

# PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

14 SEPTEMBER 2024

No. 88

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### *Monthly News & Announcements*

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#### **Prayers & Services**

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed *Petya, Zachary, Denise, David, Robert, Theresa & John*, and the sick *Monica, Mihaela, Elizabeth, Dawn & Valentina*.
  - ❖ Saints' days in [Greek](#) and [English](#)
  - ❖ Bilingual texts and music for [all services by date](#)
  - ❖ Archdiocesan Sunday [Bulletins](#) and [Services](#) from Holy Wisdom Cathedral
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#### **Events & Announcements**

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

Autumn sees many activities and groups starting up again, from the Parish Council and Auxiliary Association to the Greek School.

- ❖ **Holy Trinity Parish Council.** Bring your questions, suggestions and concerns to Fr Ian or any of the 12 Council members: Skev Antoniou, Philip Atzemoglou (Treasurer), Jovan Lazic (new member), Manos Karteris, Ioanna Christodoulou (President), Pavlina Gatou (new member), Andrew Goeldner-Thompson, George Krasovitsky, Peter Petkoff, Alexandros Plianos (new member), Jimmy Xiourouppas, & Dimitris Zilaskos. Please support your dedicated volunteer representatives and come and join them in parish undertakings — we also become church when we work together!
- ❖ The **St Andrew Auxiliary Association** welcomes everyone's participation and is a great way to volunteer and become more involved in the work of the parish. For information contact [community@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:community@holytrinityoxford.org.uk).
- ❖ Fr Ian will offer a **Greek School blessing today 14 September** at 2pm — [click here](#) for further information about the school and available classes.

**Saturday 5 October** is the date of our annual Greek Food Fair, a fun and important fundraising and outreach event for the community. Details can be found on the poster below. **Please circulate the date and post on your social media accounts** — invite friends and family to come and enjoy the day! Offers of help welcome, email Roula T ([roula1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roula1@hotmail.co.uk)).

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## New *Kouvouklion* Arrives from Greece

You may have noticed the new wooden *kouvouklion*\* that arrived from Greece over the summer! It was commissioned in honour of the community's fifty years in the current church building, and thankfully was completed despite serious illness in the workshop where it was designed and carved.

\**Tomb or sepulchre that houses the epitaphios during Holy Week.*



Our previous *kouvouklion* had worn out over time, with a broken handle and various parts no longer robust enough for reliable use. Now that the new one has been assembled and positioned in the church (we'll rearrange the icons behind it shortly!) the joint parish councils are **welcoming donations** toward the substantial costs of carving and shipping. Please consider helping with this expense through our dedicated [JustGiving campaign](#), or email Holy Trinity treasurer Philip Atzemoglou [treasurer1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk](mailto:treasurer1@holytrinityoxford.org.uk).



Registered Charity no. 1011772

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**Please remember  
Holy Trinity Parish  
in your prayers**

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## Upcoming Fundraiser!

Organised by the Greek Orthodox Community of the  
Holy Trinity, Oxford (Registered Charity No. 1011772)

# GREEK FOOD FAIR

Saturday 5 October  
11am to 3pm

*Come and enjoy authentic  
Greek Food to eat in  
or take away!*

Wesley Memorial Hall  
New Inn Hall Street, Oxford OX1 2DH

## The Bronze Serpent

‘Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him ... For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.’ (John 3: 14-15, 17)

It is with these words, as conveyed to us by the Evangelist John, that Jesus expresses the factual reality behind His coming into the world — a truth which is nothing less than the love of God for His created beings. Our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world not to judge it, but in order for the world to be saved by Him. God sent his Son to mankind to liberate them from the burden of death incurred by the Fall.

Just as Moses, following God’s instructions [*Numbers* 21: 9], raised the Bronze Serpent<sup>1</sup> upon a wooden pole,<sup>2</sup> enabling those who looked at it to survive the deadly bites of the venomous snakes threatening the Israelites, so did God raise up His Son on the Cross for the salvation of mankind. The Bronze Serpent suspended on the pole, free of any poison that could harm the human body, became the means of saving the Israelites’ lives while they were suffering in the desert. Similarly, the human soul is saved by Jesus Christ’s suspension upon the Cross, He being free of stain or corruption, uniquely without sin.

This parallelism of two realities -- God’s preservation, through Moses, of the Israelites’ health and bodily wholeness, and God’s salvation of our souls through His Son – is not some kind of interpretative guesswork from a theological treatise. It constitutes the actual words of Jesus, as represented by John. This passage gives advance notice of the raising of the Honourable Cross and its salvational significance. Hence, it is read the week before the feast of the raising of the Tree of Eternal Life.

The Exaltation of the Honourable Cross marks an important festal staging-post in the Orthodox calendar and for Christianity in general. St John Chrysostom says that the Cross was once synonymous with condemnation and death, but is now considered a precious and holy object, a symbol of salvation and resurrection. He adds that whereas the old Adam, by eating from the forbidden tree, caused mankind’s fall from grace, Christ, the new Adam, through the Tree of the Cross, lifted mankind up. ( ... )

Let us therefore raise our eyes to gaze upon the Crucified Christ and His radiant Resurrection. Let us witness the raising of the Tree of Eternal Life, the Honourable Cross, symbolizing victory and deliverance, just as the Israelites looked up at the Bronze Serpent and were saved from the venomous snakes. Let us all become communicants of our Lord’s honourable Body and life-giving Blood. Forgetting ourselves, let us each lift up our personal Cross, and follow Him.

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

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<sup>1</sup> See Jonathan Pageau’s 18 April 2013 article for the adorning of bishops’ croziers with serpents, <https://orthodoxartsjournal.org/the-serpents-of-orthodoxy/>.

<sup>2</sup> The Greek word ξύλο(ν) can mean wood, anything made of wood, a tree, or the Cross. In the Septuagint version of *Numbers* 21: 9, the word for the pole upon which Moses suspended the bronze serpent is σημειον, ‘signal-staff’ or ‘signpost.’