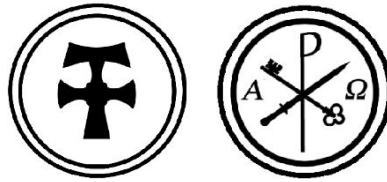


Monastery of St. Antony and St. Cuthbert
The Brotherhood of the Glorious Apostles Peter and Paul



January 2021

From Fr. Philip:



The days are already turning, and the days are lengthening, almost imperceptibly, each day. It snows, it is cold, it is still dark, but the bulbs are beginning to push through the frozen earth.

Christ is born!

Theophany is on its way: the cold waters will be blessed, the Holy Waters will fill the ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, the sea and even the clouds. Our churches and homes will be sanctified, as will our belongings, the gardens and farms, the animals and all the plants.

Our lives have been deeply affected by this virus and many of us have been left in the darkness of isolation and the coldness of loneliness. The days will lengthen, the sun will shine, the frozen earth is already showing signs of life.

Now is the time to pray, to make plans to do good, to assess our way of life and to commit ourselves to growing nearer to each other and to God. Like the bulbs, below the surface, we can begin to push our leaves to the surface with the hope to bloom in the spring.

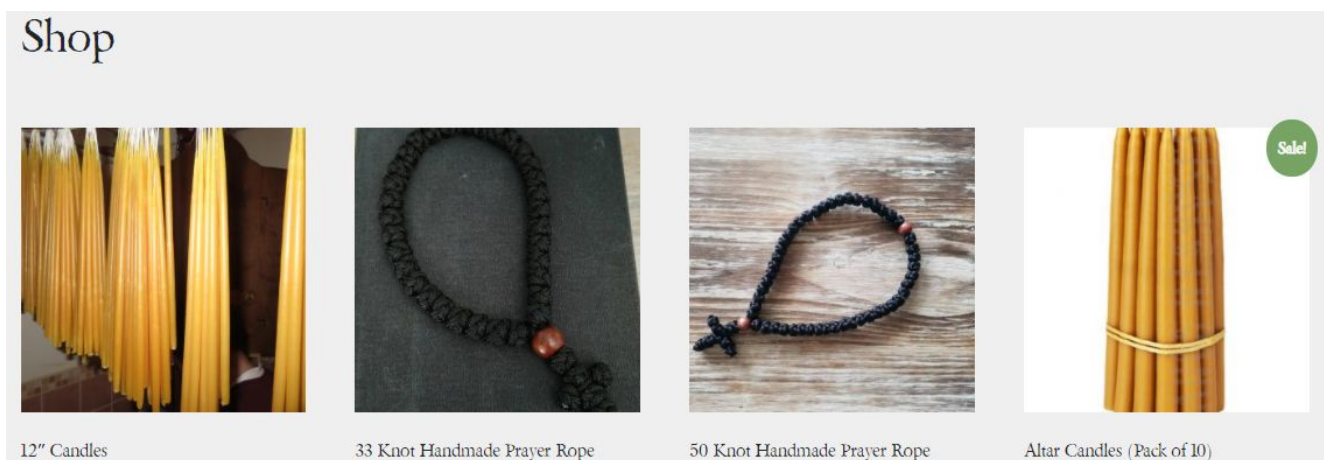
Hopefully, the monastery will again be able to welcome those who wish to pray with us soon.

Your prayers - may God bless you!

Fr. Philip.



The Monastery Shop.



We are pleased to offer you:

- Candles: votive, memorial (smaller) and altar.
- Candles: twisted two and three twists.
- Prayer ropes (two sorts – but you can ask for something specific and we will give you a quote.)
- There will soon be more products on offer.

All the prices are on our website:

<https://www.orthodoxmonastery.co.uk/shop/>

If you can support us like this, it will help us to be more self-sufficient and improve the monastery.

If you can help us learn to make / produce things we will be delighted for you to come and help us.

Guests:

With COVID in mind we are 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.

Proskimide 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:

The monastery has been completely covered in snow since boxing day and it has snowed every day. This is helpful in some ways as it allows us to walk around the place without getting muddy! The same has happened for the past two years so we should be getting used to this now!

The trees are completely bare which gives a different quality to the place. You can see into the woodland now right down to the bottom. Animal tracks of all different descriptions are freshly made every day across the snow and one can see where wildlife has come up to the front gate to say hello then walk off in varying directions.

The poor chickens have been ‘shielding’ due to avian flu warnings for the past week - they are not happy but well fed and trying to keep warm!

Other News:



This year at Christmas we went as a community to Lincoln so that we could celebrate the Liturgy and services together with the parish there. A festive and warm time was had by all.

Fr Philip will be in the monastery this month to bless the waters and the monastery for Holy Theophany.

We are blessed to have in the monastery a relic of St Basil the Great which we have exposed for veneration today (his relic is the top left hand corner one).



From the Holy Fathers

The fact that a man slips into accidental sins demonstrates the weakness of his nature; for to our profit God has permitted our nature to be susceptible to sinful occurrences. For He has not thought it good to make the soul superior to these occurrences before the second regeneration. It is profitable for the soul to be susceptible to accidental sins because this pricks the conscience.

To persist in them is, however, audacious and shameful. There are three ways by which every rational soul can draw nigh to God: by fervency of faith, by fear, and by the Lord's chastisement. No man can draw nigh to the love of God if one of these three does not lead the way.

Just as turbulence of the thoughts is born of gluttony, so ignorance and frivolousness of the intellect are born of talkativeness and unruly conversations. Concern for the affairs of this life disturbs the soul, and the distraction of works confuses the intellect and casts out its serenity.

St Isaac the Syrian
Ascetical Homily 6

From the Services

O most radiant Word, Who hast been sent forth by the Father, Thou comest to repel utterly the night of evil darkness and to uproot the sins of men, and by Thy Baptism to draw forth children of light from the streams of the Jordan, O Good One.

Beholding him whom He had formed of dust bound by inescapable bonds in the darkness of sin, the Creator raised him up and laid him on His shoulders; and now in the midst of abundant waters, He cleanseth him of the ancient shame of Adam's inclination towards sin.

The Canon of the Theophany

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

Fr.Philip@gmx.com



Standing Order Form.

To the Manager

Bank Address:

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

Account Name*	
---------------	--

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:	

* 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:

1. 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
- Soap 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
- Post hole digger
- Post Hammer

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

If you can ... let us know please!