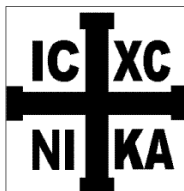


# Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the UK & Ireland  
NEWSLETTER 177

JUNE 2011



## WEEKDAY LITURGY AT ST HELEN'S

Thursday 2 June 9.30 am

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

Thursday 9 June 9.30 am

Wednesday 29 June 9.30 am

S Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria

Holy Apostles Peter and Paul

**ARCHBISHOP'S VISIT CANCELLED:** His Beatitude the Patriarch has called a Holy Synod at the end of June. Unfortunately the Archbishop's visit to this Parish has therefore had to be cancelled.

# Christ is gone up on high.....!

I have always loved Ascension Day, one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the year. When I was a church choirboy in Harrow in the north-west suburbs of London, on this day we had to get to church early before the 6.30 am Eucharist: we choir men and boys would first climb the church tower and from its summit would sing the rousing Ascension hymn, *Hail the day...* (see box). It was done really just for the glory of doing it, and of course at the end of each line we sang out an Alleluia with even greater force.

When we moved to Devon I was again a choir boy. There was no tower to the church, so we did not celebrate Ascension that way. The choir stalls faced each other, but we did turn to the east to recite the Creed, and there, spread out above us, was the Victorian stained glass of the east window, a great 'icon' of the Ascension. It simultaneously judged and loved us. Half a century later, long removed from it, in my mind's eye I see it still, and experience now the senses that came upon me through the years of standing beneath it, as choir boy and then server, for the Creed, and how powerful it really became on Ascension Day.

Examine the words of *Hail the day...* and the other much-loved English Ascension hymns, and you will find they are orthodox. They speak of the glory of God, of his magnificence, and yet also of his care for all mankind and especially for those who keep faith in him.

Even now I tremble at the wonderful words of this and others of those hymns, and pray that one day - perhaps far in the distant future - we Orthodox in these western lands will learn how to absorb into our tradition some of the enormous treasures that western Christianity has preserved or developed within itself. Sometimes their orthodoxy may be encased deep within other less orthodox things. But I certainly hope to be singing those Ascension hymns on Ascension Day in heaven (if God is merciful)!

They speak of the glory of the kingdom of heaven. They speak of the end of suffering, and the joy of bliss. They tell us that the reward of Christ's Passion and Death is not only Resurrection in this life, but also bliss in the world to come - for him, and for us also who follow in his way - *I go to prepare a place for you, he said.*

The Ascension is the ultimate reply of God to our complaint about the difficulties of our life, the sorrows of our earthly existence, the temptations to give up, to turn backwards, to think it was all better in the past, easier then to live the Christian life, to follow the Master. It guards us against the temptation (yes, the temptation!) to see all our hope in the terms of past events - great, essential, vital, as they are - of the Lord's Incarnation, of his ministry or teaching or Death or even his Resurrection.

The Ascension teaches us indeed to **base ourselves** upon those holy and pure truths, **but to look forward and upward**. To be positive about the direction of this world's fate, to see not only God's hand in past history, but also **God's future** for this world and us.

The Gospel shows that the future, eternity, is God's, and his alone. In looking to him and his purpose for mankind, for the world, we find **hope**.

God bless you, dear Friends, as you look to the glory of God in the future, towards his mercies, his rewards, and his blessings.

Father Alexander



Hail the day that sees him rise / Glorious to his native skies.  
Christ, awhile to mortals given, / Enters now the highest heaven.  
There the glorious triumph waits; / Lift your heads, eternal gates.  
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; / Take the King of glory in.  
See! He lifts his hands above; / See! He shows the prints of love;  
Hark! His gracious lips bestow / Blessings on his Church below.  
Lord, though parted from our sight, / Far above you azure height,  
Grant our hearts may thither rise, / Seeking thee beyond the skies.  
There we shall with thee remain, / Partners of thine endless reign;  
There thy face unclouded see, / Find our heaven of heavens in thee.

## 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 Street to Castle Park; continue round, up into Maidenburgh Street. Nunns Road NCP is the nearest car park.

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 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

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The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418

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

At St Basil's Catholic Church,  
Luncies Rd, Timberlog Lane, Basildon  
Divine Liturgy: usually first Saturday

At St James Anglican Church,  
Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea  
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am

At University of Essex Chaplaincy Centre: Divine Liturgy: one Saturday per term 10.00 am

### HOLY LITURGY

CLACTON  
18 June  
10.00 am

**BASILDON:** Holy Liturgy Saturday 4 June 10.00 am  
in St Basil's RC Church, Luncies Rd, off Timberlog Lane, Pitsea  
Contact: Paul Brighton-Cross 01-702-305-527 [orthodox.basildon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:orthodox.basildon@hotmail.co.uk)  
From July: the Liturgy will be at St Basil's, but for a few months at 11.00 am

## Orthodox Pilgrims in East London

The Second Orthodox Pilgrimage took place on Saturday 14 May, with some forty Pilgrims present. The new icon of the Saints of Barking by Dimitri Hak was blessed and gifts made towards its cost (contributions are still invited). The programme was the same as last year's, except that there were also short prayers before the carved-stone Holy Rood of Barking in the first-floor Gatehouse Chapel. It probably dates from Saxon (Orthodox) times. Though defaced at the Reformation, it is beautiful, and said to have been miraculous. We had a small bus for the Colchester Pilgrims. Other Pilgrims came from Billericay, Southend, and various parts of London and district, including Fr Alexander Tefft and several from his parish in the City. *The icon is available as a postcard @ 25p.*



## The People Column

**JACOV RADUNOVIC** has been born to SANJA and DUSAN, weighing 6 lbs. He and his mother are doing well. Congratulations to his parents!

**DAVID DAVIES** was reappointed Churchwarden at the recent meeting of the Church Council. **PAUL LANSLEY** has asked to stand down, and the above-mentioned new father **DUSAN RADUNOVIC** was appointed in his place. However, Paul will continue as Warden until Dusan has a little more time! Distinctive medals saying 'Churchwarden' are, by the way, being produced for these officers to wear - and another for a duty 'Steward'.

**NICOLE WANG** was baptised soon after Holy Pascha in Athens. We congratulate her and wish her great joy in the Holy Orthodox Faith. She will marry **MICHAEL KAMPOURIDIS** in August, also in Athens. Both of them are doing PhDs here in Colchester.

**PAUL BRIGHTON-CROSS** has been approved as a Reader by our Church Council, and was due to be tonsured when the Archbishop came this month. Now his tonsuring has been postponed until some later date. His ministry will be mostly in the new mission at Basildon.

**MARIYA WILSON**, third child of **PETER** and **ANNA** of Tolleshunt Knights, near the Monastery, was baptised here in May. Congratulations to her! She lined up distinguished godparents for herself in Archpriest **MAXIM NOKOLSKY** (from the Russian Cathedral at Ennismore Gardens) and Dr **ELENA NARINSKAYA** (currently staying at the Monastery).

## Open Letter leads to open meeting

**MARGARET** and **ALEX HAIG** recently wrote to all Church members, with reference to payment for the Priest of the Parish.

It was entirely off their own bat, and while I did not encourage its sending, nor did I disapprove of it.

This was because it has an importance for the future of this Parish after I am sick, retired, or dead-and-gone, and indeed for the stability of the Parish itself.

At the suggestion of the Church Council, there will be a meeting about it on **Sunday 26 June, at 31a King Coel Road at 4.00 pm**, the home of **PAUL** and **ALEXIA LANSLEY**, off the London Road in Lexden. **It will be open to all interested parishioners.**

**Khouria Hilary** and I will not be present, so that there can be free discussion.

**If you did not get a copy of the letter, please collect one from church or ask for one to be sent by post or email.**

## Here and There

**DEANERY CONFERENCE:** The Conference takes place Wednesday - Friday 22-24 June at Swanwick, a Christian conference centre in Derbyshire. Six members of the Parish are attending this year: Fr **ALEXANDER** and Kh **HILARY**, Rdr **ANDREAS MORAN**, **PAUL BRIGHTON-CROSS**, **AINE-THEODORA FORD**, and **MARGARET HAIG**.

**APOSTLES' FAST:** This Fast always extends from the day after All Saints (which is the first Sunday after Pentecost) until the eve of the Apostles Peter and Paul (29 June). Because the first day is 'moveable' (depends on Pascha, Easter) and the last day is 'fixed', the Fast can sometimes be very short indeed. This year it will be nine days long.

**NATIVITY OF ST JOHN:** There will be no Liturgy here that day (24 June) but there will certainly be one at the Monastery.

### *A Word from the Fathers: St Gregory of Nyssa on the Church's unity in truth*

**I**f love casts out fear perfectly, as Scripture says, and if fear is transformed and becomes love, then what is saved proves to be a unity, for everything is united in its affinity to the one good through the perfection which comes from the Dove.....

The same point is made even more clearly in the gospel by the Lord's own words. For when in his blessing he bequeathed all power to his disciples, in his prayer to his Father he bestowed on his followers all good gifts, and he

added the greatest gift of all, that they should never be fragmented or divided by a multiplicity of choices in their judgment concerning what was right, but they should all be one, united in growth with the one and only good.

And if so, through the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the words of St Paul, they should all be clasped together in the bond of peace, and become one body and one Spirit, through the one hope to which they are called.

You can receive this NEWSLETTER by EMAIL and save Parish funds a considerable sum of money over a year. Send your email address to say you are willing to receive it that way.

### JUNE DAYS

Wed 1	Leavetaking of Pascha, S Justin Martyr
Thu 2	<b>ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b>
Sun 5	<b>Pascha 7, Fathers of First Council</b> , Hieromartyr Boniface of Crediton, Apostle of Germany
Thu 9	S Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria, S Columba of Iona, Enlightener of Scotland
Sat 11	Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
Sun 12	<b>HOLY PENTECOST</b>
Mon 13	<b>Day of the Holy Spirit</b>
Tue 14	<b>Third Day of the Trinity</b> , S Justin (Popovich)
Wed 15	S Lazarus, Prince of Serbia, S Jerome
Fri 17	S Botolph of Icanhoe, S Nectan of Hartland
Sun 19	<b>Pentecost 1, All Saints, Apostle Jude, the Lord's Brother</b>
Mon 20	Beginning of the Apostles Fast S Nicolas Cabasilas
Tue 21	Martyr Julian of Tarsus in Cilicia
Wed 22	<b>S Alban, Protomartyr of Britain</b>
Thu 23	S Etheldreda of Ely, S Mark, Abp of Ephesus
Fri 24	<b>NATIVITY OF S JOHN THE FORERUNNER</b>
Sun 26	<b>Pentecost 2, All Saints of Russia, Romania, and Mount Athos</b>
Mon 27	S Joanna the Myrrh-bearer
Wed 29	<b>HOLY APOSTLES PETER &amp; PAUL</b>
Thu 30	<b>Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles</b>

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