PARISH REPORT 2025

The Orthodox Church of St Martin and St Helen, Colchester

St Martin's Church
West Stockwell Street
Colchester CO1 1HN

St Helen's Chapel
Maidenburgh Street
Colchester CO1 1UB

Charity Registration Number 1192469 (England & Wales)

Aim and purposes

The Church Council has the responsibility of cooperating with our Parish Priest, Father Mark Shillaker, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Orthodox Church. The members of the Church Council are the Trustees of the charity and they are responsible for making certain that the parish meets its responsibilities as a registered charity; complies with the law and is accountable to donors, beneficiaries, volunteers, and the general public.

The parish is a part of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles and Ireland. The Archdiocese and the Metropolitan Archbishop set policies that all member parishes follow. The Parish makes a financial contribution to the running costs of the Archdiocese.

Objectives and Activities

The Church Council is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The Church Council maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve Orthodox and those seeking Orthodoxy. Within the community we have many from countries who are predominately Orthodox as well as converts from the UK and other countries. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus Christ.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

2025 in Review

The Church Council has been working on further projects to improve the fabric and furnishings in St Martin's Church. The iconstasis structure was completed and the

installation of the final icon – of the Mystical Supper - took place on the Sunday before Christmas.
The Church Council has now turned its attention to some necessary maintenance work on the roof. Sadly more than £10,000 has been spent or regulatory requirements with the work starting some way off into the future.
Weekday services continued to be held, usually at St Helen's Chapel, which was being kept open during the daytime for pilgrims, visitors and private prayer until the building was desecrated in an incident in July.

Archbishop Silouan visited the parish at the end of December 2024 to mark the retirement of Fr Alexander as parish priest and the appointment of Fr Mark as his replacement.

In July we marked the 30th anniversary of the formation of the parish and recorded interviews with Fr Alexander which were made available to view on the new website.

Father Mark continued regular study sessions for those interested in learning more about the Orthodox faith. We are delighted that more of our catechumens have been received into the Holy Orthodox Church during 2025.

During September both churches proved to be popular destinations for many visitors on the Heritage open days.

Average attendance at Sunday services continued to increase slightly.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is and for providing bread, wine, flowers, cleaning, refreshments and other items for the Parish.

Financial Review

Our unrestricted income for 2025 was £55,366 (2024: £40,274); our expenditure £46,023 (2024: £32,595). Our unrestricted accumulated fund is £114,589. The restricted fund for St Martin's at end of year stands at £248,936 (which is all held in the form of tangible fixed assets), making total funds held £363,524 (2024: £352,562).

Father Mark continues to be paid a stipend by the Parish. No other trustee receives payments other than expenses.

Trustees at end of 2025 – there were no changes during the year

Rev John Mark Shillaker

Very Rev Alexander Alistair Matthew Haig BD AKC

Dusan Radunovic

Nicholas Edwin Taylor

Theodora Ford

Jon Peter Kanaar

Catalin Fliscu

George Philip Harrison

Hilary Mary Haig ARCM

Elena Kanaar

Tasos Papastylianou

Michael Kampouridis (retired in 2025)

James Gomm

Vitaliy Garbarut

Ilias Chrysoulidis

Section C **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

Note 28 Transactions with trustees and related parties

If the charity has any transactions with related parties (other than the trustee expenses explained in guidance notes) details of such transactions should be provided in this note. If there are no transactions to report, please enter "True" in the box or "False" if there are transactions to report.

28.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

This year

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False)

FALSE

In the period the charity has paid trustees remuneration and benefits. Please give the amount of, and legal authority for, any remuneration or other benefits paid to a trustee by the charity or any institution or company connected with it.

Name of trustee	Legal authority (eg order, governing document)	Amounts paid or benefit value				
		Remuneration	Pension contribution	Redundancy (including loss of office)/ex gratia	Other	TOTAL
		£	£	£	£	£
Fr Mark Shillaker	constitution	7,739	-	-	-	7,739
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-

Please give details of why remuneration or other employment benefits were paid.

For services as a Parish Priest

Where an ex gratia payment has been made to a trustee, provide an explanation of the nature of the payment.

Last year

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False)

FALSE

In the period the charity has paid trustees remuneration and benefits. Please give the amount of, and legal authority for, any remuneration or other benefits paid to a trustee by the charity or any institution or company connected with it.

Name of trustee	Legal authority (eg order, governing document)	Amounts paid or benefit value				
		Remuneration	Pension contribution	Redundancy (including loss of office)/ex gratia	Other	TOTAL
		£	£		£	£
Fr Mark Shillaker	constitution	5,200	-	-	-	5,200
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-

Please give details of why remuneration or other employment benefits were paid.

Where an ex gratia payment has been made to a trustee, provide an explanation of the nature of the payment.

28.2 Trustees' expenses

If the charity has paid trustees expenses for fulfilling their duties, details of such transactions should be provided in this note. If there are no transactions to report, please enter "True" in the box below. If there are transactions to report, please enter "False".

No trustee expenses have been incurred (True or False)	***FALSE***

Type of expenses reimbursed	This year	Last year
	£	£
Travel	1,443	1,070
Subsistence	-	-
Accommodation	-	-
Other (please specify):	-	-
	-	-
TOTAL	1,443	1,070

Please provide the number of trustees reimbursed for expenses or who had expenses paid by the charity	**2**	**2**

28.3 Transaction(s) with related parties

Please give details of any transaction undertaken by (or on behalf of) the charity in which a related party has a material interest, including where funds have been held as agent for related parties. If there are no such transactions, please enter 'true' in the box provided.

This year

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period (True or False)	***TRUE***

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity	Description of the transaction(s)	Amount	Balance at period end	Provision for bad debts at period end	Amounts written off during reporting period
			£	£	£	£

In relation to the transactions above, please provide the terms and conditions, including any security and the nature of any payment (consideration) to be provided in settlement.	
For any related party, please provide details of any guarantees given or received.	

Last year

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period (True or False) | ***TRUE***

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity	Description of the transaction(s)	Amount	Balance at period end	Provision for bad debts at period end	Amounts written off during reporting period
			£	£	£	£

In relation to the transactions above, please provide the terms and conditions, including any security and the nature of any payment (consideration) to be provided in settlement.

For any related party, please provide details of any guarantees given or received.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	The Orthodox Parish of St Martin & St Helen, Colchester		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1192469
Set out on pages	1-2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:		**Date:**	16/10/2026
Name:	C E Hazell		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	MAAT		
Address:	5 Joslin Close		
	Colchester		
	CO4 3GQ		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	