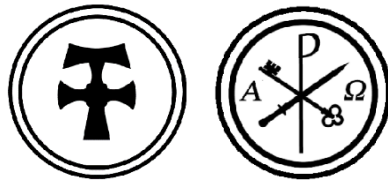


Monastery of St. Antony and St. Cuthbert
The Brotherhood of the Glorious Apostles Peter and Paul



April 2021



From Fr. Philip:

Soon we will be in Great and Holy Week. The days of Great Lent will be behind us and we will be walking behind the Lord with the memory of the raising of Lazarus and the Entry into Jerusalem in our hearts and the palms we received on the Sunday in our icon corners.

The Church has mapped out for us a week of solemn commemoration with many scriptural readings, lots of psalms and the ever-present shadow of the Cross with which we begin this month. It is solemn but it is also quietly joyful. The withered fig tree inspires us to renew our desire to be fruitful for the Lord, the Ten Virgins encourage our vigilance, the anointing of the feet enable us to be generous with our greatest treasure (our love) for the Lord. The Lord's Supper fills us with Himself and then, on that Friday of Fridays, we see His great Love displayed for all humanity in His willing immolation on the Cross. We are used to the idea of Christ being in the tomb and we beautify the epitaphion with flowers and perfume but the "angels were amazed when they saw thee numbered among the dead" – this "amazement" has the idea of their brains being scrambled by what they witnessed. This brain scrambling is something we must try and hold onto during this Great and Holy Week. It is Christ the Lord who willingly goes to the Cross for our salvation.

Then all goes quiet for a period. Secretly people will come into the churches, flowers will be arranged, curtains taken down and others hung up, new candles put in the sconces and fresh oil in the lamps, teams of people cleaning metal, the floors the chairs, and others baking prosphora, ironing vestments and dislodging spiders ... for Great Lent and Holy Week lead us directly to the empty tomb.

This Great and Holy Week try and at least commit yourself to reading the passion story quietly at home. Read it in St. Mark's Gospel. It begins at Chapter 11 with Jesus's entry into Jerusalem.

Fr. Philip.

Guests:

With COVID in mind we are still not able to receive guests at the moment BUT we will be open as soon as it is possible and legal.

Please email Br Deiniol for up-to-date information:

info@orthodoxmonastery.co.uk

Prayer List Names:

You are always welcome to send us names for the Proskimide, for memorials and for general prayers. The best way is to email/ Text or write: info@orthodoxmonastery.co.uk.

We make no charge of course! However, we do welcome your prayers for us.

LIVE STREAM:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfWMAefJYqFEZkYiK2WmeEw/videos>

Or look for “Archimandrite Philip” on YouTube

Environment:



Spring has finally arrived! The trees are budding, the daffodils are blooming and we have been blessed by beautiful sunny days. We are preparing the various vegetable patches we have for the summer and are sowing seeds in preparation.

We would like to thank Martin Earle who is helping us this month build our Polytunnel in preparation for what will hopefully be a very fruitful summer.



We experimented with various planting techniques and seeds last year so we have a better understanding this year of what works and what does not in this unique climate. The winter ice and wind caused a lot of damage in the monastery grounds this year and we are slowly getting all of these jobs finished now that the weather has improved.



Other News:



Welcoming Brother Paul

This month we welcome Br Paul into our community. Br Paul is a Reader from Luton. Please pray that God will bless his monastic life and for his perseverance.

Online Shop - New Products!

Featured Product: Hand Carved / Etched Icons & Emblems



Hand carved or etched icons and emblems from a supporter of the monastery. Various saints available and all made to order. Now available online:

<https://www.orthodoxmonastery.co.uk/product/hand-carved-icons-and-emblems/>



From the Saints

We must have the determination to overcome temptations comparable to the sorrows of the first Christians. All the witnesses of Christ's Resurrection were martyred. We should be ready to endure any hardship.

All of us, at every moment of our lives, are in absolute need of Divine grace, which is given to man through pain and effort. When we pray in the morning, pray in the evening, and pray every moment – then we have the right to say: 'Lord, do not leave me; help me

St Sophrony of Essex

From the Services

Though honoured as a son by the loving Father, in my foolishness I did not understand: I have deprived myself of glory, sinfully wasting the wealth of grace. I have forsaken the divine food, eating in servile bondage at the table of an unclean citizen. He has sent me into his soul-destroying field, and living like the Prodigal I have fed with the beasts; I was enslaved to the pleasures and could not eat my fill. But now I have turned back, and I shall cry to the compassionate and merciful Father: I have sinned against heaven and before Thee; have mercy upon me.

Triodion; Aposticha of Vespers, Wednesday Week III.





Support:

Us supporting you:

Send us requests for prayer.

1. We are happy to remember people in our prayers, in the proskimide, artoklasias (lytias) and so on.
2. Come and stay to join us in prayer and our life for a few days.

You supporting us:

There are several ways to support the Monastery:

1. Please pray for us.
2. Through giving us good ideas!
3. Through direct giving. See below. You can find details on the website but also by making donations to our charity: THE STIPERSTONES TRUST Registered charity number: 1077603.

Making donations:

We understand that times are hard and may well become much harder. If you can support what we are doing financially that would be very welcome – but please do not feel that you “must”. We DO need money and we will need to expand the monastery as more people are asking to stay and space is limited: realistically we are full.

We also need to build new paths, cells, a larger church (the current one gets very cramped), heating that works, we also need to eat, and we will need to feed our guests once we reopen.

The best way you can help us with these things is by setting up a small monthly Standing Order. This is extremely easy. If you have Internet Banking it is five minutes work. Otherwise you could complete the attached form and send it to your Bank Manager. We will spend your money VERY carefully and be delighted to show you what we are doing in person.

To make this easy I have included a Standing Order Form at the end of the Newsletter.

You may also consider completing a Gift Aid form too. This increases your gift by 25% (so £1 becomes £1.25)

Address and Contacts:

The Monastery
Pontesbury
Shropshire
SY5 0SJ

07847 866978

www.orthodoxmonastery.co.uk

info@orthodoxmonastery.co.uk

Standing Order Form.

To the Manager

Bank Address:

I/we hereby authorise and request you to debit my/our

Account Name*	
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Account Details

Sort Code	Account Number	Amount	Frequency
			Monthly

Beginning date	End date:
/ /	/ /

And credit

The Stiperstones Trust, Lloyds Bank, Pride Hill, Shrewsbury. SY1 1DG

Sort Code: 30-97-62	Account: 02291524
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Quoting reference: The Stiperstones Trust

Signed:	Date:

Name in Block Capitals:	
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* Please ensure that the actual name on/of the account is included in this box so that we can accurately match your payment to our records.

Please print this page off and send it to your Bank Manager.

Gift Aid:

Title: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel/ mobile: _____ Email: _____

2. If you are a UK taxpayer, please tick the box below to join the Gift Aid

scheme. Doing so will mean that we can claim up to 25p extra for every £1 you give, at no additional cost to you!

☐

Yes, I am a UK taxpayer. Please treat all donations I make to The Stiperstones Trust as Gift Aid donations until further notice. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations to charities and Community amateur sports clubs (CASCs) in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. The Stiperstones Trust will claim 25p on every £1 donated. Please let us know if you want to cancel the declaration, change your name and/ or address or no longer pay enough tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Signed:

Date:

Please print off this page and send it to: Br. Deiniol, The Stiperstones Trust, Gift Aid, The Monastery, Pontesbury, SY5 0SJ

Gift Aid Information When the Stiperstones Trust receives a donation from a UK taxpayer, we are entitled to claim an amount of tax (calculated at the basic rate of income tax in that year) paid on that donation. Once you have given your permission for us to do this on your behalf (by filling in this Gift Aid form), there is no need for you to do anything else. All that is required is that you must be a taxpayer and that you would have paid or will pay enough Income and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover all the Gift Aid claimed on all your donations to all charities and Community amateur sports clubs in that tax year. Please note that it is your responsibility to pay any difference. The amount of tax we claim will be 25% of the total value of your donations in that tax year. Furthermore, if you are a higher taxpayer, you are also entitled to claim the difference between the basic rate which we will claim and the amount of tax you have actually paid. For further details on how you can do this, please contact your tax office. If your tax situation changes and your gifts will no longer be eligible for the Gift Aid scheme, please contact us and we will amend your record accordingly.

What else do we need?

You might have just what we are looking for!

- Orthodox Theological Books (we are hoping to extend the Library) in English
- Service Books
- Incense making equipment
- Charcoal making equipment
- Trailer for the 4x4
- Building materials and tools
- Fencing materials (Fence posts, pig wire, chicken wire etc.)
- Timber (treated and untreated) for building both inside and out.
- Paint (White emulsion and whitewash)
- Electric wire (both outside and inside wire)
- Wellington boots
- Cement Mixer
- Unwanted garden equipment
- Bricks, paving slabs and other masonry

In most cases we won't be able to collect these things (unless you live nearby ...) but it may give you an excuse to come and visit!

We also need your expertise once the lock down ends:

Can you:

- Catalogue books
- Build paths,
- Lay concrete,
- Put up walls (the lean-to needs to be weatherproofed).
- Put up internal walls and plaster,
- Unblock locked doors,
- Put up fences,
- Do carpentry,
- Build new buildings