

Please can we have names and information for those we should remember in forthcoming newsletters for anniversaries, names days and other important dates. This can be handed in at the candle desk.

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Thank you to all those who gave so generously to the Kenya appeal. The total now stands at £294.21. We do hope to have some more to send them so we will continue to collect for them. If you are not in church and would like to contribute please send your cheque to the treasurer at 54 Ayr Way, Rise Park, Essex RM1 4UH, payable to: "The Russian Orthodox Church in London (EP) and please mark it "Kenya" on the back.

Please remember, especially when we do not have Services at St. Andrews, to check the timetable of our sister parish in Clapham. Website can be found at: www.orthodoxclapham.org

Parish Clergy

Parish Priest
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Assistant Priest
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The parish is under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Exarchate of Orthodox Parishes of Russian Tradition in Western Europe, the Right Reverend Basil, Bishop of Amphipolis.
Vicariate Office — 94a Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6JT. 01865 512701

The Dormition of the Mother of God (EP)



Orthodox Parish Worshipping at St. Andrew Holborn

Issue: #7; March, 2008

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Saturday: March 15th

5: 30 p.m.: Vigil

St. Chad,

Bishop of Lichfield

Sunday: March 16th

10:30 a.m.: The Divine Liturgy

Sunday of Orthodoxy

First Sunday in Lent

and then at:

06:30 p.m.: Pan-Orthodox Vespers

Greek Cathedral of the Divine Wisdom

All services are celebrated in Church Slavonic and in English.

The First Disciples

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Today is the first Sunday in Lent and also the day on which we celebrate the Triumph of Orthodoxy, the triumph referring of course to the victory of the Holy Icons over those who would have destroyed them.

The gospel appointed to be read is John 1:43-51. which recounts how Philip and Nathaniel became amongst the first to follow Christ — Philip so mild and unassuming, listened to Jesus and knew that He was the promised Messiah, and when the Lord said simply "follow me", Philip in like manner "simply" did so. But like Mary after the Annunciation could not contain her joy and went to her cousin, Elizabeth, so Philip in his new-found faith ran to see his friend, Nathaniel, to tell him that he had met the promised one of Israel. Nathaniel lived in Cana, a much bigger place than Philip's village and his reaction was that nothing great could come from a place like Nazareth which he obviously knew well and so he was unwilling to believe. But Philip was not to be put

off and he said “Come and see”.

The scripture tells us that together then they went to see Jesus and of course Nathaniel was too was captivated by Christ - especially when Jesus told him that He had “seen him under the fig tree” which was a Hebrew expression for one who is lost in contemplation.

The surrender of these two men to Our Lord must surely remind each of us of the time and the moment when we ourselves became consciously followers, disciples of Christ. Some of us had a religious childhood and have simply carried-on as it were. Others can point to a moment in time when they too like Philip and Nathaniel had to make a choice.

This particular reading in John ends with the Lord’s words about seeing the “Heavens opening and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man”. They were religious men and they knew that this was not a prophecy which would occur in their lifetime — they understood that it was a reference to the well-known vision of their father Jacob and by it Christ was, if you like, confirming His orthodoxy and they freely followed Him.

On this day, the triumph of the icons, let us each stop for a moment and remember the moment when we individually made the decision to be a closer follower of Christ. Let us firstly give thanks and secondly pray for perseverance to the end.

Amen

Sermon by Fr. John

LEGAL BILLS.... HELP!

As you know the Parish is attempting to contribute to support the legal costs of the 4 Holding Trustees of the Cathedral Trust who are being sued by representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate because following the dispute and uncertainty leading up to the forcible removal of Bishop Basil in May 2006 (and subsequent events) they very properly convened a meeting (as provided by the Trust Deed of 1944) to clarify which body should be the beneficiary under the Trust Deed and from whom the Holding Trustees should take instructions. As you know that meeting concluded that the relevant beneficiary is our Parish in Holborn. Litigation against the Holding Trustees is now proceeding and a bill [in the sum of around £25,000 [plus VAT]] will be rendered by our lawyers at the end of the financial year - to be paid within the following three months. We would therefore appeal urgently for your donation. Provided it is clear that the Holding Trustees have acted properly in fighting the case (and of course, they have) legal costs should be recoverable at a later stage from Trust assets. But clearly all this takes time and, in the meantime, bills must be settled. If you can help but are not in church, please send your cheque to: the treasurer, 54 Ayr Way, Rise Park, Essex RM1 4UH. It should be made payable to: “The Russian Orthodox Church in London (EP) and please mark it “Legal Bills” on the back.

TIMETABLE OF SERVICES

March 29th-April 20th 2008

Saturday 29th 5.30 pm Vigil Veneration of the Cross

*Sunday 30th Sunday of the Cross Third Sunday in Lent
10.30 am Liturgy St. Patrick, Apostle to the Irish*

APRIL

Saturday 5th 5.30 pm Vigil Akathist to the Mother of God

*Sunday 6th Forefeast of the Annunciation
St John of the Ladder Fourth Sunday in Lent
10.30 am Liturgy*

*Saturday 19th 5.30 pm Vigil of Palm Sunday
With Blessing and Distribution of Palms*

*Sunday 20th PALM SUNDAY Entry of the Lord into
Jerusalem 10.30 am Liturgy*