

St Martin's, Colchester for our children and our children's children !

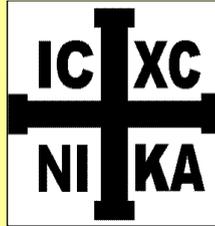
Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 267

OCTOBER 2019



October Weekdays

Holy Liturgy 9.30 am

Tuesday 1 October

Protection of the Theotokos

Wednesday 9 October

H Apostle James son of Alphaeus

Friday 18 October

H Apostle & Evangelist Luke

Wednesday 23 October

H Apostle James the Lord's Brother

Friday 1 November

SS Cosmas & Damian of Mesopotamia

We progress—if slowly!

We have so much to thank God for! The gathering in of the cost of purchase of St Martin's! The confidence of people, some local, some far-spread, expressed towards us by their sending of donations to help us achieve our desire to work for the glory of Christ in this place, or just to restore this lovely building!

Actually, it has also been lovely to hear the delight in the voices of so many I meet that we have got this far. Everybody seems so pleased and happy for us!

Now of course we have to live up to that confidence and bring it all to fruition.

Matters, it must be said, seem to have slowed down. Earlier on we hoped to be in St Martin's in September: that was put off, and now we are hoping for December.

Our architect, BEN DOWNIE, has completed a survey of the building, but that remains to be studied and decided upon.

Being reassured about the general condition of the building we can perhaps proceed to putting our names to the purchase agreement, even without full agreement to our intentions and needs to make it an Orthodox temple.

Early in October we have a meeting with bodies who have to give permission for various things

to be done, and I envisage its being reasonably straightforward to get general agreement, even if not to get absolutely everything we would like.

Meanwhile we keep open the Appeal, since of course we have to work towards raising the funds to install heating and proper lighting, to smarten the place up, and gradually to fit out this beautiful building with worthy furnishings for our worship and other use.

So let us hope that everything may go forward smoothly and confidently. That will be by the help and blessing of God, to whom be all thanks and praise. So please continue to pray for our project.

Father Alexander

May I congratulate and thank MARGARET HAIG for her devotion to the Appeal, for which she personally has now raised £1,000 by making jams and chutneys and selling them to friends and colleagues!



St Osyth - our local Orthodox Saint

St Osyth was Queen to King Sighere of Essex (or perhaps of East Essex). He had become a Christian, but rejected the Faith when a great famine hit the land. She separated from him and founded a monastery for women at the place now called after her near Clacton. After years of faithful life she was martyred by raiding Danes about 700 AD. She is commemorated on 7 October.

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 **£151,000** (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

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

APPEAL WEBSITE: orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk
FACEBOOK: *St Martin's Appeal*

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

Reader: George Harrison 07-869-488-842

Churchwardens: Dusan Radunovic 01-206-762-553, Jon Kanaar 01-255-431-975

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

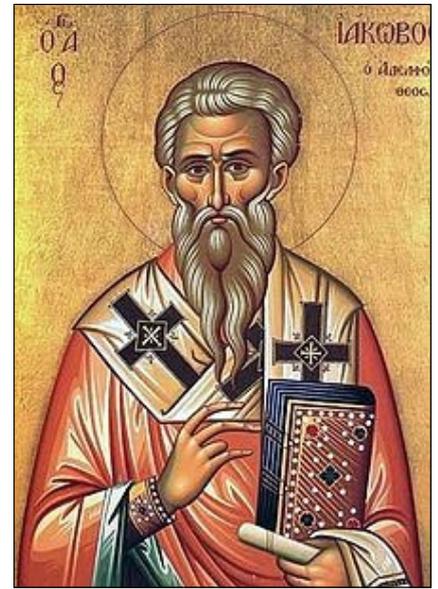
Parish Website: <http://www.orthodoxcolchester.org.uk>

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



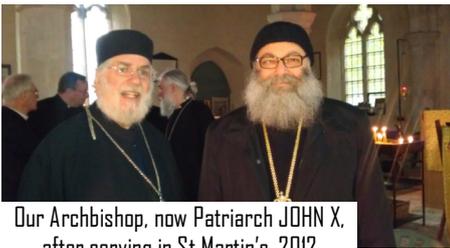
St Demetrius the Wonderworker and Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica (left) suffered under the Great Persecution of Diocletian at the beginning of the 4th century. He revealed himself as a Christian to the emperor Maximian, and suffered bravely as a young man. He is known as a Great Martyr, very popular from the many miracles at his tomb, which you can visit in his church at Salonika. In icons he is often shown on a white horse. **He is celebrated on 26 October.**

St James the Lord's Brother (right) was probably son of Joseph by a previous marriage and therefore the Lord's step-brother. He became the first Bishop of Jerusalem. There are several disciples called James in the New Testament which leads to a lot of confusion. He wrote the Epistle (Letter) of St James, and ended his life as a Martyr. He ruled the church in the Holy City well, and was widely admired and respected, earning the nickname of "the Just". **He is celebrated on 23 October, and there will be a Holy Liturgy in St Helen's on that day at 9.30 am.**



Here and There

NATIONAL HERITAGE DAYS: We opened **St Helen's** as usual. On the Saturday 136 visited, and on the Sunday 61, making a total of 197. So a great number, mostly local, learnt a little more about the history and tradition of this wonderful Chapel, and a little about Holy Orthodoxy. But this year we were allowed also to open **St Martin's**—at the same time as St Helen's, and additionally on the following weekend. On the first Saturday 146 came, on the Sunday 87, making a total of 233. On the second Saturday 64 came, on the Sunday 18, a total of 82. So the total visiting St Martin's over two weekends was 315. **This was a marvellous opportunity to witness to our Faith and to our intentions in the Parish. Thank you and well done to those who gave hours of service to allow the two churches to be open.** (You can't add the two totals together, by the way, to say how many visitors we had, since a good number of those who came to one came to both buildings.)



Our Archbishop, now Patriarch JOHN X, after serving in St Martin's, 2012

ST HELEN'S COMPUTER CALENDAR ON THE HOLY MOUNTAIN! It was good to discover that our Calendar, first published many years ago, is in use on Athos. Of course we also use it ourselves, to produce the printed Calendar every month to assist you at home. Apparently a monk from New Skete uses it and asked for some technical help. I was able to pass the query on to DAVID DAVIES, who designed it for us soon after the foundation of the Parish, and adjusts it every year. David writes, *It is wonderful to think the software has got all the way to the Holy Mountain.* God bless all who use it, and congratulations to David for his successful work. Our calendar is available to anyone who would find it useful. **Talk of Athos** reminds me to thank CATALIN FLISCU for his gift of incense from Athos for **St Helen's, which he bought on his recent visit.**

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX: I have had the enjoyable privilege of being Orthodox Chaplain at the University for over 20 years, and am glad to say that - in these days of my declining powers - I am now to be helped by an assistant, MARK SHILLAKER. This term we are going to have a **service every Wednesday evening 6.15-7.15 pm**, starting with the Paraklesis. I trust that this will be a help to students. I am grateful to Mark for his assistance, and pray that his ministry will be a blessing to students and staff, to me, and to himself.

OUR CHILDREN kindly gave me a Eurostar voucher for my 80th birthday, and HILARY and I recently took it up to go direct to **Avignon**, on the great River Rhone, with four nights away. It was an interesting place to visit, with the famous Bridge and the Palace of the Popes (who left Rome for 70 years in the 14th century), and many other places of worth. One day we went on further down the beautiful Rhone to **Arles**, 20 miles from the Mediterranean: alas, we did not see the sea. Arles has more of interest than Avignon, from the Orthodox point of view. There are both a Roman amphitheatre (where no doubt early Christians were martyred) and a theatre, and churches of great antiquity. It is particularly associated with St Constantine. **I have known of the city of Arles from my boyhood interest in church history, and long wanted to visit it. Eleven years before the first Ecumenical Council at Nicaea St Constantine called the first Council of the Church in the West there in 314 AD—three Bishops from Britain were present, and one of them may have been from Colchester, though this is disputed.** Arles was the Metropolis of all Gaul in the early days. We prayed in the wonderful Romanesque St Trophimus church for all of you. St Honoratus, who founded the celebrated Lerins monastery off the coast in the Mediterranean is buried there.

A Word from the Fathers: St Gregory of Agrigentum (+603)

Light, says the Preacher [in Ecclesiastes] is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun. 'For if the light were taken away the world would be unadorned and life would be lifeless. Which is why Moses, who saw God, said, 'And God saw the light and said it was good.' Here it is fitting for us to think of that great, true, eternal light that 'enlightens every man coming into this world,' namely Christ our Saviour, the Redeemer of the world, who was made man and came to the last extremity of the human condition. Of him the prophet David says, 'Sing

to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds; his name is the Lord, exult before him.'....

But now it is most sweet to gaze on him with the eyes of the spirit and to contemplate and ponder over his divine beauty that it is not possible for man to see. Then,... to be enlightened and adorned; to be filled with the sweetness of the spirit and clothed in sanctity; to attain to understanding and finally to be filled with divine exultation, which lasts all the days of this present life....

OCTOBER DAYS

Tue	1	Protection of Holy Theotokos
Thu	3	Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite
Sun	6	Pentecost 10, H Apostle Thomas
Mon	7	Nun-Martyr Osyth, Queen of Essex, S Pelagia of Tarsus
Wed	9	H Apostle James, son of Alphaeus
Fri	11	H Apostle Philip of the Seventy
Sun	13	Pentecost 17, Fathers of 7th Council
Fri	18	H Apostle & Evangelist Luke
Sat	19	S Demetrius Commemoration of the Departed S Frideswide of Oxford,
Sun	20	Pentecost 18, S Gerasimus of Cephalonia
Wed	23	H Apostle James, brother of the Lord
Sat	26	Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-flowing
Sun	27	Pentecost 19