

**Orthodox Parish of
St Helen of Colchester**
Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the UK & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 195



FEBRUARY 2013

WEEKDAY HOLY LITURGY AT ST HELEN'S

Tuesday 19 February 9.30 am
NEW MARTYR PHILOTHEI OF ATHENS

A time to keep close and a time to let go: Basildon moves on

Every parent knows it: we must care closely for our offspring for a time—for years. But then there comes a time to encourage them to go off more in independence, but still in the care of others. Later comes a time to let go completely, though relations of love and mutual interest should continue for ever.

That is what is happening with our Mission at Basildon. I suppose it is now that second, middle, stage. Reader Paul continues to take care of them, and will do. Yet he is not in a position to be entirely responsible for them: he will, by God's grace, become Deacon later this year, when the new Archbishop is appointed. Later he will become its Priest.

But for now we let him and them sail off a little from shore (to change the metaphor) but still under the watchful eye of a good Priest, Father Alexander Tefft. From 1 March he becomes Parish Priest of Basildon from his tower at St Botolph's by Liverpool Street Station. I suspect that the Mission will have a little more independence now, without being completely untied from land.

This arrangement also helps me and us at St Helen's. While still usually fit and fleet-of-foot I am not always so, and do feel that I am slowing down a little. The journey to serve at Basildon, though only monthly, together with supervising the work there, is demanding.

We have, as you know, decided to abandon any hope of having St Martin's, in the light of the intransigence of the Churches Conservation Trust (God forgive their blindness!).

Therefore we must also begin to look for a new building that will be a proper, feasible, adequate base for the work of

the Orthodox Church in Colchester. This St Helen's, for all our love of it, can never be.

If and when we do find another building, there will be considerable work in setting it up as the new base for the Parish.

In addition, we still have our good and loyal people at Clacton to be served monthly.

So there is still enough for me to do.

I shall certainly miss Basildon. When we started in Colchester in 1995/6 I dreamt that eventually we might set up there, where I worked many years ago. It is at the centre of an area of hundreds of thousands living along the north bank of the Thames.

There must be thousands of immigrants who are Orthodox in the area - and the rest all need the light of Holy Orthodoxy.

So I wish Reader Paul and the Orthodox faithful of Basildon and district God's blessing in the future under Fr Alexander. My love for them, and interest in the work, will always remain.

Father Alexander



ST AGNES CHAPEL, in George Harrison's garden on the edge of Basildon, will be used for the last time on the feast of the Meeting of Christ, 2 February.

On 2 March the first Holy Liturgy in All Saints Church, North Benfleet will be served. We are most grateful to George for his hospitality for over a year, during negotiations for a building for the Basildon Orthodox Mission. As you see from the photographs, it has made a most attractive place of worship.

On 1 March the Basildon Mission will be taken over by Fr Alexander Tefft of St Botolph's in London. He becomes its Parish Priest, with Reader Paul responsible to him. Colchester may be proud of the work it has done in founding the future parish.



PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday 10 February
after Holy Liturgy**

The Liturgy will start on time & finish a little earlier than usual.

You are requested to stay for the short Meeting:

- to receive accounts & brief reports
- to elect officials for Parish life.

HOLY LITURGY

**BASILDON
Saturday
2 February
10.30 am**

**UNIVERSITY
Saturday
9 February
10.00 am**

**CLACTON
Saturday
16 February
10.00 am**

Holy Pascha this year

Western Easter is a bit early this year, 31 March. This gives us the clue that Orthodox Pascha is late.

- The *Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee* - the day the Triodion, the Lent cycle, begins - is 24 February.
- *Meatfare Sunday*. the last day we eat meat until Easter, is 10 March.
- *Cheesefare Sunday*, the last day for dairy products, is 17 March.
- *The first day of Lent*, the Great Fast, is Monday 18 March.
- *Palm Sunday* is 28 April.
- And **Holy Pascha** itself falls on **Sunday 5 May**.

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 Balkerne 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 Street, Colchester CO1 1UB

Tel: 01-206-530-530 Mob: 07-947-047-201 Eml: parishpriest@orthodoxcolchester.org.uk

Rdr Andreas Moran, 6 Woodlands, Welshwood Park CO4 3JA Tel: 01-206-865-697

Rdr Alexander Haig Jnr, detached service in Winchester parish

The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418

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

Churchwardens: David Davies 01-473-745-167 Dusan Radunovic 01-206-710-073

*At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea CV15 1LE
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am (Clacton Community)*

*At St Agnes Chapel, 18 St Agnes Road, Noak Hill, Billericay, CM12 9UR
Divine Liturgy: usually first Saturday 10.30 am (Basildon Community)
Rdr Paul Brighton-Cross 01-702-305-527 orthodox.basildon@hotmail.co.uk*

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



Alexander III enters the Kingdom!

It was a great joy and privilege to baptise Alex and Ela Haig's five-week-old baby Alexander Michael on the Saturday after Christmas.

In the picture above are the baby, his parents, two grandmothers, and baptiser. After a difficult start, both baby and mother are flourishing.

The ceremony took place in the chapel of the University of Winchester, which, for the morning, became part of the Antiochian parish of St Helen of Colchester. The rather nice Victorian building will be the base for the Romanian Orthodox parish to be established there shortly, under the leadership of Fr Andreas Andreopoulos, a well-known Greek theologian who teaches there. He has just been ordained as its Priest. New dad Alex will be its Reader, and in due course its Deacon.

Being so close to Christmas, and arranged at short notice, numbers of family, friends and clergy understandably could not be present. But the immediate Haig family got there, and a good number of friends made it. It was a very happy occasion.

Alexander's godparents are Fr Deacon Peter Georgiou and his Romanian wife Mihaela. Fr Peter, from the Twelve Apostles Greek Parish in Hatfield, is training for the Priesthood in Cyprus.

There was an interesting mixture of ethnic backgrounds and of Church jurisdictions. This brought a real richness to everything - and illustrated the need for *one Orthodox Church* for the British Isles!

A Word from the Fathers

Do not grumble, for this leads to blasphemy. Do not be self-willed or evil-minded, for all these things breed blasphemy. Be gentle-minded, for those of a gentle mind shall possess the earth. Be patient and have a loving heart. Be guileless, quiet and good, trembling in all things at the words you have heard. You too shall not exalt yourself or allow your heart to be bold or presumptuous. Your heart shall not cling to the high and mighty on earth, but to the good and humble folk.

The Didache, probably dating to about 100 AD

Here and There

THE FELLOWSHIP of St Alban and St Sergius brings together Christians of East and West, and our local branch in North-East Essex has been established for some years. We usually meet twice in the autumn and twice in the spring.

- The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 5 February**, when Baptist Minister **Rev David Haxell** will speak in **Frinton Catholic Hall** on *The Crescent and the Cross, Islam and Prayer*.
- Then, on **5 March**, **Dr Marcus Plested** from Cambridge Orthodox Institute will speak in **St Helen's** on *Thomas Aquinas: between East and West*.

Both of these should be stimulating occasions. You are warmly invited to them. A leaflet is available in the Porch.

HOSPICE: I shall be talking to a group of Master's degree students at St Helena Hospice early in February on *The Mystery of Death*.

THE FOOD BANK is having difficulty in keeping up with demand. Each week they distribute 36 boxes, twice as many as a year ago. They expect a further rise in demand shortly. Gifts may be left in the Porch.

New Martyr Philothea

This Holy Martyr was born of a wealthy Athens family in 1522. After a terrible marriage she lost her husband and parents, and used her new wealth to form a monastery, with buildings for schools, hospitals and other social agencies. This was where the present cathedral

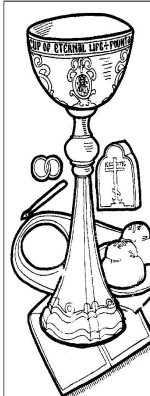


of Athens stands. She became greatly loved by the people, and thus at risk from the authorities. Eventually murdered by the Turks, she was venerated by the people as a Martyr. Enshrined in the cathedral, her feast is 19 February. There will be a Liturgy here at 9.30 am.

The People Column

JAMES GUIRGUIS was born to Mihaela and Karim on 21 January. Mother and child are both doing well. Our congratulations!

JULIETTE HAXELL, we have only recently heard, was born in August to Christina and Mark (Jonathan) who both teach in Saudi Arabia. I baptised her dad two years ago, before his marriage. Her grandparents are the Rev David and Mrs Haxell of Frinton. Congratulations to all!



HB Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch at St George's Cathedral in London in 1997

The Times published a full-page obituary on 28 December 2012, and the following item on 8 January 2013:

Father Alexander Alistair Haig writes:

Your obituary (28 December) gave a good account of the life of our much-lamented Patriarch, but omitted a direct influence he had on the British Isles. When visiting Paris in 1994 he agreed to meet a group of unhappy Anglican clergy seeking admission, with numbers of their faithful, to the Orthodox Church. Not being welcomed, for various reasons, by the Greeks or Russians, the bewildered and isolated group prayed that he would accept them. I well remember in the salon of the assistant Bishop his stretching out his arms and saying simply, Welcome home! To us, this was music in the ears, the balm of Gilead, and tears come to the eyes still in recalling the occasion. The Patriarch's charm, his concern and practical care for those who looked to Holy Orthodoxy were evident. The Deanery he then founded continues, bringing new life to the still-small but ever-growing Orthodox community in Britain.

FEBRUARY DAYS

Sat 2	Meeting of our Lord in the Temple
Sun 3	Pentecost 35, Afterfeast of Meeting, Righteous Symeon the God-Receiver & Anna the Prophetess
Mon 4	Martyr Aldate, Bishop of Gloucester
Tue 5	Martyr Agatha of Palermo
Wed 6	S Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople
Thu 7	S Richard of the West Saxons
Fri 8	Great Martyr Theodore Stratelates, S Cuthbert the Hermit, of Steyning
Sun 10	Pentecost 36, Sunday of the Talents, Hieromartyr Charalambos of Magnesia
Mon 11	Hieromartyr Blaise (Blasius) of Sebaste, S Caedmon, the Monk, of Whitby
Fri 15	S Oswy, King of Northumbria
Sun 17	Pentecost 37, Sunday of the Canaanite Woman, S Finan, Bishop of Lindisfarne
Mon 18	S Leo the Great, Pope of Rome, S Colman, Bishop of Lindisfarne
Tue 19	New Martyr Philothea of Athens
Sat 23	Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, S Milburga, Abbess of Wenlock
Sun 24	Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee, Beginning of Triodion, 1st & 2nd Findings of the Head of S John the Forerunner
Mon 25	S Ethelbert, King of Kent
Tue 26	Martyr Photini (Svetlana), the Samaritan Woman
Wed 27	S Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn
Thu 28	S John Cassian the Roman, S Oswald, Abp of York

A fuller list of the month's Feasts and Fasts is available in church