

* **Bookstall:** The bookstall has been a great success under the care of Vivien Wright. A selection of excellent titles of recommended reading is on offer and we hope to expand the stock further over the course of 2008.

We would like to emphasise that the Trustees welcome your suggestions, comments and constructive criticism. If you have any points you wish to be raised and discussed, please make it known to one of us so that it can be placed on the agenda of one of our next Trustees' meetings.

We hope and pray that the life of our parish of St Peter and St Paul will continue to prosper and grow over the course of 2008 and take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, peaceful and prayerful festive season.

The Trustees of the South London Orthodox Community

For more information please visit:
www.orthodoxclapham.org

Contacts:

For enquiries about services:
Joyce Roberson
email:
roberson@orthodoxclapham.org
phone: 020 7733 9789

or
Alexis Skorobogatov
email:
skorobogatov@orthodoxclapham.org
phone: 020 8641 5405

For Gift-Aid enquiries and donations:
Alexis Martinowsky, Treasurer
South London Orthodox Community
email:
treasurer@orthodoxclapham.org
phone: 020 8870 3552
27 Trefoil Road, London
SW18 2EG

For other enquiries or suggestions to the trustees:
Stefan Cucos, Secretary
South London Orthodox Community
email:
secretary@orthodoxclapham.org
phone: 07951 603 288
Flat 5, St George's Mansions
Causton Street, London
SW1P 4RZ
or the parish priest
Archpriest Alexander Fostiropoulos
email: fostiropoulos@clara.net
phone: 020 8879 1461
99 Kenilworth Avenue, London SW19
7LP

South London Orthodox Community
Registered Charity 1105211

EPIPHANY NEWS

PARISH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL

2 0 0 8



SOUTH LONDON ORTHODOX COMMUNITY

Worshipping at St Peter's Church, Clapham Manor Street, London SW4 6BX

The Trustees are delighted to announce that Bishop Basil has formally given his blessing for our parish henceforth to be dedicated to St Peter and St Paul. This will now become the name of our parish. In commemorating these two great apostles, we are able to follow the custom of retaining the dedication of the church in which our parish took root.

The feast day of St Peter and St Paul is kept on the 29th of June. In 2008, this falls on a Sunday. Please make a note of this in your diary as we expect to be celebrating a festal Liturgy and have plans for a day of feasting. Bishop Basil hopes to join us for the feast.

The Trustees wish to take this opportunity to announce other news that will have a significant effect on the life of our parish. Last July, we wrote to everyone setting out our long-term goals. We also explained how we might achieve these goals financially and we encouraged people to donate to our parish regularly and by standing order (and by Gift Aid, if possible).

The response has been tremendous and extremely heartening. We already have 39 such standing orders from members of the community who are giving regularly to the parish and are currently raising some £27000 annually by these regular donations.

This very encouraging beginning is truly affirming of our work as we plan the future. We wish to thank everyone for their continued support.

Many of you will want to know how we – as Trustees – intend to make use of the money you are so generously giving. In October 2007, we unanimously agreed that one of the fundamental principles of our parish – both now and for the future – must be to cover the salary, pension, housing and expenses of our principal serving priest. Bishop Basil agrees with this principle and has asked us to begin putting this into effect as soon as we felt in a position to do so.

Following Bishop Basil's courageous decision to safeguard the life-long work and vision of Metropolitan Anthony by requesting to be received, together with the clergy who wished to serve under him, by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople; and, as result of the legal dispute that has occurred, Father Alexander has been without a salary, pension contributions and housing expenses for ten months and will remain so until the legal dispute is resolved.

As Trustees, our ability to act has been constrained by the dispute. But we have been advised that as from January 2008, we are in a position to cover any living expenses that Father Alexander might require. This is a significant step forward and paves the way for our parish to commence the paying of the salary and all associated expenses of our serving priest.

Other news:

* **Place of worship:** Our most pressing need is a dedicated place of worship. We remain deeply grateful to the vicar and congregation of St Peter's Parish Church for their generosity and support. However, we are aware that if we are to move to a weekly cycle of services we will need our own church. We are actively pursuing a number of avenues and will keep you posted of any developments.

* **Vicariate Assembly:** In the course of the year, the Episcopal Vicariate to which we belong asked each parish and community to compile an electoral roll. Our parish has over 100 people officially registered, one of the largest in the country. Two members of our parish were elected in the first country-wide election last autumn to serve on the Vicariate Assembly - Giles Milton and Alexis Skorobogatov - in addition to Father Alexander and our parish representative, Sophie Barnard, who was elected Secretary of the Assembly at its first meeting last December. We hope to make a significant contribution to the life of the Vicariate in the years to come.

* **Annual Conference:** An important Vicariate event is its annual Conference which this year is on the theme of "For the Life of the World: Communion and Community". All our parishioners are encouraged to attend and reminded to submit their application forms by the end of January.

* **Summer Camp:** Last summer's Vicariate Children's Camp in Wales was a resounding success and included a number of children and young people among its participants and leaders. We encourage all our parents to send their children to this year's fortnightly camp at the end of July and beginning of August.

* **Parish Website:** For more information on both these events see our parish website:
www.orthodoxclapham.org

* **Sunday School:** The Sunday school is in the process of expanding, with two groups in operation on most Sundays: one for nursery aged children and another for primary, taught by Alexandra Milton and Sophie Barnard and assisted by some other parents. Eventually, we hope to have a third class for older children.

* **Singing:** We are now having regular singing practices in order to familiarise ourselves with new music for the vigil and festal services. We remain committed to the principle of communal singing for the Liturgy but recognise that more complicated services require us to train a smaller group of singers. Last December, we were delighted to welcome to our parish Father Michael Fortounatto for a very successful day-long music workshop, attended by 25 singers.