

Our Feast of Pascha

This was first Pascha we have celebrated in St Martin's as our own church.

Over the years we have indeed celebrated the Feast of Feasts in the building. One year - 2009 I think - we even had Great and Holy Week in St Martin's and the then-Archbishop, now His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X of Antioch, served the Holy Liturgy in St Martin's on Bright Tuesday or Wednesday, with ordinations as Readers of now-Priests JACOB BRIGHTON-CROSS and ALEXANDER HAIG Junior.

But this Pascha was the first in St Martin's as our own holy temple, and it had the inevitable feeling of delight at being in our own home. I congratulate and thank all who contributed in the many necessary jobs that had to be done, especially the Clergy, including visitor Priest-Monk PATRICK, who was a great help at five of the services of Holy Week, and Readers, Choir (led as always by visiting director MARGARET), and Servers, Flower arrangers, and church Cleaners.

God bless you all.

**Father Alexander
Alexander**

A second loss in a few months.

Very sadly FLORENCE ROBERTS of Sudbury has died, soon after her husband JOHN, meaning that MICHAEL has lost both parents in just some four months. They both died in the West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds.

She had illness for a period but had always found the strength to care for John. Both Romanian they had changed their names and lived contentedly in Britain for many years, bringing up Michael here.

The funeral will be in Sudbury Cemetery Chapel on Wednesday 11 May at 2.00 pm, with burial there following.

Memory eternal, Florence: may you have a happy reunion in death with your dear husband. We shall miss you both.

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling
down death by death, and upon those in the
tombs bestowing life.**

SERVICES THIS MONTH (in St Martin's Church unless otherwise stated)

- * Saturdays: Great Vespers 4.30 pm,
- * Sundays: Matins 9.45 am, Holy Liturgy 10.30 am
- * Tue 10 May **Apostle Simon Zelotes**: 9.30 am Holy Liturgy *St Helen's*
- * Wed 18 May **Mid-feast of Pentecost**: 9.30 am Holy Liturgy *St Helen's*
- * Sun 22 May **St Constantine & St Helen**: 9.45 am Mattins,
10.30 am Holy Liturgy *Parish observance transferred from Sat*
- * Fri 27 May **St Bede the Venerable**: Holy Liturgy 9.30 am *St Helen's*
- * Thu 2 Jun **Ascension Day**: Holy Liturgy 9.30 am



The icon above is a small one of Saints Constantine and Helen brought back from the Middle-East many years ago, as a gift to the oldest town in Britain, dedicated to St Helen. It is displayed in the Mayor's Parlour in Colchester Town Hall.

The town is not dedicated to St Constantine, Helen's son, (later known throughout the world as Constantine the Great) because in the West he was seldom revered as a saint, while Helen was always so honoured. So, for example, we have two streets, one named St Helena Road, the other named simply Constantine Road. The Orthodox Church on the other hand recognises both as saints, with various versions and spellings.

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 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

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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>

Church Giving

A sermon was preached on this subject in April, encouraging all our worshippers to give to the Church: 1. Firstly, 2. Sacrificially, 3. Systematically, 4. Trustingly, 5. Joyfully. This allows the Parish a regular and committed income.

The following week papers on the subject were made available to assist all our members, especially those making a gift and another about the wisdom of 'Gift Aiding' all donations.

These papers remain available on the church table. If you have not yet had them, please look out for them, take a set, and study it as you make your own personal and private commitment.

PROGRESS ON APPEAL

The Appeal is a distinct fund from ordinary Church funds. We are grateful to those still supporting it. Several donations have come in recently, including a very generous one of £10,000. God bless all who give large sums or small. Our Treasurer Nick writes:

We are now at around the 4th anniversary of the appeal launch and the total raised stands at £194,024.16. We have spent £162,723.27 so far.

Much more will in fact be needed even after we reach the £200,000 originally set as our aim, and now only about £6,000 short: can you help us achieve at least that?

Here and there

CONGRATULATIONS to ROBIN MOUSTOXITHI-STONE on passing his ninetieth birthday at the beginning of May in Greece, where he and LIA have lived for some years. Earlier he was part of this Parish at the beginning of its history in the 1990s: he was a teacher of music, and has a doctorate in the subject, his instrument being the piano. He still keeps in touch with us and religiously reads this *Newsletter* every month. His son ALEXANDROS with his wife and child live nearby. Soon they all hope to move to Corfu, where Robin lived as a boy. Many years, Robin!



St Bede the Venerable, whose feast falls on 27 May, is a most attractive saint. Born in Northumberland about 673 he went to the Holy Monastery of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow as a young boy, and remained there contentedly all his life, dying at Jarrow on Ascension Day 735.

A great theologian and historian, he is known as the Father of English History, having written the *History of the English Church and People*, a book still easily available, and well-worth reading. But in fact his scholarship, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom is far wider than just those subjects. In many ways he is the last of the western fathers of the Orthodox Church, having a wide awareness of theology, of the Holy Scriptures, of science and of other subjects, and being a very holy man.

If you ever visit the north-east of England there are many places worthy of pilgrimage. Make sure you take advantage of visiting the places associated with Bede, in particular Monkwearmouth on the coast near Sunderland, where he first went as a boy, and Jarrow, on the great River Tyne, and which he probably helped build as a young lad and man, and where he lived most of his life and died. In both places you see buildings where he himself lived and worshipped. At Jarrow you can also visit the splendid Bede Museum, across the green from the Monastery.

**Holy Liturgy on his feast
Friday 27 May at 9.30 am in St Helen's.**

A Word from the Fathers:

An early sermon in honour of St Dunstan of Canterbury (+988)

The most blessed Dunstan, who danced before God...blazed with all heavenly splendour. Happy in great achievements, shining as a jewel, kind and goodhearted, he was a man of many and outstanding qualities, filled with the spirit of all the just. In his manner of life especially, he was borne aloft by the fourfold chariot of the cardinal virtues, prudence, justice fortitude and temperance, and all that follows from them ...

His life was a wonderful example of all these qualities... He was brought up from a boy in kings' palaces, accepted by leaders and people alike, fortunate even in persecutions... unusual in being bishop of two dioceses at the same time. Indeed, he was chief pastor of all the churches of England as well as ruler of his country and commander of kings. At the same time he carried out the offices of both archbishop and civil advisor to the king.

MAY DAYS

Sun	1 Pascha 2, S Thomas Sunday
Mon	2 Transl of Relics of S Athanasius the Great S Matrona of Moscow
Wed	4 S Pelagia of Tarsus
Thu	5 Great Martyr Irene of Thessaloniki New Martyr Ephraim the Newly-revealed
Sun	8 Pascha 3, H Myrrh-bearers Synaxis of H Apostle John the Theologian
Mon	9 Transl of Relics of S Nicholas H Martyr Christopher of Lycia
Tue	10 H Apostle Simon Zelotes
Wed	11 H Equal-to-the-Apostles Cyril & Methodius
Thu	12 S Ethelheard, Archbishop of Canterbury
Sun	15 Pascha 4, Paralysed Man, S Pachomius
Mon	16 S Brendan the Voyager, Abbot of Clonfert
Wed	18 MID-FEAST OF PENTECOST
Thu	19 S Alcuin of York, S Dunstan of Canterbury
Sat	21 SS Constantine & Helen transferred to tomorrow
Sun	22 Pascha 5, SS Constantine, & his mother S Helen (Patron of Colchester & this Parish)
Tue	24 S Vincent of Lerins
Wed	25 3rd Finding of Head of S John the Baptist, S Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne
Thu	26 S Augustine, Archbishop of Canterbury
Fri	27 S Bede the Venerable
Sun	29 Pascha 6, Blind Man
Thu	6 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST