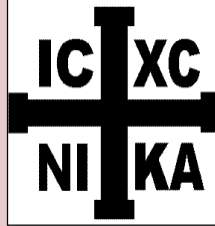


Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

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

NEWSLETTER 239 FEBRUARY 2017



WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S HOLY LITURGY 9.30 AM

THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY
MEETING OF OUR LORD & SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY
GT-MARTYR THEODORE STRATELATES,
ST CUTHMAN, HERMIT OF STEYNING

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY
HIEROMARTYR POLYCARP,
BISHOP OF SMYRNA

Meeting Christ our God in the Temple

Neither the old Holy Priest Simeon nor the old Righteous Anna the Prophetess were surprised to meet their Messiah, their Christ, their God, in the person of the tiny Child Jesus when they

They had been expecting him for years, had kept faith with God, and were just overjoyed and exhilarated actually to receive him and his wonderful young Mother and devout foster Father.

We celebrate this Feast of the Meeting in the Temple 40 days after the Nativity, in accordance with the story we find in St Luke's Gospel, chapter 2. 22-39.

It is lovely mixture of tenderness and simplicity (but not naivety or sentimentality), with strength of mind and purpose. It is the first coming of God-made-Man into the Temple in Jerusalem which was in fact dedicated to him—though this was unrecognised by all except Simeon and Anna.

In the icon of the Meeting we see the Holy Doors of any Orthodox Temple,

reminding us that every one of our church buildings is the Temple of God.

Whenever we ourselves enter an Orthodox Temple we may—indeed, we *should*—expect to *meet* God.

Just as Simeon and Anna expected some time to come face-to-face with Christ so should we.

So, come always to church in a spirit of repentance and of expectation of some (even if only minor) outpouring of God's love.

We shall then not be disappointed, but return to our daily life with a renewed vision and a fresh experience of God's love for us and the world around us.

And occasionally when you *forget* to come with that expectation, you may even be *surprised by joy!*

God bless you always, dear Friends.

Father Alexander

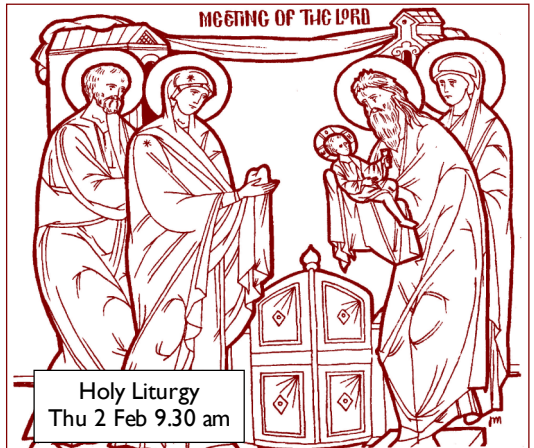
PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday 12 March at the end of the Holy Liturgy.

We keep it short, but it is a most necessary meeting according to the law (approving reports and accounts, and electing Church Councillors).

Please therefore arrange to be present at the Liturgy and stay for the meeting.

If you are not on the CHURCH ROLL speak to Theodora Harrison (the Electoral Roll Officer) and fill in a form now, so you can vote.



Holy Liturgy
 Thu 2 Feb 9.30 am

In February we start getting ready for Holy Pascha!

Pascha (Easter) is not until 16 April (the same as western Easter this year), but already the days are beginning to slant in that direction. The *Lenten Triodion* is the book of services that leads up to Pascha. It starts on 5 Feb with the Sundays as follows: 1. of the **Publican & Pharisee** (teaching us humility); 2. of the **Prodigal Son** (teaching repentance); 3. of the **Last Judgment (Meatfare, the last day for meat until Pascha); 4. of Forgiveness (Cheesefare, the last for dairy products).**

On this last day at the end of the Liturgy we have Forgiveness Prayers and the mutual forgiveness ceremony. The next day, Monday (27 Feb), is the **First Day of the Great Fast (Lent)**, which continues until **Lazarus Saturday**. Leaflets to help you on this will be available in church.

The Sundays of Lent have their own themes: 1. **Sunday of Orthodoxy;** 2. **St Gregory Palamas;** 3. **Veneration of the Cross;** 4. **St John Climacus;** 5. **St Mary of Egypt.**

Great and Holy Week then begins as the more intense preparation for the Resurrection at Pascha. This also is a fasting period.

Then of course comes the *Great Feast*, Holy Pascha the *Feast of Feasts*. This is the centre of the whole Church year, when we celebrate the central fact of Christian belief, the Resurrection of Christ from the dead, *trampling down death by Death*.

We shall reach it only by prayer and fasting and the Way of the Holy Cross. But we shall find that that is the way to true joy and peace, to the joy of eternal life.

Start out determined to live it with Christ, and you will find it's really worthwhile!

**CLACTON
 HOLY LITURGY
 Saturday
 18 February
 Saturday of
 Souls,
 St Leo the
 Great
 10.00 am**

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 CC15 1LE

Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday of month 10.00 am

Dorothy - "with us from the beginning"

We mourn the loss of another of our Founding Members, Dorothy Tanner - to her family and friends Doreen. She was a talented, gifted woman, strongly independent. Born in south-east London she moved to Clacton as a child - and died, aged 79, in Carnarvon House, in the same road, Carnarvon Road, as she had lived. Such is the circle of life.

Dorothy was very much her own woman. She was very bright: I knew she read English at Oxford (St Anne's College) but did not know until going through her papers that she got a first. She became a journalist on the *Liverpool Daily Post*, ending up as arts editor - prized among her papers is a letter from the comedian Norman Wisdom in thanks for a good review.

A devout Anglican, she tried her vocation with the Haggerston Sisters in Hackney. Then she moved to the Fairacres Sisters, the enclosed community in Oxford, but that also was unsuccessful.

She did not tell me why these attempts did not work, and I never asked, but likely they show something of the cutting ways that were characteristic of her - several people here suffered it from time to time when offering to help 'a frail old lady with a stick', even when it later became a frame! She needed no help, thank you very much!

But the interesting thing was that though people had found her difficult, they grew to be very fond of her. We admired her, as she increasingly suffered the effects of MS. She also became both more lame and deaf.

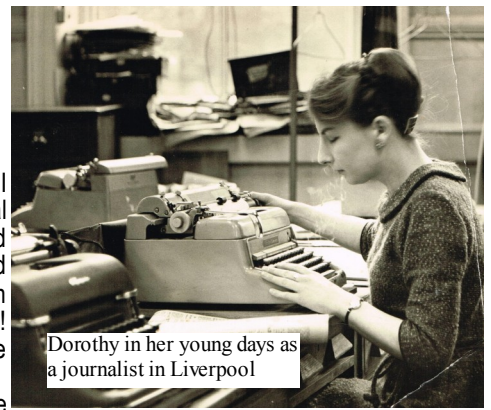
Yet her determined independence was very evident. Never married, her will was made, her

funeral organised, her burial-place paid for. I was regarded as her Next-of-Kin for several years, but only because it appeared she had no other - it was a delight to discover she did have several living relatives, one of whom visited her only a month or so before she died! We were delighted that three cousins were able to attend the funeral.

Doreen became Dorothy when she converted to Orthodoxy about 25 years ago. This happened in Walsingham, where she went on leaving Fairacres. When she came back to this area she worshipped at the Monastery, and then helped found this Parish. In the early days she wrote a number of short lives of the Saints for this *Newsletter*.

She involved herself in the community by working sorting books in her own inimitable style for both the British Heart Foundation (her primary legatee) and Oxfam (to whom she left her books to sell), and by teaching French to groups at the Lion Walk Centre. It was good to have representatives at her funeral.

In her late 60s she had an emotional shock, discovering that she had been adopted as a baby. Though she clearly had loved her adoptive parents, the discovery unsurprisingly de-stabilised her for a while, and she did not tell many people.



Dorothy in her young days as a journalist in Liverpool

One interesting thing I learnt only after she died was that in the late 1990s - by which time I was already her parish priest and might have expected to have known - she had modestly written two articles in *The Transylvanian Review*, a Romanian magazine published with items in several languages. This was arranged by a Romanian friend.

A longer article told of her conversion from Anglicanism to Holy Orthodoxy and the reasons behind it—illuminating especially for life-long Orthodox people. Another article was on the Early-English *Dream of the Rood* (Cross) introducing it to a Romanian audience, and clearly the fruit of her early studies. In due course I shall produce copies at least of her first article, for anyone who would like to see it.

Dear Dorothy, we shall miss her!

Memory eternal!

Her Name-Saint was St Dorothy of Kashin (24 Sept).

Here and There

HIS EMINENCE METROPLITAN SILOUAN is in Lebanon or Syria from 11 January until 3 February, presumably on holiday. He has called the clergy together on the last Saturday in February, at St George's Cathedral in London.

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN HILARION, Primate of the Russian Church Abroad has recently taken direct responsibility for the RCA (or ROCOR) parishes in Britain, from which Archbishop Mark has retired. He has just visited his parishes at Mettingham and Colchester.

PARISH COUNCIL: The Council meets on Sunday 12 February at 1.00 pm, with its first duty to examine the 2016 Church accounts.

GIFTS OF ICONS TO THE CHURCH:

It has been lovely to have two gifts of icons to St Helen's recently.

- **The Holy Theotokos:** A lovely small silver-framed icon was given by Kyria MANIATI of Athens by her daughter CHRISTINA and her fiancée TERRY ARNOLD.
- **SS Cyril and Methodius:** MARINA PETROVA of Plovdiv in Bulgaria, who is doing her PhD here, presented a large icon. This will be venerated here not just by Bulgarians but by all our Slavs - Serbs, Russians, Ukrainians, and Belarusians etc. These two Saints, the Apostles of the Slavs, systematised the culture of these peoples, allowing them to flourish and to be deeply Christianised.



FEBRUARY DAYS

Wed	1	S Bridget of Kildare
Thu	2	MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE
Fri	3	R Simeon the God-receiver & Anna the Prophetess S Nicolas, Archbishop of Japan
Sat	4	S Aldate, Bishop of Gloucester
Sun	5	Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee Beginning of Triodion, Fast-free week
Mon	6	S Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople
Tue	7	S Richard of the West Saxons
Wed	8	Great-Martyr Theodore Stratelates S Cuthman, Hermit of Steyning in Sussex
Fri	10	Hieromartyr Charalambos, Bishop of Magnesia
Sat	11	S Caedmon of Whitby
Sun	12	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Fri	17	Great-Martyr Theodore the Recruit S Finan, Bishop of Lindisfarne
Sat	18	Saturday of Souls, S Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
Sun	19	Sunday of Meatfare, Sunday of the Last Judgment
Thu	23	Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna
Fri	24	1st & 2nd Findings of the Head of S John
Sat	25	Commemoration of All Monks & Nuns
Sun	26	Sunday of Cheesefare, Forgiveness Sunday
Mon	27	First Day of the Great Fast (Lent) S Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn
Tue	28	S Kyrana the Virgin-Martyr, S John Cassian the Roman

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

A Word from the Fathers: The Martyrdom of St Polycarp 23 Feb AD 155

When a great flame blazed up, we saw a miracle, that is those of us to whom it had been granted to see it and who have been spared to tell others what happened. For the fire took on the shape of a room, like the sail of a ship filled with wind, and it made a wall round the

body of the martyr. The body in the middle did not appear like burning flesh, but rather it was like bread being baked, or like gold and silver being refined in a furnace. And we perceived a fragrant smell, as though it were the odour of frankincense, or some other precious spices.