

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Archdiocese of the BI & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 210 JUNE 2014



JUNE WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S

9.30 AM HOLY LITURGY

Thursday 5 June

Holy Martyr Boniface of Crediton, Abp of Mainz

Tuesday 24 June

Nativity of St John the Forerunner & Baptist

**The Spirit of God wishes to dwell in you and me,
and to give us his power, joy, and strength.....**

There they were, those Apostles, several times gathered together in the Upper Room, still somewhat fearful, but meeting their Lord and Master again, extraordinarily alive after his death.

They were more and more alive with him in his risen life, built up by their experience of his death-conquering life. The last thing that happened was that he parted from them in the Ascension, leaving them instructions to wait for the gift of a Divine indwelling.

And that is what happened. You can read all about it in the first few chapters of the *Acts of the Apostles*.

First, they were in prayer in the Upper Room with the Mother of God, holy Mary.

Then, when the last day of Paschal arrived, the fiftieth day, the Pentecostal Day, they were still praying.

Suddenly everything changed. They were changed. In a strong wind and apparently spontaneous combustion all over the place, they found not confusion and destruction, but a completely new order, a new overwhelming joy and peace and strength.

Anything now was possible. They would be able to do the marvellous acts they had seen their Lord do. They would go out and nothing would stop them. They would be able to convert the world. They would be the irresistible force of the Lord himself.

Such was the power and effect of that pouring out of the Holy Spirit on that day, the fiftieth after the Holy Resurrection.

The Day of Pentecost had fully come. All had been accomplished. Death itself had been conquered. Now *Life* was poured out on them, a new life, a life of abundance, a life of power in God.

Theosis - the union of Man with God - had been brought about.

One by one that group of once-fearful, now-powerful, men and women, has been enlarged throughout the world to this day.

The Holy Spirit poured out on them has been poured out on each one of us as we have been drawn into, joined into, the Body. This has happened in our Baptism and Chrismation. So that same power of God, which caused the sound of wind and the sight of fire, is available for us too.

Alas, we do not live up to that gift, that power. We are weak, weak copies of those first Holy Apostles.

Yet miracles do still happen. Still mortal men and women do turn into Saints. Still people pray - and expect God to act, so that he can and does act. Still on occasion great things do happen in the life of God's Church. Still from time to time God acts powerfully in our personal lives, again building up our confidence, our faith, in him.

Still the rough bits of wood that are you and I, are carved into something more like the beautiful work of art that God sees in us.

All this is the work of the poured-out Holy Spirit. It is all part of our own *Theosis*. It can sometimes be a painful process, because we resist. But the power of the Spirit of God is still here. Alleluia! **Father Alexander**

HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
21 June
10.00 am

Metropolitan Ignatius ordains Deacon Paul and calls at St Helen's

The Antiochian Metropolitan of France was in England for a few days, mainly to ordain several men for our Diocese, but also to attend the Diocesan Conference in Derbyshire.

Suddenly, however, plans had to be altered as he had to go to Athens. His Eminence missed the Conference, but managed to ordain all the candidates. Our former Reader, PAUL BRIGHTON-CROSS, ordained Deacon for Basildon, had to get not to London, but to Doncaster in Yorkshire, eight days before the original date!

His Eminence managed a couple of nights at the Monastery, and (at short notice) asked to visit St Helen's. I brought him over to St Helen's, where he venerated the holy Relic of our Saint, had lunch, and a quick tour of Colchester. He clearly enjoyed his visit to our church and town, and it was encouraging just to have his brief presence here.

He also encouraged us to think in terms of a pilgrimage to Tours in mid-France: speak to me if you would be interested in a pilgrimage to the holy relics of St Martin - we have an Antiochian Orthodox church, under Fr Jean-Clement. We should also visit St Hilary at nearby Poitiers.



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 Balkeme 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: 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

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Rdr Alexander Haig Jr, detached service in Winchester parish

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



The icon of PENTECOST shows the Holy Apostles in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. In some icons, as in this one, they are gathered in prayer around the Mother of God. The Spirit of God is portrayed as tongues of fire coming from heaven to rest on their heads, to fill the Church and the whole world or Kosmos (represented as a King at the foot of the icon), with the presence and power of God.

Pentecost means the Fiftieth Day. It is the 50th and last day of the Paschal season. It is followed on the Monday by the Day of the Spirit, and on the Tuesday by the Third Day of the Trinity. This is because the pouring out of the Spirit reveals the Holy Spirit in all his fullness. He has always been present in the world, working in the whole of Creation since the creation of the world, but is now revealed as the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. So Pentecost is the feast of the Holy Trinity.

At the end of the Liturgy we shall have a shortened Kneeling Vespers, with its own ceremonies. It gets its name because for the first time since Pascha we shall kneel in our public worship.

Here and There

BARKING PILGRIMAGE: This proved to be "the best yet" - except that there had been some double-booking on the part of our hosts at the parish church, leading to some difficulties. The presence of His Eminence Metropolitan KALLISTOS brought a certain respectability to the proceedings and his address on *What is a Saint* was as clear and helpful as always. The rain decided to keep off in honour of the Saints. The 'foot' party walked all the way from the Tower of London, led by Fr PHILIP HALL from Lincoln. A new organisation was established to be responsible for the annual pilgrimage. Bishop Kallistos has agreed to be Patron, Fr ALEXANDER TEFFT to be Chairman, MARGARET HAIG to be Secretary, and others to form a Committee. This guarantees its future much more than my being responsible.

* *Our minibus bus from Colchester however was a disaster exercise. A good number of those who had booked seats cried off at the last moment, so that what was going to be a trip subsidised by the Parish became a trip almost completely paid for by the Parish. With all these and other problems about it, I decided I will never again organise transport!*

APOSTLES FAST: This is one of the four Fasts of the year - the others being the Great Fast (Lent, as it is called in England), the Dormition, and the Nativity. It is notable in two respects: (1) it is the least demanding of all the fasts (fish being allowed at weekends); (2) its length can vary down to nothing, since it lasts from the Monday after All Saints (the Sunday after Pentecost, a *moveable* feast) until 28 June, the day before Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (a *fixed* feast). Nevertheless, the Fast is not to be ignored, for it precedes the great feast of the leaders of the Apostolic band. This year it will be all but a fortnight long.

CHURCH COUNCIL: There will be a meeting of the Council on Sunday 22 June at 1.00 pm. One item to be discussed is the installation of CCTV to deter thieves, of whom we are presently having too many!

The People Column

DESPINA JOANNOU, mother of **GEORGIA JOHNSON** of Ipswich Rd, died at her daughter's home before Pascha. The funeral was at Edmonton and the burial at Southgate. However, the Fortieth Day Memorial was here in St Helen's as she had worshipped here on a number of occasions. Indeed, she had, with others of the family, given us the St Helen Icon. I had taken her Holy Communion on a number of occasions, and anointed her. Our sincere sympathy to Georgia and all the family. Memory eternal!

BRYAN DAVENPORT has been received into the Church by Holy Chrismation under the name of **JOSEPH**—his Saint is St Joseph of Arimathea. We congratulate him and welcome him warmly into our fellowship. Many years!

XENOPHON GEORGE GEORGIU of Clacton was baptised in St Helen's Chapel in May. He is son to **NICOLAS** and **SARAH**, and grandson to **CLIO** and the late **XENOPHON**. We are delighted he has been given his granddad's name. Many years!

LAMBROS and **DAREEN PSOMAS**, who met here at St Helen's while doing post-graduate degrees some years ago, plan to visit us for the first time on Sunday 15 June.

FATHER JOSEPH HUNEYCUTT is an Antiochian Priest from Houston, Texas under the benefactor of our Parish, His Grace Bishop **BASIL** of Wichita, who gave us the relic of St Helen ten years ago. He stayed at the Monastery recently and asked to come to us on a Sunday, which he did, and spoke to the faithful after the Holy Liturgy. I discovered only after he had been here that Fr Joseph is well-known as an important part of the Orthodox radio station Ancient Faith Radio, which you can listen to on the internet, and which broadcasts much very useful and helpful material: it is well worth finding it and listening.

FATHER DAVID ALEXANDER is a US Marine Chaplain, and an Antiochian Priest, and he also has visited us very recently from the Monastery. Unfortunately he had to come on a Friday, so the people did not have a chance to meet him, though he promises to return some time. He is doing a PhD at our University, mostly at a distance. It has been lovely to meet both these inspiring Priests.

NEW MAYOR OF COLCHESTER

JOHN ELLIOTT will make his visit to St Helen on being installed in office on **Wednesday 18 June at 11.00 am**. This is just short prayers for the Mayor and Borough, with veneration of the Holy Relic of St Helen, followed by short drinks and nibbles. Every thing is likely to be concluded by 11.45. You are invited to come and join in this ceremony. He will be the fifteenth Mayor in succession to pay his respects to St Helen in this way.



NEW BISHOP

Alas! No word yet of our new Bishop - nor whether he will be a full-blown Archbishop and Metropolitan, or only an Assistant Bishop. There is a meeting of the **Holy Synod at the very end of June or beginning of July**. We very much hope that a decision will be made then and implemented quickly. Technically (it should be said) the Patriarch is our Bishop in the interim, but when he was 'only' our Archbishop in Europe he found that it was all too much of a job, so of course there is very, very little involvement in Diocesan affairs.

JUNE DAYS

Sun 1	Pascha 7, Fathers of First Council, S Justin Martyr, Nun-Martyr Wite of Whitchurch Canoniconum, Martyr Wistan of Repton
Mon 2	S Odo, Archbishop of Canterbury
Wed 4	SS Martha & Mary, sisters of Lazarus
Thu 5	Martyr Boniface of Crediton, Abp of Mainz
Sat 7	Memorial Saturday
Sun 8	HOLY PENTECOST
Mon 9	Day of the Holy Spirit, S Cyril of Alexandria
Tue 10	Third Day of the Trinity
Wed 11	H Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
Sat 14	S Justin (Popovich) of Celije, Serbia
Sun 15	Pentecost 1, All Saints, S Lazarus of Serbia
Mon 16	Beginning of Apostles Fast
	S Tychon, Bishop of Amathus in Cyprus
Tue 17	S Botolph of Iken, Suffolk
Thu 19	H Apostle Jude, brother of the Lord
Fri 20	S Nicolas Cabasilas
Sun 22	Pentecost 2, All Saints of Britain
	S Alban, Protomartyr of Britain
Tue 24	Nativity of S John the Forerunner
Thu 26	S Joanna the Myrrh-bearer
Sun 29	Pentecost 3, H Apostles Peter & Paul
Mon 30	Synaxis of H Twelve Apostles

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