

THE ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST.ANNE, NORTHAMPTON

PARISH MEETING

Sunday 15th December at the end of Divine Liturgy

Attending the meeting

Anna Holden
Joshua Curtis
Elizabeth Curtis
Deacon James
Peter Cousins
Sarah Faulkner
Fr Timothy
Elizabeth Nash
Joseph Gobbos
Elena Syneou

Apologies

Seraphim Alton Honeywell

First item-Parish Priest's Report

Fr Timothy gave a blessing

Minutes of the last meeting approved and signed off

Parish

Most notable event since the last PAC is the election, consecration and enthronement of our new Archbishop Job of Telmissos. He has had a long relationship with the Archdiocese and was ordained by Archbishop Gabriel of blessed memory. He is young and multi-lingual, so will be a huge asset to the archdiocese. The expense of going to Paris for the election was high, but will be worth it in the end. It's a shame that we could not afford nor had the time to attend his enthronement in the Cathedral. Pictures on the Deanery website at www.exarchate.org.uk.

With Fr Tim's University workload in mind, and an increased expectation that he engage in overseas travel, a request has been put to the Dean, Father Patrick, and to Archbishop Job, that Fr Dcn James is ordained as St Anne's second priest. He was asked beforehand! We await the conclusion of the Archbishop.

International travel has also been prompted by a lot of overseas interest in developing the Jesus Prayer, with two recent trips to Moscow, and a third planned for May. Further, Father Daniel Cabagnols of the parish at St Genevieve du Bois (the Orthodox cemetery in the suburbs of Paris) is also keen to twin with us and set up a Jesus Prayer group, including a possible international seminar in the late summer. Fr Tim is awaiting the blessing of Archbishop Job to proceed with these opportunities.

Glad to report that the church skylight has now been robustly fixed and anti-climb panels fixed to the perimeter walls. This should eliminate any risk of children trying to climb on the roof and falling in. Fr Tim presented a 'wish list' of items that the parish could do with if someone offered to donate. We have everything we need, and the remaining items are 'nice to haves' for a fully appointed parish, but are big ticket items.

Fr Tim is awaiting on Seraphim's advice on charitable status for St Ragner property trust. Fr Tim has also to sort out the Deanery Charitable Incorporated Organisation details so that the Deanery Trust can become a minor trustee for St Ragner's, as per the changes to the deanery statutes.

Second item-Financial Report

Current account is approx. £5800 and approx. £1000 in the hardship fund.

An expensive quarter for the Parish BUT everything is now insured repaired and paid up to date

Annual payments made for the heating fire and burglar alarm.

Public Liability insurance paid and copy of the certificate is on the notice board.

First repayment of our loan from Oxford parish is paid

Over the next quarter I will change our payments on to Direct Debit to spread the cost

Due in January is our subscription to the deanery.

Third item-Hardship Fund

It was decided that more accountability was needed when spending monies from the hardship fund.

Clear guidelines are needed

Set amounts of money can be given copies of receipts given to the treasurer for account purposes.

Individual situations will always be taken into consideration.

Pastoral care Priests to have a discretionary fund of £30 to use as they wish, Parishioners or those known to the Parish we will give a cash donation, non-Parishioners we would give advice on other agencies e.g. Salvation Army, Emmaus who are there to help members of the general public in times of hardship.

Running alongside the Hardship fund will be the Bursary fund used for when people have hardship paying for conference camp etc.

If you have any financial worries that you feel the Parish could help with please speak to Fr Tim or Deacon James this would always be confidential.

Fourth item-Future Parish Events

Study weekend on Friday the 24th January until 26th January we have 12 people signed up (not including Parishioners).

Order tickets via Eventbrite:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/transfiguration-the-icon-as-text-and-mission-study-weekend-tickets-9860892194?aff=efbevent>

The Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist enables English-speaking members of the several Orthodox Church Traditions in the British Isles and Ireland to come together, and through prayer, discussion and mutual friendship, deepen their commitment to, and understanding of, the Orthodox Christian faith.

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The theme of year's study weekend is prompted by the idea that the icon itself acts as a text. The Icon is something that can be read and is also a tool for mission. It would be impossible to study all Icons, so the speakers this year have been asked to look at iconography through the text and Icons of the Feast of the Transfiguration, exploring what the event means for faith and mission. The speakers have been selected for their experience in mission, theological expression and Iconographic art and will apply their own interpretation of the main topic.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Metropolitan Bishop Kallistos Ware

"The Transfiguration of Christ in the Gospels and the Church's Mission to a Suffering World"

Fr Andreas Andreopoulos

"The icon as sign, reading the icon of the Transfiguration as a text"

Aidan Hart

"The Icon as Flower and Fragrance: The Word as Seed"

Fr Timothy Curtis

"Mission in Northampton and the Role of the Orthodox Parish in it"

Any other business

Elizabeth Nash asked if we could donate a prayer book to the local hospitals. Fr Tim to create a book for hospitals "worship pocket companion for healing"

It was decided to move Vespers from a Monday to Saturday to be the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month

The Russian group is going from strength to strength many thanks for all of Elena Syneou's efforts this group meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 4pm

It was decided because of Priests and Parishioners commitments to change Vespers from a Monday to a Saturday, these will be on the 1st Saturday of the month at 4:30 a Family Vespers and the 3rd Saturday of the month at 6pm Great Vespers

Date of the next meeting

Sunday 16th February after the Divine Liturgy

A reminder:

Divine Liturgy is at 10:30 every Sunday

Jesus Prayer an opportunity for quiet prayer 7:30 every Wednesday