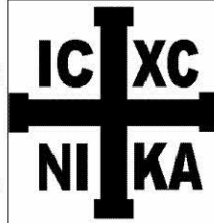


Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 228 FEBRUARY 2016



SERVICES AT ST HELEN'S

TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY

Meeting of Christ in the Temple.....*Holy Liturgy 9.30 am*

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY

1st/2nd Findings of Head of St John..*Holy Liturgy 9.30 am*

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY

Sunday of Prodigal Son.....*Hours & Typika 10.30 am*



Our new Archbishop enthroned His Eminence SILOUAN first Antiochian Metropolitan of the British Isles & Ireland

- **Saturday 27 February 4.30 pm**
Our ARCHBISHOP ENTHRONED
St George's Cathedral, Albany Street, Regents Park
followed by Reception
*Contact MARTIN GROB for details of the coach
from Colchester (£20 per person, £40 max. per family)*
- **Sunday 28 November 10.30 am**
OUR ARCHBISHOP CONCELEBRATES
THE HOLY LITURGY
St George's Cathedral, Albany Street, Regents Park
followed by Lunch for all

*Everybody is welcome on both days, but there will
be a bus from Colchester only on the Saturday.*

*Unfortunately our beloved Patriarch and former
Archbishop in Europe JOHN X is not yet allowed to fly
(after his accident), so will not be present.
Other Metropolitans will perform the ceremony.*

SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

*immediately after
Holy Liturgy, which
will start on time and
end early to allow for
the meeting.*

The 2015 accounts
have to be accepted,
and there will be
reports on the future
of St Helen's Chapel
and any possibilities
of a move elsewhere,
including St Martin's.

You are asked to
remain for the meet-
ing, not to slip away.
The meeting is kept
very short. Do your
part as a worshipper
at St Helen's!

In the Image and Likeness of God: Anglican-Orthodox Statement published

Here is the result of six years' work by Anglicans and Orthodox, 2009-2015, the International Dialogue, in which I had the honour to represent the Church of Antioch.

It is much cut down, much altered from the original work of papers received, listened to, debated, in order to make it accessible to ordinary Christian thinking people.

It shows a unity of thought between the two traditions, though with occasional differences and a few surprising agreements.

Many Orthodox are rather keen for us to abandon discussions with Anglicans, due to their increasing departure from traditional standpoints on various subjects. But Orthodox leaders are keen that talks should continue, to 'keep doors open'.

Certainly we found great agreement on many subjects, but it may have been that that was achieved by

belief that each human being - every one of us - has, deep within, the indestructible *image of God*.

But we have indeed lost the *likeness to God* that was ours in Creation - this is what we call sin.

These two truths have wide implications, affecting how we as individuals and societies - governments, the law, etc - must treat each other.

In 'each other' is included (for example) the disabled, the unborn, the criminal, the poor, the despised.

There are implications for such areas of concern as bioethics, education, politics, care of prisoners etc.

Such matters will form an agenda for further talks in the next few years - though I will not be taking part.

They are likely to be much more problematic. We hope that the Commission, led on the Orthodox side by HE Metropolitan KALLISTOS, has now laid a firm foundation on which to build.

It is an important subject in a world misguidedly thinking it is its own master and can make up its own rules.

The Buffalo Statement (completed in Buffalo USA) is available on the bookstall at £4.99.



'Great and Holy Council' fixed

After many years of discussion the leaders of the Orthodox Churches have agreed to a Pan-Orthodox Council of many Bishops from every canonical jurisdiction. It will meet at the Orthodox Academy in Crete 16-27 June, over Pentecost. I understand our Archbishop was involved in the recent talks.

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, 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
Churchwardens: David Davies 01-473-745-167 Dusan Radunovic 01-206-762-553

The Parish of St Helen is 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*

HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
20 February
10.00 am

avoiding contentious subjects!

This present work is aimed at a reasonably 'popular' presentation of the Christian

“I had found what I was looking for, for so many years...”

Seraphima (Saffron) Scott tells of her Reception into Holy Orthodoxy in November...

I have a small icon of the Theotokos and Christ child painted by a Scottish priest which has been in my possession for about 30 years.

I believe that it is this precious icon, late in the day, which is mainly responsible for my enquiries about Orthodoxy and these led me, via the Internet, to St Helen's.

When I telephoned him, Father Alexander extended a warm invitation to attend the Liturgy and Khouria Hilary greeted me so kindly when I entered the Chapel next day.

From that first liturgy I knew that I had found what I had been searching for, for many years. The God whom I had worshipped, and to whom I had prayed,

was being lifted up and glorified in the most beautiful and meaningful way.

I experienced the living God in the prayers, the music, the devotions and intercessions, surrounded by the Saints and martyrs, many angels and his present-day congregation. By the prayers and worship He comes to us in His Gifts. This was not a commemoration but a living experience of the Christ - today, now.

Later, as I was given instruction by Father Alexander about the Orthodox way I began to understand and to realise the treasure to which God had led me.

The unbroken Orthodox tradition in all its richness and authenticity was being offered

and explained to me and I realise that I have only just started to comprehend what it means to be a member of the Orthodox church.

On November 1st I came to St Helens Chapel together with my husband,

my son and two daughters and granddaughter who very sweetly came to support me at my Chrismation.

I found the service very beautiful and full of meaning, the symbolic use of sacred oil, the candle to symbolise the Light and guide my way, the solemn promises, all threaded through with the prayers and wonderful music from our choir.

I felt very humble but all the time so supported by both my dear Godmother Kh Hilary and also by those present (seen and unseen) and the great unbroken tradition which underpins the ceremony.

Yes, I do feel 'sealed' as declared by all - 'sealed' in the faith by Christ, 'sealed' as a member of his holy Church.

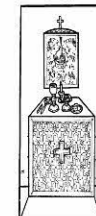
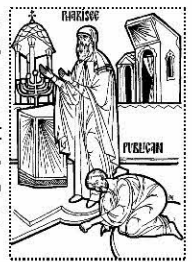
As ever, the mystical goes with the homely at St Helen's - warm embraces and welcome from all, kindly gifts of icons and books followed by great big slices of delicious cake baked and decorated by Anna and Ella, my grandchildren.

All this and more was my Chrismation, I do not know how to express my gratitude, it was one of the happiest and most blessed days of my life.

Seraphima



SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE: On this day (21 Feb) we start building up towards Holy Pascha (which falls on 1 May this year). This is the start in the book called *The Lenten Triodion*. The three Sunday services - before the Great Fast begins on 14 March - help us enter this season. This first Sunday teaches us not to compare ourselves with others, but to get on with the exercise of self-examination and repentance.



THE SAINTS in our calendar from Britain and Ireland remind us that until the 11th century these Islands were Orthodox. So St Helen's Chapel was Orthodox when built! Bridget,

Richard, Cuthman, Caedmon, Oswy, Finan, and Oswald (all found in the February list) are all and each Orthodox Saints worthy of our prayers and of pilgrimage.

A Word from the Spiritual Fathers

Prayer in the Name of Jesus gradually unites us with Him.

At first we may not know 'Who this is' (cf. Matt. 21.10): we are simply aware of strength coming from Him.

But further progress depends on an ever-growing recognition of our sinfulness. And when we become so overwhelmingly sensible of the distance separating us from God that all is pain and despair—then do we begin in earnest to call upon the

Name of God, our Saviour. 'Jesus, save me.'

The unanimous witness of our fathers throughout the centuries of Christian asceticism insists on the extreme importance of acknowledging ourselves as sinners.

Without this recognition there is no truth in our prayer. 'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us' (1 John 1.8).

Elder Sophrony of Tolleshunt Knights (+1993)

FEBRUARY DAYS

Mon	1	S Bridget, Abbess of Kildare
Tue	2	MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
Wed	3	Righteous Symeon the God-receiver & Anna the Prophetess St Nicolas, Archbishop of Japan
Fri	5	Martyr Agatha of Palermo, Sicily
Sat	6	S Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople
Sun	7	Pentecost 36, Sunday of the Talents, New Martyrs & Confessors of Russia, S Richard of the West Saxons
Mon	8	Gt Martyr Theodore Stratelates (the General) S Cuthman the Hermit, of Steyning
Wed	10	Hieromartyr Charalambos, Bishop of Magnesia
Thu	11	S Caedmon, Monk of Whitby
Sun	14	Pentecost 37, Sunday of the Canaanite Woman
Mon	15	S Oswy, King of Northumbria
Wed	17	S Theodore the Recruit, S Finan, Bishop of Lindisfarne
Thu	18	S Leo the Gt, Pope of Rome
Fri	19	New Martyr Philothei of Athens
Sun	21	Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee
Tue	23	Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna
Wed	24	1st & 2nd Findings of Head of S John the Baptist
Sat	27	S Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn
Sun	28	Sunday of the Prodigal Son S Kyrana the Virgin-Martyr
Mon	29	S John Cassian the Roman, S Oswald, Archbishop of York

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