



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No 23 October '10

POKROV

On 1 October, in the Church Calendar, we celebrate *Pokrov* - the Protection of the Mother of God, sometimes called the Protecting Veil of the Mother of God. The story is recorded in the *Prologue from Ochrid* by St Nikolai Velimirovic.

From time immemorial, the Church has celebrated the Most-holy Theotokos as the patroness and protectress of Christian people, who, by her intercessory prayers, implores God's mercy for us sinners. The help of the Most-holy Mother of God has been clearly shown numerous times, to individuals and to nations, in peace and in war, in monastic deserts and in densely populated cities. The event that the Church commemorates and celebrates today confirms the Mother of God's consistent protection of Christian people. On 1 October 911, during the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise, there was an All-night Vigil in the Blachernae Church of the Mother of God in Constantinople. The church was full of people. St. Andrew the Fool-for-Christ was standing in the rear of the church with his disciple Epiphanius. At four o'clock in the morning, the Most-holy Theotokos appeared above the people, holding her omophorion outstretched as a protective covering for the faithful. She was clothed in gold-encrusted purple, and shone with an ineffable radiance, surrounded by apostles, saints, martyrs and virgins. St. Andrew said to Blessed Epiphanius: "Do you see, brother, the Queen and Lady of all praying for the whole world?" Epiphanius replied: "I see, Father, and am struck with amazement!" The Feast of the Protection was instituted to commemorate this event, and to remind us that we can prayerfully receive the unceasing protection of the Most-holy Theotokos in any time of difficulty.

MEMORY ETERNAL

In September we lost two friends of our church. On Friday 3 September Leon Liddament reposed in the Lord. Leon, who was 67, was the last ikonographer at St Seraphim's studio in Little Walsingham, where he had been working for more than four decades. With his passing, we have witnessed the end of an era. He was the pupil of Archimandrite David, of pious memory, who founded the Brotherhood of St Seraphim in 1966. The ikons produced at St Seraphim's are now in churches and homes all over the world. We have two of Leon's very beautiful ikons in our church; one is of St John the Wonderworker and the other is of St Walstan of Taverham (and Bawburgh).

Last summer, we had commissioned Leon to paint the Royal Doors in our church. Then he was diagnosed with lung cancer about a year ago and he had to stop working. To have to accept that he was not going to be able to undertake the commission was a great sadness to him.

Leon's body was taken into St Seraphim's Church on Wednesday 8 September and the funeral Liturgy was celebrated there on Thursday morning (9 September). The funeral service was sung in the Transfiguration Church, Great Walsingham at 1 o'clock, followed by interment in St Peter's churchyard. He will be greatly missed. - Memory Eternal !

Then on Wednesday 15 September Leslie Tozeland died. He was the husband of our Secretary, Laura

Jordan-Tozeland, and although he was not a member of the Orthodox Church, he was a very good friend to our new church. This was curious because, for many years, Les had been estranged from any kind of conventional faith and indeed claimed to be an atheist. Despite this, he developed a great devotion to Vladika St John the Wonderworker. We have postcard-sized ikon cards of St John and Les reduced the size of one of these ikon cards, on his computer, and printed multiple copies which he laminated to make them suitable for carrying in a pocket or wallet. He endearingly called them *church credit cards*. He had a copy of the ikon by his bedside in the hospital and even told the nurses about Vladika St John. Clearly, in some way that we will now never know, God had touched his heart. Les will be buried in Beccles Cemetery on 6 October. May God grant peace to his soul.

RECONCILIATION TO THE CHURCH

Based at the Church of the Mother of God *Joy of All Who Sorrow*, Ordynka, Moscow, is a special mission, which is inspired by the 19th Century theologian Alexei Khomyakov. The aim of this mission, which was revived in 1995, is to re-unite to the Church persons who have strayed into non-Christian cults and sects. The rite of receiving such persons back into the Church is held twice a year. Preaching at one such service (3 Jan 2009), Archbishop Hilarion of Volokolamsk said, "The Church is a spiritual home for all who wish to follow the Saviour. Today, you came into this house of prayer and were united with Christ. Live so as never to lose sight of Christ; the righteousness of God. Read the Gospel, come to confession, receive the Holy Mysteries, participate in the other sacraments of the Church. Let the Church be *your* spiritual home".

CHRURCH NEWS - Notes & Jottings

TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER

On this day we commemorate the uncovering of the relics of Vladika St John in 1993 prior to his glorification. It is also the 40th day since Leon Liddament's repose. On the eve, at evening service (6pm) we will read to Canon in honour of St John. Also we will read the Canon for the Departed for Leon.

PATRONAL FESTIVAL - SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER

The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in our church in honour of the Mother of God *Joy of All Who Sorrow* at 10.30am. This will be followed by refreshments. Make a note of the date in your diary.

DEACONS DOORS

The question of getting ikons painted for the Royal Doors and the deacons doors has been put on hold for the moment. Temporary (mounted) ikons are being prepared for the deacons doors by Reader Stephen Weston and these should be in place by the day of our patronal festival.

FR PETER HONOURED

On the Feast of the Dormition, Archbishop Mark raised Fr Peter Baulk to the status of archpriest. We wish the newly elevated Archpriest Peter - Many Years

NAMEDAYS

To all who are celebrating a nameday this month - Congratulations and many years.

3 October - St Oleg of Briansk, prince and monk - Oleg Myslov

5 October - St Peter of Constantinople - Archpriest Peter Baulk

9 October - Repose of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist, St John the Theologian -
Fr John Palmer, John Harwood

15 October - St Andrew, fool-for-Christ of Constantinople - Archpriest Andrew
Phillips

17 October - St Gurias, 1st Archbishop of Kazan - Gary Meyer
(*New style dates given for convenience*)

BOOKSTALL

ICONS AND SAINTS OF THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH by Alfredo Tradigo, Pb
375pp profusely illustrated £13.95

ABBESS THAISIA OF LEUSHINO The Autobiography of a Spiritual Daughter of St John of Kronstadt, Pb 331pp illustrated. Because the covers are not in mint condition, these books are offered for sale at a reduced price - £5.00

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REGULAR SERVICES: Every Sunday 10.30am - Every evening 6pm

Extra services for festivals and saints days will be announced in the bulletin.

e-mail churchmettingham@aol.com Website www.joyofallwhosorrow.org.uk

Cheques for the church fund 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