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LITURGY SERVED IN CHURCH CLOSED DURING SOVIET TIMES



Thousands of churches across Russia lie in ruin after the devastating Soviet period, though the Russian Church is gradually working to identify, restore, and reopen them.

Earlier this month, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated in a village 185 miles northeast of Moscow in an early 19th-century church that was closed by the godless authorities and allowed to fall into disrepair, reports the Shuya Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The service was celebrated at the Church of the Resurrection in the village of Shuya by diocesan secretary Archpriest Vasily Dobychin.

Despite the broken road, a good number of people showed up to pray and receive Holy Communion. It is hoped that a regular liturgical life will resume in the church.

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The present stone church was built in 1821 in place of two separate wooden churches that had existed at least since the 18th century. In Soviet times, the

church was closed briefly during the war, then reopened. Services continued until the church was closed again in 1961. The village was evicted and the church was abandoned.

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