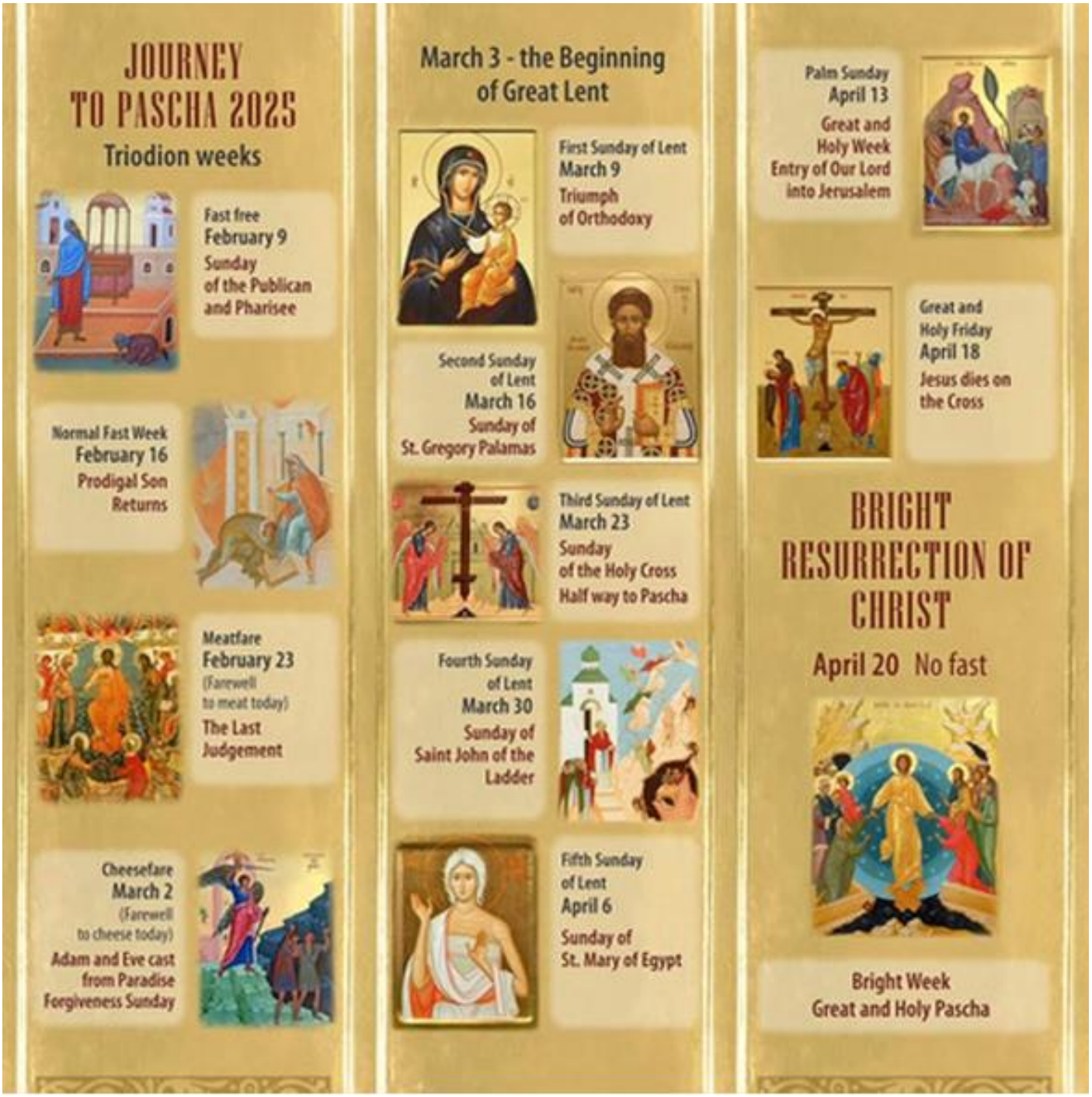
Prophet Elias Bi-Monthly

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

March – April 2025



ORTHODOX PARISH OF THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS IN DEVON

NB: All services are in St Anne's Chapel, Exeter unless otherwise indicated.
The Liturgy is of St John Chrysostom except where that of St Basil is indicated.

2025 SERVICES IN MARCH

Saturday	1	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**2**	***Forgiveness Sunday - Cheesefare***	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
		followed by Vespers and rite of Forgiveness	
		Great Fast – Lent begins	
Monday	3	Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete	6.00 pm
Tuesday	4	Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete	6.00 pm
Wednesday	5	Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete	6.00 pm
Thursday	6	Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete	6.00 pm
Saturday	8	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**9**	***1st Sunday in Lent – Sunday of Orthodoxy***	
		Divine Liturgy of St Basil	10.30 am
		Vespers after the Liturgy	
		2nd week of Lent	
Saturday	15	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**16**	***2nd Sunday in Lent – St Gregory Palamas***	
		Divine Liturgy of St Basil	10.30 am
		Vespers after the Liturgy	
		3rd week of Lent	
Saturday	22	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**23**	***3rd Sunday in Lent – Veneration of the Cross***	
		Divine Liturgy of St Basil	10.30 am
		Vespers after the Liturgy	
		4th week of Lent	
Tuesday	25	*ANNUNCIATION*	
Saturday	29	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**30**	***4th Sunday in Lent – St John of the Ladder***	
		Divine Liturgy of St Basil	10.30 am
		Vespers after the Liturgy	

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2025 SERVICES IN APRIL

		5th week of Lent	
Wednesday	2	Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete	6.00 pm
Friday	4	Akathist	6.00 pm
Saturday	5	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**6**	***5th Sunday in Lent – St Mary of Egypt***	
		Divine Liturgy of St Basil	10.30 am
		Vespers after the Liturgy	
		6th week of Lent	
Saturday	12	***LAZARUS SATURDAY***	
		Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**13**	***PALM SUNDAY***	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
		Bridegroom Matins after the Liturgy	
		HOLY WEEK	
Monday	14	Bridegroom Matins	6.00 pm
Tuesday	15	Bridegroom Matins	6.00 pm
Wednesday	16	Anointing Service	6.00 pm
Thursday	17	Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St Basil	10.30 am
		Matins - Twelve Gospels	6.00 pm
Friday	18	Vespers	3.00 pm
		Matins – Burial of our Lord	6.00 pm
		GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY	
Saturday	19	Vespers/Divine Liturgy of St Basil	9.30 am
		Paschal Matins/Divine Liturgy	10.00 pm
Sunday	**20**	***PASCHA - RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST***	
		Vespers	6.00 pm
		BRIGHT WEEK	
Saturday	26	Divine Liturgy - in Combe Martin	10.30 am
Sunday	**27**	***THOMAS SUNDAY***	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am

We celebrate…

March

1 March 2025	Saint David of Wales (6thC) **We wish Fr David G, Fr David D and David W a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
2 March 2025	Saint Chad, Bishop of Lichfield (672) Saint Nicholas Planas, Parish priest in Athens (1932)
4 March 2025	Saint Owen of Lichfield (680) **We wish Owain O a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
5 March 2025	Saint Piran, Patron Saint of Cornwall (c480)
6 March 2025	Discovery of the Precious Cross by the Empress Saint Helena in Jerusalem (326)
8 March 2025	First Saturday of Lent - Commemoration of Saint Theodore the Recruit Saint Felix, Enlightener of East Anglia (c648)
9 March 2025	The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste (c320) Saint Constantine of Cornwall (6thC)
12 March 2025	Saint Symeon the New Theologian (1022)
14 March 2025	Saint Benedict of Nursia (543) Patron Saint of Europe. Established the Benedictine Rule of monasticism at the Monastery of Monte Cassino in Italy.
15 March 2025	Apostle Aristoboulos of the Seventy, First Bishop of Britain (1stC)
17 March 2025	Saint Patrick of Armagh, Apostle to the Irish (461) Saint Parthenius of Kyiv (1855)
18 March 2025	Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (386) Saint Edward the Passion-bearer, King of England (c978) Saint Nicholas (Velimirovich), Bishop of Zhica (1956). Prolific writer, most famously of the Prologue from Ohrid and Prayers by the Lake
20 March 2025	Saint Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (687)
21 March 2025	Saint Seraphim of Vyritsa (Russia 1949)
23 March 2025	Saint Nikon of the Kyiv/Kiev Caves (1088)
25 March 2025	**THE ANNUNCIATION** **We wish all Marias who celebrate their Namesday today a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
26 March 2025	Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel **We wish Sofia Gabrielle a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
31 March 2025	Saint Innocent of Alaska, Apostle to the Americas (1879) Saint Maria of Paris, New Martyr (1945) **We wish Maria G a Happy Feast and Many Years!**

April

1 April 2025	Saint Mary of Egypt (1st C)
	We wish Julia M, Bea P and all at Saint Mary of Egypt Sub-Parish in Uganda a Happy Feast and Many Years!
3 April 2025	Saint Joseph the Hymnographer (883)
	Saint Methodios, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of the Slavs (885)
7 April 2025	Repose of Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow (1925) Saint Savas the New of Kalymnos (1948). Painter of the first icon of his friend Saint Nektarios of Aegina
11 April 2025	Hieromartyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamon (92) Disciple of Saint John the Theologian
13 April 2025	Saint Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome (655)
	We wish Martin R a Happy Feast and Many Years!
14 April 2025	*Holy Monday: Commemoration of Blessed Joseph the All-Righteous, and of the Unfruitful Fig-Tree that was Cursed by Christ*
15 April 2025	*Holy Tuesday: Commemoration of the Parable of the Ten Virgins* Martyrs Vasilissa and Anastasia of Rome (1st C) Disciples of Saint Peter and Saint Paul
16 April 2025	*Holy Wednesday: Commemoration of the Sinful Woman who Anointed the Lord with Myrrh* Saint Amphilochios of Patmos (1970)
17 April 2025	*Holy Thursday: Celebration of the Washing of the Feet, the Mystical Supper, the Prayer in the Garden and the Betrayal* Saint Paisius the Fool for Christ's Sake of the Kyiv/Kiev Caves (1893)
18 April 2025	Holy Friday: Martyrs Raphael, Nicholas and Irene of Lesbos (1463)
19 April 2025	Holy Saturday: Saint Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury (1012)
20 April 2025	**HOLY PASCHA** **We wish Lamprini P a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
22 April 2025	**Radonitsa - Joyful Commemoration of the Dead**
	Apostles Nathaniel, Luke and Clement (1stC)
23 April 2025	Holy, Glorious Great Martyr George
	We wish George K and Luca George a Happy Feast and Many Years!
24 April 2025	Hieromartyrs Joseph, Elias and Sabas, Metropolitans of Transylvania (17th
25 April 2025	Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark
29 April 2025	Saint Endellion (Endelienta) (Cornwall - ?6thC)
30 April 2025	Holy Apostle James the Son of Zebedee, Brother of Saint John the Theologian

Namesday Greetings

For anybody interested, at www.iconograms.org you can select icon cards to send a namesday greeting to your friends - for free - and they will inform you when the card has been received.

Their list covers most saints in the Greek calendar, plus the twelve Great Feasts.

N.B. These are e-cards rather than physical cards

ADVANCE NOTICE: PILGRIMAGE TO GLASTONBURY: SATURDAY 17 MAY

Arrangements have been made for a parish Pilgrimage to Glastonbury, celebrated as the cradle of Christianity in this country. We hope to celebrate a Moleben in honour of Our Lady of Glastonbury and the Saints venerated there (they are depicted on the Icon in the church at Combe Martin and the copy of it in St Anne's). This will be in the partly open-air crypt chapel on the site of the earliest (possibly 1st century) church.

It may also be possible to venerate the image (and recent Icons, blessed by Abp Gregorios of pious memory) in the nearby RC church. Energetic pilgrims may wish to climb the Tor, on whose summit stands the tower of the former church of St Michael, where Richard Whyting, last abbot of the mediaeval abbey, was martyred in the course of the religious disturbances of the 16th century.

Further details to follow, but please reserve the date now.

If you would like to contribute something to the next newsletter, please either send it to Hugh Allen by email to hughallen188@gmail.com or give it to him in person.

All contributions must reach Hugh by **31st March** at the latest for the May-June edition.

Visit to Norfolk by Fr Philip and Alice Scorer – January 2025

A couple of weeks ago, Alice and I visited Walsingham on the invitation of our Rector Fr Patrick and his wife Mary. They have both visited our parish many times over the years and we were pleased to have the opportunity to visit them.

On Saturday, Fr Patrick, Mary, Alice and I visited Norwich Cathedral, a particularly fine example of Norman architecture with many medieval wall paintings having been uncovered. It also houses an Icon of the Resurrection painted by Patricia Fostiropoulos.



On Sunday we attended the Orthodox Parish Church of the Holy Transfiguration in Great Walsingham. It is a converted Methodist chapel beautifully painted with iconography.



Fr Christopher Knight was unwell so could not serve but did attend in the altar. Fr Patrick and I served the liturgy.
Fr David Davis and Fr Philip Steer were also present with the congregation. Cathie Knight led the choir who sang wonderfully. The congregation reminded me very much of our parish. It felt very much a home from home. After the liturgy there was an opportunity to meet everyone over coffee and biscuits in the vestry meeting old friends and new.





We then stayed with Fr Christopher and Cathie who live in the village. Fr Christopher took us to see the sites of pilgrimage of this extraordinary place. Little Walsingham is famous for being a site of pilgrimage dedicated to the Annunciation, which we will be celebrating on March 25th.



The 20th century Anglican shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham houses several chapels, one of which is Orthodox. The original abbey and shrine were destroyed in the Reformation. And the Orthodox presence is also to be found at the old, converted railway station which has a chapel and an Iconography workshop and museum. It was a delightful surprise to discover that an old friend from children's camps, Mariamni Plested, is now living there with her husband Marcus and 3 of their children.

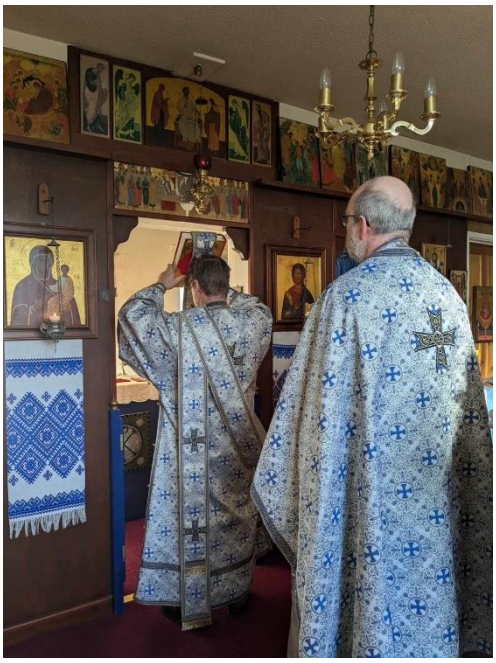
The links below to the parish and St Seraphim's Trust are well worth exploring and tell the full story and history of Orthodoxy in this extraordinary village.

https://iconpainter.org.uk/our-work/walsingham-station/
https://holytransfigurationwalsingham.simdif.com

Liturgy in Combe Martin



On 1st February, Fr Brandon and Fr Philip celebrated the Liturgy in Combe Martin in the Chapel of SS Symeon and Anna, on the eve of the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple and two days before the patronal feast of the chapel. The next service in Combe Martin will be a Liturgy in Bright Week, the day before Thomas Sunday.



We remember...

On 10th January Fr Brandon led the funeral service for Daphne Mary Lock in Holy Trinity Church in Ilfracombe. Daphne was a member of the parish since the early 1970s. She attended faithfully both in Combe Martin and Exeter and sang in the parish choir for many years until moving away from Devon to a retirement home to be nearer family.



We also remember Veronica Dawson, who recently fell asleep in the Lord. She was received together with her husband Luke by Fr John Marks in Combe Martin in September 1993.

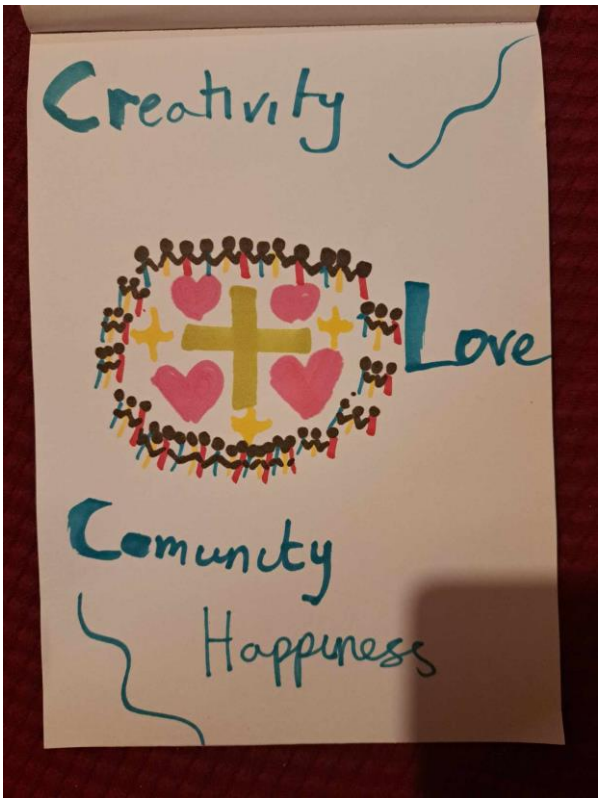
Memory Eternal to Daphne and Veronica.

Memorial of Father Antonios Constantiou, Troulli, Cyprus (1934-2025)

By Kyriaki Hadjiafxendi – Our Parish Warden



My spiritual father went to sleep yesterday (8/2/25) in my small village in Cyprus, where he served for most of his adult life. While attending his funeral remotely this morning with raw feelings, of half gladness and sadness, I saw crowds of people who were trying to touch him one last time – some out of love and respect and some out of an attempt to get a confirmation of the popular belief in his sainthood. I was always somebody who found doubt easier and he made faith so easy with his quiet presence and soft voice. He would fill the room just by standing in the corner, inspiring by the way he ran his life. As I was growing up, I always thought it curious how he would get people to listen without ever using the imperative. There were no 'Do's' or Do not's' in his use of language – just stories, drawn from experience – hardly allegorical – that would strike a chord. I remember how his face would glow up and his eyes would glimmer with joy every time he would do a christening or how he seemed to be walking in thin air every Easter when he would sing 'Christ has risen from the dead', as if for the first time, in church. If there is one thing he made look so effortless was how whole he was – his heart and mind in working unison – with the missive to spread love. His whole life was a celebration of the love he found incarnate in Orthodoxy; he has left me in no doubt that an encounter with such LOVE will indelibly change you! May he rest in peace!



And a beautiful drawing by Kyriaki's daughter Maria, in response to the question:

"What does it mean for you to go to church:"

Southwest Youth Event – Saturday 15th of February 2025

St James Church, Exeter



On Saturday the 15th of February, we hosted a successful Christian Orthodox Thyateira Youth event, at St James Church. Around 40 young people from parishes throughout the Southwest, from Cornwall to Bristol & Bath, converged for a Vespers, and social, with plenty of food and drink. The Vespers was presided over by Fr Anastasios, from St Peters & St Pauls in Bristol, in the Byzantine style. Hopefully this will be the first of many COTY events, that helps grow and strengthen the bonds within the Orthodox Church.



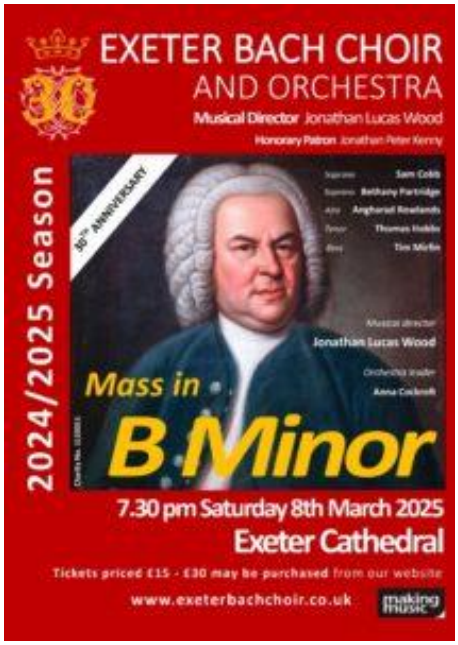
A Mixed Bag of Books

* Of considerable local interest is Peter Thomas's EXETER BURNING: THE EXETER BLITZ ILLUSTRATED (Halsgrove, 2nd edn 2002). Originally published in 1992 as Fire in the Wind, nearly half of its 220+ large-format pages are devoted to contemporary photographs of the May 1942 blitz and its aftermath; the remainder, harrowing in places, includes official reports by police and fire service and accounts of their ordeals by some of those affected. We hear daily news of attacks on civilian communities in other parts of the world; these took place right here, and this account of them might help to sharpen our sympathy for those happening elsewhere. (Copies in Devon County Library; check online catalogue for their whereabouts.)

* I reviewed American convert to Orthodoxy Rod Dreher's The Benedict Option in this newsletter a few years ago. Now he has written LIVING IN WONDER (Hodder & Stoughton 2024), a plea for us to see the world "as it really is". Some of it (e.g. his disquisitions on the subject of UFOs) may seem more than a little over the top, but we would do well to take note of the need to balance the prevailing materialistic and rationalistic worldview with the belief that "there is deep meaning to life, … meaning that lives in and through God" (p. 12), and to let it colour every aspect of our existence.

* Biblical scholar Margaret Barker (not to be confused with her namesake, author of racy hospital romances: see Amazon) has written a number of books on Temple Theology. This is the theory that much of the New Testament and parts of the Old were influenced by the liturgy of the pre exilic First Temple – a tradition quite different from that of the Temple as it figures in the Gospels, and preserved by the community responsible for the Dead Sea Scrolls and in 1 Enoch. (This book is not accepted as Scripture by most Christian bodies, although it forms part of the Bible for the Ethiopian and Eritrean Orthodox churches.) Temple Theology certainly makes sense of that otherwise puzzling NT book Revelation, which on this understanding becomes highly significant. At a little under 100 pages of text TEMPLE THEOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTION (SPCK 2004) is one of Barker's shorter books, and makes the case clearly and with a minimum of technical language.

Hugh Allen



Bach Mass in B minor

Four of our parishioners (including our deacon) will be singing the **Bach B minor Mass** with Exeter Bach Choir in Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 8th March.
https://exeterbachchoir.co.uk/
https://tinyurl.com/yeytpwmt

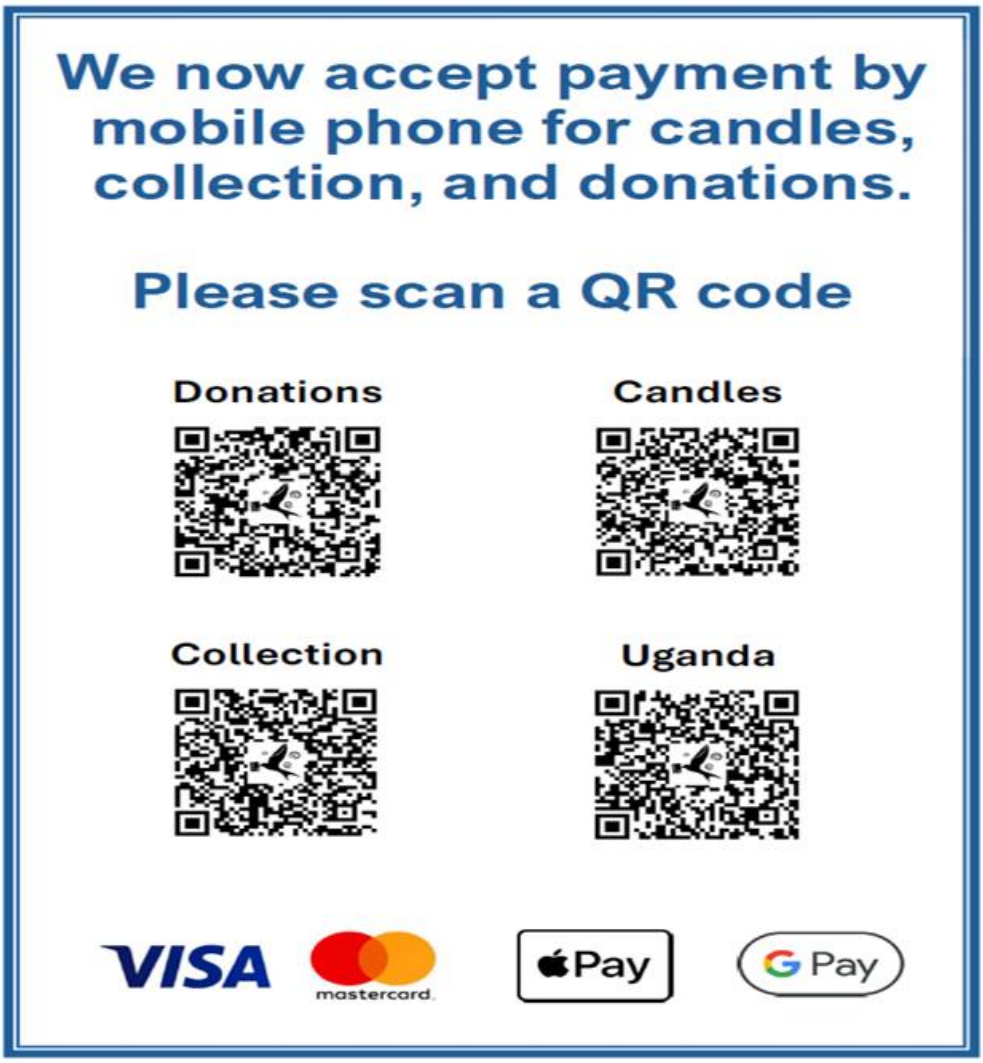
Can You Help Joana?

The Bishop Spartas Trust is a small charity, well known to many members of our parish, dedicated to sponsoring university education for Orthodox young people in Uganda. The Trust has received an application from 22-year-old **Joana Nakato**, who is hoping to study Human Resources Management at Ndejje University. Unfortunately, our current regular income is wholly committed to supporting Jonathan Wasswa, now in his third year at Medical School and with three years still to go before he qualifies.

Education of girls and young women is not a priority in Uganda, while youth unemployment is very high and the prospects for young women without qualifications are bleak – usually early marriage followed by a life of domestic drudgery is seen as the best option. We would love to help Joana, but we can only do that if we manage to find more people who could commit to regular donations of a few pounds a month.

If you feel you might like to contribute – or indeed if you know of someone else who might like to - please contact **Martin Olsson** (Chair of Trustees of The Bishop Spartas Trust) at martinolsson827@btinternet.com, or by post at Little Linhay, Bondleigh, North Tawton EX20 2AJ, for more details on how to donate.

For all **other** donations please remember that we also take payment by mobile phone! The QR codes are all easy to find in the church on the candle desk and collection basket.



Prophet Elias - Bi-Monthly 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
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

To arrange a confession, you can contact Fr Trayan Goranov either at otrayan@gmail.com or telephone 07800 644 599

For services in the Torquay parish either visit https://www.facebook.com/standrewtorquay/?locale=en_GB or telephone Father Trayan on the number above.

For services in Plymouth visit https://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.

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.