

# Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Archdiocese of the BI & Ireland  
NEWSLETTER 213      OCTOBER 2014



WEEKDAYS IN OCTOBER  
9.30 am HOLY LITURGY

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER

ST OSYTH, QUEEN OF ESSEX & NUN

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

HOLY APOSTLE JAMES THE LORD'S BROTHER

## Prayer and talk in the Holy City....

**W**ell: I am just back from Jerusalem, my first visit for 25 years: how changed it is! Now it is a vast city with great blocks of apartments, all looking smart and new. Stretching everywhere.

Everywhere from Tel Aviv airport near the coast of the Mediterranean all the way up to the City, great blocks of housing. All the way out to Bethlehem, building, building, building.

The other change in that context that I noticed was the absence of donkeys! Even the narrow and difficult streets of the Old City have no donkeys. Some small electric vehicles have replaced the animals, though not presumably in the streets with steps.

But what about that huge wall now running all over the place to keep Palestinians out of Jewish parts?

The wall of division is overwhelming, intimidating. It is clear that the Palestinians (many Christian), are suffering from oppression. It is obvious that the Israelis would like them all to leave for America or somewhere, so that the whole land could belong to Israel. Also, many Muslims would like the Christians to leave: Poor Christians! Poor Middle East!

I was not there however for political education. Nor even for pilgrimage.

I was there for the official Dialogue of the worldwide Church with the world-wide Anglican Church.

These conversations have been going on since 1973 – with various members over the years of course.

In 2004 I was asked to represent the Church of Antioch and have been in Ethiopia, Cyprus, Lambeth, Crete, Oxford, Albania, Chester, Serbia and now Jerusalem. Really my only qualification is that having once been an Anglican priest, I

**HOLY LITURGY**  
CLACTON  
**Saturday**  
**18 October**  
**10.00 am**  
St Demetrius  
Commemoration  
of the Dead

know both sides of the divide.

Since 2009 we have been working on the big subject of ethics or morals - or 'Christian Anthropology' as they

call the subject. We are dealing with the basic subject of *What is Man? The Image and Likeness of God.*

This is a vast subject, but we are now nearing the end of drafting a Statement which we will finish next year (alas, we did not quite manage it this time!)

After that, it is envisaged that there will be work on subjects such as medical ethical ones, though I will not be there that long.

The Orthodox party is led by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, the well-known English Orthodox bishop and theologian.

Other members include Metropolitans Chrysostomos of Kition, Nifon of Tirgovisti, and Seraphim of Zimbabwe. There are priests from Moscow and USA and lay theologians from Greece and Serbia.

Among the Anglicans are Archbishops, Bishops, priests, and lay people: Rowan Williams has joined us again on his retirement.

It is all very 'jolly' and we get on well. The Orthodox are careful to remain faithful to the Holy Orthodox faith.

We did have the joy and privilege of being present at the night Liturgy in the Holy Resurrection (Sepulchre) church and Vespers at Bethlehem. I have brought a lamp to hang in St Helen's - the Bethlehem Lamp, we shall call it.

**I prayed for you all and your needs in Jerusalem and in Bethlehem and have a card and cross for you.**

*Father Alexander*



**ST OSYTH IS OUR LOCAL MARTYR.** She was Queen of Essex in the 7th century, but gave up court life to live as a simple nun at the women's Monastery she founded at the mouth of the River Colne as it opens into the Blackwater estuary. The village, near Clacton, is today called St Osyth. She was killed by Danish pirates about the year 700. They came up the St Osyth Creek, ransacked the Monastery and killed the Holy Nuns. We shall celebrate her on her feast, Tuesday 7 October, with a Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am.

### 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 Balkeme 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: Hours 10.15 am, Divine Liturgy 10.30 am**

Confessions: Saturday 5 pm, after Vespers, or by arrangement  
Holy Marriage, Baptism, Funerals, Memorials etc: by arrangement

Parish Priest: *Father Alexander (Alistair) Haig*

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Rdr Alexander Haig Jr., 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

