

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Archdiocese of the BI & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 221 JUNE 2015



Ordained to serve

It was a happy occasion in St George's Cathedral near Regents Park when we witnessed the ordination of two men both originally from this Parish, one to the Holy Priesthood, one to the Holy Diaconate. Ordination was given by His Eminence Metropolitan Ignatius of France, who in fact visited St Helen's Chapel on a private visit last year (photos appeared in the June Newsletter).

Father Jacob (whom we know more easily as Paul) Brighton-Cross was a member of our parish, received into the Orthodox Church in St Helen's Chapel in September 2008.

He lives in Southend, so when, after many years of consideration, I sought to found a new mission at Basildon, where I had myself worked as an Anglican 1967-71, he made this possible.

Soon he was ordained Reader here in St Martin's by HE Metropolitan John (now our Patriarch) in 2012, and last year was ordained Deacon up in Doncaster by HE Metropolitan Ignatius.

Now Basildon has an Orthodox Priest: I congratulate him and ask God's blessing on his work there.

He has plenty to do, let it be said. There is no other English-speaking parish in the south of Essex, and the only one at all in the area is St Barbara's Greek parish in Southend. The next going in from the coast is Romford, a Russian monthly service, and then the Greek parishes in Upton Park and Leyton.

There is no Orthodox community between Colchester and Romford - with the obvious and extremely important exception of the Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist.

But the Monastery is not like a parish. Perhaps the Basildon mission will in time produce yet another mission in Chelmsford or Braintree.

That indeed is my prayer. Certainly Father Jacob will have much travelling around to cover the area. The Orthodox Church in Essex (in Britain!) remains a slender plant, needing loving care, diligent nurture, a devoted ministry by Priests and Deacons.

That leads me to say how pleased Khouria Hilary and I naturally felt at the ordination of Father Deacon Alexander

HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
20 June
10.00 am

II. He also is a convert of course - our whole family received into the Church all but twenty years ago in St George's Cathedral, by

our dear friend Father Samir.

Deacon Alexander has in fact long experience of Holy Orthodoxy, as we were much involved in the Faith long before he was born. From first reception he has been much concerned in the life and work and in understanding the Faith. He has been on the Holy Mountain (with the late and revered Father Athanasius), and has visited our Church in her homelands, Lebanon and Syria, staying at Aleppo with our beloved, sadly-captive, Archbishop Paul, and getting to know various of our Bishops and Priests there.

More recently, living in Portsmouth, and attached to the Romanian parish in Winchester, he was made Reader here by the former Metropolitan John.

Unfortunately that parish has now collapsed (at least temporarily). He has therefore been theoretically placed under the Antiochian parish of Poole, Dorset, but that place is distant and for practical purposes he has been attached to the Russian parish in Portsmouth.—But it is even more complicated than that, and his ecclesiastical life is likely to be a bit peripatetic for the present.

In this we wish him well, and ask God to bless him in his ministry.

Both of these Men of God have so much to do in the Lord's Vineyard in this country.

The People of God will most certainly benefit by their labours, and all will do well therefore to keep them in their prayers. I trust this Parish, which has given life to both of them, will do so.

Certainly I will, that their service will bear fruit, a blessing to their People, to their dear families, and indeed to their very selves.

God bless you all.

Father Alexander

WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S

Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am as follows

Friday 5 June

Hieromartyr Boniface of Crediton

Thursday 11 June

St Bartholomew & St Barnabas

Wednesday 24 June

Nativity of St John the Baptist

Wednesday 1 July

SS Cosmas & Damian of Rome

SS Peter & Paul will be commemorated on Sunday 28 June

At the Ordination in St George's Antiochian Cathedral near Regents Park on 10 May:

Newly-ordained Priest

Jacob (Paul) Brighton-

Cross (right) - serving

in Basildon - and

(below) Newly-

ordained Deacon

Alexander Haig - now

serving in Portsmouth -

with Diakonissa

Mihaela and young

Alexander III.



THE HOLY SYNOD meets in Lebanon on 23 June. We hope and pray they will at last elect us a Bishop.

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 01-206-710-073

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

Here and There

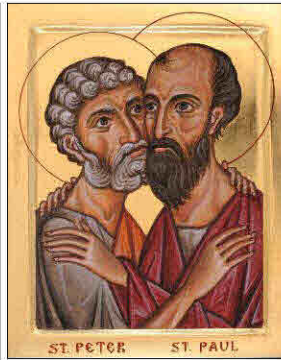
CHURCH COUNCIL: The Church Council meets on **Sunday 7 June** at 1.00 pm.

'BEST KEPT SECRET ABOUT COLCHESTER?' asked the Colchester Gazette recently. KAREN TAYLOR, who I presume is a Gazette reporter, returned the following brief and to-the-point answer to the above question:

"St Helena Chapel. Just step inside the door and you'll see why."

It is good that St Helen's is appreciated outside our own Orthodox community. We know of course that many tourists and local residents do come in, a few regularly. They receive something from their visit, even if some would not call it a *religious* experience, let alone an experience of God.

PILGRIMAGE TO IKEN: Don't forget the pilgrimage to Iken in Suffolk (about an hour's drive from Colchester) on **Saturday 27 June**. This is in honour of St Botolph who founded a Holy Monastery there in 654, and consecrated the area by his prayers. The ancient church features a thatched roof, and contains a piece of a Cross going back to Saxon times. But it is the memory of the much-loved Botolph, who earlier spent a period in our Essex, which draws us. Sadly of course there



SS Peter and Paul are the chief Apostles—in spite of the fact that Paul was not one of the Twelve. They both were martyred in Rome in the 60s. Peter was buried on Vatican hill and Paul in St Paul's outside the Walls. **feast: 29 June.**

are no holy relics to venerate, as usual in this country, but his memory here is fragrant, and his prayers everywhere powerful, so that numerous churches throughout England are dedicated to his strong but gentle presence. We even have a nineteenth century church to his memory in Colchester, beside the Norman priory ruins, a re-foundation of a Saxon semi-monastic community dedicated to him. Speak to me if you are interested in attending this annual event. (His feast-day is 17 June.)

THE APOSTLES FAST lasts from Monday after All Saints Day (this year 8 June) until the eve of SS Peter and Paul (always 29 June). It is not a severe fast: wine and oil are allowed most days (except Wednesdays and Fridays), and fish also on Saturdays and Sundays.

The People Column

GEORGE (DJVRO) DRAGISIC had lived in Clacton for many years. Originally a Serb from Croatia, he had been a fighter in the mountains there during World War II, and came to Britain when it ended. He married an English woman (who predeceased him) and had two children, Anita and Stephen. Our condolences to all the family. He had attended the Holy Liturgy in Clacton once or twice. We had the funeral at St James's, and burial at Wrabness Woodland Burial Ground. God grant him rest, and a blessing on those who mourn him. Eternal memory!

NICK CONSTANTINOU, who taught finance at the University, has been called away to God far earlier than we would have expected and without any warning—he collapsed at the gym, leaving his wife Pamela and two teenagers. I did know Nick just a little. Our sincere good condolences to them all at this terrible shock. His funeral was in North London, where he was buried. Eternal memory!

LORNA BARRETT our beloved neighbour in Maidenburgh Street, was the widow of artist Roderic Barrett (1920-2000), who taught at the Institute. She also taught - French. In spite of her great age, she was always lively - interested and interesting. The child of Methodist missionaries in North Africa, her first language had, I think, been Arabic. After Christmas she went into a home. Her funeral at Wrabness Woodland Burial Ground was secular. We shall miss her charm and vivacity. Eternal memory!

NICOLAS (COLIN) and OANA STAFFORD were married in St Helen's on 26 April. We wish them *Many Years* of fruitful joy!

SOPHIE-ELIZABETH HARVEY BEADLES was baptised on 24 May. Congratulations! The child of James Beadles and Elena Preda, her father runs Spectrum Security which does the Chapel locks and installed our CCTV.

St Helen's Chapel

The lease on our lovely Church - rich in both history and tradition of course - runs out in September 2016.

The owners (the local Anglican Diocese) kindly offer for us to continue here by either buying or renting it.

The Church Council meets on 7 June to discuss what to do.

It is not straight-forward, since it is of course far too small for



our needs.

At least any decision to buy would have to be accompanied by a decision in some way to

enlarge it - and such a desire is, if not impossible, at least highly problematic. We all need to pray about it!

A Word from the Fathers

It often happens that Satan will slyly commune with you in your heart and say, 'Think of the evil you have done. Your soul is full of lawlessness. You are weighed down by many grievous sins.'

Do not let him deceive you when he does this, and do not be led to despair believing that you are being humble.

After gaining admission through the fall, evil has the power to commune at all

times with the soul, as man to man, and so to suggest sinful actions to it. Answer this evil thus: 'I have God's written assurance, for he says, "I desire, not the sinner's death, but that he return through repentance and live."'

What was the purpose of his descent to earth except to save sinners, to bring light to darkness, and life to the dead?

*St Symeon Metaphrastes
(10th cent.)*

JUNE DAYS

Mon	1	Day of the Holy Spirit
Tue	2	Third Day of the Holy Trinity
Wed	3	S Kevin, Abbot of Glendalough
Fri	5	Hieromartyr Boniface of Crediton
Sun	7	Pentecost 1, All Saints
Mon	8	Beginning of the Apostles' Fast
Tue	9	S Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria S Columba of Iona, Enlightener of Scotland
Thu	11	Holy Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas S Luke, Archbishop of Simferopol
Sun	14	Pentecost 2, All Saints of Britain S Justin (Popovich) of Serbia
Mon	15	S Lazarus, Prince of Serbia
Wed	17	S Botolph of Iken Martyr Nectan of Hartland, Devon
Fri	19	Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord
Sat	20	S Kallistos, Patriarch of Constantinople
Sun	21	Pentecost 3
Mon	22	S Alban, Protomartyr of Britain
Tue	23	S Etheldreda of Ely
Wed	24	Nativity of S John the Forerunner & Baptist
Sat	27	S Joanna the Myrrh-bearer
Sun	28	Pentecost 4, Commemoration Holy Apostles Peter & Paul
Mon	29	[Holy Apostles Peter & Paul]
Tue	30	Synaxis of the Holy Twelve Apostles

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