

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the UK & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 182 DECEMBER 2011



WEEKDAY LITURGIES AT ST HELEN'S, 9.30 AM

Tuesday 6 December

ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER,
ARCHBISHOP OF MYRA IN LYCIA

Tuesday 20 December

HIEROMARTYR IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER,
BISHOP OF ANTIOCH

Attending a weekday Liturgy brings a particular blessing

Christ, Light of the Nations, is born

WHEN we talk of the Birth or Nativity of Christ we are not talking about his beginning, as our own existence begins at birth: he existed from all eternity, the Second Person of God the Holy Trinity.

What we are talking of is his Birth as a human being, just as important (from our point-of-view) as his eternal pre-existence as God.

In order truly to save us - lost in the depths of our own sinfulness, in our dreadfulness - we must have One who shares our humanity, who understands it from within, from experience.

When he returns to heaven at the Ascension,

*The Angels tremble when they see
How changed is our humanity.*

But he needs to be human in order to change it.

So, Christ Jesus - Son of God and Son of Mary - brings God and Man, God and us, together in his own Person. Our human life, our human existence, in him is utterly changed, in an absolute manner, transfigured.

For he has done it in his own Person. He is the God-Man.

How about that for a story to destroy the headlines of *humanity's awful destruction of itself*, our human sinfulness so evident whenever we read the papers and see all too much of on television?

Yes, Christ does bring Light into this dark world - Light and Hope, Peace and Joy.

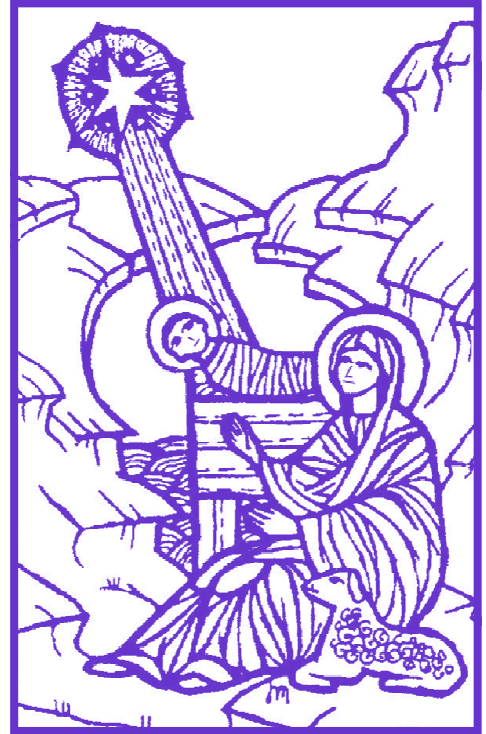
Indeed, the Christ Child in Bethlehem is himself Light and Hope, Peace and Joy. May he have a real place in our life, your life, the world's life, this Christmas time.

God bless you all.

Father Alexander

*Father Alexander
and Khouria Hilary
wish all readers and
friends of the Parish a
VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS*

*May you have the
deep peace and joy of
the Holy Nativity
of Christ our God
in your heart
whether you are
in company
or on your own.*



Christmas Services at St Helen's

Friday 23 December
Forefeast of Nativity
9.30 am Royal Hours
4.30 pm Vespers

Saturday 24 December
Eve of Nativity
9.30 am Holy Liturgy
of St John & Vespers
4.30 pm Vigil of Nativity
(Compline & Mattins)

Sunday 25 December
NATIVITY OF CHRIST
ACCORDING TO THE FLESH
10.15 am Hours
10.30 am Holy Liturgy
of St Basil & Carols

Thursday 29 December
Holy Innocents
9.30 am Holy Liturgy

CONFESSIONS
after any service or by appointment

Fellowship of St Alban & St Sergius

Tuesday 6 December 7.30 pm, at St Cedd's RC Hall, Frinton
Fr Alexander: "Orthodox & Anglicans talk together in Albania"
Fr Alexander attended the recent meeting of the International Anglican-Orthodox Dialogue. He will speak of the Dialogue, and also of the extraordinary resurrection of Christian life in Albania after years of persecution by a militant and uncompromisingly atheistic communist state.
The meeting is open to all: non-members are welcome

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 Street to Castle Park; continue round, up into Maidenburgh Street. Nunns Road NCP is the nearest car park.

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 after Vespers, or by arrangement
Holy Marriage, Baptism, Funerals, Memorials etc: by arrangement

Parish Priest: Father Alexander (Alistair) Haig
17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB

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Rdr Andreas Moran, 6 Woodlands, Welshwood Park CO4 3JA Tel: 01-206-865-697

The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418

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

Churchwardens: David Davies 01-473-745-167 Dusan Radunovic 01-206-710-073

At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am

At St Basil's Catholic Church, Luncies Rd, Timberlog Lane, Basildon
Divine Liturgy: usually first Saturday
Contact: Paul Brighton-Cross 01-702-305-527 orthodox.basildon@hotmail.co.uk

At University of Essex Chaplaincy Centre: Divine Liturgy: one Saturday per term 10.00 am

HOLY LITURGY
BASILDON
3 Dec 11 am
CLACTON
17 Dec 10 am

Here and There

GROUPS VISITING our church recently have included literature students from the University, art students from the Institute. Of course, we also get groups of day visitors to the town, and local groups catching up on their local history, as well as individuals and couples looking around. If you are a worshipper at St Helen's, do glance through the Visitors Book in church from time to time - sometimes people leave really lovely comments.

ST HELEN'S CHAPEL should now be in good condition for the coming years. The roof has been attended to, bits of wall have been restored (and will look a bit new for a while), the stone of the chimney (a relic of by-gone uses) renewed, and the porch brickwork tidied and roof renewed. It was all the responsibility of the Council as lease-holder (we are sub-lease-holders) and was done by the excellent firm Bakers of Danbury. For several weeks the church was covered not only in scaffolding but also in corrugated iron, which was unsightly, and disappointing for visitors, but that is now all gone.

COULD SOMEBODY VOLUNTEER to paint the interior walls of the church porch, please? - It looks very bedraggled now the roof and exterior have been done. Of course we ought to be thinking of getting the interior of the church itself painted again, for it is looking a little shabby after eleven years.

ST KYRANNA is a little-known local Saint of northern Greece, born in the village of Ossa near Thessalonica in 1731, martyred by the Turks in 1751. We here have known about her since the early days of the Parish, for soon after we started we had a Master's student, a Greek Army officer George Katanis here. His wife Ypermachi had a sister married to one of the Priests of Ossa, and they generously presented us with an original icon of St Kyranna - it is on the south wall of St Helen's. We have therefore had some devotion to her over the years, and indeed one of our new members, Frances Isacke, took the name for her Orthodox name when she was received. Now by chance we have learnt that the relics of the Saint have recently been discovered, and in the presence of the His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch were last month enshrined in a church newly built in her honour in the village.

TWO NEW LEAFLETS are now available, both of which you may well have read already as they are simply print-outs of the two notice-board papers, the one on **St Helen's Chapel**, the other on **The Colchester Shield** (which is really of course the shield of St Helen). Please take copies if you would like to send them to family or friends. Those who have only recently joined us may also find them illuminating.

FRIENDSFIRST is a simple modern, nation-wide Christian organisation to help those who wish to find a Christian marriage-partner to do so - in our modern society it can be particularly hard for devout people to find the right person. I spoke to them a while ago and they assured me that an enquirer can ask for an introduction to an Orthodox person. There are leaflets in the porch.

St Ignatius of Antioch

is often shown in icons with lions. He was a very early follower of Christ—some even say that he was the child in that crowd around Christ that the Lord said was to be the one we should imitate in purity and holiness.

Later he became second Bishop of Antioch after the foundation of the Church by St Peter and St Paul.

In old age he was arrested and taken to Rome. On the way he wrote a number of letters which have been preserved and provide a fascinating insight into life in the early days of the Christian Church.

Then he was thrown to the lions in the Coliseum in Rome, which you can visit today.

He is the predecessor in office of our present Father-in-God, His Beatitude Patriarch Ignatius IV.



The People Column

FATHER STEPHAN CLOSE: I reported last month that this American Antiochian Priest had come to be Wing Chaplain for the US Air Force at Mildenhall, not too many miles away from us in Suffolk, and had visited us. I expressed the hope that he would come again soon to St Helen's. Now we hear he is suddenly appointed (in true Services style) to serve in Afghanistan for six months. Remember him in your prayers, please, and his Khouria, Annette.

CHARALAMBOS GEORGHIOU was a Cypriot farmer's son who had lived in Britain for over sixty years, working for



A Word from the Fathers

The name of God or Lord is given only to him who is God and Lord of all.

He said to Moses, 'My name is I AM. And you shall say to the Israelites, "HE WHO IS has sent me to you."'

The name of God and Lord is given also to his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who makes men the sons of God if they believe in his name.

And the Son says to Moses, 'I have come down to rescue this people.' For it is the Son who descended and ascended for the salvation of men.

Thus, through the Son who is in the Father and has the Father in himself, HE WHO IS has been revealed.

St Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons (+200)

the Post Office, and living in Shepherd's Bush, Marks Tey, Margate, and latterly Clacton. Sadly, he has died - in Haven Lodge, where he had been cared for, for several years. The Orthodox funeral was in St James' Church, Clacton. Our sympathy to his wife Evangelia, and their son George and his family in Braintree. Eternal memory!

KHOURIA HILARY played a flute solo in Chelmsford Baptist Church during a recent Anglia Singers concert. Now she has conducted the Anglia Singers in another concert, this time in Chelmsford Cathedral.

DUSAN RADUNOVIC, one of our Churchwardens, has been teaching in our University, and still retains an interest here, but has now also been appointed a Lecturer at University College, London. We wish him well.

PANAYIOTIS ('Peter') DIMITRIOU has opened a fish and chip shop named *Pete's Fish and Grill* in Holland-on-sea, just beside the Roaring Donkey pub. He asked me to give the blessing of God to his enterprise, which I was glad to do. I pray that it will be a success, and think it will be.

DECEMBER DAYS

Sat 3	S Birinus, Apostle of the West Saxons, Bp of Dorchester
Sun 4	Pentecost 25, Gt Martyr Barbara, S John Damascene
Mon 5	S Saba the Sanctified
Tue 6	S Nicholas the Wonderworker
Wed 7	S Ambrose, Bishop of Milan
Fri 9	Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna
Sun 11	Pentecost 26, Sunday of the Forefathers
Mon 12	S Spyridon the Wonderworker, S Colman of Glendalough
Tue 13	S Herman of Alaska, Virgin-Martyr Lucy of Syracuse
Wed 14	S Venantius Fortunatus, Bishop of Poitiers
Thu 15	Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria
Sat 17	S Dionysius the Wonderworker, Bishop of Aegina
Sun 18	Pentecost 27, Sunday before Nativity
Tue 20	Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch
Thu 22	Great-Martyr Anastasia
Fri 23	Forefeast of Nativity
Sat 24	Eve of Nativity of Christ
Sun 25	NATIVITY OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE FLESH
Mon 26	Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos
Tue 27	Protomartyr & Archdeacon Stephen
Thu 29	Holy Innocents, the Infants slain by Herod

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