The, re are many books by leading Orthodox theologians and scholars on all aspects of the Orthodox Church and this leaflet series provides some basic information in the hope that it might prompt further enquiry.

LEAFLETS IN THIS INTRODUTION TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY SERIES:

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WORLDWIDE FAMILY

All text in these leaflets is mine except where indicated, therefore any errors of fact or in grammar are mine. I should be grateful to have those errors pointed out so that corrections can be made.

Fr.Nikitas - frnikitas@hotmail.com

"**The Orthodox Church**.....has preserved unadulterated the first and most ancient ecclesiastical tradition and teaching, has avoided innovations and personal interpretations of the Holy Scriptures and dogmas of the faith, and is administered according to the ancient synodical system under local bishops in collaboration with the faithful and successive groups of both local and broader episcopal synods, of which the highest is the Ecumenical Synod, that of the Orthodox worldwide. The basic administrative canons, the details of which are regulated according to local needs, have been determined by the seven ecumenical synods. The Church is not managed by regional states in which it resides, although it collaborates in good works when asked to do so.

Within the entire Orthodox Church there is absolute cooperation in goodwill and mutual respect. Perchance minor human problems are addressed successfully through the application of the evangelical spirit."

Bartholomew, Patriarch of Constantinople, from "Encountering the Mystery."
ISBN 978-0-385-51813-0

Orthodox Community of Archangel Michael
and Holy Piran, Cornwall.
www.orthodoxincornwall.org.uk

In the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain.
Exarchate of Western Europe and Ireland.
www.thyateira.org.uk

Ecumenical Patriarchate.
Οἰκουμενικόν Πατριαρχεῖον.
www.ec-patr.org

Agia Sophia (Holy Wisdom) Constantinople.

Fr.N.05.26

Introduction to Orthodox Christianity: Making our Financial Way.

This picture shows our little temple in the process of receiving a new roof in 2025, an unavoidable expense which was met by a generous donation from our Archdiocese, other donations and from our general funds.

In this leaflet there are listed, ways of assisting in the works of the Church, which relies upon various resources, including finance, or as it used to be said: *pounds, shillings and pence!*

It is not unusual for someone to ask: "How can I help the work of your Community in a financial way?" to which here are just a few answers.

For anyone present at or visiting the church there are offering boxes for cash or cheques (payable to the Greek Orthodox Church of Archangel Michael and St. Piran).

Whether near too or afar, there are bank facilities – direct debits, standing orders, or transfers – for occasional or regular contributions.

With any of these methods there is also, for anyone who is a UK tax payer, a way to increase contributions by 25% through the **HMRC Gift Aid** scheme. A simple form to be completed once, and that's all!

In looking after our own "domestic" needs, we also consider those of our Holy Patriarchate and Archdiocese, with other, from time to time, special appeals of a charitable/humanitarian kind. Careful management by our treasurer and Community Committee (Board) icludes regular detailed up to date treasurer's reports.

Very often, works of a practical nature are carried out by those who have ability in specific ways, with necessary materials bought or given for the task. These may involve also general care – cleaning etc.,and this is similar to the way we care for our own homes. In one way or another, large or small, all costs money.

From our elected committee (board), one person is appointed treasurer, who maitains the accounts in cooperation with the committee to which he or she reports on a regular basis, providing annual year end accounts.

Postal correspondence regarding finance should be sent as follows:

The Treasurer,
Greek Orthodox Church of
Archangel Michael and St.Piran,
Laity Moor, Nr. Ponsanooth, Truro,
TR3 7HR.

See also the Donations page on our website:
www.orthodoxincornwall.org.uk

Icon of Jesus and the Widow's mite.

The account in the Gospel of Mark and Luke, of the widow who placed two mites in offering, amounting to a substantial part of her financial capacity, as compared with offerings from those who had wealth and could afford it, is known to us all and placed before us as an example of sacrificial giving.

"God loves a cheerful giver" 2 Cor. 9:7. Whatever other scriptual texts can be drawn upon to encourage financial support, it rests upon each individual's concern, and freedom, to contribute as they feel able and willing, in response to known needs, routine running costs, unexpected expenses, and anticipated projects, etc. Whereas we pay our civil taxes, if reluctantly, our reponse to the needs of the church are met from the heart in thanksgiving.

PS: An old English proverb (early 18th century): *look after the pennies, and the pounds will look after themselves!*