

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the UK & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 169

OCTOBER 2010



OCTOBER WEEKDAYS

Thursday 7 October 9.30 am

Holy Liturgy for our local Martyr
ST OSYTH QUEEN OF ESSEX & MARTYR

Tuesday 26 October 9.30 am

Holy Liturgy for HOLY GREAT MARTYR
DEMETRIUS THE MYRRH-GUSHER
of THESSALONICA

There is a peace and joy available to those who can attend weekday services

Anglicans and Orthodox talk together ...

Yes, Anglicans and Orthodox can still talk together, in spite of the way the two bodies have grown apart in the past thirty years and especially in the past fifteen.

Official international Dialogue has been going on for many years and the leaders of both communions wish them to continue. The last series of discussions ended in Cyprus with the 2007 Statement called *The Church of the Triune God*

(available on our bookstall), a notable contribution to theological thinking in our time.

That was a very theological work, much influenced by our Orthodox then-Co-Chairman Metropolitan JOHN of Pergamum.

Now in Oxford in September we have gone to another deep theological question, *What is Man?* often referred to as *Christian Anthropology*. In other words, we are discussing what you and I as human beings are by nature.

The nature of mankind

The first thing that we say on this is that Man, the human being, is made by God, and made in his image and likeness (Genesis 1).

Of course, the next question will have to be, What does that actually mean? We shall have to spell that out.

Then we shall have to remember that we are sinners, and what that does to our image and likeness to God.

We shall also no doubt have to look at the spin-off from those beliefs - the great problems of our age in sexuality and bio-ethics. So our new discussions may well have important *practical* implications not only for the Anglican and Orthodox communities but also for all the world's peoples.

This means that there is a huge field waiting to be explored by the Anglican and Orthodox bishops and theologians - plus me, who am neither, but have spent time on both sides of the border between the two communions. [See the photo right, and others over page.]

Metropolitan KALLISTOS of Diokleia is now Co-Chairman. The Dialogue will continue annually, and we hope to produce a

report very much more quickly than the last, which took seventeen years!

It is likely, I suspect, that we shall be largely agreed on the nature of Man. On questions of sexuality and bio-ethics there may be differences, but I noted the very English approach displayed at the meeting was that we should just not deal with 'too controversial' issues dividing us, such as homosexuality.

Straight speaking

There was no such hesitancy on the part of Metropolitan HILARION of Volokolamsk at a Dinner I attended at Lambeth Palace a few days after the Dialogue.

He knows the English situation well, and is director for external affairs in Moscow. He gave a very forthright speech explaining that the present direction of the Anglican Church puts its relations with Russian Orthodoxy in jeopardy - though he also said that the Russian Church does not wish to withdraw.

It was actually a little embarrassing to sit on the top table, next to the Chairman of the Nikean Club which gave the Dinner and only one removed from Archbishop ROWAN of Canterbury and two from Metropolitan Hilarion himself!

I think that some of the Anglicans present found it rather hard-hitting and even below-the-belt. But I suppose there is a case for saying that these things are the feelings of most Orthodox, and need to be said publicly and openly, and that is the honourable way.

Certainly some Anglicans told me afterwards they were glad the things had been brought to the surface. The future is not likely to be easy in this matter.

God bless those in the Anglican tradition who keep the traditional Faith.



St Fursey's breaks away

To my great regret, St Fursey's wishes to leave the Parish of St Helen and to attach itself to the Parish of All Saints of Lincolnshire - though it is much further from Lincoln than from Colchester.

The matter is not finalised yet - everybody has until the end of March to think it over - but it seems unlikely that it can come back to be part of this Parish and in my care.

Until then Reader STEPHEN remains our Reader, and St Fursey's part of this Parish, though in practice its care will be in the hands of Fr PHILIP HALL of Lincoln. It is not certain that Father and his Parish will take it on permanently.

I remain distressed and not a little bewildered. I have given St Fursey's twelve years of love and care, and it is sad that my time there has apparently concluded.

It has been a great consolation to receive from every one of the members of that small but devoted group a personal message of thanks and love.

Father Alexander

St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh St, High St

St Helen's is 200m. down behind the George Hotel in the High Street, but accessible from there only on foot. By car: leave Middleborough Roundabout (between dual carriageways Westway and Balkeine Hill), to Northgate; go straight along St Peter Street to Castle Park; continue round, up into Maidenburgh Street. Nunns Road NCP is the nearest car park.

Saturday: Great Vespers usually 4.30 pm (check before coming)
Sunday: Mattins 9.45 am (or Hours 10.15 am), Divine Liturgy 10.30 am

Confessions: Saturday after Vespers, or by arrangement
Holy Marriage, Baptism, Funerals, Memorials etc: by arrangement

Parish Priest: Father Alexander (Alistair) Haig

17 Maidenburgh Sreet, Colchester CO1 1UB

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The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418

Parish Website: <http://www.orthodoxcolchester.org.uk>

St Fursey's Chapel, 111 Neville Rd, Sutton, near Stalham, Norfolk

Divine Liturgy: usually first Saturday 9.30 am

At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea

Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am

At University of Essex Chaplaincy Centre: Divine Liturgy: one Saturday per term 10.00 am

HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Sat 16 Oct
10.00 am
BASILDON
Sat 23 Oct
10.30 am
see over page

Do you live in South Essex? -Orthodox Liturgy starts in BASILDON Saturday 23 October 10.30 am

A great development in the care of the Orthodox faithful in Essex is about to occur. We plan to serve the Liturgy there monthly on a Saturday from October.

This is by the kindness of the Bishop of Brentwood and the clergy and council of **St Basil's RC Church in Luncies Road off Timberlog Lane, on the Pitsea side of Basildon.**

We also have the goodwill of Fr Chrysostomos of St Barbara's, Southend.

With Greek-language worship in Southend, the idea here is to begin English-language worship that will be open to Romanians, Russians, Serbs, Bulgarians, Arabs, etc as well as to any British people who wish to experience Orthodox worship.

There is occasional Russian Orthodox

worship at Romford. The next nearest Orthodox church (Greek) is at Upton Park.

Yet there must be hundreds and hundreds of Orthodox believers living between Southend and East London. There is plenty of room for our initiative.

The Organiser lives in Southend. Anyone interested please contact him now so he knows of your interest:

PAUL BRIGHTON-CROSS

Telephone: 01-702-305-527

Email: orthodox.basildon@hotmail.co.uk

- Fr Alexander will be interviewed about this on the BBC Essex Faith programme on Sunday 3 October at 7.10 am (if awake!)

ANGLICAN/ORTHODOX DIALOGUE, OXFORD SEPTEMBER 2010



Fr Alexander (Antioch), Abp Rowan of Canterbury (visiting), Professor Bogdan Lubardic (Serbia)



Met. Chrysostomos of Kition-Larnaca (Cyprus), Fr George Dragas (Jerusalem/USA), Bishop Ilia (Albania/USA)



Abp Roger of Perth (Australia), Co-Chairman, Rev Dr Tim Bradshaw (Oxford), Fr Alexander

The People Column

TOM CARTER has taken over as Choirmaster for 10.30 am Sunday Liturgy, and we are grateful. We remain in need of one or more people to take on the reader's parts of Saturday Vespers and Sunday Mattins. Are there any volunteers, please?

VALENTIN SCODREA of Tiptree was baptised in August. Of a Romanian family, he was born on 12 June. Congratulations to him and his family.

JEWELS JOHNSON, a catechumen - preparing for Holy Baptism - has permanent health problems, but has been especially unwell recently. Please remember her in your prayers.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Antiochian Deanery Conference
22-24 June 2011

with HE Archbishop John, exploring the Holy Spirit and the pursuit of holiness

Standard cost: £130

Children 6-13: £65

Under 5s: free

Bursaries available on application

We are asked to book now:

Complete a booking form from the Church Porch and give it in here with a deposit of £30

We say that the worship of the Church contains all her teaching and faith. The Holy Liturgy is obviously the heart of our worship. Without it the Church would not exist, would shrivel and die. Yet the fact is that a great deal of the Church's riches of worship lie not in the Liturgy, but in Vespers and Mattins. That is why I do not wish to let these lovely services die at St Helen's: they are in danger of dying: very few attend at the moment. Come to Vespers and Mattins really as often as you can, to enliven your souls with the riches of our Holy Faith.

Here and There

OUR MUSIC WORKSHOP at the end of August was a great success. There were some 15 of us present. Very effectively, TOM CARTER, MARGARET HAIG, and ALEX HAIG gave themselves to the task of educating us in both the structure and practice of Orthodox worship and singing. Requests were made for a repeat session.

PRISON: I have been finding the work at Chelmsford rather too much, taken in conjunction with my other responsibilities. I have therefore recently resigned, though I have much enjoyed the work and am certain that the Orthodox prisoners have, with very few exceptions, been grateful for my ministry to them. I first went there almost nine years ago. Unfortunately it leaves the Prison without any Orthodox chaplain.

NATIONAL HERITAGE DAY in mid-September was the usual success in terms of people visiting St Helen's. This year for the

first time I managed to keep some sort of a tally on numbers attending. On Saturday morning and afternoon I counted 196, and on Sunday afternoon 111. While these numbers will not be exact, they are likely to be understated. For many visitors it was the first time they had been in an Orthodox church, so though they came mainly for reasons of history, tradition, and culture, it was also a brief introduction to our Holy Faith.

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY: The various Chaplains of all the faiths including me were recently formed into a Team, and though it has not done much as yet, in time this may well have a good effect on the whole University.

FELLOWSHIP OF ST ALBAN & ST SERGIUS: The two autumn meetings of the local branch will be:

♦ **Tuesday 2 November** at Frinton - Rev Dr JOHN TURNER, *An Anglican on the Volga;*

♦ **Tuesday 7 December** at St Helen's - Fr ALEXANDER, *An Orthodox on the Isis.*

OCTOBER DAYS

Fri 1	Protection of the Holy Theotokos
Sat 2	Hieromartyr Cyprian, St Andrew Fool-for-Christ
Sun 3	Pentecost 19, Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite
Mon 4	Hieromartyr Hierotheus, Bishop of Athens
Wed 6	Holy Apostle Thomas
Thu 7	Holy Martyr Queen Osyth of Essex, Virgin-Martyr Pelagia of Tarsus
Sat 9	H Apostle James son of Alphaeus
Sun 10	Pentecost 20, S Paulinus, Bishop of York
Mon 11	Holy Apostle Philip of the Seventy, S Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking
Tue 12	Martyr Edwin the King, S Wilfred, Bishop of York, S John of Riga, S Symeon the New Theologian
Thu 14	S Paraskeva the Younger whose relics are at Iasi
Sat 16	Appearance of St Michael at Mont St Michel
Sun 17	Pentecost 21, Fathers of the 7th Council
Mon 18	Holy Apostle Luke the Evangelist
Tue 19	S John of Kronstadt, S Frideswide of Oxford
Wed 20	S Gerasimus the New Ascetic of Cephalonia
Thu 21	S Christodoulos of Patmost
Sat 23	Holy Apostle James Brother of the Lord, S Demetrius Commemoration of the Dead
Sun 24	Pentecost 22
Tue 26	Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-flowing
Sun 31	Pentecost 23

A fuller list of the month's Feasts and Fasts is available on request