

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Archdiocese of the BI & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 222 JULY-AUGUST 2015



WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S

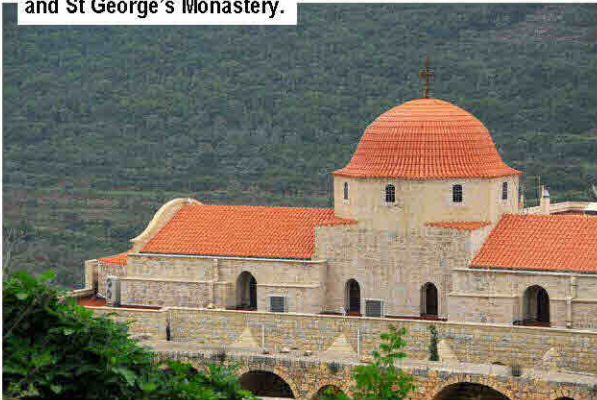
Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am as follows

Tuesday 7 July	Great Martyr Kyriaki
Friday 17 July	Great Martyr Margaret/Marina
Wednesday 22 July	St Mary Magdalene, Myrrh-bearer
Thursday 6 August	Holy Transfiguration
Tuesday 18 August	Repose of St Helen our Patron

[DORMITION will be celebrated on Sunday 16 August]



Archimandrite Silouan
and St George's Monastery.



We have a Bishop! We have a Father!

We rejoice that after a period of nearly three years we at last have a Bishop again. Our dear Archbishop (with all Europe for his Diocese) was taken from us to become Patriarch JOHN X of Antioch and All the East, head of the Church of Antioch.

Now on 24 June the Holy Synod, meeting in Balamand Holy Monastery in Lebanon, has elected Archimandrite SILOUAN ONER, not only as *our Bishop*, but as very first *Antiochian Metropolitan Archbishop of the British Isles and Ireland*.

Born in Latakia, Syria, he is 44 years old, and was trained in electrical engineering. Later, in Thessalonica, he was awarded a PhD in Theology. He now teaches in the Faculty of Theology at Balamand University. As recently as May he was appointed Abbot of the prominent St George's Monastery in the Valley of the Christians in Syria. We are told that speaks Arabic, Greek, and English.

At the time of writing, that is more or less what we know about him, but we naturally expect to learn a lot more in the weeks ahead.

We will doubtless hear quite soon the date of his consecration, probably at Balamand, and the date of his enthronement, probably at St George's Cathedral in London somewhat later.

We assure His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan of a very warm welcome in Colchester and in the whole of Britain and Ireland. We pray for him in his preparation for consecration and election and for his future ministry among us.

May he lead the Antiochian faithful in these far-off Islands in the Western Ocean firmly, lovingly, devoutly, in the Way of Jesus Christ. Just as St Theodore came from the Church of Antioch in the seventh century and wonderfully guided the British people in the way of salvation, may his prayers, teaching, and example make Holy Orthodoxy a bright and shining light throughout these lands.

Father Alexander

Feast of the Repose of St Helen, Equal to the Apostles, Patron of our Parish and City and Church

**Tuesday 18 August
Divine Liturgy 10.30 am**

followed by a Parish Lunch

The major feast of St Helen falls with that of her son, St Constantine the Great, 21 May, and she gets rather elbowed out of that celebration. We always also observe her Repose on 18 August, so we can honour her fully. This is also her traditional feast in the West.

Please try to come on this day and stay for lunch on the Green – details of this to be arranged.

HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
18 July
10.00 am
None in Aug

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

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

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

The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418

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

(At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea CO15 1LE

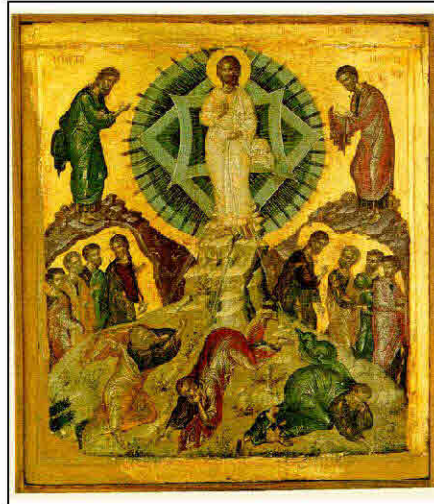
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am

aware that this Newsletter gets about, but it was amazing to hear that MARGARET HAIG - in Finland in June for a church music conference - walked into a library at Joensuu University and there on a table was a copy of our St Helen's Newsletter for September 2014! - This story reminded Khouria HILARY that several years ago in Cyprus we visited the lovely and tourist-full village of Omodos and its well-known and beautiful Monastery of the Holy Cross, and, entering the icon-painter's studio there, we immediately noticed a postcard of our icon of St Helen of Colchester, and the iconographer herself in the very process of painting a copy!

A meeting is being held at St Aidan's Church in Stockport, Manchester on Saturday 11 July to discuss the finances of our Archdiocese for the challenges of the immediate future. All Parish Priests and Treasurers are summoned, probably returning to the parishes with demanding questions for all. We shall no doubt have to fund the Archbishop completely. **CHURCH COUNCIL:** A second meeting to discuss what to do about St Helen's Chapel will be held in Sunday 19 July. **ACCOMMODATION** is needed for a mature woman student doing a Master's degree from September. Please speak with me if you can offer any.

FATHER ATHANASIUS: The Memorial will be on Saturday 18 July in Lawford Parish Church at 11.30 and then a procession to the grave. Bring and Share Lunch at 1.30. Depart by 4.30 pm. It is a "Clacton" day so unfortunately I will not be there until after the service, but I hope to share in some of the proceedings.

FATHER PHILIP HALL: Doubtless many of the clergy and people, even while happy with the elected candidate, will be a little disappointed that Father was not chosen as our Bishop. But he is a strong and devout man, who will certainly cope well in his continuing role as Parish Priest at Lincoln. Anyway, we congratulate him that he has been raised to the position of Archimandrite, which makes him senior Priest in the Diocese.



The Transfiguration of Christ is one of the most awe-inspiring events of the Gospel. The Lord takes three of his Disciples up Tabor, 'the Holy Mountain', and is greatly changed before them. They begin to understand his real nature: that he is true God in human flesh. Peter, James and John are overwhelmed. They see Prophets Moses and Elias (summing up the Old Testament). When the vision is over they have to go down again to the ordinary world, and follow Christ through his Crucifixion, but through that they come to the equal glory of the Resurrection. All this is displayed in the icon. *Liturgy 6 August 9.30am.*

St. Helen's Church Roll

The Church Roll is the list of voters at St Helen's. If you are on the Roll you can take your legal part in the affairs of the Parish. Once a year at the AGM, the numbers attending are recorded in the minutes.

It is important that the Roll is kept up to date with address and contact details - landline, mobile or email address. There are Church Roll forms in the porch.

If you know you haven't filled one in before, or if your name or any of your details have changed, please fill one in and give to the secretary Theodora Ford or to Father Alexander so we can make a note of your details.

If you find writing in English difficult, any one of us will be glad to help, so do please ask.

Thank you.

Theodora



A Word from the Fathers

*O full of grace, thou art the joy of all creation,
Of the hierarchy of angels and the race of men,
Hallowed temple,
Paradise of the Word,
The glory of virginity,
From thee God took flesh and became a little child,
He who is from all eternity our God.
Thy womb he took as throne,
Thy body he made wider than the heavens.
O full of grace, thou art the joy of all creation:
Glory to thee!*

Liturgy of St Basil the Great

JULY-AUGUST DAYS

- Wed 1 Wonderworking Unmercenaries Cosmas & Damian
- Thu 2 Placing of Robe of the Theotokos at Blachernae
- Sat 4 S Andrew, Archbishop of Crete
- Sun 5 Pentecost 5, S Athanasius of Athos
- Mon 6 Virgin-Martyr Lucy, S Sexburga of Ely
- Tue 7 Great Martyr Kyriaki, S Hedda, Bishop of the West Saxons
- Wed 8 Appearance of the Kazan Icon of the Theotokos S Edgar the King the Peaceable
- Sat 11 Great Martyr Euphemia the All-praised
- Sun 12 Pentecost 6, S Veronica who was healed by Christ
- Mon 13 Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel S Mildred, Abbess of Minster in Thanet
- Wed 15 Equal to the Apostles Prince Vladimir, Enlightener of the Russian Lands S Swithun the Wonderworker, Bishop of Winchester
- Fri 17 Gt Martyr Margaret (Marina) of Antioch in Pisidia Passion-bearers Tzar Nicolas & Alexandra & family
- Sat 18 Martyrs Gr Duchess Elizabeth & Nun Barbara
- Sun 19 Pentecost 7, Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council, S Stephen, King of Serbia
- Mon 20 H Glorious Prophet Elias (Elijah) New Martyrs Nun Maria (Skobtsova) & Companions
- Wed 22 H Myrrh-bearer Mary Magdalene
- Fri 24 Martyr Christina of Tyre
- Sat 25 Dormition of Righteous Anna, mother of Theotokos
- Sun 26 Pentecost 8, Martyr Paraskeva of Rome
- Mon 27 Gt Martyr & Healer Panteleimon
- Fri 31 S Joseph of Arimathea S Germanus of Auxerre

August

- Sat 1 Procession of the Honourable Life-giving Cross Seven Maccabean Martyrs
- Sun 2 Pentecost 9, Translation of Relics of S Stephen
- Wed 5 S Oswald, King & Martyr
- Thu 6 TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST
- Sun 9 Pentecost 10, Apostle Matthias
- Mon 10 Martyr & Archdeacon Lawrence of Rome
- Thu 13 S Tikhon Wonderworker of Zadonsk
- Sat 15 [Dormition of the Theotokos]
- Sun 16 Pentecost 11, Celebration of DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
- Tue 18 REPOSE OF S HELEN, Patron of our Parish
- Sun 23 Pentecost 12, S Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons
- Mon 24 Repose of Hieromartyr Kosmas of Aetolia
- Fri 28 S Moses the Black of Scete
- Sat 29 Beheading of S John the Forerunner & Baptist S Sebbi, King of the East Saxons
- Sun 30 Pentecost 13, S Alexander Patriarch of Constantinople
- Mon 31 Placing of the Cincture of the Theotokos at Chalkoprateia

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