

# Chester Cathedral - Anglo Russian Support Group

Newsletter updated 27 January 2012

## Introduction

Following Chester Cathedral's 2008 pilgrimage to Northern Russia, and specifically Kondopoga, the 'pilgrims' were so moved by the economic hardship, stigma and lack of support for parents of children with disabilities, that they wanted to help, and so The Chester Cathedral Anglo Russian Support Group was formed. The Group's volunteers are drawn from both the Cathedral and the wider Chester community, and dedicated to raising funds to support both our link parish in Northern Russia and Chester Cathedral's Education Department.

Children of Kondopoga



Since our fundraising commenced in 2008, the group, led by Jane Jones, have raised over £17,000. The funds have been split equally between our link Parish in Kondopoga, through the London based charity, St Gregory's Foundation, and the Cathedral's Education Department, for work with children in Chester and the diocese. In our link Parish, Mother Julia and Father Lev together with their many local helpers, care for street children through a programme of feeding and clothing, children's summer camps, vocational training and extensive caring support for their community.



Mother Julia

# Fundraising Timetable 2012

UPDATED 27 January 2012

Date	Event	Details
<b>Tuesday 21 February 2012 Shrove Tuesday</b>	<b>Maslenitsa (Pancake) Lunch  PLUS  Raffle with quality prizes</b>	<b>Come and join us in celebration of the beginning of Lent in true Russian style  Venue: Home of Jane &amp; Geoff Jones in Hoole  Time : 12 Noon  Cost : £6 to include savoury &amp; sweet pancakes, soft drinks, tea &amp; coffee</b>
<b>Friday 27 July 2012 Saturday 28 July 2012</b>	<b>Annual BOOKSALE</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Other events for 2012 include a musical evening, picnic, canal sponsored walk, coffee morning – watch this space for further details</b>		

**If you wish to offer your support or require further details please contact:-**

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# Fundraising Reports 2011

## Extravaganza – Friday 18 & Saturday 19 November 2011

The Extravaganza finished off the year by raising a whopping £1800 – and still rising! The generous donation of a collection of ‘Garfields’ did not all sell so they are now for sale on eBay and still managing to bring in money to swell the total.

The total raised in 2011 was £4,685 and the grand total raised now stands at £17,423. The amounts keep changing as eBay sales and donations come in but we are extremely pleased with what we have achieved. Our aim in 2012 is to hit the £20,000 mark! Watch this space!

## Canal Talk – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011

The Canal Talk raised £308.50. Many thanks to Geoff Taylor, our resident canal guru and local historian, for such an interesting and inspiring presentation. Thanks also go to all those who supported the event. Yet again it was lovely to welcome people who have not been to any of our previous events, enabling us to spread the word about what goes on, not just here at Chester Cathedral but also in our link parish of Kondopoga.

## Musical Evening – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011

The musical evening raised £411 which now brings the total fund raising to an amazing £15,325.81. Thanks go to Rachel, Linda and Jane for their wonderful singing, to Annemauraide, whose performances on both the violin and viola were second to none, and to our guest accompanist, Graham Eccles, whose playing enthralled us all. Special thanks go to Geoff, Jane’s husband, who moved furniture and plants and generally prepared the stage for the evening’s performance.

## Stories in Stone – Tuesday 13 Sep 2011

The Stories in Stone workshop raised £101.40. A great result from a fairly small gathering. Well done everyone who took part and supported in any way. Ian Atkinson’s talk and demonstration pushed all our brains into overdrive as we tried to recall the mathematics from our school days. Everyone enjoyed getting their hands on his wooden building blocks and trying to build an arch, some with more success than others. We also found out how to measure the height of the very tall Cathedral Gothic arches without actually having to be Spiderman! The total raised now stands at £14,914.81 – tantalisingly close to £15000!

## Canal Walk – Wed 03 Aug 2011

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> August Geoff Taylor led us once more on an informative, but leisurely walk, along the Chester canal. The weather was glorious, unlike last year, and we all learnt a lot more of the history of Chester’s waterways. Our thanks go to Geoff for his enthusiasm and knowledge and the fact that he is willing to share it with us in support of our fundraising programme. £85 was raised and we all enjoyed a good lunch afterwards. If you would like to hear more from Geoff in the comfort of the refectory with a glass of wine and refreshments, he will be giving an illustrated talk at 7.30 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> October. He assures us that it is a different talk from the one he gave to the Friends of the Cathedral a few years ago, so even if you heard that one there is no excuse not to hear this one!



## Canal Walk Aug 2011

### Book Sale – Friday 03 to Sunday 05 June 2011

Thanks to a brilliant effort by all our volunteers the Book Sale made a staggering £1,489.49 – nearly half as much again as last year's book sale. This brings our total fundraising in the last two and a half years to £14,716.49, an amazing total and a testament to all the hard work that has been put in over that time. Thanks go to all of you who have helped in any way.

### Coffee Morning – Wednesday 23 Mar 2011

The coffee morning at the Dennis' house on 23 March raised £225 and our thanks go to Caroline & Trevor for their hospitality. Rumours of the event being a garden party, i.e. guests having to dig the garden, were totally unfounded. Many thanks to those who provided cakes, pickles, jams and raffle prizes, which, along with the glorious spring weather, made it a very successful morning.

### Pancake Lunch – Tuesday 08 Feb 2011 – Shrove Tuesday

The fundraising programme for 2011 kicked off to a grand start on Shrove Tuesday, when a pancake lunch was held in Hoole. The Russians celebrate Maslenitsa (the beginning of lent) for a whole week and, now that Christians are allowed to worship openly, they have been making the most of it throughout Russia. The pancake lunch was a great success and raised £220 to go our link parish in Kondopoga and to help our own Education Department.

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### Cschester Cathedral Education Department

#### Letter from Nicola Preston – Education Officer – May 2011

Firstly, I wish to send my sincere thanks and huge admiration to all who support Jane in the group's fantastic fundraising events. Both the education department at the Cathedral and Kondopoga would be very different places without your generosity and hard work. After taking up my post in November I have talked in depth with Canon Brooke and Jackie Rainsforth about how best to begin spending some of the funds. We have settled on three purchases that will happen soon;

- Six Youth Bibles for the Sunday School
- A child size Cope for school visits and vestment workshops
- The Initial printing costs for a Children's Guide book.

Once again thanks to everyone for all your support.

Nicola



# St Gregory's Foundation

## Aid to Russia and the former Soviet Union

St Gregory's Foundation equips local communities in Russia and the former Soviet Union to care for vulnerable people. In particular, we support work with families in crisis; disabled or disadvantaged children; as well as those of all ages who are in particular need. Rehabilitation, encouragement, practical skills training and support are offered to enable those individuals prepare for and lead independent and fulfilling lives. To learn more about St Gregory's log onto <http://www.stgregorysfoundation.org.uk>