**Midweek Update #25 September 23rd, 2020**

Today we remember Sergius, a Russian monk of the fourteenth century who, even before his death in 1392, was regarded by the Russian people as their national saint. Sergius left home around the age of twenty and built a hermitage in the forest of Zagorsk just south of Moscow. He dedicated his little shelter — and his own life within its walls — to the Most Holy Trinity; here he learned to pray without ceasing, even while he helped out the peasants who lived nearby and showed hospitality to any strangers who passed by his hovel. In time word of his manner of life spread throughout the land, until contemporaries felt that his sanctity must be as great as the Russian forest itself. Disciples began to gather around him, and at first they lived in their own individual huts, each with a separate plot of ground for growing food. Sergius eventually brought them together to live as a community under one roof, but this reform caused some dissent and he went to live at another monastery. His exile was short, for the monks soon realized how great a loss they had inflicted on themselves and begged him to return. With Sergius as its abbot, Zagorsk became the focus of a religious and national revival among the Russian people. Tartar overlords had oppressed them for over a century, and as they began to fight for their freedom they found new strength in the Orthodox faith. Sergius gave this movement his blessing, and his spiritual power upheld the Russian princes in their resolve to lead their people into battle against the Tartar horde and finally break its hold on Russia. Sergius spent his final years travelling, always on foot, from one prince to another in an effort to keep them united. His journeys ended where they had begun, in the monastery of the Holy Trinity at Zagorsk, on this date in 1392.

Live Streaming is now happening

Tonight:

**Simply Christians, an introduction and refresher for our faith.**

Whether we have been coming to Church for years or just started to take an interest this is a series of internet sessions in which we will look at the basics of our faith and life. Tom Wright is a world famous writer and teacher who has published a straightforward and easy to understand series of videos taken from his book Simply Christian just for this kind of study. We will make our way through a selection of these and allow time for comments and discussions. A sample of Toms teaching can be found at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=j9YAi5BbW5Q>.

Let’s be clear, this is intended to be helpful for anybody in our extended church community and an opportunity fo fill in gaps for our “regulars” as well as those starting out. We will begin with a one-off call at 7pm on Wednesday 23rd September to find out the best day, time, and calendar for the group as well as deciding on the most important topics that we want to focus on. Tom Wright has given us a wealth of material and we can pick and chose how best to use it.

 To join the Zoom meeting on the 23rd please click this link or copy it into your internet browser <https://zoom.us/j/95597353353?pwd=OWtzTXRDVzYzVmxUMHlWcGQ0MVEvUT09>. If you don’t have internet can dial in with your phone using 1-778-907-2071 and using the passcode provided here 004744. I’m not sure if you’ll need it but here’s the meeting id as well: 955 9735 3353   If you have any questions feel free to contact me on my email [frogeyescarlet1275@gmail.com](mailto:frogeyescarlet1275@gmail.com) .

I look forward to linking up on the 23rd. Dick Martin

Election of the Bishop on October 3rd

Blessing of the Animals October 4th (scroll below for poster)

Oct 24: Rev. John Sovereign’s service at St. Matthew.

