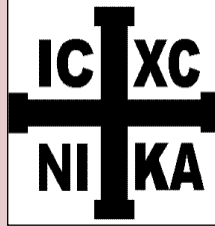


# Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 244 JULY/AUGUST 2017



## WEEKDAY SERVICES

**HOLY LITURGY 9.30 AM**

*Wednesday 5 July*

*St Athanasius of Athos*

*Thursday 20 July*

*St Elias the Prophet*

*Tuesday 25 July*

*Dormition of R Anna, Mother of Theotokos*

*Tuesday 1 August*

*Procession of the Life-giving Cross*

*Wednesday 9 August*

*Apostle Mathias, St Herman of Alaska*

*Tuesday 15 August*

**DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

Note: Repose of St Helen kept on Sunday 20 Aug

*Thursday 24 August*

*St Kosmas of Aetolia*

*Wednesday 30 August*

*St Alexander of Constantinople*

## Catalin gears up to call for our support for St Martin's

Come September or October CATALIN (shown with his little princess PETRA) and his team will coming into their own!

The Church Council took the decision to continue to rent St Helen's Chapel for five years at a cost of £2,000 per year.

They also decided to purchase nearby St Martin's Church as a surer base for the work of this Parish in the coming years—but this being dependent on our being able to raise £150,000 to pay for it.

On top of the purchase price will be the cost of heating which will be so necessary—perhaps £50,000. There is no heating there at the moment.

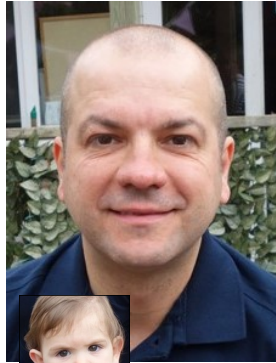
So in the autumn a campaign will start to raise this not inconsiderable sum of £200,000.

Catalin is leading a small Appeal Committee to work it all out. They are now setting the project in place: a website - schemes involving Facebook, etc - literature - a small exhibition - an account for receiving gifts - etc. This committee will need your support.

**It will be approaching various potential donors. And it will be approaching you - every Newsletter reader - to help raise the needed amount. We trust in your support.**

If necessary, heating can come a bit later, as the intention is to worship in St Helen's in the winter until St Martin's is ready.

Of course, there will be much more expenditure on St Martin's in the future, since it will cost good sums to adapt it for our needs and to install the necessary Orthodox furnishings—including the iconostasis. It is



likely to take some years to accomplish everything.

Actually, a temple is never really completed, as people are always wanting to donate further gifts to the church.

But we shall be laying the foundations of a Parish that will continue, we hope, for many generations, by the grace of God.

At the time of writing we still need acceptance of our fundraising scheme to be agreed by the owners of the building (the Churches Conservation Trust in London), but hope that will proceed without problems.

Please remember in your prayers those involved in organising the Appeal: Catalin (Chairman), Nick (Treasurer), Georgia, Kakia, George.

God bless us all in our organising and in our giving. May his Kingdom be blessed.

All glory to the Holy Mother of God, to St Helen, and to St Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours. May their prayers assist and inspire us.

**Father Alexander**

Please don't send money yet: wait till arrangements are announced.



The *Dormition of the Holy Mother of God* is celebrated on 15 August, the climax to end the Church year.

*Dormition* means *Falling Asleep* or *Repose*, the Greek word *koimesis*.

Christ takes the soul of his Mother to himself and enthroning her in his kingdom. Later, his holy Apostles find that her body also has been taken to heaven.

Such is the hope and aspiration of every Christian: to enter the kingdom of heaven at the Last Day, and enjoy for all eternity the joy of union with God.

It is the process we call *deification* or *theosis*.



## 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. We may park cars out of office-hours in Herrick House car park, a few metres beyond the church.

**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

Reader **Andreas Moran**, 6 Woodlands, Welshwood Park CO4 3JA Tel: 01-206-865-697

Reader & Sacristan **Martin Gräß**, 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 CO15 1EE

Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday of month 10.00 am

**CLACTON**  
**HOLY**  
**LITURGY**  
**Saturday**  
**15 July**  
**10.00 am**  
**None in Aug**

Our Summer Parish Feast (transferred from 18 Aug)

**SUNDAY 20 AUGUST - REPOSE OF ST HELEN**

**Mattins 9.45 am Holy Liturgy 10.30 am**

**Bring-and-Share Lunch on the green (inside if wet)**

**Veneration of the Relic of St Helen**

## Here and There

**BISHOP AT CLACTON:** We had a lovely time with Sayedna, and are grateful that he wished to visit this small group, who have continued faithfully over nearly 20 years now. A larger number than usual attended (35), as was to be expected, including Fr PETER KANE, whose church we borrow, and to whom we were able to express our gratitude for their hospitality: sadly he leaves Clacton at the end of July (but we know we are still welcome there). We had a really splendid buffet lunch, and then the Bishop returned home, to prepare for a journey next day to Brighton. Thank you to ANGELA NICOLAOU who organised the food and congratulations to all on a very happy day.

**IKEN PILGRIMAGE:** As announced last month, this is on **Saturday 1 July** to honour St Botolph where he founded his Monastery. Akathist to the Saint at 11.00 am. Contact me for details.

**BAPTISED:** Congratulations to ANASTASIA, the new baby of LOREDANA and VASILE POPESCU, who was baptised in May. Many Years to them all!

**WALSINGHAM** is a great place of pilgrimage to the Mother of God for Orthodox, and for Catholics and Anglicans.

It is about 90 miles (2 hrs) from Colchester. There are three Orthodox holy places there: one of them is St Seraphim's, originally a railway station (!), then the monastic church of the late Archimandrite DAVID, now an Orthodox pilgrim centre. Archimandrite PHILIP and Lincoln parish are organising a pilgrimage on **Wednesday 19 July**, with the Holy Liturgy at 11.00 am. We will be joining them, leaving Colchester in cars about 8.45 am. Do join a small group from here, and bring a picnic to eat in the garden. Visit the lovely village and churches, come to tea at 4 depart at 5 pm. Names to me.

**A NICE LETTER** arrived from a young local man last month. He had visited St Helen's when I happened to be there and I was able to explain about the icons and something about the Holy Orthodox Faith, in both of which he was very interested. He went to the trouble of writing a note the same day, talking of the attractive quality of the

Orthodox Church, and concluding, **"Thank you again for letting me share St Helen's Chapel. It was a wonderful experience, and the deep spirituality of the place, and of your church as a whole, made a strong impression on me."**

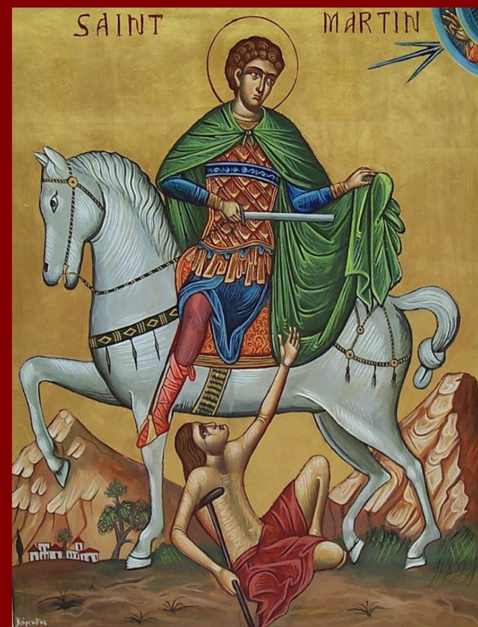
You see the value of keeping churches open and of welcoming visitors!

**FATHER ATHANASIUS:** The Memorial at Lawford Church at Manningtree will be on **Saturday 22 July**. It is usually at 11.30 am, and you take lunch.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to PETER and MARIA SMITH of Ipswich, who have had a little girl they have named EMILY, born in Spain (her mother's home) in March and baptised there. They married in St Helen's in 2013. Many years, little one!

**A LOVELY NEW LAMP** has appeared in front of St Helen. It is given by ANDREAS JOANNOU who with his family originally gave the icon itself. We are most grateful.

This lovely icon of St Martin was given to us some years ago by the artist CHRYSTALLA PSOMAS and her family in Greece, including LAMBROS who was studying here for a Master's degree. It adorns St Helen's Chapel and brings St Martin's presence among us. Sadly, not long afterwards Chrystalla died as a result of a road accident. Lambros later married another of our Master's students DAREEN HANNAT, and they live in Ancient Corinth in Greece: we stayed with them a few years ago. We should of course be invoking the Saint for his assistance in our Appeal. A card of the icon will be available shortly.



### JULY/AUGUST DAYS

Sat	1	SS Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs at Rome
Sun	2	<b>Pentecost 4, Placing of Robe at Blachernae,</b> S Stephen the Gt of Moldavia, Defender of Orthodoxy, S John of Shanghai & San Francisco
Wed	5	S Athanasius of Athos
Fri	7	Gt Martyr Kyriaki
Sat	8	Gt Martyr Prokopios of Caesarea in Palestine
Sun	9	<b>Pentecost 5, S Pancras, Bp of Taormina</b>
Tue	11	Gt Martyr Euphemia the All-praised
Wed	12	S Veronica who was healed by Christ
Thu	13	Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel, S Mildred of Minster
Sun	16	<b>Pentecost 6, Fathers of the Fourth Council</b>
Mon	17	Gt Martyr Margaret (Marina) of Antioch, Passion-bearers Nicolas & Alexandra & family
Tue	18	Martyr Gd Duchess Elizabeth & Nun Barbara
Wed	19	Uncovering of Relics of S Seraphim of Sarov
Thu	20	<b>H Prophet Elias (Elijah),</b> N Martyr Maria of Paris
Sat	22	<b>H Myrrh-bearer Mary Magdalene</b>
Sun	23	<b>Pentecost 7</b>
Mon	24	Passion-bearers Boris & Gleb
Tue	25	Dormition of R Anna, mother of the Theotokos
Wed	26	Martyr Paraskevi of Rome
Thu	27	Gt Martyr & Healer Panteleimon
Sun	30	<b>Pentecost 8</b>
<b>August</b>		
Tue	1	Procession of Honourable Wood of the Cross
Sun	6	<b>HOLY TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST</b>
Wed	9	Apostle Matthias, S Herman of Alaska
Sun	13	<b>Pentecost 10</b>
Tue	15	<b>DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD</b>
Wed	16	Translation of Icon 'Not Made With Hands'
Sun	20	<b>Pentecost 11,</b> <b>REPOSE OF S HELEN, PATRON OF THIS PARISH</b> (transferred from 18 Aug)
Thu	24	New Hieromartyr Kosmas of Aetolia
Sun	27	<b>Pentecost 12, Newly-revealed Martyr Phanourios</b>
Tue	29	<b>Beheading of S John the Forerunner</b> S Sebbi, King of the East Saxons
Wed	30	<b>S Alexander of Constantinople</b>
Thu	31	Placing of Cincture, S Aidan of Lindisfarne

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

### *A Word from the Fathers: The Holy Transfiguration*

**J**esus revealed this mystery to his disciples on Mount Thabor. In their company he had spoken of the kingdom and of his second coming in glory, but perhaps they remained uncertain about the kingdom which he had announced.

*Now, to lead them to firm and profound faith and draw them by means of present events to belief in things to come, he manifested himself in glory on*

*Mount Thabor, giving them a divine revelation, a foreshadowing of the kingdom of heaven....*

*Let us run there, eager and joyful, and let us be enveloped in the cloud, like Moses and Elias or James and John.*

*Be like Peter, rapt at the divine vision, transfigured by the glory of the transfiguration, lifted high above the things of this world.*

*St Anastasius of Sinai (+ c.700)*