

**Orthodox Parish of
St Helen of Colchester**
Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the UK & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 194



JANUARY 2013

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesday 1 January, Circumcision & S Basil the Great
10.30 am Holy Liturgy
Friday 11 January, S Theodosius the Great the Cenobiarch
9.30 am Holy Liturgy
Thursday 24 January, S Xenia the Fool for Christ
9.30 am Holy Liturgy
Saturday 2 February, Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple
10.00 am Holy Liturgy at *Basildon*

SUNDAY 6 JANUARY : HOLY THEOPHANY

10.30 am Holy Liturgy, Great Blessing of the Water, & Blessing of the River Colne

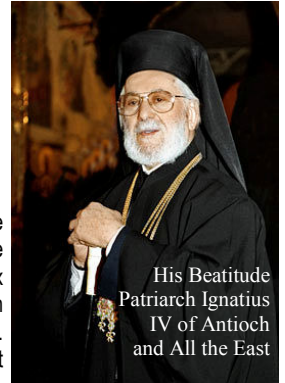
**Our loss is the Patriarchate's gain:
Archbishop John elevated**



Our picture shows our former Bishop, at a reception after his election on 17 December to head the whole Church of Antioch. We shall miss him in Europe where he has ministered for the past four or five years. We have known him here in Britain and Colchester for eleven years: he served the Holy Liturgy in St Helen's on 30 December 2001. We may be proud of our knowledge of him. Sad to lose him as our immediate Pastor, we can delight in his taking over the wider Church of Antioch. It is now through someone we already know and love that we have communion with the whole Holy Orthodox Catholic Church and so with Christ.

Beloved Patriarch dies at 92, after 32 years guiding the Church of Antioch

Patriarch Ignatius was the 157th Bishop of Antioch. He led his Greek Orthodox people of Syria and Lebanon for more than a generation. He was much loved, not least in Britain and Ireland,



His Beatitude Patriarch Ignatius IV of Antioch and All the East

where he ordered the local Antiochian Bishop to open up to the lost and bewildered Anglicans wishing to enter the safety of the Holy Orthodox Church in the mid-1990s. His Beatitude met their clergy in Paris in 1994, and arranged for their reception. He also had many in his flock in the Americas and Australia, and it cannot be an easy job to lead the largest group of Christians in Syria either, with all the pressures on the faithful there, especially the problems of the last two years of turmoil there. Memory eternal!

The Lord's work in Basildon

Negotiations continue on Orthodox use of All Saints Church, North Benfleet - in the country at the eastern end of Basildon. We hope to start worshipping there at the beginning of February or at least of March.

Many years, Master! Remember your flock in these distant islands!

Jesus of Nazareth: a good man, oh, yes! - but also Son of God!



'Christ our God' we call him frequently in the worship of our Orthodox Church, and in our own prayers.

The Church first recognises him as that at the Baptism in the River Jordan. He walks down to the water, and his cousin the Baptist recognises by the grace of God that this Jesus of Nazareth, whom he has known all his life, is The Lamb of God.

John realises that he is not worthy to baptise him, but carries on when Jesus commands it.

So Jesus is baptised—and there is a revelation of the Trinity: Jesus himself as God made Man, the Voice of the Father, the descent of the Dove as the Holy Spirit.

So there is a fullness of revelation. God, known only as Lord in the Old Testament, now shown as One God in Three Persons.

Of course this is known with the hindsight of the Church, the fruit of her meditation on the actual events.

But, as a result, the feast of Theophany - *Theophania* means *Revelation of God* - is one of the first-rank feasts of the Church.

In the West it is known as Epiphany, and is treated as *the Revelation of Christ to the Gentiles*, the coming of the Wise Men, though the Baptism of Christ does get a 'look-in' in the commemoration.

We in Orthodoxy see Theophany more as *the Revelation to the world, to all mankind*.

In many ways, for us it is liturgically more important than Christmas itself, which is a festival introduced later in history.

Come and join us that morning to bless the water in Church and then the River itself.

God bless you all.

Father Alexander

HOLY LITURGY
BASILDON
Saturday
5 January
10.30 am
CLACTON
Saturday
19 January
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 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

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 Alexander Haig Jnr, detached service in Winchester parish

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 CV15 1LE
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am (Clacton Community)

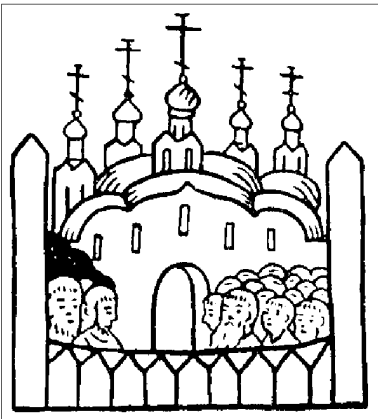
At St Agnes Chapel, 18 St Agnes Road, Noak Hill, Billericay, CM12 9UR
Divine Liturgy: usually first Saturday 10.30 am (Basildon Community)
Rdr Paul Brighton-Cross 01-702-305-527 orthodox.basildon@hotmail.co.uk

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

The People Column

ANDREAS POLYVIU, a young student from Nicosia, had been due to start his third year reading Law, but was already very ill with cancer in September. Sadly he died, and his fellow-students turned out in force to remember his soul on the Sunday following. We also had a Memorial at the University. Memory eternal!

KYRIAKOS (KRIS) CHRYSANTHOU, who has died aged 71, was attached to this Parish almost from the beginning. He had learning disabilities, and was in a wheel chair. He first came to us at Bourne Court, over twelve years ago, and those who were present well remember his answering *Christos anesti* at Paschal time, shouting out with strength and enthusiasm *Alithos anesti!* It was really quite moving, coming from this chap who all his life had been stuck in his chair, and could have given only small account of his faith - but knew that Christ is risen! I kept vaguely in touch with him at the home in Manningtree, and later at Bradfield. After his cousin Androula Georgiou (who worships at the Monastery) had found him more recently, I was able to take him the Holy Gifts every six weeks or so. His funeral was at St Helen's, where he had also worshipped once or twice, with burial (from a horse-drawn hearse!) at Bradfield Cemetery. I shall miss him. Memory eternal!



Volunteers needed

It is good to report that several people have volunteered to make the Church Breads - a real answer to prayer.

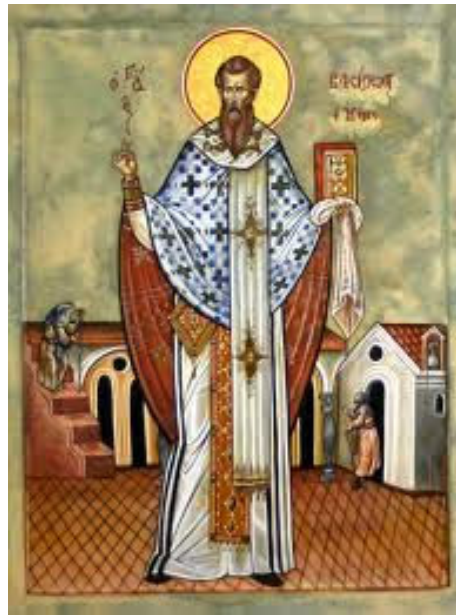
But we also now have great need of people in three capacities at St Helen's:

- SINGERS for the Choir
- SERVERS for the Holy Altar.
- SEWERS for small jobs to vestments etc - sewing buttons and tears and so on.

This is because, sadly, the LAWRENCE family have left us - they helped in all three areas, and we are grateful for their contribution to the life of the Parish.

In addition, our Choirmaster Tom CARTER, and his boys expect to transfer to Basildon when that gets properly established early in 2013.

So, can you SING or SERVE or SEW? - Then please volunteer and help St Helen's Chapel continue with its offering of praise to God.



The feast of St Basil the Great (above) falls on 1 January, and many Orthodox bake a cake called Vasilopita in his honour on or near that day. It is a rich cake, containing a coin for the lucky one.

St Basil was Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, south-east Asia Minor, modern Turkey for only 9 years, until his death in AD 379 at the age of only 49. Yet he is one of the greatest of the great Greek Fathers of the Church, and has always been much venerated in the West.

He had lived as a hermit and then as a simple monk, and he composed the Rules which even today are the basis of the monastic life of East and West.

He wrote great treatises on the Faith, defending it in particular against the heresy of Arius. Numerous of his letters are still preserved.

He stood up against unjust rulers and yet is patron of children. He founded hospitals and schools, establishing the theoretical and practical basis of much Christian social work today.

St Basil was an amazing man. He came from a family of saints, and several of his friends are venerated as saints.

A Word from the Fathers

See, Fire and Spirit in the womb that bore you:

See, Fire and Spirit in the river where you were baptised,

Fire and Spirit in our baptism: In the Bread and the Cup, Fire and Holy Spirit.

How wonderful your footsteps, walking on the waters!

You subdued the great sea beneath your feet,

Yet to a little stream you subjected your head, Bending down to be baptised in it.

The stream was like John who performed the baptism in it, In their smallness each an image of the other.

To the stream so little, to the servant so weak, The Lord of them subjected both.

St Ephrem the Syrian (+373)

Here and There

ORDINATION: We still have no date for Reader Paul Brighton-Cross's ordination as a Deacon, but have been led to believe it may be early in the New Year. —However, with the loss of our Archbishop, it may get delayed again: I am sorry, but there it is!

PARISH GIFTS: In the last issue I mentioned I have sent gifts from the Parish to the local YMCA, Beacon House (help for the homeless) and St Helena Hospice. In addition to those, I have sent a gift to Macmillan Cancer Support. Our thanks to one member who gave extra towards them.

ST BARBARA'S, SOUTHEND: At their feast (4 December) I received a warm welcome from His Eminence Archbishop Gregorios and Fr Theophanis, the Parish Priest, old Fr Maximos, Fr Chrysostomos, who recently completed his PhD here in Colchester, and other Priests and people present. Fr Melchizedek from the Monastery gave the sermon, and there was a lovely feast at a sea-front restaurant. It was good to be with them.

PARISH COUNCIL: There will be a meeting of the Council at St Helen's on **Sunday 27 January** at 1.00 pm. An important item will be examining the annual financial accounts before they are presented for approval at the **Annual Meeting on Sunday 10 February.**

STAR: The Star is the four-armed metal stand that goes over the Paten or Disk to put the veil on. Our thanks to LYDIA and Reader ANDREAS MORAN, for giving one. Lydia was able to bring it from Moscow before Christmas. It is for the Holy Chalice set that I use when serving elsewhere than in St Helen's Chapel—particularly at Basildon and Clacton.

JANUARY DAYS

Tue 1	Circumcision of Our Lord, S Basil the Great
Wed 2	Repose of S Seraphim
Thu 3	S Genevieve of Paris
Sun 6	THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
Mon 7	Synaxis of H Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist John S Cedd, Apostle of the East Saxons
Wed 9	S Adrian, Archbishop of Canterbury
Fri 11	S Theodosius the Great the Cenobiarch
Sat 12	S Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth
Sun 13	Pentecost 32, Sunday after Theophany, S Hilary of Poitiers, S Kentigern of Glasgow
Mon 14	S Nino, Enlightener of Georgia, S Sava I of Serbia, Hieromartyr Platon of Tallin
Wed 16	Veneration of Precious Chains of Apostle Peter
Thu 17	S Anthony the Great of Egypt
Fri 18	SS Athanasius the Great and Cyril of Alexandria
Sat 19	S Branwalader of Cornwall, S Mark of Ephesus
Sun 20	Pentecost 33, Sunday of the Ten Lepers, S Euthymius the Great
Mon 21	Virgin-Martyr Agnes of Rome, S Maximus the Confessor
Tue 22	Apostle Timothy of the Seventy, Monk Martyr Anastasius the Persian
Thu 24	S Xenia the Fool-for-Christ of St Petersburg, S Neophytos the Anchorite of Cyprus
Fri 24	S Gregory the Theologian, Abp of Constantinople
Sat 26	S Xenophon of Constantinople
Sun 27	Pentecost 34, Sunday of Zacchaeus
Wed 30	Ecumenical Teachers & Great Hierarchs Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom
Thu 31	Wonderworkers & Unmercenarys Cyrus & John

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