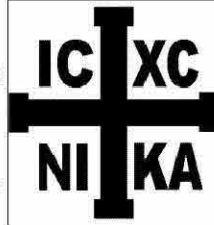




Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 227 JANUARY 2016



WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S

Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am

Friday 1 January

CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST, ST BASIL THE GREAT

Wednesday 6 January

HOLY THEOPHANY OF CHRIST: see below

Wednesday 20 January

ST EUTHYMIUS THE GREAT

Wednesday 27 January

TRANSLATION OF RELICS OF S JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

2016 could be an eventful year in the history of our twenty year-old Parish!

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of our Parish! In February 1996 we had our first meeting and then we actually began regular worship on 2 March.

The Haig family, newly brought into the Orthodox Faith, were the foundation and rock on which the new life was built. But we already had several other people with us, which was very encouraging. Some of these good founding members are still with us—Alexia and Paul Lansley, Dorothy Tanner, Calisthene Aristodimou. Others have moved away. One or two have passed on into eternity, receiving the reward of their labours.

What now of the future? - Well, some great changes are occurring this year in our life together.

First and foremost, we are at last getting our own Antiochian Archbishop, Metropolitan SILOUAN, for the Church in these British Isles. This is likely to have a great impact—a new, young Bishop, clearly intelligent, in his mid-forties. It is certain that he will be getting us and all the other parishes into line, to be fuller and richer witnesses to our Faith, leading us in the ways of holiness and devotion to Christ our God.

Part of the impact will be just having to find the money to keep our Bishop. The money will not come from outside—we have to house, feed, clothe him, provide the necessary support, provide for his travel. Etc....!

Within the Parish, there are also going

to be great changes. Our lease on St Helen's Chapel finishes in September. A committee is examining what we must do—we can buy or lease St Helen's.

But the difficulty about that is that we shall never be able to make St Helen's entirely suitable as the centre of a thriving Orthodox parish. The building is too small, lacking basic provisions, yet an important historical monument, incapable of being enlarged.

The present thinking is that perhaps we ought to try again to obtain use of St Martin's Church, only 200 metres away. An empty building, sadly used for some sixty years for anything but the Orthodox worship for which it was first erected up to 1600 years ago, we have tried three or four times over two decades without ultimate success. Perhaps another attempt will be blessed by God. When we did use it for Holy Week in 2008 and 2012 it proved a really wonderful building for us—except for the lack of heating!

Here we come back to money, of course. The cost will be enormous, but it may be the task laid upon us by Almighty God in order to ensure the continuing life of our parish into the future, to test our faith in him. Pray for the Committee!

Father Alexander



Theophany Procession 2014

Theophany at St Helen's Wednesday 6 January

9.30 am Divine Liturgy &
Great Blessing of the Waters

Sunday 10 January

10.30 am Divine Liturgy & Procession
to Bless the River Colne -
please support this



HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Precious
Chains of
Apostle
Peter
Saturday
16 January
10.00 am

Enthronement in February ?

At the time of going to press there is no news of a new date for the Enthronement of our Metropolitan, His Eminence Archbishop SILOUAN.

There has been progress, however, on obtaining his visa. We look forward to hearing an official date and to his arrival in his Diocese of the British Isles and Ireland. It has been suggested that he may arrive early in February.

I believe his arrival here is a highly significant step in the life of the Antiochian Church here in Britain and Ireland - and indeed in the life of the whole Orthodox Church in this Islands.

Continue to pray for him in what must be a frustrating time for him as well as for us.

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 Balkierne 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

Here and There

FOOD BANK: We collect food in a box in the Church porch to pass to the Food Bank in Colchester. Such aid is needed by a surprising number of needy families and people on their own. Non-perishable food is what is required. Some people like to bring a bagful, others a tin or two, or something similar.

PARISH GIFTS to good causes have recently included cheques to **Beacon House**. In East Hill, it cares for the those living on the streets or in difficult conditions by providing showers, clean clothing, someone to talk to, etc).

ORTHODOX INSTITUTE: Another sort of gift is our annual one to the Institute at Cambridge. Several of our people have benefitted from its courses over the years. We have one studying with them at the moment.

CHURCH COUNCIL: The next meeting will be on **Sunday 31 January** at 1.00 pm. A main agenda item will be examining the Parish accounts for 2015. Another will be hearing of any progress on the future of our Parish and St Helen's Chapel.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING: Looking ahead, our AGM will be on **Sunday 21 February**, at the conclusion of the Holy Liturgy. It is an obligation of English law for all charities to hold this meeting and to pass the Accounts, conduct elections, etc. This year's AGM will be particularly important as we will have to consider (and possibly decide) our future use of buildings. As many of our worshippers here are asked to attend as possible for these vital matters. The meeting is always kept short, to encourage as many as possible to be there.

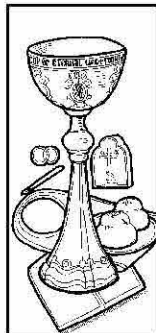
READ ANY GOOD BOOKS RECENTLY ? There is quite a collection of books about the Orthodox faith, of various types, in the Library: history, travel, theology, lives of saints, etc. You are encouraged to have a look and borrow something. Please remember to return the book within a month, to allow use by others.



On 6 January Western Christians celebrate the Wise Men coming to Christ. The Orthodox tradition celebrates the Baptism of Christ, and not so much the Baptism itself as the revelation of the Holy Trinity which is given at the Jordan.

The Voice of the Father is heard. The Son stands in the river in the humility not only of his manhood but also - extraordinarily - of his

Godhead. And the Holy Spirit is seen lighting upon him in the form of a dove. This is the first revelation in the New Testament that Jesus Christ is God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.



SYRIA and LEBANON

These countries are the home of the Church of Antioch, to which this Parish belongs. **KHOURIA HILARY** was pleased to visit the Christmas card fair at the Lion Walk URC church and to find she was able to make two contacts with Syria.

She writes:

Through Amnesty International I was able to send Christmas greetings to a mother, a prisoner of conscience in Syria. I was also able to place a card bearing ARCHBISHOP PAUL's name on a Tree of Remembrance.

His Eminence ARCHBISHOP PAUL OF ALEPPO was kidnapped in 2012 when on a mercy mission to save some of his Priests who themselves had been kidnapped. The Archbishop is still missing 2 1/2 years later, and there has been no confirmed news of him. We pray for him formally at every Liturgy, and indeed privately on a daily basis.

JANUARY DAYS

Fri	1	Circumcision of Christ, S Basil the Great
Sat	2	Repose of S Seraphim of Sarov
Sun	3	Sunday before Theophany
Wed	6	HOLY THEOPHANY OF CHRIST
Thu	7	Synaxis of S John the Forerunner S Cedd, Apostle & Bishop of the East Saxons
Fri	8	S George of Choziba
Sat	9	S Adrian, Abbot of SS Peter & Paul, Canterbury
Sun	10	Sunday after Theophany, S Gregory of Nyssa
Mon	11	S Theodosius the Great, the Cenobiarch
Tue	12	S Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth
Wed	13	S Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, S Kentigern Mungo, Bp of Glasgow & Strathclyde
Thu	14	S Nina, Enlightener of Georgia S Sava I, first Archbishop of Serbia
Sat	16	Veneration of the Precious Chains of Apostle Peter S Fursey, Enlightener of East Anglia
Sun	17	Sunday of the Ten Lepers, S Antony the Great
Mon	18	S Athanasius the Great & S Cyril of Alexandria
Wed	20	S Euthymius the Great
Thu	21	S Maximus the Confessor, Virgin-Martyr Agnes
Fri	22	Apostle Timothy, of the Seventy, S Vincent the Deacon, Protomartyr of Spain
Sun	24	Sunday of the Blind Man, Pentecost 34, S Xenia, Fool-for-Christ of S Petersburg S Neophytos the Anchorite of Cyprus
Mon	25	S Gregory the Theologian
Tue	26	S Xenophon, his wife & family of Constantinople
Wed	27	Translation of Relics of S John Chrysostom
Thu	28	S Ephraim the Syrian, S Isaac the Syrian
Fri	29	S Gildas the Wise
Sat	30	Ecumenical Teachers & Gt Hierarchs, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian & John Chrysostom
Sun	31	Sunday of Zacchaeus, Pentecost 35,

A Word from the Scriptures

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 Cup, Fire and Holy Spirit.

In your Bread is hidden a Spirit not to be eaten,

In your Wine dwells a Fire not to be drunk,

Spirit in your Bread, Fire in your Wine,

A wonder set apart, yet received by our lips.

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 both subjected himself.

St Ephraim the Syrian, 306-373

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