

Holy Orthodoxy: Faith in Christ for the modern world

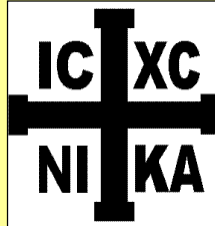
Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 256

OCTOBER 2018



WEEKDAY LITURGIES IN OCTOBER 9.30 AM

Wednesday 3rd St Dionysius the Areopagite

Thursday 11th St Ethelburga of Barking &

St Philip the Deacon

Friday 26th St Dimitrios the Myrrh-gusher

Concert in St James RC Church, Priory St Choir of St Elizabeth's Monastery, Minsk

FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER 7.00 PM

It will be good to have the Sisters here again, this time for us to hear them singing

a programme of liturgical and religious music.

No entry charge: donations invited for their charitable work.

Please support them—leaflets on Porch table

Order in the Church....

Any and every organisation must surely have its rules (written or unwritten) for what it considers right thinking and good behaviour. So does Holy Church, which maintains her beliefs and way of life down through the ages.

The very word Orthodoxy means right belief or right worship. It is entirely necessary to ensure that the Bishops and clergy teach and practise the true faith, which - right from the beginning of the Church's life - has saved both our predecessors in the Faith and ourselves for eternal life.

In the East there has been more emphasis on *the need to keep the true Faith*. In the West more on *the need to hold on to a unity* in organisation. Thus its emphasis on the place of the Pope of Rome and on his being the centre of its unity.

Of course both East and West really ask for both, while having differences on what is actually the true Faith.

In the West a further challenge to the understanding of Christianity grew in the sixteenth and succeeding centuries. The Protestants separated, mostly claiming that full truth could be found in the Holy Scriptures, and every individual seemingly having the right to decide what the Scriptures meant. This rather inadequate position has resulted in the hundreds of Protestant denominations there are today.

The Orthodox view of order and authority is different.

Here no individual, Pope or Patriarch, has ultimate authority over the Church. Nor do the Holy Scriptures, nor do the Fathers of the Church.

No, ultimate authority in the Orthodox Church is the living Spirit of God indwelling the

Church, **expressing its mind in the life of the Church taken as a whole.**

It is the Councils of the Church which decide what is the truth



Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

the Church believes and trusts in. The first Ecumenical Council was in AD 325, the last in AD 787, which we celebrate this month, on 14 October.

Their decisions may be said to be ratified by the continuing adherence to them of the whole Orthodox community (Bishops, Priests, and laity) over the centuries.

So for us Christ himself is The Authority over the Church, through his Holy Spirit.

That is why splits on matters of teaching are so uncommon over the years of the Orthodox Church's life.

We certainly sadly disagree over matters of everyday life - the sad split over Qatar between our own Patriarch and the Patriarch of Jerusalem, ongoing for several years now, is an example. Now we also have a split between Constantinople and Moscow over Ukraine.

It's sad, since all Orthodox certainly agree on the Faith.

Father Alexander

CLACTON HOLY LITURGY Sat 20 Oct St Dimitrios Commem of the Departed 10.00 am

A nice Appeal video appears on the Appeal website and Facebook page:

ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S

St Martin's is in West Stockwell Street, two minutes' walk from St Helen's, and close to the Town Hall

Raised so far: **£ 97,979** plus promises

- CHEQUES may be sent to the address below, made out to: *St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's*
- BANK TRANSFERS: use these codes:
IBAN: GB05BUK20226780219819
Bank Sort Code 20-22-67
Appeal Account No. 80219819
PAYPAL: available on the Appeal website
- APPEAL WEBSITE: orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk
- FACEBOOK: *St Martin's Appeal*

Please support us in providing an Orthodox parish church "for our children and our children's children" and also in restoring an important and

APPEAL GIFTS - *If you pay tax in the UK you can "Gift Aid" your donation and increase its value to us by 25%, at no cost to you! You can even do it on a donation already given. Just ask, and we can arrange it.*

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): normally first Saturday 3.15 pm

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

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 Appeal Account No: 80219819

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

Appeal Website: <http://orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk>

At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea C015 1LE

Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday of month 10.00 am (not August)

Sunday 14 October 7.30 pm
Evening of Poetry and Music
Colchester Arts Centre - St Mary on the Walls
£6.50 at the door
In aid of Colchester's homeless

Christian Aid Exhibition on the Displacement of Peoples

The uprooting and displacement of peoples is one of the major world problems of our generation. You may like to visit the Castle Methodist Church 6-11 Oct. to see a Christian Aid travelling photo exhibition on the subject. Sat & Mon-Thu: 9.30-3.00; Sun: 12.00-3.00.



ST OSYTH is a local saint. Her husband Sighere was king of Essex: he became a Christian, but apostatised. She then founded a holy monastery at the village of Chich, near Clacton, now called after her. A pious Queen (bearing a pious son who became St Offa King of Essex), she became a devoted nun, but was martyred by a raiding band of Danes about the year AD 700. Today there remain a fine mediaeval

gatehouse and bits of the late monastic buildings in the mansion house, but the site of the monastery of her day is the lovely parish church across the road. Her feast-day is 7 October.



Helen Charleston (Eleni Tsiarlestan) said goodbye to us recently after a year completing her master's degree. We shall miss her, for she came faithfully to worship here. We wish her *Many Years* as she returns to her home in Nicosia, Cyprus, and hope to have news of her from time to time.

Some of us saw **HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SILOUAN** at the Monastery on his name-day flying-visit for the feast of St Silouan. He seemed well, but he is to have one last small operation on 1 October (one day in hospital), and he hopes to be allowed to fly to Syria the next week for a rest. I reminded Sayedna that he has never yet visited us on a Sunday, and I think he hopes to come here before long, perhaps in March. We remember him in our prayers of course and ask his blessing.

BAPTISM: Congratulations to ALEXANDER BROWN, son of Stephen and Anna of Ipswich, who was baptised in September.

ADULTS are being baptised and/or chrismated on Sunday 28 October at 9.30 am, immediately before the Holy Liturgy. Do come early to support the candidates if you can. And it may interest you to witness adult baptisms.

CHURCH COUNCIL: The next meeting is on Sunday 7 October at 12.30 pm. Members may if desired chew a picnic while we discuss the affairs of the Parish (as long as they do it quietly!).

CHILDREN OF ST HELEN: The next session will be on Saturday 13 October at 3.15 pm.

ARCHIMANDRITE PHILIP, a good friend of this Parish, has been a Parish Priest in Lincolnshire for some years. Now he has been released to go to the Monastery of SS Antony and Clement away in the Shropshire countryside, near the Welsh border, where another

Here and There

friend of this Parish, Father SILOUAN, lived for many years (he has now returned to Essex, to Dunmow, and has worshipped with us at our Clacton Liturgies). Father PHILIP is hoping to gather a small community of men to live the monastic life with him, but also to develop an attractive mission there to adults and children. This will be the first Antiochian monastery in Britain, and will inevitably become a centre for the life of the Archdiocese. Please pray for this important initiative and for God's blessing on it.

BREAK AWAY: Khouria HILARY and I had a lovely few days away in the West Country in September, which was very refreshing. For a couple of nights we were near Portsmouth and Deacon ALEXANDER, Diaconissa MIHAELA and young ALEXANDER, and managed to visit my second cousin while there. Then we hopped off to Devon, visiting *en route* newly-

ordained Priest FILIP and his wife Khouria ANNAMEIKE to collect an icon of St Helen we had lent for display at the Poole parish (in a little Heritage-weekend exhibition on women saints) and to enjoy an excellent lunch with them. We stayed two nights in Sidford, the village where I grew up, visited a niece in Exeter, took my sister out to lunch for her birthday - at a hotel on Sidmouth sea-front - paid our respects at my parents' grave in beautiful Sidbury churchyard, and called on old friends in the village. Then we returned - via another old friend's birthday lunch - for a further night near our Alex. Leaving there, on our way home we called on the husband of my late cousin. So we did a lot, perhaps too much, but we enjoyed it all. The village of my later childhood is set in a small and most beautiful valley with some fine Devon-style houses. It did us a lot of good to be there again, and to have time with family and friends.

A Word from the Fathers on Icons

Icons... are to be kept in churches and honoured with the same relative veneration as is shown to other material symbols, such as the 'precious and life-giving Cross' and the Book of the Gospels.

- Fathers of the Seventh Council, AD 787, commemorated 14 October

Concerning the charge of idolatry: Icons are not idols but symbols, therefore when an Orthodox venerates an icon, he is not guilty of idolatry. He is not worshipping the symbol, but merely venerating it. Such veneration is not directed toward wood, or paint or stone, but towards the person depicted. Therefore relative honour is shown to material objects, but worship is due to God alone...

We do not make obeisance to the nature of wood, but we revere and do obeisance to Him who was crucified on the Cross...

When the two beams of the Cross are joined together I adore the figure because of Christ who was crucified on the Cross, but if the beams are separated, I throw them away and burn them.

- St John of Damascus, c. AD 676-749, the Father they followed

OCTOBER DAYS

- Mon 1 Protection of the Mother of God
- Wed 3 Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite
- Sat 6 Holy Apostle Thomas
- Sun 7 Pentecost 19, Martyr Osyth of Chich, Queen of Essex
- Mon 8 Virgin-Martyr Pelagia of Tarsus
- Tue 9 H Apostle James the son of Alphaeus
- Wed 10 S Paulinus, Bishop of York
- Thu 11 S Ethelburga, Abbess-Foundress of Barking
H Apostle Philip of the Seventy, the Deacon
- Fri 12 S Wilfred, Bishop of York, S Symeon the New Theologian
- Sun 14 Pentecost 20, Fathers of the Seventh Council
- Tue 16 Appearance of Archangel Michael at Mont S Michel
- Thu 18 H Apostle & Evangelist Luke
- Fri 19 S John of Kronstadt, S Frideswide, Abbess of Oxford
- Sat 20 S Dimitrios Commemoration of the Departed
- Sun 21 Pentecost 21
- Tue 23 H Apostle James, Brother of the Lord
- Fri 26 Gt Martyr Dimitrios the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica
- Sun 28 Pentecost 22