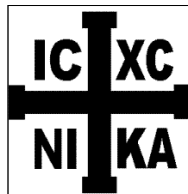


**Orthodox Parish of
St Helen of Colchester**
Antiochian Archdiocese of the BI & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 218



APRIL 2015

WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S

Wednesday 1 April
9.30 am Holy Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday 23 April **HOLY MARTYR GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND**
9.30 am Holy Liturgy
Thursday 30 April
Apostle James son of Zebedee, St Erkenwald, Bishop of London
9.30am Holy Liturgy

Christ is not “dead and gone” but gloriously alive in heaven and on earth

People - even, alas, Christian people - often talk as though Christ is no longer alive. ‘When Christ was alive...’ they say. Even ‘When Christ was Man...’ is wrong. Similar phrases abound.

But our Orthodox Faith strongly asserts that he is very much alive now - and in two major ways.

First, he is alive in heaven, still God and still Man too. Second, on earth, he is especially alive in his Holy Church.

That is how he can still be approached by us poor sinful human beings. He is the God who conquered death, death which while it still exists (and very powerfully) now ultimately ‘has no dominion’. He has taken away the ‘sting’ of death.

Holy Pascha has this message for us: that we need no longer fear the powers of evil, the powers of this world, the powers of death itself.

They are defeated!

But Holy Pascha is not only a mental stimulation to us. It can also have a



powerful effect on us. If we listen carefully, prayerfully, spiritually, Pascha, the Resurrection, will take away our fear of sin, evil, death, of this world.

Holy Pascha will give us peace in our heart and mind. It will give joy in our soul.

No wonder we cry out with joy, Christ is risen. He has trampled down death by death, and to those in the tombs he has given life!

Father Alexander

A Romanian Priest-Monk with a vision of a Monastery in the Isles

Fr Seraphim joined us for the Orthodox Pilgrimage to Iona last summer, and took us up to the north end of the Isle of Mull in Scotland, to Kilninian. He sees this as the first Orthodox monastery of nuns, with him as their Priest.

He turned out to be a humble and unassuming Monk who yet has a determination to succeed in this, for the glory of God.

He has been given a church building, and needs funds to build a small, quiet monastery.

He has been travelling around here and there, including the USA, collecting money. For the moment he supports himself by studying on a grant at Oxford.



Fr Seraphim on his Mound on Mull

**HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Sat 18 April
Bright
Saturday
10.00 am**

Please come both to Saturday evening, and preach on Sunday morning, with a short presentation about the Monastery at the end. I think we will all benefit from the occasion. See page 2 for a short article by Fr Seraphim.

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

* Hieromonk Seraphim will give a talk on Lazarus Saturday, and a sermon on Palm Sunday, with a short presentation about his planned Monastery on the Isle of Mull.

LAZARUS SATURDAY, 4 APRIL	
Great Vespers*	4.30 pm
PALM SUNDAY, ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM, 5 APRIL	
Mattins, with Blessing of Palms	9.45 am
Holy Liturgy of St John Chrysostom*	10.30 am
GREAT & HOLY MONDAY, 6 APRIL	
Bridegroom Mattins	6.00 pm
GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY, 7 APRIL	
Bridegroom Mattins	6.00 pm
GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL	
Holy Anointing	6.00 pm
GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY, 9 APRIL	
Great Vespers & Holy Liturgy of St Basil	9.30 am
Mattins of the Twelve Gospels	6.00 pm
GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY, 10 APRIL	
Royal Hours	8.30 am
Great Vespers & Deposition	3.00 pm
Mattins & Burial Procession	6.00 pm
GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY, 11 APRIL	
Great Vespers & Holy Liturgy of St Basil	9.30 am
Reading of Acts	10.30pm
Midnight Office	11.30 pm
HOLY PASCHA, 12 APRIL	
Resurrection Procession & Mattins	12 midnight
Holy Liturgy of St John	1.00 am (till 2.15)
<i>No late morning Liturgy, nor Lunch</i>	
Paschal Vespers	3.00 pm

CONFESSIONS: After any service or by arrangement
GIFTS FOR FLOWERS: Khouria Hilary will receive donations
EPITAPHION FLOWERS: Women & girls invited to prepare the Epitaphion on Holy Friday 9.30 am.

The women bearing myrrh came with sweet spices to thy tomb, O Saviour. But they heard an angel say to them: "Why count ye the Living among the dead? For as God he has risen from the tomb."

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
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 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 EC15 1LE
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am

Father Seraphim asks our help to establish the Monastic life in Scotland

The Monastery of All Celtic Saints will be the first Orthodox monastic community in the Hebrides in over a millennium. It will be built around the Church of Sts Ninian and Cuthbert, a 1755 building on a foundation that dates back to the seventh century.

After one year in the United States, meeting local Orthodox parishes, we have raised the funds necessary to buy five acres of land around the church and to build the foundation for the future monastic house.

I am now travelling across the UK in order

to gather support and donations to build the monastic cells. This will be a monastery for women, built on a pan-Orthodox vision, celebrating in English.

If you would like to support this initiative and become one of the Founders of the monastery, it is possible to make donations online, via PayPal, by cheque or in person, when I come.

Alternatively, you can make a bank transfer to Kilninian Trust, a UK registered charity that manages the monastery; the details are:

Account name: Kilninian Trust Bank: Natwest
Number: 38948109 Sort code (Branch no): 523044
IBAN: GB06NWBK52304438948109
IBAN BIC (swift code): NWBKGB2L

To find out more about the monastery, visit
www.mullmonastery.com

ST GEORGE THE GREAT MARTYR & TROPHY-BEARER

St George is popular in Orthodox countries and in England, and the West generally. He was known here by the 7th century, but his special popularity came later, becoming Patron of England in the 14th century. He is Patron of the magnificent chapel in Windsor Castle, the Queen's home, and of the noble Order of the Garter. People often think he is a mythical character, but that is completely untrue. He was probably martyred early in the 4th century in Lydda (now Lod) in Palestine during the Great Persecution of the Church. Soon a church was built to house his relics there, though later removed.

Holy Liturgy here on Thursday 23 April at 9.30 am.



Join us on the coach to London for the Ordination

As already announced, Deacon JACOB (PAUL) am. It will also pick up at the Aldi store in BRIGHTON-CROSS will be ordained Priest on London Road, Lexden.
Sunday 10 May in St George's Cathedral, Albany Street by Regents Park at 10.30 am, and ALEX HAIG will be ordained Deacon.

MARTIN GRÖB is organising a bus from Colchester, leaving Stuart House, St Peter's Street, down the hill from St Helen's, at 8.00 am. Martin announces that the cost per person will be £20.00, students £15.00. There will be discounts for anyone needing them. Please sign the list in church or contact him to reserve a place as early as possible, so that he can order the correct-sized bus.

Serving this Parish on your behalf

The annual meeting in March received and approved the 2014 accounts, and appointed or reappointed officers of the Parish. All those who have served in different capacities were thanked, including the churchwardens, the choir director, the Reader, the Priest's wife, the servers, the cleaners and providers, etc. The following were appointed as Councillors: David Davies, Dusan Radunovic, Theodora Ford, Mary Morris, Khouria Hilary, Teodor Petica, Calisthene Aristodimou. Unfortunately no new members were proposed.

Dusan was appointed Local Safeguarding Representative (Child Protection Officer) in place of Tom Carter now at Basildon, and Theodora Electoral Roll Officer in place of Paul Lansley, Both Tom and Paul retired after several years' service: thanks were expressed to them. The first Council meeting will appoint Churchwardens etc.

The Minutes of the meeting are available in church.

A Word from the Fathers: from an ancient author

In this feast [Pascha]...the Church, gathered in brotherhood and unity, is nourished. Adoring the substance of the one Godhead and the powerful name of the Three Persons, they join with the prophet in singing the psalm of the annual feast: 'This is the day which the Lord hath made. Let us be glad and rejoice in it.'

What is this day? It is he who in the source of life, the beginning of brightness, the author of life—our Lord Jesus Christ, who said of himself: 'I am the day: he who walks by daylight does not stumble.' That is to say, if a man follows Christ in all things, he will cross over in Christ's steps to the very throne of eternal light.

Here and There

GENERAL ELECTION: *Seeking God's Blessing* has arranged a hustings (pre-election meeting) for Colchester constituency on **Monday 27 April** in St Botolph's Church, St Botolph Street, at 7.45 pm. No doubt most if not all the candidates will be there to be questioned and challenged. The meeting will be chaired by the new (Anglican) Bishop of Colchester. A good opportunity to hear what they say.

THE BARKING PILGRIMAGE is re-arranged for **Saturday 16 May**. Details to come.

BAPTISED: Congratulations to ISLA-ELENI baptised in February, daughter of STEPHEN and ANNA BROWN of Ipswich, granddaughter of the late GEORGE KOKONAS of Clacton and step-granddaughter to MARIA.

CHURCH CLEANER: OANA CHIRILA has taken on this duty. We are grateful to ALEXIA and PAUL LANSLEY, who provide for this service.

THE DIRECTORY of Orthodox Churches, Parishes, and Clergy in Britain and Ireland, published by the Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist, is the only real guide to all the churches and jurisdictions in these islands. The 2015 edition has now been published, and I am delighted that this year it is edited by our own MARGARET HAIG. Congratulations to her on this essential work, a real service to the Orthodox Church in this country!

St PARASKEVA OF IASI: It was very sad that our lovely icon of St Paraskeva disappeared a few months ago, presumably stolen. We are grateful therefore to the same MARGARET for the gift of a replacement icon.

THE ICONS for the Holy Doors are now expected in the summer, not for Pascha.

APRIL DAYS

Sat 4	Lazarus Saturday
Sun 5	Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
Mon 6	Great & Holy Monday
Tue 7	Great & Holy Tuesday
Wed 8	Great & Holy Wednesday
Thu 9	Great & Holy Thursday
Fri 10	Great & Holy Friday
Sat 11	Great & Holy Saturday
Sun 12	HOLY PASCHA, THE RESURRECTION
Mon 13	Bright Monday
Tue 14	Bright Tuesday Martyrs Raphael, Nicola & Irene of Lesbos
Wed 15	Bright Wednesday
Thu 16	Bright Thursday
Fri 17	Bright Friday, Theotokos, Life-giving Spring
Sat 18	Bright Saturday
Sun 19	Pascha 2, S Thomas Sunday Hieromartyr Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury
Tue 21	Joyful Commemoration of the Departed
Thu 23	Great Martyr George, Patron of England
Sat 25	Apostle & Evangelist Mark
Sun 26	Pascha 3, Myrrh-bearing Women
Wed 29	S Basil, Bishop of Ostrog in Montenegro
Thu 30	Apostle James son of Zebedee, S Erkenwald, Bishop of London

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