

**Orthodox Parish of
St Helen of Colchester**
Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the UK & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 203 NOVEMBER 2013



NOVEMBER WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S
Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am

Friday	8th	HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL & ALL THE BODILESS POWERS
Thursday	21st	ENTRY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE
Saturday	30th	HOLY APOSTLE ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED

Great Britain & Ireland to have their own Bishop!

The Holy Synod of the Church of Antioch met in October and decided among other things that we in these islands are to have an Antiochian Bishop to ourselves.

First, and very soon, we shall have what they call a *Patriarchal Vicar Bishop*. This means an assistant Bishop who is responsible only to His Beatitude the Patriarch.

Then, as early as next summer, the Holy Synod will elect a Metropolitan Bishop for us—and one can only think that the Vicar Bishop himself will be elected Metropolitan if the scheme has till then been a success.

This marvellous news reached us pretty well as soon as decided, and has now been announced in the official Communiqué.

It is part of a grand scheme for the whole of the Patriarchate's work in Europe, and must be the direct result of our Patriarch's experience in Europe—he was our beloved Archbishop in Europe for four years until his election as Patriarch last December.

Instead of one Archbishop trying to cover the whole continent, we are also to have an Archbishop for Germany and Central Europe, an Archbishop for France and Western and Southern Europe, and a Patriarchal Vicar Bishop for Sweden and Scandinavia (presumably the latter being a semi-permanent appointment).

The Archbishops have been named for Germany - Isaak - and for France Ignatius, who is there already.

We in Britain and Ireland are of course on tenterhooks for our Bishop to be named.

Perhaps by the time you read this we shall know who it will be. We are told it will be soon!

All this is a wonderful development. The clergy of the Deanery had made it clear that we felt we needed a Bishop for our oversight.

HOLY LITURGY
UNIVERSITY
Saturday
2 November
10.00 am
CLACTON
Saturday
16 November
10.00 am

Now we have a new Diocese with a Bishop who will shortly (all being well) be 'bumped up' to Metropolitan.

It is a magnificent answer to our prayers.

I think it may well be

the opening of a new chapter not only in the history of the Antiochian Church, but also of the whole Orthodox Church in the country.

As long as the new Bishop understands British ways - our thought-patterns, our culture - he will have an influence not only on our own Archdiocese but also on the Orthodox Church throughout these islands—and possibly even on society around us.

Pray, then, for our new Bishop/Metropolitan, whoever he may be.

As soon as he is consecrated and starts his work, his *episcopé* (his 'bishoply' oversight), there will surely be a lot of activity in the Church.

There will be ordinations pretty quickly, one hopes. There will surely be Bishop's Visits to *all* our parishes and missions - two of our parishes in Britain have *never* been visited by a Bishop in 18 years.

There will be pastoring and training of the clergy themselves. There will be central and regional events drawing parishes and Priests out of isolation.

There will be initiatives in training the laity, and encouraging them to take a full part in the running of their parishes.

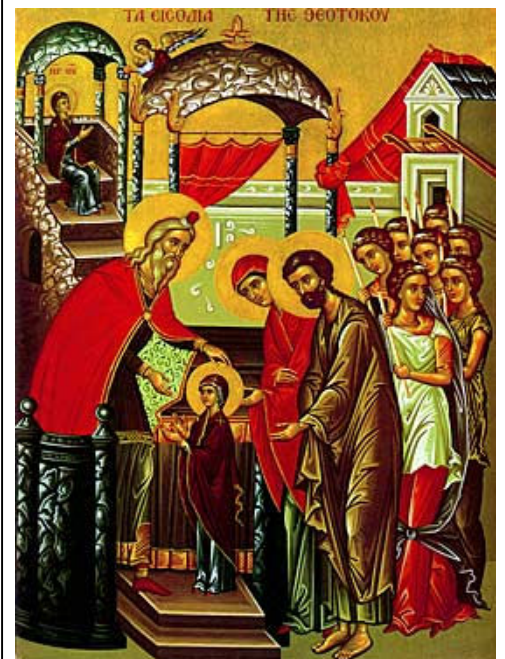
There will be the setting up of an effective Archdiocesan administration - not too bureaucratic, one hopes.

This must be a great development. We in Britain have sometimes felt we had no Bishop at all. Even under dear Archbishop John, recently with three assistant Bishops, the Bishop has been physically distant and stretched in many directions.

Now we shall indeed have a Pastor of our own, one who represents Christ to us, who is a true Father to his flock. Not just in name but in deed.

God bless us all!

Father Alexander



Entry of the Mother of God

This beautiful feast on 21 November has the child Mary being given over into the hands of the High Priest Zacharias in the Temple of Jerusalem. There she will be looked after, and trained in the service of God. She runs forward from her parents Saints Joachim and Anna conscious only of her new life. She will remain in the Temple throughout her childhood, learning the things of God, 'absorbing' faith. Then she will be fit and ready to herself become the Ark of God, the one who contains in her own womb the living God, Christ our Saviour.

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

The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418

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

At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea CO15 1LE
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am

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

The People Column

CONGRATULATIONS to HANNAH AHMET and PETER SERGHIOU. We married them in St James' Church at Clacton in September. Hannah was baptised a week or so before, in St Helen's. Both were lovely occasions - the Baptism very quiet, the wedding very big. **YANNOULA NICOLAOU** of Clacton is recovering from a serious operation. Remember her in your prayers.

BIRTH: Congratulations to KYRIAKOS and MARGO IOANNIDES of Parsons Heath on the birth of their son AUGUST-VASIL. Both mother and son are fine, and we give great thanks to God for that. This will be a great consolation to them, after the sad birth and death of their little daughter last year. Kyri's family comes from Cyprus, Margo is from Poland. The boy will be baptised in Cyprus. Many years!

BAPTISED: THOMAS PATRICK, son of ISTVAN and ANDRADA GYORBIRO of Monkwick, has been baptised. We wish him and his parents the blessing of God.

MARRIAGE: GEORGE HARRISON and THEODORA FORD will be married in All Saints Church, North Benfleet, Basildon on Saturday 23 November at 2 pm.

ST EDMUND KING AND MARTYR

Much loved by many English people (feast 20 Nov), he is said to have been England's patron saint before St George. He lived in the ninth century, and was king of East Anglia, roughly the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk (there were then several kingdoms in England). He was crowned at Hunstanton on the north Norfolk coast and again on the southern border at Bures, near Colchester.

As a king it was his duty to defend his people and when the Danes invaded his territory he defended it. Defeated at Thetford in Norfolk in 870, he hid under a bridge at Hoxne, not far from Norwich, but was betrayed by young lovers who noticed him. The Danes would have spared him, had he renounced his faith, but as a very devout follower of Christ he refused. They shot arrows at him and then beheaded him. Miraculously, a wolf guarded his head.

He was buried at Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, but is now in Arundel RC Cathedral in Sussex. *St Edmund, pray to God for us.*



ANDREA KOKONAS of Clacton has completed her degree in Criminology and Psychology at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge: we congratulate her and wish her well. At the moment she is working temporarily in a private school, while she seeks a permanent post.

Here and There

THE NATIVITY FAST begins on 15 November, as it always does. It is not as 'fierce' a fast as the Lent fast. Everyday we avoid meat and dairy products (milk, cheese, etc). We also avoid fish on weekdays, but on Saturdays and Sundays we may have fish, wine, and oil, except on the last weekend before the Nativity, when only wine and oil are allowed.

ANOTHER THEFT FROM ST HELEN'S: Our Holy Water Vat - the vessel containing Holy Water, with a tap for people to take some home - has been stolen. Coming so soon after the theft of the Holy Relic and of the Chalices etc, this has been a little dispiriting. The first items have been found and returned, as we reported in last month's Newsletter.

CCTV: In the hope of deterring would-be thieves, the Parish Council is considering the installation of an internal television system.

CHURCH CLEANER: We welcome ANGELA FIELDING who has now started cleaning the church every fortnight. Our thanks to ALEXIA LANSLEY for providing this service.



ARCHBISHOP PAUL, Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Aleppo in Syria - pictured left with Haigs on a visit to Colchester in 2002 - sadly remains hidden away somewhere in Syria, along with **ARCHBISHOP YOHUNNA** (Syrian Orthodox). They were kidnapped by rebels in the spring. Continue to pray for them and for their early release.

A Word from the Fathers: St Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 386) on the Creed

The faith which the Church hands down to you has all the authority of the Scriptures behind it. This is the faith, and none other, which you must learn to proclaim and in which you must persevere....

Keep this faith ever by your side to help you on your way, and close your ears and have nothing to do with any other....

To begin with, simply take the words as they stand at their face value, put your faith in them and commit them to memory. Later, as opportunity offers, you can take the propositions one by one and study them as truths of the sacred Scriptures. This summary of our faith is not a merely human composition, but the more striking sayings of the Scriptures have been assembled together to form one comprehensive statement. And as a small mustard seed carries within itself the

potential of large branches, so the words of our creed are pregnant with the whole content of our religion as it is expressed in both the Old and the New Testaments.

Pay attention then, brethren, to the truths of faith now being handed down to you, and write them deep in your hearts. Keep a careful watch, and be on your guard against foes and heretics intent on perverting your faith and plundering it. You must as it were deposit this gift of faith in the bank for safe-keeping and God will demand of you an account of your investment....

You have been entrusted with immortal treasure, and the Lord will require an account of it from you at the time of his appearing, and this will be made manifest at the proper time by the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords....

NOVEMBER DAYS

Fri 1	SS Cosmas & Damian, Unmercenary
Sun 3	Pentecost 19, S Winifred of Holywell
Wed 6	S Illtyd, Abbot of Llanwit Major
Thu 7	S Willibrord, Apostle of Frisia, Abp of Utrecht
Fri 8	Synaxis of Archangel Michael & the Other Bodiless Powers
Sat 9	S Nektarios Kephalas of Pentapolis
Sun 10	Pentecost 20, S Justus, Abp of Canterbury
Mon 11	S Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours Martyrs Menas of Egypt, Victor of Damascus, & Vincent of Spain
Wed 13	S John Chrysostom, Abp of Constantinople
Thu 14	Holy Apostle Philip
Fri 15	Beginning of the Nativity Fast
Sat 16	Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew
Sun 17	Pentecost 21, S Hilda, Abbess of Whitby
Wed 20	S Edmund, King & Martyr
Thu 21	Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple
Sun 24	Pentecost 22, Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome
Mon 25	Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria
Tue 26	S Stylianos of Paphlagonia, Protector of children
Wed 27	Great Martyr James the Persian
Fri 29	Hieromartyr Philoumenos, Custodian of Jacob's Well in Samaria
Sat 30	Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

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