

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

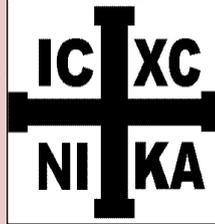
Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland*

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 242

MAY 2017



**MAY AT ST HELEN'S
HOLY LITURGY 9.30 AM**

Tuesday 2 May St Athanasius the Great

*Wednesday 10 May Mid-Feast of Pentecost,
Apostle Simon Zelotes*

Thursday 25 May ASCENSION OF CHRIST

Archbishop to visit our people at Clacton

Many of our worshippers at St Helen's will hardly know that we also have a congregation at Clacton, but I serve there normally on the third Saturday of the month.

Of course very few residents of Clacton know that we have a service there in St James's Church.

Perhaps the event there this month will help to get others aware of this fact. His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan will himself serve the Holy Liturgy there on *Saturday 20 May*.

I started serving there in 1998, two years after we began the parish in Colchester. From the start we have enjoyed the hospitality of St James's Church. Our deepest gratitude is due to the successive Priests and Church Council there.

Some of our people from Clacton do get to St Helen's Chapel, especially at big feasts, and I always want them to think of themselves as part of St Helen's Parish.

I hope that Orthodox people living in or near Clacton will attend in numbers

when Sayedna comes, recognising the importance of the occasion - we invite those who never or seldom attend. Any non-Orthodox people who are interested will also be welcome.

I also invite people from St Helen's to come to Clacton for the occasion. It is a good opportunity to show your solidarity with the small but faithful group of Orthodox Christians there.

To all: come and meet our Father-in-God and Arch-Pastor and receive his blessing.



Sayedna talks with Paul Lansley at St Helen's, October 2016

**Visit to Clacton-on-sea of His Eminence
METROPOLITAN SILOUAN OF THE BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND**
St James Church, Beatrice Road
Saturday 20 May 10.00 am, Buffet Lunch to follow
Offers of food to Angela Nicolaou 01-255-860-335

Car-parking now possible near St Helen's—see over

The day after the celebration at Clacton

Sunday 21 May

Feast of SS Constantine & Helen, our Parish Feast

Saturday 4.30 pm Great Vespers

Sunday 9.45 am Mattins 10.30 am Divine Liturgy

Unfortunately, the Archbishop is now not able to stay for our Colchester celebration on 21 May, as previously announced

BARKING ORTHODOX PILGRIMAGE

**8th Pilgrimage in honour of the Saints of Barking
Erkenwald, Ethelburga, Hildelith, etc**

Saturday 13 May

HIS EMINENCE

METROPOLITAN SILOUAN

10.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Margaret's

2.00 pm Talk by Fr Timothy Curtis

3.00 pm Vespers in the Abbey ruins

Please let us know if you can come

Bring a packed lunch - tea etc available

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. 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, 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

**CLACTON
HOLY
LITURGY
Saturday
20 May
10.00 am
Met. Silouan**



St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh St

Which, St Helen's or St Martin's ?

Decision time is upon us! The Church Council has to decide - on behalf of all our people - whether we want one or the other.

Both are very beautiful buildings, and are wonderful for Orthodox worship—we know that since we rented St Martin's for all of Holy Week and Pascha in both 2009 and 2012.

His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch served in St Helen's in 2001 as a visitor, and St Martin's in 2012, when he was our Metropolitan.

Our new Metropolitan, Silouan, now encourages us to decide that we need both.

Both holy temples have their problems.

St Helen's, for example is patently too small to allow for growth. St Martin's is about the right size but (a) has a number of physical problems including no heating and little lighting, (b) would need to be furnished to make it a suitable place for permanent Orthodox worship, (c) would cost us a good sum of money: the owners are asking **£150,000.**

On the other hand, that sum is far less than the price of one average house in Colchester, and some of us believe that if we individually give as generously, as sacrificially, as we can, other friends - former-members, past-students, Orthodox and non-Orthodox well-wishers, even abroad - will be moved to help us raise that sum.

Sayedna Silouan encourages us to try to raise the sum to buy it now (the least the owners have ever asked in the years we have wanted St Martin's), and then to make it "all right" over a period of five or even ten years.

Certainly by retaining St Helen's we can avoid the worst problem, the cold and damp - we would worship in St Helen's through the winter months.

Sayedna asks us to think of "our children and our children's children" - that we need a

OUR NEW METROPOLIS: HILARY and I visited Sayedna in the house he has moved to in Hillingdon, close to Uxbridge on the west side of London, just inside the M25. A semi-detached house, with an extension for a study, it is exactly five miles from the house in Harrow, on the edge of Pinner, where I was born and lived my first ten years. It makes a nice *Metropolis* or - as we might say - *suburban Bishop's Palace!*

HOLY PASCHA: Our thanks are due to all those who helped with reading, music flowers, eggs, serving, etc.



St Martin's Church, West Stockwell St

bigger and more usable building for the growth of our Parish for the glory of Christ and our Holy Faith.

My sincere hope is that we as a congregation and in particular our Church Council will see this as a great opportunity to serve Christ with faith in him, with love for our Holy Church, and with trusting joy in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray that we may all be guided to the right decision for God and God's Church in Colchester.



Archbishop John, now His Beatitude Patriarch of Antioch, serving in St Martin's in 2012

Metropolitan Silouan's message to the Parish is available in full on paper or by email: please ask.

Here and There

CHURCH COUNCIL: The Council will meet on Sunday 14 May at 1.00 pm.

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE: This informal conference takes place annually at Swanwick Conference Centre in Derbyshire. This year it takes place 29-31 May. There will be a number of different training sessions on various aspects of our worshipping life. His Eminence will of course be presiding. Seven members of our Parish are attending. I did hear there was one place still available, so if anyone would like to have it, contact me straight away.

KATY WILLIAMS was a Greek who married an English soldier, as numbers did just after the War. She spent her last years, sadly with dementia, in the care-home in Great Hawksley and had the Newsletter every month. She died recently and I conducted the funeral in St John's church in Ipswich Road, where she has been buried with her husband, who died some 20 years ago. We extend our sympathy to her daughter and her family. Several of our Greek community attended the funeral, which was in Great Week. Memory eternal!

KHOURIA JEANNE was wife to Fr MICHAEL HARPER, first Dean of the Antiochians in Britain and Ireland, who died in 2010. She lived on in their house in Cambridge. A trained, talented musician, music brought her close to Khouria HILARY and they kept in touch. Jeanne died on Holy Friday, and the funeral was in St Giles' church. Metropolitan SILOUAN was present, but the service was conducted by Frs RAPHAEL and DRAGOS, the two clergy who were close to her there. We shall miss her. Memory eternal!

Holy Week and Pascha went very well. **CAR-PARKING FOR ST HELEN'S:** Stockwell House (used by an NHS trust) at the other end of St Helen's Lane, on the right, have generously allowed us to use the small parking area they have. I am very grateful for their help in this matter. Please note that this is **strictly out-of-office-hours**, but it means that several cars can park there for Saturday Vespers and Sunday Liturgy. But do park **prettily** (which means **neatly**) to get in as many cars as possible.

A Word from the Fathers on the Ascension of Christ

Today Jesus Christ our Lord went up to heaven: let our hearts go with him. Listen to the words of St Paul: 'If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Just as he ascended without leaving us, so too we are already with him in heaven, although his promises have not yet been fulfilled in our bodies. Christ is now raised above the heavens; but he still experiences on earth whatever sufferings we his members feel. He showed this when he called out from heaven: 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' And: 'I was thirsty and you gave me drink,'

St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

MAY DAYS

Tue	2	S Athanasius the Great, Abp of Alexandria
Thu	4	S Pelagia of Tarsus, S Monica
Sun	7	Pascha 4, Paralyse Man, S John of Beverley
Mon	8	S John the Theologian, Apostle & Evangelist
Tue	9	Translation of Relics of S Nicholas to Bari
Wed	10	Mid-Feast of Pentecost, S Simon Zelotes Apostle of Britain
Thu	11	SS Cyril & Methodius, Apostles of the Slavs
Fri	12	S Aethelheard, Abp of Canterbury
Sun	14	Pascha 5, Samaritan Woman
Mon	15	S Pachomius the Gt
Sun	21	Pascha 6, SS CONSTANTINE & HELEN
Thu	25	ASCENSION OF CHRIST, 3rd Finding of S John
Sun	28	Pasha 7 Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council

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