Prophet Elias - Quarterly

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

July – August – September 2025

Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias

Sunday 20th July



O ye faithful, like David let us honour with hymns today the prophet of the Lord, Elijah the Tishbite, the most splendid zealot. For lo, by his speech he shut heaven like a curtain and rendered the fertile earth barren. O most glorious wonder! A man of earth doth not permit the heavens to rain! O wonder! A corruptible man is clothed in incorruption, and hath ascended to the heavens on a fiery chariot; and by his mantle he bestoweth a double measure of grace upon Elisha, and denounceth the king, and destroyeth the disobedient people with famine. He put to shame all the shameful priests, and raised up the widow's son from the dead by his word. Through his supplications, O Christ our God, preserve all right-believing Orthodox Christians in peace, granting them the triumph of victory over the Enemy.

(from Lauds of the feast)

As usual, we hope to celebrate our patronal feast with a visit from our parish priest Fr Patrick, and after the Liturgy a festive bring & share meal at St James's hall (festive: i.e. with wine).

Who was/is St Elias, and how did our parish come to be under his patronage? Elias/Elijah (many Old Testament names exist in both Greek and Hebrew forms) was a prophet in the northern kingdom of Israel in the mid 9th century BC. This was some 70 years after the death of Solomon and the division of the single kingdom into the southern state of Judah (including the holy city of Jerusalem) and the "rebel" northern kingdom, with its rival holy places and frequent lapses into idolatry – particularly acute during the reign of Ahab (869-850), whose wife Jezebel had imported the cult of her native non-Jewish divinities.

A prophet is fundamentally a "forth-teller" rather than a "foreteller" – someone who proclaims the truth about God and our relationship with Him rather than one who predicts

future happenings. (That may not have been an obvious aspect of prophetic activity *at the time,* but "inspired" passages like the Emmanuel prophecy in Isaiah ch 7 or the Servant Songs in his later chapters only make sense in relation to Christ, as He Himself acknowledged in conversation with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus – see Luke 24.27.) Elijah stood out fearlessly against the prevailing apostasy of his day, at a crucial point challenging the prophets of Baal to a contest to see whether he or they could successfully bring down "fire from heaven" on their respective sacrificial offerings (1 Kings ch 18).

So devoted was he to the service of God that he left this world not by death but by assumption into heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings ch 2), and the belief developed that he would return to prepare the way for the advent of the Messiah. In a sense this was realised in the person of John the Baptist (Luke 1.17), and demonstrated at the Transfiguration (Luke 9.28ff).

Elias in his single-minded relationship with the God of Israel and ascetic style of life can be seen as a kind of proto-monk, and an appropriate patron for a monastic foundation. When Fr Barnabas arrived in Devon in the summer of 1967 his little community had already lived under the patronage of St Elias at its first home in Sussex, and later would do so again in Wales. Meanwhile it was natural that the same heavenly patron should be chosen for the parish which developed from his monastery at Willand, alongside the historic dedication of the chapel of St Anne (mother of the Mother of God) in Exeter and that of Ss Simeon & Anna in Combe Martin.

St Elias is important to us not just as a heavenly intercessor, but as an inspiration for the Church's mission in a world which has to such a large extent rejected the God who made it and keeps it in being. May we not only pray for his support, but in our responsibility towards the world be motivated by "the spirit and power of Elias" (Luke 1.17).
H.A.

"Living in Communion"

In our last issue we included a quote from Olivier Clément, with its beautiful picture of Orthodox parishes as "real eucharistic communities where people can learn to live in communion" – authentic "communion" involving a relationship with our fellow-worshippers as well as with God. We now have a Bring & Share meal after the Liturgy more or less once a month, with a diverse mixture of young and old, married and single, following even for just an hour or so the sequel to the first Christian Pentecost (see Acts 2.43ff).

We would love this important – indeed vital – feature of our Church life to be enriched by the participation of a larger cross-section of our parish community, which might then become a community in fact as well as in theory. Thanks to one or two perhaps over-generous participants there's always enough to eat, so don't let failure to contribute hold you back – although ideally everyone should bring just enough for him or herself and a bit extra (there are Sunday-opening shops nearby if supplies run short).

Thanks are due not only to those who bring contributions, but to those who look after the cutlery and crockery, do the washing up and put the hall to rights at the end. So often it's the same people who carry out these unglamorous but essential tasks – and others are afraid of "treading on the toes" of people who have been doing them for years. Don't be shy! The most urgent need is for someone <u>with a car and living not too far away</u> to take charge of the cutlery and crockery (3 or 4 standard shopping bags' capacity), bringing it to the hall and taking it home afterwards. **Offers, please, to Deacon Philip.**

Glastonbury Pilgrimage, Saturday 17 May



Our recent pilgrimage to Glastonbury Abbey was a profound experience. As we approached the town, I couldn't help but recall the legend of Joseph of Arimathea, who, according to tradition, arrived in Glastonbury after the Crucifixion. It's said that he planted his staff into the ground on Wearyall Hill, which miraculously blossomed into the Holy Thorn tree which only blooms twice a year (once at Christmas and once at Easter).

Upon entering Glastonbury, one was immediately struck by the town's eccentric atmosphere. The streets were lined with shops and signs reflecting a myriad of new age and pagan practices. We found it surprising but it definitely highlighted the need for the true Light of Christ in such places.

Passing through the visitor centre, we stepped into the serene grounds of the Abbey. The contrast to the bustling high street was palpable. Amidst the ruins, there was a deep sense of peace. We explored the remnants of the Abbey, including the Abbot's Kitchen, the tranquil gardens, and the Lady Chapel. The Lady Chapel, built after a devastating fire in 1184, stands on the site believed to be the oldest Christian church in England. It was the most sacred part of the medieval abbey. Beneath it lies the crypt dedicated to St. Joseph of Arimathea, added in the late 15th century.

As we ventured into the crypt, we unexpectedly encountered a pagan ritual taking place. After the ritual concluded, we gathered in the crypt to hold an Akathist to the Mother of God, Deacon Philip first administering a very thorough censing. We found the Akathist quite moving and even had a few onlookers watching us.



Following the service, we shared a picnic on the Abbey grounds, enjoying fellowship among the historic ruins.



Above: **Image of Our Lady of Glastonbury in the Catholic church**

Our pilgrimage continued with a visit to Our Lady St Mary's Catholic Church, located near the Abbey. Inside, we were moved by the presence of icons depicting the Virgin Mary, Christ the Life Giver, and St. John the Theologian with Prochorus. These icons were gifted by the Karoussos Archives of Athens. We concluded our visit there by singing a hymn honouring the Saints of the British Isles, celebrating our shared spiritual heritage.



Right: **Maggie from the Catholic parish telling the story of their restored shrine; note icons in background**

The final leg of our journey took us up Glastonbury Tor. Upon reaching the summit, we were greeted by the surviving tower of St. Michael's Church. This 14th-century structure stands on the site of earlier churches, with the original wooden church destroyed by an earthquake in 1275. The panoramic views from the Tor offered a moment of reflection on the enduring nature of faith through the ages.

As we made our way home, we felt a deep sense of connection: to the early Christians who established worship in this land, to the saints who walked these paths, and to our own community, united in faith and tradition. This pilgrimage was not just a journey through history, but a reaffirmation of our spiritual roots and the timeless nature of our beliefs.

Megan Hill & David (Moses) Olowo

Many thanks to David and Megan for sharing their impressions of this most enjoyable occasion. About twenty parishioners and friends took part (plus one dog), led by Fr Achilles and Deacon Philip. Very good to be back in this holy place, where until a few years ago there was official Orthodox representation at the annual Anglican pilgrimage.

News from some recent conferences in May 2025

The Thyateira Deanery Festival

The Deanery Festival theme was 'Preaching the Gospel to all creation: vocation & witness at a time of ecological crisis' with Elizabeth Theokritoff as the main speaker.



Her talk was 'Ecological Crisis and Orthodox Witness' in which she examined and challenged 3 attitudes to climate change denial: Pragmatic (what must be done?) Moral and Spiritual. Our belief is 'there is nothing unspiritual about matter', our ethics being grounded in an ethos of sophiology (Bulgakov).

There is a spiritual link between God and nature and man as part of nature. This resonates with Orthodox church tradition, the theology of creation and the theophanic tradition of encounter with God in all things.

God is present as all and in all things; human and non human (buildings, rock, earth, animals etc). Orthodox responses to nature include 1. Asceticism (limits on consumption, production) 2. Cosmic Liturgy (after Maximus). 3. Christian anthropology: human servanthood of creation (not stewardship/technical mastery). There is reciprocity and interdependence: a cosmic sobornost or catholicity of related entities.

There were about 60 people gathered primarily from Brighton, London and Oxford with some from Wales and Scotland and myself from Devon. The food and the rooms and the grounds made it a very comfortable setting to share good fellowship. There was a bar and a party on Saturday evening. Alongside the main talk seminars were offered on related topics such as Icons and Nature and Relationship with Animals. There was a children's programme too. On Sunday morning Archbishop Nikitas addressed us for 15 minutes and then took questions.

His vision is for the Divine Liturgy to be said in English in all the churches and inclusive of all nationalities and saints old and new. And also for the Archdiocese to be a place of ecumenism and dialogue with other Christians, religions and the secular. He reported 200 converts were baptized on Lazarus Saturday in London. In the Archdiocese as a whole 60% of new converts are single, professional men between 18 and 32 years old with the other 40% being families. He also wants to establish an English speaking Cathedral in London. As regards mindset he wants to encourage many more women trustees and foster a clergy and lay assembly of the entire Archdiocese. He encouraged the Deanery to identify much more with the Archdiocese. As Archbishop he reminded everyone that he is presiding over all of Europe. He also saw his role as being involved in political issues such as challenging secular views on identity politics and assisted suicide. He admonished us to live like Christians!



British Saints Conference at Walsingham

https://stseraphimstrust.org.uk/news/british-saints-conference/

Organized by Marcus Plested, an Oxford Classics academic now working in USA.

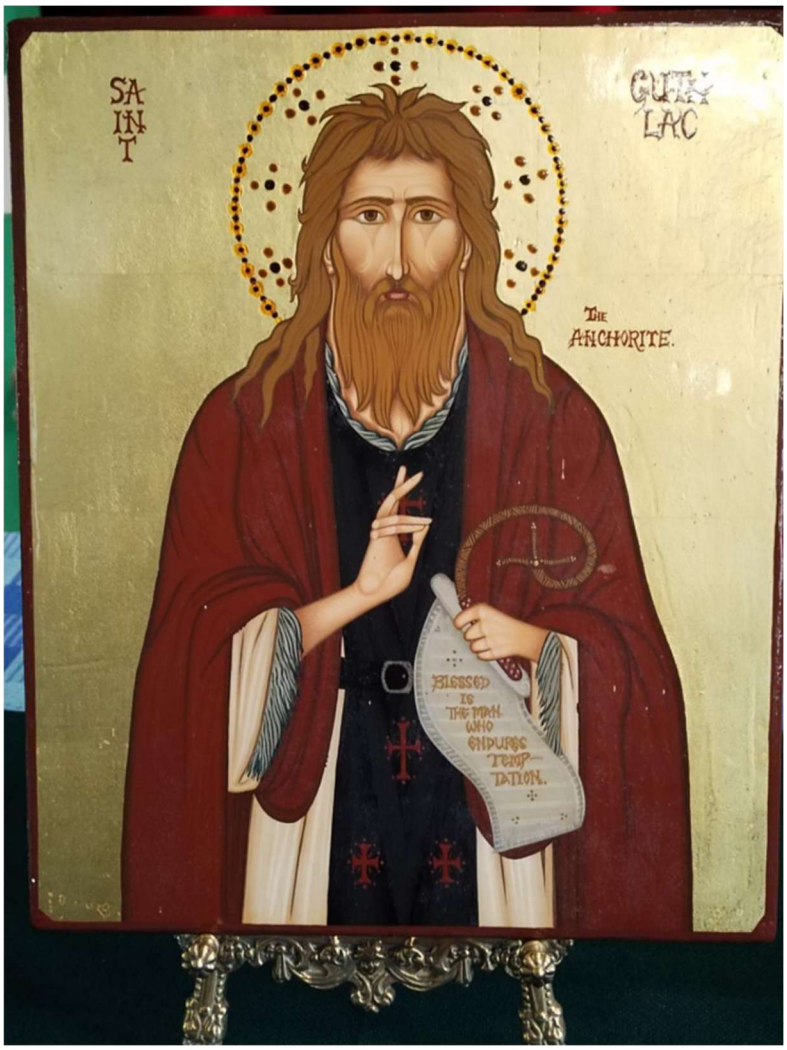
The theme explored the difference made to a culture that venerates the saints, unlike our modern democracy that does not. About 60 people attended from Friday evening to Saturday evening mainly from London, Oxford and Walsingham and nearly all Orthodox. Paul Kinsgnorth was the main speaker who opened with a talk on Wild Saints and closed with a talk on Has England lost its soul? In between Marcus did a history of British Saints followed by Fr Hall talking about Holiness and the Saints and a talk on St Guthlac by Dr George Younge on living as hermits/developing minimalism. Very good food and time of fellowship. I stayed at the Anglican Shrine which was excellent.

Good things!

Francis Rothery

At the Saints Conference they did have a book published by the Monastery of St John the Baptist at Essex. This connected British and Irish Saints to each day of the year.

The icon of St Guthlac was displayed at the front of the gathering throughout the Conference.



ORTHODOX PARISH OF THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS IN DEVON

SERVICES IN JULY

Saturday	5	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**6**	**4th Sunday after Pentecost**	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Saturday	12	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**13**	**5th Sunday after Pentecost** **Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council**	
		Typica	10.30 am
Saturday	19	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**20**	**6th Sunday after Pentecost** **PATRONAL FEAST** **HOLY, GLORIOUS PROPHET ELIAS**	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
		Followed by Bring & Share Meal at St James Hall	
Saturday	26	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**27**	**7th Sunday after Pentecost**	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am

SERVICES IN AUGUST

Friday	1	**Start of the Dormition Fast**	
Tuesday	5	Vespers	
Wednesday	6	**TRANSFIGURATION**	
		Diving Liturgy	10.30 am
		Followed by Blessing of Fruit	
Thursday	14	**Forefeast of the Dormition of the Mother of God**	
		Vespers	6.00 pm
Friday	15	**DORMITION**	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Sunday	**31**	Akathist 'Glory to God for All Things'	10.30 am

ORTHODOX PARISH OF THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS IN DEVON

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Saturday	6	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**7**	**Forefeast of the Nativity of the Mother of God**	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Monday	8	**NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**	
		NO SERVICE	
Saturday	13	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**14**	**EXALTATION OF THE VENERABLE AND LIFEGIVING CROSS**	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
		Followed by Bring & Share Meal at St James Hall	
Saturday	20	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**21**	**15th Sunday after Pentecost and Leavetaking of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.**	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Saturday	27	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**28**	**16th Sunday after Pentecost**	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am

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.

Date of next Parish AGM

Sunday 21 September

St James Hall

July

We celebrate…

1 July Wonderworking Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian (3rdC)
Saints Julius and Aaron, First Martyrs of Wales (c304)

2 July Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco (1966)
We wish Edward S a Happy Feast and Many Years!

3 July Translation of the relics of Hieromartyr Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow (1652)

4 July Venerable Andrew Rublev the Iconographer (14thC)
We remember Sid Andrei S. May his Memory be Eternal!

5 July Saint Morwenna, Hermit of Morwenstow, sister of Saint Nectan of Hartland (6thC)

7 July Great Martyr Kyriaki (c303)
We wish Kyriaki H a Happy Feast and Many Years!

8 July Great Martyr Procopios of Caesarea (303)
Venerable Martyr Urith of Chittlehampton (8thC)

10 July Saint Anthony of the Kyiv Caves, Founder of monasticism in Rus (1073)

11 July Saint Olga of Kyiv – Equal of the Apostles (969)
Saint Sophrony of Essex (1993

12 July Saint Veronica who was healed by Christ.
We wish Veronika M and Eve - Veronica B - a Happy Feast and Many Years!
We remember Veronica D. May her Memory be Eternal!

13 July Commemoration of the Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils
Saint Alexander Schmorrell of Munich (1943)
Fathers of the First Six Councils
Saint Just of Penwith
Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel
We wish Mitch Alexander a Happy Feast and Many Years!

15 July Holy Equal to the Apostles Grand Prince Vladimir, Enlightener of Rus (1015)
Saint Swithun, Bishop and Wonderworker of Winchester (862)

17 July Great Martyr Marina (Margaret) of Antioch in Pisidia (c303)
Passionbearers Czar Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra, Crown Prince Alexis and Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia (1918)

18 July Martyrs the Grand Duchess Elizabeth and the Nun Barbara (1918)
We wish Eliza S a Happy Feast and Many Years!

19 July Venerable Macrina, sister of Saint Basil the Great (4thC)

20 July Holy, Glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah) (9thC BCE)
Saint Alexis (Medvedkov) of Ugine, France (1934)
New Martyrs Saint Maria of Paris and Ravensbruck (1945) and her co-workers Fr Dimitry Klepinin (1944), Elias Fondaminsky (1942) and George (Yuri) Skobtsov (1944)
We wish Otto S and all Parishioners a Happy Feast and Many Years!
We wish Maria G and all our friends in the French Vicariate of Saint Maria of Paris and Saint Alexis of Ugine a Happy Feast and Many Years!

22 July Holy Myrrh-bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalen
We wish Margaret E, Mary S, Madeleine S and Michelle G a Happy Feast and Many Years!

24 July Saint Christina of Tyre (3rdC)
We wish Christine A, Christina S and Kirsty S a Happy Feast and Many Years!

25 July The Dormition of the Righteous Anna, mother of the Most Holy Mother of God
We wish Emma G-L a Happy Feast and Many Years!

27 July Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon (305)

28 July Saint Nicanor of the Seventy Apostles
We remember Archpriest Nicanor. May his Memory be Eternal!

31 July Saint Joseph of Arimathaea
Saint Germanus of Auxerre, opponent of Pelagianism in Britain (448)
Saint Neot, Hermit in Cornwall (c877)

August

We celebrate…

1 August The Procession of the Honourable Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord

2 August Saint Sidwell of Exeter (7th Century)
Saint Basil the Blessed of Moscow, Fool for Christ's Sake (1552)
We wish all Exonian parishioners a Happy Feast and Many Years!

3 August Holy Myrrh-Bearer Salome

5 August Saint John the Romanian of Chozeba Monastery (Jerusalem 1960)

6 August **We wish Father Christopher and all in the Parish of the Holy Transfiguration at Great Walsingham a Happy Feast of the Transfiguration and Many Years!**
We remember Sylvia B. May her Memory be Eternal!

7 August Saint Pimen the Ailing (1110) and Saint Pimen the Faster (14thC), of the Kyiv Caves

9 August The Apostle Matthias (c63)

10 August Archdeacon Martyr Lawrence of Rome (258)

11 August Saint Blane, Bishop of Bute (6thC)
We wish all members of the Community of Saint Nicholas in Dunblane a Happy Feast and Many Years!
We remember Fr Alexander W. May his Memory be Eternal!

13 August Saint Tikhon, Wonderworker of Zadonsk and All Russia (1783)
Saint Benjamin, Metropolitan of Petrograd (1922) Martyr under the Bolshevik Yoke

22 August Saint Alexis (Medvedkov) of Ugine (France, 1934)

23 August Saint Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons (202)

24 August Saint Kosmas of Aetolia, Equal-to-the-Apostles (1779)

26 August Martyrs Adrian and Natalia of Nicomedia (4thC)

28 August The Prophetess Anna, who met the Lord in the Temple
Venerable Moses the Ethiopian of Scete
We wish Anya K and Felicia F a Happy Feast and Many Years!
We remember Wendy Ann Robinson. May her Memory be Eternal!
We wish Moses (Josh) FW and Moses (David) O a Happy Feast and Many Years!

29 August The Beheading of the Holy, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (Fast Day)

30 August Saint Decuman of Watchet in Somerset, Monk and Martyr (7th)
Saint Rumon of Tavistock (6thC)

31 August Saint Aidan, first Bishop of Lindisfarne (651)
We remember Aidan C. May his Memory be Eternal!

September

We celebrate…

1 September **THE CHURCH NEW YEAR**
Day of Prayer for the Protection of the Environment

2 September Martyr Mamas of Caesarea in Cappadocia (3rdC)

4 September Holy Prophet and God-Seer Moses
New Martyr Gorazd, Bishop of the Czech Lands and Slovakia (1942) Executed by the SS for giving sanctuary to the assassins of Reinhard Heydrich, 'Butcher of Prague' and architect of the Holocaust
We wish Moses K a Happy Feast and Many Years!

5 September Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, Parents of St John the Baptist
We wish Zac L, Presbytera Elizabeth C, Alice S, Lily S and Elizabeth T a Happy Feast and Many Years!

6 September Saint Bega (Bee), Abbess of Copeland in Cumbria (7thC)
We wish Matushka Jenny Bega M and all those in the Parish of Saint Bega, Saint Mungo and Saint Herbert in Keswick a Happy Feast and Many Years!
We remember Fr John M. May his Memory be Eternal!

7 September Saint Kassiani the Melodist (9thC)

8 September	Saint Maria, Fool-for-Christ of Diveyevo (1931)
9 September	Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna
11 September	**5th anniversary of the repose of Fr Peter. May his Memory be Eternal!**
13 September	Saint Cornelius the Centurion, first gentile convert to Christianity
14 September	Repose of Saint John Chrysostom (407)
16 September	Saint Edith of Wilton (984) **We wish Edie O a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
17 September	Saint Sophia and her daughters Faith (Vera), Hope (Nadezhda) and Love (Lubov) (2ndC) **We wish Sophia R and Nadya K a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
21 September	**1st Anniversary of ordination to the Diaconate of Deacon Philip – we wish him Many Years!**
22 September	Saint Paraskeva, Fool-for-Christ of Diveyevo (1915)
23 September	The Conception of the Holy, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John
24 September	Great Martyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla (1st C) Saint Silouan of Mount Athos (1938)
25 September	Saint Sergius of Radonezh (1392)
26 September	Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian **We wish Father John a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
29 September	Hieromonk Kuksha of Odessa (1875-1964)

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.

The Newsletter is published **quarterly**.

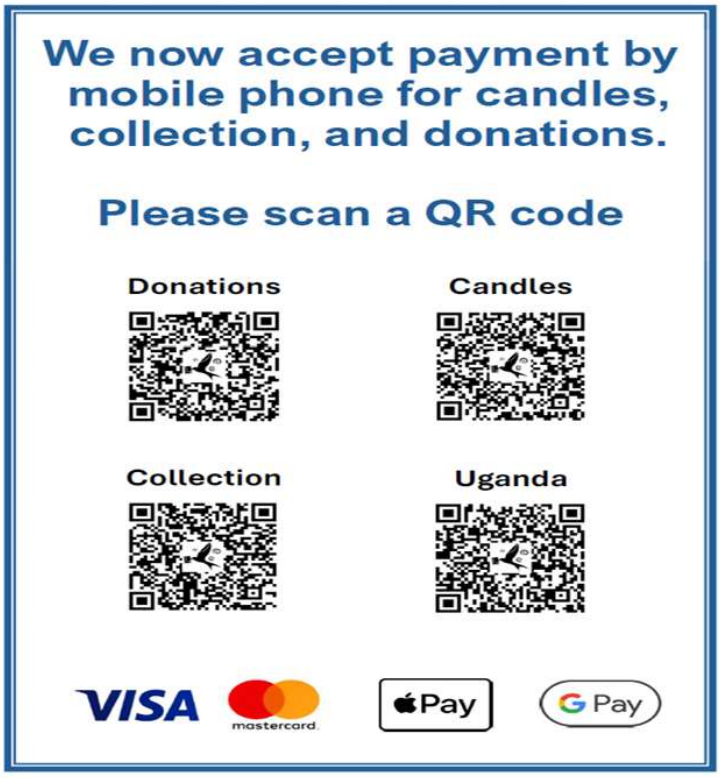
Contributions for the next edition (October-November-December) must reach Hugh by **31st August**.

To see more photos of this year's Deanery Conference & Festival please follow these links:

Jim Hyndman Photos from the Festival/Conference 2024 please click here.
For the Dominic Pote photos, click here.

Or go the Deanery website here: https://thyateira-deanery.uk/

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 - Quarterly is the newsletter of the Parish of the Holy Prophet Elias, Devon, Deanery of Great Britain, Archdiocese of Thyateira (Ecumenical Patriarchate)
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Deacon Philip Scorer: philip.scorer@gmail.com Tel: 07812 170139
Parish Secretary: Edward Skidelsky: hpeliasdevon@gmail.com
Parish Warden: Kyriaki Hadjiafxendi: Contact Deacon Philip (see details above)

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/

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 newsletter and all past newsletters can be downloaded here:
Parish Newsletter – Orthodox Parish of the Holy Prophet Elias in Devon