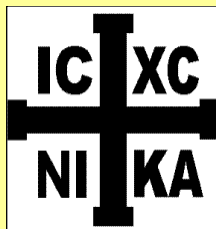


+ The Orthodox Faith - a hope, a joy, a peace, for every believer +

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland*
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 277 SEPTEMBER 2020



Please help in the Beirut disaster

The terrible explosion has caused enormous deprivation in the capital of Lebanon.

Lebanon and Syria are mother countries of the Antiochian Church, to which our parish belongs.

There was a lovely story on the BBC from one of our Antiochian priests in Beirut, where the church nave was destroyed in the explosion but the altar area was not touched at all, even the lamp in the holy Table unmoved, still burning!

Please help in either of two ways:

- A fund for the St George hospital and schools has been opened and commended by our Metropolitan SILOUAN. Donations may be sent directly to: Lloyds Bank, Wimbledon, Sort Code 30-99-66, Account Number: 07341683; BIC: LOYDGB21070; IBAN: GB25 LOYD 3099 6607 3416 83; Account Name: Antiochian Orthodox Society of Britain. Use "Beirut" as a reference.
- THERESA JOHAE (who comes from Beirut and occasionally worships in our church) and her husband ANTONY (who wrote the lovely poem about the church that we published last year) have also opened a fund, and will pass on gifts. This is the link to their fund-raiser account:

<https://gogetfunding.com/lebanese-disaster/?fbclid=IwAR2IFd9fvSn46ZwGZ721uhcYeRvAHhgkDIGRouTfn2MUoi1PpHVPsgmJU>

<https://gogetfunding.com/lebanese-disaster/?fbclid=IwAR2IFd9fvSn46ZwGZ721uhcYeRvAHhgkDIGRouTfn2MUoi1PpHVPsgmJU>

If you find it easier I will have a special basket in church for the two funds.

At last! St Martin's on lease to us from 1 September: praise God!

At long last, from the first day of this month, the wonderful church of St Martin will be ours - on a lease until the purchasing arrangements are all completed.

This means there will be a period of some weeks to allow for public objections to our buying St Martin's, but we hope that by the grace of God there may be no objections at all.

We give thanks to God for sustaining us through all the long years when our faith has been tested.

Prayer will no doubt be offered daily from the first day, but the first bigger services will be on **Saturday 5 September (Great Vespers 4.30 pm)** and **Sunday 6 September (Hours 10.00 am and Divine Liturgy 10.30 am)**.

Sayedna Silouan tells me he will wish to visit us before too long, but an official consecration of the building will, I imagine, not be for a good while.

In the first few days there will have to be the movement of furniture and cleaning of things. The Project Committee have that all in mind.

Watch out for calls for help and offer whatever you can in time and energy.

St Martin's does not yet have any heating, and we may have to make decisions on location etc at short notice. On cold days we will probably have to return to St Helen's, but of course that is small, especially now for 'distancing'. So get used to coming well wrapped up, even if you have to peel a layer off!

We need help on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 September: moving items across from St Helen's, at 10 am on both mornings. We hope there will be professionals in to clean this first time, so the work will be more moving things over.

If you can help, please give JON KANAAR, Churchwarden and Project Committee Chairman, your name and then turn up (old clothes recommended!).

God bless us all, and praise to him. *Father Alexander*

St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's **THE APPEAL REMAINS OPEN**

*We are grateful for those who are continuing
to support us in our attempt to restore
St Martin's as a Temple
suitable for Orthodox worship*

Thank you and God bless you!



St Martin's Church, West Stockwell St CO1 1HN St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh 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>



The Elevation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on 14 September. We shall keep it on the previous day, Sunday 13 September. It is a fine day to keep. It celebrates the finding and setting forth of the Cross under the influence, devotion, and authority of St Constantine and St Helen. Helen's discovery had a profound influence on the world of the fourth century. Their acceptance of the power of the Holy Cross freed many people from religious persecution, mainly in the Eastern Roman empire (there had been less in the West). But it also led to the growing influence of the Orthodox Christian Church on political, social, and daily life. This was a total reversal of life in the years just before it, and Christians all became devoted to the mother and son, Helen and Constantine. In East Helen was thought to have come from western Turkey (as we would now call it), but in the West the tradition was that she was born in Colchester, and built the Chapel where we are privileged to worship.

St Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, feast day 26 September

St Ninian was perhaps the earliest missionary of the Faith in Scotland, settling in Whithorn, Galloway c. 397 and dying c.430. He was a disciple of St Martin at Tours and on his death returned to the south-west of Scotland. He is venerated as Apostle to the Picts. You can visit today the remains of his monastery, and also the cave on the sea-shore where he spend a lot of time in contemplation. He was there many years before St Columba came to Iona. He is a lovely character, though admittedly precious little is known of him. When you go to Scotland turn aside to visit Whithorn and ask his prayers.

Here and There

MARIA CARTER (known as Lesley or Bobbie) has died at the age of 102, in her own home in Frinton, devotedly cared for to the end by PAULA and companions. She was not baptised as a child and it took her until something like age 80, with the warm encouragement of her friend ALEXIA LANSLEY, for this to be done. This, I think, was not long before our parish was founded, and she became a foundation member. By then she was beginning to feel her age and we did not see her much in church, but in the last years of her life I took her Holy Communion at home. She had problems of deafness and memory etc, but generally kept an understanding mind. When I took her Holy Communion she never hesitated to interject requests for me to "Say that again" or to say "Can you repeat that," insisting that she understood exactly what was being said. In her own distinctive way, she was quite a character, and I shall miss her. I served her funeral at All Saints Anglican church in Walton by kind permission of the Vicar. Memory eternal.

ARCHPRIEST MICHAEL KAISER has sadly died in Florida, on the feast of the Dormition. He too was a character. He was very much concerned in establishing the Antiochian deanery in Britain in the early and middle 1990s, in his capacity of leader of the Antiochians who followed the Western Rite, but though a few missions in Britain followed it for a short while, it never came to anything, and the idea of the Western Rite gradually faded away here. During his visit to Britain he stayed with us at the Deanery at Bocking and kept us in laughter the whole time. Memory eternal! **DORMITION FEAST** is also the time of Khouria HILARY'S birthday, with a consequent gathering of some of our family. So on Sunday 16 August it was good to have Father ALEXANDER Junior here to serve, with his wife and son, and MARGARET sang a hymn to the Mother of God during the Priest's Communion. It was good to be stopped next day by a passer-by who said she had passed by on the Sunday at Communion time and was very moved by that lovely singing. **REPOSE OF ST HELEN:** I had hoped to

have a Liturgy on 18 August in honour of our Patron Saint. Unfortunately there was shortage of the necessary Readers etc that day, so I had to cancel it, but HILARY and I took advantage of the Eat Out-Help Out scheme to have a meal out in honour of our beloved Saint and we drank a quiet toast to her and her disciples here. **THE PAPANAMOUS,** Theodoros and Theanitsa, kept the fish and chip shop in Wivenhoe, but when they sold the business after some distressing trouble a few years ago, they went to live with one of their daughters in Benfleet. Now they have returned to live in Coggeshall and it is good to have them among us again. **NATIONAL HERITAGE DAY:** Our participation has been cancelled this year because of the epidemic and our own moving in etc only a few days before. **OPERATION:** I have an eye operation on 23 September. I should be able to take services on the weekend following, but there could be a Reader service instead. **CHOIR PRACTICE** in St Martin's before we move in. Will all members contact Khouria HILARY for the date and time.

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.

A Word from the Fathers: St Andrew of Crete (+740)

We are celebrating the feast of the Cross, whereby darkness was dispelled and the light restored. We are celebrating the feast of the Cross. And with the crucified one we are raised up, leaving behind us the earth and sin so that we may possess what is above. How great the Cross, what blessings it holds! He who possesses it possesses a treasure. More noble, more precious than anything on earth. In fact and in name, it is indeed a treasure, for in it and through it and for it all the riches of our salvation were stored away and restored to us.

SEPTEMBER DAYS

- Tue 1 Church New Year
- Sat 5 Prophet Zachariah & Righteous Elizabeth
- Sun 6 Pentecost 13, Miracle of Archangel Michael**
- Tue 8 Nativity of the Mother of God
- Wed 9 SS Joachim & Anna
- Sun 13 Pentecost 14. Exaltation of Holy Cross (Parish observance)**
- Wed 16 S Ninian, Bishop of Whithorn
Gt Martyr Euphemia the All-praised
- Thu 17 Martyr Sophia, and daughters Faith, Hope & Love
- Sun 20 Pentecost 15, S Theodore of Tarsus & Canterbury, Archbishop, Patron of our Archdiocese (Parish observance)**
- Wed 23 Conception of Forerunner John the Baptist
- Thu 24 S Silouan of Athos, S Thekla, Protomartyr
- Fri 25 S Sergei Abbot, Wonderworker of Radonezh
- Sat 26 H Apostle John the Theologian
- Sun 27 Pentecost 16**
- Wed 30 S Honorius, Archbishop of Canterbury