

# Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Archdiocese of the BI & Ireland  
NEWSLETTER 221 JUNE 2015



## Ordained to serve

It was a happy occasion in St George's Cathedral near Regents Park when we witnessed the ordination of two men both originally from this Parish, one to the Holy Priesthood, one to the Holy Diaconate. Ordination was given by His Eminence Metropolitan Ignatius of France, who in fact visited St Helen's Chapel on a private visit last year (photos appeared in the June Newsletter).

Father Jacob (whom we know more easily as Paul) Brighton-Cross was a member of our parish, received into the Orthodox Church in St Helen's Chapel in September 2008.

He lives in Southend, so when, after many years of consideration, I sought to found a new mission at Basildon, where I had myself worked as an Anglican 1967-71, he made this possible.

Soon he was ordained Reader here in St Martin's by HE Metropolitan John (now our Patriarch) in 2012, and last year was ordained Deacon up in Doncaster by HE Metropolitan Ignatius.

Now Basildon has an Orthodox Priest: I congratulate him and ask God's blessing on his work there.

He has plenty to do, let it be said. There is no other English-speaking parish in the south of Essex, and the only one at all in the area is St Barbara's Greek parish in Southend. The next going in from the coast is Romford, a Russian monthly service, and then the Greek parishes in Upton Park and Leyton.

There is no Orthodox community between Colchester and Romford - with the obvious and extremely important exception of the Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist.

But the Monastery is not like a parish. Perhaps the Basildon mission will in time produce yet another mission in Chelmsford or Braintree.

That indeed is my prayer. Certainly Father Jacob will have much travelling around to cover the area. The Orthodox Church in Essex (in Britain!) remains a slender plant, needing loving care, diligent nurture, a devoted ministry by Priests and Deacons.

That leads me to say how pleased Khouria Hilary and I naturally felt at the ordination of Father Deacon Alexander

II. He also is a convert of course - our whole family received into the Church all but twenty years ago in St George's Cathedral, by

our dear friend Father Samir.

Deacon Alexander has in fact long experience of Holy Orthodoxy, as we were much involved in the Faith long before he was born. From first reception he has been much concerned in the life and work and in understanding the Faith. He has been on the Holy Mountain (with the late and revered Father Athanasius), and has visited our Church in her homelands, Lebanon and Syria, staying at Aleppo with our beloved, sadly-captive, Archbishop Paul, and getting to know various of our Bishops and Priests there.

More recently, living in Portsmouth, and attached to the Romanian parish in Winchester, he was made Reader here by the former Metropolitan John.

Unfortunately that parish has now collapsed (at least temporarily). He has therefore been theoretically placed under the Antiochian parish of Poole, Dorset, but that place is distant and for practical purposes he has been attached to the Russian parish in Portsmouth.—But it is even more complicated than that, and his ecclesiastical life is likely to be a bit peripatetic for the present.

In this we wish him well, and ask God to bless him in his ministry.

Both of these Men of God have so much to do in the Lord's Vineyard in this country.

The People of God will most certainly benefit by their labours, and all will do well therefore to keep them in their prayers. I trust this Parish, which has given life to both of them, will do so.

Certainly I will, that their service will bear fruit, a blessing to their People, to their dear families, and indeed to their very selves.

God bless you all.

**Father Alexander**

### WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S

Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am as follows

Friday 5 June

*Hieromartyr Boniface of Crediton*

Thursday 11 June

*St Bartholomew & St Barnabas*

Wednesday 24 June

*Nativity of St John the Baptist*

Wednesday 1 July

*SS Cosmas & Damian of Rome*

SS Peter & Paul will be commemorated on Sunday 28 June

At the Ordination in St George's Antiochian Cathedral near Regents Park on 10 May:

Newly-ordained Priest

Jacob (Paul) Brighton-

Cross (right) - serving

in Basildon - and

(below) Newly-

ordained Deacon

Alexander Haig - now

serving in Portsmouth -

with Diakonissa

Mihaela and young

Alexander III.



**THE HOLY SYNOD meets in Lebanon on 23 June. We hope and pray they will at last elect us a Bishop.**

### 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 Balkierne Hill), to Northgate, go straight along St Peter's Street to Castle Park; continue round the bend, up into Maidenburgh Street. The nearest car park is Nunns Road NCP, off St Peter's Street.

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

HOLY LITURGY  
CLACTON  
Saturday  
20 June  
10.00 am

