



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No 45 August 2012



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

HIEROMONK SERAPHIM (ROSE)

The Transfiguration counted by the Church as one of the “Twelve Great Feasts”, had an important place in the Church calendar already in the fourth century, as the homilies and sermons of such great Fathers as St John Chrysostom, St Ephrem of Syria, and St Cyril of Alexandria attest; its origins go back to the first Christian centuries. In the fourth century also, St Helena erected a church on Mt Tabor, the traditional site of the Transfiguration, dedicated to the Feast. Although the event celebrated in the Feast occurred in the month of February, forty days before the Crucifixion, the Feast was early transferred to August because its full glory and joy could not be fittingly celebrated amid the sorrow and repentance of Great Lent. The sixth day of August was chosen as being forty days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14),

when Christ's Passion is again remembered. Orthodox theology sees in the Transfiguration a prefiguration of our Lord's Resurrection and His Second Coming, and more than this – since every event of the Church calendar has an application to the individual spiritual life – of the transformed state in which Christians shall appear at the end of the world, and in some measure even before then. In the foreshadowing of future glory which is celebrated in this Feast, the Holy Church comforts her children by showing them that after the temporary sorrows and deprivations with which this earthly life is filled, the glory of eternal blessedness will shine forth; and in it even the body of the righteous will participate.



It is a pious Orthodox custom to offer fruits to be blessed at this Feast; and this offering of thanksgiving to God contains a spiritual sign, too. Just as fruits ripen and are transformed under the action of the summer sun, so is man called to a spiritual transfiguration through the light of God's Word by means of the Sacraments. Some Saints, under the action of this life-giving grace, have shone bodily before men even in life with this same uncreated Light of God's glory; and that is another sign to us of the heights to which we, as Christians, are called and the state that awaits us – to be transformed in the image of Him Who was transfigured on Mt Tabor.

August, 1966

CHURCH NOTES & JOTTINGS



INAUGURATION OF THE COLLEGE OLM 1 SEPTEMBER 2012

10am ~ *Panikhida for the Foundress*

3pm ~ *Blessing of the Ikon of Our Lady of Mettingham, Great Procession via the grave of the Foundress, Blessing of the house and Installation of the Ikon.*

4pm ~ *Afternoon Tea*

7.30pm ~ *Great Vespers*

FIRST WEDDING

Sunday 22 July saw the first wedding in our church. David and Natalya Williams were married in a civil ceremony some years ago in Russia. Now, with the blessing of Archbishop Mark, their union has been formally sanctified by a church wedding. We congratulate the happy couple and wish them Many Years.

NEW WEBSITE

Our new website is now online and working fine. www.mettingham.org.uk takes you to the home page with a choice of three sites: *Joy of All Who Sorrow Church*, St George Orthodox Information Service and the College of our Lady of Mettingham. The SGOIS website has some new features. The stock (books, ikons, candles and other church supplies) is listed and there is now the option to order and pay online using PayPal. It is worth checking the stock list from time to time so that you can see what is new. We are importing a range of children's religious educational books. Full details will be posted on the website as soon as the new stock arrives. The other new feature is that you can now sign up for the electronic version of *Orthodox News*, which will give you the main news items, reviews etc.

LIBRARY AND BOOK NEWS

Thanks are due to all of you who continue to donate books to both the college library and for sale in Olland Bookshop. We greatly appreciate your kindness. Gabriel Skordilis has been sorting the numerous books in our cluttered and chaotic library. The first stage of organising the library is now complete with everything put into subject categories. The next stage is the time-consuming task of cataloguing the books.

RECENT GIFTS

We would like to thank Subdeacon Constantine Bell for various gifts. He has donated a set of Russian chalice veils, a gold stikharion and a Gospel bookmarker to the church. In addition to this

he has donated some fine books about ikons to the college library. We are grateful to him for his kindness.

PROGRESS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS

The area around the grave of our foundress is slowly being transformed. The retaining wall and steps are complete. The new processional path is now being prepared. In addition to this we are planning more parking spaces on the left hand side of the drive. The entrance gate has to be widened for the convenience of larger vehicles turning in Low Road.

ANCIENT RUSSIAN PRAYER TO ST BOTOLPH OF IKEN

We are grateful to his Eminence Archbishop Mark who has personally translated an ancient Russian prayer which includes an intercession to St Botolph. The full text of this remarkable prayer will appear in the next issue together with some notes and historical background.

SHCT BIKE RIDE

Our church will again be taking part in the Annual Church Bike Ride: an event organised by Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. This year it will be on Saturday 8 September, between 9am and 5pm. Sponsorship forms for both riders and recorders are available in the narthex.

NAMEDAYS

To all who are celebrating a nameday at this time we send our congratulations and you Many Years!
(New style dates given for convenience)

- ❖ 1 August – **St Seraphim of Sarov** -Serafima Hopper, Seraphima Dembri
- ❖ 2 August – **Holy Prophet Elijah** - Priest Elias Jones
- ❖ 4 August – **St Mary Magdalene** – Mary Tattum-Smith, Miriam Dembri
- ❖ 6 August – **Holy Martyrs Boris & Gleb** - Boris Jermy, Gleb Jermy
- ❖ 7 August – **Dormition of St Anna** – Anya Moss
- ❖ 10 August – **St Irene Chrysovolantou of Cappadocia** - Irina Dembri
- ❖ 14 August – **St Cennydd of Llangennith** - Kenneth Lock
- ❖ 23 August - **St Lawrence the Archdeacon** - Lawrence Davis



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Cheques 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