



**The Orthodox Parish
of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross,
Lancaster, UK.**

The Stavronian

a monthly magazine & newsletter publicised by the 'Holy Cross Synodia'



*Ἰσθρονος Χριστός, Ζωοδότης,
(Φ. Κόντογλου, 1962).*

*The Parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross,
belongs to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland.
The Patriarchate of Antioch is third senior of the Orthodox Churches.
The Patriarch is His Beatitude John X.*

*The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch
(Acts 11:26)*

MEMORY ETERNAL!

It is with gladdening sorrow that we have composed and dedicate this issue of the Stavronian to our beloved elder Barnabas founder of the Parish of Holy and Life-Giving Cross and Normandy veteran. Our brother Barnabas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord at 21:40, October 10th, three days before his 94th birthday. He was not alone when he passed into God's keeping. Apart from the angels that attended his repose, members of the Parish, his spiritual family, were there as well as his own family were at his bedside. He was holding my hand when he breathed his last breath.

He received Holy Unction the same morning. He even drew energy to make the sign of the cross. We asked him for a word from the Lord and he said "Love"!

It was a holy repose with the faithful holding lighted candles. I thank God that he entrusted to me the unworthy priest this holy soul and brave soldier of Christ as an example of the Christian life. As a founder of the Orthodox Community of the Holy Cross he will remain forever in our prayers.

May angels take him to his just reward in the Heavenly Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus Christ. May his memory be eternal. Christ is Risen!

Fr. Jonathan



Photo of Barnabas at his home in Chorley

EULOGY FOR BARNABAS FROM HIS DAUGHTER JANE

Stanley Graham Dickinson was born on the 13th October 1923 in the family home on Balcarres Road in the Weldbank area of Chorley. His mother, Jane Elizabeth Dickinson, nee Holmes, was a local midwife, and his father, Arthur Dickinson, a civil servant, working at the Hamilton Road 'Dole Office'. Arthur had been a miner, a shot firer at Blainscough Colliery in Coppull, but had changed career once his children were born. Stanley was the youngest of 4 children. His siblings were Hilda (1911-2011), Joe (1913-2001), and Fred (1917-1995). When Stanley was very young, the family moved to a larger house, 34 Weldbank Lane, Chorley, where he lived until his call up to the army. His father died when Stanley was just 6 years old, and his mother at the age of 42.

He attended Duke St. County Primary school, and Chorley Grammar school. His favourite subjects included English Literature, especially poetry, Maths and Science. He left school at 16 and went to work as an Office Clerk at Leyland Motors. Here he learned his meticulous note taking and recording skills, which he put into practice in his post war career.

Stanley joined the Home Guard around 1940 at the Devonshire Rd. Barracks in Chorley, and was called up to the army in 1942. After basic war training, he was assigned to Royal Regiment of Field Artillery. One story he used to tell was that as a young 18 year old soldier, his commanding officer had forgotten his ID and Stanley wouldn't let him past. He spent time in Motherwell and Plymouth on coastal defence guns, and on 13th June 1942 his unit of Field Artillery were mobilised, and a few days after D-Day, they landed a mile from Arromanches on the coast of Normandy, and pushed in

land. He belonged to 185 Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery of the 49th Division of West Yorkshire. He was glad to offer his Yorkshire colleagues some Lancastrian help. His unit went into battle and were engaged by German guns and possibly tanks. He was serving with 25 pounders, but was in a very forward position, being a crack shot, he was assigned to sniper duty. He was badly injured in both legs with shell casing from German guns, and was evacuated from the field of battle by stretcher bearers. None of his comrades were hit, but because he was forward and providing protection, he was vulnerable. He had been in France from the 13th June to the 18th. He was flown home to the Midlands and was treated at a large hospital in Birmingham, where he underwent a lengthy period of convalescence and rehabilitation. After recovery and physiotherapy (he had to learn to walk again), he was given a series of desk jobs in various locations. During this time he was left unconscious after a V1 rocket exploded just a few yards away from him in early 1945. He sustained concussion and cuts, and always maintained how lucky he was not to have sustained serious injuries again. He always joked that it was mean of the enemy to have another bash at him, and whenever people tried to call Stanley a hero, he would argue that *"I had a bit of help, it was me and a few others"*. Due to his clerical training he was retained to help with demobilisation and the repatriation of troops who had been prisoners of the Japanese. In 1947 he was finally sent back to civilian life.

Upon returning to Chorley he entered the civil service and began work at the 'Dole Office' on Hamilton Road. The office manager put Stanley into Arthur's old desk and position. After his first morning, the manager called him over and said that as long as Stan Dickinson sat in that desk, Arthur Dickinson would never be gone. During this time he lived with his

sister Hilda, in Sylvester Rd, Chorley. For most of his working life he was a wages inspector, and spent much of his time visiting places of work to ensure workers were paid correctly.

He met Margaret Whittle, and they married in 1953. They lived in Kershaw Street, and their first child David was born in 1958. Stanley passed on his love of playing cricket to his son, and in his younger days he played for Chorley Cricket Club. In 1966 they moved to St. Hilda's Close, where Stanley lived until 5 weeks before his death. In 1971 their daughter Jane arrived. In 1981 his first grandchild, Jennifer was born, and Rebecca came along in 1997. Stanley's family meant the world to him and we have many happy memories of him.

Stanley retired at the age of 60, and continued his involvement with St George's Church, helping the Conservative Association, The Chorley and District Choral Society and became a member of Probus, where he made many good friends.

He was a founder member, along with Walter Bretherton, of Chorley and District Ex-Services Association. For many years he was secretary of the association, and produced regular detailed newsletters. He remained involved with the association until a few weeks before his death. Stanley was able to make contact with several of his comrades in arms and went to many reunions in London. As a veteran, he returned to Normandy multiple times and became very involved with his own private research into the Second World War, especially events surrounding his old regiment and his old comrades. He compiled detailed dossiers of his work and invested a great deal of time into his memoirs. In 2016, along with George Clarke, he was awarded the Legion d'Honneur by the President and people of France, his investiture being at Chorley

Town Hall, with the acting French Consul from Liverpool presiding.

He will be particularly remembered in Chorley for his work selling poppies for the Royal British Legion, especially in Morrisons in later years. He took great delight in talking to people about his experiences during the war, and many will have fond memories of those conversations with him. He was also invited into local schools and scout groups to share his first hand experiences with the students. He treasured these opportunities to pass on his knowledge to future generations.

Around 25 years ago he became a founder member of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross in Lancaster, hence our service today in that tradition. He made many close friends among his church family, which he valued highly. He had particular fondness and respect for Fr. Jonathan Hemmings, who conducts our service today. His love for his new Church knew no bounds and he counted it a great joy to have found such fulfilling Christian Fellowship.

In the last 12 months, his health slowly deteriorated, particularly his eyesight, but even until the beginning of September he was walking the 100 yards to Jane's house daily for meals and enjoying spending time with the pets. In mid-September he was diagnosed with Mesothelioma, and it was decided he would be admitted to Euxton Park Nursing Home, where he moved to on the 6th October. He passed away peacefully on the 10th October surrounded by his family and church members, holding Fr. Jonathan's hand. We would like to thank everyone for coming today, and invite you to join us for light refreshments at Coppull Conservative Club, Spendmore Lane, Coppull, PR7 5DF.



HEAVEN: FROM PROTESTANTISM TO ORTHODOXY

A Westerner Looks East for the Truth

"When God the Holy Spirit says 'Do something, you jolly well do it, or else...', but what? Our loving Saviour had some stern words about lukewarmness, about turning back, having put one's hand to the plough. ...During the years of strife in the Church of England over this matter, pressure groups formed on both sides of the divide, and I attended rallies of the opposition in the Blackburn diocese. ...What happens next? What do we do? Where do we go? What is our place in the Church? Speeches and discussion led nowhere... People were bewildered, defeated, hurt. Then, for me, God the Holy Spirit took a hand. Right at the end, in the question and answer session, a priest I did not know [ie. Father Jonathan Hemmings] said very simply, 'If anyone is wondering where to go', they should be aware that Orthodox Church services in English are becoming available', or words to that effect. Option (7) had come out of the blue, completely unexpected, and when the rally broke up for a cup of tea, I approached him. ...One Saturday in the Spring of 1995, Fr Jonathan took me to

the railway station for my train back to Chorley. He said to me, 'It's decision time'. The Patriarch of Antioch, who had taken personal oversight of this English group in May 1995, and the Holy Synod, had decided to accept us into membership of the Orthodox Church. 'Are you coming, or are you not?' Father Jonathan said. I said that I would ...Grass did not grow under our feet, and quite soon, on Wednesday of Bright Week I was received into the Church, along with half a dozen others, including Fr Jonathan, now a lay member of the Church, having resigned his Anglican priesthood after Easter Day; eastern and western coincided that year. Our baptism in the Church of England was accepted as valid, having been in the threefold Name, and we were chrismated at the hands of Father Alexey, with Holy Oil consecrated by the Patriarch. For the first time I received the true Body and Blood of our Saviour.

Now, twenty six years later I would not be anywhere else. Thanks be to God for bringing Fr Jonathan into my life, and for all things.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Barnabas Dickinson



Fr Jonathan and Barnabas at St Herbert's island, during a Parish pilgrimage in 2007 (more photos [here](#)).



Parish pilgrimage to Walsingham in 2005. Parishioners outside the Church of St Seraphim, after akathist to the Theotokos



Parish pilgrimage to St Herbert's island in 2007



Barnabas at St George's Cathedral in London in 2005

NORMANDY VETERAN



Barnabas was presented with France's highest military honour last year for his participation in the Normandy landings in 1944. He was awarded the [*Legion d'Honneur*](#) at Chorley Town Hall for his part in the liberation of France. Barnabas went ashore in France eight days after D-Day but was injured within 48 hours. For more on Barnabas' experiences during the war, please read the article of the Chorley Guardian [here](#).

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

While driving to and from the Liturgy every Sunday, we used to talk with Barnabas mainly about God or the war, but once he mentioned how he liked "Desert Island Discs" from BBC Radio 4 and that he even had a list of favourite songs in his mind. I asked him what were they and the following Sunday he gave me a paper printed out on his computer with the list and description as follows:

1. Vaughan-Williams: Variations on a theme by Thomas Tallis; for double string orchestra
2. Wagner: Prelude and Liebestod, from his opera "Tristan and Isolde" (orchestral)
3. Mozart: Symphony 39
4. Beethoven: Symphony 3

5. Elgar: Go forth upon thy journey Christian soul, from "The dream of Gerontius"
6. Vaughan-Williams: Serenade to music
7. Tchaikovsky: Symphony 5
8. Handel: He was despised, from "Messiah"
9. Schubert/Clutsam: "Once there lived a lady fair", sung by Richard Tauber
10. Elgar: Cello concerto

The dream of Gerontius is a poem by the Roman Catholic Cardinal John Henry Newman. Gerontius represents an ordinary man who is dying and it charts the journey of the soul, escorted by his guardian angel to meet his Judge, with his fears as he realises that he has led a worldly life. Elgar set about half of this long poem to music, and when it was finished he wrote on the manuscript, "This is the best of me".

There are, of course many other pieces I like. In this selection I have tried to include different types of music: orchestral, choral, solo voice, solo instrument and one lighter piece (by Tauber) although its words tell of frustrated and unspoken love of two kept apart in an age when social class was rigid. It is a song I remember from the 1930s, and I never heard it sung by anyone else. I expect that the record of it has long been deleted from the catalogue and is now unobtainable.

What is generally thought to be the best performance of the cello performance of the cello concerto was recorded by the late wife of Daniel Barenboim, Jacqueline du Pré.

Barnabas Dickinson



MESSAGES OF LOVE FROM PARISHIONERS AND OLD STAVRONIANS

I felt the presence of holiness when last we visited Barnabas in hospital to share Holy Communion. Not since I visited the relics of St Titus the apostle have I felt such presence to that degree. I gave him a prayer rope and how he took it so eagerly. Prayer brought him the presence of the saints! He was Barnabas by name and Barnabas by nature, our humble 'apostle'.

Three nights before Barnabas died, I had a dream. The face of an old man visited my home. He was sleeping very peacefully in a very liminal state between life and death. The bounds between these states of living and departed were like a very thin veil. He was conscious of my presence and stayed with me, all the while asleep in complete serenity. I sensed that he needed something, and there he remained until I took him to a grave and buried him. Once lain in earth he departed.

The night Barnabas died, I lit the vigil candles, the oil lamp, and the hand censer in my icon corner and said the prayers for the newly departed servant of God. I completed the prayer and the little censer shattered in my hand. As St Paul says *"We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us"* (2 Corinthians 4:7). So this little clay vessel of mine lay broken. The little ember it contained, was freed. I quickly took the ember and put it in the ground outside, watching it's little light send upwards that last little wisp of incense which is the prayers of the saints (Revelation 8: 1-5). That little censer is buried now, and I have been given a new one, like as when we are buried until that great day when Christ returns and our bodies shall be raised up and made new.

So even in his falling asleep, dear Barnabas taught me a spiritual lesson! When I took the broken censer to Fr Jonathan, I received a second lesson. "We can use it as a candle holder" he said. No matter how broken and useless we are, if we take it to the Father he will make us useful again! Christ is risen! Amen.

With love in Christ,
Aidan Wearing



With heartfelt sympathy on the loss of our friend. Barnabas, a dear friend of ours. We have had the blessing of knowing Barnabas for 21 years. We first met him at the Holy Liturgy in Lancaster and that continued every weekend for many years. Our children have known him from the day they were born. He was such an inspiration to us, with his firm beliefs, his good and kind nature. He always had a smile on his face, he always seemed happy. Even if he had troubles in his life or family, he never showed it. Every week at church he stood next to us the choir and sang, he knew the Holy Liturgy by heart. And this is what I believe made him happy every time, knowing that he was in the 'true faith'.

He will be deeply missed, I will feel a void in Church of where he used to be.

We thank God for giving us the opportunity of knowing him, and making him part of our lives.

May God bless his soul.
Dr Katya Tisdall



He is Risen indeed! What a holy death, dear Father! Today I asked Fr Synesios to pray especially for his last hours and I gave his name for a 40-day Liturgy at the Holy Sepulchre. This is a profound glad-

dening sorrow I am experiencing. This is the second father I am "losing" in about a year. I cannot even begin to imagine the intensity of your feelings and tears.

Memory Eternal
Kleio Kechagia



Memory eternal. We who knew him will miss him. God rest his soul!

Konstantinos Arfanis



Memory Eternal!
He is Risen Indeed!

Marta Kaczanowska



Memory eternal to newly departed Barnabas! So proud and happy that I had chance to meet Barnabas personally!

Dear Fr. Jonathan, it is the death everyone of us dream of - to die after receiving the Holy Communion, being able to make a sign of the Cross, in peace and with the word Love on the lips. Perhaps it is the God's reward for the righteous life.

It is also so symbolic that before his death Barnabas finally received the deserved reward from people and authorities - the medal of the Legion of Honor for his brave fight for the freedom of Europe in WW2.

Dmitry Ismagilov
London



Our dear Barnabas, who was our common Grandad of the Parish of the Holy

Cross, our hero, a perfect gentleman. I often remember him being cheerful, humorous, friendly to everyone. He always enjoyed counting from how many countries we had all arrived. Please, pass our condolences to his children. I am sadden by his death, but I am glad that he had had Holy Communion before he died. Let his Memory Be Eternal!

Iryna Minakova,
Cambridge



Barnabas was one of the very first persons I met when I arrived at Lancaster and attended the Holy Liturgy. It was very apparent from the beginning that he was very humble, kind and faithful. I was astonished to learn his journey to Orthodoxy and truly admired him for going through evaluating half a dozen religions to arrive to Orthodoxy. He had a very pure and beautiful soul, and always had something wise to say when we asked for his advice. It was always a joy to listen to him and it has humbling for me to see him truly living as an Orthodox in a non-Orthodox country. I wasn't surprised to learn that the first thing in his will, was to donate his icons to the Holy Cross Parish. This is where his mind, heart and soul was. He will truly be missed, but I am sure he will pray for us all. Christ is Risen!

With love in the Lord,

Panagiotis Georgopoulos,
Zurich, Switzerland



Even the first time I saw him, it was not unusual that among the University youth, Barnabas stood out for his appearance. Perhaps, this remains the best reminder

of who Christ came to save - ...whoever believes in Him... (John 3:16).

What amazed in Barnabas was an incredible life will. I must admit that I thought it wise to learn from him to live a lot, in full and walk after Christ. I was always astonished at how much power that man had to carry and bring completely the Truth that he had once found. While bearing through the years, a common understanding of the world, breaking the stereotypes and ways that make up the history, which we are a part of. Which we depend upon. And, which depends on us.

Barnabas would make me think: If I had been in his shoes, could I do what he did? Would I be able to go through at least part of the path he had traveled? Not sure. But God is wise and allows challenges to us according to our stamina. And, again am I surprised, because Barnabas was given those challenges. I thank God that He gave me the opportunity to be and serve with Barnabas in the same ranks.

The belief that he knew a lot about Orthodoxy and probably everything about Orthodoxy in Britain came quickly. In Walsingham, where Barnabas himself drove and brought there half of our pilgrims from Lancaster for about 200 miles, I asked him a question about icon painting. And, Barnabas answered, revealing his deep knowledge in this field. I felt ashamed again because I hardly possessed at least satisfactory understanding there.

For some reason, it was not out of the blue that the French Government had awarded Barnabas with the Order of the Legion of Honour, which is the highest honour and official recognition of special merits in France. Rather, the idea was on my mind: Could it be otherwise? No, it could not. Barnabas had fought in World War Two in the UK's army, freeing Europe from fascism. I remember Barnabas to

fervently tell us that there is also his part in the liberation of the Earth from fascists.

I thank God that I knew Barnabas and, serving nearby him, sang in the Choir of the same parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Church. There is an extraordinarily pleasant feeling of calmness, when someone departs but leaves his big love instead.

Pavel Zlobin,
Chebarkul, Russia



Although Barnabas saw the darkest side of humanity during WWII, he never lost faith in humanity, and most importantly, he never lost faith in God. On the contrary, his faith was strengthened and his humble nature was a constant inspiration to us. Memory eternal beloved brother Barnabas! Memory eternal!

Theodoros & Theophania Papadopoulos
Chester



Thank you for letting us know, Father. I only knew Barnabas for a few months, but I cannot forget his kind and noble figure and his warm smile. Despite the distance and all the years that may pass, my mind will always be in Lancaster, in one way or another.

May he rest in peace.
Katerina Dokou,
Halkediki, Greece



Dear Father Jonathan,

Please accept our deep condolences on passing away Barnabas. We very sorry to hear this news, we knew Barnabas and

remember him. He left the trace of kindness and joy in hearts and mind whom knew him.

Last Sunday, October 8th, standing on Divine Liturgy in Lansing, Michigan, for some reason I started to think about Barnabas, remembered his picture that you send us when he was getting the *Légion d'Honneur* award. How he was driving from Chorley to Lancaster to be on Liturgy and Services and after that standing all time singing in choir and looked like he never got tired from this, enjoyed his time be there. It was a great joy to meet Barnabas, knew him.

With our pour prayers, with Love,
May his memory be eternal,

Andrei, Alla, and Masha Ganshyn
Michigan, USA



Dear fr Jonathan,

May God rest his soul. I had a dream of Barnabas today at night. I saw that two priests were by his side. And in the morning I read your email. Although I barely knew him, I can only imagine what a kind person he was and he must have been happy to have all his family next to him at his last breath.

May his memory be eternal!
Eleni Fitsiou
Greece



Dear Father Jonathan,

Thank you for letting us know. Barnabas will certainly be missed! May his memory be eternal!

With my poor prayers,
Joy Spiliopoulou
Zhejiang, China



Dear Father Jonathan
Your blessing

Thank you very much for sending me the news and the beautiful account of the last moments of Barnabas - it was so good you were with him.

I am afraid I did not know him well enough to have memories to contribute. The Harpers of course would have so much to tell about him.

May his memory be eternal.

Asking your holy prayers
Gladys Bland,
Cambridge



May his memory be eternal!

I remember we sang our beloved Barnabas "Happy 19th Birthday!" after the Holy Liturgy when he turned 91...

Dumnezeu sa il odihneasca! God rest his soul!

Patricia Chiracu
Romania



All Saints of the British Isles and Ireland

NAMES OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES TO BE REMEMBERED THIS MONTH

Nov. 12: *Sir John Tavener*

Nov. 29: *Ioanna*

MEMORY ETERNAL!

Please send us the names of your departed loved ones and date of their departure in order for them to be remembered.



APOSTLE BARNABAS

Saint Barnabas, one of the Seventy, was from Cyprus, of the tribe of Levi, and a fellow disciple with Paul under Gamaliel. Saint Barnabas had a field, which he sold and brought the money to the Apostles (Acts 4:36-37). Before the conversion of Saul to Paul, it was Barnabas who was the leader of the Seventy Apostles, the first in preaching and chief spokesman. After Saul's vision on the road to Damascus, it was Barnabas who joined him to the Apostles when the others, because of Saul's reputation as a persecutor of the Church, still feared him (Acts 9:26-27); again it was St Barnabas who conscripted Paul as a preacher, bringing him from Tarsus to Antioch after the stoning of Stephen, to assist in spreading the Gospel (Acts 11:25-26). Saint Barnabas preached the Gospel in many places, travelled together with Paul, and finally was stoned to death by the Jews in his native Cyprus. During the reign of Zeno, in the year 478, his sacred relics were found, having on his chest the Gospel according to Mat-

thew written in Greek by Barnabas' own hand. This Gospel was brought to Zeno. Because of this the Church of Cyprus received the right of autonomy, and its archbishop was given the privilege, like the emperor, of signing his decrees and encyclicals in vermilion.

Taken from the Orthodox [Online Chapel](#).

MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

1st Nov: Sts Cosmas and Damian, the Holy Unmercenaries

8th Nov: Synaxis of Archangel Michael & Gabriel and the other Bodiless Powers

9th Nov: St. Nectarios the wonderworker, Metropolitan of Pentapolis

10th Nov: St. Arsenius of Cappadocia

11th Nov: St. Martin of Tours (†397)

13th Nov: St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople

14th Nov: St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica

15th Nov: Beginning of the Nativity fast

16th Nov: Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew

17th Nov: St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby (†680)

21st Nov: The Entry of our Most-Holy Lady the Theotokos into the Temple

23rd Nov: St. Alexander Nevsky

25th Nov: Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria

30th Nov: Holy Apostle Andrew the first called

For the lives of Saints please visit the Calendar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: www.calendar.goarch.org





Services at St Martin's in November*

Sat. 4 th	15:00	Memorial, Confessions, Synaxarion and Great Vespers
Sun. 5 th	10:00	Hours and Holy Liturgy
Sat. 11 th	15:00	9 th Hour led by the laity
Sun. 12 th	10:00	Hours and Holy Liturgy
Sat. 18 th	15:00	Memorial, Confessions, Synaxarion and Great Vespers
Sun. 19 th	10:00	Hours and Holy Liturgy
Sat. 25 th	15:00	Memorial, Confessions, Synaxarion and Great Vespers
Sun. 26 th	10:00	Hours and Holy Liturgy followed by Parish lunch

*Help setting up the church is greatly appreciated and starts half an hour before the service.

“God cares for everyone. Despair is in effect a lack of faith”

- St. George Karslides -



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The following blogs of Old Stavronias are available in Romanian, [Constiinta Ortodoxa](#), in English, [Orthodox city hermit](#), and in Greek, [Orthodoxy rainbow](#).

