

# Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen Colchester



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of the British Isles & Ireland  
Metropolitan: His Eminence Archbishop Silouan

NEWSLETTER 289

OCTOBER 2021

## What a magnificent day !

On Sunday 19 September His Eminence Archbishop SILOUAN, our Sayedna, presided at Mattins and served Hierarchical Liturgy, ordaining MARK SHILLAKER Sub-deacon and then Deacon. The ceremony was largely co-ordinated by Fr ALEXANDER HAIG Junior, and the Choir was directed by MARGARET HAIG. The feast was organised by SUSANNA and MARIOS LINGI and supplied by many excellent cooks. All went extremely well, and we are grateful to those concerned. Beautiful photos by VLAD PROTEANU and others are on display in church and on-line in the news section of the Antiochian Diocesan website.



**M**y ordination on the 19th of September (the feast of St Theodore of Tarsus) was without doubt one of the most wonderful days of my life. To receive this great honour through the laying on of hands by His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan in the presence of so many dear friends, my beloved wife (now Diakonissa) Paula, my mother and members of my family makes me profoundly happy and proud.

However, I am mindful that being ordained a Deacon in the Orthodox Church, while it is certainly a happy event, is also something of the utmost gravity and significance. When all the celebrations, good wishes, generous gifts and delicious food are distant memories, what remains is the realisation that a deacon, like all the orders of clergy in Holy Orthodoxy, exists first and foremost to serve. In fact, the word 'deacon' - from the Greek; *Diakonos* (διδάκωνος) - literally means 'servant'.

In Sayedna's homily on the day of the ordination, he preached that we each have to carry our cross in life, whatever it may be; a difficult relationship, our health or career, our financial or domestic situation, and he was careful to point out that my diaconate will certainly be a

cross for me to bear.

This means that my old life as a lay person is over; that I must now work even harder to follow Christ and carry the cross of my vocation with faith, patience, hope, joy and love to carry the Good News of Christ's resurrection to His Church and into the world. I have so much to learn and will be continuing my academic studies as I work even more closely with Father Alexander, find my feet in the Divine Services and work out my ministry in the parish & local community more widely; I will undoubtedly make many mistakes and here ask for your forgiveness.

**I know that I will never stop learning and I am truly humbled by the faith and trust that Sayedna Silouan, Father Alexander and the other clergy within the archdiocese, responsible for selection of candidates for ordination, have shown in me. Please pray for Diakonissa Paula and me, the unprofitable servant, as we continue to pray for you all.**

**DEACON MARK**



### FOR YOUR DIARY IN OCTOBER

Saturdays 4.30 pm Gt Vespers, Sundays 10.30 am Holy Liturgy

### WEEKDAY LITURGIES AT 9.30 AM

Friday 1 Oct, Protection of the Holy Theotokos

Wednesday 6 Oct Holy Apostle Thomas

Thursday 14 Oct, St Parasceva the Younger, whose relics are at Iasi

Tuesday 19 Oct, St John of Kronstadt

Tuesday 26 Oct, St Dimitrios the Myrrh-gusher, of Saloniki

Students Orthodox Hour at the University Faith Centre

Orthodox Prayers every Wednesday from 13 Oct, 6.00 pm

Sunday 3 Oct 1.00 pm at St Martin's

Church Council Meeting—bring your lunch if you wish

Sunday 17 Oct immediately after Liturgy, over coffee

Parish Annual Meeting, very brief: please stay if possible

### APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S REMAINS OPEN

We are grateful to those continuing to support it by regular or occasional gifts: God bless you. Total now: £175,541

### 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, 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 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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Bank Account No: 50349364

Appeal Account No: 80219819

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

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

## Here and There

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:** There will be a meeting of the Council on **Sunday 3 October** at 1.00 pm, or a bit earlier if possible, in St Martin's. Member may bring a packed lunch if desired.

**CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** A meeting for ALL worshippers here will be held immediately after refreshments after the Holy Liturgy on **Sunday 17 October**. It will have to pass the accounts for 2020, a legal duty. It will be a very short meeting. Please do arrange to stay.

**TWO OF OUR CHURCH FRIENDS**, both Catholics well-disposed to Orthodoxy, have recently moved their homes. GEMMA CUMMERFORD from Maidenburgh Street has moved to Colonia Court in St Andrew's Avenue, and BERTHA HINDLE from Ipswich Road (her Orthodox husband Dennis was responsible for the woodwork in St Helen's in 2000) has gone to Maldon Court in Maldon Road. We wish them both great happiness in their new abodes, and Many Years!

**HERITAGE OPEN DAYS:** Thank you to all those who welcomed the many on 11 and 12 September: St Martin's 103, St Helen's 121. This gave each visitor the chance to view not only a beautiful and ancient building, but also a temple beginning to blossom again in the Holy Orthodox Faith—an experience which may bear fruit years into the future.

**BLESSED WITH A RELIC:** Other matters interfered with celebration of a notable event at St Martin's on 19 September: first thing, before the Bishop even arrived, to my great surprise and delight GEORGE IOANNOU of North Weald presented us with a **relic of St Silvanus**, who is much honoured in this area because of the influence of the Monastery. Now it will form one of the treasures of this parish. Thank you, George. Pray to God for us, dear Saint of God.



**UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX**  
Orthodox Hour  
for Orthodox students  
University Faith Centre  
Wednesdays  
from 13 Oct  
6.00 pm

### Parish's 2020 Statistics reflect Covid restrictions

An examination of the registers for 2020 shows we had no adult or child Baptisms, no Chrismations, no Marriages, and only 2 Funerals. These were closely connected with Covid problems. So too our general Sunday attendances - what was permitted by

the Government or by our Bishop. Sunday attendances were greatly affected too. On 14 Sundays only "closed" services with 2 or 3 allowed to be present, in the house or St Helen's 22 Sundays had an average of 38, sometimes the people outside.

There were no services at all on 2 Sundays. On 15 Sundays from September we were able to worship in St Martin's, "socially distant" from each other, with an average attendance of 46. The numbers attending increased considerably as the year went on.

*[This tendency continued into 2020 and will be reflected in next year's figures.]*

### *A Word from the Fathers: St Bede the Venerable (+ 735)*

*While King Edwin hesitated to accept the word of God at [St] Paulinus' preaching, he used to sit alone for hours, deliberating what he should do, and what religion he should follow.*

*On one of these occasions, the man of God came to him and laying his right hand on his head (a sign Edwin had seen foretold in a vision) enquired of him whether he remembered this sign.*

*The King trembled, and would have fallen at his feet, but Paulinus raised him, and said in a friendly voice: 'God has helped you to escape from the hands of the enemies whom you feared, and it is through his bounty that you have received the kingdom that you desired.'*

*Accept the faith and keep the commands of him who has delivered you from all your earthly troubles, and raised you to the glory of an earthly kingdom. If you will henceforward obey his will, which he reveals to you through me, he will save you from the everlasting doom of the wicked, and give you a place in his eternal kingdom in heaven.'*

### OCTOBER DAYS

Fri	1 Protection of the Theotokos, S Romanos the Melodist
Sun	3 Pentecost 15, Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite
Wed	6 Holy Apostle Thomas
Thu	7 S Osyth, Queen of Essex, Nun & Martyr
Sat	9 Holy Apostle James, son of Alphaeus
Sun	10 Pentecost 16, S Paulinus, Bishop of York
Mon	11 H Apostle Philip of the Seventy, the Deacon
Thu	14 S Parasceva the Younger, whose relics lie at Iasi
Sun	17 Pentecost 17, Fathers of the 7th Council
Mon	18 H Apostle & Evangelist Luke
Thu	19 S John of Kronstadt, S Frideswide of Oxford
Sat	23 H Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord
Sun	24 Pentecost 18
Tue	26 Holy Gt Martyr Dimitrios the Myrrh-gusher
Sun	31 Pentecost 19