

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY



COMMUNITY BULLETIN

21 MARCH 2026

No. 106

Monthly News & Announcements

Prayers & Services

- ❖ Please pray for the newly departed *Risto, Alexander, Catholicos-Patriarch Ilia & Penelope*, and the sick *Archim. Kyril, Marie Louise, Maria, Gloria, John, Katherine, Maria, Andrew & family, Konstantina, Anastasia, Eireni, Anna, John, Margarita, Ioannis, Monica, Mihaela, Elizabeth & 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

Events & Announcements

This month marks the 40th anniversary of Fr Ian's ordination as a priest which took place on 2 March 1986. We will celebrate officially with him on the parish feastday of Pentecost (31 May) and now invite all who wish to donate toward a suitable gift to do so. The parish has chosen some of his beloved books, with anything over going toward his May pilgrimage to Greece.

Sunday 22 March (tomorrow) our sister Annunciation parish will celebrate their patronal feast with a bring-and-share meal — all are welcome! Please bring festive fasting food and beverages, which may include fish, wine & oil.

Benefit Concert with Marios Papadopoulos, Saturday 18 April at 6.30pm. We have added a [raffle](#) to the usual lively post-concert reception this year, with prizes like an annual family pass for Blenheim Palace or Cotswold Wildlife Park, and dinner or a champagne tea! If you have an appropriate prize, or know a business that could be approached, contact Maria F (community@holytrinityoxford.org.uk). *Please buy concert and raffle & tickets, and share the poster below widely!*

Upcoming 2026 Events

- ❖ **Church Cleaning**, Saturday 28 March (see poster below)
 - ❖ **Benefit Concert**, Saturday 18 April at 6.30pm
 - ❖ **Community Paschal Bring-&-Share Lunch**, Sunday 26 April after liturgy
 - ❖ **Mini Food Fair**, Sunday 17 May (helps with costs for our food fair in October)
 - ❖ **Holy Trinity AGM** (Annual General Meeting), Sunday 17 May
 - ❖ **Parish BBQ**, Sunday 26 July after Liturgy
-

Fr Ian — 40 Years Serving as Our Priest!

As a parish in a university town we welcome many newcomers and temporary residents, some of whom may not have a chance to learn as much about Fr Ian as they would like. Here is a brief summary of his life and time serving at One Canterbury! He is humble about himself and reluctant to let us make a fuss even at this milestone, but we will persevere — Fr Ian's presence is a tremendous blessing to the community and we are thankful for his care, humour and thoughtful leadership.



Photo credit: James Hyndman

Fr Ian was born on the east coast, where his father was at the time chaplain to an old peoples' home, but after a few years in Nottingham he grew up largely in the village of Binfield, just outside Bracknell. He also spent a year in the USA while his father studied there, and a few teenage years in Watford. He went to Aberdeen University in 1976 to study English, and in the following year married Sirrý (Sigurðardóttir), whom he had first met when she came from Iceland to study at a college in Binfield two years previously.

Fr Ian (and Sirrý) had been brought up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but while at Aberdeen he discovered the Orthodox Church through friendships made in a music society.

Wanting to find out more about this tradition he began to attend the (lay-led) services held by the Orthodox in Aberdeen in the church of St Margaret in the Gallowgate, and also to read about Orthodoxy. This eventually led him to *The Orthodox Church* by Timothy Ware (Bishop Kallistos), and the more he read in that volume the more he realised that Orthodoxy was where he belonged.

His degree concentrated on Old and Middle English, and he became very attracted to the religious texts of that period, so wished to pursue doctoral research in that field. His tutors in Aberdeen advised him that it would be best to do so at another University, and so in 1980 he arrived in Oxford to begin research on the lives and miracles of the native Icelandic saints of the 12th to 14th centuries. By this time Sirrý had also made her own journey toward Orthodoxy, and the two of them were received into the Orthodox Church in early November of that year, and quickly settled into life at Canterbury Road.

After a couple of years Fr Ian began to wonder whether he should consider ordination and consulted his spiritual father, Bishop Kallistos, to be told, 'I was wondering the same thing, but I was waiting for you to speak first.' After a time of prayer and consideration, and with the blessing of Archbishop Methodios, Bishop Kallistos ordained Fr Ian to the diaconate on Palm Sunday 1 May 1983.

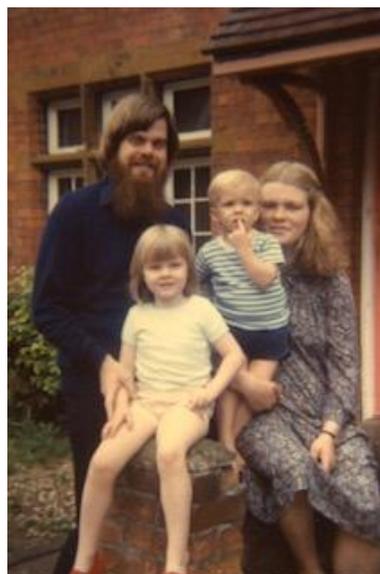
Two years later Bishop Kallistos asked Fr Ian to become a priest, as it was clear that with his work as an academic and a bishop involving more and more travel, someone was needed to celebrate services in Oxford on a regular basis. Once more with the blessing of Archbishop Methodios Bishop Kallistos ordained Fr Ian to the priesthood on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, 2 March 1986.

Fr Ian and Sirrý had two children: Hilda, who is now Technical Manager at the Reading Rep Theatre, and Mark, who is a freelance compositor and visual

effects artist for film and TV. Sadly Sirrý died on 18 August 1991 and for some ten years Fr Ian had to balance the work of the parish with the raising of his children, but in October 2001, when Bishop Kallistos retired, He was asked to take over as Parish priest and raised to the rank of Oeconomos by Archbishop Gregorios. In March 2011, to mark the 25th anniversary of his priestly ordination Archbishop Gregorios awarded him the title of Protopresbyter.

Fr Ian has served as our representative on the various Oxford Churches Together groups to which we belong, and taught at the IOCS in Cambridge in the early years of that institution. He is or has been involved in informal dialogues between the Orthodox and Evangelical Christians, Roman Catholics and representatives of the Jewish faith community. He is often asked to talk about our faith and life both to groups who come to visit the church at Canterbury Road and to parishes and groups around the country. He has also served with the blessing of Archbishop Gregorios and later Archbishop Nikitas, for many years as the English language priest for the Community of St Elias the Prophet in Reading and in more recent years as the occasional priest serving the Community of All Saints in Guernsey.

Fr Ian's mother told him that once he had learned to read he saw no further point in going to school, and reading is still one of his preferred leisure activities (in addition to the reading he has to do for his work). Although in the last few years it has become more physically challenging for him he also enjoys walking when he can. He retains his interest in music, especially by 20th century British composers.



Fr Ian and family, shortly before his 1986 ordination



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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Sprucing up for Pascha!

SPRING CLEANING

Saturday 28 March 10am-2pm



Join our group at 1 Canterbury Rd. All cleaning supplies will be provided. Speak to Fr Ian for further details.

Parish Benefit Concert
Marios Papadopoulos & Friends!
Save the Date

**“DANCES & DREAMS”
FUNDRAISING CONCERT**

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

The Greek School of Oxford.

Saturday, April 18, 6:30pm

**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
26 PARK ROAD, ABINGDON, OX14 1DS**



MARIOS PAPADOPOULOS: PIANO

DENIZ SENSOY: VIOLIN

ERYNA KISUMBA: CELLO

JOSEPH HAYDN: PIANO TRIO NO.39, “GYPSY”

FELIX MENDELSSOHN: PIANO TRIO, OP.49

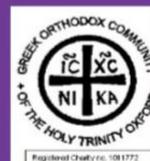
RECEPTION AND RAFFLE TO FOLLOW

TICKETS: £20, £15 (CONCESSIONS), £7 (UNDER 12)

[RALLY UP OR AT THE DOOR/ INFO@PIANOKEYSTUDIO.COM](#)



RallyUp





Learn Greek with us

St Mary & St John CE Primary School
Meadow Ln, Oxford OX4 1TJ
headteacher@greekschoolofoxford.org

