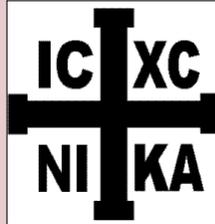


Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland*
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 232 JUNE 2016



Special Days at St Helen's

Wednesday 1 June
NEW MAYOR OF COLCHESTER'S VISIT
11.00 am PRAYERS

Thursday 9 June
ASCENSION OF CHRIST
9.30 am HOLY LITURGY

Sunday 19 June
HOLY PENTECOST
10.30 am HOLY LITURGY & KNEELING VESPERS

Tuesday 21 June
THIRD DAY OF THE TRINITY
9.30 am HOLY LITURGY

Wednesday 29 June
HOLY APOSTLES PETER & PAUL
9.30 am HOLY LITURGY

Bishop's visit a happy, challenging success

His Eminence Metropolitan SILOUAN spent twenty-four hours here for our Parish Feast 20/21 May. It was a happy occasion, but also one in which he rightly challenged us on our life in Christ.

He had stayed at the Monastery the previous night and I brought him from there after lunch. The first thing he did was to visit one of the founding members of the Parish, unable

ing ways we could be serving more effectively, saying for example that we should increase our work for our children, young people, and families—in other words, we should

which added to the attraction of the scene.

There we had Lunch, arranged

by GEORGE, to which many of you contributed lovely dishes, notably HELEN's festal cake and ELENA's pascka. There was also time to spend something on items from St Elizabeth Sisters from Minsk, whose stall nicely coincided with the Bishop's visit.

Numbers of you were able to talk with the Bishop over or after lunch, and to receive his blessing.

Then it all suddenly came to an end as the Bishop rushed off to Kings Cross for the evening train to York to join their celebration of the feast on Sunday (they are dedicated to St Constantine).

It was all a very happy occasion. Our own Bishop was with us, blessing and guiding us. He displayed the authority of his office as a chief shepherd of the flock of Christ, but lovingly



Photographs by Ruth Lawrence

to get to church, ALEXIA (IRENA) LANSLEY. We were touched by his fatherly concern as he blessed her.

Actually Alexia did more than most of us to support him (!) on his visit to St Helen's, as the Episcopal throne was one of

be thinking about nurturing our future members in the Faith.

He graced our house by spending the night here, and this gave a little time in the later evening for me to talk with him about various aspects of our church life. I was able to bring him up-to-date with our attempts to find bigger premises (e.g. St Martin's!).

On the morning of the feast the Bishop was present at Mattins, and then vested for the Holy Liturgy in lovely vestments.

Before the Liturgy he ordained MARTIN as Reader, so that we are now blessed with two Readers ANDREAS and Martin - an enormous help in the Parish.

During the service he blessed us in the customary, dramatic manner with the three- and two-branched candles, preached of our need to love Christ and each other, and fed us from the Holy Chalice.

The choir leader for the occasion was MARGARET, who got her singers singing excellently. Altar servers were PETROS and JOSEPH.

Then we went out to the green, where COLIN and family had erected their large gazebos

and humbly.

Our congratulations and thanks to those who contributed in any way. People all seemed to have enjoyed, and profited from, his welcome visit.

Come again soon, Your Eminence!

Father Alexander



her dining chairs complete with her princely two-headed eagle.

At 5 pm Sayedna appeared at the door of the church and I received him in your name and then he presided at Great Vespers of the feast.

Afterwards he had time to meet those in church, and then we stepped up to Castle Methodist Church, who generously gave us use of their lounge for our Dinner for our Church leadership team.

The excellent meal was supplied by ANDY DAY of Maiden-

**HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
of Souls
18 June
10.00 am**

burgh Street. After the meal, over cheese and coffee, Sayedna spoke to us as leaders, suggest-

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 Balkeine 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, Holy 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 Martin Grah, 16 Mill St, Military Rd CO1 2AH Tel: 07-702-579-743

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

Orthodox Parish of St Helen 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



At last, the long-awaited Great and Holy Council is upon us!

The Great and Holy Council of all the Orthodox Churches takes place this month, 16-27 June, appropriately over the feast of Pentecost. Not all Bishops will attend, but representatives of each autocephalous Church.

Pray for the Council that it may prove the beginnings of a renewed Holy Orthodox Church throughout the world. It is said to be the first such assembly since the Seventh Ecumenical Council in AD 787!

It could prove a complete failure, it's true, but it could also be a very special moment—a *kairon*, as the Greeks call it—in the life and history of the world-wide Holy Orthodox Church. So pray for the Bishops' meeting, including our own Archbishop.

The photo above is of the Theological Academy where the Council will take place. I had the pleasure of visiting it a few years ago. It is a fine institution in a fine spot in the lovely island of Crete.

Committed Church Giving

The Church Council will shortly be writing to everybody on our lists. The letter is really for those who actually worship here but were absent on Giving Sunday; others please ignore it.

It will tell of the success of Archimandrite PHILIP's recent visit to encourage us to *Committed Church Giving* for the needs of the Parish and Diocese. So far, an annual £5,500 has been promised by givers to our budget.

People can give by bank standing order or by weekly envelopes. Tax-payers can Giftaid.

These givers do not put money in the basket when it comes round in church. They continue to pay for candles they burn.

Bulgarian joins our intercessors round the walls of St Helen's

I have been delighted to receive a large icon of St John of Rila (*St Ivan Rilski*), Patron of Bulgaria. He was a hermit who lived 876-946, much venerated in his life-time and ever since. Kings and peasants came to him. The great Rila Monastery was built near his cave. The surprise and generous gift has come to us from Father MARCO in Karlovo via KRAGIMIR and EKATERINA RADEV, who live in Ipswich.

It has always been my aim to have icons of the favourite Saints of the various nations represented in our congregation, and St John will doubtless be visited particularly by the growing number of Bulgarians in this area as well as by the rest of us. We pray for our benefactors, and ask their prayers for us.



God gave breath to

A Word from the Fathers

the first man to bring his whole body to life, and he has given his new breath, the Holy Spirit, to the Church, for the same purpose - that every member of the body

should come alive. The Spirit

is our link with Christ. He strengthens our faith, he gives eternal life, and he is a ladder by which we can come to God.

St Irenaeus of Lyons (+202)

The People Column

FORMER Master's student (about 12 years ago) TATYANA NARCHAYEVA has emailed from Toronto, where she has lived since soon after leaving here:

God bless you, your family and parish I think about St. Helen's church often, it was a wonderful experience for me, I will always miss it. Please keep me in your prayers.

It is good to know that we have given happy memories to former students and that they

remember us. Our students have served us well in the 20 years of our parish life. Some have helped in various ways over the years, some by serving, some by singing, some by assisting, some just by being present and praying - and setting us a good example. God bless them all!

BAPTISED: REBECCA GABRIELLA DINU was baptised in St Helen's on 11 May. She is daughter to MARIOS and LILIANA of Barrack Road.

Many years, little one!



"LOCAL SAINTS":

A committee has been established by the Episcopal Assembly in the British Isles to try to agree a list of British and Irish Saints for commemoration in all the jurisdictions. The chairman is Metropolitan ELISEY OF SOUROZH, and I am privileged to represent the Antiochian jurisdiction. The committee has hardly got off the ground yet, but the second meeting will take place early in June. The formulation of a joint Calendar could be a small step in bringing together the various Churches represented in Britain and Ireland. Even though it is at a very much lower level than the Council in Crete, it also is therefore worthy of your prayers.

ST WALSTAN was a Saxon Saint of East Anglia, and therefore Orthodox. A nobleman who lived very simply and unknown among the farming community at Taverham in north Norfolk, his relics were anshrined at Bawburgh near Norwich. This year is his millennium. His holy well is in the churchyard at Bawburgh, and there will be an Akathist arranged by the Mettingham parish on **Saturday 11 June at 2.00 pm**, with a reading of his life. You are encour-

Here and There

aged to join in to honour him if you can: let me know if you would like to attend.

HOLY WEEK & PASCHA SERVICES were well attended (my estimate for Pascha night is 250) and powerful. Thanks to Reader, servers, musicians, flower-arrangers, cleaners etc, who all contributed to their beauty.

PARISH CHARITY & ACCOUNT NUMBERS appear every month on the front page of the Newsletter in the parish details, and have done so for some months. They are there to help people wishing to transfer money to the parish to do so easily.

VESTMENTS: When the Sisters from St Elizabeth's Monastery in Minsk, Belarus, came they brought a set of red vestments with them (£250), so now we really have all the colours we need, which is lovely. I also bought a green lectern fall (£60), a metal box for the Baptismal oils (£80), and a small hanging lamp (£45). **If anyone would like to give one of these items please contact me and we can sort it out: please mention it before handing over money. If you wish, it can be a memorial.**

JUNE DAYS

Mon	1	S Justin Martyr, Nun-Martyr Wite of Dorset
Sun	5	Pascha 6, The Blind Man, Fathers of 2nd Council, Martyr Boniface of Devon, Archbishop of Mainz
Thu	9	ASCENSION OF CHRIST, S Cyril of Alexandria, S Columba of Iona, Enlightener of Scotland
Sat	11	H Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas S Luke, Archbishop of Simferopl
Sun	12	Pascha 7, Fathers of First Council
Tue	14	Prophet Eliseus (Elisha), S Justin (Popovich)
Fri	17	S Botolph of Iken, Suffolk
Sun	19	HOLY PENTECOST, Holy Apostle Jude
Mon	20	Day of the Holy Spirit
Tue	21	Third Day of the Trinity
Wed	22	S Alban, Protomartyr of Britain
Thu	23	S Etheldreda of Ely, S Mark of Ephesus
Fri	24	Nativity of H Forerunner John
Sun	26	Pentecost 1, All Saints
Mon	27	BEGINNING OF APOSTLES FAST S Joanna the Myrrh-bearer
Wed	29	H LEADERS OF THE APOSTLES PETER & PAUL, FOUNDERS OF THE CHURCH OF ANTIOCH
Thu	30	Synaxis of the Holy Twelve Apostles

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