

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΤΟΥ “ΠΡΟΦΗΤΗ ΗΛΙΑ”  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF PROPHET ELIAS OF READING

JANUARY 2017

Dear Parishioner,

Last October we had our biannual committee election and the new committee would like to extend to you and your families a very best wishes.

I have been actively involved with our church for over twenty years and it gives me, and the rest of the committee strength and encouragement to continue with even more enthusiasm when we see our church increasing in numbers.

Last year was a landmark year for us as we can call St Mark's our home, now that we have signed a ten year Licence. A very big thank you for all who worked to make this a reality and especially to my predecessor Mrs. Calliope Jenkins for her untiring work for the past two years. Also a debt of gratitude to Mr. Theo Ziffo who came back from retirement as trustee and as treasurer until we establish ourselves in our new church and to his wife Panorea who is always there giving not just us the committee, but also to anyone who needs her advice.

Our Sunday school continues to thrive and grow under the new management of Mrs. Stella Keramida and we extend our thanks to her predecessor to Mr. Andrea Despiniadi who managed the school for so many years before her.

In March we had our annual Apokreatiko dance but very sadly it was not well attended. In fact if it was not for a very generous donation we may have had to cancel. I would therefore appeal to you so that altogether we will make it a success this year. It will be on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of February** at the Calcot Park Golf Club (two miles from St Mark) and note that we will not have a service the following morning. Tickets are £35 for adults £20 for children under twelve and £26 for students.

We had the Akathist Hymn with Fr. Ian Graham taking the service.

Although Easter was very late last year and was the first one at our new church, the attendance over the Holy Week was remarkable. Our church was packed to overflowing especially during our evening services!

Our Prophet Elias celebration was a big success again. We were particularly delighted to welcome His Eminence, Archbishop Gregorios been his first visit to our new church and proud to say that he commented on our hospitality. With us were also Rev. and Mrs. Norman Brown representing our host church.

A very BIG THANK YOU, to ALL our volunteers: Our Ψάλτες (Chanters), those who help and prepare and serve snack and refreshments after the service, in particular those who make the Prosfora, those who help to clean and prepare the church before Christmas, Easter, Patronal festival, Christenings, represent our church with other faiths, those who help or organize fund raising events, manage our website etc. the list is endless.

THANK YOU to ALL of You the parishioners Old and New, for your support you give to us with your contributions because without you we could not have our “Προφήτη Ηλία” church. A special mention and thanks to Fr Ian Graham conducting the services in English and taking confessions.

Please note that presently our **annual running costs amount to £12,815!!** Since our church is self-funded, we rely exclusively on your continuous support and generosity.

If you are a UK taxpayer and make a donation to our church, as a charity we can claim some money back from the government; kindly fill in and sign the Gift Aid Declaration Form we will provide.

Wishing you good health and all the best for 2017

On behalf of the committee  
Nikolaos Manousos