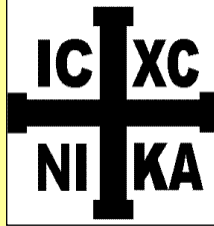


+ The Orthodox Faith - a hope, a joy, a peace, for every believer +

Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 278 OCTOBER 2020



Services in the Parish

At the moment our only services are:
Saturday Vespers 4.30 pm
Sunday Holy Liturgy 9.30 am
The exception will be the Feast of the
Patron of our new church, St Martin the
Merciful, Bishop of Tours:
Tue 10 Nov Vespers 4.30 pm
Wed 11 Nov Holy Liturgy 9.30 am

The purchase has not yet gone through, but we have moved into St Martin's !

At the time of going to press we have been worshipping in St Martin's for some four Sundays. This has been made possible by means of a lease from the Churches Conservation Trust.

Now our take-over has been publicised locally and anyone has the opportunity to object to that. This period continues to 5 November.

If no one objects, the purchase will be completed after that, in, we hope, days.

Our search will be over, our journey done, 'the hopes and fears of all the years' passed by as a lingering memory.

There is of course the immediate advantage of allowing us in these coronavirus days to have the congregation inside.

Until then we had worshipped with *the Priest and Reader* inside St Helen's Chapel, but *the people* outside as there was not room inside for them to be 'socially distanced', though thankfully the Lord provided excellent weather on all but the last Sunday there.

+ + + + +

Yet in many respects the work begins now —turning the beautiful building into a building that *feels Orthodox*.

Already that process has begun of course. There are icons around the church, there is a 'make-do' iconostasis, votive candles burn in a couple of places.

Gradually things will change no doubt - more shrines, more candles, more evidence of prayer, more services, less regimentation of where people can stand (when the disease has died down a bit no doubt), more informality-combined-with-solemnity that is a characteristic of our holy Orthodox worship.

In addition the important matters of heating and lighting etc must also be tackled. At least for the moment, because of social distancing we cannot return in winter to the warmth of St Helen's, as originally planned. Therefore we must either have some temporary heating or proceed with the permanent scheme immediately.

The Project Committee, led by Project Manager MARK SHILLAKER will continue to meet in one way or another, planning this, that and the other.

Gifts will continue to be received for the Appeal. We shall also be pricing particular items in case you wish to make a gift for a specific object.

We must also arrange rotas of people to keep both St Martin's and St Helen's clean and tidy.

Of course, Covid-19 is putting question marks on everything. We cannot be absolutely certain about anything.

We must trust in our heavenly Father in all that happens: our faith in him will be built up, strengthened.
God bless us all.

Father Alexander



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

St Helen's Chapel, Maldenburgh Street CO1 1UB

St Martin's is 100m down behind the Town Hall. St Helen's is 200m down behind the George Hotel in the High Street. Both buildings are accessible from the High Street only on foot. Nearest car-park NCP Nunns Rd. 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): normally first Saturday 3.15 pm

Parish Priest: Father Alexander (Alistair) Haig

17 Maldenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB

Tel: 01-206-530-530 Mob: 07-947-047-201 Eml: parishpriest@orthodoxcolchester.org.uk

Reader: George Harrison 07-869-488-842

Churchwardens: Dusan Radunovic 01-206-762-553, Jon Kanaar 01-255-431-975

Children of St Helen: Sanja Radunovic 01-206-762-553, Silvia Lefley 01-206-835-715

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>



SS COSMAS & DAMIAN CHURCH, IPSWICH:
The Greek church was consecrated recently by Archbishop NIKITAS of Thyateira. I could not be present on the Sunday morning of course, but was privileged to be there for Vespers the evening before. In his address afterwards His Eminence welcomed me warmly as an Antiochian. The church has been splendidly frescoed by Sister Gabriella and is really lovely: do try to visit it if you are in the town. Fr JOHN, then Deacon Justin, was attached to our parish for a period.

Here and There

THANK YOU to all who have taken an interest in us and helped in one way or another during this very odd year. This includes DUSAN and SANJA RADUNAVIC who generously lent us their house for a fortnight while they were in Serbia and we had to leave our home while a new bathroom was installed. In particular I thank those who have prayed for my health. I have already publicly thanked a number: now I must add CHRYSOSTOMOS DIMITRIOU, the ophthalmic consultant who has operated on my right eye – very successfully, I understand—and will move over to my left eye in November. His excellent team included two Orthodox: a Romanian and another Greek. The whole band was very skilled and competent - and charming and kind too. I was in hospital only for some four hours.

A Word from the Fathers: St Augustine of Hippo

Solomon had built a temple to the Lord, and this was certainly a type and figure of the Church which was to come and of the Body of the Lord. For this reason the Lord says in the Gospel: Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.'

Therefore since Solomon had built that temple, our Lord Jesus Christ, the true Solomon, the true peacemaker built himself a temple.

The name Solomon means Peacemaker but the true peacemaker is to be of whom the apostle says; He is our peace

who has made both one.

He is the true peacemaker who united in himself two walls coming from different directions.

He became the chief cornerstone for the believing people who came from among the circumcised, and for the believing people among the uncircumcised Gentiles.

He made one Church out of two peoples. He became their chief cornerstone He made one Church out of two peoples.

He became their chief cornerstone and thus truly the peacemaker.

Twenty years in St Helen's

In September we completed twenty years in the lovely St Helen's Chapel. At the foundation of the parish in 1996, we had started out in St Paul's church over near the station, but, soon after we began there, we had to leave suddenly as the building was found to be in a dangerous condition: it has since been pulled down.

But we had only a two or three Sundays before we were generously taken in by the Cooperative Funeral Department in their own chapel in Bourne Court off Mersea Road. We stayed there for four happy years, until they wanted us to move out as they intended to sell that pretty piece of land, and move to their land in Wimpole Road.

God provided for us by arranging for us to take on St Helen's.

Here once again we have been very happy, though it has of course always been too small.

Now, a further step in our history takes place. Most of you will know that we hope to retain St Helen's Chapel (it's too precious to lose, as our Bishop says) as a shrine to our beloved St Helen, Patron of our Parish and City, and Church.



Thank you for your gifts to St Martin's

I am grateful not just for gifts of cash, which help us, but also for gifts in kind which people offer for the church, saving us considerable amounts of expenditure:

Dining table, Kalisthene Aristodimou;
Icons, Paul Lansley;
Cleaning equipment, Mary Morris;
Carpet Fr Alexander & Khouria Hilary;
Rugs Mark & Paula Shillaker;
Cloths, Michael & Nicolle-Suning Kampouridis;
Table Cloths, Maria.

We need further rugs, large ones of a suitably quiet design and in reasonable condition, and nice tables, and much else. Please offer items before bringing them, as for one reason or another not everything is suitable of course.

OCTOBER DAYS

Thu	1	Protection of the Holy Virgin Theotokos
Sat	3	Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite
Sun	4	Pentecost 17
Tue	6	H Apostle Thomas
Wed	7	Martyr Osyth, Queen of Essex
Fri	9	H Apostle James, son of Alphaeus
Sun	11	Pentecost 18, Fathers of the 7th Council, H Apostle Philip of the Seventy, the Deacon, S Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking
Mon	12	S Wilfred, Bp of York, S Simeon the New Theologian, S John of Riga
Wed	14	S Paraskevi whose relics are at Iasi, Romania
Sun	18	Pentecost 19, H Apostle & Evangelist Luke
Mon	19	S John of Kronstadt
Fri	23	H Apostle James the Lord's Brother
Sat	24	S Demetrios Commn of the Departed
Sun	25	Pentecost 20
Mon	26	Gt Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-gusher