

Paid for, signed for: St Martin's is OURS!

Praise to God! At long last the ancient and beautiful St Martin's Church, West Stockwell Street, just down the hill beside the Town Hall, belongs to our Orthodox parish: 'Rejoice in the Lord I say, and again I say, Rejoice!'

It has been the responsibility of the Churches Conservation Trust for about 25 years, and this latest and first successful attempt has been proceeding for several years too. In fact we have had about three or four sets of negotiations since 1994, when the then Anglican Archdeacon, the Venerable Ernie Stroud, first *actually offered* it to me! Alas, nothing came of them, until this present time.

Now however, almost incredibly, it has gone through. We have raised the money, we have signed the forms, we have paid it over. Our thanks are due to our solicitor, Kim Kennedy of John Fowlers, to many who have worked hard on behalf of the Parish, and to the many Benefactors who have donated large or small sums totalling the £150,000 needed.

To them all I express my thanks and the thanks of the authorities of this Parish. His Eminence Archbishop Silouan has written a very warm letter of congratulations

FOR YOUR DIARY IN FEBRUARY

SATURDAYS 4.30 pm Great Vespers in St Martin's
SUNDAYS 10.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Martin's

WEDNESDAY 2 FEB MEETING OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
9.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Martin's

TUESDAY 8 FEB ST THEODORE STRATELATES
9.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Helen's

SUNDAY 13 FEB SUNDAY OF THE PUBICAN & PHARISEE

THURSDAY 17 FEB ST THEODORE THE TYRON
9.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Helen's

WEDNESDAY 23 FEB HIEROMARYTR POLYCARP
9.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Helen's

SUNDAY 27 FEB MEATFARE, LAST JUDGMENT SUNDAY

TUESDAY ST DAVID, PATRON OF WALES
1 MARCH 9.30 am Holy Liturgy in St Helen'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.

WATCH OUT FOR THE
SPECIAL APPEAL LEAFLET



to you all: you can read the full text on the notice-board in St Martin's, or on our facebook page, or on the Archdiocesan web-site.

In due course we shall have some sort of service of thanksgiving, and of course the building will have to be consecrated as a place of Orthodox worship, though that may be delayed until the furnishing is mostly concluded. I suppose it will really be a RECONSECRATION, since our new building may be thought of as originally Orthodox.

I hope to produce a further Appeal Newsletter, with more news than we can get in here. I just repeat now our sincere thanks to all our Benefactors, remember them in our prayers, and ask their continuing prayers for us.

Above all I repeat our praise to God the Holy Trinity, and our thanks to St Martin the Merciful, Bishop of Tours as our Patron, and St Helen too, and our gratitude to you all, worshippers here and friends everywhere, who have given donations to make up such a magnificent total.

Father Alexander

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

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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

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

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

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Our Queen completes an incredible seventy years on the throne on Sunday 6 February. It was on that day in 1952 that her father King GEORGE VI died in his sleep at Sandringham in Norfolk.

The Princess was away in Africa, but cut short her visits across the world, and returned to take up her new duties as Sovereign. It is now a very happy day, but at the time it was a very sad day: the King who had led his people resolutely through the strains and stresses of the Second World War, had become much loved and admired by his people.

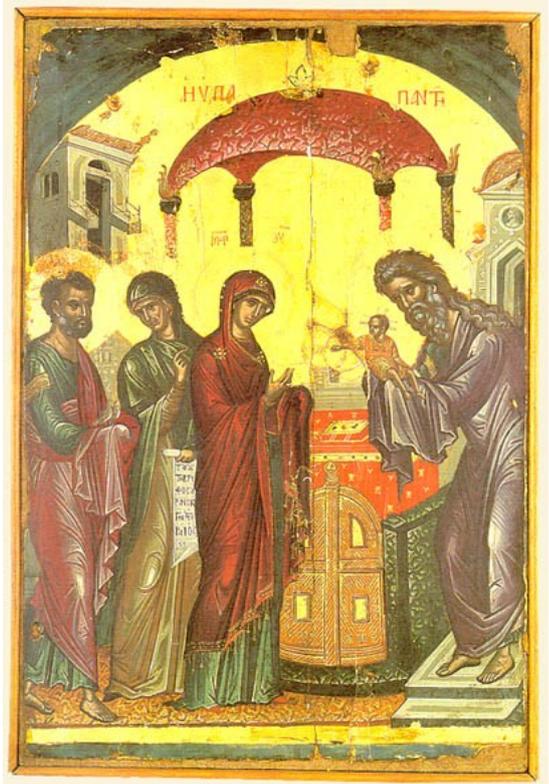
I well remember the day: it was a school day and somebody looked out of the chemistry lab window and asked why the school flag was at half-mast—it must have just been put up—and the teacher did not know the answer. Then the Head Master put his head around the door, and announced the King's death and called a school assembly for ten minutes' or so's time.

The mood of the school was shocked, stunned: the King was only 56. There was a short service in the school hall, and then we were sent off home, everyone reduced to silence, or in some cases to tears: I well remember a girl from my village sobbing quietly. There was a sense of personal loss.

I remember too the funeral arrangements, when the body was met by the Royal Family at the London station from Sandringham. They were all in strict black, and the new Queen, her mother and sister, wore dark veils. Everything was sober and controlled, dignified and respectful, the people grieving for their loss. The body lay in state in Westminster Hall, and many thousands of people moved through to pay their respects.

The nation was certainly united in its sadness. It was my first real personal experience of the unity of the nation around its monarch. Later, life returned to normal, but I was glad to have shared those moments of national grief, and they remain with me.—But it was not long before the nation, displaying the stability given by a strong hereditary monarchy, was shouting out with enthusiasm: "The King is dead: long live the Queen!"

With this nation, and even, it seems, with the whole world, we still cry out with affection and respect, "Many Years, Your Majesty!"



The "Meeting" is the feast commemorating what Joseph and Mary did by bringing the forty day-old Jesus Christ to the Temple, in accordance with the law. There he meets Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess. It is a touching scene, and encourages us to obey the laws of God. Liturgy in St Martin's on Wednesday 2 Feb at 9.30 am.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY SERVICES continue in the bigger St Martin's, while **weekday services** (unless a larger attendance is expected) continue in the warmer St Helen's. **SERVERS WANTED:** We wish to establish a band of servers men and boys. We want to have enough to have a rota, so that there is not too much of a burden on each individual. Regularity and faithfulness, with quiet and good behaviour, are required. Do volunteer to DEACON MARK, who is running this and will give training.

ARSENIA (HEIKI) CENDOS was really a worshipper at the Monastery, but since that was

Here and there

closed she was often worshipping here, though she had to drive all the way from Wells-next-the-sea. German by birth, she lived in Britain for many years. I knew her very slightly through seeing her at the Monastery, and was glad she could find refuge here with us, as a number have done. She had a quiet and friendly nature, and bore her last sufferings with a smile, an example to us all. She was strengthened at the end by the Holy Mysteries, served both by the clergy from the Monastery and by me. Happily the Monastery were able

to have the funeral there, but without her lay friends, being closed. We are therefore having a memorial on Sunday 30 Jan after the Holy Liturgy. Memory eternal!

CHURCH BREADS: I repeat that we invite others to make Church breads, the more who can volunteer, the easier it will be for everyone. If you need some training in the art, do ask.

THE TRIODION is the book used for the Lent services. Metropolitan KALLISTOS and Mother MARIA did a marvellous service to the English-speaking Orthodox community worldwide in translating it.

A Word from the Fathers: The Martyrdom of St Polycarp (+155)

So he was bound, putting his arms behind his back, like a noble ram, taken from a large flock for a sacrifice, a burnt offering acceptable to and made ready for God. [He then prayed.] When he had uttered the Amen, and completed his prayer, the men in charge of the fire set light to it. When a great flame blazed up, we saw a miracle, that is those of us to whom it had been granted to see it and have been spared to tell others what happened.

For the fire took on the shape of a room, like the sail of a ship filled with the wind, and it made a wall round the body of the martyr. The body in the middle did not appear like burning flesh, but rather it was like bread being baked, or like gold and silver being refined in a furnace. And we perceived a fragrant smell, as though it were the odour of frankincense, or some other spices.

FEBRUARY DAYS

Wed	2	Meeting of Christ in the Temple
Thu	3	Righteous Simeon the God-receiver & Anna the Prophetess S Nicolas, Archbishop of Japan
Sun	6	Pentecost 33, Sun of Canaanite Woman
Mon	7	S Richard, King of the West Saxons
Tue	8	Great Martyr Theodore Stratelates
Sun	13	Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee <i>Beginning of the Triodion</i>
Thu	19	Hieromartyr Charalambos, Bp of Magnesia
Sun	20	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Wed	23	Hieromartyr Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna
Thu	24	1st & 2nd Finding of the Head of S John
Sun	27	Sunday of Meatfare, of Last Judgment, S Raphael of Brooklyn
Mon	28	S Kyranna the Virgin-Martyr (29th) S John Cassian the Roman S Oswald, Archbishop of York