



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No 32 July 2011

SOME WORDS ABOUT IKONS

The paragraph below is taken from a longer article, *A Discourse in Ikonography* by Vladika St John, in which he sets out the principles governing the approach of ikonographers to their work.

.....The Christian's goal is to change daily, to improve daily, and it is of this that our ikons speak. In calling to mind the saints and their struggles, an ikon does not simply represent the saint as he appeared upon the earth. No, the ikon depicts his inner spiritual struggle; it portrays how he attained to that state where he is now considered an angel on earth, a heavenly man. This is precisely the manner in which the Mother of God and Jesus Christ are portrayed. Ikons should depict that transcendent sanctity which permeated the saints. The Lord Jesus Christ is the union of all that is human and all that is divine; and when depicted in an ikon, the Saviour must be painted so that we sense that He is a man, a real man, yet at the same time something more exalted than a man, that we not simply approach Him as we approach a visitor or an acquaintance. No, we should feel that He is One Who is close to us, our Lord Who is merciful to us, and at the same time an awe-inspiring Judge Who wants us to follow Him and wishes to lead us to the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, we must not turn away to one side or the other. We should not depict only the spiritual aspect of the saint, completely disregarding how he looked while alive on earth. This would also be an extreme. All saints should be depicted so as to convey their individual characteristics as much as possible—soldiers should be portrayed arrayed for battle and holy hierarchs in their episcopal vestments.....

(The full text is published in *Sermons and Writings of St John, Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco Book 2* which is available on the bookstall - £4.50)

SAINT OLGA OF KIEV

Princess Olga's origins are not known with certainty, but she may have come from Pskov. She was probably of Varangian (Scandinavian) heritage. Olga married Prince Igor I of Kiev in about 903. Igor was the son of Rurik who is considered the founder of Rus. Igor's capital was the city of Kiev. Ancient Rus was the ancestor of the three modern nations of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. When Igor was murdered in 945, Princess Olga assumed the regency for her son, Svyatoslav. Olga served as regent until her son was of age in 964 and was a strong and effective ruler. She travelled to Constantinople in 957, where some sources say that she was baptized by the Patriarch Polyuctus with the Emperor Constantine VII as her sponsor. Although it is

possible that she may have converted to Christianity before her trip to Constantinople. It is recorded that she received the name Helen at her baptism. After Princess Olga returned to Kiev, she was unsuccessful in converting her son or very many others. Her example, however, may have helped to influence her grandson, Vladimir I, who was the third son of Svyatoslav. Olga died, probably on July 11, 969. She is considered the first saint of the Russian Orthodox Church.

CHURCH NOTES AND JOTTINGS

RENOVATIONS

The work is proceeding apace. The old school room is now completely lined with bookshelves to accommodate all the SGOIS stock. It will therefore be possible for visitors to view the stock at any time. Also, electric power and telephone points have been installed in the restored ground-floor office, which has been painted ready for use.

For the dining room we will require a larger table which can seat at least twelve people. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please let us know.

FATHER PHILIP HONOURED

Fr Philip Steer of Walsingham was recently elevated to the rank of archpriest by Archbishop Elisey for his many years of service to the Church. We send Archpriest Philip our congratulations and wish him Many Years.

IKON OF SAINT WANDREGESILIUS

The ikon has been completed and photographed. Ikon cards have been ordered from the printers. These will retail at 20pence each. The text of the troparion will be printed on the back of the ikon.

TROPARION in honour of St Wandregesilius - Tone 2

Renouncing position and fleeing from luxury, thou didst obey Christ's command to follow Him, O father Wandregesilius, shepherd of souls and glory of Fontenelle; ever pray for us, that emulating thy true piety, we may find salvation.

BOOKSTALL - new titles available

FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY - A Search for Harmony, Human Rights and Personal Dignity by Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, Pb 136pp, £12.99

HOLINESS: MAN'S SUPREME DESTINY by Constantine Cavaros, Pb 86pp
£5.50

MESSAGES FROM THE HOLY MOUNTAIN - New Library Volume Four by Constantine Cavaros, Hb 133pp £9.99

SAINT JOHN DAMASCENE - A Concise Account of his Life and Works as a Theologian and Hymnographer by Constantine Cavaros, Pb 57pp £6.50

BBC RADIO SUFFOLK

On Thursday 16 June, Fr Dn Andrew was invited to be Lesley Dolphin's guest *On The Sofa* at 3 o'clock.

NAMEDAYS

To all of you who will celebrate a nameday this month we send congratulations and wish you Many Years

2 July - St John the Wonderworker - William John Stewart

12 July - Holy Apostles Peter & Paul - Fr Paul Elliott, Deacon Peter Williamson,
Peter Smith, Peter Jermy

18 July - St Elizabeth the New Martyr - Elizabeth Tattum-Smith
18 July - St Athanasius the Athonite - Archimandrite Athanasius
24 July - St Olga of Kiev - Oliga Jermy
30 July - St Marina of Antioch - Marina Andrews, Marina Jermy
(New style dates given for convenience)

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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