

+ Holy Orthodoxy: the Faith for all the human race +

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the UK & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 181 NOVEMBER 2011



WEEKDAY LITURGIES AT ST HELEN'S, 9.30 AM

Tuesday 8 November
ARCHANGEL MICHAEL & THE BODILESS HOSTS
Friday 25 November
GREAT MARTYR KATHARINE OF ALEXANDRIA
Wednesday 30 November
HOLY APOSTLE ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED

Orthodoxy in Basildon: one year old!

On 23 October, the feast of St James the Brother of the Lord, the Orthodox Mission to Basildon celebrates its first anniversary.

Our beloved community, which has grown steadily over the past twelve months, includes people from Britain, Cyprus, Greece, and Romania, with our ages ranging from under-one year to ninety years old.

We are blessed to have amongst us cradle Orthodox, native converts, catechumens and pilgrims on their way to the Holy Church, even young men interested in the Priesthood.

Recently we received a donation of a beautiful hand-painted icon of Christ.

Our hope is to move beyond once-monthly Divine Liturgy, commencing with (Reader-led) mid-monthly services in the near future.

Longer term, we pray for a church of our own, full-time clergy, Sunday Liturgies and a full calendar of services.

We remain deeply indebted to Fr Alexander, the Church Council and people of St Helen's - and to the Catholic community in Basildon, for their goodwill, generosity and support.

Please pray for us as we reach out to the people of South Essex that God's will may be done.

PAUL BRIGHTON-CROSS



Above: After a recent Orthodox Liturgy in St Basil's RC Church, Basildon. From left: Kh Hilary, Nectarios, George, Rdr Andreas, Fr Alexander, Paul, Susanna, Ann; front: Colin, Geanina & Antonio with Andrea & Cristina. Photo: Basildon Gazette.

IN YOUR PRAYERS REMEMBER THE CHRISTIANS OF SYRIA

Remember especially our fellow-members of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch under our Patriarch Ignatius IV. If and when the government falls, there could be extremely troubling times for our friends.

You are warmly invited to these talks

Fellowship of St Alban & St Sergius
Tuesday 1 November 7.30 pm, at St Helen's
Reader Andreas Moran

Discovering the Saints of Ireland

Recently Andreas and Lydia visited Ireland to see the beautiful country and the land of his forebears. Instead, they found a land of Saints.

Tuesday 6 December 7.30 pm, at St Cedd's RC Hall, Frinton
Fr Alexander: Orthodox & Anglicans talk together in Albania
Fr Alexander attended the recent International Anglican-Orthodox Dialogue. He talks of the Dialogue and also of the extraordinary resurrection of Christian life in that country from an atheist communist state.

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 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: Mattins 9.45 am (or Hours 10.15 am), Divine Liturgy 10.30 am

Confessions: Saturday 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: orthodox.colchester@ntlworld.com
Rdr Andreas Moran, 6 Woodlands, Welshwood Park CO4 3JA Tel: 01-206-865-697

The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418

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

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

At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am

At St Basil's Catholic Church, Luncies Rd, Timberlog Lane, Basildon
Divine Liturgy: usually first Saturday
Contact: Paul Brighton-Cross 01-702-305-527 orthodox.basildon@hotmail.co.uk

At University of Essex Chaplaincy Centre: Divine Liturgy: one Saturday per term 10.00 am

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| HOLY LITURGY |
| BASILDON |
| 5 Nov 11 am |
| UNIVERSITY |
| 12 Nov 10 am |
| CLACTON |
| 19 Nov 10 am |

interesting and (above all) holy St Helen's Chapel - according to ancient tradition built by St Helen herself for her prayers, and where she would also have brought her young son St Constantine.

May the prayers of those two great Saints guard and protect this building and maintain it for centuries ahead for the pure worship of Holy Orthodoxy.

God bless you all.

Father Alexander

Here and There

ARCHBISHOP JOHN: I understand that His Eminence is likely to be out of commission (after breaking his leg) until Christmas. The Archbishop has texted recently that he hopes to visit St Helen's on his next trip to the UK: this is excellent news. Nothing has yet been announced about the activity of the three new Assistant Bishops in Europe, though I believe they are now all in the Archdiocese.

CASSOCKS (rasons) come and cassocks go, like all clothes part of the ever-changing nature of life. So inevitably it came to the time when I really had to get another one. KYRIAKI MOWSKOVIA (LINGI), who generously made my earlier ones, has been unable to do it more recently. Therefore on my recent visit to Athens I was taken to a splendid shop with hundreds and hundreds of cassocks for sale—and decided to get two, one black and one blue, to keep me going for a while. I record the kindness of our friends and former students LAMBROS and DAREEN PSOMAS of Ancient Corinth, who insisted on making me a gift of one: I chose the blue one as their gift, and make that my 'best' one. My sincere thanks!

CHURCH RESTORATION: A certain amount of building work has just been completed on the roof and walls of St Helen's and on the Porch. It has been well done by the excellent firm Bakers of Danbury, which I have known for many years. Thankfully we are not bearing the cost - the Borough as landlord has the responsibility: we are only sub-tenants (see the item over-page). We are very grateful to the Council for their work on this ancient and wonderful building.

The People Column

ALEXIA LANSLEY (also known as Rena) has had a difficult time recently, falling in Greece and landing in hospital with a broken leg. She has now reached home in England after tremendous problems. Our very best wishes to her as she slowly recovers, and to PAUL as he cares for her.

ANN SCRIBNER of Thorpe Bay has also been in trouble, and we pray earnestly for her healing. She is an important member of our new Basildon congregation - a convert of very long standing, and really a member of Fr ALEXANDER FOSTIROPOULOS's parish in London. She appears in the photo overleaf.

FATHER STEPHAN CLOSE and his Khouria Annetta visited us to see Colchester and St Helen's recently. An American Antiochian Priest, he is serving as Wing Chaplain at the American Air Force base at Mildenhall in Suffolk. They saw a bit of Colchester and attended Saturday Vespers here. It was good to have them with us, and we hope to welcome them again, perhaps on a Sunday if they can make it, so that they can meet the congregation and share at the Holy Liturgy.

A Word from the Fathers

Enter into the Church and wash away your sins. For here there is a hospital and not a court of law. Do not be ashamed again to enter the Church; be ashamed when you sin but not when you repent. St John Chrysostom (+407)

Anglicans and Albania

I have just been all the way to Albania to meet Anglicans!

Not that there can be many Anglicans living in Albania: it was for this year's session of the official *International Dialogues* between Orthodoxy and Anglicanism, where I had the privilege of representing the Patriarchate of Antioch.

Having looked at difficult and sometimes divisive questions in the past, we are now examining so-called Christian anthropology—which in this context means, *What do Christians believe*



Meeting His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasius of Tirana

about the nature of being a human being? Or, as we might put it, What is Man?

The subject is of vital importance in the modern world, since our answer to the question will affect many practical matters like human rights, ecology, imprisonment, and bio-ethics.

This year we were the guests of the Albanian Orthodox Church. This Church - like all other religions - was brutally (and supposedly totally) suppressed under the dictator Hoxha. No expression of any religion at all was permitted in public or private life.

But after the fall of communism about 1990 the Church was able to re-establish herself, and the story of that has been extraordinary. It has been led by His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasius, remarkably a Greek, yet enjoying wide respect in that mainly Muslim country. Relations with Muslims are good.

He has been able to achieve a huge amount - rebuilding churches, establishing schools, clinics, etc and a university. More especially he has rebuilt the Orthodox Christian community there, and it now seems very active and lively.

We stayed in the seminary or theological academy for training clergy and lay people: it has trained over 400 Priests now serving their Church and country. It has lovely premises and was very hospitable.

At its heart, on top of a hill, is the church of St Vlash, the focal point and the main Saint for Albanian Christianity: it was totally destroyed by the communists.

We had fruitful discussion about many basic subjects, and hope in our next session to begin to consider the practical outcome of our common thinking—and it did prove 'common thinking', because there was little disagreement between Anglican and Orthodox on these subjects.

It will be interesting to see how far there

can be agreement in future sessions on practical questions. It is important to remember that in spite of all the important *disagreement* we have with Anglicans on very great issues, there are yet vast areas of theological thinking where we are in *agreement*.

On the Sunday of the conference we went to the old restored Cathedral in Tirana. Metropolitan Kallistos (Orthodox Chairman) presided, with Bishops and Priests, including me, concelebrating.

Then we visited the brand-new, not-yet-in-use Cathedral, and a Church-funded clinic with the very latest equipment, serving people of all faiths. We also visited the national museum, and the old



His Grace Bishop Ilija, who (though living mostly in America) is Dean of the St Vlash seminary and represents the Church of Albania on the Dialogue, with children at the home beside the seminary.

city of Kruje, where we saw the museum in honour of Scanderbeg, a great 15th century Albanian hero.

Our discussions did prove tiring, but their atmosphere was good, and the warmth of welcome by the Albanian Orthodox Church was great.

So it was a lovely and fruitful week in a land and Church come to life again, resurrected, after so terrible a period under the communists. God bless Albania!

NOVEMBER DAYS

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| Tue 1 | Unmercenary Cosmas & Damian of Mesopotamia S David the Ascetic of Evia |
| Thu 3 | S Winifred of Holywell, Wales |
| Sun 6 | Pentecost 21 |
| Mon 7 | S Willibrord, Archbishop of Utrecht, Apostle of Frisia |
| Tue 8 | Synaxis of Archangel Michael & the Bodiless Powers |
| Wed 9 | S Nektarios (Kephala), Metropolitan of Pentapolis |
| Thu 10 | S Arsenios of Cappadocia |
| Fri 11 | S Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours, Martyr Menas of Egypt |
| Sun 13 | Pentecost 22, S John Chrysostom |
| Mon 14 | Holy Apostle Philip of the Twelve |
| Tue 15 | BEGINNING OF THE NATIVITY FAST |
| Wed 16 | Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew |
| Thu 17 | S Hilda, Abbess of Whitby |
| Sun 20 | Pentecost 23, Parish celebration of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple |
| Mon 21 | [Entry of the Mother of God] |
| Wed 23 | S Alexander Nevsky |
| Thu 24 | Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome |
| Fri 25 | Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria S Clement of Ohrid, Enlightener of the Bulgarians |
| Sat 26 | S Stylianos of Paphlagonia, Protector of Children |
| Sun 27 | Pentecost 24 |
| Wed 30 | Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called |

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