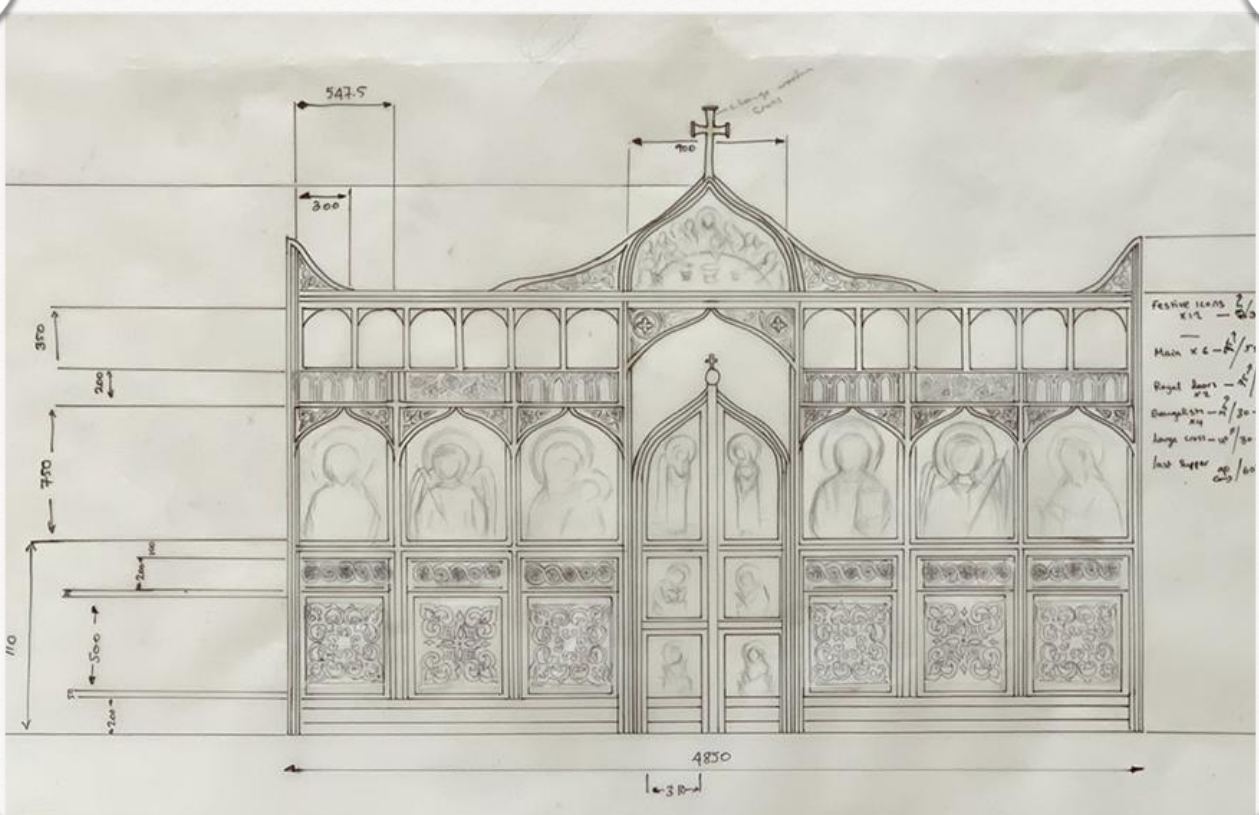


The Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen Colchester



ST MARTIN'S CHURCH PROJECT UPDATE OCTOBER 2022



The story so far..

Our purchase of St Martin's Church, which finally took place last January, marked the culmination of a long struggle to raise the necessary purchase funds, negotiate the purchase of the building with the Church Commissioners and Churches Conservation Trust and with the help of our architect Ben Downie, get our plans for the refurbishments and alterations through the local planning process. The last two years of lockdowns and Covid 19 restrictions made everything very difficult and slow, as it did for everyone, but we got there, thanks to God's merciful providence and your generous and often sacrificial donations. Although

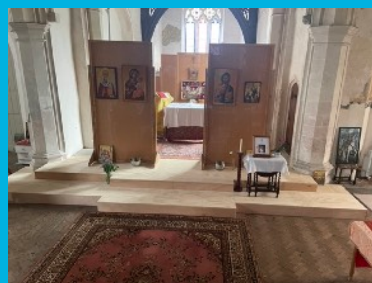


we have been quiet, we have been very busy indeed negotiating with and contracting local craftsmen and women, builders and heating engineers and the like. Here are the main areas of progress:

1. **Iconostasis:** we have engaged the services of local carpenter and craftsman Silviu George Iftime (Iftime design Ltd) and in conjunction with our iconographer, we now have the design for our iconostasis; the sketch above gives a good impression of how the finished screen will look.
2. **Icons:** We are absolutely delighted to have accomplished iconographer Sophronia Kelpi painting our icons; Sophronia has worked closely with Silviu on the design of our iconostasis.
3. **Heating and electrical:** A proposal is being finalised to install an underfloor heating system in the church. We are looking at the most energy efficient means of powering such a system
4. **Repairs:** builders Lodge and Sons who are specialists in the restoration of ancient buildings have produced a schedule of remedial repairs to the fabric of the building; particularly the roof, buttresses and gables.
5. **Lighting:** We have commissioned three beautiful and bespoke iron chandeliers from local iron worker Adam Ferretti, to be installed on the three large cross-beams down the length of the nave.
6. **Kitchen refit and new disabled access:** Our architect Ben Downie of Colchester firm Inkpen-Downie is redesigning our kitchen area, which will include a new disabled access entrance to the church

St Martin's Church is a Grade II listed building, therefore many of our plans and proposals (such as the heating and the iconostasis) will now have to be submitted to the Colchester Borough Council planning department in a detailed form for final approval. We are currently involved in pulling together the very detailed schematics, drawings and measurements for each element of the project, as well as information on proposed materials and fixings, which the planners will need in order to guide their decision making. When these tasks are complete we can begin to share with you some of the specific items which we may need additional funding to achieve. As practical work commences on the refurbishments, you can be sure we will keep you up to date on our progress. **Thank you all for everything you have done so far to get us to this point! Please pray for our community, as we continue to do so for all of you.**

*Please continue to
donate to our
project*



Bank details

Orthodox Parish of St
Martin & St Helen:
Registered Charity No:
1134418

IBAN:
GB05BUKB20226780219819
Bank Account Sort Code:
20-22-67

Bank Account No: 50349364
Appeal Account No:
80219819