



St John's Church News: **No 1: March 2009**

ЦЕРКОВЬ СВТ. ИОАННА ШАНХАЙСКОГО
ST JOHN'S RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Military Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 2AN

His Holiness Kyrill, Patriarch of Moscow and All the Russias
His Eminence Mark, Archbishop of Great Britain and Ireland

Our Mission

After three months in our new, God-sent Church, for which we in Colchester have waited for nearly forty years, we have begun issuing this bulletin, which will appear monthly.

In Colchester we are continuing the mission that we had for over eleven years in much more isolated Felixstowe. Our mission is to all Orthodox in Colchester and the surrounding area, who wish to live in conformity with the norms of Orthodox life and the Orthodox calendar. All nationalities are of course welcome and this is why at least 50% of our services are always in English. This is not only the local language of English people who wish to join the Orthodox Church, but also the common language of all Orthodox, whatever their nationality. At the present time we have eleven nationalities, including Ukrainian, English, Russian, Latvian, Lithuanian, French, Bulgarian, Romanian, Cypriot, Georgian and Polish.

Confession and Contact

For Confessions before the Liturgy (Saturdays, Sundays or at other times), Baptisms, Weddings, House Blessings, Car Blessings etc:

о. Андрей / Fr Andrew:

T: 01394 273820

E: frandrew_anglorus@yahoo.co.uk

W: www.orthodoxengland.org.uk

Second Priest

We are delighted to announce that we now have a second priest. Igumen Sergey (Armstone) joined our Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia in 1966, becoming a rassophore monk in 1973. We have known Fr Sergey personally since 1981. His return to the Russian Church took place at our Cathedral in Harvard Road in London on Friday 20 February through Archbishop Mark. Fr Sergey lives some way from Colchester near Clacton, where he has a tiny chapel in his house. We ask him to pray for us all during his monastic services. We are very pleased to have his help, wish him and ourselves great spiritual profit from his experience and warmly extend our hand of friendship and appreciation to him.

St John's Church School

We are hoping to open our St John's Russian Church School very, very soon. There will be two classes and the school will take place in St John's Hall after the Liturgy between approx. 11.45 and 1.15 on Sundays. Children will be taught Russian language, culture and catechism. For further details please contact Natasha Greenwood on 01206 330723.

St John's Russian Community Centre

It has been suggested that a club or centre for the Russian Community could meet regularly one evening a week in St John's Hall. If you would be interested in this excellent idea, please contact me initially.

New Icons

We have been very pleased to receive the four remaining icons for the bottom row of our iconostasis and six icons of the Twelve Great Feasts for the top row. The four large icons are of St Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of Alaska, St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, formerly Bishop of San Francisco (like St John much later), St Nicholas of Zhicha, a close friend of St John who was one of the bishops who consecrated St John, and St Alexis of Carpatho-Russia, who was a close friend of St John. We are hoping that, as promised, the remaining icons will arrive from Moldova for Pascha (19 April this year).

Ipswich Parishioners

We have been heartened in the last three months to see the fidelity of our parishioners (mainly Romanian) who lived in Ipswich, attended the church when it was temporarily in Felixstowe and now come to our permanent home in Colchester.

Bell

We now have the church bell in the bell-tower, which is controlled electronically, in working order. We thank Alban Phillips for his technical expertise. At some point in the future we are hoping to buy a full set of five bells from Russia.

Visit from Bob Russell M.P.

On 17 February, we had the pleasure of showing the local Member of Parliament, Bob Russell, around St John's Church. Mr Russell is what can be called 'a Colchester patriot' and was a town councillor for 31 years for the New Town ward in which St John's Orthodox church is situated. He has known our church very well since childhood and we were able to talk about old times and common acquaintances in Colchester.

He was delighted to see the work we had done both outside and inside the church. He actually believed that we had had the outside of the church repainted – in fact we had had it washed down by waterjet. He was pleased to see the care we had taken of this part of Colchester's heritage. He was especially interested to see the large icons in our chapel of All the Saints of the Isles, which depict Sts Edmund and Audrey. He holds St Edmund in high esteem and his wife's name is Audrey.

Bob Russell was much amused by the irony of history that a church built for the anti-Russian Crimean War is now a Russian church and he stated that virtually all wars are futile. (We should recall that Mr Russell is a Liberal Democrat and his political party was the only one which refused to back the Blairite invasion of Iraq). Mr Russell was helpful to us in obtaining our church and always supported our tender. He is now going to write to the local Highways Committee on our behalf in the hope that a sign indicating 'Orthodox Church' can be set up in the appropriate part of the town centre, near St Botolph's roundabout.

Parking

You are welcome to park in front of and along the sides of the Church. However, space there is limited to only 16 cars. We remind you that on Sunday mornings it is easy and free to park in the many spaces in surrounding streets and also further down Military Road, towards St Botolph's. (Please do not park in spaces for residents and permit-holders only).

Services in March

Saturday 28 February: 5.30 Vigil

Sunday 1 March: Прощеное воскресенье / Sunday of Forgiveness:
10.00 Hours and Liturgy followed by Vespers of Forgiveness

Monday 2 March: Начало Великого Поста / Beginning of the Great Fast

Saturday 7: 5.30 Vigil

Sunday 8: Торжество Православия / Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy:
10.00 Hours and Liturgy followed by a short service for the Conversion of Non-Orthodox

Saturday 14: 5.30 Vigil

Sunday 15: Свт. Григорий Палама / Sunday of St Gregory Palamas:
10.00 Hours and Liturgy

Saturday 21: 5.30 Vigil

Sunday 22: Крестопоклонная / Sunday of the Cross: 10.00 Hours and Liturgy

Saturday 28: 5.30 Vigil

Sunday 29: Преп. Иоанн Лествичник / Sunday of St John of the Ladder:
10.00 Hours and Liturgy

Archpriest Andrew Phillips