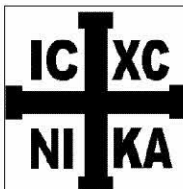


Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Archdiocese of the BI & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 213 OCTOBER 2014



WEEKDAYS IN OCTOBER
9.30 am HOLY LITURGY

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER

ST OSYTH, QUEEN OF ESSEX & NUN

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER

HOLY APOSTLE JAMES THE LORD'S BROTHER

Prayer and talk in the Holy City....

Well: I am just back from Jerusalem, my first visit for 25 years: how changed it is! Now it is a vast city with great blocks of apartments, all looking smart and new. Stretching everywhere.

Everywhere from Tel Aviv airport near the coast of the Mediterranean all the way up to the City, great blocks of housing. All the way out to Bethlehem, building, building, building.

The other change in that context that I noticed was the absence of donkeys! Even the narrow and difficult streets of the Old City have no donkeys. Some small electric vehicles have replaced the animals, though not presumably in the streets with steps.

But what about that huge wall now running all over the place to keep Palestinians out of Jewish parts?

The wall of division is overwhelming, intimidating. It is clear that the Palestinians (many Christian), are suffering from oppression. It is obvious that the Israelis would like them all to leave for America or somewhere, so that the whole land could belong to Israel. Also, many Muslims would like the Christians to leave: Poor Christians! Poor Middle East!

I was not there however for political education. Nor even for pilgrimage.

I was there for the official Dialogue of the worldwide Church with the world-wide Anglican Church.

These conversations have been going on since 1973 – with various members over the years of course.

In 2004 I was asked to represent the Church of Antioch and have been in Ethiopia, Cyprus, Lambeth, Crete, Oxford, Albania, Chester, Serbia and now Jerusalem. Really my only qualification is that having once been an Anglican priest, I

HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
18 October
10.00 am
St Demetrius
Commemoration
of the Dead

know both sides of the divide.

Since 2009 we have been working on the big subject of ethics or morals - or 'Christian Anthropology' as they

call the subject. We are dealing with the basic subject of *What is Man? The Image and Likeness of God.*

This is a vast subject, but we are now nearing the end of drafting a Statement which we will finish next year (alas, we did not quite manage it this time!)

After that, it is envisaged that there will be work on subjects such as medical ethical ones, though I will not be there that long.

The Orthodox party is led by Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, the well-known English Orthodox bishop and theologian.

Other members include Metropolitans Chrysostomos of Kition, Nifon of Tirgovisti, and Seraphim of Zimbabwe. There are priests from Moscow and USA and lay theologians from Greece and Serbia.

Among the Anglicans are Archbishops, Bishops, priests, and lay people: Rowan Williams has joined us again on his retirement.

It is all very 'jolly' and we get on well. The Orthodox are careful to remain faithful to the Holy Orthodox faith.

We did have the joy and privilege of being present at the night Liturgy in the Holy Resurrection (Sepulchre) church and Vespers at Bethlehem. I have brought a lamp to hang in St Helen's - the Bethlehem Lamp, we shall call it.

I prayed for you all and your needs in Jerusalem and in Bethlehem and have a card and cross for you.

Father Alexander



ST OSYTH IS OUR LOCAL MARTYR. She was Queen of Essex in the 7th century, but gave up court life to live as a simple nun at the women's Monastery she founded at the mouth of the River Colne as it opens into the Blackwater estuary. The village, near Clacton, is today called St Osyth. She was killed by Danish pirates about the year 700. They came up the St Osyth Creek, ransacked the Monastery and killed the Holy Nuns. We shall celebrate her on her feast, Tuesday 7 October, with a Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am.

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*

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

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

Over 300 people call at St Helen's for National Heritage Day

National Heritage Day is in fact *two* days every September. Local people and visitors are allowed to visit many interesting places in the locality free of charge, thus allowing residents to get to know their heritage—which many of us neglect.

This year we had good weather, and many people turned out. Thomas-Martin Grob assisted me and was very valuable, and we recorded 227 visitors on Saturday (10-4) and 83 on Sunday (12.30-4).

This was a very valuable, for not only did people see a building of great interest and importance in the long life of Colchester, but it also gave them a small introduction to our Holy Orthodox Faith.

On Saturday, some of these included people calling for the *Ride and Stride* day, which raises money for funding building needs in Essex churches.

Among the callers were two organised groups under our friend local historian PATRICK DENNEY. A third group was composed of members of the Colchester Chamber Choir, who immediately broke into song with the Hymn to the Mother of God from Rachmaninov's Vespers. It was a magnificent sound, not sung for any audience, but just for the glory of singing to God.

I told them that if we had a bigger church I would have invited them back to sing to people as well as to God!

Here and There

CHURCH COUNCIL: The Church Council meets on Sunday 5 October at 1.00 pm. Among decisions that need to be made is, with reference to security of course, the installation of CCTV.



FELLOWSHIP OF ST ALBAN & ST SERGIUS: The dates for the two meetings of the local branch this season are Tuesday 4 November and 2 December.

CHURCH CHOIR: HELEN LAWRENCE has taken on as Choir Director, and I am very grateful to her. It removes the burden from Khouria HILARY, who took on the job again from TOM CARTER. Doubtless she will continue to give support. Helen trained in music, so knows the subject well (so did her husband PETER). Now she is learning all about the intricacies of Orthodox chant! We wish her well in her responsible position, and thank her for taking it on.

A Word from the Fathers

Our fathers were firm and unbending in the faith they received as their inheritance.

They preserved it pure and unaltered, and passed it on to us whole and intact, as it issued from the mouths of the first servants of the Word.

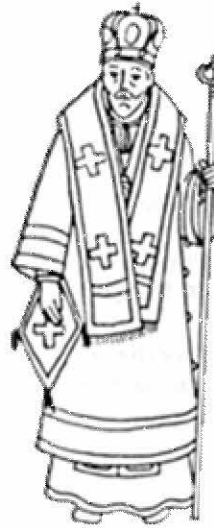
We too will pass it on to future generations in exactly the same form in which we received it.

- The Eastern Patriarchs in their Encyclical to All Orthodox Christians, 1848

The People Column

THE REVD DR JOHN TURNER has been a friend to this parish since its foundation. A retired Anglican priest, he is a long-standing member of the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius, and Chairman of our local branch. A scholar, he is an expert on St Simeon the New Theologian, who is an important Father of the Orthodox Church. We were delighted to be invited to share Fr John's 90th birthday celebration lunch on the feast of the Dormition at a hotel in Frinton, with his son and daughter-in-law and many guests. He is remarkably fit and still rushes around at a great pace. Many years to him!

IAN (JOHN) LAWRENCE has started at the Colchester Sixth Form College, joining his sister RUTH and leaving his other sister JANE (Joanna) at St Benedict's. We wish him, and them all, well in their studies.



Our Holy Synod meets....

The Holy Synod is the governing body of an autocephalous (self-governing) Orthodox Church. In the Church of Antioch, to which this parish belongs, the Synod consists of His Beatitude the Patriarch and their Eminences the Metropolitans of the Church.

Most of these have their respective flocks in Lebanon and Syria, with others in neighbouring countries. Some have their flocks in North, Central and South America, Australia, and Europe. (Of course they are *all* Bishops, but those called 'Bishop' in Antioch are in fact *Assistant* Bishops to the Patriarch or Metropolitans, though there is a different system in North America.)

These Metropolitan Bishops - in Antioch they are also called *Archbishops* - meet twice a year, and their next meeting is early this month.

We are hoping that this time they will actually elect the first Archbishop for "the British Isles and Ireland", as our new Diocese is called.

Our Diocese was formed by the Synod at their meeting in October last year, along with other new dioceses of Germany and Central Europe and of France and Western Europe. Immediately they appointed Archbishops for these. However, they did not elect one for us, who need Episcopal care as much as any Diocese.

A Bishop is a father and pastor and overseer of all this flock, but obviously especially of his clergy, who need someone to turn to, not only when things get sticky (though particularly then!), but also when things are going well.

Pray that we may be given a true and devout Bishop this month.

Glory to God:

Glory to God

Glory to God:

OCTOBER DAYS

Wed 1	Protection of the Mother of God
Fri 3	Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite, Bp of Athens
Sun 5	Pentecost 17
Mon 6	Holy Apostle Thomas
Tue 7	Holy Martyr Osyth, Queen of Essex & Nun
Thu 9	Holy Apostle James, the son of Alphaeus
Fri 10	S Paulinus, Bishop of York & Rochester
Sat 11	Apostle Philip of the Seventy, the Deacon S Ethelburga, first Abbess of Barking
Sun 12	Pentecost 18, Commemoration of the Fathers of the Seventh Council, S Wilfred Bp of York, S Simeon the New Theologian, S John of Riga
Tue 14	S Paraskeva whose relics are at Iasi, Romania
Thu 16	Martyr Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the Cross
Sat 18	Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke, S Demetrius Commemoration of the Departed
Sun 19	Pentecost 19, S John of Kronstadt, S Frideswide of Oxford, Abbess
Mon 20	S Gerasimus the New Ascetic, of Cephalonia
Thu 23	Holy Apostle James the Brother of the Lord
Sat 25	S Tabitha, the widow raised from the dead by S Peter
Sun 26	Pentecost 20, Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-streaming of Thessalonica
Fri 31	SS Spyridon & Nicodemus the Prophora-bakers of the Kiev Caves

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