

Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen Colchester



*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles & Ireland*
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan
NEWSLETTER 299 SEPTEMBER 2022

Thursday 8 September

Feast of the Nativity of
the Holy Mother of
God

Holy Liturgy 9.30 am
at St Helen's

The feast that marks
the beginning of the
Church year



National Heritage Day

St Martin's and St Helen's
will both be open as follows:

Saturday 10 September

10.00 am—4.00 pm

Sunday 11 September

1.00—4.00 pm

Can you offer some time to welcome
the many visitors?

Help still needed to sponsor Ukrainians to this country:
We can pass on your name if you can help.

Our New Icon: St Osyth

Presbyteira Patsy Fostiropoulos of Clapham
parish in London has generously painted an
icon of one of our local, Colchester, Saints and
presented it to us. It is lovely and I hope to tell
you for her feast day next month all about this
lovely 7th century saint who founded a Holy
Monastery just this side of Clacton-on-sea.

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER *(in St Martin's Church unless otherwise stated)*

- **Saturdays:** Great Vespers 4.30 pm
- **Sundays:** Matins 9.45 am, Holy Liturgy 10.30 am
- **Thu 8 Sep, NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD:**
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am *St Helen's*
- **Wed 14 Sep, EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS:**
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am *St Martin's*
- **Sun 18 Sep, Elevation & Veneration of the True Cross:**
Holy Liturgy 10.30 am *St Martin's*
- **Sat 24 Sep, St Silouan of Athos**
Holy Liturgy 9.30am & Veneration of Relic *St Martin's*
- **Thu 29 Sep, St Kyriakos the Anchorite**
Holy Liturgy 9.30 am *St Helen's*

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

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>



Congratulations to Deacon Mark, awarded a diploma in theology

We are delighted to hear that Father Deacon MARK has completed his course in Orthodox theology, and has been awarded the E-quip **Diploma, first class with distinction.**

He has given a lot of time and hard work to his studies for two or three years, finishing only in recent weeks. Congratulations to him for all he has achieved!

Sunday 4 December
His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan
WILL VISIT OUR PARISH AND
ORDAIN DEACON MARK
TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD
YOU ARE INVITED TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT
OCCASION IN OUR PARISH LIFE
9.45 AM
MATTINS (ORTHROS) &
HIERARCHICAL LITURGY



Beloved, respected and influential Metropolitan Kallistos falls asleep in the Lord

“Bishop Kallistos”, as he preferred to be called, has sadly died—in Oxford, where he lived most of his life, but had been born in Bath. His book *The Orthodox Church* was a mine of information and sold many, many thousands from 1994 to today. He was much loved, with a warm wit, and a deep understanding of people. His grasp of theology was immense was wide-ranging.

I knew him for many years and he was my spiritual father for a longish period. His attention to a confession was deep, his counsel helpful, somehow stretching but not over-demanding.

While so good and helpful to the individual soul trying to find a way to eternity “Bishop K” (as younger people often referred to him) also worked well on national and international bodies, always finding easy and felicitous ways to put his case, so that he was widely accepted in his arguments. I served with him in the international dialogues between Orthodox and Anglicans, where he was heard so enthusiastically.

He provided a number of service books to help English-speaking Orthodoxy, but he was not a great book-writer: his gift was to write articles of profundity and clarity, and very many authors knew the value of his book-

The story of what happened to St Sophrony’s icon of St Helen

When Abbot Sophrony arrived in Essex in 1959, with some 4 Monks and 1 Nun, the Old Rectory at Tolleshunt Knights and a neighbouring cottage were made available for them, thanks to Canon Arthur Payton, the Priest of the neighbouring villages of Salcott, Virley etc.

Local Anglicans tried to make them welcome. Harvest Festival offerings were passed to them, and visits were made.

Sophrony was grateful for the welcome his Community had received from Churchpeople in the area. To show his appreciation he wrote a very large Icon of the Patron Saint of Colchester, Empress St Helen Equal-of-the-Apostles, complete with the coat of Arms of the Borough of Colchester.

Bishop of Colchester Roderic (Coote) accepted the Icon gratefully, and started to enquire among the Clergy of the area for a suitable home for it. Alas, none of the Town Clergy felt able to accommodate the Icon in a Church, so Bishop Roderic had it installed in the the redundant Church of St Martin in West Stockwell Street

Worse was to follow: St Martin’s was used as a ‘Youth Centre’, and some of the ‘yoof’ started using it for darts practice. When it was realised that the holy Icon was now covered in little holes made by the darts the Bishop, no doubt much embarrassed, returned it to St Sophrony for repair.

Understandably, the Monastery retained the very large Icon, and no further attempt was made to bestow it elsewhere. It is still there in the Old Rectory at the Monastery.

Paul Lansley

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Wednesday 14 September
Holy Liturgy
9.30 am
St Martin’s

Sunday 18 September
after Liturgy
Elevation of the Relic of The True Cross



forwards to attract general interest.

He visited this parish at least once (*the photo shows us in St Helen’s Chapel*), and approved what we were intending to do with St Martin’s, supporting our appeal with a considerable donation.

The two friends Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia and Archbishop Anthony of Sourozh were two of the most influential and appreciated Orthodox leaders not only in Britain and English-speaking lands but throughout the world. Archbishop Anthony (Bloom) died in 2003, and now Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) has joined him in 2022. Both were giants who promoted Holy Orthodoxy for a generation. I and large numbers of others thank God for their care and holiness and will miss them very much indeed. I have little doubt that the angels are now enjoying the after-dinner conversation and are now fruitfully learning all sorts of theology from the lips of these two dear Bishops.