



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No. 153 January, 2022



“Fasting for forty days, we will reflect upon and receive from the Virgin, the living Word - not written upon stone - but born Incarnate, and we will commune of His Divine Body.”

**St Symeon of Thessalonika
(+1429)**

Notes & Jottings

CALENDARS

Demand for copies of the [2022 St Herman Calendar](#) was underestimated and we have sold out. A supplementary supply was ordered and, at the times of writing, is currently in transit. It could arrive within the next few days. If you have not already ordered a copy, please do so without delay. The calendars retail at £9.50 per copy.

COLLEGE

The double doors, leading from the breakfast room into the courtyard, had become decrepit and ill fitting, causing quite a lot of draught. They have now been completely restored, fit perfectly and look like new. Other works have been untaken including cleaning the drainage system. This brings us to the constant battle with Nature.

Trees are beautiful, and in many ways beneficial. In our extensive grounds there are numerous mature trees including Ash, Beech, Willow, Birch, Walnut and Sycamore. In addition, there are Sequoias that are 150 years old, plus yew and many other evergreen trees and conifers. Also, there are numerous fruit trees and a vast variety of flowering trees and shrubs including Lilac, Wisteria and Japonica. The disadvantage is that the falling leaves block the gutters on the both the church and the house every autumn. The clearing of the gutters revealed that, in some cases, downpipes were blocked with vegetation. Unhappily, many decades ago both Wisteria and Japonica were planted against the walls of the house by previous owners. We've all seen buildings, in other places, almost lost under a blanket of Ivy, Virginia Creeper or Russian Vine. Visually they may look impressive but the damage being done to the building can be serious and immensely costly to repair. When damp gets into masonry it can have long term consequences. Here at the college, bad is being made worse by wooden window-sills, which are rotten and letting dampness penetrate the walls. Drastic action is needed. Sad though it is, the rampant Wisteria has to be cut down because over the years it has pulled drainage pipes off the walls, blocked gutters, grown under the slates on the roof and even reached the chimney stacks. Very drastic pruning only seems to stimulate even more vigorous growth and the building suffers as a result. The only course of action now it to cut down all the vegetation growing against the building, repair walls where the rendering is cracked and loose, replace the rotten window-sills and repaint the exterior - a daunting prospect.

CHRISTMAS DAY

If we are to trust the latest news, no additional limitations will be imposed by the government. Therefore, we should be able to proceed with the Liturgy, followed by the Christmas buffet in the college dining room, as in former years. May God grant that nothing goes wrong to disrupt this plan.

TRUSTEE REPOSES

Nicholas Morgan, a trustee of Mettingham Orthodox Trust and our accountant, ended his earthly pilgrimage on Monday 27 December. Nicholas had been in poor health for several years. We send our condolences to his widow, Margaret, and his family on their sad loss. **Memory Eternal!**

NAMEDAYS

To all who are celebrating a nameday at this time, we send congratulations and wish them:

Many Years!

2 January – **Rest of St John of Kronstadt** – John Steel

Sunday after Christmas - **St Joseph the Betrothed** - Archpriest Joseph Skinner, Joseph Meyer

9 January – **St Stephen, Protomartyr** – Stephen Ward

16 January – **St Seraphim of Sarov** – Seraphim Collins, Serafima Hopper, Seraphima Dembri

23 January – **St Gregory of Nyssa** – Grigorie Sacaliuc

30 January – **St Anthony the Great** – Priest Antony Bardsley



COLLEGIATE & PARISH CHURCH OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW

JANUARY 2022

Sunday 2nd January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy
(Sunday before the Nativity | St John of Kronstadt)

✠ Friday 7th January ✠

Nativity of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ
10.30am ~ Hours and Festal Liturgy

Sunday 9th January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy
(Sunday after Nativity | Commemoration of the holy Ancestors of God)

Sunday 16th January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy
(Sunday before Theophany | Holy Prophet Malachi)

✠ Wednesday 19th January ✠

Feast of the Theophany of our Lord & Saviour
10.10am ~ Hours and Festal Liturgy
with Great Blessing of Water

Sunday 23rd January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy
(Sunday after Theophany | St Theophan the Recluse)

Sunday 30th January

10.10am ~ Hours and Divine Liturgy
(St Anthony the Great)