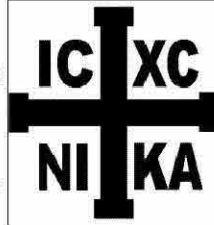




Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 227 JANUARY 2016



WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S

Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am

Friday 1 January

CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST, ST BASIL THE GREAT

Wednesday 6 January

HOLY THEOPHANY OF CHRIST: see below

Wednesday 20 January

ST EUTHYMIUS THE GREAT

Wednesday 27 January

TRANSLATION OF RELICS OF S JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

2016 could be an eventful year in the history of our twenty year-old Parish!

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of our Parish! In February 1996 we had our first meeting and then we actually began regular worship on 2 March.

The Haig family, newly brought into the Orthodox Faith, were the foundation and rock on which the new life was built. But we already had several other people with us, which was very encouraging. Some of these good founding members are still with us—Alexia and Paul Lansley, Dorothy Tanner, Calisthene Aristodimou. Others have moved away. One or two have passed on into eternity, receiving the reward of their labours.

What now of the future? - Well, some great changes are occurring this year in our life together.

First and foremost, we are at last getting our own Antiochian Archbishop, Metropolitan SILOUAN, for the Church in these British Isles. This is likely to have a great impact—a new, young Bishop, clearly intelligent, in his mid-forties. It is certain that he will be getting us and all the other parishes into line, to be fuller and richer witnesses to our Faith, leading us in the ways of holiness and devotion to Christ our God.

Part of the impact will be just having to find the money to keep our Bishop. The money will not come from outside—we have to house, feed, clothe him, provide the necessary support, provide for his travel. Etc....!

Within the Parish, there are also going

to be great changes. Our lease on St Helen's Chapel finishes in September. A committee is examining what we must do—we can buy or lease St Helen's.

But the difficulty about that is that we shall never be able to make St Helen's entirely suitable as the centre of a thriving Orthodox parish. The building is too small, lacking basic provisions, yet an important historical monument, incapable of being enlarged.

The present thinking is that perhaps we ought to try again to obtain use of St Martin's Church, only 200 metres away. An empty building, sadly used for some sixty years for anything but the Orthodox worship for which it was first erected up to 1600 years ago, we have tried three or four times over two decades without ultimate success. Perhaps another attempt will be blessed by God. When we did use it for Holy Week in 2008 and 2012 it proved a really wonderful building for us—except for the lack of heating!

Here we come back to money, of course. The cost will be enormous, but it may be the task laid upon us by Almighty God in order to ensure the continuing life of our parish into the future, to test our faith in him. Pray for the Committee!

Father Alexander



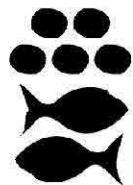
Theophany Procession 2014

Theophany at St Helen's Wednesday 6 January

9.30 am Divine Liturgy &
Great Blessing of the Waters

Sunday 10 January

10.30 am Divine Liturgy & Procession
to Bless the River Colne -
please support this



HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Precious
Chains of
Apostle
Peter
Saturday
16 January
10.00 am

Enthronement in February ?

At the time of going to press there is no news of a new date for the Enthronement of our Metropolitan, His Eminence Archbishop SILOUAN.

There has been progress, however, on obtaining his visa. We look forward to hearing an official date and to his arrival in his Diocese of the British Isles and Ireland. It has been suggested that he may arrive early in February.

I believe his arrival here is a highly significant step in the life of the Antiochian Church here in Britain and Ireland - and indeed in the life of the whole Orthodox Church in this Islands.

Continue to pray for him in what must be a frustrating time for him as well as for us.

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

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
Churchwardens: David Davies 01-473-745-167 Dusan Radunovic 01-206-762-553

The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418

Bank account: Sort Code 20-22-67 Account No. 50349364

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

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

