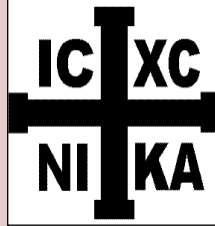


Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

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

NEWSLETTER 246

OCTOBER 2017



WEEKDAYS - HOLY LITURGY 9.30 AM

Friday 6 October

Holy Apostle Thomas

Wednesday 11 October

St Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking,

Holy Apostle Philip the Deacon

Wednesday 1 November

SS Cosmas & Damian of Mesopotamia

Saturday 7 October Children of St Helen 11 am

Where are we on church buildings?

That question is very difficult to answer, even as I write at the very end of September! Here is a summary after a recent meeting.

• **Holy Trinity, by the Library**

This is owned by the Borough but the Anglicans still have an 'interest' in it: thankfully, both are happy for us to have it.

This would be on a lease (not to own, certainly at present), if we pay £4,000 pa into a 'sinking fund'. But this depends on nobody else making a bid for it better in some way. We must also install heating and divide up the one large interior in a suitable way. It is a high-grade listed building, but the response to our plans so far is very positive and hopeful. All this will cost a great deal and plans are being prepared.

• **St Martin's, behind the Town Hall**

The Churches Conservation Trust, which, has been less than helpful over twenty years, has been helpful recently. Having agreed informally to buy it for £150,000 - if we can raise that amount in an appeal - we have now had suddenly to say that we would probably prefer Holy Trinity! Kindly they seem to accept our difficulty and are co-operative. But anyway they retain the right to sell it elsewhere for a good offer.

• **St Helen's, our home for 17 years**

It has been agreed with the Anglicans that we lease it for ten years at a rent of £2,000 pa, which could be increased after five years. The matter is with the lawyers, and will be signed when they are happy. We are not leaving here, and with a bigger church with no heating we shall use St Helen's in the winter at first.

• **So where does all this leave us?**

It means that we are going to have to hold ourselves in peace *until before Christmas*. If the Town Council decides we can have it, we could sign up with the high likelihood that we had the planning permission of both the Council and Heritage England.

All being well, we could be in Holy Trinity after matters are signed in the New Year, and can hope to *worship there from next Holy Week and Pascha*.

Lastly it means that all our Appeal planning has to be put on hold - my apologies to the Appeal Committee! Presumably we shall have some sort of fund-raising quite soon.

Happy days, I sigh! **Father Alexander**



His Eminence Silouan has had an operation. We were not aware of his illness until after the operation had taken place, and immediately sent a card with signatures of people in church. I imagine that he is convalescing at his home in Uxbridge, West London. At the time of going to press we have not had any news, though very concerned for him. Pray for his full and complete recovery. He does have some St George's Cathedral members nearby.



Thank you, Reader Martin!

By the time you read this Martin Gröb will, sadly for us, have moved away. Hungarian, he came here only four years ago as a seeker, and soon decided he wished to become Orthodox. Tamaz (Thomas) was chrismated in June 2014, taking the name Martin from the Saint born in his own land.

Soon he was training to be a Reader of the Church, and was tonsured as such in St Helen's

Chapel when Sayedna Silouan visited in May last year.

Happily, Martin is transferring to the Lincoln parish, where Fr Philip will be his parish priest. He has work in Lincoln. We wish him every blessing and hope to hear of him from time to time. We thank him for the great contribution he has made to the life at St Helen's, and will miss him very much. Many years!

• An icon of the Mother of God was presented to him, and a collection is being raised for him in the first half of October. **If you would like to contribute, donations may be handed to Paul Lansley.**

• Thanks to Seraphima for providing farewell drinks.



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. Nearest car-park NCP Nunns Rd. Very little street parking available.

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

Children of St Helen (Pre-school & Primary): first Saturday of month 11.00 am

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

Reader **Andreas Moran**, 6 Woodlands, Welshwood Park CO4 3JA Tel: 01-206-865-697

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

Children of St Helen: **Sanja Radunovic** 01-206-762-553 **Silvia Lefley**: 01-206-835-715

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

CLACTON
HOLY
LITURGY
Sat 21 Oct
10.00 am
St Dimitrios
Commemn
of the Dead

Here and There

MARRIED: Congratulations to DINOS and ANDREA YIASIMI, married in St Helen's in August. They will live in Norfolk and really worship at the Monastery, but expect to join us here from time to time. Many years!

MARRIED recently at Twelve Apostles Church in Hatfield were ANDREA KOKONAS, daughter of Maria of Clacton, and NATHAN LAND. Congratulations to them. Many years!

BAPTISED: MARIA (DARCY) BARLOW was baptised here in August. Her family is well known in Clacton, but she lives in Colchester. She is training to be a lawyer. Many years!

ALSO BAPTISED recently have been two little ones:

- The first is THEODORE WILSON, son of PETER and ANYA of Tolleshunt Knights. The baptism was in hospital when he was just 36 hours old, and he will need lots of love and prayers.
- The other child is MARY (EMILY) RICHARDSON, child of DAVID and OLGA BULKINA of Margaret Road.

God bless them both. Many years!

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE: Our pilgrimage in July was a very happy one. Only one car-load went, but the four of us all enjoyed it and found it profitable. We had a lovely sunny day, arriving to join the people from Lincoln just as the Holy Liturgy was beginning in St Seraphim's Chapel. We sat in the lovely new garden for lunch, and then went where we willed—our group went to the Anglican shrine, were anointed with water from the holy well and of course visited the Orthodox altar upstairs. Then we drove to Holy Transfiguration church in Great Walsingham, back through to the Catholic Slipper Chapel, all meeting up again for tea at St Seraphim's. Then we returned home. It was a prayerful and satisfying day.

NATIONAL HERITAGE DAY: Thank you to MARY, GEORGE, and PAUL for welcoming visitors. Attendance was: Sat morn 72; Sat afternoon 113; Sun afternoon 97; Total 282. That means that nearly 300 people had just a little encounter with Holy Orthodoxy. Pray that seeds planted may germinate!

CLEANERS: We still seek a cleaner or two for St Helen's, coming in a couple of times a month. We can pay a small amount.

SERVERS: We also need more servers for the Holy Altar, "young" or "younger" men who can be trained to deal with the incense etc.

CAR-PARKING: We got it worked out again only a couple of months ago, but frustratingly our use of Herrick House parking has been **stopped** already - but *not* from any misuse on our part. It means we are 'back to square one'. Sorry, drivers: I did try!



St Osyth, local Holy Martyr

St Osyth lived in the 7th century, when the Church in the West was Orthodox. Devout daughter of a Mercian prince, she married the Christian King Sighere of Essex, and bore him a son, but it seems that when the king returned to paganism she left him and became a nun on royal land at the place Chich, now called St Osyth, on the coast near Clacton. In her Monastery she and her disciple-nuns led a holy life, but eventually a Danish party of pirates came up the Creek and attacked them, martyring the nuns. The story ran that Osyth picked up her head and carried it to the Monastery, which was where the parish church stands today - not where the later (mediaeval) Monastery stood until the Reformation, when her relics were lost. She died about 700.

Feast: 7 October

Three Students keep in touch

It is one of the joys of our parish that we have young, fresh Orthodox blood in the persons of our University students, men and women. Within a few days three former students have been in touch with their news:

VLAD GHITA (Romania) was with us only a short time in 2013, when he needed help and Christ stepped in and provided it. He served on the Holy Altar when we were short, particularly over Holy Week and Pascha - some will remember his mother with us too. Since then he has graduated in Orthodox Theology in Bucharest, and is now teaching it in a high school there. He is due to start a PhD on questions of Christian understanding of Islam, bringing in St Gregory Palamas. He says, *My dream is to come and visit you....and sing again in the church of St Helen where I have my most beautiful memories.*

PETROS PETRIKKOS (Cyprus) served on the Holy Altar pretty well every Sunday, and other days too, in 2013-16. He has completed a year in law practice and hopes to work in legal translation work. He says, *I keep all of you in my thoughts. I will keep in touch.*

MATTHIAS (STEPHEN) HOYLE (USA) will not be known to you. He studied here only for one term, in 2016, and worshipped here only once. But he came to see me a number of times at the University and we got to know each other. Now he is finishing his degree at home, and writes: *There are moments when I can still hear the sounds of the city and see the fog of incense rising above the congregation during my visit at your parish. My time in England touched me very deeply, and I have you to thank for making that experience spiritually enriching.*

So many students whose company we have enjoyed, and remember now in prayer, some now from long ago: God bless them all!

**UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
Orthodox Students
Leaflet
available in the
Chaplaincy Centre
Square 2NE Level 3
or at St Helen's**

**CHURCH COUNCIL
Sunday 8 October
12.30 pm (note time)**

OCTOBER DAYS

Sun	1	Pentecost 17, Protection of the Theotokos
Tue	3	Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite, Bp of Athens
Fri	6	H Apostle Thomas, S Innocent, Apostle of America
Sat	7	H Martyr Osyth, Queen of Essex, Abbess of Chich
Sun	8	Pentecost 18, commemoration St Osyth
Mon	9	H Apostle James son of Alphaeus
Wed	11	S Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, H Apostle Philip of the Seventy, Deacon
Thu	12	S Edwin, King & Martyr, S Wilfred Bp of York, S Symeon the New Theologian, S John of Riga
Sat	14	S Paraskevi whose relics are at Iasi
Sun	15	Pentecost 19, Fathers of the 7th Council
Mon	16	Appearance of AAngel Michael (Mont Saint Michel)
Wed	18	H Apostle & Evangelist Luke
Thu	19	S John of Kronstadt, S Frideswide, Abbess of Oxford, Translation of Relics of S John of Rila
Fri	20	S Gerasimos the New Ascetic, of Cephalonia
Sat	21	S Dimitrios Commemoration of the Dead
Sun	22	Pentecost 20
Mon	23	H Apostle James, the Lord's Brother
Thu	26	Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher
Sun	29	Pentecost 21

A Word from the Fathers: St Gregory Pope of Rome (+604)

Pray the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Pray for us that we may work for you in a manner worthy of our vocation, that our tongue may never grow weary in the task of exhorting you, lest, after we have undertaken the office of preaching, our silence should condemn us in the sight of our just Judge.