

Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen Colchester



*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles & Ireland*
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 301 NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday 4 December

**His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan
WILL VISIT OUR PARISH AND
ORDAIN FATHER MARK
TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD
TO SERVE AS ASSISTANT IN THE PARISH
YOU ARE INVITED TO THIS IMPORTANT
OCCASION IN OUR PARISH LIFE**

9.45 AM

**MATTINS (ORTHROS) &
HIERARCHICAL LITURGY
& ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD
[PLEASE WEAR WARM CLOTHING]**

**LUNCH AT THE METHODIST HALL
NEXT TO COLCHESTER CASTLE**

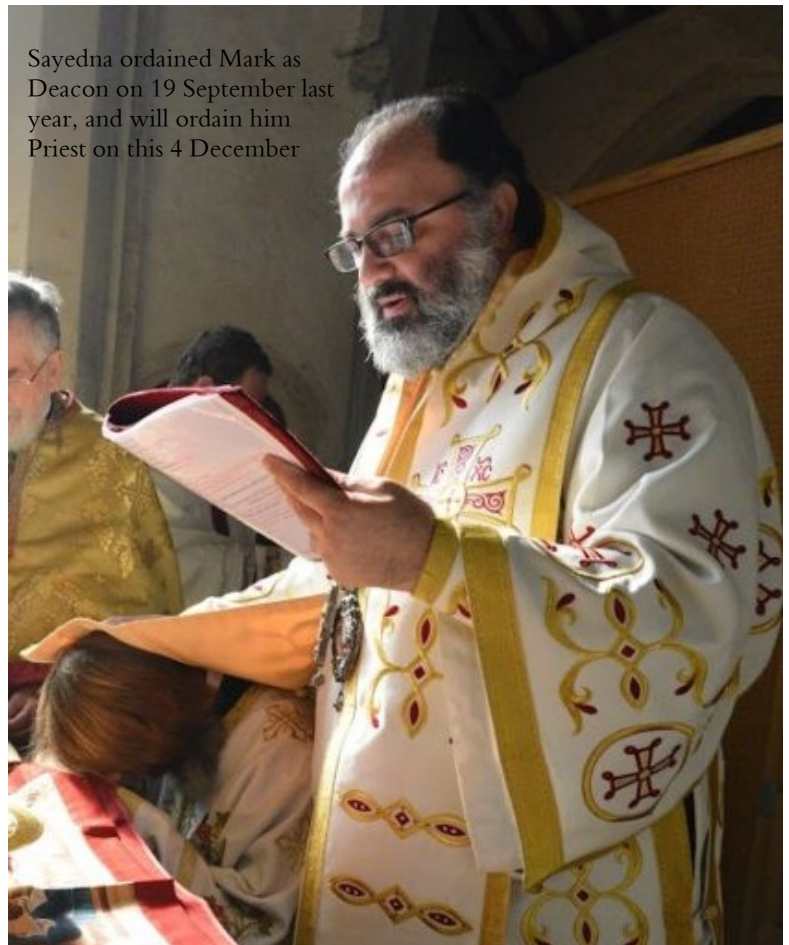
OFFERS OF FOOD TO:

PAULA (07-917-161-046)

OR SUSANNA (07-949-989-661)

OR ELENI (07-783-944-319)

Sayedna ordained Mark as
Deacon on 19 September last
year, and will ordain him
Priest on this 4 December



Project St Martin's At long last, some work can be seen in St Martin's: wooden *steps* have been installed in front of where the iconostasis will be built. Praise to God! However, do understand that there is much work going on in the background, which

will become visible only in the future. Thus, work on the '*kitchen*' area should start quite soon. Other works are the *iconostasis*, and *heating* and *lighting*. It is partially getting the necessary approvals from the Borough planners. There is also the 'small' matter of finding the funds to do the work: we hope to get some ideas in the near future. Pray for the Project Committee, artists and workers, who are giving a lot of thought and prayer to the work, for the glory of God.

SERVICES NOVEMBER 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 1 November, SS Cosmas & Damian**
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am *St Helen's Chapel*
- **FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER, ST MARTIN, PATRON OF OUR CHURCH & PARISH**
HOLY LITURGY 9.30 AM *St Martin's Church*
- **Wednesday 16 November, Holy Apostle & Evangelist Matthew**
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am *St Helen's Chapel*
- **MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER, ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE**
HOLY LITURGY 9.30 AM *St Martin's Church*
- **Wednesday 30 November, Holy Apostle Andrew the First-called**
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am *St Helen's Chapel*
- **Sunday 4 December,**
Mattins 9.45 am, Hierarchical Liturgy 10.30 am & Ordination

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>



21 November is the feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, when she was a small child. The story is not told in the Holy Scriptures, but in some very ancient writings, and has been believed in from the earliest times.

The birth of Mary was the answer to the prayer of her parents Righteous Joachim and Anna were elderly and until then childless.

They in thankfulness to God for his mercy, dedicated Mary to God.

At the age of two they discussed the matter but decided that she was too little to be parted from them. But when she was three they said the time was right.

They took her to Jerusalem and were delighted when the little child ran to the priest who welcomed her, never once hesitating or looking back, but eagerly pressing forward to be welcomed by a group of girls, who also welcomed and took care of her.

Mary spent her youth at the Temple, getting to know the Holy Scriptures and working on the vestments and hangings for the Temple and its clergy.

At about the age of sixteen Mary was betrothed to Joseph, a widowed man with children, and the rest of the story is well-known to us all.

Monday 21 November: Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God, Holy Liturgy in St Martin's 9.30am.

New Newsletter Editor needed

I am looking for someone to take on as Editor of this Parish Newsletter which I myself have produced for all the 300 issues, over the 27 years or so.

I believe it is a useful part of our parish life. We need someone who enjoys writing, and who could develop the project. If you would be interested in the post please contact me to discuss it.

Father Alexander

Retirement after long service as our Parish Treasurer

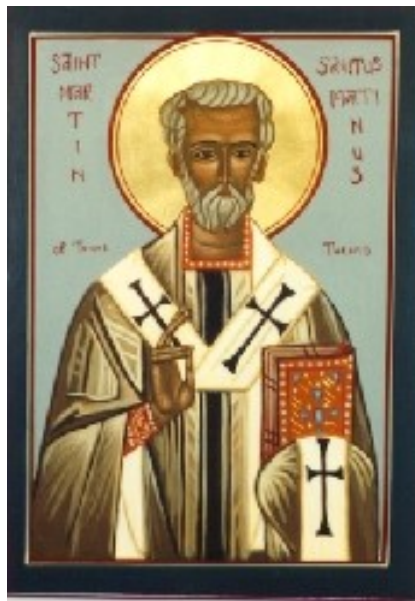
DAVID DAVIES has been Treasurer of this Parish almost as long as it has existed. It began in 1996, and he was one of the very earliest people to be received. Soon a vacancy occurred for the Treasurer, and David volunteered, and continued ever since. He retired at last year's annual meeting after some 24 years or so, but decided he would stay on to produce the annual accounts for his last year. He presented the 2021 accounts at this year's annual meeting before retiring.

The treasurer's job is often not an easy one, and that was no doubt true for him, especially as

he lives in Ipswich and doesn't have a car, but he laboured on with few grumbles.

We are most grateful his filling of this job for such a long time and with general good humour. I thanked him sincerely for all he had done for the Parish (in other ways too), and presented him with a diptych, with icons of Christ our God and of the Theotokos as a token of our thanks.

We will hope to see him from time to time in the future, even though he is also connected with one of the Orthodox parishes in Ipswich.



Our Parish Patron

St Martin is our principal Patron—followed of course by St Helen. Everybody knows the story of his cutting his soldier's uniform cloak in two, but there is much more to him than that. He was bishop at the city of Tours in Gaul (modern-day France) in the fourth century, but lived a very humble life. He was loved by the people of Gaul, but also wielded great influence with the kings. We celebrate his repose on Friday 11 November, with the Holy Liturgy at 9.30 am in St Martin's.

A Word from the Fathers: about St Martin of Tours

Martin knew beforehand the day on which he would die, and he warned the brethren that his dissolution was approaching fast. Then there arose the need for him to go to the diocese of Candes where dissensions had broken out among the clergy. His desire to restore peace would not permit him to find an excuse in the death he knew was so near, and he made his way to Candes. It seemed to him that it would be a fitting consummation of all his labours if he could leave the church a legacy of peace. After a brief sojourn in that village, or

church rather, he succeeded in his mission and now meant to return to his monastery but his bodily powers failed suddenly. He called the brethren to his death-bed and told them he was dying. Great sorrow gripped his hearers, and there was only one cry in the midst of all their tears: father, why are you deserting us? To whose care are you leaving us in our grief?...Martin was greatly moved by their tears, which stirred the life-long sympathy in him that flowed from the heart of God's mercy...Martin who was poor and humble, enters heaven wealthy.