

For our children's children in Colchester: an Orthodox church of the right size!

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 260

FEBRUARY 2019



SPECIAL LITURGIES THIS MONTH

Sunday 3 Feb 10.30 am
(Parish observance, NOT 2 Feb)
MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE
Friday 8 Feb 9.30 am
ST THEODORE THE GENERAL
Tuesday 19 Feb 9.30 am
ST PHILOTHEI OF ATHENS
Wednesday 27 Feb 9.30 am
ST RAPHAEL OF BROOKLYN

Drawing everything together, please God...

It all appears to be coming together after 25 years. Yes, our trust must be in God, not in ourselves, but it does begin to look as though Christ our God is blessing us to take on St Martin's Church and make it an Orthodox centre in the heart of Colchester!

Early in March our Archbishop, Metropolitan SILOUAN, will come to encourage us in our raising of the last part of the money we need to buy it—it is not a negligible amount. I hope you will do your best to be present to welcome him and share in the meal and entertainment and prayers.

Very shortly here in Colchester we are meeting the present owners, the Churches Conservation Trust, and the Church Commissioners, to discuss purchase arrangements. The present occupiers (an orchestra) finish their lease in July. Our architects are preparing plans to go to the planners soon.

We could be in St Martin's this year - if we raise another £40,000 by the autumn! (If we do not raise the required amount, we do not get the church at all!)

Of course, on top of that there is the cost of heating, which was estimated to be something up to £50,000.



Raising the rest...

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP SILOUAN
SUNDAY 3 MARCH

Renewal of

ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S
to raise (as we pray) the remainder
10.30 am Holy Liturgy

1.00—2.45 pm

Lunch (Methodist Hall)

Music from Orthodox countries
Akathist (St Martin's Churchyard)

The Mosaic Choir will sing at the Liturgy & in the afternoon

Donations of food or cash to George Harrison

sizzlinggeorge@hotmail.co.uk

Invitations being distributed—please ask if necessary

Let Catalin Fliscu catalinfliscu@googlemail.com

know you are coming

Subsequently there will be the cost of all the furnishings to make it a real Orthodox temple and centre for Parish activity.

So we need help from people who have already given—if they can afford it—and from other well-wishers.

Sayedna encouraged us, you remember, to concentrate on buying the building, and concern ourselves about the other aspects when we have secured it.

Our prayer is that the Renewal or re-launching on 3 March will lead to bringing the help we need.

God bless our endeavour for his glory and the good of his Holy Church.

Father Alexander

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: over **£ 110,000** 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 16 Feb
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 Balkerne 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)



Holy Marriage in Hungary

My trip to Hungary for the wedding of our former Reader MARTIN GROB and his charming bride SZILVIA was a very happy occasion. The service was in the church of St Demetrios in the interesting village Beloianisz originally built for Greek communists who fled their homes after their civil war in 1949. The lovely choir was composed of friends of Martin, and I was honoured to be invited to crown the bride and groom.

Next morning I was asked to celebrate with the local Greek Bishop PAISIOS and was graciously asked to say a short word at the end, which was translated by Martin.

In the evening, in the village of Szizetszentmiklos nearer Budapest, there was a second Liturgy. A new Hungarian-culture parish is being developed in a house, where Martin serves with his Priest, Fr ROBERT. Martin and Szilvia's new home is in fact a new flat on top of this very

lovely church, and he will travel to work in a Budapest museum (studying insects, which is one of the fields of his Master's biology degree: the chef-work he did here was never his proper field).

Somehow, among all these lovely experiences, I was also treated to a visit to a mediaeval Serbian monastery church with amazing frescos and woodwork, a ferry ride across the Danube in the countryside, a tram-ride along the river in Budapest, and a stop at the famous Chain Bridge - in the building of which we think Khouria HILARY's engineering great-great grandfather was involved in the 1840s. I also had time with Fr Robert, his wife and children, his parents and his people. All this in one splendid weekend!

God bless the Bride and Groom and grant them many years! God bless the parish of St Nicholas (Miklos) and its Priest! God bless Hungary!

I was grateful that GEORGE HARRISON met exhausted me at Southend airport!

Here and There

SYRIA CHILDREN: Thanks to all who supported the Appeal. The total received was £436.00, and this has been sent off to UNICEF UK. An excellent amount!

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING: This was originally arranged for February, but has had to be **postponed to 24 March**, after the Holy Liturgy.

PARISH COUNCIL: There will be a meeting on Sunday 10 February at 12.30 pm.

DONATIONS from the Parish are being sent to local charities **St Helena Hospice, Beacon House, Open Door, and Bernard Brett House.**

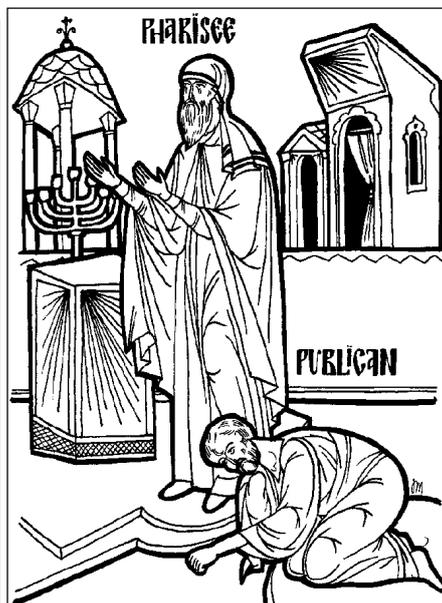
CHILDREN OF ST HELEN: Saturday 2 February 3.15 pm, for primary and pre-school children.

Beginning the Triodion, the Service Book for Lent - Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, 17 Feb.

This is not the first day of Lent: this year that's 11 March. This is the first day of Pre-Lent—three weeks preparing for our ascetic exercise in the Great Fast.

On **Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee** we are reminded of the need for true repentance, and we *begin* to get right by not fasting at all, even on Wednesday and Friday! This reminds us that fasting without real repentance is useless.

Then on the **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**, we are reminded that repentance is returning to a God who awaits us as a loving Father and welcomes our return, not as one who will beat and assault us.



That week we return to normal fasting rules.

The third Pre-Lent Sunday, of **the Last Judgment**, reminds us that every being will eventually come to be judged by God.

It is also **Meatfare Sunday** - the last day we eat meat until Holy Pascha.

During the days

of that week we do not eat meat, but all other foods we do eat, even on Wednesday and Friday.

The next Sunday is **Forgiveness Sunday**, when at the end of the Liturgy in church we go to the Priest and to each other and ask forgiveness for having sinned against them in any way. That leads to **Clean Monday, the First Day of Lent**. Everything gets more serious in our prayers and daily life. More about that next time!

A Word from the Fathers: St Bede the Venerable (672-735)

Mary said, My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

The Lord, she said, has exalted me with a great and unheard of gift, which cannot be explained in any words and can scarcely be understood by the deepest feelings of the heart. And so I offer up all the strength of my soul in thanksgiving and praise. In my joy I pour out all my life, all my feeling, all my understanding in contemplating the greatness of him who is without end. My spirit rejoices in the eternal

divinity of Jesus my Saviour, whom I have conceived in time and bear in my body.

For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Mary looks back to the beginning of the canticle, to the words, My soul magnifies the Lord. Only the soul for whom the Lord does great things can glorify and praise him as he deserves; only that soul can call on those who share the same desire and intent. 'Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name.'

FEBRUARY DAYS

Sun	3	Meeting of our Lord (<i>Parish observance</i>)
Wed	6	S Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople
Fri	8	Great Martyr Theodore Stratelates
Sun	10	Pentecost 37, The Canaanite Woman, Hieromartyr Charalambus, Bp of Magnesia
Sun	17	Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee (Beginning of the Triodion), Great Martyr Theodore the Recruit
Mon	18	S Leo the Great, Pope of Rome
Tue	19	New Martyr Philothei of Athens
Sun	24	Sunday of the Prodigal Son 1st & 2nd Findings of the Head of S John
Wed	27	S Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn
Thu	28	S John Cassian the Roman S Kyranna of Ossa, Virgin-Martyr
Sun	3 March	Sunday of Meatfare, the Last Judgment