



“Joy of All Who Sorrow”

No 43 June 2012



St Botolph of Iken

An historical time line ...

The College plans to publish an article on the Life of the great Monastic Confessor St Botolph of Iken in time for his feast this year on 30 June. What follows is a time line of the saint abstracted from the research we have done to give the most reliable picture we can of this great Suffolk ascetic, missionary and monastic founder. All dates though are approximate.

- ❖ 615 – St Botolph is born of probable noble parentage in England. There is also good reason to believe that he had Irish ancestry.

- ❖ **620s** – St Botolph enters a monastery as a youth to begin his education.
- ❖ **630s – 647** – St Botolph travels to Gaul to complete his monastic training. He spent a significant period of time at St Fara’s great double monastery in Brie, called *Eboriacum*, but later renamed Faremoutiers in her honour. Here he meets the saintly daughters of King Onna (Anna) of East Anglia Saethyrth and Aethelburga. Interestingly, despite his reputation as a pioneer of the Rule of St Benedict, his formation at Faremoutier would have been strongly in the Celtic Rule of St Columbanus.
- ❖ **647- 651** – Botolph returns to England and travels to Rendlesham in Suffolk, the ancient capital of the East Anglian Wuffings Court taking with him recommendations from Onna’s daughters. King Onna allocates him land at *Ikenhoe* (Iken) close to the royal court in Rendlesham, and just a few miles South of the diocesan see that St Felix had established at *Dommoc* (Dunwich). He sets up a temporary dwelling in the marshy spur (the “hoe” of “Ikenhoe”) jutting out of the River Alde.
- ❖ **651 – 653** – The raiding of the belligerent pagan Penda, King of the Mercians, causes Onna to go into exile as well as leading to the destruction of many East Anglian monasteries and churches, including St Fursey’s monastery at *Cnobheresburh* (either Burgh Castle or Caistor). It is likely that St Botolph travels widely over these years by river and land, going South into Essex where he dedicated a church to St Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours (possibly, thinks Arnold-Foster, at Bladon near Woodstock) on the bank of the River Thames.
- ❖ **653** – If he hadn’t met St Cedd, the Apostle to Essex, already, as would seem quite likely given St Botolph’s strong associations with Essex and East Mercia where St Cedd was also active, he certainly encountered him at the Baptism of King Sieghburt of Essex in Rendlesham.



- ❖ **654** – the entry from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle reads, “In this year Onna was slain and Botwulf began to timber his minster at Ikenhoe”. The terms “timbers” most probably indicates that there had been a temporary structure in place before this which was probably abandoned for some period of time during the chaos of Penda’s raids. It is possible that St Botolph’s minster had been founded in memory of King Onna. Through excavations on the North wall of the ancient church dedicated to St Botolph at Iken, archaeologists have uncovered the clay foundations of a wooden building which must certainly be the original minster that St Botolph constructed.

- ❖ **654 – 69** – St Botolph’s monastery grows at Iken and he acquires a reputation as a great ascetic and monastic teacher. However, we also learn that he continued to go on missionary expeditions founding churches all over East Anglia. From the hagiographical material we know he dedicated two churches, one to St Peter and the another to St Paul in a place that was deeply wooded and far from the sea, probably somewhere in deep West Norfolk.
- ❖ **670** – Bede’s teacher, Abbot Coelfrith of Jarrow visits Botolph’s monastery in Ikenhoe following his ordination by Bishop Wilfred. He stays at the monastery for some months, working in the monastery’s bakery. The author of Coelfrith’s Life describes St Botolph as “a man of unparalleled life and learning, and full of the grace of the Holy Spirit”.
- ❖ **17 June 680** – St Botolph reposes at his monastery in Iken. The Anglo-Saxon cross that was discovered at the base of the West tower by Dr Stanley West in 1977 is thought to have been erected in his memory around the 9th to 10th Century.

HOLY FATHER BOTOLPH OF IKEN, PRAY TO GOD FOR US!

PILGRIMAGE TO ST BOTOLPH’S CHURCH IKEN

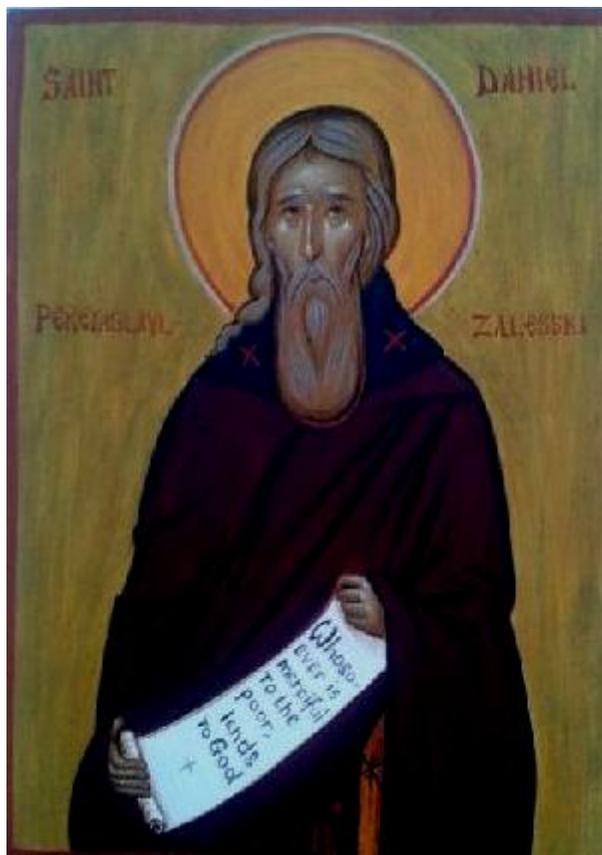
Saturday 30 June



12noon - Moleben Service with Akathist to St Botolph

Bring a picnic lunch.

St Daniel, Abbot of Pereyaslavl-Zaleski



Saint Daniel of Pereslavl (in the world Demetrius) was born around 1460 in the city of Pereslavl-Zaleski. His parents were the pious Constantine and Theodosia (in monasticism Thekla). From his childhood, Daniel had a love for the pious life and Christian deeds. He became a monk in the monastery of St Paphnutius of Borovsk. He attained spiritual maturity under the guidance of St Leucius of Volokolamsk. Afterwards, in his native land, he dedicated himself to love for neighbour. He buried the neglected, the poor, and those without family. The saint founded a monastery on the site of the cemetery. He died on 7 April 1540. He is also commemorated on 30 December, the day of the uncovering of his relics.

CHURCH NOTES AND JOTTINGS

BAPTISM

Daniel, the infant son of Didier (Dionysius) and Irina Dembri, was baptised in our church by Fr Antony on Saturday 2 June. His name-saint and heavenly patron is St Daniel of Pereyaslavl-Zaleski. We congratulate Daniel and wish him Many Years.

IKON CARDS

Both the new ikons, Our Lady of Mettingham and St Botolph, are being printed as ikon cards complete with the text of the troparion on the back. These will be available within the next two weeks.

CHURCHYARD WALL

Work is progressing on the churchyard wall and the steps up to the graveyard. The wall which is faced with knapped flint should greatly enhance the area on the south side of the church.

COLLEGE OF OUR LADY OF METTINGHAM

It has been arranged that the formal inauguration of the chantry college will take place on Saturday 1 September. Please pray for a fine day since it involves an outdoor procession via the grave of the foundress where we will pause and sing MEMORY ETERNAL for her. We will then proceed to The White House where we will make a circuit around the house, with the ikon. The ikon will be installed in the hall so that it is the first thing that college visitors will see when they enter the building. The full programme is printed below.

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SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

10am PANIKHIDA for the repose of the soul of the foundress

**3pm BLESSING OF THE IKON OF OUR LADY OF METTINGHAM in the church,
PROCESSION via the grave of the foundress,
BLESSING OF THE COLLEGE and
INSTALLATION OF THE IKON**

4pm AFTERNOON TEA

7.30pm GREAT VESPERS

NAMEDAYS

We send congratulation to all who are celebrating a nameday at this time and wish them Many Years!

3 June - **St Helen, Finder of the True Cross** - Matushka Helen Bardsley

27 June - **Holy Prophet Elisha** - Archbishop Elisey of Sourozh

30 June - **St Botolph of Iken** - Robert (Botolph) Beavis

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Cheques should be made payable to "*Joy of All Who Sorrow*" Church.
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