

# PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

13 NOVEMBER 2021

No. 47

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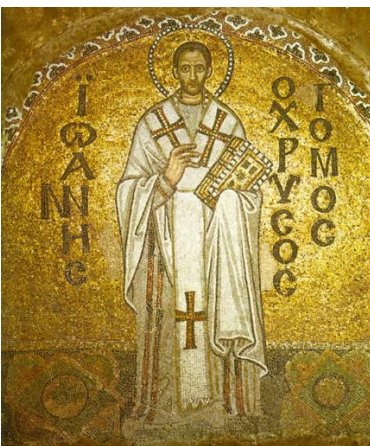
*Weekly Worship, Events & Announcements —  
Submissions Welcome!*

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### Upcoming Week

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed priest Andreas, Dionysis, Alan and Nikolai, and the sick Rachel, Peter and Monica.
  - ❖ Sunday service at home: [Typika Service](#) (click top left triple-bar menu, choose 'Sacraments & Services,' then 'Liturgy'), used with [Liturgy - Variable Parts](#)
  - ❖ Archdiocesan [Sunday Bulletin](#)
  - ❖ Saints' days in [Greek](#) and [English](#)
  - ❖ Online [9.30 Sunday Matins & Liturgy](#) at Holy Wisdom Cathedral, London
  - ❖ Online [10.30 Sunday Liturgy](#) at St Nicholas Parish, Oxford
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### Events & Announcements



Today, **13 November**, is the feast of [St John Chrysostom](#) which of course also makes it Fr Ian's nameday! We wish him a very happy feast, with thanks for his leadership, care and sacrificial work in the Holy Trinity community.

#### **Verse**

*The golden John having shut his mouth,  
Has left to us another mouth; his books.  
On the thirteenth the lips that were golden fell silent.*

A warm thank you to everyone who attended the Auxiliary Association meeting last Sunday after liturgy — it is wonderful to be planning future events for the community again! Missed the meeting but wish to join in? Please [email](#) our chair, Chara T.

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## From Fr Ian

Dear Friends,

This coming Monday we begin our Advent fast – the 40 days of preparation for Christmas. All around us people are getting ready to celebrate this joyful midwinter festival. Some, indeed are celebrating already. The lights have gone up in the streets, the latest John Lewis advertisement has been broadcast and the papers, magazines and websites are full of gift ideas.

As Christians we should be able to join in this festive atmosphere of joy, to endorse the messages of peace and love that are (however imperfectly) understood to be part of the meaning of the season. But we are also aware that we come to this time with a deeper understanding of its significance. St Paul, writing to the church in Corinth, says, “You are familiar with the generosity of our Master, Jesus Christ. Rich as he was, he gave it all away for us—in one stroke he became poor and we became rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). The love of God which means that he willingly emptied himself for our salvation is the true full content of the message of Christmas, and we are called to embody that in our lives, too. In words not recorded in the Gospels, but handed down in the early Christian community we are told that it was Jesus himself who said, “You’re far happier giving than getting” (Acts 20:35). So as we approach Advent let us consider how we can put these principles onto practice. We shall be taking up a collection for a charity on the Sundays in Advent as usual, and I trust that you will, as always, be generous in your response.

But I must also draw your attention to some needs even closer to home. In the last two years, as you know, there have been severe restrictions on the numbers who have been able to attend our worship services with the result that the regular Sunday income (which goes to the two parishes jointly) has fallen away sharply, and our own Parish has been unable to hold the fund raisers which keep us financially afloat. Although (as many of you know) I am uncomfortable talking too much about money I have to ask you to think about the ways in which you can support our Parish and our Community.

If you are able to give a Christmas gift to the Parish that would be very welcome. I know we have many generous people among us, and we are always grateful for them. But I would also like to ask you to consider very seriously whether you are able to make a regular offering, as outlined below in a message from our Treasurer, Philip A. Some Christian churches still ask their members to follow the example of Ancient Israel and contribute 10% of their income to the work of the Church (see e.g. Leviticus 27:30-32). This has not been a regular practice in Orthodoxy, but considering what others who share our faith do freely may help us to see more clearly how we can contribute. Our Treasurer and our Acting Parish President, Ann L, would be happy to discuss further with you what our needs are and ways in which your contributions can help our work.

May the Lord who in his love for humankind is coming to be born in Bethlehem for our salvation give us his blessing and his joy in this Advent season.

With my love to you all,

Fr Ian

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## A Message from Holy Trinity's Treasurer

As you will know, the pandemic has been a disruptive and financially trying time for charities. In our case, Holy Trinity does not receive any outside support from bodies such as the Archdiocese or the Patriarchate, so we as a community are solely responsible for all running expenses, including major costs such as our priest's salary and Oxford accommodation. We normally provide these through the generosity of individual donors, and through our volunteer-run fundraising efforts. However, when health advice and regulations closed the church or reduced the number permitted to attend services, we faced acute financial difficulty as cash donations dropped off or stopped completely. Even more damaging to our budget was losing about £10,000 in income after fundraisers had to be cancelled, notably two cycles of the Parish concert, food fair, and summer barbeque.

The Parish Council has worked hard to offset income losses through back-claiming Gift Aid, increasing online donations, reducing some expenses, and accessing relevant support schemes. Plans are also now underway to resume our traditional fundraisers in 2022, but the accumulated deficit is concerning, and we have decided to appeal directly to the community in an effort to cover the immediate shortfall. I know that, in addition to charities, the pandemic has also been a difficult time for many people's personal finances. However, if you have the ability to support us on a more regular basis, the most effective way is to set up a monthly standing order. These regular offerings support all the important activities of the community as well as stabilising financial planning for both parties. If you already have a standing order in place thank you, and please consider increasing the monthly amount if you can. To set up a standing order\* or to amend the one you have, please get in touch by emailing:

[philip.public@atzemoglou.com](mailto:philip.public@atzemoglou.com)

If you are not yet ready to commit to a monthly donation, you can still support our community with one-off donations through PayPal:

<https://paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3247518>

\*You may also print and fill in the Standing Order form below, then **sign it and send it to your bank**. If you'd like to apply Gift Aid to your donation — which allows us to claim an additional 25% from HMRC at no extra cost to you — fill in the Gift Aid form below if you are eligible, tick the box at the bottom and **return a copy of the completed form to the Treasurer** for our records. (The Gift Aid form does not need to be signed.)



Registered Charity no. 1011772

Greek Orthodox Parish of the Holy Trinity,  
1 Canterbury Road, OXFORD, OX2 6LU  
Website: [www.holytrinityoxford.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityoxford.org.uk)  
Fr Ian: [frian@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:frian@holytrinityoxford.org.uk)

## Please remember Holy Trinity Parish in your prayers...

Subscribe: [maillist1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:maillist1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk)  
Editor: [community@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:community@holytrinityoxford.org.uk)  
Council: [president1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:president1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk)  
Donation: [treasurer1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:treasurer1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk)

# Standing Order Instruction and Gift Aid Declaration

The Greek Orthodox Community of The Holy Trinity, Oxford

<b>About you</b>	Name:
	Address:
	Post code:
<b>About your bank</b>	Bank name:
	Bank address:
	Post code:
	Sort code: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Account number: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	

## About your payment to our bank:

Please pay the "Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Parish" at Barclays Bank plc, Leicester, LE87 2BB:

**Sort code: 20-65-18**

**Account number: 90510718**

The sum of ....., using my full name as the payment reference.

The payment should happen on the: ..... (date of first payment),

and on every  Month /  Year (please select one) until further notice.

## Confirmation

Customer signature(s):

Date:

*giftaid it*     Tick this box if you want to use Gift Aid to make your donation worth more. If you do, for every pound you give us, we can get an extra 25p from Inland Revenue.

I want to Gift Aid all my future donations, as well as any donations made in the past 4 years. I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and understand that, if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

## Notes:

- Please notify your bank if you want to cancel or amend this standing order instruction.
- Please notify the charity if your details change, if the Gift Aid conditions above no longer apply to you, or if you want to stop applying Gift Aid to your donations.

## Charity Gift Aid Declaration – multiple donation

### Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

**In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:**

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to:

**Name of Charity** \_\_\_\_\_

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

### My Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please notify the charity if you:**

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.