



**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland
St George's Antiochian Orthodox Society**

Sundays 11- 18 November 2018

**Archbishop: Metropolitan Silouan Oner
Archpriest Samir Gholam
Priest Michael Touma**

**Newsletter Issue:
20/18**

Regular Services:

Saturdays: Vespers 16:30
Sundays: Matins 10:00
Liturgy 11:00

Orthodox Calendar:

06 November – Paul The Confessor

08 November – Synaxis of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel

11 November- 8th Sunday of Luke

13 November – St John Chrysostom

14 November – Philip the Apostle

16 November – Matthew the Evangelist

18 November – 9th Sunday of Luke

Antiochian Orthodox Society of Britain projects

Projects completed with your generosity and support:

- Disabled Toilet and access
- Renew the central heating system by removing the large oil boiler and fitting two new wall mounted condensing boilers.
- Structural repair on the rotted beams inside the loft area.
- Extensive repair on part of the roof which needed urgent attention.
- Maintenance on the brick and stone work on the Church Tower.
- Tiding and making good the church galleries.
- Establishing an Arabic Sunday School.
- Yearly donations made to various UK charities plus charities from Lebanon and Syria.

Projects to be completed:

- Construct a basement under the church to create a community hall, and 3-4 classrooms with kitchen and toilet facilities.
- Renew the central heating system in the church/ office area.
- Construct two story flat above the kitchen/ hall area.
- Repair the remaining part of the roof.
- Renew the electrical system in the whole church.
- Renew the whole church carpet.
- Contribute towards the replacement of the church roof in Colchester for our British Antiochian brothers.



Youth Trip to St John Monastery 25/10/2018

It was a very successful spiritual and memorable trip. Everything went very well, the youth were very enthusiastic and glad.

we want to thank Carol and all the team who helped to organise this wonderful trip. We also want to thank the Monastery for their hospitality, and the society for their help.

We hope to have more trips in the future.



A Pastoral Word on Halloween by Archbishop Kyrill

The feast of Halloween began in pre-Christian times among the Celtic peoples of Great Britain, Ireland and northern France. These pagan peoples believed that life was born from death. we can see many diabolical beliefs and practices associated with this feast which have endured to this time. On the eve of the New Year's festival, the Druids, who were the priests of the Celtic cult, instructed their people to extinguish all hearth fires and lights. On the evening of the festival, a huge bonfire built from oak branches was ignited. Upon this fire sacrifices were burned as an offering in order to appease and cajole Samhain, the Prince of Death. It was also believed that Samhain, being pleased by the offerings, allowed the souls of the dead to return to their homes for a festal visit on this day. It is from this belief that the practice of wandering about in the dark dressed up in costumes imitating ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, fairies, etc. grew up. For the living entered into fellowship and communion with the dead by what was, and still is, a ritual act of imitation, through costume and the activity of wandering around in the dark of night, even as the souls of the dead were believed to wander.

The Holy Fathers of the first millennium counteracted this Celtic pagan feast by introducing the Feast of All Saints. It is from this that the term Halloween developed. The word Halloween has its roots in the Old English of All Hallow E'en, the Eve commemorating all those who were hallowed (sanctified).

The people who remained pagan and therefore anti-Christian reacted to the Church's attempt to supplant their festival by celebrating this evening with increased fervor. Many of these practices involved desecration and mockery of the Church's reverence for Holy Relics. Holy things, such as crosses and the Reserved Sacrament, were stolen and used in perverse and sacrilegious ways. The practice of begging became a system of persecution designed to harass Christians who were, by their beliefs, unable to participate by making offerings to those who served the Lord of Death. Halloween undermines the very basis of the Church which was founded on the blood of martyrs who had refused, by giving up their lives, to partake in any form of idolatry.

Holy Mother Church must take a firm stand in counteracting any such (pagan) events. Christ taught us that God is the judge in all our actions and beliefs and that we are either FOR GOD or AGAINST GOD. There is no neutral or middle of the road approach. Today we witness a revival of satanist cults; we hear of satanic services conducted on Halloween night. Children are kidnapped by satanists for their ritualistic sacrifices. These works all serve Satan, for they are not the fruit of the Holy Spirit, but the fruit of the spirit of this world.

Story and Lessons:

Missing Somebody

"Hi, have you seen mum today", Sam: "not lately no", "I saw her last week. She really misses you. She talks about you more than anyone else. I am going next week to see her, do you want to come with me?", Sam: "um, I'll let you know". Later that week, his Mum called, but he did not answer. One week later he was chilling with friends, she called him again but he ignored the call "Hi Sam, it's mom, I'm just calling to say hi, call me when you can ok? Miss you". One month later, his sister called him and asked if he talked to her lately, because the doctor says that she has Alzheimer's, she didn't even recognize her.

Imagine telling someone you love them but they don't even recognize who you are. Imagine now being able to pick up a call or call that person but for them to not recognize the history.

It is so rare to have love in our lives. It's even more rare to have people around us that really care for us and that supports us. But we're so busy looking for love in other areas that we forget the people who love us that are right there in front of us. We think to ourselves that we have time. There will be another chance. We believe that people will always be around until something like this happens. Don't take people for granted. They may love you forever, but they may not be around forever. When someone is trying to keep in touch; whether it's a message they send us, whether it's them trying to call us. When we're busy, all of that seems like a burden, it seems like stress, it seems like pressure, but when we recognize that moment may never happen again in the future, we learn to value it, we learn to appreciate it, we learn to recognize how truly valuable and priceless it is.

Appreciate what you have before it turns into what you had.

Fathers quotes:

“I am often reproached for continually attacking the rich. Yes, because the rich are continually attacking the poor. But those I attack are not the rich as such, only those who misuse their wealth. I point out constantly that those I accuse are not the rich but the rapacious. Wealth is one thing, covetousness another. Learn to distinguish”

“We spare neither labours nor means in order to teach our children secular sciences, so that they can serve well the earthly authorities. Only the knowledge of the holy Faith, the service of the Heavenly King are a matter of indifference to us. We allow them to attend spectacles but we care little whether they go to Church and stand within it reverently. We demand an account from them of what they learned in their secular institutes – why do we not demand an account from them of what they heard in the Lord’s house?”

“When you are weary of praying, and does not receive, consider how often you have heard a poor man calling upon you, and has not listened to him, and he has not been angry nor insulted you”

St John Chrysostom

Announcements:

A Holy liturgy, will be celebrated for the **Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel** on Wednesday November 7, 7:00 pm.

Saturday November 17th, the Antiochian Orthodox Society will hold its **Annual Charity Dinner** at 7.30pm in the Royal Garden Hotel, Please ask Father Michael or any member of the society board for tickets.

A Fair of handmade products is projected; who is interested to help, please get in touch with Father Michael Touma, the event will take place on Sunday 2nd of December after the Holy Liturgy.

The Annual Christmas Lunch will take place on the 16th of December 2018, at the Hilton London Metropole 2:00pm, for tickets please get in touch with Mrs Samira Abdel-Nour.

برعاية الميترربوليت سلوان أونر تدعوكم مطرانية الجزر البريطانية وَايرلندا الانطاكية للروم الأرثوذكس الى **مؤتمر العام 2019**
بعنوان : **العمل في كرم الرب، رعاية الأطفال وتربيتهم على الإيمان**، وذلك من نهار الاثنين 27 لغاية 29 أيار 2019، الدعوة عامة،
للاستفسار الرجاء مراجعة الأب ميخائيل.