



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No 26 January '11

CHURCH NEWS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE - Thursday 6 January

9am Royal Hours

7pm Evening Service

CHRISTMAS DAY - Friday 7 January

10.10am Third & Sixth Hours

10.30am Divine Liturgy

After the Liturgy everyone is invited to the Christmas Buffet Lunch in the house.

ORDINATIONS

Archbishop Mark has agreed to ordain Reader Antony Bardsley to serve the local Orthodox congregation as the parish priest. At the Liturgy, on Friday 11 February, Vladika will ordain Antony to the order of subdeacon and deacon. On Saturday 12 February, Antony will be ordained to the priesthood. The Liturgy on both days will begin at 10am. This is another *first* in the life of our church here. Make a note of this in your new diary and do your utmost to be here on both days if you possibly can.

GRAVE CROSS

The wooden cross for Mary's grave has been made by Stephen Weston. This is a large Russian style cross and it will remain in place, marking the grave, until the ground has settled and the permanent marble cross can be installed. Hopefully, this will be possible in time for the first anniversary on 15 November 2011 which will, in effect, be observed as *Founder's Day*.

IKONS

We have now acquired the following ikons from the wish list: All Saints, the Seven Oecumenical Councils, St Gregory Palamas, St Mary of Egypt, the Holy Napkin and the Healing of the Blind Man.

PORCH

Last winter it became obvious that a porch is necessary to protect the West doors of the church from the rain. The builders, T J Creations, are preparing some sketches of possible options so that the members of the committee can decide on the best solution.

OUR CHURCH ON YOUTUBE

Mark has made a small collection of pictures of our church and this can be viewed by going to Youtube and typing in *Churchmettingham*.

MEMORY ETERNAL

Many of you will be familiar with the work of the talented artist Grace Meeking. Her church name was Mary; her name-saint being St Mary Magdalene. *The Orthodox Chronicle* (April 1966) records that she was received into the Orthodox Church on 11 March 1966. St George Orthodox Information Service has published five of her designs, including the Jesus Prayer, as prayer cards. Also several of her paintings have been published as Christmas cards. Grace-Mary reposed in the Lord in the early hours of Monday 20 December. She had been suffering from a particularly nasty mouth cancer. Surgery had made it difficult for her to speak and impossible to eat anything other than liquids. Recently she had received hospice care but her condition improved enough for her to return to her home in Windsor. Grace-Mary was multi-talented as a painter, designer and calligrapher. She will be

greatly missed.

May God grant her a place of refreshment, light and peace. Memory Eternal.

CHRIST IS BORN, GLORIFY HIM!

In his Christmas sermon in 1962, St John the Wonderworker says:

The Church now calls us to meet Christ Who comes from heaven. What can we do in order to meet Him like the Magi, and not like Herod? "You who desire life, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." It tends to be hard to do this; we are weak when it comes to everything good. But the Son of God even came for this: in order to strengthen us. Not for naught was He born in Bethlehem, which signifies "house of bread." He feeds us with heavenly food, His flesh. "God, the Lord and Creator of all, as a babe in the flesh, is worshipped in a poor manger, crying out: eat My body and through faith be made steadfast." These words of the divine Babe are directed to us. Let us hearken to His call! Let us follow the Magi; let us hasten with the shepherds! Our churches are now that cave of Bethlehem. Not illusory, but in reality does He, Who is now being born in His most pure flesh, rest in them. Let us worship Him; let us offer as a gift our thoughts and desires; let us confess our sins, and let us taste of His immaculate Body and Blood. Whoever did not do this earlier, let him at least accomplish it now, when the star of Bethlehem is already shining! Our minds will be enlightened and the heart will hear:

"Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will among men!"

Saint Basil the Great

St Basil was born in AD329 into a distinguished and pious family at Caesarea, in Cappadocia.. His grandmother (Macrina), his brothers Gregory (of Nyssa) and Peter (of Sebastea) and sister Emelia are all numbered among the saints. In his youth, he spent fifteen years in the schools of Caesarea, Constantinople and Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences of that time. His colleagues at that time were St Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. He was deeply attracted to the monastic life and, and having become a monk, hoped to spend his life in monastic solitude. This aspiration was not realised because in 364 he was called to serve as a priest in the diocese of Caesarea. The Arian controversy was causing a serious problem in church life at that time.

In 370, Basil succeeded Eusebius, who is remembered as a church historian, as Bishop of Caesarea. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful, but stings the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, apologetical, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him. This Divine Liturgy is celebrated ten times throughout the year: the First of January, his feast day; on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord; on the eve of Theophany of our Lord (Baptism of Christ); all Sundays of Great Lent, except Palm Sunday and, in Holy Week, on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday. St. Basil died peacefully on 1 January AD379, and was translated into the Kingdom of Christ. He is commemorated in the Church Calendar on 1 January.

TRADITION IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The following paragraph is taken from a much longer article written by Archimandrite Lazarus (Moore) and published in sections in several issues of the *Orthodox Chronicle* in 1968.

The Church cannot change or err, for she is the truth; a holy unity. She cannot acknowledge as error what she has ever acknowledged as truth. So (Alexei) Khomiakov rightly says: "Having declared, by a General Council and by common consent, that it is possible for any private person or for any bishop or patriarch to err in his teaching, the Church cannot admit that a particular private person, or bishop, or patriarch could be preserved from falling into error in doctrine, or that they are kept from going astray, by any special grace. By what would the earth be sanctified if the Church were to lose her sanctity? And where would be the truth if her judgement of today were opposed to that of yesterday? In the Church, that is to say, in her members, false doctrines do originate: but then the infected members fall away and form a heresy or schism, without sullyng the holiness of the Church".

DATES FOR YOUR 2011 DIARY

Monday 28 February - Beginning of Cheesefare Week
Sunday 6 March - Forgiveness Sunday
Monday 7 March - First day of Great Lent
Sunday 13 March - Triumph of Orthodoxy - First Sunday in Great Lent
Sunday 17 April - Palm Sunday - The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem
Sunday 24 April - Pascha - Easter Day
Wednesday 18 May - Mid Pentecost
Thursday 2 June - Ascension Day
Sunday 12 June - Pentecost / Trinity Sunday
Sunday 19 June - All Saints Day

NAMEDAYS - To all who will celebrate a nameday this month, we send congratulations and wish you Many Years.

9 January - Sunday after Christmas - Joseph Meyer
9 January - St Stephen the Protomartyr - Stephen Masterson
15 January - St Seraphim of Sarov - Serafima Hopper
27 January - St Nina, Enlightener of Georgia - Nina Vinogradova
All dates above given according to the regular civil calendar for convenience.

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God *Joy of All Who Sorrow*
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REGULAR SERVICES: Every Sunday 10.30am - Every evening 6pm
Extra services for festivals and saints days will be announced in the bulletin.
e-mail churchmettingham@aol.com Website www.joyofallwhosorrow.org.uk
Cheques for the church fund should be made payable to "*Joy of All Who Sorrow*" Church.
The account is in HSBC Bank, 3 New Market, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 9HQ
Account No 71395912 Sort Code 40-09-24