

For our children's children in Colchester: we have passed £100,000: praise God!

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 259

JANUARY 2019



WEEKDAY LITURGIES AT 9.30 AM

Tuesday 1 Jan
Circumcision of Christ, St Basil the Great
Friday 10 Jan
St Gregory of Nyssa
Friday 25 Jan
St Gregory the Theologian

February: Meeting in the Temple transferred from 2 Feb to Sunday 3 Feb



At the Riverside God revealed who he is

People who believe in God can sometimes think to themselves, "I wish God would reveal his will, show himself to me, to us. Life would be so much easier."

Well, he has done exactly that, in the Person of Jesus Christ. If you want to know God, look at Jesus Christ.

If you wish to find the Truth, know the Truth, follow the Truth, look at Jesus Christ, consider him quietly, carefully, and just follow him.

That is what Orthodox Christians have sought to do all down the centuries. They have looked as a starter at the icon of the Holy Baptism of Jesus the Christ in the River Jordan.

There they have listened to John the Forerunner who baptised him and who proclaimed that he heard the voice of God the Father, he saw the Son of God, he watched the Holy Spirit of God descend from heaven.

He had a revelation, in other words, of God the Holy Trinity.

John passed this on to his followers, and was delighted when some transferred their allegiance to Jesus, followed him instead.

Theophany (which means, the Revealing of God) is the beginning of it all. What preceded it

was for a small intimate group of believers—the Shepherds, the Kings, Joseph, and particularly Christ's dear Mother, who all no doubt treasured these experiences ever afterwards.

But at the Riverside Jesus of Nazareth began to reveal himself to an ever-widening circle—widening out to the Holy Apostles and then to all the faithful down the years—even to you and me in the twenty-first century.

St Thomas realised this and proclaimed him, "My Lord and my God." We do the same.

And at the River Colne on Sunday 6 January, we shall proclaim our faith, our belief, our trust, that Jesus Christ alone is The Way, the Truth, and the Life. That he is God himself, in human form, taking our needs and hopes on himself. Come and join us.

Father Alexander

Thanks to all for Christmas greetings and generous gifts.

ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S

St Martin's is in West Stockwell Street, two minutes' walk from St Helen's, and close to the Town Hall

Raised so far: about **£ 100,300** plus promises

- CHEQUES may be sent to the address below, made out to: *St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's*
- BANK TRANSFERS: use these codes:
IBAN: GB05BUKB20226780219819
Bank Sort Code 20-22-67
Appeal Account No. 80219819
- PAYPAL: available on the Appeal website
- APPEAL WEBSITE: orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk
- FACEBOOK: *St Martin's Appeal*

Please support us in restoring an important and beautiful building to its original and proper use and in providing an Orthodox parish church "for our children and our children's children"
17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB, UK

**CLACTON
HOLY
LITURGY
Sat 19 Jan
10.00 am**

APPEAL GIFTS - The Gift Aid system encourages individual earners (paying UK income tax) to give to charity. When you Gift-Aid your donation, they will give us the tax you have paid on it. This increases your gift by 25%. So, say, you give £100: it becomes £125 at no cost to you! This can be for any size gift. It is a huge benefit to the Church—you only have to sign a form. Thanks for doing it!

St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh St, High St CO1 1UB

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's Street to Castle Park; continue round the bend, up into Maidenburgh Street.
Nearest car-park NCP Nunns Rd. Very little street parking available.

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): normally first Saturday 3.15 pm

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

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

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

Bank Account No: 50349364 Appeal Account No: 80219819

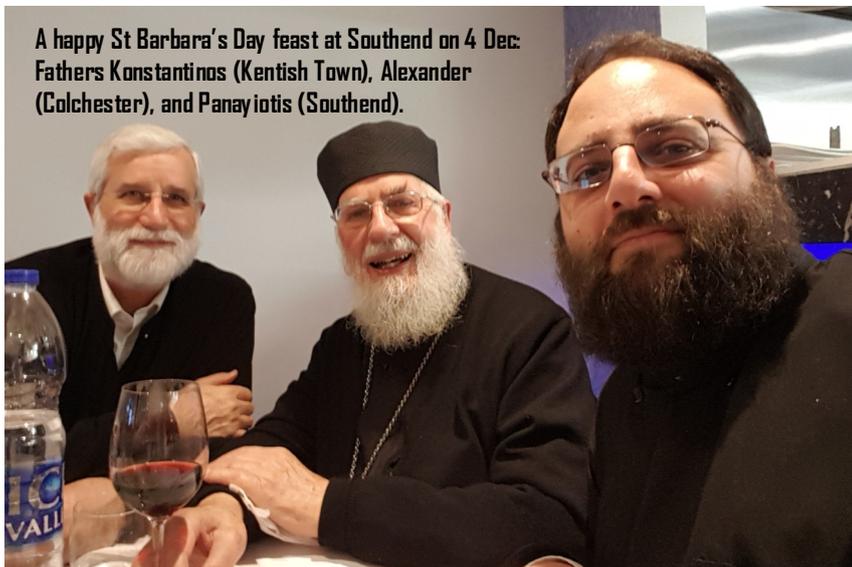
Parish Website: <http://www.orthodoxcolchester.org.uk>

Appeal Website: <http://orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk>

At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea CO15 1LE

Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday of month 10.00 am (not August)

A happy St Barbara's Day feast at Southend on 4 Dec: Fathers Konstantinos (Kentish Town), Alexander (Colchester), and Panayiotis (Southend).



Collecting for the children of Syria

Several years ago, after civil war broke out in Syria, the British Antiochian Deanery had a collection, which raised a good amount for aid in the country. Unfortunately there was extreme difficulty in getting it to the people there, through restrictions of the British Government.

Now UNICEF (United Nations) is running a fund-raising event for children (of any faith) there. **On the Sundays around Christmas - two Sundays before and two after - we are collecting for this aim.**

Please give generously for this cause. A large glass jar is being put out in church on Sundays.

If you wish, you can give or send me money to add to the fund before 15 January. The children there are suffering very much.

Do help the children of Syria.

Raising the rest...

The Archbishop is back from Syria, seemingly well-recovered.

It is great that he will visit us on

SUNDAY 3 MARCH

to help us re-launch

St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's

to raise (as we pray) the remainder.

Put the date in your diary now, and set aside time for the Holy Liturgy and a Lunch afterwards. Watch for details.

Beautiful testimony by American Priest and his Khouria
Father ALBAN WAGGENER from Virginia visited St Helen's some ten years ago as a continuing Anglican Bishop, but he soon after became Orthodox with his wife. They recently sent a generous donation for the Appeal. He writes:

It was our joy to help as we could - we remember you both very fondly and our "Orthodox" visit to England that year. I don't know if my wife ever told you that it was in the midst of the Liturgy at St. Helen's that day that God whispered to her heart "You are going to be Orthodox"....a long walk to the door for us, or a lengthy betrothal you might say. It was also interesting to be taking tea in the Dutch Quarter, where my ancestors may indeed have lived in the 16th C, since they were likely weavers who came from Wageningen Holland to Colchester. John Waggener moved from there to Essex County Virginia about 1660 or so...

Here and There

BAPTISED: Congratulations to MEGAN daughter of MARIYAN and ALBENA PETROV of Colchester, baptised in St Helen's on 4 November. Many years!

DEPARTED: I first knew MONK FOTIOS, many years ago in the Fellowship of St Alban and St Sergius, as a Danish Lutheran priest. He entered the Orthodox Church not long before the Haig family, and, unmarried, soon entered the Monastery of the Paraclete. He returned every so often to Denmark to see family and friends, and very early in the history of this parish he stayed a few nights with us in Colchester. He was quiet, a slightly strange person, and a scholar; He leaves a legacy of translations of the Orthodox services into Danish, which may serve the cause of Orthodoxy, we pray, in his native country. We corresponded once a year, and I twice visited

his lovely Monastery in Greece, north of Athens. We have served a Memorial service. Memory eternal!

FATHER SILOUAN, after leaving the Monastery of SS Anthony & Cuthbert, has spent some months in Essex, and visited us at Clacton two or three times. Now he is moving on to the "city" of St David's in Wales, and we hope and pray that he will settle there and find that very holy place a "balm for the soul". We shall miss his presence in Essex.

THE NEW MONASTERY: Archimandrite PHILIP, formerly of Lincoln, has, as you know, taken over the above Monastery of SS Anthony & Cuthbert. News of his Brotherhood (rather confusingly dedicated to SS Peter & Paul) on their website. Several men have joined him, and we pray that it will become a fruitful place of prayer. This is the first Antiochian monastic house in Britain, and it hopes to be of service to the whole archdiocese.

A Word from the Fathers: St Gregory the Theologian

Archbishop of Constantinople, born 329, died 25 January 390

Christ is illumined, let us shine forth with him. Christ is baptised, let us descend with him, that we may also ascend with him.

John baptises, Jesus comes to him; perhaps to sanctify the Baptist himself, but certainly to bury the whole of the old Adam in the water; and before this, and for the sake of this, to sanctify Jordan. As he is Spirit and flesh, so he consecrates us by Spirit and water...

Jesus goes up out of the water; for with himself he carries up the world and sees the heaven split open which Adam had shut against

himself and all his posterity, as the gates of paradise by the flaming sword.

And the Spirit bears witness to his Godhead, for he descends upon One that is like him, as does the Voice from heaven...and like a dove seen in bodily form it bestows honour on his body, since this is also God by being deified. And moreover, the dove has from distant ages been wont to proclaim the end of the Deluge.

Let us however today venerate the Baptism of Christ, and let us celebrate the feast honourably.

JANUARY DAYS

Tue	1	Circumcision of Christ, S Basil the Great
Wed	2	S Seraphim, S Sylvester, Pope of Rome
Sun	6	HOLY THEOPHANY OF CHRIST
Mon	7	Synaxis of S John the Forerunner
Thu	10	S Gregory of Nyssa & his wife S Theosevia
Fri	11	S Theodore the Great, the Cenobiarch
Sat	12	S Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth
Sun	13	Sun after Theophany , S Hilary Bp of Poitiers
Mon	14	S Nina, Enlightener of Georgia S Sava I, 1st Archbishop of Serbia
Wed	16	Precious Chains of H Apostle Peter
Thu	17	S Anthony the Great
Fri	18	SS Athanasius the Great & Cyril of Alexandria
Sat	19	S Macarius the Great
Sun	20	Sun of the Ten Lepers , S Euthymius the Gt
Mon	21	S Maximus the Confessor, Virgin Martyr Agnes
Tue	22	Apostle Timothy of the Seventy
Thu	24	S Xenia the Fool-for-Christ
Fri	25	S Gregory the Theologian
Sat	26	S Xenophon & family
Sun	27	Sunday of Zacchaeus
Mon	28	S Ephraim of Syria
Wed	30	Three Great Hierarchs
Thu	31	Wonderworkers & Unmercenaries Cyrus & John