

Volume 6, Issue 2

Autumn 2016



St. Seraphim's News



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

a cheque for £3,750.

Unfortunately the Jackdaws will also lose their nesting space because the chimney pots will be capped, but it will put a stop to the unwanted nesting material which comes down the chimneys at present.

Because of these proposed works and with other commitments for the volunteers here the 50th Anniversary on December 6th will be small and the main events will take place throughout 2017.

Photograph of chapel © Nick Stone

Progress to celebrate!



Progress to celebrate—continued

Our current fundraising campaign is for preserving the building for public access and the organising of the platform rooms into one permanent display area for the railway and pilgrimage collections. The Ladies Waiting room and Porter's room, will be used to house the display of icons and iconographer's equipment. This will allow access to the icon display from the chapel, and by doing this we hope to preserve the feeling and experiences that people gain from being here. It will also mean the separate elements of this museum will be catered for more sympathetically without one detracting from the other.

This major undertaking will be possible in part due to the dedicated work by the volunteer workforce over the past four years, in documenting and archiving the collections and papers, and managing the collections. The digital archives are a work in progress, as is a new website currently under construction. With the aid of a grant from Norfolk Museums Service we have been able to purchase a cataloguing system which will enable the archives to be available online.

Railway News



Over the past four years our volunteers having been uncovering the interesting story of this station and the connections to it, including that of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. There is still a lot of work to do, including further research into the archives at Holkham Hall but we thought it would be nice to include a bit in each newsletter for those interested in this side of the Trust's work.

The Fakenham to Wells line consisted of nine and half miles of track, 12 bridges, one viaduct and three stations and was completed in December 1857 by the renowned engineer Solomon Treadwell, one of four brothers who were railway contractors in Gloucestershire and had worked for Brunel on several occasions. Their firm was chosen to make the launch for the fated Great Eastern ship, a section of which was excavated in the 1980's and is now part of a Heritage Site at Millwall. In 1859 Solomon Tredwell was

asked to go to India to complete the Bhore Ghat route of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway. However, he contracted "an alarming unnamed illness" most likely to be cholera which killed a third of the workforce on the Bhore Ghat. It was his wife Alice who took over the management of the Bhor Ghat contract and "with a degree of spirit and judgment" that government officers in Bombay thought remarkable, given her sex and recent loss" saw the project to its completion in 1863, on time and under budget.

Above: Walsingham Station Plans, 1908

St. Nicholas

The feast day of St Nicholas falls on 6th December, which this year marks the anniversary of the small group arriving in Walsingham who went on to found St Seraphim's.

St Nicholas became part of the Christmas story because of his good deeds, which were usually miraculous, so he became known as the wonderworker. His fame spread throughout the world and gradually different countries had their own versions of the miracles he had performed. He lived in the ancient country of Lycia (now part of Turkey) and was known as holy from an early age, curing a woman with a crippled arm as a schoolboy.

St Nicholas was also known for his deep faith and humility and performed his deeds in secret. He only accepted to become a bishop because of his desire to do Christ's work 'in order that one should no longer live for oneself but for others' He is shown wearing a bishops' robes and Christ is on his left with His hand raised in blessing and the Mother of God is holding the protecting veil over him.



Remembering Una—and new feathered visitors!



Sadly, **Una**, one of the friendly geese who lived in St Serafim's garden most of her 18 years of life, died on 5th November. Una was very frail and had given cause for concern for

some time, both to her companion Wanda, and myself. Wanda, though grieving, is coping, not least because she has human company most of the time, and she has grown used to visitors to the garden, recognising regular visitors.

The geese have given much pleasure to visitors, who are surprised to find geese behaving in a non-aggressive way. Having geese also attracts smaller birds to the garden and there is plenty of birdlife

throughout the garden.

The wildlife in the Quiet Garden took on an unexpected increase in numbers when a pair of Egyptian geese emerged from a nest with their fledglings. They only stayed a couple of days before making a bid for freedom under the picket fencing and on to the farmland beyond.



From the visitors' book...

30.7.16 - '*A wonderful place to visit, we had never expected to feel the presence of our Lord in a redundant railway station. In here God is all around you.*' (J & E C)

30.8.16 - '*We came in to pay a visit and all three of us felt really moved by such a beautiful place, Thank you.*' ('W' family, Surrey)

21.9.16 - '*Well combined histories of Icons and Railways-pilgrims over the years!* (T & P, Warrington)

30.10.16 - '*I particularly enjoyed this beautiful, calm, icon Chapel with the lovingly created icons and informative panels with the history of this place. Please be strong and keep this place for future generations of life's 'pilgrims.'* CKW, London S.E.

Celebrating our volunteers!

The volunteers continue to work on the documenting and archiving every Monday. Our two graduates both moved on to employment, though each first having compiled booklets, one on the railway and one on the Orthodox presence in Walsingham, which will both be published in due course. It was a pleasure working with them, and we wish them well in their respective careers.

In the summer holidays we were joined by a student who was home from University and who helped on the work of compiling a list of

the sheet music. This collection contains the early translation of the Orthodox Services into English from the Septuagint and their setting to music, forming the Services of the Churches Year.

The Welcomers are here every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon to greet the visitors to the railway display and garden. There have been many visitors to the garden and to the railway display and several railway enthusiasts have visited and shared information with us and given advice. Someone will be available during

the winter to enable the display to be available to visitors.

Another volunteer led a workshop at the Youth Pilgrimage in the summer, where the task was to make a travelling diptych, following traditional methods for the use of colour as meaning.

Training courses have been attended, including Crowdfunding and Legacies, Digital Indexing, Multi Sensory approach to Reminiscence, Basic Display Course, Audience Participation, and the Summer Social in Sheringham Museum.



ST. SERAPHIM'S TRUST

**Station Road,
Little Walsingham
Norfolk, NR22 6EB, UK**

Tel: 01328 820610

Email: sylvia@iconpainter.org.uk
Web: www.iconpainter.org.uk

For the chapel enquiries: Contact the Priest-in-charge, Father John Marks:
01271 883576

*Registered as a charity, no 1120335
Registered as a company limited by guarantee, no 6287991*

The Pilgrim 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.

THANK YOU to all who have given a donation to the work of St Seraphim's Trust . As a charitable trust, if you are able to gift aid your donation this will increase the value. Our museum is run by unpaid volunteers and funded by public donations. We will spend your gift wisely to help expand our site, make the collections available to the public and tell the stories of the railway, chapel and iconographers and the story of pilgrimage by train.

Whether through volunteering or donating, your efforts will help us preserve this unique site, long established and in need of TLC to the building, which is damp and cold for much of the year, through want of sustainable heating. We welcome donations that can be used towards the general funds to enable us to meet our most urgent needs, however we are also happy to accept gifts for a particular use.

In brief...

Garden Party

On June 25th we hosted our second Open Day Garden Party and the Pilgrim Jazz Band once again provided a wonderful mix of song and music to keep feet tapping, and inspire some dancing. It was another warm afternoon with a large number of Friends of St. Seraphim's and general visitors coming along to enjoy food and drink and meet up with people not seen since last year! It was also a lovely way to thank the volunteers who had worked so hard throughout the year, as well as on the day. Next year the Garden party is planned for Saturday 24th June.

Chapel.

Father Kosmas Wittwer and his faithful from Rugby visited in June and it was a pleasure as always to welcome them. Father Kosmas served Vespers on the Friday evening and the Liturgy on



Saturday, in the newly decorated Chapel.

Friends renewal

It is time for renewal of membership to the Friends of St Seraphim's and a form is available on the website for the purpose or one can be requested from St Seraphim's office. Thank you for your continued support to the work of the Trust.

Community Payback, run by the Probation Service, continue to visit the garden and premises and this year the chapel and the dome have

had a new coat of paint. The hedge has been clipped in the Spring and the Autumn and is maturing nicely for the birds to nest in, as well as keeping out the winds in winter. Some elder stumps have been removed and the result is a lot more light onto the bank, the main planted area. Thank you to the payback and their supervisors who do a great job. Autumn has provided apples and walnuts, and earlier the plums were enjoyed, by humans and wildlife. There are plants for sale in the garden, which presently include natural primroses grown from seed.

If you visit the garden on Wednesday or Saturday afternoons, there is someone on hand to make you a cuppa.

Wishing you all a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Christ is Born!