

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland
Archbishop-elect Silouan (Oner)

NEWSLETTER 223 SEPTEMBER 2015



WEEKDAYS AT ST HELEN'S

Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am as follows

Tuesday 1 Sept Church New Year,
St Simeon Stylites the Elder
Righteous Joshua the son of Nun

Tuesday 8 Sept Nativity of the Holy Theotokos

Exaltation of the Holy Cross will be observed on
Sunday 13 September

Mary's birth our hope!

Mary is conceived and born in the normal human way.

But this ordinary human action, with the loving obedience of this young girl and woman throughout her life, leads eventually to the supernatural birth of Christ our God in human flesh, and our salvation.

It shows what God can achieve through our human obedience.

We have to be faithful, and loving of God and our fellows, and then marvellous, God-directed, things can follow.

Our obedience in simple things may lead to God-inspired, God-directed events which can change the direction of the great or small ebbs and flows of life.

It gives hope to the small things in our life. We may think our way to be pointless. But every day may have great significance for the future glory of Mankind.

Father Alexander



Archbishop Silouan, first Antiochian Metropolitan of the British Isles & Ireland

* Sunday 30 August

Consecration as Bishop at his Monastery of St George in the Valley of the Christians in Syria

* Saturday 28 November 4.30 pm

Enthronement as Archbishop at his Cathedral of St George by Regents Park in London by His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X of Antioch and All the East

* Sunday 29 November

Patriarchal Holy Liturgy at the Cathedral of St George by Regents Park in London

Notes

1. A bus from Colchester will be arranged for the Enthronement on Saturday 28 November, which we trust will be well-supported by our people. Watch out for details.
2. A bus will also be arranged for Sunday 29 November, the Patriarchal Liturgy, if enough people ask for it—please let us know if you would like transport then.
3. The Patriarch was of course our Archbishop here for four years, and served the Holy Liturgy in St Martin's Church just after Holy Pascha in 2012. At that service he ordained Paul Brighton-Cross and Alex Haig as Readers. It will be good to see His Beatitude again in London.
4. Our new Archbishop asks that "prayers be offered for him to the Lord as he approaches his ordination that he might be accepted and given grace to become our bishop." He is very insistent that all the believers should receive this message at this time. It is also his earnest wish that as many people as possible would be able to come to his enthronement at the Cathedral in London.

5. The new Archbishop has changed the name of the Diocese slightly, to be as follows:
The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland.



Visit from St Elizabeth's Monastery in Minsk, Belarus

Tuesday 8 September

HOLY LITURGY
CLACTON
No Liturgy
in
September

One or two Sisters will come to sell their wares to support their various good works in Minsk such as work with alcoholics. There will be Holy Liturgy for the Nativity of the Mother of God at 9.30 am, and afterwards their stall will be open. It is several years since they last came to Colchester, so please come if you can.

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 Balkierne 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, 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

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

The Parish of St Helen is 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 10.00 am

Here and There

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP:

The Church Council has happily agreed to give 15% of the Parish's income to support the Diocese and the expenses of the new Bishop. At the recent Diocesan meeting in Manchester, attended by Fr Alexander and Treasurer David Davies, it was agreed that all parishes should be asked to do the same. Obviously there are going to be considerable expenses in housing and supporting His Eminence-to-be, though it is not envisaged that he will be provided with a palace and a Rolls Royce!

The meeting also asked that individual worshippers in our parishes should exercise a greater *Christian stewardship* of their money by Parish Councils once a year challenging their people to give more regularly and consistently. This principle is being considered by our Council, and will be debated at the October meeting.

OUR FUTURE AT ST HELEN'S: This is still under active consideration by the Church Council. You remember that our lease runs out in September 2016 and we have to decide (a) if we are to stay here; (b) if so, whether we should rent or purchase the Chapel.

ST THEODORE OF TARSUS came to England in the second half of the 7th century, aged 66. He was Archbishop of Canterbury, the first one that all Britain obeyed, says St Bede. He served until his death aged 87 in 690. He reformed the country and built the basic structures that led to the formation of one English people, also making an enormous and lasting impact on the life of the Christian Church in these islands. Though unknown in his home territory, he has always been widely venerated in Britain. He was adopted as the patron saint of the Antiochian Deanery and now Diocese, because Tarsus in his day was in the Patriarchate of Antioch, so he is a Son of Antioch. His feast is 19 September.



Icons for the Holy Doors

Mihai Morosan's icons installed

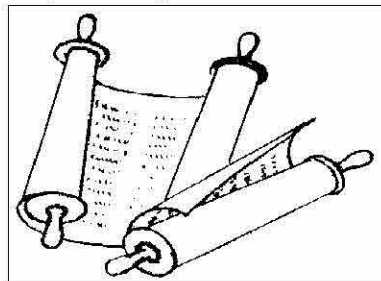
We express our sincere gratitude to Mihai Morosan of Suceava in Romania for his fine workmanship in the icons for the Holy Doors in St Helen's.

Mihai is a talented iconographer who has frescos in numbers of places, including Jerusalem, Nazareth, Putna (Romania), Cyprus and London. We are now very privileged to have his work here in Colchester, and look forward to having some more in due course.

His wife Traudi came to fit them, with their son Mihail, who is now preparing a PhD at the University, and worships with us.

Mihai's work and skill is of a high order and we express our thanks to God for them, especially since he generously presented them as a gift to us.

Our thanks also to our woodworker MIKE ROUSE of Clacton who would not charge for his part in fitting them.



A Word from the Fathers

When...Abba Antony thought about the depth of the judgments of God, he asked, 'Lord how is it that some die when they are young, while others drag on to extreme old age? Why are there those who are poor and those who are rich? Why do

wicked men prosper and why are the just in need?'

He heard a voice answering him, 'Antony, keep your attention on yourself; these things are according to the judgment of God, and it is not to your advantage to know anything about them.

St Antony the Great, 'the Father of Monks', about 251-357

The People Column

PRIEST-MONK PATRICK RAMSEY has been living in Colchester for a year, with a teaching post at Philip Morant School. He has now completed his contract there and taken a post at William de Ferrers School in South Woodham Ferrers (of which Anglican parish I was the first Vicar, many years ago). He has therefore moved to Ramsden Heath, and expects to be attached to Basildon parish. During this summer holiday he has been on the Holy Mountain. We wish him well in his new life, and also congratulate him on successfully completing his PhD thesis on ecclesiology (the study of the meaning of the Church) at the University of Winchester.

ATHANASIOS DIMISIORIS completed his first degree here 2010-13 and regularly attended worship here throughout; he went on to the London School of Economics. Recently he looked in at St Helen's to tell us he had completed his diploma at LSE and is looking for a post. You will remember him as the 'very tall' young man of Greek and Austrian parents.

ARCHBISHOP PAUL OF ALEPPO is still missing. Recently there was a newspaper report that he and the Syrian Orthodox Archbishop Yohunna had been murdered soon after their capture, but this has not been verified and so we still hope and pray they may eventually be found alive.

CHURCHWARDEN DUSAN RADUNOVIC and his wife Professor SANJA BAHUN and their son IAKOV have left their flat near St Helen's and moved over to a house on the old Garrison. We wish them well in their new house.

THE THREE ALEXANDERS pictured recently at Colchester. Deacon Alexander and Diakonissa

Mihaela brought their youngster for a week, and Dad served with Grandpa on the Sunday of the Dormition and the



feast of St Helen. Deacon Alexander has moved this term from teaching in an independent school back into the state sector.

SEPTEMBER DAYS

Tue	1	Church New Year , Righteous Joshua, son of Nun
Fri	4	H Prophet Moses the God-seer
Sat	5	Prophet Zacharias & Righteous Elizabeth, parents of the Baptist
Sun	6	Pentecost 14, Commemoration of the Miracle by Archangel Michael
Tue	8	Nativity of the Holy Theotokos , S Ina King of Wessex & Queen Ethelburga
Wed	9	Righteous Forebears of God Joachim & Anna
Fri	11	S Deiniol Abbot of Bangor & Bishop of Clwyd
Sun	13	Pentecost 15, Sunday before Exaltation
Mon	14	Universal Exaltation of the Life-giving Cross
Wed	16	S Ninian, Bishop of Whithorn, Scotland
Thu	17	Martyr Sophia & her daughters Faith, Hope & Charity
Sat	19	S Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, Patron of our Archdiocese
Sun	20	Pentecost 16, Sunday after Exaltation
Wed	23	Conception of H Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist John
Thu	24	S Silouan of Athos H Protomartyr Thekla, Equal to the Apostles
Fri	25	S Sergius & Wonderworker, of Radonezh
Sat	26	H Apostle & Evangelist John the Theologian
Sun	27	Pentecost 17
Mon	28	S Lioba of Wimborne, Abbess of Bischofsheim

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