

Holy Orthodoxy: Faith in Christ for the modern world

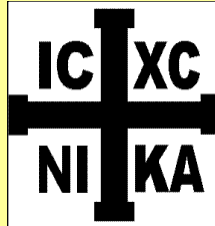
Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 253

JUNE 2018



JUNE WEEKDAYS: Holy Liturgy 9.30 am

Tuesday 5 June

Holy Martyr Boniface, Apostle of Germany

Friday 22 June

St Alban, Protomartyr of Britain

Friday 29 June

Holy Chiefs of the Apostle Peter & Paul

St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's: away we go!

Our Appeal is now up and running. After a number of hold-ups the Appeal leaflets are prepared and are now being circulated. Email subscribers will receive it by email. If you receive this Newsletter by post the Appeal leaflet should be included - if not, please email or phone and we will send you one. We can of course send you more copies, as many as you need, if you can use them to pass on to other well-wishers.

May I remind you of what we are on about?

- We have been happy in our Orthodox worship here in St Helen's Chapel for nearly 18 years. According to ancient local tradition it was built by St Helen herself as her own place of worship, and it is a wonderful, holy place, with a lovely atmosphere.

But it is not satisfactory long-term for the following reasons:

- It is far too small for even ordinary Sunday congregations.
- It has lighting and heating but no water, and no toilet. Nor does it have anywhere for confession and private talk, let alone for bigger meetings.
- As a listed building we would not be allowed to enlarge it, and it has no space around it anyway.

Now, after very many years of on/off discussion, St Martin's Church has been offered to us for a sum we think can raise by the grace of God.

St Martin's, only 250 metres from St Helen's, is suitable because:

- It is ancient, beautiful, and has a holy atmosphere.
- It is much larger, to allow for more people and a fuller expression of our worship and for other aspects of our parish life, yet not too large.

- It has space for a children's room, an office, meeting room, and has a toilet.
- It is close to a car-park.

The price is £150,000, which we must raise in 18 months. But the building is not reserved for us until we have 80% of the sum £120,000.

This means we must raise most of the money very quickly, and we therefore ask those who love us and wish to help us to be **as generous as possible as early as possible**, to secure the building before any others.

In addition to the cost of the building, we must raise a further £50,000 because there is no heating in St Martin's and that will be a costly affair.

We also hope to retain use of St Helen's for two reasons:

- It is such a special building we wish if possible to keep it as an Orthodox shrine to St Helen - "It is too precious to lose," says our Archbishop - justly.

- St Helen's does have heating: we can return there for winter services till heating is installed at St Martin's. I believe that if

we secure the wonderful and holy St Martin's it will in itself become a real celebration of our Holy Faith.

To that end I have secured the assistance of admired Colchester church architect **Ben Downie of Inkpen Downie**, and internationally renowned Orthodox iconographer and church designer **Aidan Hart**. I have absolutely no doubt that their skills and commitment will enhance St Martin's and make it a worthy and much admired place of worship.

I humbly ask God by the prayers of St Helen and St Martin that he will inspire many here and around the world to wish to be associated with this wonderful project, and to give generously, for the glory of God and the good of his Holy Orthodox Church.

Generations yet unborn will surely bless all who help. We in this parish will certainly pray for all our benefactors. *Father Alexander*

ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S

17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB, UK

- * Cheques may be sent to the above address made out to: "St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's"
- * Bank Transfers may be made to: Bank Sort Code 20-22-67 Appeal Account No. 80219819

CLACTON
HOLY
LITURGY
Sat 16 June
10.00 am

The sum in the Appeal Fund today, 21 May, is

£41,422

including some Gift Aid expected in due course

St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh St, High St

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 Balkeine 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): 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

Churchwardens: **David Davies** 01-473-745-167 **Dusan Radunovic** 01-206-762-553

Children of St Helen: **Sanja Radunovic** 01-206-762-553 **Silvia Lelley**: 01-206-835-715

Orthodox Parish of St Helen Registered Charity No. 1134418

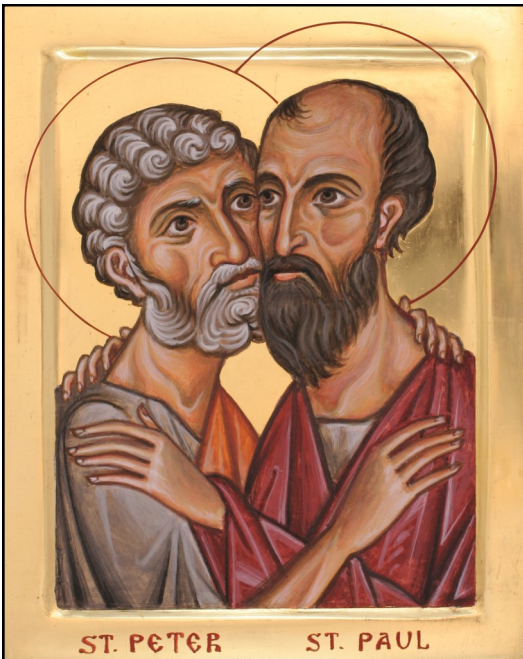
Bank Account: Sort Code 20-22-67

Account No. 50349364 Appeal Account No. 80219819

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

At St James Anglican Church, Beatrice Rd, Clacton-on-sea EC15 1EE

Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday of month 10.00 am



ST PETER AND ST PAUL are the two who stand out as the Leaders of the Apostolic band. St Peter was leader of the Twelve, the inner group around the Lord. St Paul on the other hand was not in the Twelve at all, but at first persecuted the early Christians and only later became a follower of Christ.

In the West they are particularly known together as founders of the Church in Rome, but in the Orthodox Church they are better known as founders of the Church of Antioch, to which this parish belongs. Our beloved Patriarch John X is their successor, before they went on to be considered the founder of the Church in Rome. (Patriarch John was our Archbishop in western Europe, by the way, so we know him personally: he has served the Holy Liturgy not only in St Helen's, but also in St Martin's!)

Peter and Paul are shown in opposition to each other at one point, but they both were preaching the same Gospel, Good News, of life in Christ, and they were later reconciled. In the icons they are often shown embracing, to show their unanimity in Christ. Sometimes their joint icon shows them holding a temple between them - to represent the Church of Antioch.

They are said to have been martyred on the same day, 29 June (though most believe that it was in different years at the end of the 60s of the first century), St Peter by crucifixion (said to be upside down), St Paul by beheading.

Here and There

BAPTISMS: Congratulations to the following, baptised recently:

- LUCAS TINGINYS, son of Ovidijus and Catalina,
- ZACKARY IOANNOU, son of Sotirios and Jodie, and
- PETER, son of James and Elena.

• Many years for them all, and for their families.

CHILDREN: The Children of St Helen (pre-school and primary age) meet in St Helen's Chapel on Saturday 2 June at 3.15 pm.

CHURCH COUNCIL: The Council meets on Sunday 10 June at 12.30 pm. There will be various matters to discuss of course in connection with the Appeal.

ADULTS SEEKING THE ORTHODOX FAITH: It happens that three adults have begun to seek Christ in the Holy Orthodox Church at the same time. There will therefore be a Class for such seekers probably every-other Sunday at 1.30 pm. There is no commitment at this stage of course: they can remove themselves whenever they wish. They have begun on the last Sunday in May. Please pray for all our catechumens.



St Martin's, showing the tower damaged in the Siege of Colchester during the English Civil War in 1648 and never restored. You can also see red bricks recycled in earlier centuries from Roman buildings. In the tower there are some Saxon remains. So the church dates at least from Orthodox times, before the Great Schism. The west wall of the nave lies on the line of the earlier Roman street, before the Saxons altered the street line to its present line. My *personal* theory is that it may actually originate in Roman British times.

A Word from the Fathers: St Bede the Venerable of Jarrow

Saint Alban, 'born in fertile Britain's land', suffered during the reign of Diocletian and Herculian. Whilst still a pagan, he gave shelter to a Christian priest who was fleeing from his persecutors. When Alban saw the holy man spending all his time in prayer and vigils, he was suddenly touched by the grace of God. He was moved to follow the priest's example, and began to emulate his faith and devotion. In the course of time he thoroughly imbibed the priest's salutary teaching, renounced the darkness of idolatry and whole heartedly professed the Christian faith. Soon however word got out that

Alban was sheltering a Christian, and when the soldiers arrived to search the house, Alban dressed himself in the priest's clothes and gave himself up in the place of his guest and teacher. The judge was incensed that Alban should have surrendered himself in place of his guest, and when he refused to offer sacrifice to idols, ordered him to be scourged, in the hope that he could shake his confidence by torture.

But Alban bore all his severe torments with joyful patience for Christ's sake. When the judge saw that no torture could break him or induce him to repudiate his faith in Christ, he ordered him to be beheaded. (22 June)

JUNE DAYS

Fri	1	S Justin Martyr, Nun-Martyr Wite of Dorset
Sat	2	Gt Martyr John the New of Sochi at Belgrade
Sun	3	Pentecost 1, All Saints, Fathers of the 2nd Council, S Kevin, Abbot of Gendalough, Ireland
Mon	4	<i>Beginning of Apostles' Fast</i>
Tue	5	Hieromartyr Boniface of Crediton, Abp of Mainz
Sat	9	S Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria, S Columba of Iona, Enlightener of Scotland
Sun	10	Pentecost 2, All Saints of the British Isles
Mon	11	H Apostles Bartholomew & Barnabas
Thu	14	S Justin Popovich of Celije, Romania
Fri	15	S Jerome of Bethlehem, S Lazar, Prince of Serbia
Sun	17	Pentecost 3, S Botolph of East Anglia, N Martyrs of the Turkish Yoke & of Bulgaria
Tue	19	H Apostle Jude, the brother of the Lord
Wed	20	S Nicholas Kabasilas
Fri	22	S Alban, Protomartyr of Britain
Sun	24	Pentecost 4, Nativity of S John the Forerunner
Wed	27	S Austell, Hermit of Cornwall
Fri	29	H Chiefs of the Apostles Peter & Paul
Sat	30	Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles