

Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles & Ireland

Metropolitan:

His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 285

MAY 2021



Pascha night service

YOU MUST BOOK to attend the services at 11.30 pm, due to Covid rules: unfortunately all places have now been taken.

Please note there is a Liturgy on Holy Saturday morning

- Gifts for flowers for Epitaphion invited—to Khouria Hilary
- * Women & girls are invited to help decorate the Epitaphion on Holy Friday at 9.30 am

Confessions after a service or by arrangement.

Saturdays after Pascha

4.30 pm Great Vespers

Sundays after Pascha

10.15 am Hours & Holy Liturgy

HOLY & GREAT WEEK IN ST MARTIN'S

Holy Wednesday - 28 April

6.00 pm Holy Anointing

Holy Thursday - 29 April

9.30 am Holy Liturgy of St Basil

Holy Friday - 30 April

6.00 pm Mattins & Procession

Holy Saturday - 1 May

9.30 am Holy Liturgy of St Basil

10.30 pm Acts of the Apostles

11.30 pm Midnight Office

HOLY PASCHA - 2 May

12 midnight Procession &

Holy Liturgy

3.00 pm Agape Vespers

Take as full a part as you can in the various services: that is the way to 'Enter into the joy of your Lord.'

St Constantine & St Helen

Friday 21 May

10.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Martin's

Afterwards, if it is a nice dry day, there will be a Parish meal (bring-your-own lunch) for up to 30 worshippers in the churchyard (conforming to the Covid rules)

He has conquered sin and illness—and death itself

Every month at the top of our Newsletter, Greek words appear, in shortened form, around the Cross: Iesous Christos Nika, IC XC NIKA: Jesus Christ the Conqueror. That 'logo' appears in many places in the Christian world, and specially in the Orthodox world, and there particularly on the consecrated Bread of the Eucharist, the Lamb.

They are not empty words meaning little, but a cry from the heart of every Orthodox Christian: "Jesus Christ died on the Cross, but death could not hold him." Yes, by way of the Holy Cross, he rose again from the dead. He is risen now and is in glory. His sufferings, his death, were for real, but death could not hold him.

That belief, the trusting way of life which claims that death has been conquered, the Christian tries to hold onto when times are good and when times are bad.

All through every moment we live alongside death, but that has been especially clear before our eyes in 2020/21, where each day and at

every moment death was brought before our eyes in all its terribleness.

Yet Our Orthodox Christian faith, also every day and at every moment, reminds us that death has already been overcome, that sickness and death have in Christ already been done away.

We are called to live in that certainty of faith. We are to live in that belief: that will give us joy beyond measure:

Christ is risen!

Father Alexander

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

St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh 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 very 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: 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

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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>

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

THE TOTAL GIVEN BY 18 APRIL WAS £170,657

Thank you, God bless you!

**There is no progress on the actual hand-over:
we await that moment with a little impatience!**

Here and There

FAMILY: Clearly, this Covid business has produced its biggest problem for many people in its keeping family and friends apart from each other. It was good therefore from our point of view to have a visit from our daughter MARGARET recently, just for the day. We had a nice little walk with her to St Martin's (picture right) and along beside the river. We felt renewed, and thanked God for the opportunity. Such an occasion gives hope that soon "it will all be over." God grant that it may be so.

DAVID GILCHRIST had a deal of contact with us in the earlier days of this parish. He was an Anglican priest, the chaplain at Brentwood School, and joined with us when free, at Bourne Court and at St Helen's. Some years ago he became Orthodox and moved to Dover. Now to our delight he has been ordained Deacon by His Eminence NIKITAS of Thyateira. We pray that God will bless him and his ministry. Father Deacon David, Many years!

LOOKING AFTER OUR TEMPLES: We needed a vacuum cleaner for St Martin's, particularly for use by our keen cleaning-lady YANNOULA (JULIA) O'DWYER. We received several gifts, but then KYRIAKOS LINGI generously actually bought one to suit her. The various gifts will therefore go to other similar items, unless individual donors wish for their gifts back (please ask). Our thanks to them all for their generosity.

BAPTISED: Congratulations to SEBASTIAN STEFAN, son of RAZVAN and ANCA BALMO of Brightlingsea, recently baptised at St Helen's. God bless him and his family.

BARKING PILGRIMAGE: Please note that the pilgrimage has had to be **cancelled** again this year, due to the pandemic.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE PHILIP

The Prince was Greek, born in Corfu, son of Prince ANDREW of Greece, grandson of King GEORGE I of Greece, and baptised Orthodox. Descended from the British Queen VICTORIA, he was closely related to St ELIZABETH the New Martyr of Russia and to Passion-bearer Tsarina ALEXANDRA.

Before his marriage to Princess, later Queen, ELIZABETH he became British and was received into the Anglican Church, but it is clear the Prince remained an admirer of Holy Orthodoxy. He was a friend of His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch.

His mother, Princess ALICE, later became an Orthodox nun, reviving her great-aunt St Elizabeth's Order of St Mary and St Martha, and eventually dying in Buckingham Palace. She is now buried with St Elizabeth in the Russian Orthodox monastery in Gethsemane in Jerusalem.

Our Bishop, Sayedna SILOUAN, has written to the Queen with his and our condolences in her loss and to commend the Prince into the hands of God.

I was delighted to be invited to attend an Anglican service in the Prince's memory at St James', East Hill on the night before his funeral. Eternal memory!



MAY DAYS

Sat 1 May **Gt & H Saturday, Celebration of the Burial & Descent into Hell**

Sun 2 May **HOLY PASCHA, RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD & SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

Bright Week

Tue 4 Martyrs Raphael, Nicholas & Irene of Lesbos

Wed 5 Gt Martyr Irene of Thessaloniki
New Martyr Ephraim the Newly-revealed

Fri 7 Life-giving Spring of the Holy Theotokos

Sat 8 Synaxis of H Apostle John the Theologian

Sun 9 **Pascha 2, St Thomas Sunday**

Mon 10 H Apostle Simon Zelotes, Apostle of Britain

Tue 11 H Equals to the Apostles Cyril & Methodius

Wed 12 S Ethelheard, Archbishop of Canterbury

Sat 15 S Pachomius the Great

Sun 16 **Pascha 3, H Myrrh-bearing Women**

Wed 19 S Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury
S Alcuin of York

Fri 21 **H Equals to the Apostles Constantine & Helen, Patron of this Parish**

Sun 23 **Pascha 4, The Paralysed Man**

Tue 25 Third Finding of Head of S John Baptist

Wed 26 Mid-feast of Pentecost

Thu 27 S Bede the Venerable

Sun 30 **Pascha 5, The Samaritan Woman**



A Word from the Fathers: an ancient homily for Holy Saturday

What is happening? Today there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; the earth was in terror and was still, because God slept in the flesh and raised up those who were sleeping from the ages. God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled. Truly he goes to seek out our first parent like a lost sheep; he wishes to visit those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He goes to free the prisoner Adam and his fellow-prisoner Eve from their pains, he who is God, and Adam's son. The Lord goes in to them holding his victorious weapon, his cross. When Adam, the first created man, sees him, he strikes his breast

in terror and calls out to all: 'My Lord be with you all.' And Christ in reply says to Adam: 'And with your spirit.' And grasping his hand he raises him up, saying: 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light. 'I am your God, who for your sake became your son, who for you and your descendants now speak and command with authority those in prison: Come forth, and those in darkness: Have light, and those who sleep: Rise. I command you: Awake, sleeper, I have not made you to be held a prisoner in the underworld. Arise from the dead; I am the life of the dead. Arise, O man, work of my hands, arise, you who were fashioned in my image. Rise, let us go hence.