



The Celtic Orthodox Church in Britain

Community of St Gwenn

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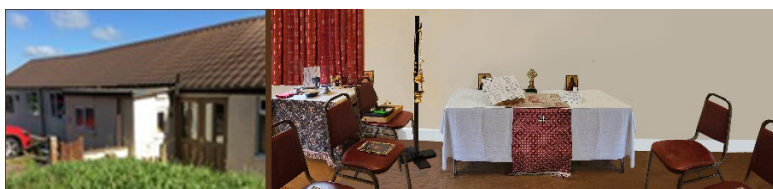
www.stgwenns.org



*The **Celtic Orthodox Church** is an Ancient Christian Church, founded in AD37. It is the **original** Church of Great Britain, and its spirituality blessed our land for the first twelve centuries of the Christian era. Now it is revived!*

Parish Priest – Fr Leonard Hollands Asst Priests – Fr John Francis, Fr Patrick Mary Fr Deacon Tugdual Meharg

St Gwenn's News No 155 – November 2025



**We celebrate our
Liturgies at the
Woodbury Community
Hall, Woodbury Lane,
Axminster EX13 5TL**

November Liturgical Calendar

Sat 1 Nov	ALL SAINTS (Observed tomorrow)
Sun 2 Nov	PENT 21 – ALL SOULS (ALL SAINTS) Liturgy for ALL SAINTS: Liturgy 10.30am followed by Panikhida for ALL SOULS (see note below)
Mon 3 Nov	St Gregory of Parumala
Sun 9 Nov	LAST after PENT, St Nectarius Kaphalas
Wed 12 Nov	ADVENT begins
Thu 13 Nov	St John Chrysostom
Fri 14 Nov	St Gregory Palamas
Sun 16 Nov	ADVENT 1
Mon 17 Nov	St Hilda, Abbess of Whitby
Thu 20 Nov	Forefeast of Entrance of the Theotokos
Fri 21 Nov	Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
Sun 23 Nov	ADVENT 2, St Columbanus
Thu 27 Nov	Our Lady of the Sign
Sun 28 Nov	ADVENT 3, St Andrew, Apostle, Martyr
Sun 7 Dec	ADVENT 4 – Liturgy: 10.30am

From Fr Leonard

The blessing of the Lord and His mercy be with you all!

I want to wax lyrical about the glorious autumn colours we are now seeing, and I certainly do appreciate them, and, indeed, all the beauty of God's Creation, but this

joy of heart is presently tempered by the heart-aching devastation of which we are all too deeply aware – death and destruction on a scale we can scarcely comprehend in Ukraine, Gaza and elsewhere, and, as I write, the unimaginable hurricane destruction and long-term damage in the Caribbean. And what is doubly heart-breaking is that so much of this is manmade.

These things need to be in our prayers. We may feel overwhelmed and inadequate about our prayers for such mighty matters, yet pray we must, not telling God what He must do but quietly holding wordlessly those suffering, and those causing the suffering, before God. One of my favourite passages from St Paul comes to mind: "the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." (Rom 8.26)

Do not lose heart but trust in God still.

Blessings and love in Christ to you all

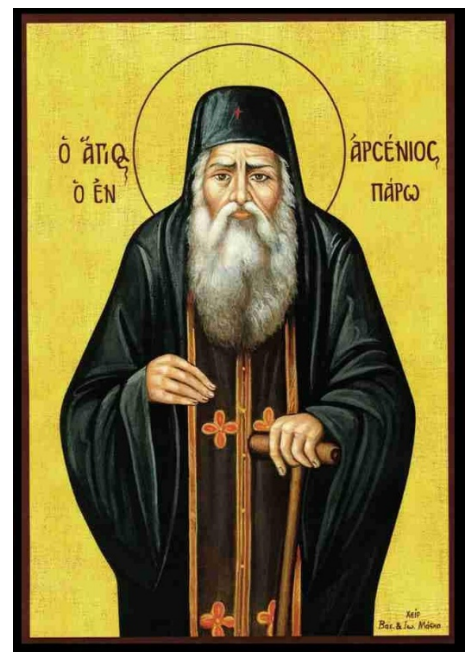
Fr Leonard +

From Fr Patrick

Greek saint, St Arsenios of Paros, said, "when the church of the British Isles begins to venerate her own saints, then the Church will grow." The quote is a statement on the importance of honouring local saints and traditions for a community's spiritual revival and growth.

I think it's important, as we approach the Hallowtide tridium to meditate and encourage ourselves to keep on keeping on. The days are plunged into darkness and cold. Simple tasks are made much more difficult due to sluggish movements, which show the effects on our physical bodies. But perhaps our Spiritual practices have also become much more difficult to complete.

The Church, in her wisdom, uses the cold and darkness around us to remind us of death, which isn't too much of a stretch of the imagination as to why.



St Arsenios of Paros

Of course, the Church doesn't just wallow in this potential for sorrow and despair. Rather, we are reminded to keep our eyes fixed upon Christ. Christ is the light that shines in the darkest of places, and brings the hope of new life in the world to come.

Just as throughout the day we can still experience glimpses of light that remind us of the warmth and joys of the brighter seasons, Christ has blessed us with glimpses into what a life in complete union with Himself may look like. What are these glimpses into a life united to Christ? The Saints! the Communion of Saints, or that faithful cloud of witnesses, as described in the letter to the Hebrews who offer, continually before God, their prayers for our perseverance into our union with, in and through Christ, all the time cheering us on. They are lights set upon a hill top for all to see, leaving examples in their lives that we ought to follow in order to overcome the evil and darkness of this world. They have left practical guides, methods and teachings in prayer and sanctification for our pilgrim journey towards theosis.

Therefore, this Hallowtide while still celebrating local customs as appropriate, let us remember especially our Celtic saints who have lived, suffered, and died for Christ and in doing so have trail-blazed a clear path to imitate Christ within this world; not escaping the world, but over coming it with the light of Christ, which dispels all darkness in our lives so long as we allow the loving grace of God to melt away the frostbitten hearts of stone and give us hearts of living flesh.

Fr. Patrick +

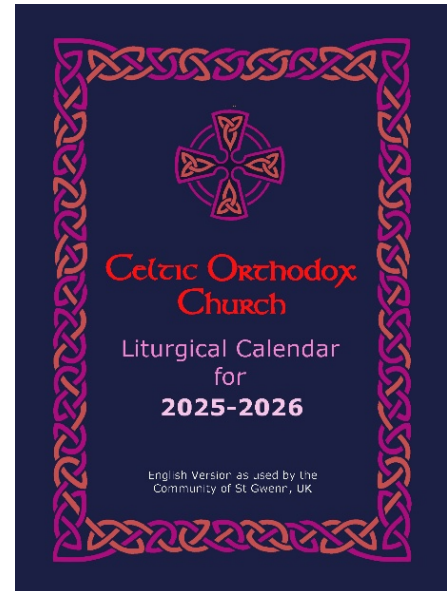
LAST REMINDER: 2025-26 Liturgical Calendar

Our Celtic Orthodox Liturgical Calendar for the new Church year, 2025 – 26 (Advent begins on 12th November) is now available.

The calendar gives saints for every day, Liturgical feasts and seasons, and three scriptural readings daily.

It is published by Lamorna Publications and printed by Lulu. The cost is £8 plus pp. It can be obtained direct from the printer:

www.lulu.com ref: Liturgical Calendar - Celtic Orthodox 2025-26 Fr Leonard Hollands
ID 95m8468



Barnabas Aid

**International Day of
Prayer for the
Persecuted Church**

Sunday 2 November

On Sunday 2 November, starting at midnight, Barnabas Aid will host a 24-hour live online prayer event. You'll journey through the world in prayer as our regional offices lead sessions from Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas.

This is your opportunity to:

- Unite in prayer with believers worldwide.
- Hear live updates from the field.
- Stand in solidarity with our persecuted family.

Prepare your heart; together, we will lift our voices as one.

Eve of All Saints / All Saints / All Souls

All being well you should receive this Newsletter on the Eve of All Saints' day and we invite you to spend a moment in prayer, recollecting the solemnity we are about to celebrate, and not getting too distracted by the pagan connotations of Halloween. Saturday is the feast of All Saints,' especially significant for Fr Leonard and Presbyteria

Trish who for many years served at All Saints' church, Hanworth; Fr Leonard as assistant priest and Trish as churchwarden. Fr Patrick mentions above the importance of the legacy left by the saints, not least our own Celtic saints. This is why we are celebrating All Saints on the Sunday, but also observing All Souls by having a Panikhida (Orthodox service for the departed) immediately after the Liturgy. If you have departed friends or relatives you would like to be remembered please let Fr Leonard have the names no later than 4pm on Saturday 1st of November. [email and telephone as the header of this Newsletter.



Lord, in your mercy: Hear our Prayers

For our Patriarch His Beatitude Metropolitan Marc, Bishop Nicolas and all our clergy and people; For Bishop Martin (French Orthodox Church) and his clergy and people; For Bishop Gregoire (Orthodox Church of the Gauls) and his clergy and people;

FOR THE UNITY OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

FOR THE CHURCH IN THE MANY PLACES IT IS PERSECUTED

For His Majesty King Charles III, the Royal Family, our Government and all in authority; For the Heads of State and Leaders of every land.

FOR PEACE AND UNITY IN THE WORLD

For the future of Woodbury Community Hall, our Liturgical home, to be decided at the EGM on the 13th of November 2025. Will the hall close?

For the people of the Caribbean devastated by Hurricane Melissa, the war-weary, the sick, the bereaved, the homeless, the starving, all who suffer in any way, especially those known to us.

FOR THE KEEPING OF A GOOD ADVENT

For all who have died recently, and for, Alan, Isobel, Edith, Sylvia, Thelma, Doris, Sir John, Henry, John, Tom, Bramwell, Charles, Presbyteria Annemieke, Dee, Maureen, Mabel and Kelly, whose anniversaries of reposing fall this month.

