



“JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW”

No 3 February '09

BUILDING PROGRESS

At the time of writing (last week of January), the builders are beginning to move the completed sections of the church onto the site with the aim of starting the construction of the church on Monday 2 February. The actual construction of the church should take about a week but, in view of the weather forecast, this might be somewhat optimistic. Certainly we hope that by Sunday 15 February it will be possible to begin using our church.

SERVICES

There will always be a service on Sunday morning at 10am. Usually this will be a Liturgy but sometimes will be Hours and Typica.

In addition we will sing the Akathist in honour of the Mother of God *Joy of All Who Sorrow* every Friday evening at 6 o'clock. At this service we will pray for the health, welfare and salvation of all who have asked for prayers. Please use the form enclosed with this bulletin to send us the names of all the people you would like be commemorated. Remember, we only need the Christian names because there are no surnames in Heaven.

DIRECTORY

The Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist publishes the *Directory of Orthodox Parishes and Clergy in Britain and Ireland* in January each year. The 2009 edition contains details of our new church here in Mettingham. Copies of the directory are available at £3.50

LOGO

Our friend Peter Smith is designing a church logo which will be used on all our church publications in future.

BENEFACTORS

In one of the litanies, in the Liturgy, we pray for the *founders and benefactors of all churches and monasteries*. Thus all donors are prayerfully remembered in perpetuity. No general appeal for funds has been issued but the provisional committee has opened a bank account into which monies, for the adornment and maintenance of the church, can be paid. The treasurer reports that some £7,000 has been given or promised already. In addition, ikons, vestments, altar vessels, Gospel book and furniture are being donated. May God bless all who have helped to adorn a worthy place of worship here in Mettingham.

The church account is in HSBC Bank in Beccles. Account number 71395912 and the Sort Code is 40-09-24. Please make cheques payable to “*Joy of All Who Sorrow*” Church.

NEW PATRIARCH

On 27 January Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad was elected as Patriarch of Moscow in succession to the recently reposed Patriarch Alexey II. We wish the new patriarch - Many Years.

PRAYER BOOK

A few years ago St George Orthodox Information Service acquired the right to print a facsimile copy of the original Jordanville Prayer Book. This contains the translations of Archimandrite Lazarus (Moore), of pious memory, which though loved by many people, unfortunately have been abandoned by the editors of Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville. The original print-run of this facsimile edition sold out last year but we have now printed more copies. This hardback edition is available at £14.50 per copy.

THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

Sunday 8 February is the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee. On this Sunday the Gospel reading in the Liturgy is Luke 18: verses 10-14 in which we hear about two men who went into the Temple in Jerusalem to pray. The Pharisee represented a class who were very concerned with all the details of law and custom. This particular one boasted of his exact adherence to all rules of behaviour including fasting twice a week. The publican was humble and he prayed *God be merciful to me a sinner*.

We, Orthodox Christians, usually fast on Wednesday and Friday. Although in some festival periods there is a dispensation. The Wednesday Fast reminds us that it was on a Wednesday that Christ was sold by Judas for thirty pieces of silver. Friday is a penitential day because it is the day on which Christ was crucified. In the week following the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee we do not fast on Wednesday and Friday to remind us not to follow the Pharisee and fall into the sin of pride.

The prayer of the Publican has an echo in the Jesus Prayer. The prayer rope, (in Russian - *chotki*) sometimes misleadingly called the "Orthodox rosary", is made of wool or cord. There are not beads, as on a rosary, but knots. The prayer is *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner*. This can be repeated any number of times. The chotki is not really a counting device but it more an aid to concentration. As you can see, the Jesus Prayer is a prayer for mercy unlike the Pharisee's prayer which, in essence, says to God *Look at me, I am so very virtuous*.

LAMPS AND CANDLES

Everything in the customs and disciplines of the Orthodox Church has a meaning or is symbolic in some way. The visual aspects of the church, architecture, ikons etc are always striking. One obvious thing is the presence of lamps and candles in the church. Indeed sometimes lamps are even placed on the graves in the cemeteries in Orthodox countries.

A perpetually burning lamp identifies an object or place as something holy. Thus lamps burn in the altar, and at shrines and ikons. Also, near the ikons, and at shrines containing the relics of the saints, there is always provision for the faithful to light votive candles for their own intentions. Indeed, the lighting of candles is something of a symbol that even transcends barriers of religion and ethnicity. This can be seen in television news bulletins where there is a gathering because of a disaster, a death or some special cause, people hold candles or set them down in some special spot as a memorial or to symbolise hope.

So when we enter church, our first action is to venerate that main ikon/s and light candles. Symbolically this represents the fact that God gives us the light of Truth and we express the fact that our souls burn with love for Him.

In the 19th Century book *Manual of the Orthodox Church's Divine Services* we read, "For the illumination of a church, two things are needed; oil and wax. Oil, yielded by the fruit of the olive tree, is symbolic of grace, indicating that the Lord sheds his grace on men, while men on their side are ready to offer Him, in sacrifice, deeds of mercy. The pure wax, collected by the bees from fragrant flowers, is used as a token that the prayers of men offered from a pure heart are acceptable to God". (editorial note- in view of modern sensitivities concerning terminology, it should be remembered that the above quotation is from an old book in which "men" means all humankind and not just males!)

E-MAIL

Please note that the e-mail address for the church is churchmettingham@aol.com
Also the church's website should be established by the end of this month.

REPLY SLIP to

“Joy of All Who Sorrow” Church, The White House, Low Rd, Mettingham, Suffolk NR35 1TP
Telephone 01986 895176

Please add the following names to the intercessions list for commemoration before the ikon of the Mother of God *Joy of All Who Sorrow* and light a candle for all who are listed here.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

PRAYER BOOK - £14.50

This hardback book contains Morning and Evening Prayers, the Liturgy and numerous other devotions.

Please sendcopy/copies

SAINT HERMAN CALENDAR 2009 - £6.00

This contains details of all the festivals and saints commemorated each day throughout the year, together with the bible readings for every day and details of the various fast days.

Please sendcopy/copies

2009 DIRECTORY OF ORTHODOX PARISHES & CLERGY IN BRITAIN & IRELAND - £3.50

This is a useful handbook for travellers.

Please send.....copy/copies

AKATHIST - Mother of God *Joy of All Who Sorrow*

There is no actual charge for this booklet.

Please send.....copy/copies

Please find enclosed my cheque for £ .

Revd/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss.....
.....
.....