

+ For our children's children in Colchester: St Martin's fills the bill! +

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 266

SEPTEMBER 2019



September Special Days

Thursday 5, SS Zechariah & Elizabeth
9.30 am Holy Liturgy

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15, National Heritage Days: St Helen's open to the public
Sunday 15, 10.30 am

Elevation of the Cross after H Liturgy

Thursday 19, St Theodore of Tarsus & Canterbury 9.30 am Holy Liturgy

Thursday 26, St John the Theologian
9.30 am Holy Liturgy

Tuesday 1 October Protection of the Theotokos
9.30 am Holy Liturgy

Three-quarters of the way to our object - but £50,000 to complete the Appeal!

By the grace of God we have received gifts which will cover the cost of St Martin's, a brilliant £150,000! We are so grateful to God and to all our Benefactors - some who have been able to give large sums, others small sums, but all contributing successfully to the amount we need.

This guarantees our purchase of this church as our own place of worship of Christ our God, subject now only to the approval of our ideas for use of this ancient and beautiful church by various authorities. This approval is now being sought diligently by our architect.

But of course this is not the end of the story!

Our Appeal was, you will remember, for the sum of £200,000 - leaving nearly £50,000 to be raised.

This still a lot of money, and we shall see whether God answers our prayers in due course. There is not the urgency to raise the last amount, since we can take our time completing the church. Indeed some of the fitting out can be done over a period of years.

We would like to get the heating done early on, so that we can use St Martin's even in the winter.

We also hope to get the iconostasis installed early on, as that will set the 'tone' or 'atmosphere' of the building to visitors and to worshippers alike. It will also mean we can make secure the altar and the vestry behind it.

Our work is not yet over then, but we do feel God is on our side!

We thank all who have given sums over this past fifteen months. But we have to continue to invite all members and all friends of this Parish - some of them far away across the world - to help us make this into a fine Orthodox temple to be a witness for future generations of the beauty and truth of the Holy Orthodox faith.

God will surely bless those who do.

Father Alexander



What jobs can YOU do for St Martin's?

There will be plenty of work to be done, getting it ready in one way and another for the worship of God and for opening it to tourists and visitors. You will be able to offer your expertises for many jobs.

There will be work for painters and plumbers, for bakers and builders, for singers and servers, for flower arrangers and simple cleaners, for guides and welcomers, for needle-workers and menders.

Speak to Fr Alexander if you wish to offer your service to God. It will be good to begin making up lists so are ready to start as soon as we are allowed in, which we hope will be December

You will find it is rewarding and satisfying to use your practical abilities for God.

ST THEODORE OF TARSUS & CANTERBURY is Patron of our Archdiocese, linking the East and the West of the Roman empire. Born in Tarsus in the north-east corner of the Mediterranean, he studied in Antioch, and elsewhere, but left the area in the face of the Moslem conquest. He was then in Constantinople, Athens, and Rome. Lastly, aged 66, he was sent to England in 667/8 as Archbishop of the island of Britain. Our forefathers had not long been Christians, and he had a huge effect on them. He called Church councils, started schools and colleges and was much involved in civic life, bringing peace between warring lords and kings. His influence is still felt in British Christianity and civil life. He reposed on **19 September 690**, and we celebrate his feast with a Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am.

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

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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>

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: just over **£150,000** towards the **£200,000!**

- 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



The Liturgy and Parish Lunch on the feast of the **Repose of St Helen** was not well attended unfortunately, nor, for the first time, blessed by fine weather. So the meal was indoors, but it was a good meal and gave room for more intimate chat.

The Appeal: an email from Cyprus
Anna Petrou from Cyprus, studied at the University several years ago for just one term, but has kept in touch ever since. She writes encouraging words about the Appeal:
Father Alexander, I am so glad for ...the pleasant news about the appeal. Be sure that **St. Martin, St. Helen, and all Saints** will help this sacred cause. I wish you good strength, and for the flock prosperity...Keep your faith strong.

Here and There

OUR CLACTON PEOPLE: It has been pointed out that our dear people at Clacton who find it very difficult to reach here by public transport on Sundays, may find it easier to come on a weekday if they are free. For that, look to find when there is a Holy Liturgy on a weekday (normally at 9.30 am) in St Helen's - front page of the Newsletter, top of right-hand column. Weekday bus services are of course easier. Nearly always after the service there are refreshments in the house.
CHURCH COUNCIL: The next meeting is on Sunday 8 September at 12.30 pm.
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: This beautiful feast will be celebrated a day late, on **Sunday 15 September**, with the beautiful ceremony of the Elevation at the end of the Holy Liturgy.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX: There are many Orthodox students studying here in the University, from Greece and Cyprus, from Romania, Bulgaria, Russia and other countries. In recent years we have not been drawing them in the numbers we used to have, probably for various reasons. Now this year we are going to attempt by the grace of God to get through to them again and help them to express their faith and to build them up in the way that we have done in the past. I am grateful to **MARK SHILLAKER** for agreeing to assist me in this, for it has been getting more difficult with the passage of time. We are planning to have an Orthodox service at the University on a Wednesday early evening every week in term-time. Please pray that this initiative may bear fruit.



Elias (Loren) and Helen (Louise) Daley were both baptised here in St Helen's Chapel on Great & Holy Saturday. On 1 June they were married on the Greek island of Kalymnos by the local Priest. Many years!



Colchester Food Bank
A good way to help those in need

Food items needed include: small bags rice, longlife milk/ juice, squash, tinned fruit, potatoes, custard, jam, peanut butter, small jars coffee.
Other items: shampoo, razors, shower gel, washing powder, liquid, tooth brushes, paste.
You can leave donations in the box in the Church Porch and we will pass them on.

National Heritage Days
Saturday & Sunday 14 & 15 September

We shall be open as usual morning and afternoon on the two days, and expect a hundred or two visitors, mainly of local people. It is a marvellous opportunity to introduce adults and children to their heritage, and to the Holy Faith.
 I will be grateful if any who would care to help would volunteer to be present for a couple of hours.
 We tell visitors a little about the history and traditions of the Chapel and a little about Holy Orthodoxy, and answer questions. It informs people both about their local inheritance and about our Holy faith.
 We always feel it has been worthwhile, and it is clearly enjoyed by those who attend. It also makes a good way to advertise our Holy faith in an attractive way.

A Word from the Fathers on "Our Lady's Birthday"

This is the summary of the benefits of Christ for us. This is the unveiling of the mystery, this is nature made new, God and man, and the deification of the human nature assumed by God.
 But so radiant, so glorious a visitation of God to men needed some prelude of joy to introduce to us the great gift of salvation.
 The present feast is such: the prelude is the birth of the Mother of God, and the concluding act is the union which is destined between the Word and human nature.
 A virgin is now born and suckled and moulded, and is made ready to be mother of God, the King of all for ever.

Justifiably then is the mystery of this day to be celebrated, since a double gain will be ours if we do so; we shall be led towards the Truth, and we shall be led away from a life of slavery to the letter of the law.
How will this be? Clearly, inasmuch as the shadow yields to the presence of the light, and grace introduces freedom in place of the letter.
The present feast stands on the border between these: it joins us to the truth instead of signs and figures, and it brings in the new in place of the old.
A sermon of St. Andrew of Crete (born Damascus c.650, died Mytilene 712 or 726 or 740) on the Nativity of the Mother of God, 8 September

SEPTEMBER DAYS

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| Sun | 1 | Church New Year |
| Thu | 5 | Pentecost 11, Righteous Joshua, Son of Nun Prophet Zachariah & Righteous Elizabeth |
| Sun | 8 | Pentecost 12, Nativity of Holy Theotokos |
| Mon | 9 | Synaxis of Righteous Joachim & Anna |
| Fri | 13 | Commemoration of Dedication of Church of Holy Resurrection (Sepulchre), Jerusalem |
| Sat | 14 | Exaltation of the Holy Cross |
| Sun | 15 | Sunday after Exaltation of the Holy Cross |
| Mon | 16 | Great Martyr Euphemia the All-praised |
| Thu | 19 | St Theodore of Tarsus & Canterbury, Patron of the Archdiocese |
| Sun | 22 | Pentecost 14 |
| Mon | 23 | Conception of S John the Forerunner |
| Tue | 24 | S Silouan of Athos, H Protomartyr Thekla |
| Wed | 25 | S Sergei the Wonderworker, of Radonezh |
| Thu | 26 | H Apostle/Evangelist John the Theologian |
| Sun | 29 | Pentecost 12, S Kyriakos of Palestine |