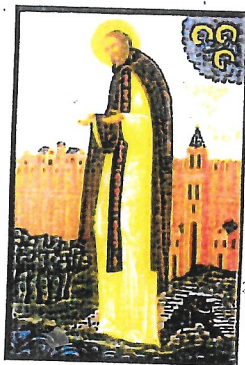


**BRITISH ORTHODOX SAINTS
COMMEMORATED IN
DECEMBER.**

- 03 Birinus, Apostle of Wessex
Lucius, King in Britain*
Sola, Hermit*)
- 07 Diuna, Bishop and Missionary
- 08 Budoc, Celtic Missionary
Gunthild of Wimborne, Virgin
- 09 Ethelgiva, Abbess of Shaftesbury
Wolfeius, Hermit
- 12 Agatha of Wimborne, Virgin
- 13 Edburgh of Lyminge, Virgin
Edburgh, Abbess of Minster-in-Thanel
- 14 Hibald, Abbot
- 15 Offa, King of Essex, Monk
- 18 Winebald, Abbot and Missionary
- 23 Frithebert, Bishop of Hexham
- 25 Alburgh of Wilton, Nun
- 30 Egwin, Bishop of Worcester

Troparion of St. Fursey

Establishing thy monastery in a Roman Fortress
Thou didst teach men that the Orthodox faith is
A true bastion against the onslaughts of every
Evil force O Father Fursey
Wherefore pray to God for us that we may all be
Bastions of the faith standing firm against the
Rising tide of falsehood, that our souls may be saved



Services in December 2023

Sat December 2 nd	Vespers 4pm (Prophet Habakkuk. 7 th BC).
Sun December 3 rd	26th Sunday after Pentecost (Prophet Zephaniah 7 th BC). Divine Liturgy 9:30am.
Fri December 8 th	Vesperal Liturgy for the Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos. St Fursey's Chapel, 7pm (Sutton).
Sat December 9 th	Vespers 4pm. (Prophetess Hannah, 1100BC).
Sun December 10 th	27th Sunday after Pentecost Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Tues December 12 th	St Spyridon the Wonderworker 348. Patronal Festival of the Orthodox Church in Great Yarmouth.
Sat December 16 th	Vespers 4pm (Prophet Haggai).
Sun December 17 th	28th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. (Prophet Daniel & Three Holy Children) Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Tues December 19 th	Vesperal Liturgy 7pm For St Ignatius God- Bearer of Antioch. (St Fursey's Chapel, Sutton).
Sat December 23 rd	Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ. Vespers 4pm. (Ten Martyrs of Crete). Dedication of the Hagia Sophia Church, Constantinople.
Sun December 24 th	29th Sunday after Pentecost. Eve of the Nativity of Christ. Divine Liturgy for Christmas 9:30am. CHRIST IS BORN: GLORIFY HIM. (No services on Christmas Day).
Sat December 30 th	Saturday after Nativity.

Sun December 31 st	<p style="text-align: center;">30th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday after the Nativity of Christ Commemoration of St Joseph the Betrothed, King David & James the Lord's Brother. Divine Liturgy 9:30am.</p>
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Daily Services in St Fursey's Chapel (Neville Road) Sutton

In addition to the above services there is also the 3rd Hour Service 9am on Tuesday followed by Coffee & refreshments and discussion. Also 3rd Hour Service 9am and reading from the Fathers. Also, at St Fursey's Chapel in Sutton 3rd Hour 9am reading from Fathers on Monday & Friday and Vespers 4pm each day.

Community News & Notices

COFFEE MORNING & OPEN DAY

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2023 FROM 10AM.

Coffee, Tea and refreshments, Icon, and Book-Stall in time for Christmas i.e., cards, icons, calendars 2024. Raffles and Tombola, Bric a Brac, DVDs, Books, Homemade cakes etc.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St Mary's Anglican Parish Church, Saturday December 2nd, Sunday December 3rd, St Fursey has been invited to have a presentation at this event. Do come and support this.

SPECIAL EVENT

A special event! Craig has been a member of St Fursey for seven years. It was his dearest wish that his grandfather should become an Orthodox Christian. After much thought and prayer Joseph was blessed as a Catechumen on Sunday November 5th (see picture) and he will be Chrismated on Sunday December 12th before the Liturgy. Joseph is 94 years old and has chosen St Joseph the Betrothed as his patron saint. May God Bless him.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Father Stephens' Sunday morning and midweek sermons are now available online. Please subscribe and click the "LIKE" (thumbs up image) by going on "Orthodox Norfolk" in the YT search bar. Thanks John.

THE BISHOP'S VISIT

Just as the November newsletter was going out Sayedna emailed me to say that he could not come at the end of November and another date will be planned for February. Please remember him your prayers. He is having a worrying time as he has family in Norther Syria and Southern Lebanon. The Patriarchate headquarters used to be in Damacus but are now in the Balamand University. Please also pray for Patriarch John who is the 167th successor to St peter in the See of Antioch. He ordained me priest when he was the Metropolitan of Western Europe from the Patriarchate of Antioch in 2011.

Every Blessing to our Readers

Father Stephen

PS: Please Note my new Telephone No: 01692 581849



25 DECEMBER

THE NATIVITY ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD AND GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Vespers

On Lord, I have cried, *eight stichera are sung:*

TONE TWO

(by *Germanos*)

Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord as we tell of this present mystery. The middle wall of partition has been destroyed; the flaming sword turns back, the cherubim withdraw from the tree of life, and I partake of the delight of Paradise from which I was cast out through disobedience. For the express Image of the Father,[†] the Imprint of His eternity, takes the form of a servant, and without undergoing change He comes forth from a Mother who knew not wedlock. For what He was, He has remained, true God: and what He was not, He has taken upon Himself, becoming man through love for mankind. Unto Him let us cry aloud: God born of a Virgin, have mercy upon us (*twice*).

(by *Anatolios*)

When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy Virgin, all the world was enlightened. The shepherds watched in the fields, the Magi adored and the angels praised in song; but Herod was troubled: for God has appeared in the flesh, the Saviour of our souls (*twice*).

Thy Kingdom, O Christ our God, is a Kingdom of all the ages, and Thy rule is from generation to generation. Made flesh of the Holy Spirit and made man of the ever-Virgin Mary, Thou hast enlightened us by Thy coming. Light of Light, Brightness of the Father,[†] Thou hast made the whole creation shine with joy. All that hath breath praises Thee, the Image of the glory of the Father. O God who art, and who hast ever been, who hast shone forth from a Virgin, have mercy upon us (*twice*).

SELECTED LIVES OF THE SAINTS.

BUDOC (Buoc, Beuzec) (6th century). Celtic saint, patron of Budock and Budoc Vean (Cornwall) and St. Budeaux (Devon). Budoc was honoured also in Pembrokeshire (Dyfed) in and near Steynton; to him was dedicated a Tironian monastery at Pill in 1200. An Oxford church (near the castle) was also dedicated to Budoc; it may well have been of pre-Conquest date.

Budoc is also venerated in Brittany: The 9th-century Life of *Winwaloe describes him as a teacher living in the island of Laureda. The Life of *Maglorius, written c.900, and the 11th-century Chronicle of Dol, make him Maglorius' successor as bishop of Dol. He is the local saint of Plourin, where his relics are still preserved. There is a cult and no place-names at Dol, but place-names without a cult in Cornouaille. Whether this Breton bishop is the same as the abbot venerated in Pembrokeshire and Cornwall it is impossible to determine. The date of the Breton feast (9 December) is sufficiently close to the Exeter martyrology entry to favour an identification; it is a curious fact also that Budock faces St. Mawes across Falmouth harbour, while *Mawes was abbot of an island monastery in Brittany close to that of Budoc. The main centres of the cult(s) of Budoc are all close to the sea.

The most picturesque legend of Budoc concerns his birth at sea in a barrel. His mother Azenor had been falsely accused of infidelity to her husband by her jealous stepmother who had her thrown pregnant into the English Channel in a barrel. Fortified by visions of *Brigid she reached Ireland and became the washer-woman of the monastery of Beau Port, near Waterford, where her son was brought up. This story is derived from Greek mythology; with other late accretions it has done nothing to help unravel the tangled skeins of this saint's life and cult. Feast: 8 December; Glastonbury claimed to possess a relic.

ALBURGA (d. c.810), foundress of Wilton nunnery. Half-sister of Egbert, king of Wessex and widow of Wolstan, called Earl of Wiltshire. Alburga is said to have changed her husband's foundation of canons at Wilton into a nunnery, which she entered and where she died. Feast: 25 December.

J. Dugdale, *Monasticon*, ii. 315; Stanton, pp. 607-8.

OFFA OF ESSEX (d. c.709), king. Son of Sighere, king of the East Saxons, and of *Osith, Offa became king c.707, and was, according to *Bede, a lovable, handsome, and popular prince. But in 709 he left 'his wife, his lands, his kinsmen and his fatherland for Christ', abdicated, went to Rome where he was tonsured, and died a monk soon afterwards. His betrothal to Cyneswith, daughter of Penda of Mercia, claimed by Florence of Worcester and William of Malmesbury, is chronologically impossible. It must also be remembered that at this period the abdication and tonsuring of kings was sometimes the result of palace revolutions both in Gaul and in Britain. No record of an official cult of Offa has survived; Stanton assigns his feast to 15 December.

Bede, *H.E.*, v. 19; *G.R.*, i. 99; *G.P.*, p. 317; Florence of Worcester, i. 46-7; Stanton, pp. 600-1.

DIUMA (Dimma) (d. 658), bishop of the Middle Angles and Mercians. Of Irish origin, Diuma was one of the four priests sent by *Finan, bishop of Lindisfarne, to evangelize Mercia after the baptism of Peada, son of Penda c.652. The others were *Cedd, Beiti, and Adda, of whom nothing is known. Their apostolate in Mercia, according to *Bede, was most successful. When Penda died in 654, the Christian King Oswiu of Northumbria ruled Mercia for a few years; during this time Diuma was consecrated bishop by Finan over the peoples of the Mercians and Middle Angles. It seems that he worked mainly among the latter and died in a district called *Inseppingum*. The 11th-century Anglo-Saxon saints' list (*R.P.S.*) says that he lies buried at Charlbury (Oxon.); the form of his name led to a belief that Dimma (Diuma) was a woman. Feast 7 December.

Bede, *H.E.*, ii. 21; *R.P.S.*

FRITHEBERT, bishop of Hexham 734-66. The successor of *Acca, he is also mentioned as the administrator of Lindisfarne while its bishop, Cynewulf, was in prison. No other details are known of his life. His bones were discovered at Hexham in 1154. Feast: 23 December.

J. Raine, *Memorials of Hexham Abbey*, i (S.S., 1864), pp. 199-200; *D.C.B.*, ii. 566.



Antiochian Orthodox

Christian Archdiocese

Of the British Isles And Ireland

Archbishop: His Eminence

Metropolitan Silouan Oner

St Furseys' Antiochian Orthodox

Christian Parish Church Stalham

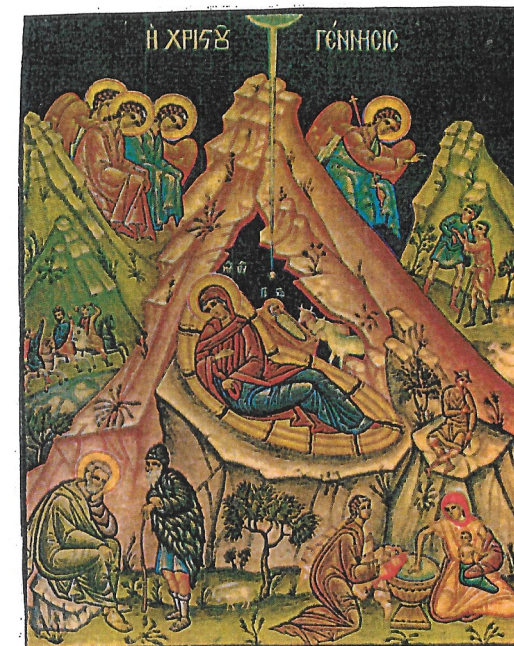
Parish Priest Fr Stephen Weston

01692 581849

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COMMUNITY PROGRAMME & NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



The Nativity of Christ (December 25th)

Troparion

THY Nativity, O Christ our God, hath revealed to the world the Light of wisdom: for in it those who worshipped the stars were taught by a star to adore thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know thee, the Dayspring from on high. Glory be to thee. O Lord.