

Vestments of the Clergy



Archbishop visits Parish : Parish silver jubilee & ordination of new-Deacon Mark

Sunday 19 September, feast of St Theodore of Tarsus, a date for your diary!

Yes, Sunday the 19th of this month is a special day in the life of our parish! His Eminence Metropolitan SILOUAN will visit Colchester to preside at the Holy Liturgy in St Martin's for the first time. It will be wonderful to welcome him for the first time since before Covid began its miserable passage through the world.

At that service we will be able to celebrate the twenty-five years of my Priesthood in Holy Orthodoxy, which first established our congregation as a defined Orthodox parish in the Antiochian Church with its own Priest. We will be celebrating a full generation of Orthodox life and worship in Colchester.

We will also experience the Ordination of JOHN-MARK SHILLAKER—first as Subdeacon (at the end of Mattins, before the Liturgy), then as Deacon (at the end of the Anaphora and before the Litany and Our Father), .

He has been among us for several years now - you and I have had time to observe him developing in the Spirit of true Orthodoxy and deepening his attachment to his and our Holy Faith. Almost from the very beginning, this has been in the company of his wife PAULA, who supports him in this great step forward in his life. When he becomes "Father Deacon" she becomes "Diakonissa", and I am sure they will make a real team, with a devoted joint ministry.

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September 19 is also a special day for the whole of the Antiochian Church in Britain. It is St Theodore's feast. You can read a short note on him on page 2. He came from Tarsus which was in the Church of Antioch, and he studied at Antioch and Edessa, then came on to Greece and eventually to Rome.

There he seems to have become a monk in the new Monastery of St Anastasios. He was very widely educated and learned, and was called to attend a Lateran Council to discuss certain heresies. When the Archbishop of Canterbury died and the official candidate to replace him also died, Theodore was nominated to the post, though by then he was in his late sixties.

He became a highly influential Archbishop, this bishop from the Syrian Church, this unexpected great success as leader of the Christians in Britain. That's why he is now the Patron Saint of the Antiochians on these islands of the western ocean and why we take inspiration from his life and his prayers.



His Eminence Metropolitan SILOUAN has been our Archpastor since 2016. Before that he was a parish priest in Latakia, Syria, later a Bishop in charge of a monastery. He has visited us several times, but this is the first time since before the first Covid lockdown. We welcome Sayedna back for this occasion. He will be accompanied by his mother, Mrs Oner.

Can you offer a dish of food for the Archbishop's visit? -

Please speak with SUSANNA LINGI who is in charge of the food arrangements, or her husband MARIOS. Her mobile number is 07-949-989-661.

THIS ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER
We are hoping to print this special issue of our Newsletter on our new printing machine.

This Number 288 is only about the fourth time we have prepared it in the larger A3 size and in colour.



EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Tuesday 14 September
9.30 am
Holy Liturgy

Elevation of the Holy Cross on the Sunday before Holy Cross at the end of the Liturgy

Dates for your diary in September

Saturdays 4.30 pm *Great Vespers*
Sundays 10.30 am *Holy Liturgy*
Wednesday 8 September **NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS**
9.30 am *Holy Liturgy*
Saturday 11 September **National Heritage Day**
10.00-4.30 pm *St Martin's & St Helen's open to public*
Sunday 12 September **SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY CROSS**
10.30 am *Holy Liturgy with Elevation of the Holy Cross*
Sunday 12 September **National Heritage Day**
12.00-4.30 pm *St Martin's & St Helen's open to public*
Tuesday 14 September **EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**
9.30 am *Holy Liturgy*
Sunday 19 September, **SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS, ST THEODORE OF TARSUS, PATRON OF DIOCESE**
9.30 am *Mattins,*
10.30 am *Holy Hierarchical Liturgy & Ordination followed by Parish Lunch*

**St Martin's Church, West Stockwell Street C01 1HN
St Helen's Chapel, Maidenburgh Street C01 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, 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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Readers: George Harrison 07-869-488-842, Mark Shillaker 07-917-161-295

Catalin Fliscu 07-815-682-820

Churchwardens: Dusan Radunovic 01-206-762-553, Jon Kanaar 07-596-221-079

Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen: Registered Charity No: 1134418

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Parish Website: <http://www.orthodoxcolchester.org.uk>

Appeal Website: <http://orthodoxcolchesterappeal.org.uk>

ST HELEN'S APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S REMAINS OPEN

Thank you to those continuing to support our restoring St Martin's as a Temple suitable for Orthodox worship. The TOTAL given has now topped £172,000
Thank you, God bless you, Benefactors of our Parish!

*St Martin's Church is open for prayer and visitors when we are able to have a Steward in attendance.
St Helen's Chapel is open normally about 10.00 am to dusk daily, except Sunday morning.*



St Theodore of Tarsus and Canterbury, Patron of our Archdiocese

St Theodore came from the Church of Antioch, eventually to our British Isles, where he is well-known. But in his native land he is so unknown that we have had to introduce him to both our Archbishops John and Silouan on their respective arrivals in Britain. Theodore was in his late sixties when he arrived here in AD 669, yet had a great and worthy impact on the early Saxon Church. He led the Church very strongly and firmly, yet gently. What he did had a great effect on the seven independent Saxon kingdoms, uniting them in the one Orthodox Faith, and holding influence throughout Britain. He founded schools - one still exists after many centuries, King's School at Canterbury. His teaching also still exists, the Bible, languages, law, astronomy, and he influenced future Church music by bringing a teacher to train singers here. Dying in 690, he was buried in Canterbury. May he pray to God for us and the whole Antiochian Church.

2021 - an important mile-post in the history of this Parish

This year, 2021, is an important historical moment in the life of this Parish. Twenty-five years ago, in 1996, we established it as the first Orthodox parish in Colchester since the Great Schism nearly one thousand years ago - though that Schism between East and West was not absolute for several hundred years after that.

Before 1996 there had been occasional Orthodox Liturgies in the town, but they had been served by visiting Orthodox Priests who were often studying at the University. They were not part of the life of a formal Orthodox parish.

In 1992 the Church of England - the Anglican Church formerly very close to the Orthodox Church, but by then growing increasingly liberal in its life and teaching, decided to ordain women as priests.

This was too far removed from the Orthodox understanding for some Anglican priests and people to be acceptable. More than five hundred priests and many lay people decided to become Roman Catholic in the 1990s.

A handful of Anglican priests - only about a dozen of us, I think - and small numbers of lay people across the country became Orthodox, mostly in a group called *Pilgrimage to Orthodoxy*. The priests went to Paris late in 1994 to meet the then-Patriarch, Ignatius IV of eternal memory, who happened to be visiting there at the time. The Greeks and the Russians had not been too welcoming, but His Beatitude generously opened his arms and called, "Welcome!" and immediately established arrangements to receive priests and laity, placing us under the omophorion of his then assistant Bishop Gabriel in Paris. On 1 April 1995 His Grace ordained Father Michael Harper as the first Priest and the Dean of a new Antiochian Deanery of the British Isles. Several others were ordained during that year.

At the end of 1995, we fitted our move in with our children's educational needs. I and my family left Anglicanism and my parish, Bocking at Braintree, with our home and livelihood, where I had the unusual title of *Dean and Rector of*

Bocking. We were received into the Holy Orthodox Church by Chrismation in St George's cathedral near Regents Park in London and moved to Colchester.

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Immediately, we set about establishing the Parish, with the first services in March 1996. We had Hilary and our three children, who made a really strong band of five, all with their own strengths.

In addition we had several people who were either "cradle-Orthodox" or had already been received into the Church, and others soon joined us from other churches or from no particular ecclesiastical background.

For the first few months we borrowed St Paul's Anglican church near the station, then the Co-op funeral chapel then in Bourne Court near the public cemetery: I shall ever count the local Co-op as some of our benefactors through their generous hospitality for over four years.

In May 1996 Bishop Gabriel ordained me Deacon in St Stephen's Greek cathedral in Paris and Priest there on 28 September 1996, specifically for Colchester, so this date is the real date for the foundation of a defined legal parish.

Hilary and I went alone to Paris for my deaconing but the children came too for the priesting, by courtesy of a very generous but anonymous envelope packed with bank notes through our front door.

That reminds me that the Parish should know that though I have received most of my expenses of office over the years, I have never received payment for my work except by gifts for personal services, and in the past few years by a small annual parish paschal gift.

We established this parish having already obtained the goodwill

and blessing of the Monastery of St John the Baptist: our initiative was not likely to affect them and their witness, and complimented their mission rather than opposed it. Their company in our Faith has always been a strong and wonderful support.

We also managed to continue in generally good relations with the Anglican Church, and I must thank the local diocese as well as the Church nationally for their care for the clergy who felt they had to leave them: though I had to part company because of their changed outlook by the 1990s, I still thank God for my fifty years as a member and thirty years as a priest.

The years have brought mostly continued growth, and we realised from the first that St Helen's Chapel - for all its charm, all its history, all its sanctity - could never satisfy as a proper parish church, being small, with few facilities.

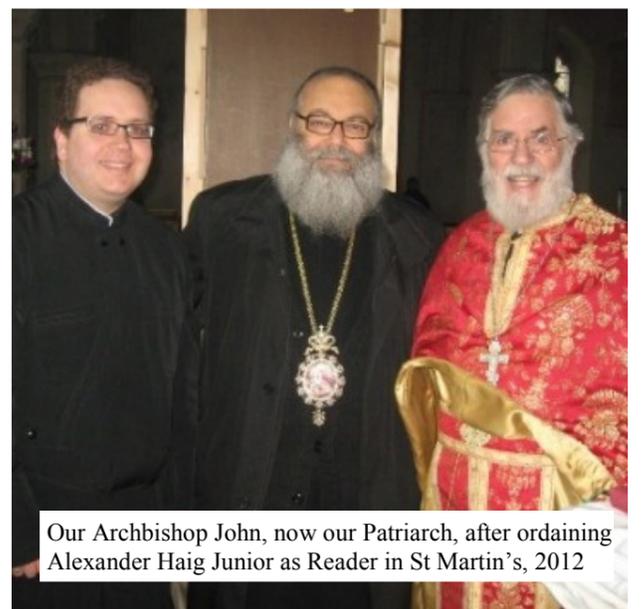
We came to St Helen's in September 2000 but have always urged them to hand over St Martin's, having been offered it by the then local Anglican archdeacon as long ago as 1994—but he was thwarted in their generosity.

Incredibly, still in 2021 the deal is not concluded, but we hope and pray that the present lack of progress (only marginally the result of Covid) will soon be overcome by the good work and influence of our solicitors, and we shall be able to hand over the £150,000 demanded, and declare ourselves true owners of the beautiful and manifestly holy church of St Martin, Colchester, restoring it to worship for the first time since 1953, and to definitely Orthodox worship for the first time since the Great Schism of 1053.

Father Alexander Alexander



Patriarch Ignatius IV arriving in St Stephen's Cathedral in Paris to enthrone Archbishop John, 2008



Our Archbishop John, now our Patriarch, after ordaining Alexander Haig Junior as Reader in St Martin's, 2012



Luke Sutton of Nottingham and Anastasia (Ana) Michael of Colchester (daughter of Nick and Leonora) decided to come to Ana's childhood parish for their marriage on 3 July. This made a real bonus for us, and it became our first Parish marriage in St Martin's. It was also a great happiness to us, for Luke decided he wished to become Orthodox before getting married, and we therefore had the pleasure of witnessing his Chrismation and first Communion. We shall not see much of them, we regret, since they live in Nottingham where Ana is a paediatric doctor. But we congratulate them on their marriage and wish them well, assuring them of our prayers. Many years!

A Word from the Fathers: St Ninian Bishop of Whithorn, Galloway in Scotland, by Aelred of Rievaulx

When I think of the very religious habits of this most holy man [Ninian], I am filled with shame at the slothfulness of this of this our miserable generation... Those lips which divine grace has consecrated to praise the Lord, or to celebrate the holy mysteries, are daily polluted by detraction and worldly talk... Reports of the characters of ungodly men are continually brought forward; the gravity suited to religious man is destroyed by laughing and judging the affairs of kings, the duties of bishops, the ministrations of the clergy, the contentions of the powerful, above all the life and character the life and character of everyone is the subject of discussion. We

judge everything except our own judgment. And what is more to be grieved at, we bite and devour one another, so that we are consumed one of another. Not so the blessed Ninian; crowds hindered not his tranquillity, nor did travelling interfere with his meditations, nor his devotions become lukewarm through lassitude. Whenever he was journeying he raised his mind to heavenly objects in prayer or contemplation, and when he turned aside on his journey, to rest himself or his horse, he delighted to take out a little book, which he always carried for this purpose, and read or said psalms, for he felt what the prophet David said, How sweet are your words to my throat, yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth. [Feast 16 September]

SEPTEMBER DAYS

Wed	1	Church New Year< Day of Prayer for the Environment
Sun	5	Pentecost 11, SS Zechariah & Elizabeth
Mon	6	Commemoration of Miracle of S Michael
Wed	8	Nativity of the Theotokos
Thu	9	SS Joachim & Anna
Sat	11	S Deiniol, Abbot of Bangor, Bishop in Clwyd
Sun	12	Pentecost 12, Sun before Holy Cross
Mon	13	Dedication of Resurrection Church
Tue	14	UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF HOLY CROSS
Thu	16	S Ninian, Bishop of Whithorn
Sun	19	Pentecost 13, S Theodore of Tarsus, Abp of Canterbury, Patron of our Archdiocese
Thu	23	Conception of S John the Forerunner
Fri	24	S Silouan of Athos
Sat	25	S Sergei the Wonderworker, of Radonezh
Sun	26	Pentecost 14, H Apostle John the Theologian
Tue	28	S Lioba of Wimborne, Abbess of Bischofshelm