



Orthodox Parish of St Ephraim the Syrian,
St Clement's Church, Bridge Street, Cambridge

Our community

St Ephraim's is a parish of the Orthodox Church, belonging to the Diocese of Sourozh (Moscow Patriarchate). Services are in English, following the New Calendar. The community is thoroughly international. As well as Russians, Ukrainians and British, Romanians and Greeks, we have parishioners from Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Germany, Switzerland, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, South Africa, the USA and more. Our typical Sunday congregation is about 100, including many young children. We welcome all who wish to come to our services, but only baptised Orthodox Christians are able to receive Holy Communion.

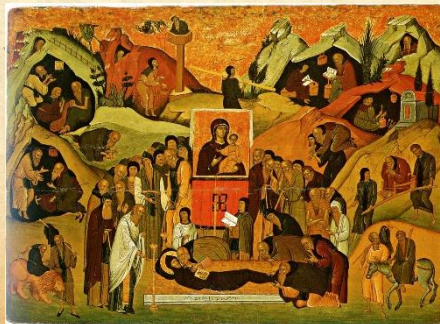
Origins

The parish traces its foundation to a Liturgy celebrated in Cambridge in 1973 by Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh, bishop of the Russian Church in London from 1957 until his death in 2003. A charismatic speaker and preacher, Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) was a widely respected Christian apologist from the 1960s onwards, well-known for his books and broadcasts. During his tenure, his small Russian flock concentrated in London grew into a wide network of parishes and communities, consisting predominantly of British converts and served by non-stipendiary clergy chosen from the local community.

The small Cambridge community was served monthly by a visiting priest until 1998, when Fr John Jillions came to Cambridge to pursue research and was appointed priest. Weekly services began, and in December 2000 we started to worship in the chapel of Westcott House, where we stayed until 2018. Fr Raphael Armour was ordained in July 2001 to serve as second priest for the community, which in 2002 was given the status of a parish. When Fr John returned to America in 2003, Fr Raphaël was appointed rector.

Our Patron.

St Ephraim the Syrian (c.306-373: Feast Day, 28 January) is one of the great poet-theologians of the Syriac-speaking tradition. Ephraim grew up in Nisibis in Mesopotamia, where he was ordained deacon. He is known for introducing women's choirs to sing the hymns he wrote. Later he was forced to flee to Edessa (modern Urfa, south-eastern Turkey), where he worked with victims of famine and plague. His selection as patron reminds us of the universality of the Orthodox Church and links us to a region of the world where the indigenous Orthodox Christian population is under particular pressure today.





St Clement's Church

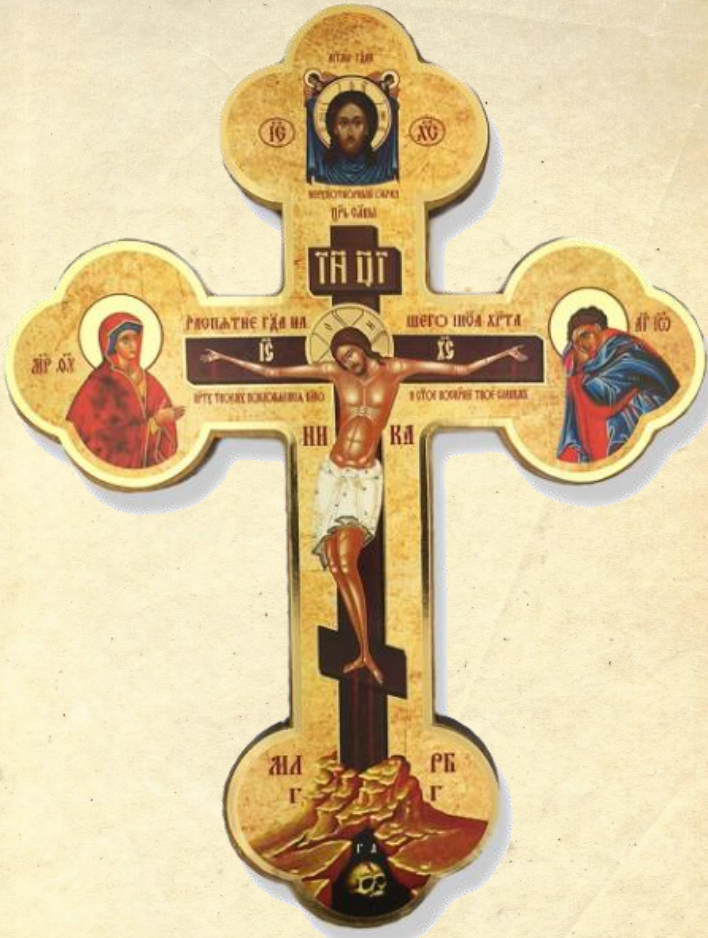
We are privileged to worship in one of the oldest churches in Cambridge, dating back to the early 13th century. St Clement (Feast day 24 November) was a first-century Bishop of Rome who according to tradition was martyred in the Crimea. His relics were brought to Constantinople by St Cyril, Evangeliser of the Slavs. The large icon in the north aisle of our church depicts him with St Athanasius, patron of the Greek community who used the church for many years. Both are saints venerated by Eastern and Western Christians alike.

In accordance with our arrangements with the Anglican parish who owns this church and graciously allows us to worship in it, the parish of St Ephraim has contributed to much-needed renovations of the building and pays an annual rent. Because the space is shared, we have to set the church up for our use and dismantle it again, which includes moving the pews, before and after most services. In due course, we shall also have rooms to meet together after services and hold classes or discussions.

How does the parish work?

As St Paul reminds us, the Church is a body (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). Each member has a different function, some more glamorous than others, but all are vital to the functioning of the whole. As the Body of Christ, the Church is more than the sum of its parts; but as members of this Body we all contribute from the 'talent' entrusted to each one of us. This shared responsibility for building up the Church is a very practical reality in our parish, which has always been entirely self-supporting financially, with no funding from the Diocese of Sourozh or any other outside source. The parish depends on all its members giving both financial support and their time and skills. We are called to nurture and encourage those who may go on to serve as clergy, as well as ensuring that the parish has funds to support the clergy it needs. See attached leaflet for ways you can contribute to the life of the parish.





Rector: Archpriest Raphael Armour

Churchwarden: Themba Theodore Sikhosana

Weekly services:

Saturday 5 p.m. Great Vespers

Sunday 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Other services:

<https://saintephraim.org.uk/#/services>