

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

22 APRIL 2023

No. 71

Monthly News & Announcements

Prayers & Services

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed *Meropi*, and the sick *Vincent, Michael, Philip, Paul, Richard and Monica*.
 - ❖ Saints' days in [Greek](#) and [English](#)
 - ❖ Bilingual texts and music for [all services by date](#)
 - ❖ Archdiocesan Sunday [Bulletins](#) and [Services](#) (Holy Wisdom Cathedral, London)
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Events & Announcements

Please see our parish [website](#) for a full community calendar

Please follow these links for 2023 Paschal greetings from both [Patriarch Bartholomew](#) and [Archbishop Nikitas](#).

Saturday 20 May is the parish's annual concert, this year in support of the [National Autistic Society](#) — again **proceeds up to £1000 will be matched with a donation directly to Holy Trinity**. Despina N and friends produce a wonderful programme every year and this time have secured clarinettist Jayne Dawson as a guest artist. Please share the event on [Facebook](#), donate through the [JustGiving page](#) and forward the poster below! Tickets are available on the door or through [Eventbrite](#).

Sunday 21 May we will hold the Parish AGM after the morning Liturgy. Please make sure your membership is up-to-date and plan to attend — as members of the church, and theologically speaking of Christ's body, we are better able to discern and act when each person fulfils their role in the community!

Parishioners are also invited to *One Earth, One Love*, an upcoming two-day colloquium in Oxford on care for the planet and the climate crisis. The **26–27 April** interfaith event will feature a number of speakers familiar to members of our community, and are free with only [registration](#) necessary. Please look for additional information below.

Paschal Celebrations Continue! St Thomas Sunday — 23 April

Everyone is invited to a **community bring-and-share meal tomorrow** to celebrate the ongoing Feast of Feasts! Holding this event at the end of Bright Week last year was very successful and made it easier for some of our parishioners to join in, so the Auxiliary Association is repeating the event again this year. Please bring your favourite dishes, wine and other beverages, events1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk for more information.



Volunteers prepared and delivered Pascha baskets for those who are not able to join us regularly for services, and also for our three priests.

Thank you to the fathers and to everyone who helped dye eggs and decorate the church and epitaphios, sang services, helped with the overnight Gospel readings and the many other special acts done as a community during this season!



Registered Charity no. 1011772

Greek Orthodox Parish of the Holy Trinity,
1 Canterbury Road, OXFORD, OX2 6LU
Website: www.holytrinityoxford.org.uk
Fr Ian: frian@holytrinityoxford.org.uk

Please remember Holy Trinity Parish in your prayers

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Unique Connections

A Fundraising Concert & Reception For



Saturday May 20th, 2023 at 7:30pm
St Nicolas Church, Abingdon
Market Place, OX14 3JD

FEATURING WORKS OF SCHUBERT, SCHUMANN, SPOHR
& Popular Songs from Around the World.

Despina Nikolakis (Piano)

Jayne Dawson (Clarinet)

Margaret Lingas (Soprano)

Costas Nikolakis (Piano)

Tatiana Soloviova & Jon Bennett (Voice-Guitar)

***All proceeds will be matched for the benefit of The Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church in Oxford (Registered Charity 101772)!***

Sponsored by the Nikolakis family, Piano Key Studio and the Atzemoglou family.



Registered Charity 269425



*The Centre for Baptist Studies, Regent's Park
College, University of Oxford;*

*The House of St Gregory and St Macrina
(Orthodox Centre) Oxford;*

*The Doctrine and Christian Unity Commission of
the Baptist World Alliance*

One Earth, One Love

**A conversation between Orthodox
and Baptist scholars on care for the
planet and the climate crisis**

Regent's Park College, Oxford

Thursday 27 April 2023

and online (Zoom)

2.00 pm – 9 pm BST

3.00 pm – 10 pm CET

9.00 am – 4.00 pm ET (USA)

Speakers include:

Fr John Behr, Regius Professor of Humanity, University of Aberdeen

Paul S. Fiddes, Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Oxford

Bruce V. Foltz, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, Eckerd College, USA

*Brandon Gallaher (Chair), Associate Professor of Orthodox Christian Studies,
University of Exeter*

*Jenny Howell, Director of the Program for Theology, Ecology, and Food Justice,
George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University*

Peter Petkoff, Senior Law Lecturer, Brunel University

*Elizabeth Theokritoff, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Orthodox Christian
Studies, Cambridge*

John Weaver, formerly Principal, South Wales Baptist College

**Also: Wednesday 26 April 2023, 2.00 pm – 9 pm BST, at Regent's Park College and
online (Zoom):**

**One Earth, One Love: an Interfaith colloquium between Jewish, Christian
and Muslim scholars**

marking the publication of:

Loving The Planet. Interfaith Essays on Ecology, Love and Theology

Participation is free on both days, but registration is essential:

[One Earth, One Love: A 2-day event exploring love for the planet & others Tickets,](#)

[Wed 26 Apr 2023 at 14:00 | Eventbrite.](#)

The timetable for 27 April is attached to this flyer

HEARING GOD'S WORD IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

Eight days after the Resurrection, on Thomas Sunday, the Lord graciously condescended to appear again to the disciples 'when the doors were closed.' But the Book of Acts, read today as throughout the whole period of Pascha, reminds us of another appearance, also 'when the doors were closed,' of an angel in the gaol where the Apostles were imprisoned (John 20: 26). The Angel dispatched by the Lord proceeds to liberate them, at the same time exhorting them, as they make their way out, to 'Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life' (Acts 5: 20). The heavenly visitor laid emphasis on speaking 'ALL the words,' meaning that the Word of God should be presented without abridgements and without selective interpretations of the truth of the Gospel: 'Everything you know, everything the Teacher taught you, everything which the Holy Spirit has brought to your minds and illuminated for you, all of that you are to proclaim and teach accurately and in entirety.'

In our times there are people who do not want to hear the word of God in all its fullness. For example, some feel annoyed when the Gospel speaks of prayer, sacrifice, the Cross, self-denial, Christ as judge of the world, the Last Judgement, Hell, resurrection of the dead, and so on. These individuals prefer to restrict the preaching role of the Gospel simply to the improving of interpersonal relations, a kind of socially-oriented Christianity. There is no doubt that this tendency constitutes a serious deviation from evangelical truth; it is a fallacy. If the Word of God is offered in any form other than its authentic purity, the laity will sense it and reject it. Our Lord's statement is clear: '... the sheep follow him, for they recognise his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' (John 10: 4-5). Christ is not interested in merely making us morally superior, once the goal of a variety of social, philosophical and religious systems throughout human history. Rather, the goal of Christianity is salvation, *soteria*, deriving from the adjective *soos* or *sos*, complete, whole, 'safe and sound.' In fact, the ultimate aim of Christian salvation is for Man to achieve unity (*enosis*) with God.

There is, however, a contrary tendency. Certain people are attracted to a merely theoretical hearing of the Word of God, to acquiring knowledge of the means of salvation and of theological truths. Meanwhile, however, they undervalue the importance of keeping the commandments, and fail to engage in the practical struggle necessary for the Word of God to bear fruit within their souls. According to St Gregory Palamas, they are lovers of spectacle, lovers of discourse, but not lovers of virtue. As St Gregory justly observed, 'practice is the stepping-stone to theory.' We should not undervalue practice, but neither should we disparage theory.

Since the angel of God urged the Apostles, after their miraculous liberation from prison, to 'Go and stand in the temple, and speak to the people all the words of this Life,' let us be ready and willing to hear the words of the Gospel in their wholeness, without diminishment or mutilation. In truth, what is the point of possessing theoretical knowledge of spiritual life, if in practice we are spiritually impoverished? Let us start out by faithfully observing the commandments so as to advance steadily forwards on the spiritual road of illumination, towards the consummate perfection that has no end, described by the holy Fathers (e.g. St Maximos the Confessor) as 'everlasting completion and ever-moving stillness.' Amen.

[Translation of the Archdiocesan bulletin offered by Rosemary B-M, [Source](#).]
