

Holy Orthodoxy: Faith in Christ for the modern world

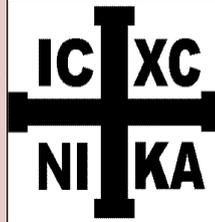
Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 251

APRIL 2018



Appeal for funds to buy St Martin's Church opens very soon

We had a shock about St Martin's. We were told that it was to be sold elsewhere! But, praise God! it proved a false alarm, or at least partially a false alarm: it was a *let* they were arranging.

But it shows that, when the Appeal opens, we must try hard to raise the necessary funds very quickly. The owners, the Churches Conservation Trust, are thinking in *commercial* terms, not in terms that a former Anglican church ought to be a church for another denomination if possible (as we think their rules require).

Already a special Appeal Account has been set up. The machinery for making donations is being arranged. Literature is being prepared. A website and Facebook page are being set up.

All should be ready shortly after Holy Pascha.

Then the generosity of the hearts of worshippers here will be sought, the generosity of Orthodox people all around the world, especially those many students and others who have benefitted from the worship and care of this parish over the last 20 or more years.

Further, we shall appeal to the goodwill of non-Orthodox people locally and more widely who for whatever reason wish us well—tourists and passers-by, and all who are just pleased to see a beautiful and ancient church building brought back into use for its original purpose.

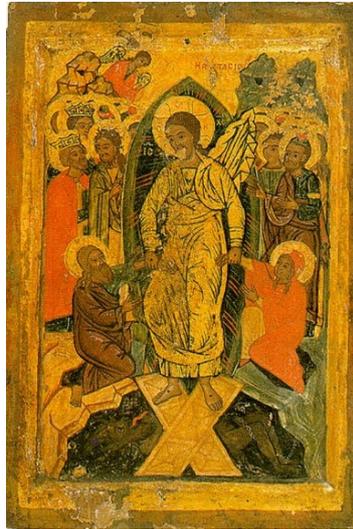
All help will be gratefully received. We shall certainly pray for all our benefactors.

We shall be providing a church building suitable for our children and for our children's children, ensuring the facilities of a fine building for the worship of the Holy Orthodox community of the future.

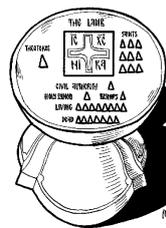
I do believe sincerely that God will bless you and all who give generously from their heart.

Christ is risen!

Father Alexander



Archbishop Silouan has been back in hospital for another operation. Please keep him in your prayers.



At the Great Entrance the dead Body of Christ, the Lamb, is brought from the Preparation Table (Calvary) to the Holy Table (the Tomb) on the disks or paten, surrounded by the Saints and by the sinners we are (see left). The Holy Spirit is invoked to come down to fill it with the resurrection life. So it becomes, not the dead Body, but the resurrected, glorified Body of Christ. In the Holy Mysteries we receive the *living*, the *risen*, Body of Christ, his very own life.

Children of St Helen

There will be no meeting for the pre-school and primary children in April. The next will be on **Saturday 5 May at 3.15 pm.**

HOLY & GREAT WEEK

- Lazarus Saturday, 31 March**
 4.30 pm Great Vespers
- Palm Sunday, 1 April**
 9.45 am Mattins & Palm Blessing
 10.30 am Liturgy of St John
- Holy Monday, 2 April**
 6.00 pm Bridegroom Mattins
- Holy Tuesday, 3 April**
 6.00 pm Bridegroom Mattins
- Holy Wednesday, 4 April**
 6.00 pm Holy Anointing
- Holy Thursday, 5 April**
 9.30 am Liturgy of St Basil
 6.00 pm Twelve Gospels
- Holy Friday, 6 April**
 3.00 pm Vespers & Deposition
 6.00 pm Mattins & Procession
- Holy Saturday, 7 April**
 9.30 am Liturgy of St Basil
 10.30 pm Acts of the Apostles
 11.30 pm Midnight Office
- HOLY PASCHA, 8 April**
 12 midnight Procession & Mattins
 1.00 am Liturgy of St John
 3.00 pm Agape Vespers

Confessions after any service or by appointment

Flowers to decorate the Epitaphion: Women & girls invited to prepare it on Holy Friday at 9.30 am. Gifts of cash for flowers invited.

Friday 13 April
BRIGHT FRIDAY, LIFE-GIVING SPRING OF THE THEOTOKOS
 9.30 am Lesser Blessing of Water
 Monday 23 April
ST GEORGE THE TROPHY-BEARER, PATRON OF ENGLAND
 9.30 am Holy Liturgy

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. Nearest car-park NCP Nunns Rd. Very little street parking available.

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): first Saturday 3.15 pm

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

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

CLACTON
HOLY
LITURGY
Sat 21 April
10.00 am

Copies of the last issue of this Newsletter (No. 250) are still available and will be sent free on request. It was a double-sized, colour issue, and in part dealt with our Appeal. Unfortunately we cannot afford to produce them all like that!

Recalling the events of the first Great Week

Some people think that Great Week is a miserable recounting of the events of Christ. But it is not so. The days are a proclamation, a shouting out, of those sacred happenings.

To understand the week, start with the first weekend, which is not strictly part of Great Week, but an introduction to it:

Lazarus Saturday commemorates the raising of Lazarus at Bethany, which indicates that "resurrection" is not only about Christ, but also about us his followers: we too shall be raised from death to life.

Palm Sunday, as we usually call it, is the Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, when he showed he is indeed the Messiah, the Christ, but of a very different character from the people's expectation - he is "meek and lowly". Palms are distributed before the Liturgy and held throughout especially at the Gospel.

Great Monday commemorates Joseph the Righteous and the unfruitful fig tree that was cursed by the Lord, showing the replacing of the Old Covenant (Testament) by the New. *Bridegroom Mattins* is the service for Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Great Tuesday commemorates the Parable of the Ten Virgins, showing that we must keep our souls prepared to receive Christ when he comes.

Great Wednesday is dedicated to the Sinful Woman who anointed the Lord with myrrh. The evening service is Holy Anointing, which all may attend, but only the Orthodox faithful may be anointed.

Great Thursday celebrates the Washing of Feet, the Mystical Supper, the Prayer in Gethsemane, and the Betrayal.

In the morning is the Holy Liturgy, in the evening is the powerful Twelve Gospels service, when all the various accounts of the Passion and Death are read, and the figure of the Crucified is set up.

Great Friday celebrates the Redeeming Passion of the Lord. In the afternoon Vespers Christ's Body is removed and placed in the Altar, and the Burial Shroud (Epitaphion) is brought out and placed in the Bier. At the evening Mattins the Epitaphion is carried in procession around the cemetery and, back in church, venerated by the faithful.

Great Saturday is a celebration of the Burial of the Lord and his Descent into



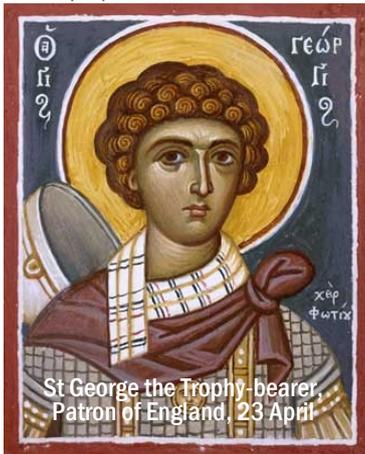
Hell. The morning Liturgy starts with a long Vigil of 15 readings to explain the meaning of the Resurrection of Christ by comparing Old Testament events especially the Exodus from Egypt. It is really the first Liturgy of Pascha.

Holy Pascha celebrates the central belief of Holy Church, the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Before it, chapters from Acts are read, showing how the Resurrection life of Christ was experienced and lived by the earliest Christians.

After the Midnight Office, the three-branch Paschal Candle is lit and the people's candles. The procession round the cemetery represents the Women and the Disciples looking for the dead Body. At the closed door of the church the

resurrection is proclaimed and the door opened, the church representing the empty Tomb. Mattins is a joyous celebrating of that. Then the Liturgy re-enacts the Resurrection and the people receive the Holy and Living Body of Christ. Eggs are distributed. There is no morning Liturgy, but in the afternoon the very lovely Paschal Vespers is served, joyful, peaceful, quiet, with the reading of the Gospel in various languages.

The more you put into Great and Holy Week, the more you will receive from it. Come to as many services as you are able. Tiring, yes, but inspiring and rewarding!



St George the Trophy-bearer, Patron of England, 23 April

Here and There

RUBY WEDDING: Khouria Hilary and I celebrate 40 years of marriage with a family meal at the Red Lion Hotel in the High Street in Bright Week. (The first time I came to Colchester was as a young soldier in 1959 for my brother's wedding at Stanway church, and my parents and I stayed at the Red Lion, so it has a place in my family life. - His new wife by contrast had holiday jobs at the George!) Hilary and I were married in Chelmsford Cathedral in 1978. We are delighted that our children and grandchildren will be with us to celebrate this anniversary.

BARKING PILGRIMAGE: Please note the date of the Pilgrimage in honour of the saints at Barking Abbey in east London: Saturday 12 May, with Holy Liturgy in St Margaret's church at 10.30, a talk by Fr Melchisedec of the Monastery of St John at 2 and Vespers at 3. Book the date. Leaflets in the church porch, details on the notice-board.

JUSTICE SERVICE: I received an invitation to the Justice Service for Essex some months ago but, as it was on a Sunday morning, was unable to attend. It was more of a surprise to receive one from the High Sherriff of Suffolk to the Justice Service at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral—and I was able to attend on a Sunday afternoon. It was a very grand occasion—especially featuring barristers and judges all the way from local ones in Ipswich to County and Crown Court ones - and even one Supreme Court judge - in their impressive robes, and all sorts of people, a crowded cathedral. The person I most enjoyed meeting briefly was a uniformed Deputy Sheriff all the way from Suffolk County in Massachusetts, USA, but the loveliest aspect for me was to be involved in a service in a church where ancestors of mine were baptised and married 200 years ago!

PAN-ORTHODOX CONCERN FOR ANIMALS: A website and organisation has been established with the blessing of Greek Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira, under the patronage of Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, which you can consult: www.panorthodoxconcernforanimals.org. There is a letter about it on the church notice-board.

APRIL DAYS

Sun	1	Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday
Mon	2	Great & Holy Monday
Tue	3	Great & Holy Tuesday
Wed	4	Great & Holy Wednesday
Thu	5	Great & Holy Thursday
Fri	6	Great & Holy Friday
Sat	7	Great & Holy Saturday
Sun	8	HOLY PASCHA
Mon	9	Bright Monday
Tue	10	Bright Tuesday
Wed	11	Bright Wednesday
Thu	12	Bright Thursday
Fri	13	Bright Friday, Mother of God, Life-giving Spring
Sat	14	Bright Saturday
Sun	15	Pascha 2, S Thomas Sunday
Tue	17	Joyful Commemoration of the Departed
Thu	19	Hieromartyr Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury
Sun	22	Pascha 3, Holy Myrrh-bearing Women
Mon	23	Holy Great Martyr George, Patron of England
Wed	25	Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark
Sun	29	Pascha 4. the Paralysed Man, S Basil, Bishop of Ostrog in Montenegro
Mon	30	Holy Apostle James the son of Zebedee S Erkenwald, Bishop of London

It is the Day of Resurrection: let us be radiant, O ye people; Pascha, the Lord's Pascha; for from death to life, and from earth to heaven, Christ our God hath brought us, as we sing the song of victory.