

Volume 7, Issue 2

Autumn 2017



St. Seraphim's News

Another busy year!



2017 has been a busy year for the trustees and volunteers at St Seraphim's. The two months of work on the roof and guttering was major work, and the garden is always a place of work, contemplation and community.

It has been a pleasure to welcome visitors especially on Wednesdays and Saturdays when there have been welcomers on hand in the garden and railway display. The chapel has welcomed visitors daily and

some have been coming since the chapel was developed in 1966. Visitors have brought memories of using the station in its day, and at a recent showing of railway archive footage at the Walsingham Picture Palace, memories were told of the last steam train to leave Wells and the fire started in a field by the sparks.

To the many friends and visitors this year, thank you for visiting and spending time here and sharing memories.

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



Another busy year—continued



Brigid and Sylvia attended a Trustee Muster course in Cambridge, run by the Association of Independent Museums and Shared Enterprise in collaboration, which has led to funding from both organisations, to provide consultants to assist with our fundraising and governance.

Other courses attended have enabled networking with other people volunteering in a variety of settings. The main fundraising we are undertaking at present includes having a gallery accessible to the public, and information on the icon painting workshops that form part of Little Walsingham's history. To develop a permanent display of icons, with practical sessions on icon painting and to increase the volunteer workforce. Thank you to those who provided letters of support for our application, this is much appreciated.

This photo of the chapel features our brand new roof!

In the garden...

The Garden party (*photos adjacent and front page*) took place on Saturday the 24th of June, with Four in a Bar supplying the popular Jazz music. A dedicated band of helpers enables this event to be an annual undertaking, thank you to them all. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, thank you to all who came.



gramme of the Marian Pilgrimage, Metropolitan Kallistos spoke about the Quiet Garden movement, of which he is a patron, and included a few words on St Seraphim's becoming a member of the Quiet Garden movement, and wishing all success for this.

The Garden has been awarded the North Norfolk Environment Award, in recognition for using a derelict railway garden for a space for public enjoyment, and for the benefit of ecology and wildlife. More on this in the next newsletter!

The Payback teams have continued to visit the garden on a regular basis, working on the maintenance of the garden as well as undertaking the task of making a trellis topping for the fence and installing this. Thank you to all who have been involved in these sessions, the fence looks good.

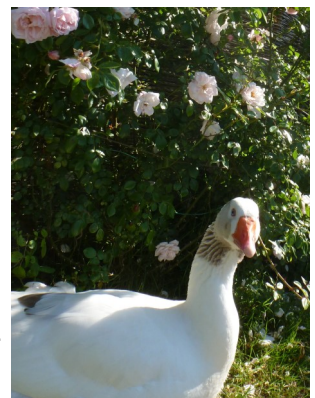
The Quiet Garden group, newly established, has compiled a programme of talks for 2018. For those interested, get in touch using the details on the back of the newsletter. On Wednesday 15th March 2017, during the pro-

This year, visitors have remarked on the number of butterflies they have seen in the garden.

Old friends and new...



During the Summer an old friend visited, who in his younger days had been the first garden volunteer, in the early 2000's. Robert (*left*), now living a few miles away, now has a vehicle in which his lovely carers drive him and his wheelchair to visit his friends in Walsingham. The day Robert visited, there were local people as well as pilgrims who remembered Robert from their visits to the Norton rooms.



Blessed are the peacemakers

On Saturday 25th November 2017 a Requiem Mass was held at the Chapel of Reconciliation, Houghton St Giles, for Monseigneur Augustine Hoey, followed by the interment of Father Augustine's ashes in St Mary's Churchyard, Little Walsingham. Father Augustine spent much of his life in prayer of intercession, and the last few years of his life were spent in Little Walsingham, where Father Augustine prayed for unity, visiting each church or chapel regularly. The cold did not deter him.

The photograph of Father Augustine was taken by Leon Lidament, Iconographer, during one of Father Augustine's annual visits to Walsingham each February, before he moved here.

The Service was lovely, fitting of such a gentle soul, and it was heartening to see young members of the family bearing Father Au-



gustine's hat along the Holy Mile, on their way to St Mary's.

Sitting in the Chapel of Reconciliation, it brought to mind the memory of Demetrios Koutroubis, mentioned below, who also spent the remaining years of his life in Walsingham, ending with his buri-

al at the churchyard at North Barsham, a short walk from the Chapel of Reconciliation, in March '83.

Like Father Augustine, Demetrios also felt a special link with the Mother of God, with the word Panagia, Greek for Mother of God, on his lips when he died. Demetrios was born in Athens in 1921, and he was a long-time friend of Donald Allchin, who visited the grave during the 1990's.

Both Father Augustine and Demetrios were drawn to Walsingham by the presence of the Mother of God, both pilgrims on the path of peace among men, and I was fortunate to meet them both, in their final years in Walsingham. Both visited St Seraphim's Chapel, Demetrios to participate in the worship there, Father Augustine to pray for unity. St Seraphim had a special devotion to the Mother of God, in front of whose icon he was kneeling in prayer, when he died

God Bless them both! Memory Eternal!

'Modern Orthodox Thinkers from the Philokalia to the Present'



This book by Father Andrew Louth, 2015, contains 2 pages on the life and work of Demetrios Koutroubis. In March 1983 Demetrios was buried at the little churchyard of North Barsham, close to Walsingham. Demetrios was a much loved visitor to St Seraphim's during the years 1981 to 1983, and it is appreciated that through the work of Christos Yannaras and others the thinking of Demetrios is available. It is hoped that one day 'The Grace of Theology' published in 1995 by Domus publishers, Athens, containing writings by Demetrios, will be translated and published in English.

St Seraphim's day

St Seraphim's day, 19th July 2017 was celebrated with a pilgrimage from the Antiochan parishes of Lincoln and Colchester, with local Orthodox joining in to celebrate the Divine liturgy, followed by a picnic in the garden.

Thank you to all involved in organising the pilgrimage, and those who came to share the day's events.

The message of St Seraphim, the aim of the spiritual life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit, was a theme at a Quiet Day held in July and led by Dr Pauline Lovelock.





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.

ST. SERAPHIM'S TRUST

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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.

Friends of St. Seraphims

For those of you who have joined the Friends of St Seraphim, a reminder that the annual subscription of £10 is due, thank you. The work of St Seraphim's relies on donations and grants and we are very grateful for all contributions to the work.

The work of St Seraphim's equally relies on volunteers and



if you have time to spare, and are interested, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you!



**Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!**

**Wishing all our readers
a happy Christmas and
peaceful 2018.**