

**ST FURSEY'S ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY & PARISH
CHURCH**

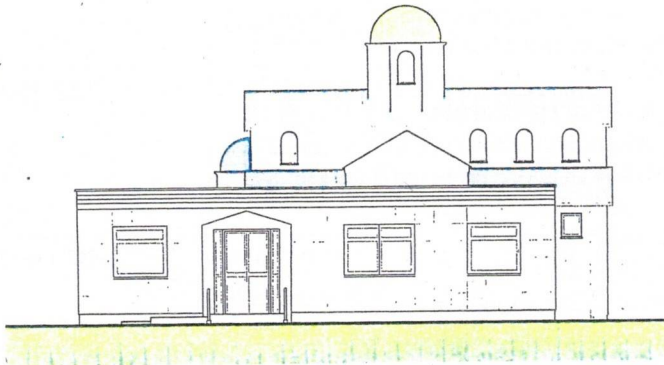
YARMOUTH ROAD, STALHAM NR12 9PG

Tel: 01692 580552

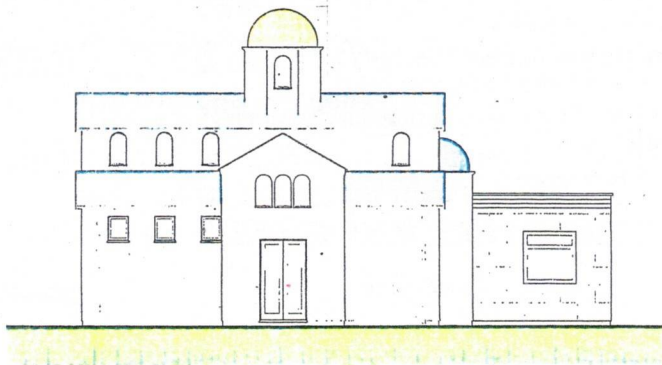
COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 2020

THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DEDICATION



The proposed parish church from Yarmouth Road Stalham.



The view from the drive into the church car park area.

BRITISH ORTHODOX SAINTS COMMEMORATED IN
OCTOBER

- 03 Ewald the Fair and Ewald the Dark, Martyrs
07 Osyth of Chich, Martyr
08 Iwi of Lindisfarne, Hermit
10 Paulinus, Bishop of York
11 Ethelburgh, Abbess of Barking
12 Edwin, King and Martyr
Wilfrid, Bishop of York
14 Burchard, Bishop and Missionary*
15 Thecla of Wimborne, Abbess and Missionary
16 Lull, Archbishop and Missionary
Vitalis, Hermit*
17 Ethelbert and Ailred, Martyrs
Nothelm, Archbishop of Canterbury
19 Ednoth, Bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames, Martyr
Frideswide of Oxford, Virgin
20 Acca, Bishop of Hexham
21 Conedus, Hermit*
Tuda, Bishop of Northumbria
23 Elflada of Glastonbury, Virgin
Ethelfleda, Abbess of Romsey
26 Albinus, Bishop and Missionary*
Cedd, Apostle of Essex
Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury
Eata, Bishop of Hexham
Edfrid, Abbot of Leominster, Confessor
28 Eadsige, Archbishop of Canterbury
30 Ethelnoth the Good, Archbishop of Canterbury
31 Begu, Nun
Foillan, Missionary in East Anglia

TROPARION OF ST. FURSEY

tone five

Establishing thy monastery in a Roman fortress /
thou didst teach men that the Orthodox Faith is a
true bastion / against the onslaughts of every evil
force O Father Furse. / Wherefore pray to God
for us / that we may all be bastions of Faith /
standing firm against the rising tide of falsehood /
that our souls may be saved. //



SERVICES AT THE PARISH CHURCH IN SEPTEMBER

Saturday Oct 3rd	Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite Bishop of Athens – Vespers 4pm.
Sunday Oct 4th	17 th Sunday after Pentecost Dedication Festival Liturgy 10am.
Sat Oct 10th	St Paulinus of York. Vespers 4pm.
Sun Oct 11th	18 th Sunday after Pentecost Fathers of the Ecumenical Council Divine Liturgy 10am.
Sat Oct 17th	Martyrs Ethelred & Ethelbert of Kent 640. Vespers 4pm.
Sun Oct 18th	19 th Sunday after Pentecost, St Luke. Divine Liturgy 0am.
Thurs Oct 22nd	Holy Apostle St James; Brother of the Lord Divine Liturgy 7pm.
Sat Oct 24th	St Dimitrius Commemoration of the Dead Vespers 4pm.
Sun Oct 25th	20 th Sunday after Pentecost – St Tabitha. Divine Liturgy 10am.

Daily Services in St Fursey's Chapel (Neville Road)

In addition to the services at the Parish Church, there will be our normal daily services in St Fursey's Chapel. These are usually 3rd hour 9am, plus reading from the Fathers. **Vespers 4pm.** All are welcome but please ring 01692 580552 to check that I have not been called away as sometimes happens.

COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTICES

NORWICH MARKET STALL

We have been struggling with Norwich City Council about this for months but we may be able to present again on the Haymarket the first Wednesday in November. Although the footfall in the market is less than it was a substantial number of people pass through; so our Christmas presence there will be important. Please pray about this.

STALHAM TOWN HALL – TUESDAY MARKET

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions it seems that this will not resume until next year, so we cannot do much about this.

Progress with Building Our Parish Church In Stalham

Thanks to Nathan's hard work and the help of various volunteers, good progress has been made on building the outer walls. The opening windows in the aisles are on order and will be ready in October. There was a slight delay because the Building Control Authorities of the Council wanted the structure to be checked by a supervisor, which has been done and everything is in order, so that progress can continue.

The Just Give process online is working well and we have over £1000 received to date. Many thanks to those who have donated. We still need a final £20,000 to help finish the church.

COVID-19 – SOME THOUGHTS

The COVID-19 virus has affected the whole world and although there is much confusion of thought about it, the simple fact is that for many it is a serious illness and many have died as a result of it; even if some of the figures given are not accurate. The eleven-week lockdown cost the country dearly and Rosalind and I did not meet at all but spoke on the telephone; in order to safeguard her parents. Since July we have met three times a week at her beach hut but we have not met any other

people or gone out socialising. We have enjoyed the more, simple way of life and appreciated not tearing about. So, our conclusion is that we remember in our prayers those who have been ill and died; and we are thankful to God for His many blessings to us, especially the glorious weather here in Norfolk and Suffolk. We keep to the guidance given to us in order to safeguard those we do meet and avoid all negative thoughts. We delight in our worship of God even if it is with masks on. And we can always deepen our spiritual lives by prayer and reading.

PILGRIMAGE TO BURGH CASTLE SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

We thought that it would be wise to cancel our pilgrimage to Burgh Castle due to the limit of six for gatherings.

God bless you all

Father Stephen

LITURGY PAGE

For the Dedication

(Tone 6)

6. The ancient Law commanded the celebration of the dedication, and it did well. But it is better to celebrate a dedication by a renewal; for, as Isaiah says, "the islands are renewed at the presence of God." These islands are the Churches of the Gentiles, which came to be founded and established in God. Thus, as we commemorate the dedication, let us celebrate a renewal!
5. Brethren: renew yourselves and begin a new life, putting aside your old nature. Let us control our passions which lead to death, re-dedicating all the faithful, so that they can hate the taste of evil. Let us no longer remember the former things, except to flee from them. In this way, man is renewed and the feast of the dedication may be celebrated.
4. O Christ, who are the eternal Word, establish Your Church as a tower of strength. Because You have founded it upon the Rock of Faith, it remains unshaken from age to age, since it contains You who became man for the Church in these latter days. We thank You, praising and singing: "You are from the beginning and eternal; O our King, glory to You!"

Troparion of the Dedication

(Tone 4)

As You had shown from on high the splendor of the firmament, so did You show on earth the splendor of the dwelling-place of Your holy glory: make it stand firm forever and ever, and accept the supplications which we offer there to You, unceasingly, through Your Mother, O You the Life and Resurrection of all!

HOMILY PAGE

From a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop

[Sermo 336, 1.6: PL 38 [edit. 1861], 1471-1472, 1475]

THE BUILDING AND DEDICATION OF GOD'S HOUSE WITHIN US

We are gathered together to celebrate the dedication of a house of prayer. This is our house of prayer, but we too are a house of God. If we are a house of God, its construction goes on in time so that it may be dedicated at the end of time. The house, in its construction, involves hard work, while its dedication is an occasion for rejoicing.

What was done when this church was being built is similar to what is done when believers are built up into Christ. When they first come to believe they are like timber and stone taken from woods and mountains. In their instruction, baptism and formation they are, so to speak, shaped, leveled and smoothed by the hands of carpenters and craftsmen.

But Christians do not make a house of God until they are one in charity. The timber and stone must fit together in an orderly plan, must be joined in perfect harmony, must give each other the support as it were of love, or no one would enter the building. When you see the stones and beams of a building holding together securely, you enter the building with an easy mind; you are not afraid of its falling down in ruins.

Christ the Lord wants to come in to us and dwell in us. Like a good builder he says: *A new commandment I give you: love one another.* He says: *I give you a commandment.* He means: Before, you were not engaged in building a house for me, but you lay in ruins. Therefore, to be raised up from your former state of ruin you must love one another.

The work we see complete in this building is physical; it should find its spiritual counterpart in your hearts. We see here the finished product of stone and wood; so too your lives should reveal the handiwork of God's grace.

Let us then offer our thanksgiving above all to the Lord our God, from whom every best and perfect gift comes. Let us praise his goodness with our whole hearts. He it was who inspired in his faithful people the will to build this house of prayer; he stirred up their desire and gave them his help. He awakened enthusiasm among those who were at first unconvinced, and guided to a successful conclusion the efforts of men of good will.

SELECTED LIVES OF THE SAINTS

OSITH (Osgyth, Osyth) (d. c.700) of Chich (Essex), was an obscure Anglo-Saxon princess. Her tribe was that of the Hwiccas; she was married to Sighere, king of the East Saxons (c.664-83), at the instigation of his overlord Wulfhere, king of Mercia (656-75). One purpose of the marriage may have been to consolidate Christianity in Essex, whose state was precarious owing to Sighere's apostasy; *Bede has nothing to say of Osith, but does recount the reconversion of Sighere by bishop Jaruman. The son of Sighere and Osith, called *Offa, became king of the East Saxons but abdicated in 709. Osith meanwhile had founded a convent at Chich, died there, and was venerated as a saint.

Bede's silence and the lack of corroborative evidence to support these details from her late Legend make the story suspect. Its more picturesque details include the appearance of a large and aggressive white stag whenever Sighere tried to consummate the marriage (ignoring the fact that they had a son), Osith's flight to some East Anglian bishops who accepted her vow of chastity and persuaded her husband to give her land for her nunnery, her violent death at Chich at the hands of pirates because she refused to commit idolatry, and her carrying her severed head after death to a church three miles away, where she was buried.

ÆTHELBURGA (1) (Ædilburh) (d. 675), abbess of Barking. Of a wealthy (possibly royal) family and sister of *Erkenwald, Ethelburga was quite likely the owner, as well as the ruler, of Barking. A late tradition says that Erkenwald invited *Hildelith from Chelles to be prioress and future abbess of Barking; her difficult task was to teach Ethelburga monastic traditions while retaining a subordinate role.

*Bede devoted several chapters to marvellous events just before Ethelburga's death, such as the death of a three-year-old boy after calling 'Edith' three times for his favourite nun, and the cure of the nun *Tortgith after a vision of Ethelburga. Feast: 11 October. Barking had translation feasts on 7 March, 4 May, and (with those of Hildelith and Wulfrida) 23 September.

ÆTHELFLEDA (Elfreda) (fl. c.960), abbess of Romsey. Daughter of Ethelwold of Wessex who founded Romsey; Ethelfleda joined the community at an early age under *Merewenna and eventually became abbess.

Her Legend tells that she was brought to the notice of the king and queen and stayed at court, where her habit, for ascetical reasons, of bathing in the nude at night-time was the occasion of the queen's nervous illness, caused by her indiscreet curiosity when she followed her to see where she went. The queen was afterwards cured by the abbess's intercession. Ethelfleda died at an advanced age. Feast: 23 October.

TECLA (Thecla) **OF ENGLAND** (Thecla of Kitzingen) (d. c.790), Benedictine nun and abbess. English by birth and a relative of *Lioba. Tecla was a nun of Wimborne (Dorset) who was sent by the abbess Tetta to help *Boniface in his missionary work in Germany. For a time she was a nun under Lioba at Tauberbischofsheim until becoming abbess of Ochsenfurt and later Kitzingen. The year of her death is unknown, but her cult is testified by liturgical books which assign her feast, with the Roman Martyrology, to 15 October. Dates of 27 or 28 September are also found. Her shrine remained at Kitzingen until her relics and others were scattered during the Peasants' War of the 16th century.

BEGU (d. 660), Anglo-Saxon nun of Hackness (N. Yorkshire) who, according to *Bede, saw in a vision the death of *Hilda, the foundress of both Whitby and Hackness. In c.1125 the Whitby monks, short of relics of local saints owing to the translation of Hilda to Glastonbury and the lack of interest in *Caedmon, found at Hackness a sarcophagus, supposedly by revelation, which was inscribed *Hoc est sepulchrum Begu*. The relics in it were translated to Whitby, where miracles were reported, but another set of miracles was claimed by St. Bees, one of whose monks wrote this account of the Whitby translation. The two saints, the Irish Bega and the Yorkshire Begu, were thenceforth confidently identified. The lack of literary survivals of the Whitby cult is notable. Feast: 31 October.