memory – further details to follow.

❖❖

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 Father Trayan on **07800 644599**.*

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**.*

Prophet Elias Bi-monthly 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 fr.brandon.gallaher@gmail.com 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: Kyriaki Hadjiafxendi k.hadjiafxendi@bathspa.ac.uk

Contributions for the March / April 2025 issue should reach the Editor at debrabranscombe1@gmail.com by 15th March 2025 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.