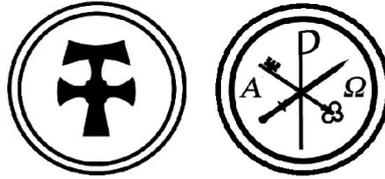


Monastery of St. Antony and St. Cuthbert

The Brotherhood of the Glorious Apostles Peter and Paul



# December 2018

**From Fr. Philip:**

The weather is getting colder and the nights descending very early: quite dark now in the late afternoon. When the moon shines the whole monastery is filled with its icy light but when it is overcast it is difficult to see a few feet ahead. The mornings (sometimes the whole day) are often filled with mist or fog so thick that one cannot see beyond the path. This then (sometimes) burns back leaving some spectacular views.

We are now acclimatised to getting up at 4am for the services which start at 5am (GMT throughout the year). Psalms are already becoming friends who pop in on certain days. It is wonderful to see the sun begin to rise over the Long Mynd and to hear the sounds of night gradually transform into the sounds of day. One has a very definite feeling of the day progressing here.

We've already had the first snow! It is possible to be snowed in here for several weeks at a time! For this reason we have a "Snow Store" of provisions that should last us just over three weeks at a time. I was brought up in Afghanistan where having



such a snow store was commonplace and necessary – it went down to -35°C there: I hope we will feel warmer than that here!

We've had several visitors. Fr. Patrick, Fr. Paulinus, Daniel and Alex all came and took their share of services and working hard

in the monastery. Several people are now beginning to send us names of those they'd like prayed for. (Hey folks! That's part of what we are for!) Every Saturday we particularly pray for those Antiochian (and other) priests, and deacons and their families who have died and for the Antiochian priests and their families who are still serving. If you have others (Like your parish priest you'd like us to remember, then please email me their names.

We continue to fight the mud and damp and make modifications to the structures – some of which have become quite rotten. The old bird cage was dismantled in such a way that it could be “upcycled” as a front door to the store room. Tarpaulins have been used to create waterproof walls. This was necessary as the rain poured into that place flooding the floor to the depth of a couple of centimetres. The floor is beginning to dry out.





**Nature:**



We have caught sight of a beautiful fox scampering across our track several times but there have been no fox prints by our buildings. He is a really healthy dog fox with a full brush and his winter coat. There is plenty for him to eat round here as is evidenced by the number of kites, buzzards and other birds of prey we see daily. The pheasants have thinned out dramatically. At the start of October we regularly counted 25 or more pheasants in the front paddock but, now that we are about half

way through the hunting season, it is more usual to see five or six running for their lives into the trees.



The bats have finally begun their hibernation – they flew until 16<sup>th</sup> November.

May like to keep an eye on our website which is regularly updated. Also Facebook : (The Orthodox Christian Monastery of St Antony and St Cuthbert.)

Also on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfWMAefJYqFEZkYiK2WmeEw/videos>

I've uploaded new videos that "tour" the monastery.

### **Your prayers!**

One of our number has left recently. Prayers for him please! It is hard returning to "everyday" life. Also a new brother is due to arrive in Mid December. Prayers for him please!

### **Support:**

There are several ways to support the Monastery:

1. Please pray for us.
2. Through making use of our industries:
  - a. We create websites (please see the websites for the Antiochian Archdiocesan, the Cathedral, for Lincoln, Worcester and Manchester parishes. (Please check our website for developments).
  - b. We have a small Emporium which will gradually sell more things.
  - c. We will gradually add to these industries.

3. Through direct giving. See below. You can find details on the website but also by making donations to our charity: THE STIPERSTONES TRUST Registered charity number: 1077603.

### **Us supporting you:**

1. Send us requests for prayer. We are happy to remember people in our prayers, in the proskimide, artoklasias (lytias) and so on.
2. Come and stay to join us in prayer and our life for a few days.

### **Address and Contacts:**

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[www.orthodoxmonastery.co.uk](http://www.orthodoxmonastery.co.uk)

[info@orthodoxmonastery.co.uk](mailto:info@orthodoxmonastery.co.uk)

[Fr.Philip@gmx.com](mailto:Fr.Philip@gmx.com)

### **Making donations:**

If you'd like to support what we are doing financially that would be lovely – but please do not feel that you “must”. We DO need money and we are already finding that we need to expand the monastery as more people are asking to stay and space is very limited.

We also need lots of things (we have far too much of some things already) but we need new paths, concrete, cement, wood, more cells, a larger church(the current one gets very cramped), taps that work (most of the taps here are broken) and a good plumber, the boiler maintained, new water heaters (some of them here don't work and it is cold) We also need to eat, and we need to feed our guests!

The best way you can help us with these things is by setting up a small monthly Standing Order. This is very easy. If you have Internet Banking it is five minutes work. Otherwise you could complete the attached form and send it to your Bank Manager. We will spend your money VERY carefully and be delighted to show you what we are doing in person.

To make this easy I have included a Standing Order Form at the end of the Newsletter.



You may also consider completing a Gift Aid form too. This increases your gift by 25% (so £1 becomes £1.25)



**Standing Order Form.**

To the Manager

Bank Address:


I/we hereby authorise and request you to debit my/our

Account Name*	
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Account Details

Sot Code	Account Number	Amount	Frequency
			Monthly

Beginning date	End date:
/   /	/   /

And credit

The Stiperstones Trust, Lloyds Bank, Pride Hill, Shrewsbury. SY1 1DG

Sort Code: 30-97-62	Account: 02291524
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Quoting reference: The Stiperstones Trust

Signed:	Date:
Name in Block Capitals:	

\* Please ensure that the actual name on/of the account is included in this box so that we can accurately match your payment to our records.

**Please print this page off and send it to your Bank Manager.**

**Gift Aid:**

1. Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/ mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. If you are a UK taxpayer, please tick the box below to join the Gift Aid scheme. Doing so will mean that we can claim up to 25p extra for every £1 you give, at no additional cost to you!

Yes, I am a UK taxpayer. Please treat all donations I make to The Stiperstones Trust as Gift Aid donations until further notice. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations to charities and Community amateur sports clubs (CASCs) in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. The Stiperstones Trust will claim 25p on every £1 donated. Please let us know if you want to cancel the declaration, change your name and/or address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Signed:

Date:

**Please print off this page and send it to: The Stiperstones Trust, EDGE VIEW, BIRDS BARN LANE, WOLVERLEY, KIDDERMINSTER, DY11 5SG**

**Gift Aid Information** When the Stiperstones Trust receives a donation from a UK taxpayer, we are entitled to claim an amount of tax (calculated at the basic rate of income tax in that year) paid on that donation. Once you have given your permission for us to do this on your behalf (by filling in this Gift Aid form), there is no need for you to do anything else. All that is required is that you must be a taxpayer and that you would have paid or will pay sufficient Income and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover all the Gift Aid claimed on all your donations to all charities and Community amateur sports clubs in that tax year. Please note that it is your responsibility to pay any difference. The amount of

tax we claim will be 25% of the total value of your donations in that tax year. Furthermore, if you are a higher taxpayer, you are also entitled to claim the difference between the basic rate which we will claim and the amount of tax you have actually paid. For further details on how you can do this, please contact your tax office. If your tax situation changes and your gifts will no longer be eligible for the Gift Aid scheme, please contact us and we will amend your record accordingly.