

Volume 5, Issue 2
Autumn 2015



St. Seraphim's News

St Seraphim's Garden opens!



The Garden Opening and Party on Saturday 29th June 2015 was a happy occasion. The sunny weather and the music of the Pilgrim Jazz Band set the scene and people came throughout the afternoon and into the early evening.

Jonathan, Bishop of Lynn formally opened the garden and went on the bless the boundary.

The geese were the first to receive a sprinkling of holy water and this may have accounted for their good and quiet behaviour throughout the party!

Thank you all who came to share in this day of celebration, all who helped and contributed in some way, and those present in thought. Especially lovely was the number of old friends who came, too many to name individually, who included a member of the original group who arrived in December 1966. Then there were Leon's cousins and Father David's nephew, Bishop Jonathan. People who have helped and supported St Seraphim's Trust since it's beginning also were among the familiar faces, as well as more recent friends through the railway connection.

St Seraphim's Trust would like to express grateful thanks to our funders, supporters and friends :



A Glorious Summer's Day!



Sophie, Barry and Stelios, Father Dan and Christina were busy either cooking or serving the food, as you will see in the photographs. The success of the day was down to the input of volunteers, from near and far, and the band, who made the day possible by their combined efforts.

Nathalie from the Probation Service came with her family, representing the four years development work by the payback teams, and Derek, Pauline and Josie who made the Celtic Cross. Too many volunteers to name individually: thank you everyone!

You can see the photos in this issue what a wonderful day it was!

An important anniversary

Another significant milestone is approaching; on 6th December, 2016 the 50th anniversary of Father David and others arriving in Walsingham.

To this end the development work is being promoted, in this Newsletter by the promotional leaflet enclosed, which we urge you to pass on to anyone who might be interested in helping. The aims are outlined, including essential repairs to the Chapel, with the possible addition of six icons from the collection restored and securely fastened to the wall. There is a chance for individuals to 'sponsor' an icon for this purpose, and also for other icons to be cleaned and restored for the permanent display; details can be supplied on the icons we have in mind for this. We would love to put glass behind the Royal doors where the wood is now. The wood was added as a



security measure and glass would allow for the morning light to come back into the Chapel. If you would like to contribute towards this it would bring the Chapel back to the way it was.

The Pilgrim Chapel of St Seraphim is open daily throughout the year and is visited daily, by individuals, groups and others who come for the peace and to pray. People coming on retreat can also use the garden as part of their reflection and quiet.

The development work continues at St Seraphim's with volunteers working on the documents and archives, with the aim of making these available online.

For the anniversary, a booklet on Walsingham Station and a booklet on the history of St Seraphim's are both being compiled by volunteers who are doing sterling work, using the information in the ar-

chives. The permanent display area is being planned for the platform space, where at present the documents and archiving takes place and some items are stored.

When the documenting and archiving is completed, the office equipment and items stored can be moved to other rooms. See the details on the promotional leaflet.

Once funding has been obtained for insulating and heating the display space we can then begin work on the preparation for the display area.



The Community Payback continue to work in the garden and have recently cut the hedge, which is looking smart and will provide shelter for the many birds that enjoy the garden. Courtesy of a generous donor there is a sturdy lawnmower fit for the purpose of cutting all the grass and managing the slope.



The Quiet Garden and Disabled Access

The disabled access ramp, from Station road into the Quiet Garden, has been planted both sides by a kind and generous supporter who spent two days planting the shrubs, ready for the garden opening.

There is turning on the path for mobility scooters at the intersection of the lamp and oil shed and shaded pergola. Wheelchair users can turn at the Celtic cross.

The garden has been open every Wednesday in conjunction with the railway display on the platform, since April 2015. The number of visitors and the interest shown has been very encouraging.

There is always a Welcomer present in the garden and the railway display on these days and it is intended to open the garden more frequently when more Welcomers become available.

The garden now has been affiliated to the Quiet Garden movement, which has over 400 gardens worldwide on their list, offering spirituality and hospitality. We will be offering events in conjunction with this which will be advertised on the website.

Plants have been donated by Rosemary and Alan Cooper of Mid-

Norfolk Railway and friends from Wells have given both practical help in the garden as well as providing plants. Others from Walsingham and Houghton St Giles have donated plants, thank you all.



Donations for the garden are used for the maintenance of the garden, replacement of tools and general refurbishment of the facilities. There is an extensive toolshed for the use of the volunteers. Treatment of the wooden structures is carried out on an annual basis, to extend the life of the buildings. Thanks goes to all the volunteers, including our Welcomers who have enabled the garden to be open this year. Special thanks go

to a neighbour who has recently removed the ivy and weeds which were growing up the platform from the ditch below and has made a huge difference. A picket fence has been constructed along the platform, giving a security boundary and encouraging all to use the entrance from Station Road. Thank you to our supporter who paid for this work to be carried out and to Ken Lamb who did an excellent job.

Thank you also for the gift of a birdbox recently by local visitors. There are a lot of blue tits in the garden who will be glad of a place to nest; they are a delight to watch.

A garden trail for children to complete while the adults have a rest, has been prepared, featuring a family of 8 kittens and their Mother.

Courtesy of a small Museum grant, there is also a trail leaflet, 'Discover Icons in Walsingham' which includes four churches where icons by Father David and Leon Liddament can be found in and near Walsingham. This leaflet is also available in Russian.

The Railway

Railway development has been ongoing, with people kindly bringing or sending material on a variety of information including past station workers and pilgrimages.

A recent visitor in his 80's had worked at Liverpool Street station in the 1950's and had worked on the special trains for the Pilgrimages to Walsingham for the sick. On these days the Guards van was converted into a chapel for the duration. Children with polio travelled with a portable iron lung. The visitor said the very sick came

on these pilgrimages and as a young man he had found it upsetting. We are collecting memories, facts and materials to add to the railway collection which includes artefacts mostly dug up during the development of the garden. Recently it was pointed out to me where I could photograph a sign which had been on the unmanned crossing just along the track and I was able to take a photograph, at the same time finding the answer to who manned the crossing! The widow and a daughter of the last signalman to work at Walsingham

station, Mr Denis 'Tiny' Allenden, have been in touch, with some photographs of him at work and a poem written by Mr Allenden on the closure of the railway.

*'Rest in Peace'
One day in 1964,
The Beeching axe came down,
And with it went the diesel trains,
From Wells to Dereham Town.'*

We are very grateful to everyone who is able to supply information and facts about the railway, preserving some of the social and industrial history of Walsingham.



ST. SERAPHIM'S TRUST

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In brief...

Friends of St Seraphim's

Renewal of membership to the Friends of St Seraphim's was due in July 2015, and I apologise for omitting to include the renewal in the previous newsletter.

For those who have joined since April 2015 please ignore this reminder. The subscription from the Friends of St Seraphim's enables the printing and circulating twice yearly of the newsletter, which is the main means of communicating the work and progress at St Seraphim's.

To renew your membership to the Friends of St Seraphim's please send your subscription of £10, payable to St Seraphim's Trust. Please reference your payment as 'Friends Renewal'. Those who wish to Gift Aid their donation



will find a downloadable form on the website. Alternatively, request a form by post.

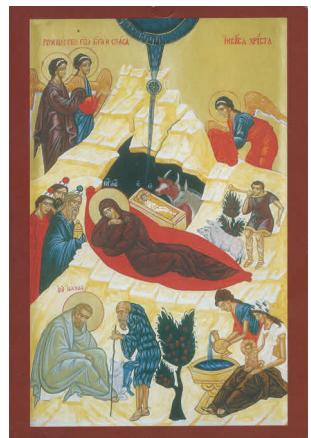
St Seraphim's Day was celebrated on Sunday 19th July and Father Christopher kindly agreed the Liturgy at the Parish Church of the Holy Transfiguration would be cancelled, so those who wished to could worship at St Seraphim's. Father Patrick Hodson served and there were several visitors. It was

The Chapel of St. Seraphim is a place of Orthodox Christian worship. The Faith to which it bears witness is that of the Undivided Christian Church before West and East became separated in the Eleventh Century. Its ancient tradition of worship and prayer is rooted in its biblical and apostolic inheritance, and is expressed in living symbolic form.

In 1966 the Anglican Shrine authorities asked that someone be sent to take care of the Orthodox chapel there, and Father Mark Meyrick (who subsequently became a monk, with the name David) came to undertake that task. It was soon apparent that the open plan construction of the chapel was unsuited to a pattern of regular services and in 1967 Father David and three companions, with £25 between them, settled in this building which, until the closure of the railway in the early 60s, had been Walsingham's station on the line between Wells and Fakenham. They converted the booking hall and ticket office into the nave and altar of their new chapel, and crowned it with bell tower, onion dome and cross. The painting and selling of icons was, from the outset, an important part of the Orthodox witness here. Following Father David's death in 1993, his colleague Leon Liddament continued and developed that tradition until his own death in 2010.

Wishing all our readers a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2016.

**Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!**



a lovely feast day, thank you to all who joined in.

St Seraphim's is well used by pilgrims, visitors and locals, appreciating the peace they find inside. In the past there has been pilgrimages to Walsingham, made by both the Greek and the Russian churches, to the Anglican Shrine, before the small chapel in the Shrine was provided.

Cards of the Nativity (image above) are on sale 3 for £1.10 plus post and packing if applicable.

