

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Archdiocese of the BI & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 220 MAY 2015



Christ is gone from us physically but is still with us spiritually

Yes, Christ has left us physically—that is what the feast of the Ascension of Christ teaches us. But spiritually he is still with us—that is what the feast of Pentecost teaches us.

So we have not been left alone. Christ spreading the joy of the risen Christ was lifted up into heaven, leaving his disciples with the promise that he would send them his own Spirit, who would enter their very souls and lift them already into the Kingdom of Heaven.

The promise that he would be with them always, came into effect on the day of Pentecost.

It all came true with a mighty bang. The disciples had been turned from the weak, fearful men they were immediately after the Crucifixion, into men full of joy that their cause - of life itself, of Jesus Christ himself - had defeated death and sin, sickness and trouble: he had risen from the dead, "conquering Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life".

Now forty days later their Master leaves them, but they wait cheerfully, joyfully, for "the promise of the Father" to be fulfilled.

That promise came true another ten days later. See them now, in their new strength and power, preaching, teaching, healing,

And that of course is true for his followers who are also their followers. If we are open to him, he enters our lives, for most perhaps very quietly, for some perhaps with a great bang, and we become witnesses to his grace and joy.

Ascension Day, the day of departure bodily from this world is a day filled with joy and glory.

This year, Ascension falls on the feast of SS Constantine and Helen. This means that our special Parish feast gets rather overshadowed by one of the Twelve Great Feasts, common to all Christians.

But it gives us, on Thursday 21 May, special reason to give thanks to our Lord and God Jesus Christ for all he is, and for all he does, for us.

To him be all glory, all might and all majesty, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Father Alexander

**WEEKDAYS
AT ST HELEN'S
Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am
on the following days**
**Wednesday 6 May
Mid-Feast of Pentecost**
**Friday 15 May
St Pachomius the Great**
**Thursday 21 May
ASCENSION DAY, and
SS CONSTANTINE & HELEN**
**Wednesday 27 May
St Bede the Venerable**



HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN IGNATIUS OF FRANCE AND WESTERN EUROPE

comes to London in May to ordain two former members of this Parish:

- Deacon Jacob (Paul) Brighton-Cross to the Holy Priesthood, to serve in the Mission of All Saints, Basildon, and
- Reader Alexander Haig to the Diaconate, to serve on detached service, mainly in the Moscow Patriarchate Parish of SS Peter and Paul, Portsmouth (not as previously announced in Winchester).

The ordinations will take place on **Sunday 10 May** in **St George's Antiochian Cathedral** in Albany Street, close to Regents Park. The Holy Liturgy begins at **10.00 am**.

A coach is going from Colchester (Stuart House in St Peters Street). Cost is £20 per adult, £15 for students, but nobody will be refused for paying less: please ask!

The previous day, at St Botolph's, Bishopsgate, His Eminence will ordain **Deacon Emmanuel Kahn** as Priest (for Stockport), and **Subdeacon Filip Lommaert** as Deacon (for Athelhampton, Dorset). Many years to them all!



**HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
23 May
10.00 am
Note date**

SUNDAY 10 MAY
No Liturgy at St Helen's, but Reader Andreas will serve
Hours & Typica at 10.30 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

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, on detached service

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*

