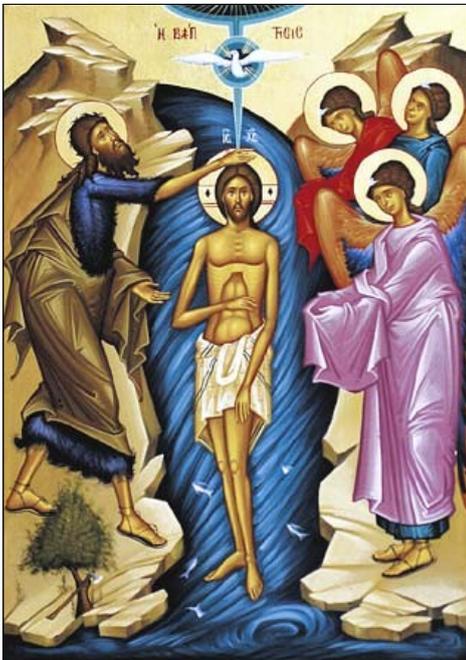
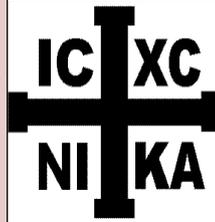


Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

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

NEWSLETTER 238

JANUARY 2017



A few notes

- The Great Fast (Lent) this year begins on Monday 27 February.
- Holy Pascha is 16 April, the same as western Easter.
- Thank you very sincerely to those who sent cards or presents at Christmas. We are very touched.
- Do you ever glance at the Church Library and borrow a book or a magazine? - There are plenty of books of Orthodox interest but of different types - e.g. Church Teaching, Travel, easy-to-read, needing-more-intense-attention, etc. Just complete a note to say you have borrowed it, and return or renew it within three weeks.

Who is Jesus? - His Baptism in the Jordan gives us the answer

Jesus of Nazareth enters the waters of the River Jordan. St John's Baptism was very much for repentance and forgiveness of sins, and John protests to Jesus, "You are the only one who is without sin: you should be baptising me, not I you."

But it all goes ahead. John testifies that as he baptises Jesus he hears a Voice from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son," and he sees a Dove alighting upon him.

How does this help us understand who and what Jesus of Nazareth is, who is obvious as a good man and great teacher?

- It shows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the one sent forth from heaven, anticipated by the ages.
- It avers that he a full human being but is sinless.
- It displays that he is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, of God himself, that he is God incarnate.

The rest of the earthly life of Christ is just proof of that belief. His teaching, his miracles, his death and resurrection, are just proofs of that divinity displayed at the River.

Of course, it is only proof for those who believe in him, for Christians. Others may dismiss him as a fool or as a charlatan.

But for those who believe, it is the power of God for salvation.

So as a believer I must learn to place my whole trust in him, to listen to his teaching, to trust in his mercy, to celebrate his holy death and glorious resurrection, and to experience the power of this God-Man in my everyday life.

This One whom all the world adores, calls me to whole-hearted obedience - and in that way to eternal life.

God bless you as you try to respond a little more fully in the New Year 2017. **Father Alexander**

**CLACTON
 HOLY LITURGY
 Saturday
 21 January
 10.00 am**

WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S HOLY LITURGY 9.30 AM

**FRIDAY 6 JANUARY
 HOLY THEOPHANY
 OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
 WITH GREAT BLESSING OF WATER**

**FRIDAY 13 JANUARY
 ST HILARY, BISHOP OF POITIERS**

**WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY
 ST GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN,
 ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

**THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY
 MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE**

Come to the River Bless the water of life



Theophany 2007

**SUNDAY 8 JANUARY
 10.30 AM
 HOLY LITURGY AND
 BLESSING OF
 THE RIVER**

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 Balkerne 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
 Children of St Helen (Pre-school & Primary): 1st Saturday 11.00 am

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

Children of St Helen: Sanja Radunovic 01-206-762-553 Silvia Lefley: 01-206-835-715

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

An Orthodox Study Weekend ...

... in beautiful Edinburgh

This month there is a wonderful opportunity to combine a visit to one of the most beautiful cities in Britain, Edinburgh in Scotland, with a chance to deepen our understanding of the Holy Orthodox Faith.

The Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist—which brings together people from all the Orthodox jurisdictions in the British Isles—together with the local Orthodox Parish will organise a Study Weekend on *Holiness in the Bible* in Edinburgh **Friday 20 - Sunday 22 January**.

The cost is £40 (Students £20), and includes lunch, evening meal, and a bus tour of the city. There will be Vespers, Holy Liturgy, and veneration of the Relics of St Andrew in the RC Cathedral.

Accommodation at a guest house is available @ £25 per person per night, but you need to book quickly.

If I were younger, I would be up there like a shot: a lovely city, a lively parish, together with stimulating leadership and company, I am sure!

There is a leaflet to consult in the porch. If you are nervous about going on your own, contact **Margaret Haig**, who will be attending and will advise you. Her number is 07-932-853-213.

Here and There

ST HELEN'S CHAPEL of course receives numbers of visitors singly or often in groups. Before and after Christmas, in five groups, a whole section of young people from Colchester Sixth Form College RE Department are visiting us to hear about differences between eastern and western Christmas and about Orthodoxy in general. I think that will add up altogether to some 70 young people gaining at least a very brief introduction to the Holy Orthodox faith.

BEACON HOUSE, the house on East Hill that provides services and help for those without homes, sent a Christmas card with the following message in thanks for our donation (£100): *On behalf of all the staff and service-users here at Beacon House please extend our sincere thanks to the members of St Helen of Colchester Church for their generous support of our clients. Thank you.*

DOROTHY TANNER sadly died just before Christmas, another founding member of the Parish, but little known to some of you since she has been in a home for several years now. Her funeral will be early in January in St Helen's Chapel, where she worshipped faithfully for years. **Please contact me for the details if you hope to attend.** I will write of her in next month's Newsletter. Memory eternal.

A Word from the Fathers: St Peter Chrysologus, Abp of Ravenna (+450)

Today Christ entered the riverbed of the Jordan, to wash away the world's sin: John himself bears witness that he came for this: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world."

Today the servant holds the Lord, man holds God, John holds Christ: holds him, as about to receive, not to grant forgiveness.

Today, as the Prophet says: "The Lord's voice" is "on the waters." What voice? "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Today the Holy Spirit floats over the waters in the form of a dove, so that by this sign it might be known that the world's universal shipwreck has ceased, as the dove had announced to Noah that the world's flood had subsided.

Nor does this dove carry a branch of the old olive, but it pours the whole richness of the olive on the head of the Author of the new anointing, in order to fulfil what the prophet foretold: "Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above other kings."



St Anthony the Great

is "the Father of Monks" in that though he was not the very first to live the monastic way, he showed how this ascetic way could be lived both by doing it himself, and by organising the life of the huge number of those who followed him into the desert of Egypt. He thereby influenced all subsequent monastic leaders, both eastern and western. The Monastic Way is of course extremely important in Orthodoxy, and his influence is with us to this day. He died in AD 356, aged 105 years.

Feast-day: 17 January.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Sunday 22 January, 4.30 pm.

We are invited to attend this year's service at the

Castle Methodist Church, Maidenburgh Street.

a hundred yards up from St Helen's. It is not any form of "united" service which could compromise Holy Orthodoxy, but a Methodist service the rest of us attend, from Town Centre Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, and United Reformed churches. Come and experience it. Tea and cake afterwards. It is good for us to find that other, non-Orthodox, Christian people share a great deal in common with us.

JANUARY DAYS

Sun	1	Circumcision of Christ, Sun before Theophany, S Basil the Great
Mon	2	Repose of S Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov
Thu	5	Eve of Theophany
Fri	6	HOLY THEOPHANY OF CHRIST
Sat	7	Synaxis of S John the Forerunner
Sun	8	Sunday after Theophany
Wed	11	S Theodosius the Great the Cenobiarch
Thu	12	S Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth
Fri	13	S Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers S Kentigern (Mungo), Bishop of Strathclyde
Sat	14	S Nina, Enlightener of Georgia S Sava I, Archbishop of Serbia
Sun	15	Pentecost 30, Sunday of the Ten Lepers
Mon	16	Precious Chains of S Peter, S Fursey, Enlightener of Norfolk
Tue	17	S Antony the Great
Wed	18	S Athanasius the Gt & S Cyril, Abps of Alexandria
Thu	19	S Macarius the Great of Egypt
Fri	20	S Euthymius the Great
Sat	21	S Maximus the Confessor
Sun	22	Pentecost 31, Sunday of Zacchaeus, Apostle Timothy of the Seventy
Tue	24	S Xenia the Fool-for-Christ of S Petersburg S Neophytos the Anchorite of Cyprus
Wed	25	S Gregory the Theologian, Abp of Constantinople
Thu	26	S Xenophon of Constantinople
Fri	27	Translation of Relics of S John Chrysostom
Sat	28	S Ephraim the Syrian
Sun	29	Pentecost 32, Sunday of the Canaanite Woman, New Martyrs & Confessors of Russia S Gildas the Wise, Abbot in Wales & Brittany
Mon	30	The Three Ecumenical Teachers & Great Hierarchs
Tue	31	Wonderworkers & Unmercenaries Cyrus & John

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