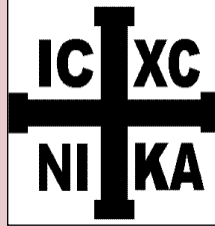


Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 235

OCTOBER 2016



SPECIAL DAYS AT ST HELEN'S

HOLY LITURGY 9.30 AM

THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER

HOLY APOSTLE THOMAS

TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER

ST ETHELBURGA OF BARKING

TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER

HOLY APOSTLE & EVANGELIST LUKE

In the land of St Patrick

Ireland is a land rich in beauty, in its Celtic culture, in its Orthodox saints. I have known that, I suppose, all my life. Now I have experienced just a little of it.

I was there on Church business at the end of September, privileged to represent the world-wide Church of Antioch in Orthodox discussions with the world-wide Anglican Communion.

Last year the Dialogues produced a report, *In the Image and Likeness of God*, called *The Buffalo Statement*. It has not taken the world by storm, but I do believe it to be a very good account of the Christian belief that you and I are made in God's image, and that if we have lost our *likeness* to God, we are still essentially in his *image*. [This nicely-produced and readable report is available on the Church Bookstall at £5.00.]

This year we have begun on the work of spelling that belief out in practice, considering together tremendous but delicate subjects: what should be the Christian attitude to moral problems like bioethics - gender manipulation, organ transplants, abortion, 'three-parent' children, etc, etc.

These discussions are very important in everyday life, and everyone needs help to think about them. Societies and their authorities need help in making laws about them. Clergy need help in teaching their faithful, The faithful need help in casting their votes in elections. Scientists need help in the right way to direct their extraordinary skills.

So I believe this work is worthwhile. We do not think our work is leading to any form of union with the Anglicans. But for two communions of Christians together to think through such problems can be a help to them and to world society.

The discussions this year took place in **Armagh**. This small city in Northern Ireland is very close to the border. Both the Anglican Archbishop Richard (our host) and the Catholic Archbishop Eamon have their cathedrals there, for it is where St Patrick made his base for the evangelisation of the island in the fifth century, and they are his successors as Primates. The Anglican cathedral is the ancient one of course, where St Patrick's cathedral was, on a very steep hill in the centre of the city. The fine 19th-century RC one is close by on another hill-top.

The two Archbishops are good friends, the RC one coming to greet us when we opened our proceedings. Anglicans are thought of as Protestants, and the two Archbishops are considered the respective leaders of the two sides. They feel a responsibility in promoting peace between the two groups.

There is continuing need for reconciliation, but it was encouraging to see also that the ordinary people want not only justice for their own community but also peace between them.

On all sides reconciliation is widely seen as to be found in the great Apostle of Ireland, St Patrick himself. He of course is an Orthodox saint as much as a Catholic or Protestant one, living well back in the period of a united Christendom, East and West.

The Anglicans gave generous hospitality throughout our stay. This included a lovely coach tour around the eastern sea-coast of County Down, "where the [magnificent] Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea".

There we made a pilgrimage to the isolated church at **Saul** where St Patrick first built a church and where he returned to die, and to **Downpatrick** cathedral,

Children of St Helen

For Pre-school & Primary children
with a parent

First Saturday of the month:

1 October, 5 November, 3 December

11.00 am—noon

in St Helen's Chapel

Contact Sanja 01-206-762-553 or Silvia 01-206-835-715

See the article in September Newsletter



where he was buried, and the St Patrick's Centre there which gives a lot of information and is a place of unity.

At his burial place Archbishop Richard blessed and presented us each with a small reproduction of the fine 10th-century High Cross of Monasterboice.

I must also confess that they gave us a magnificent dinner that evening at what must be the grandest hotel in the district, the Victorian Slieve Donard, facing the highest mountain (slieve) in Northern Ireland, across the sea-lough.

I was also able privately, on my first time in the "Emerald Isle", to visit the "fair city" of **Dublin**, capital of the Republic of Ireland, to see the wonderful Book of Kells - a beautiful and fine copy of the Holy Gospels probably copied about the year 800 in the Monastery of Iona, a real Irish treasure.

For my family history, I was able complete my visit to Dublin by visiting the Barracks where two of my great-great-grand-fathers probably served during the Napoleonic wars, and the Kilmainham Royal Hospital, where one was pensioned off.

And in **Belfast**, capital of Northern Ireland, I visited the fine Parliament Buildings at Stormont, where (years before its building,, on the farm of cousins) my grandparents had their honeymoon.

Altogether I had a really wonderful time in Ireland, discussing very important subjects, and praying in places that are holy indeed for every Orthodox.

St Patrick, pray to God for Ireland, for us and all divided Christians. God bless you all.

Father Alexander

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 Balkeine 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, Holy 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 **Martin Gröb**, 21 Alexandra Road CO3 3DF Tel: 07-702-579-743

Churchwardens: **David Davies** 01-473-745-167 **Dusan Radunovic** 01-206-762-553

Orthodox Parish of St Helen Registered Charity No. 1134418

Bank Account: Sort Code 20-22-67 Account No. 50349364

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

HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
Saturday
15 October
10.00 am

Thank you indeed for your gift!

My apologies that this *Newsletter* is so late. That is because I wanted to tell of my trip to Ireland.

But the delay also gives me opportunity to express my thanks to you and my family for your generous surprise gift, when I returned, of a beautiful stole (epitachelion) in honour of my 20 years as an Orthodox Priest and for the kind words of Reader Andreas that came with it.

I feel it a great privilege to have served here and for so long—even though I admit that I would really like to be reduced to *assistant* Priest, with *another* to take responsibility where so much remains to be done by the grace of God and for his glory! **Fr Alexander**

The People Column

ALESIA SINZIANA IONESI, daughter of NICOLAE and ELENA of Abbey Field, has been baptised.

VLAD MIHAI LESPEZEANU, son of PETRU and CORINA of Ipswich, has also been baptised. *Congratulations and God's blessing on both the little ones.*

MARGARET HAIG has moved from Streatham in south London, to her own flat in Barking. Most of us would say Barking is in east London, but some claim it is still in Essex, and it is indeed in the *old* county of Essex. I am to bless her new home on 11 October, which happily is the feast of St Ethelburga, first Abbess of Barking in the 7th century. It is also appropriate that Margaret is now living there, since she is secretary of the *Barking Orthodox Pilgrimage*, of which Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia is Patron. We wish her much happiness there.

Here and There

NATIONAL HERITAGE DAY as usual brought in local people. Some 151 came on Saturday morning and afternoon, and 75 on the Sunday afternoon, **total 226**. Everybody seemed very happy to be here: it was a joyful weekend. I was very grateful to Readers ANDREAS and MARTIN, and GEORGE HARRISON for helping with welcoming our visitors, and explaining the building and a little about Holy Orthodoxy.

Bath Orthodox Parish seeks help to fund a new church

The Bath Orthodox parish of St John of Kronstadt was founded by my dear friend Father Yves Dubois in 1981, I think, and though he is still around, the Parish Priest now is Father Seraphim Johnson. Over the years the parish has worshipped in a chapel in Fr Yves' house and in local churches they have been able to rent.

Now they have issued an appeal for funds to buy Holy Trinity Church, Queen Square, in the centre of the city.

As many will know, Bath is a magnificent World Heritage site. I had the privilege to be the Anglican Rector of Holy Trinity from 1978 to 1989, and we were very happy there. When we arrived we had just been married, and our three children were born in Bath.

Outside, it must be admitted, the building is not particularly beautiful, but *inside* it is very lovely indeed. It would make a splendid temple for Orthodox worship.

I know that as a fact, since the Orthodox parish used to borrow it for 'big' services. Both His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos and His Eminence the late Metropolitan Antony preached or officiated there at various times. It is in a prominent position and would be a great advertisement for Holy Orthodoxy to the residents and many visitors.

The Orthodox parish was very dear to us when we were in Bath. The Haig family were very much part of its outer circle: we and our children were always welcome there. Later on



our son, now Deacon Alexander, returned to study at the University of Bath, and worshipped there for three years. Hilary and I have been back with them on several occasions.

I should also note for you that Father Yves and his parish were very helpful indeed, financially and otherwise, in the setting up of this Colchester parish in 1995/6.

May I encourage you to support this appeal if you can, please? It would make a great setting for permanent Orthodox worship, being easily adaptable, and with all the ancillary rooms in the one building would make a fine centre for the worship and life of the Orthodox parish.

And I commend the appeal to your interest and prayers. You can contribute directly through the Appeal site:

<https://my.give.net/BathOrthodoxChurch>



ST JAMES THE LORD'S BROTHER was actually either Christ's step-brother or a cousin. He is venerated as the first Bishop of Jerusalem, and is mentioned in the New Testament. He himself was an Apostle but not one of the Twelve. He wrote the Epistle or Letter of St James, and presided at the first Council of the Church in Jerusalem, ruling the Church there for many years. He died a martyr's death, being thrown from the "pinnacle" of the Temple. He was clearly a wonderful and caring pastor of his flock, and was nick-named "James the Just". (Feast: 23 October)



This sign, so often seen in the Faith, is the CHI-RHO, the first letters of the Greek word (XP) for "Christ". Also shown here is the ALPHA AND OMEGA (AW), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet: the title for Christ our God.

A Word from the Fathers: St Ambrose of Milan (+397)

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints."

We are told to sing to the Lord a new song. A new man knows a new song. A song is a thing of joy and if we think carefully about it, a thing of love.

So the man who has learned to love a new life has learned to sing

a new song.

Therefore we need to be told the nature of this new life, for the sake of the new song.

For a new man, a new song and the new testament all belong to the same kingdom.

So the new man will sing a new song and belong to the new testament.

OCTOBER DAYS

Thu	1	Protection of the Holy Theotokos
Sun	2	Pentecost 15
Mon	3	Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite
Thu	6	Holy Apostle Thomas
Sun	9	Pentecost 16, Holy Apostle James
Tue	11	S Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, Apostle Philip of the Seventy
Sun	16	Pentecost 17, Fathers of the Seventh Council
Tue	18	Holy Apostle & Evangelist Luke
Wed	19	S John of Kronstadt
Sat	22	S Demetrius Commemoration of the Dead
Sun	23	Pentecost 18, Holy Apostle James the Lord's Brother
Wed	26	Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-flowing
Sun	30	Pentecost 19

A FULLER LIST OF THE MONTH'S FEASTS AND FASTS IS AVAILABLE