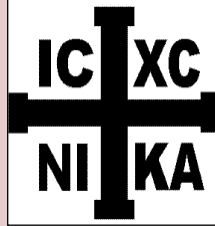


+ Holy Orthodoxy: a glorious Faith, ever-old, ever-new! +

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

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

NEWSLETTER 245 SEPTEMBER 2017



WEEKDAY SERVICES

HOLY LITURGY 9.30 AM

Friday 8 September

Nativity of the Holy Mother of God

Thursday 14 September

Exaltation of the Holy Life-giving Cross

Tuesday 19 September

St Theodore of Tarsus & Canterbury, Patron of our Archdiocese

Tuesday 26 September

St John the Theologian

All our churches up in the air!

We had a very good and helpful meeting with the Churches Conservation Trust in London on a Friday early in August, with reference to St Martin's, getting things clearer and more organised.

I returned home that day, had something to eat, and opened the *Essex County Standard*.—**Everything suddenly fell apart:** all that we had arranged that morning, all that our own Church Council, our Buildings Committee and our Appeal Committee had discussed for many hours, and worked on privately, at that moment was all challenged.

For in the paper it was revealed that Holy Trinity Church in Trinity Square, beside the Public Library, was going to be vacated by its present users. We had several times made efforts to obtain it and each time without success. Now it might be available to us—and on easier terms than St Martin's!

I emailed Borough Councillor Tim Young, responsible for such matters, to express our interest again. Our Church Council Secretary also emailed the Council officer.

To our joyful surprise we have not been rebuffed by the Borough, but have been invited to a meeting, though not until the middle of September.

It is an unfortunate wait since it means a number of bodies and individuals are now held up about what to do:

- Ourselves and all the arrangements for the Appeal, which was to have been launched, we expected, at the end of September.
- The Churches Conservation Trust, owners of St Martin's.
- The Church Commissioners, since they have an important role in the sale of St Martin's.
- The Borough Council.
- Some generous people who have offered to help in one way or another.

I must therefore apologise to everybody concerned and ask their patience in awaiting some outcome.

In the end Holy Trinity may prove better for our Parish. Or it may not: we could still be going for St Martin's.

We hope to have something definite to report after Friday 15 September.

Please pray that God's Holy Will may come about, that he may be praised and glorified. *That will be a blessing to us all!*

Father Alexander



ELEVATION OF



THE CROSS on the Sunday after Holy Cross 17 September at the end of the Holy Liturgy

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 Balkerne Hill), to Northgate; go straight along St Peter's Street to Castle Park; continue round the bend, up into Maidenburgh Street. We may park cars out of office-hours in Herrick House car park, a few metres beyond the church.

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): 1st Saturday 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

Reader & Sacristan **Martin Gräß**, 21 Alexandra Road CO3 3DF Tel: 07-702-579-743

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

ST HELEN'S CHAPEL
 The lease on St Helen's is with the lawyers, so (to date) none of our

prayer for the future is fully answered. Metropolitan Silouan has asked me to make clear that we are NOT 'leaving St Helen's', but are committed to

it at least for some years - we hope for ever: *It's too precious to lose*, he says.

ST MARTIN'S/HOLY TRINITY

The last sentence of our prayer remains vital:

And if it seemeth good to Thee O God that we establish another holy house for the worship of Thy majesty, guide us to fulfil Thy holy will.

CLACTON HOLY LITURGY Saturday 16 Sep 10.00 am

Here and There

ANDREAS JOANNOU lived in sheltered accommodation in Stanway and when he came to church arrived late, with his stick and often with a bunch of flowers. He and his family generously paid for the Parish Icon of St Helen, and he had always wanted to present a lamp to burn in front of it. He achieved this just at the end of his life, bringing it from Cyprus actually to church just a few weeks before his death—sadly he then went into Harwich hospital and never saw the lamp in position. Our sympathy to his family including **GEORGIA JOHNSON**. Memory eternal!

WITH US AT CLACTON recently (staying with Auntie **ELENA KANAAR**) were Veronika and Mikhail Davidove-Romanenko from Minsk in Belarus. It was good to have them with us. *Photo: Jon Kanaar*



CLEANERS: We are grateful to **OANA** and **COLIN STAFFORD** for cleaning St Helen's until recently. They have had to give up through busyness of life, and we are looking for replacements. Offers from anybody?

KHOURIA HILARY celebrated her 3/4 century in August, and we spent the day with our **MARGARET** in London. We had coffee in the cafe of the Bayswater Hilton, a walk in Kensington Gardens, a visit to the splendid Palace (which neither of us had ever been into before), a visit to the renewed Dormition Russian Cathedral in Ennismore Gardens, a rest in St James' Square (where my mother worked as a young woman) and tea (at the expense of our children) at Fortnum and Masons. In fine weather, it was a lovely day out.

MIHAI and **EKATERINA PAVEL**, now living in Greenwich, attended St Helen's recently. We were delighted to see them again and thank them for their kind gifts of roses for Khouria Hilary and, for the church, an icon of St Nectarius, with its inscription in Romanian.

A Word from the Fathers: Our Lady's Birthday, 8 September

Justifiably then is the mystery of this day to be celebrated, since a double gain will be ours if we do so: we shall be led towards the Truth, and we shall be led away from a life of slavery to the letter of the law. How will this be? Clearly, inasmuch as the shadow yields to the presence of the light, and grace introduces freedom in place of the letter.

The present feast stands on the border between these: it joins us to the Truth instead of signs and figures, and it brings

in the new in place of the old. Let the whole creation therefore sing praise and dance and unite to celebrate the glories of this day. Today let there be one common feast of those in heaven and those on earth. Let everything that is, in the world and above the world, join together in rejoicing.

For today a Shrine is built for the Creator of the universe. The creature is newly made ready as a divine dwelling for the Creator.

St Andrew of Crete (+ 740)



We had a lovely bring-and-share picnic lunch on 20 August in honour of the Repose of St Helen, our Summer Feast, followed by Veneration of the Relics of the True Cross and St Helen. *Photo: Thea Harrison*

Theodore came a long way to come to England in the 7th century. . . .

St Theodore (one of many saints of that name) was born in Tarsus in Asia Minor, then in the Church of Antioch, in 304. Greek-speaking, he studied in Antioch and Syriac-speaking Edessa. After the Arab invasion of the province he left home and continued his studies in Constantinople and Athens.

Later he went on to Rome, and in his late sixties was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in the Isles of the British, particularly for the English people who had taken control of much of the south of Britain.

He brought order and sound teaching to Britain. He organised the dioceses of the English, and brought a unity of purpose to Church and Nation, bringing together the separate Saxon, Celt and Irish strains.

A highly intelligent and learned man he organised a school not only of Orthodox theology, but also of sciences, law, and languages. A number of bishops were educated there.

His example of holiness and fidelity, of humility and justice, were highly influential in the English Church of the seventh century. He died on 19 September 690.

A son of the Church of Antioch who came to Britain all those centuries ago, he was (although unknown in his native lands) the obvious choice as Patron of the Antiochian Church in these Islands in the 21st century.



SEPTEMBER DAYS

Fri	1	Church New Year , Righteous Joshua son of Nun
Sun	3	Pentecost 13 , S Phoebe of Kenchreai (Corinth)
Mon	4	H Prophet & God-seer Moses
Tue	5	H Prophet Zechariah & Righteous Elizabeth
Wed	6	Miracle of S Michael at Colossae
Fri	8	NATIVITY OF HOLY THEOTOKOS
Sat	9	Synaxis of R Forebears of God Joachim & Anna
Sun	10	Sunday before Holy Cross
Wed	13	Dedication of Church of H Resurrection (Sepulchre)
Thu	14	EXALTATION OF LIFE-GIVING CROSS
Sat	16	S Ninian, Bishop of Whithorn, Scotland
Sun	17	Sunday after Holy Cross
Tue	19	S THEODORE OF TARSUS & CANTERBURY, PATRON OF OUR ARCHDIOCESE
Sat	23	Conception of S John Baptist & Forerunner
Sun	24	Pentecost 16 , H Protomartyr Thekla, S Siluan of Athos, Patron of our Bishop
Mon	25	S Sergei, Wonderworker of Radonezh
Tue	26	H Apostle & Evangelist John the Theologian

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