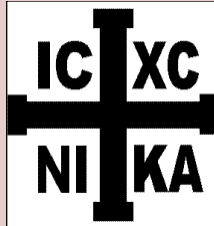


**Orthodox Parish of
St Helen of Colchester**

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland*

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 234 SEPTEMBER 2016



SPECIAL DAYS AT ST HELEN'S

NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday 8 September

9.30 am Divine Liturgy

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Wednesday 14 September

9.30 am Divine Liturgy &

Veneration of the Relic of the True Cross

NATIONAL HERITAGE DAYS: STEWARDS IN CHURCH

Saturday 10 September 9.30 am-4.30 pm

Sunday 11 September 12.30-4.30 pm

Twenty years a Priest

It really seems amazing that it is twenty years ago this month (28th) that I was ordained Priest by Bishop (later Archbishop) Gabriel. I shall be away when that date falls this year, so tell you about it now, for knowledge of our history is important so that we know who and what we are. This is our story in brief.

I had been an Anglican priest many years when the Church of England took the decision to ordain women to the priesthood. This was not all I and many other clergy and lay people objected to in the ways and thoughts of the Anglican church. Liberal attitudes had been increasing throughout its life ever since the time I was ordained to its priesthood in 1965.

Then on 11 November 1962 - that fateful day - its general synod took to itself the right to contradict the tradition of all the ages since Christ of a male priesthood. This affected its very foundations in a way that other liberal ideas only dented. Unrealised then, seldom really appreciated in the Anglican Church even today, this seemed a change in its very nature.

Literally hundreds of Anglican clergy and thousands of laity thought this too. Over the next few years over 500 priests joined the Roman Catholic Church.

A tiny number of priests - probably under twenty - found their way into the Holy Orthodox Church. Most came into the Church of Antioch, because the amazing thing was that the other jurisdictions didn't really want us—the Russians didn't, the Greeks didn't.

A group of us went off to Paris one November day, where by the providence of God His Beatitude Patriarch Ignatius IV was coming and

agreed to meet us.

He did not make any great fuss about it, he simply opened his arms and said warmly, gently, kindly, "Welcome home!" Still today the memory of that moment brings tears to my eyes. The ancient Church of Antioch, "where the disciples were first called Christians" (Acts 11.26), welcomed us into her bosom.

It took a little time to set everything up, what with ecclesiastical and financial arrangements for leaving and arriving, housing, schooling, etc.

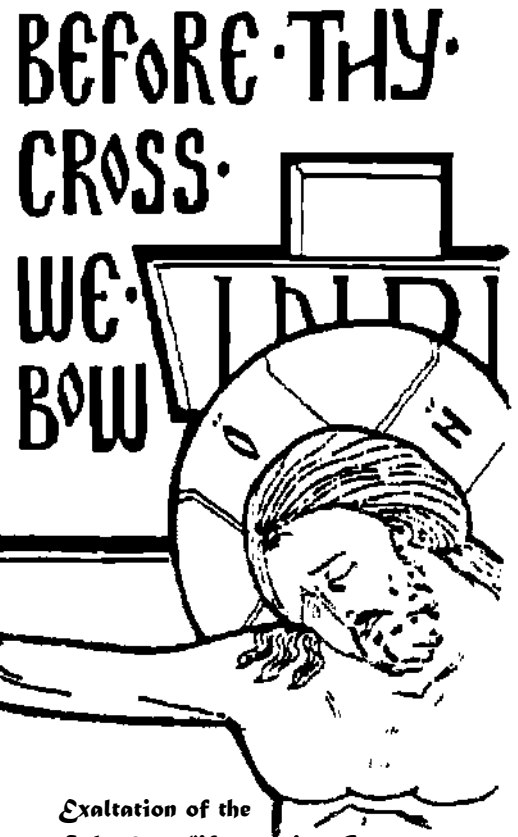
We were received by Chrismation into the Orthodox Church by dear Father Samir at St George's Cathedral in December 1995, moving from Bocking near Braintree a few days later.

Immediately we started this brand-new parish - first ensuring we had the goodwill of the nearby Monastery of St John the Baptist.

The first service was in February, and in May - with my wife present but not my children - I went to Paris, to the Greek Cathedral (borrowed by the Antiochians), to be ordained Deacon. In September, we *all* (by a generous, anonymous gift through our front door) returned to Paris by Eurostar, to be ordained Priest, allowing our new Parish to be properly established.

That's at least part of the story: more another time. - All praise to God!

Father Alexander



**Exaltation of the Holy & Life-creating Cross
Wednesday 14 September**

Thank you...

In the June Newsletter I invited gifts to pay for various items we had bought for the church from the St Elizabeth Sisters when they came for the Bishop's visit.

I can now thank on your behalf the following, who responded:

- **Seraphima Scott** has given the new set of red vestments in memory of her granddaughter **Averil Miranda Hart**, a teenager who died tragically in 2012.
- **Mary Morris** has given both the 'silver' box for the holy chism and the hanging lamp (yet to be set up) in front of St Nicholas, in memory of her mother **Clio Georgiou**, a dear member of this parish who died earlier this year.
- **Khouria Hilary** gave the green lectern-fall (cloth) in memory of one of her oldest and closest friends **Jean Hancock**, who also died earlier in the year.

All these gifts help to make St Helen's a well-furnished temple of Christ, and I am sure the congregation as a whole is grateful.

As we see these items in use we remember the persons who gave them and those in whose memory they were given. It helps to keep the presence of our dear departed in our hearts, as they are in the hand of God.

**HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
17
September
10.00 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 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 Gröb, 21 Alexandra Road CO3 3DF 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

The People Column

MICHAEL ANTONIOU - originally from Cyprus - was not known to many at Clacton, for he had only in recent years moved from London to be with his sons and grandchildren there. Sadly he has died, and we had the funeral in St James', with burial at Butts Road, and the Forty Days Memorial in St Helen's. God bless all his family. Memory eternal!

BAPTISED: Congratulations to the following, baptised at St Helen's recently:

- SOPHIE ABDELHAMID, daughter of Paul and Alexandra of Northern Approach;
- PETRA FLOREA-FLISCU, daughter of Catalin and Mariana of Bergolt Road;
- ANTONIA ELENA APOSTOL, daughter of Florin and Lavinia of Ipswich.

May Christ bless them, their parents, godparents, and families through them.

ROB CAREY played an important part in our daily life, but quietly, unknown to nearly everyone. He has lived with his mother in the bungalows opposite St Helen's for several years, and has held the church keys, opening and locking up if Hilary and I were not around. This has helped our church maintain its open-door policy for pilgrims and tourists, a very valuable part of our mission. Now, very suddenly and sadly, he has died, aged 52. We will miss him not only for his kindness to the church, but also for his charm and general helpfulness. Our deepest sympathy to his mother and family. We shall remember his soul in our prayers. Memory eternal!

DIACONAL VISITATION: Following Sayedna's Episcopal Visitation of the Parish in May, in August DEACON ALEXANDER HAIG came with his DIAKONISSA ELA and their son ALEXANDER III for their annual Colchester Inspection, to make sure everything was in order here. Kindly hosted by SANJA and DUSAN RADUNOVIC and IAKOV, they were here only a few days, but it did give time for His Diaconate to serve on the Holy Altar in the Parish which he helped found in 1995/6 and which in turn supported him through his theological studies.



Children of St Helen

His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan, on his visit here, suggested there ought to be more caring for our children. I was delighted that absolutely immediately SANJA RADUNOVIC and SILVIA LEFLEY began talking about what we should do.

Now they are to begin a monthly group for pre-school and primary-age children on the first Saturday of the month. A children's syllabus prepared at Diocesan level is expected to be followed.

The first will be on Saturday 1 October at 11.00 am in St Helen's. We can call them "COSHers", Children of St Helen!

Parents are invited to bring their children for the hour-long session—and should get a cup of tea to help pass the time if they wish to stay. It is of course all experimental for the moment.

Further information, and offers of help from mums, dads, young adults, and others will be warmly received. (Security checks will of course be necessary.)

Parents and volunteers should direct their queries to Sanja on 01-206-762-553 or Silvia on 01-206-835-715. God bless our children and their teachers!

SERVING ON THE ALTAR:

Serving is an important part of the life of any parish. I am grateful that two men have recently started assisting the Priest in preparing incense, dealing with the bread, handing things to the Priest, and so on. I am sure that both JOSEPH (Bryan) DAVENPORT and NIC (Nicusor) RANETE consider it a privilege and a joy (and so it is - service with a blessing from God in return). Our thanks to them for doing this. **We could do with a few more men and boys to do this: volunteers, please, so that we could have enough to take turns!** - This reminds me to ask men and boys to come quickly forward to carry the fans and candles etc in the *procession at the Great Entrance*. Do not wait to be called forward: just move to the Altar when the censuring is completed.

BERNARD BRETT HOUSE helps youngsters starting out in life and needing a bit of a lift-up. I recently sent £100 from us all for

Here and There

their work and the residents have replied with a nice card of thanks, displayed in the porch.

ORTHODOX-ANGLICAN DIALOGUE:

This year the Commission meets in Armagh, Ireland. I shall be at the meetings for positively the last time 23-30 September.

ARCHBISHOP SILOUAN: Sayedna plans to be at the Monastery for his name-day, Saturday 24 September. Unfortunately I shall be in Ireland, but I imagine he will be glad if any of you can be there to greet him.

BUILDINGS: We are definitely retaining St Helen's Chapel for the present, though the present lease ends this month, and details are still not worked out! The Buildings Committee is working on this and also on trying to obtain a bigger, suitable building in addition—possibly St Martin's! But these things seem to move rather slowly.

CHURCH COUNCIL: The next meeting will be on Sunday 2 October at 1.00 pm.

PETER SERGHIOU is still in the US having his treatment, though some of his family return to Clacton for the new school year. Members of the Parish at St Helen's sent £300 to help them and many other friends and family also assisted. Peter sent a nice card of thanks.

"The Great and Holy Council": did it take place - or not?

The answer, is, believe it or not, *Yes and No*. Lots of Bishops went to Crete - but none from Antioch, Bulgaria or Moscow, which proclaimed that this Crete meeting should be considered only *preparatory* to a *real* meeting of *all* the Churches at some time in the future. Antioch had stated back in January (*not* at the last minute as claimed by Constantinople) that it could not attend until it was at peace with Jerusalem, but Constantinople simply ignored the statement. Some of the documents produced on Crete may prove helpful, if renewed by all the Churches in the future.

A Word from the Fathers

We are celebrating the feast of the Cross, whereby darkness was dispelled and the light restored. We are celebrating the feast of the Cross, and with the Crucified One we are raised up, leaving behind us the earth and sin, so that we may possess what is above. How great the Cross! What blessings it holds! He who possesses it possesses a treasure! *St. Andrew of Crete (+740)*

SEPTEMBER DAYS

Thu	1	Church New Year , S Simon Stylites, Righteous Joshua the Son of Nun, Day of Prayer for the Environment
Sun	4	Pentecost 11, Prophet & God-seer Moses
Mon	5	Prophet Zechariah & Righteous Elizabeth
Tue	6	New Hieromartyr Maximus Sandovich
Thu	8	Nativity of the Holy Theotokos
Sun	11	Pentecost 12, Sunday before Holy Cross
Tue	13	Commemoration of Dedication of Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) in Jerusalem
Wed	14	UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS
Fri	16	S Ninian, Bishop of Whithorn in Scotland
Sun	18	Pentecost 13, Sunday after Holy Cross
Mon	19	S Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, Patron of our Archdiocese
Fri	23	Conception of H Prophet John the Forerunner
Sat	24	S Silouan of Mount Athos, H Protomartyr Thecla
Sun	25	Pentecost 14, S Sergei, Wonderworker of Radonezh
Mon	26	H Apostle & Evangelist John the Theologian

A FULLER LIST OF THE MONTH'S FEASTS AND FASTS IS AVAILABLE