

# 25 years of Holy Orthodoxy in the heart of Colchester, March 1996 - March 2021 — Praise to God !

## Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 283

MARCH 2021



## Services in St Martin's Church

13 March & following Saturdays

4.30 pm Vespers

14 March & following Sundays

10.15 am Hours & Holy Liturgy

Weekday services see over page

Watch out for unexpected 'Covid' changes

# A quarter of a century of regular Orthodox worship in Colchester

This month we celebrate twenty-five years of regular Orthodox worship in Colchester. We are an established parish, an occasion worthy of notice.

In December 1995, with my having left the Anglican ministry in Bocking, next to Braintree, the Haig family were received into the Orthodox Church in St George's cathedral in London, and we moved to Colchester.

A few weeks later, in February 1996 we had a first service, Vespers, in St Paul's Church over near the station. Then on Saturday/Sunday 2/3 March we began regular worship there by the kindness of the Anglican vicar.

However, that summer the arrangement was suddenly abandoned because the building itself was declared to be in a dangerous condition. It was immediately closed and subsequently demolished.

But very quickly, by the grace of God and the goodwill of the local Co-op, we were allowed to begin regular worship in the Co-operative Funeral Chapel, then in Bourne Court off Mersea Road.

That arrangement continued for four years, and this parish must always consider the Cooperative Society one of its prime benefactors.

In 2000 the Co-op decided to redevelop the site, so we had to move out. Colchester Borough Council granted us a sub-lease of St Helen's Chapel, which of course delighted us, though the building was clearly too small to be an effective parish centre.

Our first Sunday in St Helen's was 19 November in 2000, a very joyful day. By the devotion of the people it was fitted with the furnishings of an Orthodox temple immediately.

And that of course brings us to 2020, when, after more than twenty years' struggle we were finally allowed to take on St Martin's—though even now in March 2021 completion is not yet accomplished.

On completion of the purchase we will become 'the Orthodox Parish of St Martin and St Helen'.

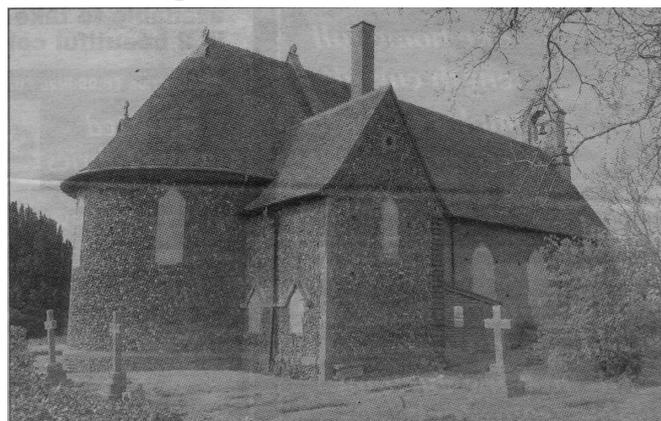
God be praised. May he keep us faithful.

*Father Alexander*

## 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

Thank you, God bless you!



St Paul's Church, near the Colne roundabout, where we worshipped in 1996 for a few months. It was subsequently demolished.

Bourne Court Co-op Funeral Chapel was where we worshipped for four years, now also demolished. The Choir was mostly the Haigs—here Khouria Hilary,

Caroline, Margaret, with Paul Lansley (then still an Anglican priest, but who worshipped with us every week). Alex Haig was the server.



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

### St Helen's Chapel, Maldenburgh Street CO1 1UB

Both temples are off the High Street, but accessible from there only on foot. St Martin's is 100m down behind the Town Hall. St Helen's is 200m down behind the George Hotel. Nearest car-park NCP Nunns Rd, behind Fenwicks, and close to St Martin's. Little street parking available.

#### SERVICES IN ST MARTIN'S

**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

**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**

**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 ANNUNCIATION**—when the Angel came to Holy Mary and said she was to be the Theotokos (God-bearer) - is celebrated on 25 March, exactly nine months of course before Holy Nativity, Christmas. It is frequently depicted in our temples on the holy gates or doors into the altar, to show that the Annunciation is the gate to the Christian way, the gateway to heaven. The Resurrection may be said to be the *pivotal and central* teaching of the Church, but the Annunciation may be said to be *the basis* of it all: it teaches that Christ is truly a full human being with all the characteristics of humanity except sin. And it says that Christ is also truly God - God, who takes human flesh to save us poor feeble sinners.



*Annunciation of the Theotokos*  
**Thursday 25 March**  
*9.15 am Hours & Holy Liturgy*  
*in St Martin's Church*  
*Check nearer date for Covid rules*

*Lent Weekdays in St Martin's Provisional Programme*  
**Wednesdays 17 & 31 March**  
*9.30 am Presanctified Liturgy*  
**Fridays 19 & 26 March**  
*6.00 pm Akathist*  
*Check nearer date for Covid rules*

**Urgent message to those who receive this Newsletter by post**

The 'Posting List' has been revised. In last month's issue we asked people to contact us if they wished us to continue to send it by post or email.

We have removed a number of those who were on the list, if we had not heard anything from them for a good while.

A number have requested us to put them on the 'Email List', and this has been done. Others, those who have not answered, we have removed.

We are pleased to email the Newsletter, which is much less work for us and of course cheaper, or we can if necessary post it.

We have left a few names on of those we did not hear from but who we thought did not have email or would like to continue to hear from us.

Please let us know by post or email if you consider we have got it wrong!  
[parishpriest@orthodoxcolchester.org.uk](mailto:parishpriest@orthodoxcolchester.org.uk)  
 17 Maidenburgh St, Colchester CO1 1UB

**Here and There**

**SUPPORT FOR DIOCESE:** There has been some discussion in the Diocese of contributions for the support of the Bishop dropping under the present financial world problems. So I checked up with David Davies our Treasurer, and he reassures me that we kept up our part in 2020, which was good to hear.

**PROBLEMS:** 2020/21 has been difficult for all world society, but I have chosen to add to that various other difficulties, visiting our hospital for this and that. The latest was that I fell over in a shop and severely bloodied my nose. I got home but had to be taken to hospital by ambulance. I think I am just about over that now, thanks to God.

**St MARTIN'S PROJECT COMMITTEE:** We hope that things may begin to move again now. Project Manager Mark Shillaker is aided by the committee consisting of Jon Kanaar (Chairman), Nick Taylor (Treasurer), George Harrison, Catalin Fliscu, and Fr Alexander. Michael Kampouridis has just joined the group.

**The Great Forty Days**

The Great Fast (often known in English as Lent) is the 40 days from Clean Monday to the day before Lazarus Saturday. This ushers in the Great Week Fast and Holy Pascha.

The first Sunday is the Sunday of Orthodoxy, when we can bring a favourite Icon from home to carry in the procession after the Liturgy.

- Lent 2 honours St Gregory Palamas.
- Lent 3 has the Veneration of the Cross.
- Lent 4 honours St John Climacus ('of the Ladder').
- Lent 6 honours St Mary of Egypt.

The Sunday themes help us to enter the spirit of the Great Fast, or which the first week is considered the one to be most strictly kept. Details of how we fast are shown in the Diocesan calendar (of which I have 2 spare copies now @ £4 each).

The fasting rules are slightly relaxed on Saturdays and Sundays. Do ask if you need other relaxations.

***A Word from the Fathers: St Clement of Rome (+100)***

**M**y brothers, do let us have a little humility. Let us forget our self-assertion and boastfulness and stupid quarrelling and do what the Scriptures tell us instead. The Holy Spirit says, The wise man is not to brag of his wisdom, nor the strong man of his strength, nor the rich man of his wealth. If a man must boast, he should

boast of the Lord, seeking him out and acting with justice and uprightness. More particularly, let us remember what the Lord Jesus Christ aid in one of his lessons on mildness and forbearance. Be merciful, he told us, that you may obtain mercy; forgive, that you may be forgiven. What you do yourself, will be done to you.

**MARCH DAYS**

- Mon 1 S David of Wales
- Tue 2 S Chad of Lichfield, S Nicolas Planas
- Thu 4 S Gerasimus of the Jordan
- Sat 6 Discovery of the Cross & Nails by S Helen
- Sun 7 **Sunday of Meatfare, of Last Judgment**
- Mon 8 S Felix, Enlightener of East Anglia
- Tue 9 Forty Martyrs of Sebaste
- Fri 12 S Gregory the Dialogist, Pope of Rome
- Sat 13 Commemoration of All Monks & Nuns
- Sun 14 **Sunday of Cheesefare, S Benedict**
- Mon 15 *Clean Monday, First Day of Lent, Apostle Aristobulus of the 70, 1st Bishop of Britain*
- Wed 17 S Patrick, Apostle to Ireland
- Thu 18 S Edward the Martyr, King of England
- Sat 20 S Cuthbert of Lindisfarne
- Sun 21 **Lent 1, Sunday of Orthodoxy**
- Thu 25 **ANNUNCIATION TO THE THEOTOKOS**
- Fri 26 Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel
- Sun 28 **Lent 2, S Gregory Palamas**