

Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen Colchester



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles & Ireland
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 302 DECEMBER 2022

His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan
Saturday & Sunday 3 & 4 December

SATURDAY

4.30 PM

RECEPTION OF BISHOP INTO ST MARTIN'S
& GREAT VESPERS

5.15 PM

MEETING OF SAYEDNA
WITH THE CHURCH COUNCILLORS

SUNDAY

9.45 AM

MATTINS (ORTHROS) &
HIERARCHICAL LITURGY
& ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD
OF DEACON MARK SHILLAKER

PLEASE WEAR WARM CLOTHING

LUNCH AT THE METHODIST HALL
NEXT TO COLCHESTER CASTLE

OFFERS OF FOOD TO:

PAULA (07-917-161-046)
OR ELENI (07-783-944-319)



SERVICES DECEMBER 2022

(in St Martin's Church unless otherwise stated)

- Saturdays: Great Vespers 4.30 pm
- Sundays: Matins 9.45 am, Holy Liturgy 10.30 am
- Tuesday 6 December, Holy Nicholas the Wonderworker
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am
- Sunday 11 December, Sunday of the Holy Forefathers
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am
- Thursday 15 December, Hieromartyr Eleutherios of Illyria
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am
- Friday 23 December
Royal Hours 9.00 am
- Saturday 24 December, **EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST**
Vigil Service 4.30 pm (Compline & Mattins)
- Sunday 25 December, **NATIVITY OF CHRIST**
Hours 10.15 am
Holy Liturgy 10.30 am, followed by Carols
- Thursday 29 December, Holy Innocents slain by Herod
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am

*A very happy Christmas to you and to all our
readers from Father Alexander, Khouria
Hilary, Father Mark, and Khouria Paula*

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

Both streets are off the High Street, but the temples are 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 department store, and very close to St Martin's. There is very little street-parking available.

SERVICES IN ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Saturday: usually Great Vespers 4.30 pm Sunday: 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 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB

01-206-530-530 Mob: 07-947-047-201 Eml: parishpriest@orthodoxcolchester.org.uk

Deacon: Father Mark Shillaker 07-917-161-295 Eml: markshillaker@gmail.com

Readers: George Harrison 07-869-488-842, Catalin Fliscu 07-815-682-820

Churchwardens: Dusan Radunovic 07-880-778-385, Jon Kanaar 07-596-221-079

Orthodox Parish of St Martin & 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>

New Editor for Parish Newsletter

With great pleasure I announce that LIGIA IFTIMI has offered to take on as Editor of our Parish Newsletter. She will take responsibility from the January 2023 edition.

I have asked her to introduce herself to our readers in the first issue.

No doubt there will be numerous changes, some small, some big. This is all to the good. The present format is very close to how the Newsletter started in the middle 1990s, before even the parish got going, so change is doubtless overdue.

Fund almost reaches Appeal total —but of course leaving much to be raised for individual items

Nick our hardworking Parish Treasurer tells me we have now raised **£199,427.72** towards the Appeal for £200,000. (£150,000 of that was the cost of purchase, which was finally paid over early this year.)

Congratulations and thanks to all our Benefactors, local or in our much wider circle of friends.

Above all, praise to God for his blessings and opening the hearts of so many to our needs!

We now have to raise by similar or differing methods what is required for (e.g.) heating and lighting, the iconostasis woodwork and icons themselves.

What I think we need now is a small group of people to work out exactly how that can be done and to get the machinery going.

Is there a volunteer to get things going ?

Please speak to me or Fr Mark or our indefatigable Project Manager Catalin.

God bless us all and praise his name!

Father Alexander

God became man in order that man might become God."



St Ignatius of Antioch is a very early Saint, the second Bishop of the city, predecessor of our present Patriarch John X. One tradition is that he was the child that Christ lifted in his arms as an example to us.

He longed to suffer for Christ, and eventually was granted that privilege. He was condemned to be taken to Rome, where eventually he was thrown to the lions.

On the way to Rome he wrote to the Christian groups he passed by, and you can still read what he said. The books are very important, being the link between the New Testament writers and the "Early Fathers".

Sadly, though he is so important, we seldom get to celebrate him appropriately on his feast, 20 December, because it falls so near Christmas.

But not only in the Church of Antioch, to which this parish belongs, but throughout the Christian world, he is important as a church historian, as a witness to the life of the very early Church, and as an early Martyr.

Known as Ignatius the God-bearer, we should honour and love him. May he pray to God for us.

A Word from the Fathers: St Hilary of Poitiers (+ 367)

Jesus Christ is man and God. His existence as God does not begin with his birth as man. Nor does he cease to be God when becomes man. And after his human life there is the whole of manhood and the whole of Godhead in his divinity... There is the distinction between the three states: God, before his human life; then God-and-man; and thereafter wholly God and wholly man.