

Holy Orthodoxy: Faith in Christ for the modern world

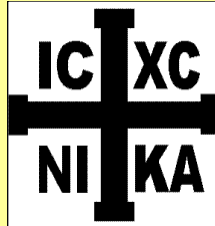
Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 254

JULY-AUGUST 2018



JULY-AUGUST: Holy Liturgy 9.30 am

Fri 13 Jul Synaxis of H Archangel Gabriel
 Fri 27 Jul H Wonderworker Panteleimon
 Wed 15 Aug Dormition of the Mother of God
 Fri 24 Aug S Kosmas of Aetolia
 Thu 30 Aug S Alexander of Constantinople

The Transfiguration will be observed on Sun 5 Aug, the Repose of S Helen on Sun 19 Aug

St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's

One third of the way to the funds to buy St Martin's!

Thank you to all who have so far come forward to support this great venture to provide a parish church in the centre of 'Britain's oldest recorded town' for the future generations of Orthodox people here. As you see (right), already we have a third of what we need to purchase the wonderful and beautiful St Martin's.

Donors not only from Britain but also from Europe and North America are appreciating the value and strength of the project, and - trusting in God - have decided to assist us.

There has been some local newspaper cover in the *East Anglian Daily Times* and the *Colchester Gazette*, and anticipate the *Essex County Standard* will follow. We are grateful for all the cover.

The size of gifts varies greatly of course, according to people's means. We are grateful for all gifts, whatever the size!

Someone was able to promise £1,000, and pointed out that, if 99 others could each sacrificially give the same, we would have most of what we must raise.

That is absolutely true and there are probably numbers who could do that. Many are able to give far less: some will, I believe, be moved to give far more.

We cannot sit back just to enjoy the present position: the greater part remains to be raised - £120,000 even before the owners commit themselves to us.

Do look at the fine new Appeal website, and keep an eye on Facebook.

The most important thing is to keep praying about it, that God's will may be done. The prayer we have been using for over two years remains "standard":

And if it seemeth good to Thee, O God, that we establish another holy house for the worship of Thy majesty, guide us to fulfil Thy holy will.

That is precisely the spirit of our present fund-raising.

May God bless us together, and each of us individually, as we decide how he invites us to work with him for the future of this parish, and above all for his glory and the glory of our holy Orthodox Faith!

Father Alexander

Our Parish Summer Feast

REPOSE OF ST HELEN

Sunday 19 August

9.45 am Mattins

10.30 am Divine Liturgy

12.15 pm Parish Lunch on the Green

Bring and share (in church if wet)

Abt 1.30 pm Veneration of relic of St Helen



We are delighted to hear that HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SILOUAN is making progress in recovering his health, and is serving again at St George's Cathedral. Many years, Master!

ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S

17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB, UK

Raised so far: **£ 50,556**, plus promises

- CHEQUES may be sent to the above address, made out to: *St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's*
- BANK TRANSFERS may be made to:
Bank Sort Code 20-22-67 Appeal Account No. 80219819
- APPEAL WEBSITE: orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk, with Paypal button for those preferring to pay that way
- FACEBOOK: *St Martin's Appeal*

Please support us in providing an Orthodox parish church "for our children and our children's children"

MIHAI MOROSAN: I was bowled over by dear Mihai's brilliant iconography forty years ago in the Holy Land, but he and his brother executed icons and frescoes in many countries, not least his native Romania, where he received Patriarchal recognition. Sadly he has recently died, but he leaves his own memorial on St Helen's Holy Doors. Hilary and I were privileged to be guests of him and his wife Traudi in Suceava. Our sincere sympathy to her and their son Mihail, a worshipper at St Helen's. Memory eternal!



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.

Nearest car-park NCP Nunns Rd. Very little street parking available.

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): first Saturday 3.15 pm

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

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 Appeal Account No. 80219819

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

CLACTON

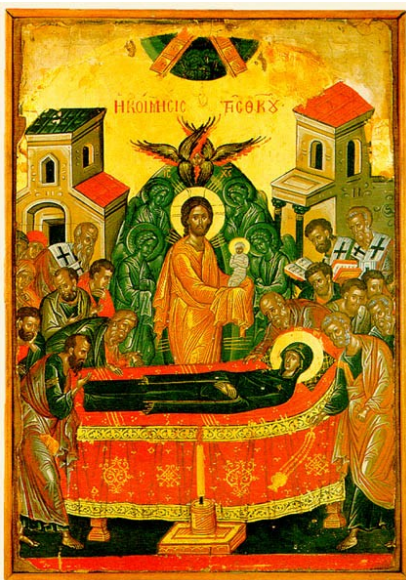
HOLY

LITURGY

Sat 21 July

10.00 am

None in Aug



The Dormition icon tells it all!

The Dormition of the Mother of God (15 August) is the climax of the Church year. It shows her Falling Asleep or Repose or Death, surrounded by the Apostles. Her soul—wrapped as a child in swaddling clothes—is received into heaven by her Son and God, Jesus Christ. Afterwards her body was not found, for it also had been taken to heaven.

But the icon *tells it all* also because Mary's experience is also to be that of *all* Christians.

You and I also are to be taken to heaven, like her, when Christ comes again for us at the end of time, and bids us also to enter into his glory. Alleluia!

The drawing power of Holy Orthodoxy MARK SHILLAKER tells of his coming to faith

One day in the summer of 2005 on a lunch hour stroll around Colchester I chanced upon a sign I'd never noticed before at the top of Maidenburgh Street. It said simply: "St Helen Greek Orthodox Church".

Curiosity got the better of me and a few minutes later I found myself entering the cool dark porch and passing through the main church door. I gasped in surprise and delight!

I had never seen anything like it before and my eyes were immediately held by the large icon of Christ on the iconostasis.

A powerful feeling which I cannot describe took hold of me and I stood for a long time before finally re-emerging, blinking into the sunshine.

I didn't know it then but I had set foot on a path which was to lead to me eventually being received into the Holy Orthodox Church.

Over the intervening years various jobs took me away from Colchester but whenever I could, I would visit the beautiful little temple in the Dutch Quarter and just sit and pray or read or think over my troubles.

I had been baptised and raised in the Church of England (my father was a parish priest and my mother too was ordained later in the 1990s) but I drifted away from Christianity entirely during my early teens as many youngsters do, unable to see the point.

My religious feelings were at last rekindled after a major life event in my mid thirties and I found myself avidly reading books on spirituality.

I felt drawn to Christianity as there always seemed to me something unique about it which I

could never find elsewhere in other spiritual and religious traditions and so I read as much as I could and dabbled with Quakerism, meditation, centring prayer and Roman Catholicism, amongst other things, but none of it seemed to meet my need.

All the while however, a fascination with Orthodoxy had begun to quietly grow in my heart and I started to seriously investigate the subject.

I read the Church Fathers, Orthodox books and websites and the more I read, the more true it all seemed. I began to pray Orthodox prayers regularly and bought a little prayer rope and some small icons.

A great longing to be part of this wonderful and mysterious thing called Orthodoxy had taken hold of me and last Autumn I plucked up the courage to attend Vespers one Saturday evening.

One day I simply knew that I wanted to be Orthodox and asked Father if he would help me. My chrismation on June 3rd this year felt simultaneously like the end of one long road and the first step on another.

I know that there is much work to do and that I will have to carry my cross every day but I also know in my heart that by entering fully into the Orthodox life, I have come gratefully home like the prodigal son and that God is running to meet me!

Here and There

BAPTISM: Congratulations to PETER-JAMES BEADLES, son of James and Elena, baptised in May.

CHRISMATION: Congratulations to MARK SHILLAKER, received into the Holy Orthodox Church by Holy Chrismation in June.

CLEANING: IJA DUR has taken on the post of cleaning St Helen's. Our thanks to her...

FLOWERS:...and SERAPHIMA SCOTT has taken on responsibility for the flowers. Thanks to her also.

ARCHDIOCESAN CONFERENCE: The Conference was more interesting this year. Sadly, the Bishop himself, Sayedna SILOUAN, was not well enough to attend. GEORGE HARRISON

has prepared a short account, available in the Porch.

FRIENDS1st seems a worthwhile and genuinely Christian agency for people to meet someone who might make an appropriate spouse, without the tackiness of many agencies. There are some leaflets in the Porch with further information. Tel: 0121-405-0417.

ART HISTORY: An adult group meeting at Castle Methodist church concluded its term by visiting St Helen's, and discovering first-hand the drawing power of holy icons. Icons bring the presence not only of the Saint but also of Christ himself into our temples and homes. They are *Windows into heaven*, through which we almost palpably touch the hem of the garment of Christ.

A Word from the Fathers: St Gregory the Dialogist (the Great)

speaking of St Mary Magdalene, feast day 22 July

We must stop and reflect upon the ardent love in the heart of this woman who would not leave the Lord's grave even after his own disciples had gone away. She continued seeking him whom she could not find. In tears she kept searching, and – afire with love – she yearned for him whom she believed had been removed. Thus it happened that she alone saw him, she who had remained behind to seek him, simply because a truly good act involves the virtue of perseverance. For the lips of Truth itself have

said: "He who perseveres to the end, he shall be saved."

She had already sought and found nothing. But she persevered, and therefore found the object of her love. While she was seeking, her longing grew stronger and stronger until at the highest pitch it was allayed in the embrace of him whom she was seeking. Holy desires grow with delay: if they fade through delay they are no desires at all. Such must be the love that inflames anyone who is reaching out for the truth....

JULY-AUGUST DAYS

Sun	1	Pentecost 5, Martyrs & Wonderworkers Cosmas & Damian
Mon	2	Honourable Robe of Theotokos at Blachernae S Stephen the Great of Moldavia S John Maximovitch of Shanghai & San Francisco
Wed	4	S Andrew Rublev
Thu	5	S Athanasius of Athos
Sat	7	Great Martyr Kyriaki
Sun	8	Pentecost 6, Gt Martyr Prokopios, S Edgar the King
Wed	11	Great Martyr Euphemia the All-praised
Thu	12	S Veronica who was healed by Christ, S Paisios of Athos
Fri	13	Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel, S Mildred of Minster
Sun	15	Pentecost 7, Fathers of 4th Ecumenical Council, S Vladimir, Enlightener of the Russian Lands
Tue	17	Gt Martyr Margaret (Marina) of Antioch-in-Pisidia, Passion-bearers Nicholas & Alexandra & family
Wed	18	S Elizabeth the New Martyr
Fri	20	H Prophet Elias (Elijah)
Sun	22	Pentecost 8, H Myrrh-bearer Mary Magdalene
Wed	25	Dormition of Righteous Anna
Thu	26	H Martyr Paraskeva of Rome
Fri	27	Great Martyr & Healer Panteleimon
Sun	29	Pentecost 9
August		
Wed	1	Procession of the H Cross, 7 Maccabean Martyrs
Sun	5	Pentecost 10, H Transfiguration (Parish observance)
Thu	9	H Apostle Matthias
Sun	12	Pentecost 11
Wed	15	DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
Sun	19	PARISH FEAST, REPOSE OF S HELEN (Parish observance)
Fri	24	Hieromartyr Kosmas of Aetolia
Sun	26	Pentecost 13
Mon	27	Newly-revealed Gt Martyr Phanourios of Rhodes
Wed	29	Beheading of S John the Baptist
Thu	30	S Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople