

The Dormition feast: a promise for us!

Blessed Mary Theotokos (Mother of God) died, "fell asleep in the Lord". The Holy Apostles had gathered to surround her with love and prayer at this great moment. Christ himself came and took her soul (shown in icons as a baby wrapped in swaddling bonds, thus reversing the figures in the Nativity icon). They buried her in a cave - as Christ had been.

St Thomas arrived late, after she had died, and wished to see the Theotokos in her tomb. When they opened it her body was not there: it had been claimed by Christ and taken to the glory of heaven.

That is *Mary's* story, but it is also *our* story. The main difference is that what happened to *her* in being taken to heaven will happen to *us* only at the end of time. We shall die at God's appointed time, and wait in our tomb until he comes. Then we shall be raised to glory.

So the teaching of the Fathers about Mary's Dormition (also called *Repose* or *Falling Asleep*) is not strange at all, as many Christians say. It is in fact the teaching of the Gospels and rest of the New Testament.

The account of the End of Mary is ours too, delayed but not in substance. What a glory awaits us! Alleluia!

Father Alexander

SERVICES JULY-AUGUST (in St Martin's Church unless otherwise stated)

- **Saturdays:** Great Vespers (except 27 Aug) 4.30 pm,
- **Sundays:** Matins 9.45 am, Holy Liturgy 10.30 am

• **Fri 8 Jul, St Procopius:**

Holy Liturgy 9.30 am *St Helen's*

• **Mon 11 Jul, St Sophrony of Essex:**

Holy Liturgy 9.30am

• **Wed 20 Jul, Holy Prophet Elias (Elijah):**

Holy Liturgy 9.30am *St Helen's*

• **Wed 27 Jul, Holy Unmercenary Panteleimon**

Holy Liturgy 9.30am *St Helen's*

• **Mon 1 Aug, Beginning of the Dormition Fast**

Sun 7 Aug, HOLY TRANSFIGURATION (Parish observance)

• **Tue 9 Aug, St Herman of Alaska, Enlightener of America:**

Holy Liturgy 9.30 am *St Helen's*

• **Mon 15 Aug, DORMITION OF THEOTOKOS:**

Holy Liturgy 9.30 am

• **Thu 18 Aug, REPOSE OF ST HELEN:**

Holy Liturgy 10.30 am *St Helen's*



REPOSE OF ST HELEN, PATRON OF OUR PARISH

Holy Liturgy in St Helen's Chapel 10.30 am

Bring & Share Lunch on the Green (in St Martin's if wet)

Veneration of the Relic of St Helen afterwards. Join us if you can

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 department store, and very close to St Martin's. 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 Maldenburgh 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

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Parish Website: <http://www.orthodoxcolchester.org.uk>

Appeal Website: <http://orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk>

Come, spend a few spiritually-refreshing days at Walsingham, “England’s Nazareth”



St Seraphim's Orthodox church, Walsingham, , originally the local railway station!

Walsingham in Norfolk, just 90 miles from Colchester, is a wonderful place to spend a few days. Here is an opportunity to visit it from Thursday 25 to Monday 29 August. It's a beautiful village, devoted to the Mother of God for Catholics and Anglicans as well as Orthodox.

It is the pilgrimage-conference of the Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist. There will be spiritual talks and free time to wander the village streets and see the sights,

Of course there will be Orthodox services. There are three Orthodox temples to visit, and beautiful RC, Anglican and Methodist churches, all within a mile of the village centre. There are also charming mediaeval ruins, and several interesting shops. Accommodation will be in the lovely Anglican Hospice.

The cost is not cheap - adults cost £315 (Fellowship members £280), children up to 16 £120 (under 5s free). But I will pay £50 towards the fee for adult worshippers of this parish.

In addition, anyone needing it can get extra help from the Fellowship.

I really think everyone who attends will enjoy it very much. Here is a lovely opportunity to live for a few days in a deeply religious but natural and joyful atmosphere.

Details are on St Martin's church noticeboard, and DIAKONISSA PAULA will explain matters and give you any help you need.

It's not far off, so make a decision quickly, contact Paula, and book your place.

A Word from the Fathers: St Ignatius of Antioch + about 100 AD

All of you are to follow the bishop as Jesus Christ follows the Father, and the presbytery as the apostles. Respect the deacons as the command of God. No one is to do anything pertaining to the church separately from the bishop. A valid Eucharist is to be defined as one celebrated by the bishop or by a representative of his. Wherever the bishop appears, the whole congregation is to be present, just as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the whole church. It is not right either to baptise or to celebrate the agape apart from the bishop, but whatever he approves is also pleasing to God—so that everything you do may be secure and valid.

Here and there

KHOURIA HILARY reaches a milestone in life this month, celebrating her eightieth birthday on 14 August. She was named *Hilary* because she was born at St Martin's Vicarage in Dagenham in what we now call East London: St Hilary was spiritual father to St Martin in the third century AD. Born the day before the Dormition feast the new baby Newborn Hilary was described as a *gift from the Mother of God* and as a result *Mary* is her middle name.

FATHER ATHANASIOS: Our dear friend's eleventh anniversary is on the feast of St Elias. He was buried in the pretty Lawford churchyard by Manningtree, where his last hermitage was. Every year, except during Covid restrictions, his spiritual children have gathered for his memorial. This year they meet in the church on Saturday 16 July at 11.45 am for the memorial and then go to his grave. All who mourn him are welcome: bring some lunch to share. Fr Athanasius left the Anglican church and became a monk on Athos. He wrote a small book about Anglican problems, *The Durham Affair*, available in the church library.

GREENHOUSE: The greenhouse we offered last month was quickly snapped up by someone, and will I trust bring them joy and satisfaction.

JULY- AUGUST DAYS

Fri	1	Unmercenaries Cosmas & Damian
Sat	2	Placing of Honourable Robe at Blachernae S Stephen the Great of Moldavia
Sun	3	Pentecost 3
Mon	4	S Andrei Rublev
Tue	5	S Athanasios, founder of the Gt Lavra, Athos
Thu	7	Great Martyr Kyriaki
Fri	8	Great Martyr Prokopios of Caesarea
Sun	10	Pentecost 4
Mon	11	S Sophrony of Essex
Tue	12	S Veronica who was healed by Christ
Wed	13	Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel
Fri	15	S Vladimir, Enlightener of the Russian Land, S Swithin, Bp of Winchester
Sun	17	Pentecost 5, S Margaret (Marina) of Antioch SS Tsar Nicholas, Alexandra, and children
Mon	18	Martyrs Grand Duchess Elizabeth & Barbara
Tue	19	Uncovering of Relics of S Seraphim of Zarov
Wed	20	H Prophet Elias (Elijah) Nun-Martyr Maria (Skobtsova) of Paris
Fri	22	H Myrrh-bearer Mary Magdalene
Sun	24	Pentecost 6
Mon	25	Dormition of Righteous Anna
Tue	26	Martyr Paraskevi of Rome
Wed	27	Great Martyr & Healer Panteleimon
Sun	31	Pentecost 7, S Joseph of Arimathea
August		
Mon	1	Proc of the H Wood of the Life-giving Cross <i>Beginning of the Dormition Fast</i>
Tue	2	Transln of Relics of Protomartyr Stephen
Fri	5	S Oswald, King & Martyr
Sun	7	TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST (Parish Observance), Pentecost 8
Tue	9	S Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of America
Sun	14	Pentecost 9
Mon	15	DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
Thu	18	REPOSE OF S HELEN, PATRON OF PARISH
Sun	21	Pentecost 10
Wed	24	Repose of New Hieromartyr Kosmas of Aetolia
Sun	28	Pentecost 11
Mon	29	BEHEADING OF S JOHN THE FORERUNNER
Tue	30	S Alexander, Patriarch of Constantinople
Wed	31	S Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne