

+ 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 279 NOVEMBER 2020



Services in the Parish

Currently, our only services are:

Saturday	Vespers	4.30 pm
Sunday	Holy Liturgy	10.30 am

Special days this month:

Sun 8 Nov, Remembrance after Liturgy
Wed 11 Nov, St Martin Liturgy 9.30 am

Praise God! St Martin's is now on its journey back to being a real Orthodox church!

At last we have moved in to this wonderful Temple of God, that we are shortly to call our base for our Christian living, our *Home!*

By 5 November any objections by the public must be received by the (Anglican) Church Commissioners, and I am not aware that any have been raised as yet.

After that I hope that proceedings may prove short, so that we hand over the required amount of money and settle down to, by the will of God, centuries of Orthodox life in St Martin's church.

We have been worshipping here now for some eight weeks. Attendances are up already, due to a number of factors. We can of course accommodate greater numbers, with people in "distanced" positions to accord with Government rules.

The place alters Sunday by Sunday, with new rugs and other items being installed. A few radiators were put in place recently in the hopes of producing a little warmth. Gradually we shall get the right selection of holy icons.

But naturally it never be "finished". As the spiritual home of an Orthodox parish, it will be added to or slightly changed in this way and that through the future. What we have done now is merely to set out on the journey which, please God, generations to come will continue to enrich.

Praise God we have started. See what ways you personally can help forward this new life in Christ and the Holy Orthodox Faith.

Father Alexander



St Martin's Day 2020

<u>Tuesday 10 November</u> 5.30 pm Great Vespers	<u>Wednesday 11 November</u> 9.30 am Divine Liturgy
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OUR FIRST ST MARTIN'S FEAST-DAY
IN ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Please wear warm clothing
Sadly, because of the pandemic, there can be no meal afterwards



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

We are grateful to those continuing to support our restoring
St Martin's as a Temple suitable for Orthodox worship

Latest Total (30 September 2020): £164,539

Thank you and God bless you!

St Martin's Church, West Stockwell Street CO1 1HN

St Helen's Chapel, Maldenburgh Street CO1 1UB

St Martin's is 100m down behind the Town Hall. St Helen's is 200m down behind the George Hotel in the High Street. Both buildings are accessible from the High Street only on foot. Nearest car-park NCP Nunns Rd. 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 Maldenburgh 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

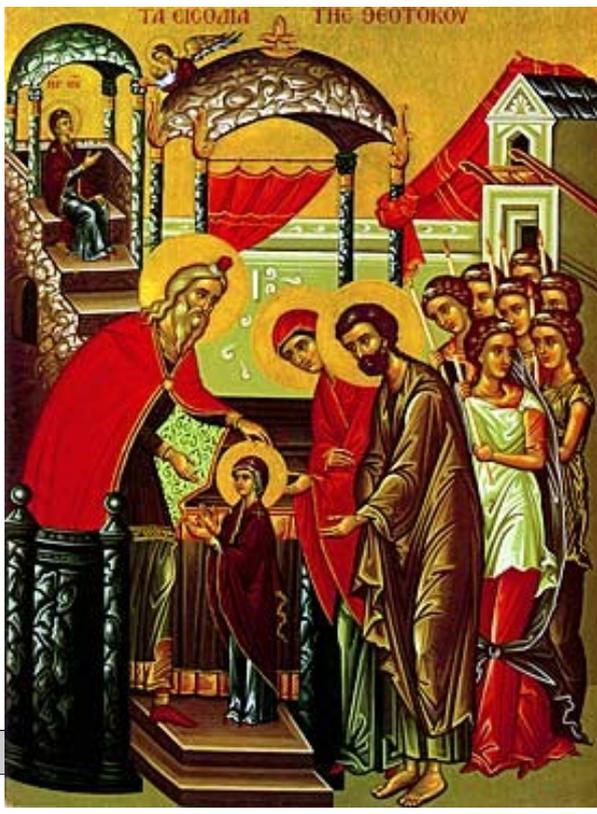
Churchwardens: Dusan Radunovic 01-206-762-553, Jon Kanaar 01-255-431-975

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 Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, 21 November

On this day we celebrate the giving over by her parents of the Holy Virgin aged three to the Temple Priests. According to Tradition, she steps up to St Zacharias without a care in the world, not even saying farewell to St Joachim and St Anna, who joyfully hand her on as their offering. She remains living and working in the Temple to the age of sixteen when she is betrothed to St Joseph, and then miraculously conceives Christ our God in her womb.

In this way, the feast very happily becomes an introduction to all the story and teaching of the Christian Gospel. It also teaches us a number of different things about the Gospel. It reminds us of the blessing we receive for ourselves when we acknowledge the sense that we each have a calling from God and that we must put Christ first in our Christian family life. It tells of the blessedness of purity, and the joy of heartfelt devotion.

We will keep the feast a day late, on Sunday 22 November.

Our thanks for gifts for St Martin's:

- Kyriaki Mowskovia & Joseph (Bryan) Davenport (radiators)
- George and Thea Harrison (rug)
- Christodouli Cobbold (rug)

We need further rugs, large ones of a suitably quiet design and in reasonable condition, and nice tables, and much else. Please offer items before bringing them.

Church Council Meeting

The Council met briefly after the Holy Liturgy and agreed the following resolutions:

1. That this Council approves the payment of £150,000 from the Parish No.2 Account (the Appeal Account) to the Church Commissioners to purchase St Martin's Church, for use as the parish church.
2. That this Council agrees the renaming of the parish with the Archbishop's approval as The Orthodox Parish of St Martin and St Helen, Colchester, to come into effect on the completion of the purchase of St Martin's Church, and will inform the Charity Commissioners of this decision, and other official bodies such as its bankers.



These matters were agreed early so that immediately they are needed the new names of our parish charity etc can be used.

CHURCH CLEANING: Our thanks to **Yanoulla/ Joanna/Julia O'Dwyer** who has spent a lot of time cleaning in St Martin's and St Helen's, improving looks no end. I am most grateful that she has now taken on the regular cleaning of both St Martin's and St Helen's as a voluntary job.

FLOWERS: Thanks to **Milena Simic-Lawson**, who has taken on as Flower Secretary for the second time. **Seraphima Scott** is now 'shielding', with her husband, so is unable to do that now. We are grateful to her for her work, and look forward to seeing her again when things return to normal.

**Archangel Michael and the other Bodiless Powers
8 November
Troparion and Kontakion**

O Commanders of the Heavenly Host, we the unworthy beseech you, that through your entreaties you will fortify us, guarding us in the shelter of the wings of your ethereal glory, even as we fervently bow before you crying: "Deliver us from all danger, as Commanders of the Powers on high! "



Chief Commanders of God; ministers of divine glory; guides for men and leadership of the Incorporeal; as Chief Commanders of the Incorporeal, plead for our welfare and for great mercy.

NOVEMBER DAYS

Sun	1 Pentecost 21, SS Cosmas & Damian of Mesopotamia
Tue	3 S Winifred of Holywell, Wales
Sun	8 Pentecost 22, Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel & All the Bodiless Powers
Mon	9 S Nektarios of Pentapolis
Tue	10 S Arsenius of Cappadocia
Wed	11 S Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours, Patron of our church , S Menas of Egypt
Thu	12 S John the Merciful, Abp of Constantinople
Fri	13 S John Chrysostom, Abp of Constantinople
Sat	14 H Apostle Philip
Sun	15 <i>Beginning of Nativity Fast</i> Pentecost 23,
Mon	16 H Apostle & Evangelist Matthew
Tue	17 S Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, Yorkshire
Sun	22 Pentecost 24, Entry of the Mother of God (Parish observance)
Tue	24 Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome
Wed	25 Gt Martyr Catherine of Alexandria
Thu	26 S Stylianos, Protector of children
Sun	29 Pentecost 25
Mon	30 H Apostle Andrew the First-called