

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** St. Andrew's Management require us to vacate the church by 3 p.m. every Sunday. There is no negotiation on this.

**Fr. John**

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**Church Security**

After all Services, and any meetings and refreshments have finished, the church is locked and so is the main entrance gate - please be careful that you are not locked in! In an emergency telephone 07733227767.

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**The Parish of the Dormition of the Mother of God (Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

**Registered Charity Number: 1125574**

**Parish Clergy**

Parish Priest

Father John Lee: 3 Brookwood Avenue, Barnes, London SW13 0LR  
020 88767993

Assistant Priest

Father Stephan 237 Luton Road, Harpenden AL5 3DE  
Maikovsky: 01582623939 s.maikovsky@ntlworld.com

Hierodeacon

Alexander Willis: Flat 6, 36 Iverson Road, London NW6 2HE  
02076259447 awillis161@btinternet.com

Churchwarden

Pam Grealy: 02086987241; mobile: 07726336339

Newsletter e-mail: podnewsletter@googlemail.com

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The parish is in the Deanery of Great Britain and Ireland within the Archdiocese of Orthodox Parishes of Russian Tradition in Western Europe, Exarchate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The head of the Archdiocese is His Eminence Archbishop Gabriel of Comana, Exarch of Western Europe. The cathedral of the Archdiocese is the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, rue Daru, Paris.

# The Dormition of the Mother of God (EP)

Issue: 55; December 2009

Sunday: December 6th at 10:30 a.m.

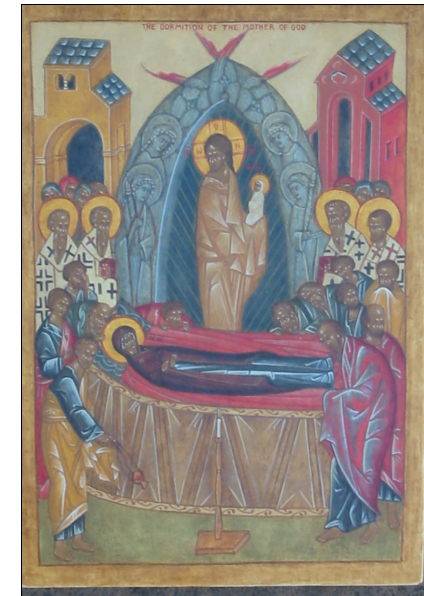
## The Holy Liturgy

All services are celebrated in Church Slavonic and in English.

**FIRST ISSUE IN DECEMBER**



**Orthodox Parish Worshipping  
at St. Andrew Holborn**



Troparion

**“In giving birth, O Mother of God, Thou hast kept Thy virginity, and in falling asleep Thou hast not forsaken the world. Thou, O Mother of life, hast passed over into life and by Thy prayers dost deliver our souls from death.”**

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

“For the Orthodox the Christmas fast has begun. For our neighbours and surrounding communities the horrible phrase “the run-up to Xmas” has begun. The shops are offering all manner of wonderful things to make this Christmas one of the best ever! And we’ve no quarrel with that.

What has caught my attention however is one particular version of the Advent Calendar. You are all familiar with the western Advent calendar where each week a window opens showing the progression to Christ’s birth, usually beginning with the Angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary and leading up to the birth of Christ in the stable. There has been this year another version of calendar on sale - some of you may have seen it? Its’ windows are devoted entirely to pleasure, each week something new to look forward to - the office party, the alcohol, the over-indulgence in rich food and finally the last window picturing a drunk man and woman, very much the worse for wear, with ice bags on their throbbing heads.

None of this is a surprise to us - except that the makers of the calendar have had the cheek to call it an Advent Calendar!

I always remember Metropolitan Anthony talking about the difference in the old and new calendars at Christmas... he said to those of us on the old Julian Calendar “do not draw your skirts aside and say “sorry it’s not our Christmas yet.” He went on to say that we had an obligation to our fellow countrymen to register the fact that it was perhaps the one time of the year when their thoughts were open to things spiritual and that we should be there for them.

If ever there is a propitious moment to be “there” for our fellow countrymen it is during these days leading up to Christmas.

These are the days when we should be true missionaries! These are the days when we have a real chance to practice loss of self and purity of intention, not in a superior, self-righteous way but in a real Christ-like love for all those around us who do not know what the real Advent Calendar means!”

Amen

**Fr. John**

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### IMPORTANT NOTES

**Our next Services, here at St. Andrew’s are:**

**on Saturday, December 19th, at 5:30 p.m.: The Vigil**  
**on Sunday, December 20th, at 10:30 a.m.: The Holy Liturgy**  
**on Saturday, January 2nd, at 5:30 p.m.: The Vigil**  
**on Sunday, January 3rd, at 10:30 a.m.: The Holy Liturgy**

**then**

**We are at the United Reformed Church in Allen Street, Kensington, London W8 6BL** ( the church is off Kensington High Street and High Street Kensington tube station is just two streets away) **for:**

**The Nativity of our Lord**

**On Wednesday, January 6th , at 6 p.m.: The Vigil**

**On Thursday, January 7th, at 10:00 a.m.: The Holy Liturgy**

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We return to St. Andrew’s on Saturday, January 16th for the Vigil at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, January 17th for the Holy Liturgy and Blessing of Waters.