

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the UK & Ireland
NEWSLETTER 186 APRIL 2012



Friday 6 April - Friday 20 April - All services will be in ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, WEST STOCKWELL STREET. St Martin's is 100 metres down behind the Town Hall. It is only 200 metres from St Helen's. It may soon be clear whether we will be allowed St Martin's permanently, or not - see over page.

Archbishop in Colchester

**HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP JOHN,
METROPOLITAN OF THE ANTIOCHIAN**

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF EUROPE

Our Father-in-God will visit the Parish in Bright Week, just after Holy Pascha:

**Wednesday 18 April in St Martin's
9.00 am Mattins**

The Archbishop will be received during Mattins. At the beginning of the Holy Liturgy, Paul Brighton-Cross and Alex Haig will be tonsured as Readers.

10.00 am Hierarchical Holy Liturgy and Reception
Friends, and official guests from religious and civic bodies, are being invited to the Liturgy and Reception.

We hope that a large number of those who worship with us will be able to arrange to attend, as well as other readers of this Newsletter, and friends - Orthodox and non-Orthodox.

If you can volunteer food, speak with Helen Lawrence (01-206-504-859) or Sylvia Lefley (07-743-603-226)



Wednesday 4 April: Presanctified Liturgy 6.00 pm in St Helen's

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

All these services in St Martin's, West Stockwell Street

Friday 6 April

Blessing of St Martin's	12 noon
Vespers	4.30 pm

Lazarus Saturday, 7 April

Holy Liturgy of St John	10.00 am
Great Vespers	4.30 pm

Palm Sunday, Entry of Christ into Jerusalem, 8 April

Mattins, with Blessing of Palms	9.45 am
Holy Liturgy of St John	10.30 am

Great & Holy Monday, 9 April

Bridegroom Mattins	7.00 pm
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Great & Holy Tuesday, 10 April

Bridegroom Mattins	7.00 pm
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Great & Holy Wednesday, 11 April

Holy Anointing	7.00 pm
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Great & Holy Thursday, 12 April

Vespers & Holy Liturgy of St Basil	9.30 am
Mattins of the Twelve Gospels	7.00 pm

Great & Holy Friday, 13 April

Royal Hours	9.00 am
Vespers & Deposition	3.00 pm
Mattins & Burial Procession	7.00 pm

Great & Holy Saturday, 14 April

Vespers & Holy Liturgy of St Basil	9.30 am
Reading of Acts	10.30 pm
Midnight Office	11.30 pm

HOLY PASCHA, 15 April

Resurrection Procession & Mattins	12 midnight
Holy Liturgy of St John	1.00 am (till 2.15)

No late morning Liturgy

Parish Lunch ("Bring & Share")	1.00 pm
Paschal Vespers	approx. 3.00 pm

CHILDREN: On Easter night, if you wish, you can bring with them a blow-up bed & sleeping-bag for them to have a doze.

CONFESSIONS: After any service or by arrangement

GIFTS FOR FLOWERS: To Sanja Radunovic

EPITAPHION FLOWERS: Women & girls invited to prepare the Epitaphion 9.30 am Holy Friday

Saturday 21 Apr: No Vespers **Sunday 22 Apr:** 10.30 Liturgy in St Helen's
St George's Day Monday 23 Apr: 9.30 am Liturgy in St Helen's



The Resurrection of Christ - heart of Orthodox belief - centre of the Orthodox way of life

In the Resurrection icon, Christ has descended into hell, the darkest place of all, and lifts Adam and Eve out of it.

What that means is that the God-Man Jesus Christ has entered into our very worst experiences, even the extinction of life by death. He has lifted, not just our first parents out of it, but us too, ourselves, each one of us. He has entered death and destroyed it.

Doesn't that change everything in this world? Doesn't that give us hope and joy, joy without any bounds, peace beyond knowledge?

Yes, it changes everything. The Resurrection of Christ becomes the most important fact of life for every one and everything.

That's why we Orthodox make such a fuss of Easter!

God bless you as you enter into as many of the Services of Holy Week and Easter as you possibly can.

**Christ is risen, risen indeed!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Father Alexander

HOLY LITURGY

BASILDON

**Saturday
31 March
11.00 am**

CLACTON

**Saturday
28 April
10.00 am**

NB both dates

**The Deanery
Conference**

Swanwick, Derbys
30 April - 2 May
Archbishop John will be present.

Like to attend on behalf of the Parish? - let us know.

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 Balcerne 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

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

The Parish of St Helen is Registered Charity No. 1134418

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

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

*At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea CV15 1LE
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday 10.00 am (Clacton Community)*

*At St Agnes Chapel, 18 St Agnes Road, Noak Hill, Billericay, CM12 9UR
Divine Liturgy: usually first Saturday 10.30 am (Basildon Community)*

Contact: Paul Brighton-Cross 01-702-305-527 orthodox.basildon@hotmail.co.uk

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

Our bid for St Martin's progresses!

If you were not around here four years ago, for Holy Week 2008, you will not know how it felt to have our worship in St Martin's Church, West Stockwell Street, only 200 metres from St Helen's Chapel.

I tell you: *it felt good* (see picture!)

After all, St Martin's was originally an Orthodox church building - just as St Helen's was, and has been again since 2000.

Like St Helen's Chapel, St Martin's Church goes back beyond the Great Schism which divided East and West. It certainly goes back to Saxon times (before 1066) for it still has some Saxon work at the west end.

According to the archaeologists, it probably goes back to the Romano-British period, the time of St Constantine and St Helen in the fourth century.

So we have put in a bid for St Martin's again. We have indeed got to a similar point on three or four occasions before. But this time it does look as though we have a good chance.

We hope so, though we must not *count our chickens before they are hatched*, as they say. When you come to Holy Week and Easter services this year you will experience for yourself how our worship and life pretty well fits in ideally.

St Martin's will provide us with more room for worshippers, and less disturbance when someone comes in late. It will give more 'sacred spots' for individuals to pray in, and room for confessions.

It will give us much better space for teaching displays, for books and holy objects to be sold, for other suitable activities, for somewhere to take children when they become noisy or fractious, for us to store the various items of worship.

There will be room in the North Aisle to have appropriate feasts and so on. In the South Aisle there will be room to place some lounge chairs for people to pop in and have a chat with other Orthodox Christians.



My hope is that the Parish will be able to develop other activities such as groups of different peoples - a Greek group, say, or a Romanian group. These will help immigrants to feel settled in Britain. Possibly there could be an advice centre.

There would also be space for meetings for non-Orthodox people who wish to learn more about our faith.

All this has been in our minds ever since we founded this Parish in 1995/6, and indeed before that.

St Martin's was semi-officially offered to us as long ago as 1994 but unfortunately the offer did not come to fruition then. Nor since then has it become a reality ...

... Until now, when the offer has suddenly become much more real. Or so we hope and pray!

Please remember IAIN GOLDSMITH, our negotiator, in your prayers.

At the time of writing we have nothing concrete to relate, but there is a meeting in London at the end of April which may make all things clear. Holy Week, and Easter this year will give us the chance of again worshipping in this beautiful building, so well suited to our purposes.

I pray it may prove to be the beginning of a love-affair of the Orthodox people for this ancient, beautiful, and basically Orthodox building.

English Orthodox Saint's 1000th anniversary

St Alphege was martyred at the hands of the Danes on 19 April 1012, a thousand years ago.

Born in 953 at Weston, just outside Bath, Alphege became a monk at Deerhurst, near Tewkesbury.

Wanting more seclusion, he returned to his boyhood home to live as a hermit on the hillside, but was called to be Abbot of Bath. Then he became Bishop of Winchester, and, in 1005, Archbishop of Canterbury.

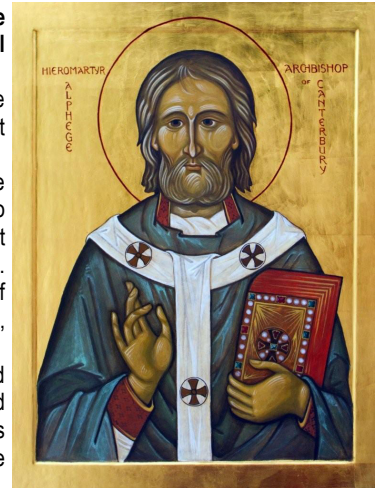
At this time the Danes troubled England very much. They attacked Canterbury and took hostages including the Archbishop. Alphege refused to be ransomed.

They took him to Greenwich (now in south-east London), beat him and then beheaded him, on the site now occupied by the parish church.

This month there will be celebrations of the Martyr in various places, by Catholics and Anglicans and Orthodox, all of whom venerate him.

Christian values are very much under attack in our generation, not least in Britain, from atheists and half-believers. We must not be misled, but willing to stand up for the universal values that Christ and his Church have taught us.

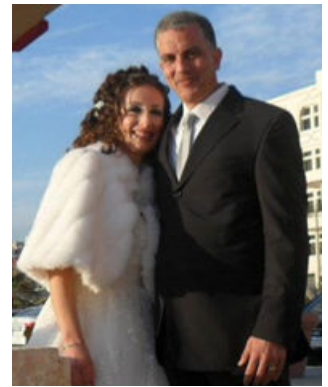
+++ St Alphege, pray to God for us. +++



The People Column

ANTHONY SPOONER, until recently, was Vicar of St James', Clacton, where we have our monthly Liturgy. He has now been received into the Orthodox Church at St John's Russian Church. I sent the good wishes and prayers of us all at St Helen's. Surprisingly, he has been received by Holy Baptism.

GHISSEH SARKO, former PhD student at the University, and worshipper at St Helen's, married RICHARD ANTONIOS in Latakia, in February, as anticipated here in January. *Photo right.* We wish them God's blessing. Many years!



THE COST OF POSTAGE goes up considerably during April. This issue will be the last at the current price. It will be considerable help to the Parish if can have the Newsletter each month by email - if you are willing and able. Even then, we are fully aware that some people much prefer to have 'hard copy' in their hands. But if you are willing, please email us at parishpriest@orthodoxcolchester.org.uk.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SAINTS OF BARKING
Saturday 12 May
 12.00 Service & Sprinkling
 1.00 Picnic Lunch
 2.00 Talk
 3.00 Vespers & Anointing

Barking is in east London, some 8 miles this side of the City. There will be a bus from Colchester. Do sign up and come.

APRIL DAYS

- Sun 1 Lent 5, S Mary of Egypt
- Sat 7 Lazarus Saturday
- Sun 8 Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday
- Mon 9 Great & Holy Monday
- Tue 10 Great & Holy Tuesday
- Wed 11 Great & Holy Wednesday
- Thu 12 Great & Holy Thursday
- Fri 13 Great & Holy Friday
- Sat 14 Great & Holy Saturday
- Sun 15 HOLY PASCHA
- Mon 16 Bright Monday
- Tue 17 Bright Tuesday, Martyrs Raphael, Nicolas & Irene
- Wed 18 Bright Wednesday
- Thu 19 Bright Thursday, Hieromartyr Alphege of Canterbury
- Fri 20 Bright Friday, Life-giving Spring of the Theotokos
- Sat 21 Bright Saturday
- Sun 22 Pascha 2, S Thomas Sunday
- Mon 23 Gt-Martyr George the Trophy-bearer, Patron of England
- Tue 24 Joyful Commemoration of the Departed
- Wed 25 H Apostle & Evangelist Mark
- Sun 29 Pascha 3, H Myrrh-bearing Women
- Mon 30 H Apostle James, son of Zebedee, S Erkenwald, Bishop of London

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

A Word from the Fathers: St John of Damascus, translated by JM Neale

The Day of Resurrection,
 Earth tell it out abroad;
 The Passover of gladness,
 The Passover of God!
 From death to life eternal,
 From earth unto the sky,
 Our Christ hath brought us
 With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
 That we may see aright
 The Lord in rays eternal
 Of resurrection-light;
 And, listening to his accent,
 May hear so calm and plain
 His own, 'All hail,' and, hearing,
 May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
 And earth her song begin,
 The round world keep high
 triumph,
 And all that is therein;
 Let all things seen and unseen
 Their notes of gladness blend,
 For Christ the Lord hath risen,
 Our Joy that hath no end.