

Patron of our church is celebrated this month

The feast of St Martin falls on 11 November, and since numbers of our people will obviously be unable to attend on a Thursday morning at 9.30 am we shall celebrate it also on the Sunday following, at 10.30 am. I do hope you will do your best to be present. Last year, under Covid, we were unable to do anything.

This will therefore be our first celebration of the day since taking over this holy temple - the purchase has not yet gone through (unbelievable though it may appear), but it does seem that the legal side may be *beginning* to move!

Martin is an Orthodox saint, born in Hungary at the beginning of the fourth century to a Roman officer's wife. He had to obey the rules and follow his father into the army, and his famous deed was, as a very young officer, cutting his cloak in two to shelter a beggar.

Later he secured his release from the army to become a monk. Later still he became (against his will) bishop of Tours in the Loire valley, where he was much loved as a pastor. He also took up with vigour causes in which he believed, even appearing before the emperor. He fell asleep in the Lord in AD 397, immediately venerated as a saint.

The French of course have many churches to his dedication, and his relics lie in Tours. Many churches

were dedicated to St Martin elsewhere from the earliest times, including St Ninian's monastery in Galloway in south-west Scotland. Other very early ones would be St Martin's in Canterbury.

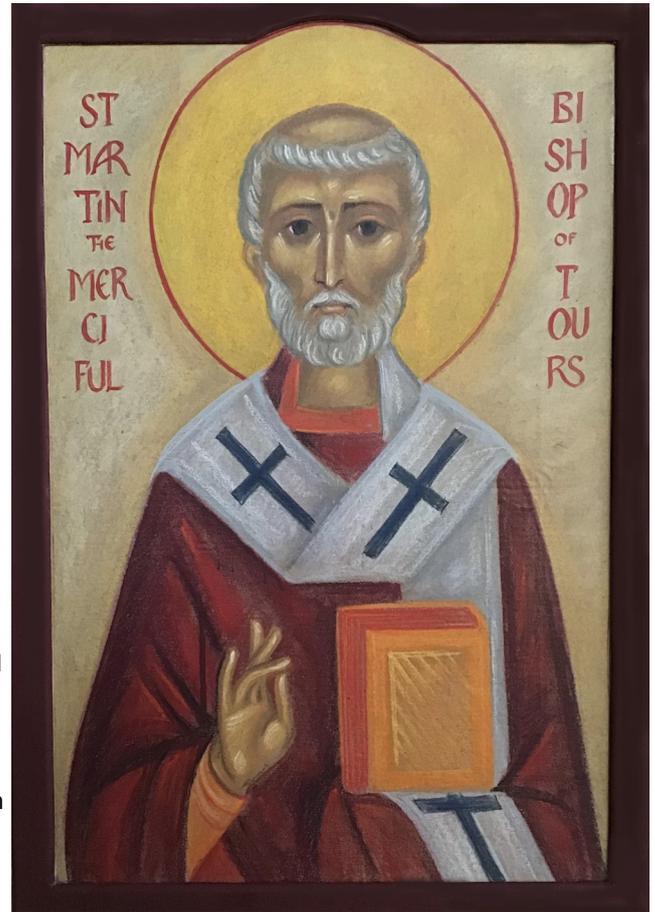
Quite possibly our own church in Colchester goes back to those very early centuries. It is an interesting fact that the west wall of the nave is exactly on the line of the original Roman street.

For the moment we have no relic of St Martin in this his church, but it is very much my hope and prayer that one day we may obtain one, just as we have a relic of the True Cross, given by a Catholic, the late John Ashdown-Hill, and one of St Helen, given by Bishop Basil of Wichita USA —and recently one of St Silouan, given by George Ioannou.

Anyway, God grant us a place in the prayers of dear St Martin the Merciful, Patron of our parish and temple.

God bless you all.

*Father Alexander
Alexander*



KONTAKION OF ST MARTIN THE MERCIFUL
As a devoted man of God, thou didst proclaim his mysteries,
And as a seer of the Trinity,
thou sheddest thy blessings throughout the West.
By thy prayers and entreaties,
O adornment of Tours and glory of all the Church,
Preserve us, Blessed Martin,
and save all who praise thy memory.

FOR YOUR DIARY IN NOVEMBER	
SATURDAYS	4.30 pm Great Vespers in St Martin's
SUNDAYS	10.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Martin's
ST MARTIN, PATRON OF THE CHURCH	
Thursday 11 Nov	9.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Martin's
ST CATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR	
Thursday 25 Nov	9.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Helen's
ST ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED	
Tuesday 30 Nov	9.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Helen's

Please note that the intention at the moment is to have *weekday services in St Helen's*, so that we can have the HEATING on. But for St Martin's day the service will obviously be in St Martin's.

APPEAL FOR ST MARTIN'S REMAINS OPEN

We are grateful to those continuing to support the Appeal by regular or occasional gifts: God bless you.

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 01-206-762-553, **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>



ANNEMARIE COX was received into the Holy Orthodox Church in 2009 when she was 84, the oldest person to join the Church in this parish.

Khouria Hilary was delighted to be her godmother, and lots of people loved her and were pleased to have her join us. She was Swiss by birth, but had lived in this country for many years.

She was nominally a Catholic, and came to Orthodoxy really through the influence of her former employer and dear friend Joan Christian, a Serbian lady to whom I ministered at home in Clacton and for whom she cared unselfishly for some years. Joan had never encouraged her to join us, as far as I know, but after Joan died she began attending our services at St James's

church, and after some instruction was chrismated in St Helen's Chapel.

She clearly was very happy in the Church and continued attending worship as often as she could, until I began to take her Holy Communion at home. When Covid struck I was unable to visit her there due to isolation, except, I think, once. I was not informed when she was really going down hill, and only heard of her dying a day or two afterwards.

Annemarie was very devoted to our taking over St Martin's and made a generous donation. She also informed me that she had remembered the St Martin's Appeal in her will, though sadly that decision seems to have been overtaken by the action of others, beyond our control.

We have to consider her a true member of the parish however, who became perhaps over-influenced by outsiders. Our sympathy must also go to the Goode family who were long-standing friends first of Joan Christian and then of Annemarie herself. I was grateful that Elena Kanaar was able to attend the - alas, non-Orthodox - funeral service at short notice so that we could be at least represented.

I intend to arrange a memorial service for her at her grave at some suitable occasion and hope that her friends in the Orthodox community will wish to join me to pray for her soul. Please watch out for details in the future.

Memory eternal, our dear devoted sister in Christ!

FEAST OF THE ENTRY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE - SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER



Righteous Joachim and Righteous Anna take their daughter Blessed Mary to the Temple in Jerusalem and present her to the High Priest in order for her to have a holy education and to spend her time in the service of God. She is only three years old. Her parents have no doubt told her what will happen, but they fear she will be all tearful and unwilling to part from them. But in the event, Mary runs to the arms of the Priest, never looking back. She spends all her childhood to the age of sixteen there in the Temple with other Daughters of Israel—other pious girls learning suitable skills, such as sewing the great curtain that protects the Holy of Holies. This lovely feast is observed on 21 November, and this year it happily falls on a Sunday.

The Nativity Fast

We start getting ready for Christmas on 15 November. We have forty days of the Nativity Fast, as before Pascha, but the rules are not so strict—see your Orthodox calendar.

It is often not easy to keep the rules anyway: others around, outside the Orthodox Church, have a different attitude to the subject, and you should not overdo it. You will probably need to compromise—don't make a fuss about it. Just alter your rule quietly, and get on with living as close to Christ as possible.

A Word from the Fathers: St Clement, Pope of Rome (+ c. 100)

The apostles have preached the gospel to us from the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus Christ [has done so] from God. Christ therefore was sent forth by God, and the apostles by Christ. Both these appointments, then, were made in an orderly way, according to the will of God. Having therefore received their orders, and being fully assured by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and established in the word of God, with full assurance of the Holy Ghost, they went forth proclaiming that

the kingdom of God was at hand. And thus preaching through countries and cities, they appointed the first fruits [of their labours], having first proved them by the Spirit, to be bishops and deacons of those who should afterwards believe. Nor was this any new thing, since indeed many ages before it was written concerning bishops and deacons. For thus says the Scripture in a certain place, I will appoint their bishops in righteousness, and their deacons in faith.

NOVEMBER DAYS

Mon	1	SS Cosmas & Damian of Mesopotamia
Wed	3	S Winifred of Holywell in Wales
Sat	6	S Illtyd, Abbot of Llanilltyd Fawr in Wales
Sun	7	Pentecost 20 , S Willibrord, Apostle of Frisia
Mon	8	Synaxis of S Michael & the Bodiless Powers
Tue	9	S Nektarios Kephalas
Thu	11	S MARTIN THE MERCIFUL, BP OF TOURS, PATRON OF OUR CHURCH S Menas of Egypt
Sat	13	S John Chrysostom, Abp of Constantinople
Sun	14	Pentecost 21, Sunday after St Martin
Mon	15	<i>Beginning of Nativity Fast</i>
Tue	16	H Apostle & Evangelist Matthew
Wed	17	S Hilda of Whitby
Sat	20	S Edmund the Martyr, King of East Anglia
Sun	21	Pentecost 22, ENTRY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE
Wed	24	Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome
Thu	25	Gt Martyr Katherine of Alexandria
Sun	28	Pentecost 23
Tue	30	H Apostle Andrew the First-Called