

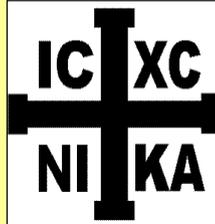
+ For our children's children in Colchester: St Martin's fills the bill! +

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

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

NEWSLETTER 264

JUNE 2019



Weekday Holy Liturgy, 9.30 am

Thursday 6 June ASCENSION OF CHRIST

Tuesday 18 June Third Day of the Trinity

Saturday 29 June SS PETER & PAUL

Experience the lovely quiet
of a weekday Liturgy

Cutting down a bit in old age...

Sadly, my June visit (15th) to Clacton will be my last, at least in terms of the regular "third Saturday" Liturgy. By the kindness of successive Anglican Priests and church councils at St James' Church, I have served the Holy Liturgy there for twenty-one years. The first was on 16 May 1998.

We have been very happy at St James's, and matters have almost always gone smoothly.

We started in Clacton because there was a good number of Orthodox people there - almost all Greek Cypriots in business in the town. A good number were very faithful in attending, and some are still with us. They were joined by a few from other nationalities.

There had been intermittent Orthodox services previously in Clacton, served by Greek Priests staying in the area, often as students at the University, and latterly borrowing St Paul's.

The Greeks welcomed me very devoutly, and on one happy occasion His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira came and celebrated an Akathist and presided at a supper, publicly thanking me for serving there. The Greek authorities were unable to find a Priest to do it themselves, and were glad I was filling the gap.

Many of the congregation we built up would also go the Monastery regularly or occasionally - as was true in Colchester itself of course.

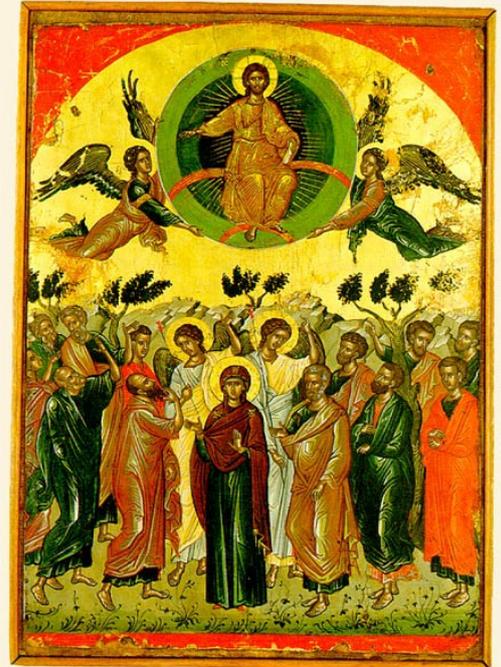
Later, some also came to worship in St Helen's. It was always my hope that eventually the Clacton folk would either attach themselves to St Helen's, or if I got an assistant or replacement Priest he could be responsible there.

That never quite happened, and the situation now has changed - partially that I have got 21 years older. The other great change is that we are now of course about to take on St Martin's and that will undoubtedly be more of a struggle for me.

I have been able to keep going so long partially because the two other places (Stalham and Basildon) where I served monthly, at least for some while, became independent.

So, with some soul-searching, I have decided I must cut down. I am sorry—and grateful to the number who have supported us so long. They will remain close to my heart and in my prayers. I hope to continue caring for individual members, but I warmly encourage the Orthodox in Clacton to attend in Colchester whenever they possibly can. God bless you all.

Father Alexander



THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST teaches us of his coming into his Kingdom. Having suffered on the Cross, and taken back his sacred life in the Resurrection, he now enters his glory. But note that he takes us with him, he takes our humanity, our flesh to heaven. Our flesh sits on the right hand of the Father, we have gone to heaven with him. *There is a bit of us safe in heaven now. Glory to God in the highest. Rejoice in the Lord always.*

ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S

St Martin's is in West Stockwell Street, two minutes' walk from St Helen's, and close to the Town Hall

Raised so far: over **£133,000**

- CHEQUES may be sent to the address below, made out to: *St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's*
- BANK TRANSFERS: use these codes:
IBAN: GB05BUKB20226780219819
Bank Sort Code 20-22-67
Appeal Account No. 80219819
PAYPAL: available on the Appeal website
- APPEAL WEBSITE: orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk
- FACEBOOK: *St Martin's Appeal*

Please support us in restoring an important and beautiful building to its original and proper use and in providing an Orthodox parish church "for our children and our children's children"
17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB, UK

CLACTON: FINAL HOLY LITURGY
Saturday 15 June, 10.00 am

There is at the moment a distant possibility that another Priest might take over in the autumn if one can be found.



CHILDREN OF ST HELEN (pre-school and primary) will take place on Saturday 8 June (not the first Saturday) at 3.15pm.

St Helen's Chapel, Maldenburgh St, High St CO1 1UB

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 Maldenburgh 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): normally 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

Reader: George Harrison 07-869-488-842

Churchwardens: Dusan Radunovic 01-206-762-553, Jon Kanaar 01-255-431-975

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

IBAN: GB05BUKB20226780219819 Bank Account Sort Code: 20-22-67

Bank Account No: 50349364 Appeal Account No: 80219819

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

Appeal Website: <http://orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk>

At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea CO15 1LE

Divine Liturgy: last this third Saturday of month 10.00 am



Father Alexander Haig takes part in the ordination of Father Alexander Haig !

Sayedna SILOUAN ordained our ALEX on 5 May, the feast of St Thomas, at Poole in Dorset, in the south-west of England, part of the great Bournemouth conurbation. It is about an hour's journey from his home, near where he teaches in a sixth-form college: he and family travel to Poole at least every Sunday. One of the altar-boys at the ordination was ALEXANDER HAIG III !

It was good for us parents to be present of course, an occasion for quiet tears of joy as well. MARGARET was there too. The service included the gift of the epigonation—the square vestment worn under the phelonion or chasuble—which shows the authority to hear confessions, to Fr FILIP, ordained Priest last summer (the parish now has *three* Priests!). Also ordained were two Readers, one for Poole and one for Athelhampton.

After the service there was of course a grand buffet lunch, and the next day, Monday, being a holiday, New Priest Alexander was able to serve the Holy Liturgy for the first time himself, overseen by his Parish Priest, Fr CHRYSOSTOM. It was good to be present for that too.

We blessed God and God blessed his servant. Many years to all !

The only problem now is the fact that the Archdiocese now has *two* Priests both called Father Alexander Haig: confusion for the future!

If you want to see more pictures, there are many on the Archdiocesan website.

A Word from the Fathers: St Basil the Great 'On the Holy Spirit'

Who is there who can hear the names of the Holy Spirit and not feel exaltation in his soul, not lift up his thoughts to that supreme nature?

For he is called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, the upright Spirit, the guiding Spirit. His chief and distinguishing name is the Holy Spirit.....

He is the source of holiness, the light of our understanding, for to every mind he offers his own light for the discovery of truth.

Though by nature he is

inaccessible, yet through his generosity men can receive him in themselves.

He fills all creatures with his power, but only those who are worthy can participate in him.

But all do not share him in the same measure; he distributes in proportion to men's faith.....

Through him our hearts are raised on high, the weak are led by the hand, those who are advanced gain perfection.

He it is who shines on those whose hearts are purified and stainless and makes them truly spiritual through the common union they have with him.

Here and There

TRUSTEES: The Church Council has unanimously elected NICK TAYLOR to replace PAUL LANSLEY, who wished to retire. He joins DUSAN RADUNOVIC and me in office. Our thanks to them all for the willingness.

CHURCHWARDENS: The Council further unanimously elected JON (THEODORE) KANAAR to replace DAVID DAVIES, who also wished to retire—though staying as Treasurer. DUSAN is the other Warden.

APOSTLES FAST: Unlike the other fasts, this fast varies very much in length from year to year. It starts on the day after All Saints feast, which is the Sunday after Holy Pentecost, continuing till 28 June, the eve of the Holy Chiefs of the Apostles SS Peter and Paul. If Pascha is late then this fast can be very short. It is also a less strenuous, less demanding fast, but we ought to do our best in this period, to prepare for the celebration of the two great Apostles, whose influence on the whole of the Christian faith was very great—not least as the co-founders of the Church of Antioch, and later of the Church in Rome.

CAR-BOOT SALE: Thank you for items donated for the May-day boot sale at Marks Tey, and congratulations to MARK and GEORGE for doing the hard work. They raised £208 for the Appeal, justifying further similar efforts in the future. Tell them about anything you can give, but hold on to it until they ask, as storage space is limited.

BARKING: The Pilgrimage went well, though attendance was slightly down on previous years. A number of Mosaic Choir members were there so the singing was good. There was an interesting talk on worship and music by Oxford scholar DIMITRIOS CONOMOS. About ten of us attended from here.

Immigrants: do register for settlement

Fr Gregory Hallam writes to the clergy:

The post Brexit EU resettlement scheme is now open. Please alert members of your congregation to whom this applies.

Don't think "Oh Brexit isn't going to happen. Should we even bother?" It's free and simple to apply and nothing is gained by putting it off.

Check this web page

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Members of your congregation who are EU, EEA or Swiss citizens will have to apply to stay after Brexit. See here for eligibility criteria.

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/eligibility>

JUNE DAYS

Sat	1	S Justin Martyr, Nun-Martyr Wite of Dorset
Sun	2	Pascha 6, The Blind Man, Fathers of 2nd Council
Tue	4	S Petroc, Abbot of Padstow
Wed	5	Hieromartyr Boniface of Crediton, Abp of Mainz
Thu	6	ASCENSION OF CHRIST
Sun	9	Pascha 7, Fathers of 1st Council
Tue	11	H Apostle Bartholomew & Barnabas
Fri	14	S Justin (Popovich) of Celije
Sun	16	HOLY PENTECOST
Mon	17	Day of the Holy Spirit
Tue	18	Third Day of the Trinity
Wed	19	H Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord
Sat	22	S Alban, Protomartyr of Britain
Sun	23	Pentecost 1, All Saints, S Etheldreda of Ely
Mon	24	Nativity of S John the Forerunner <i>First day of Apostles Fast</i>
Sat	29	SS PETER & PAUL
Sun	30	Pentecost 2, All Saints of Britain, Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles