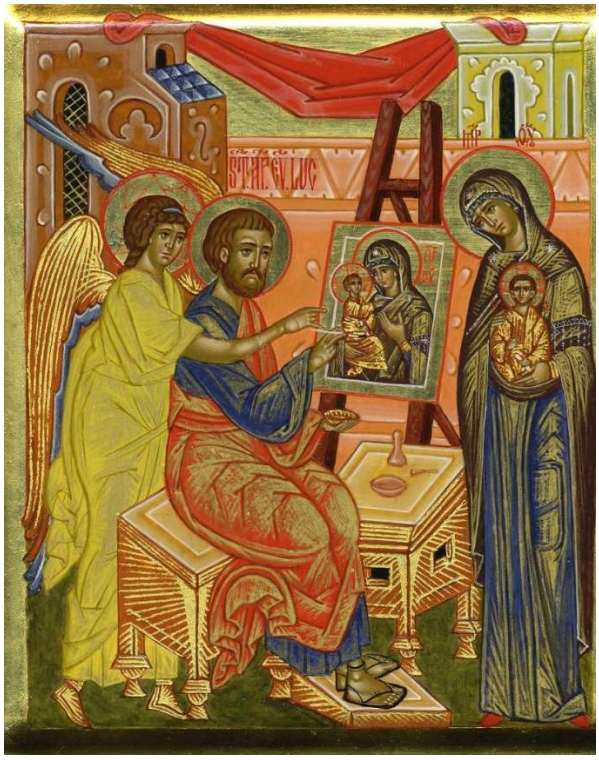
Prophet Elias - Quarterly

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

October – November – December 2025



Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

Troparion — Tone 5
Let us praise with sacred songs the holy Apostle Luke, the recorder of the joyous Gospel of Christ and the scribe of the Acts of the Apostles, for his writings are a testimony of the Church of Christ. He is the physician of human weaknesses and infirmities. He heals the wounds of our souls and constantly intercedes for our salvation!

In early Autumn the Gospel passages on both Sundays and weekdays move from St Matthew to St Luke; appropriately, as his feast falls during this period, on 18 October. (There are also some weeks with passages from St Mark, their extent dependent on the date of Easter.)

Who was Luke?

In Colossians 4.14 St Paul refers to him as "the beloved physician", and similarly at the end of 2 Timothy and Philemon he is mentioned as among the author's companions.

As well as the Gospel that bears his name he wrote the Acts of the Apostles – compare the opening passages of the two books. In the latter work when recounting the travels of Paul and his companions the subject of the narrative suddenly changes from "he" or "they" to "we" in chapter 16, presumably indicating Luke's appearance on the scene. (There is also an ancient tradition that the unnamed companion of Cleopas in the encounter with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Lk24.13ff) was Luke himself, but there is no evidence for this apart from appropriateness: canonical approval for this tradition, however, is given in the chants appointed for Lauds when the passage has been read at Matins.) Luke's accounts of Jesus's healing miracles show signs of having been written by a man with medical knowledge. He is also believed to have been an artist, painting the first icon of the Mother of God, with whom he may well have been acquainted – almost all the stories in which she figures occur in the first two chapters of his Gospel. He was certainly an artist in words, and to him we owe some of the best-loved of our Lord's parables, such as the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son and the (much misunderstood) Unjust Steward.

Kontakion — Tone 2
Let us praise the godly Luke: he is the true preacher of piety, the orator of ineffable mysteries and the star of the Church; for the Word, Who alone knows the hearts of men, chose him, together with wise Paul, to be a teacher of the gentiles!

Ecumenical Patriarchate - Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain

Deanery Children's Summer Camp - Wales 2025

Several parishioners from St Elias Parish took part in this year's children's camp, either by helping to set it up, take it down, as a child participant or leader. Here are some accounts of their experience from this year's camp.

A New Helper

This summer, I attended my first Orthodox Youth Camp (pre-camp), and it was an enjoyable experience. Over the course of three days, we worked together to build everything needed for the camp, from the kitchen and chapel to the tents for the children and ourselves. My first time sleeping in a tent was surprisingly not as bad as I thought it would be, aside from a little backache. Edward and Max joined on the second day to help raise the kitchen frame and put it together, and Edward even built a rather nice fireplace that we used throughout our time at camp. Much of the equipment was stored in a barn and had to be carried via van and set up at the campsite, a task mostly led by Philip and Otto with help from others rotating in.



Father Alexander also visited us for the whole time, and it was a blessing to meet him. I was interested to hear about his wife's beautiful iconography that was used at the camp chapel's iconostasis, featuring modern and old saints as well as local saints of Wales. Each evening, we gathered around the campfire for conversations about the lives of the saints, church history, and the meaning and history behind the youth camp tradition. With prayer, meals, and hard work, it was truly an unforgettable time, where I met other people of the faith from different areas and backgrounds.

Kenzie (Gabriel) Herbert

A New Camper

"This summer I was lucky enough to go to a summer camp. It is located in a picturesque place near a forest and a river. We were there with really good leaders. One of the tents was a chapel Every day we prayed in the morning and in the evening.



I have never swam in the river before and although the water in it was cold as ice, we swam almost every day. One day I could see two bats flying about the river.

One day we had Olympics and I enjoyed it, I even won in the egg and spoon rase competition.

I really liked the food too.

In the camp I made new friends who came there from different parts of the country. In the evenings we gathered around the campfire and sang songs. Maybe I will come next year with my sister too."

Vika Kalinichenko

A Camp Leader

I have been lucky enough to be a part of a family that has all grown up going to camp - especially with my late grandfather Father Peter, who would serve with Father Alexander as a deacon during chapel and help throughout camp with Irina.



Last year, I finally made my way up to becoming a leader after being a camper my entire life so I know that I can confidently speak from both perspectives. This camp gives children an opportunity to have an enjoyable summer experience whilst allowing them to feel closer to their community as an Orthodox Christian. They are able to partake in many fun activities as well as going to Chapel in the evenings and liturgy on Sunday. This is alongside having lessons on Theology and Church life – these can involve crafts and other activities for the younger campers.

Activities can span anywhere from wood collection, playing in the stream, singing around a campfire, playing games in the field to hiking on 'The Big Walk' (as it is commonly known) or travelling to see the church of St Issui. I know that I always enjoyed all the activities that were included, no matter how many times I had done them before.

The campers, of course, must eat throughout camp and this is made possible by our wonderful people in the Kitchen tent. Being able to eat a great meal in the middle of a field in Wales is truly a privilege that will always be appreciated. These meals begin and end with a prayer, led by Father Alexander, thanking God for the food we are about to eat. This is another easy, but wonderful way to connect to your faith each day, with a simple Prayer thanking God for the privilege he has given to you and those around you.

Throughout camp, I like to ask the campers how they have been enjoying themselves and most, if not all, tell me that they have been having an amazing time. The highlights are usually The Big Big Walk up to Sugarloaf Mountain, and 'Ents' (entertainments) -this entails being part of a performance, whether it be a comedy skit, singing a song, telling a story, or simply creating a bit of chaos on the stage. The kitchen staff create a performance each year, as do all the leaders which the campers always seem to enjoy.



I would absolutely suggest that kids come to this camp each summer. It is an amazing opportunity to have fun, create strong friendships, and connect with their faith and the community within Orthodoxy.

Eliza Scorer

Camp Blessing

St Gregory's Foundation

The work of SGF in former Communist countries for a variety of people in need is as urgent as ever. Their recent Newsletter includes reports of work with autistic children and young adults in both Moldova and Russia, as well as former street children in Georgia, and information about Moldovan and Georgian craft items obtainable from their online shop (https://stgregorysfoundation.org.uk).

Go to the "News" section of the above website for appreciations of **Irina von Schlippe**, the charity's founder, who died in June. These are well worth reading, not only for what they tell us about this "larger than life character" herself but for information about the beginnings of SGF. In one of them we read about how British Airways "*overlooked the amount of luggage we could take, so I always had about eight to ten extra suitcases full of collected second-hand clothes for the very poor in the city. On one occasion, I even took out a 'forest' of crutches as there was a basic lack of these in St Petersburg for disabled people.*"

Among the items on sale in their online shop are SGF's Christmas cards. These have become so familiar to our parishioners that we are no longer selling them in church, but some may still wish to buy them directly. Last year the PAC resolved to send an annual donation, so we will be continuing to support this important work.

Hugh Allen

Book Review:
A Silent Action: Engagements with Thomas Merton.
by Rowan Williams

Why contemplate? To enable me to see the demonic illusions of the society into which I was born and free me from self-deception. Desert monastics (2nd /3rd century AD) exposed demonic powers operating in their cities / church and excavated them from their own hearts. They vomited up their interior phantoms, doubters and doubles in the desert.

Essential Practices. Collusion is in 3 forms. First: turning stones to bread (turning freely provided food / land into status). Second: to fly (self-preserving hubris energized by fallen powers). Third: lust for worship / control (hubristic protection from one unified authority; the Empire / state). The monastic practices of counter-domination are chastity (transcending power abuse), poverty (transcending greed) and obedience to God (transcending Empire's idols / state worship / malignant nationalism).

Transformed Conversations: Desert monasticism gave birth to an 'interiorized monasticism' possible for ALL Christians. With a cleansed heart we can engage in a cosmic symphonic dance in conversation with all the elements around us. Merton's contemplative dialogue opened to him the riches of Orthodoxy, Protestantism, Zen Buddhism and the peace movement. Contemplation is the portal to 'everything' in God's kaleidoscopic creation.

Transformed Community Action. Peace activists know the futility of disconnected embittered action. Remember Elijah, suicidal after his hubristic encounter with the prophets of Baal? After the fire, the Silent Voice directs him on a path of realistic resistance. Merton wrestled to find a path of silent action, unfettered by angry activism or the disconnection of the church. Today we swim in a stream of left / right propaganda. Its deceptions live in our minds. Unless! Like our desert fathers and mothers we vomit up our hubris and calumny. Together, with the communion of saints and our brothers and sisters we can walk paths of silent action where everything belongs.

Francis Rothery

ORTHODOX PARISH OF THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS IN DEVON

SERVICES IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

OCTOBER

Wednesday	1	**THE PROTECTION OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**	NO SERVICE
Saturday	4	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**5**	17th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Typika	11.00 am
Saturday	11	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**12**	18th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
		Followed by Bring & Share Meal at St James Hall	
Saturday	18	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**19**	19th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Saturday	25	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**26**	20th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Typika	11.00 am

NOVEMBER

Saturday	1	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**2**	21st Sunday after Pentecost	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Saturday	8	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**9**	22nd Sunday after Pentecost	
		Typika, with Panikhida for Remembrance Sunday	10.55 am
		Followed by Bring & Share Meal at St James Hall	
Saturday	15	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**16**	23rd Sunday after Pentecost	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Friday	21	**PRESENTATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE**	NO SERVICE

ORTHODOX PARISH OF THE HOLY PROPHET ELIAS IN DEVON

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

		NOVEMBER	
Saturday	22	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**23**	24th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Saturday	29	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**30**	25th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Typika	11.00 am
		DECEMBER	
Saturday	6	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**7**	26th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
		Followed by Bring & Share Meal at St James Hall	
Saturday	13	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**14**	27th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Saturday	20	Vespers	6.00 pm
Sunday	**21**	28th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Wednesday	24	**EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**	
		Vigil	6.00 pm
Thursday	25	**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**	
		Divine Liturgy	10.30 am
Saturday	27		NO SERVICE
Sunday	**28**	29th Sunday after Pentecost	
		Typika, with Prayer for the New Year	11.00 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.

Please note the start time for Typika is 11am rather than 10.30am (apart from 9th November- Remembrance Sunday - where the service will start at 10.55am to allow for the two minute silence at 11am).

All services will be followed by coffee in St James Church Hall or by a Bring & Share Meal where indicated.

October

We celebrate…

1 October The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

2 October 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!

3 October Hieromartyr Dionysios the Areopagite, Bishop of Athens (96)
We wish Dionisius A a Happy Feast and Many Years!

6 October Holy Apostle Thomas
We wish Thomas S a Happy Feast and Many Years!

9 October Holy Apostle James, the son of Alphaeus the Righteous Abraham and his nephew Lot
Saint Dionysios (Denys) of Paris (c250)

10 October Saint Ambrose of Optina (1891)

11 October 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

12 October Commemoration of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787)
Saint Symeon the New Theologian (1022)

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

16 October The Centurion Longinus, who stood by the Cross of the Lord.

17 October Saint Lazarus whom Christ raised from the tomb, Bishop of Kition in Cyprus.

18 October Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke
We wish Luke D and Luke K a Happy Feast and Many Years!

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

23 October Holy Apostle James the Lord's Brother
We wish James T a Happy Feast and Many Years!

25 October The Saint Demetrius Commemoration of the Dead

26 October 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!

28 October Venerable Job the Wonderworker, Abbot of Pochaev (16thC)

29 October Martyr Anastasia of Rome (3rd C)
We wish Anastasia T a Happy Feast and Many Years!

30 October Saint Issui of Patricio (6thC) Patron Saint of the Children's Camp in South Wales.

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

November

We celebrate…

1 November Unmercenary Healers Cosmas and Damian of Mesopotamia (3rdC)

3 November Saint Winifred of Holywell (Treffynon) in North Wales (7thC)

6 November Saint Paul the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople (c350)
Saint Illtyd of Llanilltyd Fawr in South Wales (6thC)

8 November Synaxis of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salathiel, Jegudiel, Barachiel and Jeremiel.
We wish Michail C and Mike L a Happy Feast and Many Years!

9 November Saint Nektarios of Pentapolis (1920)

10 November Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian (1924)
We wish Charlie Arsenios a Happy Feast and Many Years!
11 November Saint Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours (397)
We wish Martin M and Martin O a Happy Feast and Many Years!
13 November Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (407)
We wish William O a Happy Feast and Many Years!
14 November Holy Apostle Philip
Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki (1359)
We wish Deacon Philip a Happy Feast and Many Years!
We wish Father Gregory Palamas a Happy Feast and Many Years!
15 November Saint Paisios Velichkovsky, Renewer of monasticism in Russia (1794)
16 November Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew
We wish Hugh A a Happy Feast and Many Years!
17 November Saint Hilda, Abbess of Whitby (680)
19 November Saint Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow (1867)
New Martyr Elias Fondaminsky, Co-worker with Saint Maria of Paris (1942)
20 November Saint Edmund, King of East Anglia and Passionbearer (869)
New Martyr Cyril, Metropolitan of Kazan, Victim of the Bolshevik yoke (1937)
22 November Martyrs Cecilia, Valerian, Tiburtius and Maximus, at Rome (c230)
23 November Saint Columbanus of Ireland, Abbot of Luxeuil in France and Bobbio in Italy (615)
Saint Alexander Nevsky (1263)
24 November Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria (c310) (Russian use – Greek use 25th)
We wish Catherine L a Happy Feast and Many Years!
25 November Saint Clement of Ochrid, Enlightener of the Bulgarians, founder of the first Christian university in Europe and Patron Saint of North Macedonia (916)
26 November Saint Stylianos of Paphlagonia, Protector of children (4th – 6thC)
27 November Saint Feargal, Bishop of Salzburg (784)
30 November Holy Apostle Andrew the First Called
We wish Andreas A a Happy Feast and Many Years!

December

We celebrate…

2 December Saint Porphyrios of Kafsokalyvia (Mount Athos) 1991
4 December Great Martyr Barbara and Martyr Juliana (c306)
Saint John of Damascus (c749)
We wish Varvara K a Happy Feast and Many Years!
6 December Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (c345)
7 December Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397)
9 December Prophetess Hannah the mother of the Prophet Samuel
We wish Anna C a Happy Feast and Many Years!
12 December Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker Patron Saint of Corfu (c348)
13 December Saint Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America (1837)
Virgin Martyr Lucia (Lucy) of Syracuse (304)
14 December Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
We wish Mother Sarah, Naomi S and Sally L a Happy Feast and Many Years!
15 December Saint Stephen, Bishop of Sourozh in Crimea (787)
Righteous Deborah - Holy Prophetess and Judge
We wish Debra B a Happy Feast and Many Years!
17 December Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Children (c600BC)
We wish Fr Daniel Kaddu in Uganda, Daniel L and Daniel W a Happy Feast and Many Years!
18 December Martyr Sebastian at Rome (3rdC), and his companions
20 December Hieromartyr Ignatios 'The God-Bearer' of Antioch (107)
Repose of Saint John of Kronstadt (1908)

21 December	We celebrate All the Righteous who pleased God, from Adam down to Joseph the Betrothed of the Mother of God. **We wish Adam R a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
25 December	The Adoration of the Magi, Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem who went to see the Lord. **We wish Christos P and Father Ian and all members of the Parish of the Nativity of Christ in Lewes a Happy Feast and Many Years!**
27 December	Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen
28 December	Apostle Nicanor the Deacon Saint Hilarion (Troitsky) Archbishop of Vereya, Hieromartyr under the Bolshevik yoke (1929) **We remember Father Nicanor - May hisr Memory be Eternal!**
29 December	The Holy Innocents, Infants slain by Herod in Bethlehem Righteous John the Barefooted, Fool for Christ's sake (Ukraine, 1849)
31 December	Saint Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of God

Saint Cyprian's in Uganda – How Our Support for the Parish Works

There are two streams of our funding for Saint Cyprian's. From the beginning, our parish has sent an agreed amount each year to Father Daniel, who has used it for church maintenance and expenses, support for parish orphans, school fees for poorer families and food and medical expenses for the destitute. To this we have added the contributions from the collecting box in Saint Anne's, which have grown considerably over the years. However, we were recently advised that the contribution from our parish account - most of which has attracted GiftAid - can only, under Charity Commission Regulations, go to a constituted body and not to a private individual. For this reason, since the Saint Cyprian's Parish Council can only fund strictly church affairs, from this year we will send our parish contribution of £750 to their Parish Council, while continuing to send the income from the collecting box - on which we do not claim GiftAid – direct to Father Daniel to fund his wider parish work. Over the past financial year this has amounted to around £1300, for which our sincere thanks are due to all those who have contributed so generously.

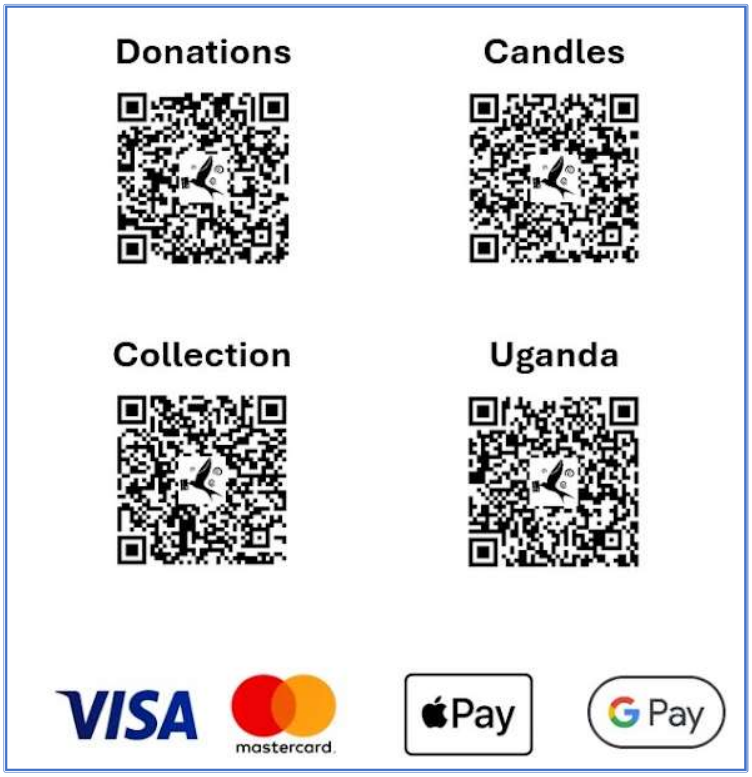
Martin Olsson

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 (January-February-March 2026) must reach Hugh by **30th November 2025**.

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)
Archbishop: His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas (Lioulias)

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Retired Archpriest: Fr John Marks
Serving priest: Fr Brandon Gallaher: fr.brandon.gallaher@gmail.com Tel: 07837 983433
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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