

# 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 268

NOVEMBER 2019



### October Days

Friday 1 November Holy Liturgy 9.30 am  
*SS Cosmas & Damian of Mesopotamia*  
 Friday 8 November Holy Liturgy 9.30 am  
*Holy Michael and all the Bodiless Powers*  
 Sunday 11 November Holy Liturgy 10.30 am  
*St Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours*  
 Liturgy at St Helen's - Akathist at St Martin's Church  
 Thursday 21 November Holy Liturgy 9.30 am  
*Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple*  
 Saturday 30 November Holy Liturgy 9.30 am  
*Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called*

## Sing to St Martin, ask his prayers for us now!



We recently had a meeting with various bodies who must approve the plans for St Martin's - Church Commissioners, Historic England, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, local planners.

It is good to say that they are indeed generally sympathetic to what we want to do, though certain items, including heating, do have to be sorted out.

Unfortunately the date for purchase is again being put back—probably until early in 2020. We have asked again if we can have it earlier “on licence”, and we await hearing the answer.

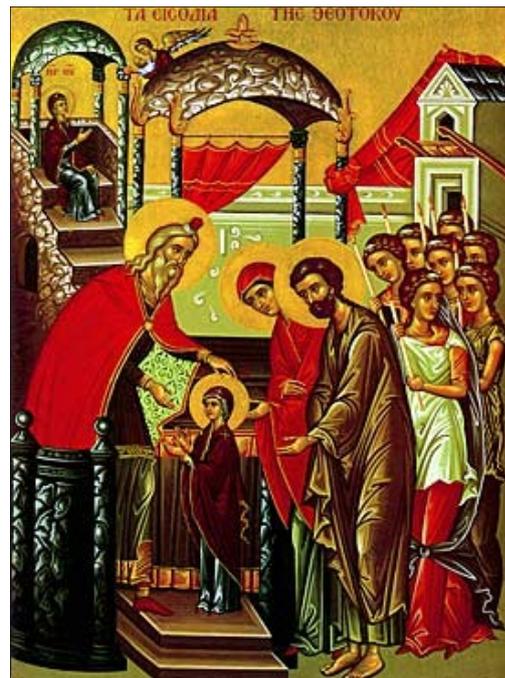
I ask you now to bring St Martin himself into your prayers.

In due course he will become a patron of our Parish, and it is entirely appropriate to turn to him for his support now. His hymns are below.

May his prayers assist and strengthen us.

*Father Alexander*

In preparation for the new situation of owning a building, there will be an **Extraordinary General Meeting on Sunday 24 Nov after the Liturgy, only 5 minutes long**, to change the Parish Constitution so as to allow members of the Church Council to be Trustees, without personal financial responsibility. Then a 5 minute meeting for Council members to deal with the new situation.



On the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple (above), Thursday 21 November, there will be Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am.

St Martin was a soldier in the Roman Army. As soon as he could, he left to be baptised and became a monk, a disciple of St Hilary of Poitiers. Against his own will he was made Bishop of Tours in central France, venerated as a holy man in his life-time. He died in 397.

**SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER**, the day before St Martin's feast, immediately after the Holy Liturgy in St Helen's Chapel, you are invited to come to St Martin's Church for an Akathist to the Saint, probably taking about 20 minutes. Warm clothes!

### TROPARION & KONTAKION TO ST MARTIN THE MERCIFUL

In signs and in miracles  
 thou wast renowned  
 throughout the land of Gaul.  
 By grace thou art a light for the  
 world, O Martin,  
 Bishop blessed of God.  
 Deeds of mercy and compassion  
 filled thy life with their splendours,  
 Teaching and wise counsel  
 were thy riches and treasures,  
 Which still thou dost dispense freely  
 to those who honour thee.

As a devoted man of God,  
 thou didst proclaim  
 his mysteries,  
 And as a seer of the Trinity,  
 thou sheddest thy blessings  
 throughout the West.  
 By thy prayers and entreaties,  
 O adornment of Tours  
 and glory of all the Church,  
 Preserve us, Blessed Martin,  
 and save all  
 who praise thy memory.

### ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S

17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB, UK

Raised so far: over **£152,685** (towards the £200,000)

The Appeal remains open, but is somewhat on hold, until various costings are agreed. Please consult:

APPEAL WEBSITE: [orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk](http://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 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](mailto: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>

## Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

St Andrew is one of the most attractive of the Apostles – painstaking, eager, responsive, organising, but gentle and kind.

According to St John's Gospel he was the first of the twelve disciples to be called by Christ. Immediately he extended the invitation to others.

He was a fisherman by trade, working with his brother Simon Peter, who later became the chief of the Apostles. He was the one approached by the Greeks for an introduction to Christ, and he simply brought them to the Lord.

**Feast Sat 30 Nov, Liturgy 9.30 am**

### Here and There

**HOLY MARRIAGE:** Congratulations to MARK and PAULA SHILLAKER, who were married in a civil ceremony many years ago, but - after both were received into the Orthodox Church last year - decided that they wished to have the official blessing of God and his Church upon their union. On 20 October they were married in St Helen's in a very happy ceremony. Many years to them!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to GRIG and CRISTINA MARGINEAN on the birth of their second child MATTHEW, who has already been baptised at home in Romania. Also to GHEORGHE KEVIN, new son of GHEORGHE and DANIELA CAIAN, baptised at St Helen's.

**ORTHODOX HOUR** at the University is now on Wednesday evenings in term-time at 6.15, instead of Thursday lunchtimes. All Orthodox students and staff are invited. We are now having prayer sessions. We started with a service to ask God's blessing on the new academic year, and since have had a Salutation service (Paraklesis) to the Mother of God, and a Reader Vespers. Please encourage other students to attend.

**METTINGHAM:** Our friends the clergy and people of the ROCOR parish near Bungay in Suffolk, which supplies our votive candles, invite us to two occasions this month:

- **Visit of their Bishop Irenei - Wednesday 6 November**  
10.00 am Greeting of Bishop, Hours, Liturgy, Cross Procession, Lunch.
- **Their Founders Day - Friday 15 November**  
10.30 am Liturgy, Visit to the grave, Lunch.

**CHILDREN OF ST HELEN:** The next session will be on Saturday 2 November, at 3.15 pm. Pre-school and primary children are invited. More information from SYLVIA or SANJA - contact numbers on the information panel overleaf.

**"SAINT SOPHRONY":** We shall soon get used to referring in this way to the Elder and Founder of the Monastery of St John the Baptist, who died in 1993, much loved by many in this Parish and district as well as many around the world. Everybody has known for years that he was indeed a Saint. Now it has been announced that the Ecumenical Patriarchate is to canonise him, for which we have been waiting a long time. At the time of writing the situation is confused, but he is a Saint already in God's eyes, presumably the actual ceremony will happen shortly, and many will certainly and properly venerate him now.

**OUR GOOD FRIEND** Archimandrite PHILIP HALL, after hearing we had raised the cost of St Martin's wrote encouragingly:

*May I add my happy voice to those of the others! CONGRATULATIONS! It is wonderful to know that that beautiful building - now a skeleton - will shortly have its bones reunited to its flesh and stand up again in Praise of the Lord and fight His battles once more. Thank you and Thank God!*

**Join Archbishop Silouan and clergy and laypeople from all over Britain and Ireland**

**DIOCESAN CONFERENCE 2020**  
**Practical Orthodoxy: Living as Orthodox Christians in Secular Britain**  
**Yarnfield Conference Centre, close to M6**  
**25-27 May**

**Crèche arranged to encourage families to attend**

The full cost is £180 per person, £170 if booked through the Parish before Christmas, but further considerable Deanery discounts are available if the Parish pays a contribution. So many more should be able to attend.

Please speak to us well before Christmas to secure one or more places at a discounted fee.

### NOVEMBER DAYS

Fri	1	Wonderworkers Cosmas & Damian
Sun	3	Pentecost 20, S Winifred of Holywell
Wed	6	S Illtyd, Abbot of Llantwit Major
Fri	8	Synaxis of Archangel Michael &c
Sat	9	S Nectarios Kephala of Pentapolis
Sun	10	Pentecost 21, S Justus of Canterbury
Mon	11	S Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours SS Menas, Victor, & Vincent
Wed	13	S John Chrysostom
Thu	14	Holy Apostle Philip
Fri	15	Beginning of Nativity Fast
Sat	16	Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew
Sun	17	Pentecost 22, S Hilda of Whitby
Wed	20	S Edmund, King of East Angles & Martyr
Thu	21	ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE
Sat	23	S Columbanus of Ireland
Sun	24	Pentecost 23, Hieromartyr Clement of Rome
Mon	25	Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria
Tue	26	S Stylianos, Protector of Children
Fri	29	Hieromartyr Philoumenos, of Jacob's Well
Sat	30	Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called

### A Word from the Fathers: St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (+ 397)

*Purified and richly adorned, the people advance to the altar of Christ, saying, 'I will go to the altar of God, to God who makes glad my youth.' They have cast aside like a snake the slough of ancient error, and with youth renewed like the angels they hasten to approach that heavenly feast.*

*They come, and seeing the holy altar arranged, cry out, 'You have prepared a table in my sight.' ...It is a marvellous thing that God rained manna on the fathers and fed them with daily food from heaven... Now consider which is the more excellent, the bread of angels or the flesh of Christ.*

