

Holy Orthodoxy: Faith in Christ for the modern world

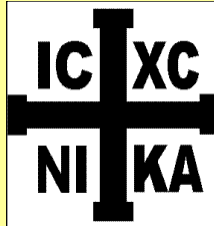
Orthodox Parish of St Helen of Colchester

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland

Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 255

SEPTEMBER 2018



WEEKDAY LITURGIES IN SEPTEMBER

Saturday 8 September 9.30 am
NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Friday 14 September 9.30 am
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Wednesday 26 September 9.30 am
ST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's

As we go to press: almost £90,000 raised!

Every Friday at the moment I am going to the Bank to get the latest figure for your giving, so that I can add it into my accounts of where we are, ready to announce it at the Holy Liturgy on the Sunday. The figure as we go to the printers today is £89,612.

This is really marvellous and we express our sincere thanks to all our donors, and to God himself who has inspired such generosity.

But of course *it still leaves a long way to go*, and the next few months will be decisive for whether the project to buy St Martin's can go ahead.

Be clear: it is by no means certain as yet that we will be able to buy it. We need **£150,000** to purchase the building, and are appealing for a total of **£200,000**, in order to install necessary heating as early as possible.

On top of that of course, over the next few years there will be the cost of the furnishings needed to make it the very special Orthodox temple we hope and expect it to be—by the grace of God.

So this is a brilliant start, but do encourage others to give as generously as possible.

Here are some reasons for different people to give:

- Orthodox believers will be delighted that there is this possibility of a new and much larger Orthodox church in the centre of this ancient city.
- Lovers of beautiful ancient buildings will be glad a use is found for wonderful St Martin's Church.
- Local people will be pleased that a charming spot in the very centre of their town is being renewed and will again be cared for and loved in the future.

One other thing I would point out is that many of our regular worshippers are young immigrant adults with young families, who do not have a great deal of spare cash.

They will do their best to give what they can, I am sure. But as well we need more established friends to help us, and are really grateful for what they can do to answer our Appeal.

God will bless all who give from their hearts. God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9.7)

Father Alexander

National Heritage Days

Saturday/Sunday 8/9 September

St Helen's will be visited probably by some two hundred visitors during this weekend. Can you help us welcome them? *Offers of help to me.*

St Martin's will *not* after all be open.



ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S

St Martin's is in West Stockwell Street, two minutes' walk from St Helen's, and close to the Town Hall

Raised so far: **£ 89,612**, plus promises

- CHEQUES may be sent to the address below, made out to: *St Helen's Appeal for St Martin's*
- BANK TRANSFERS may be made with these numbers:
IBAN: GB05BUKB20226780219819
Bank Sort Code 20-22-67 Appeal Account No. 80219819
PAYPAL is available on the Appeal website
- APPEAL WEBSITE: orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk
- FACEBOOK: [St Martin's Appeal](https://www.facebook.com/StMartinAppeal)

Please support us both in providing an Orthodox parish church "for our children and our children's children" and also in restoring an important and beautiful building to its original and proper use

17 Maidenburgh Street, Colchester CO1 1UB, UK

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 Balkeme 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): normally 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 CC15 1LE
Divine Liturgy: usually third Saturday of month 10.00 am

Watch out
for the short
Appeal video
appearing in
September

CLACTON
HOLY
LITURGY
Sat 15 Sep
10.00 am

Elevation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross

BEFORE THEY
CROSS.



There will be a Holy Liturgy in St Helen's on the actual feast of the Holy Cross, Friday 14 September (9.30 am), but the ceremony of the Lifting Up of the Cross will be on Sunday, 16th, at the end of the Holy Liturgy.

This beautiful ceremony is spiritually very powerful. The Relic of the True Cross will be lifted up and lowered in token of the fact that Christ appeared to be humiliated but was in fact glorified by accepting the Cross, making clear the upside-down nature of our Christian faith, which reverses the values of this world.

Before receiving the Antidoron, the people venerate the Holy Cross where they find true and eternal Life.

His Eminence Archbishop Paul, Metropolitan of Aleppo in Syria

Someone who has joined us recently asked, *Who is Archbishop Paul?* Others also may not know his story.

Born 1959, Archbishop Paul (Boulos in Arabic) grew up in Latakia on the Mediterranean coast of Syria, and became Archbishop of Aleppo in 2000.



A couple of years

later he visited Colchester and served the Holy Liturgy here in St Helen's, one of our early distinguished visitors.

Everybody loved him, and our Alex, now Deacon Alexander, was later his guest in Aleppo. His Eminence suggested Alex should go to teach in Aleppo, but that did not happen.

Our family saw him again (*see the photo on the church table*) at the enthronement in Paris in 2008 of his brother John as our Archbishop - now His Beatitude the Patriarch.

When civil war broke out in Syria, Aleppo was much affected, as you may remember. A Priest of his and a Syriac Orthodox Priest were kidnapped, and Sayedna and the Syriac Archbishop went off together in a car to try to arrange their freedom.

Alas, instead, both Bishops were themselves kidnapped in the desert. The date was 22 April 2013, and it seems that not a reliable word of their whereabouts has been heard since. (Their Deacon driver however was known to be shot dead.)

Naturally the whole Church of Antioch prays fervently for their release, and we remember the dear Archbishop, our beloved friend, among 'the captives' in the Anaphora at every Holy Liturgy, as well as in our private prayers.

While I confess I do fear the worst, I still hope for the best: that he will be found and restored to the people of his Archdiocese. God preserve him!

St Silouan's 80th anniversary

St Silouan, the simple Saint with the wisdom of God, died or fell asleep in the Lord on Mount Athos on 24 September 1938. His disciple Father Sophrony cared for him to the end, and afterwards published his collected writings, or more accurately his collected sayings. Twenty-one years later, in 1959, Fr Sophrony arrived in Essex with a small group of his own disciples, and founded the Holy Monastery of St John the Baptist at Tolleshunt Knights near Tiptree. Unusually it has monks and nuns, who are always welcoming to Orthodox faithful, and to non-Orthodox.

Today it is flourishing and world-renowned, a place that always welcomes visitors - who come from all over the Orthodox world. The Monastery publishes St Silouan's works in various languages, and is the centre of his cult, so far distant from Athos and his native Russia.

No doubt they will make something of the anniversary on Monday 24 September. On the Sunday evening there will no doubt be the usual Vespers, outside Procession of the Holy Relic and Icon, and Mattins, but I do not yet know the time for certain—probably 5-9 pm, but check it up.

On the day itself, Monday, there will be Hierarchical Liturgy probably at 8 am (Metropolitan John of Pergamum and Metropolitan Nicolai of Athens are, I think, expected).

St Silouan has a real message for the sadly despairing 21st century, since it has largely lost all sense of God. One of his sayings, often repeated on his icon: **"Keep your mind in hell, and despair not."**

Here and There

BAPTISM: Congratulations to the "newly-enlightened" ones

- TIAGO BARTILOTTI, son of Alexander and Silvia,
- THEODORA CRINGASU, daughter of George and Simona,
- LEO RICHARDSON, son of David and Olga.

CHILDREN OF ST HELEN: None in September. The next meeting for the children (pre-school and primary age) will be on 6 October.

CLEARING UP: Many thanks to GEORGE CRINGASU and his daughter SOPHIA for clearing up and tidying up all around the church porch. It means we can more easily keep an

eye out for the activity of troubled persons around the church, which, alas, has recently become more of a problem throughout the area and town.

ACCOMMODATION is needed for a professional Greek man, age 45, coming to live in Colchester shortly. Please speak to me as soon as possible if interested in letting a room or flat.

FUNERAL: With the special blessing of Sayedna, the young man MILAN FULLER-RADOVANOVIC received a sorrowful Orthodox funeral in St Mary's church, standing above the river Blackwater at Maldon, where he was a keen sailor. We pray it gave some comfort, hope and peace to his family and the many friends who attended.

A Word from the Fathers: "The Shepherd" of Hermas (c. 150 AD)

The prayer of a dejected man never has the strength to ascend to God's altar. So cleanse yourself of all this wicked gloom, and you will live for God.

APPEAL COMMITTEE

CATALIN FLISCU is Chairman, Now MARK SHILLAKER has NICK TAYLOR is Treasurer, joined us, with responsibility for GEORGE HARRISON, DUSAN publicity. Please pray for the so-RADUNOVIC and I are members. important work of the Committee.

SEPTEMBER DAYS

Sat	1	Church New Year , Day of Prayer for the Environment Righteous Joshua the Son of Nun
Sun	2	Pentecost 14 , S John the Faster
Tue	4	H Prophet & God-seer Moses
Wed	5	SS Zachariah & Elizabeth, Parents of S John the Baptist
Sat	8	Nativity of the Mother of God
Sun	9	Pentecost 15, Sunday before Holy Cross , Righteous Forebears of God Joachim & Anna
Fri	14	Exaltation of the Precious & Life-giving Cross
Sun	16	Pentecost 16, Sunday after Holy Cross , S Ninian, Bishop of Whithorn
Mon	17	Martyr Sophia & her daughters Faith, Hope & Love
Wed	19	S Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, Patron of our Diocese
Sun	23	Pentecost 17, Conception of S John the Baptist
Mon	24	S Silouan of Mount Athos , Protomartyr Thekla, S Stephen the First-crowned, King of Serbia of Serbia
Tue	25	S Sergius the Wonder-worker of Radonezh
Tue	25	S Coelfrid, Abbot of Jarrow
Wed	26	H Apostle & Evangelist John the Theologian
Sun	30	Pentecost 18