

# The Trinitarian



News, Notes and Inspiration from Trinity Church Oxford

January 2011

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## Our Staff

[The Rev. Richard Robyn, Rector](#)

Mary Sampson, M.A.,  
Organist/Choirmaster  
[Chris Claypoole, Secretary](#)  
Michael Pacillio, Sexton

## Our Vestry

[Dorothy Orr, Rector's Warden](#)

Judith Maile, Accounting Warden  
John Annand  
Nellie Duddy  
Lorraine Henry  
Lynne Geliebter  
Pamela McCracken  
Robert Miller  
Melinda Weaver

## Website Resources

[About Us](#)  
[Newsletter Archive](#)  
[Photos](#)  
[Sermons](#)

## Calling All Shutterbugs

We need digital photos of Trinity goings-on: Church Services, Coffee Hour, Church School, Outings, Parish Clean-Up Days -- everything is fair game, within the bounds of



## From the Rector

In the words of the old hymn, time is "like an ever rolling stream." Another year has come and gone, and we greet the beginning of 2011 in which we will celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the nave of our church. I've always felt that the holiday season is rather "front-loaded," as it comes to an end just at the beginning of winter. The festivities are over, and the Church calendar moves into the season of Epiphany, which is especially long this year due to the lateness of Easter. There will be nine Sundays in Epiphany, taking us into March. My thoughts have definitely turned to spring, but as we trudge through the next couple of months and the decorations go back into storage, let's not forget the journey of the three Magi to the Christ Child, the culmination of the story of Christmas. For more of my thoughts on Epiphany, please [click here](#).

## Blessed Boiler



After more than a year of planning and execution, our new boiler is up and running in the Parish House. It was officially blessed on December 19 -- Fr. Robyn used an old prayer entitled "The Blessing of Machinery" and the choir sang a few bars of "Steam Heat" from the *Pajama Game*. Many thanks to everyone who helped see this project through to completion. For pictures of the project from start to finish, please [click here](#).

## Children's Pageant



Continuing a long tradition, the children of Trinity enacted the story of the Nativity from the Annunciation to the Adoration of the Magi on December 19 in the Parish House auditorium. Thanks to everyone from the players and parents to those who helped set up and tear down the set. For video and pictures of the event, please [click here](#).

## Christmas Eve



Under the soft glow of candlelight, parishioners and friends of Trinity welcomed the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. At the early service, we enjoyed music from the bell and junior choirs as well as traditional Christmas

Christian decency of course!  
Please email your photos as .jpg attachments to [info@trinitychurchoxford.org](mailto:info@trinitychurchoxford.org)  
Use the the subject line "trinity pix" and list the event name, date of the photo, and photographer's name in the body of your email.



hymns sung by all. Also featured was a flute solo by Maddy Putterman. Fr. Robÿn read a poem called "The Friendly Beasts" and talked to the children about Christmas from the perspective of the animals in the stall where Jesus was born. Before the "Midnight Mass," our organist and senior choir presented a concert of lovely music, which set the tone for a more traditional sung celebration. For Fr. Robÿn's sermon, please [click here](#). Many thanks to all who helped make our celebrations beautiful and holy. If you took any pictures at Christmas, please [email them to us](#).

### Trinity Tidbit

From Fr. Robÿn:

During a recent visit to one of our most senior members, I was able to get a glimpse of life at Trinity in the 1930s. Mrs. Tucker told me that the choristers used to wear stiff white collars that were pinned into their cassocks. After the service on Maundy Thursday, her mother would quickly un-pin all of the collars and take them and the choir cottas to a Chinese laundry. She would then pick them up on Saturday afternoon, and first thing Easter morning one could find a room full of choir members hurriedly re-pinning their collars back in. She said everyone looked wonderful in his or her clean white vestments.

She also told me that during the Great Depression, one of our altar super frontals became somewhat tattered. Because the church could not afford to replace it, her mother took it home and restored the embroidery and reattached missing sequins. We are very lucky that she did, because that is the beautiful old super frontal that we still use today!

RJR



### Communication

If you know of anyone who might be interested in what's happening here at Trinity but isn't already getting the Trinitarian, please forward this email or tell them about the new Sign Up button on our [website](#) for anyone who'd like to automatically begin receiving the Trinitarian each month. Please also check out several of our [revamped web pages](#) which now include video montages - thanks to Phil Geliebter for helping make us even more hip and relevant.



### Confirmation Class

Church School members who will be 13 as of June 2011 are eligible to join our Confirmation class. Preparation will take place during Church School, and in the spring, Fr. Robÿn will instruct the Catechumens after the 10 am service. The focus will be on learning the basics of the faith, and it is important that participants attend each session. There will be a camping retreat in the spring (to a campground, not the backyard of the rectory, as has been rumored), and Bishop Lee will be with us on Trinity Sunday (June 19) to celebrate and confirm. For more information, see Mrs. Orr or Fr. Robÿn.



### Deacon in Training

Congratulations to Mr. Phil Geliebter, who has been made a postulant for Holy Orders. Mr. Geliebter will be studying for ordination to the permanent diaconate. The process takes three years, and includes study, formation with peers, and fieldwork. Please hold him and his family in your prayers. If asked what deacons do, most Episcopalians would answer by describing something that the deacon does in the liturgy: read the gospel, prepare the altar

for Holy Communion, dismiss the congregation, etc. This is true, but deacons also perform a special ministry directly under the bishop of reminding the church of and calling it to be faithful to the "second great commandment"- loving our neighbors as ourselves. For a more complete description of a deacon's role, please see the deacon role link on our [Links page](#).



### Finance Committee Update

The Finance Committee is working on a proposed budget for 2011. Our preliminary efforts indicate a projected deficit of \$60 thousand, which is high, but less than last year's budgeted deficit. The improvement is driven by an increase in pledges, which are at \$78 thousand for 2011. However, this does not even cover the cost of our salaries, so we need keep the focus on



growth. We are still waiting for final results, but our investments performed well in 2010 - we expect this will increase the total amount to be used in the 2011 budget (we allocate 4.5% of average earnings over a 13 quarter period to cover operating expenses). Please keep the Finance Committee and Vestry in your prayers as we undertake this important part of our Church's life.



### **GFS Week**

Girls' Friendly Society will celebrate GFS Week from January 30 to February 6. GFS Week began in the late 60's to make parishes more aware of the [mission and ministry of the organization](#). Trinity has celebrated this week in recent years by having the members of the organization participate in the service and admitting new members formally into the society. We hope that you will join us on Sunday, January 30, at 10am when GFS

members will take part in the worship service. We will also be having a Bake Sale that morning to raise money for GFS Sri Lanka to repair a meeting hall that was destroyed by flooding. Some of the profits will also go to Emily Geliebter to help pay her World Council fees for the 2011 meeting in Ireland.



### **Greening the Church**

Thanks to everyone who helped with the greening of the church on December 19. The decorations were beautiful and helped to set the tone for our worship during Christmastide.

For pictures of the preparations, please [click here](#).



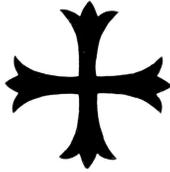
### **Leaf-Raking Extravaganza**

Thanks to everyone in the parish and wider community who helped with this year's leaf pickup in the churchyard on Saturday, December 4. With everyone working together, 237 bags were filled. For pictures, please [click here](#). However, some leaves remain and should be picked up in order to keep the grass from rotting. This will be discussed at the next Property Committee Meeting on January 13 at 7pm in the Buchanan Building.



### **Lessons & Carols**

We celebrated our traditional Advent Lessons & Carols service on December 12. Fr. Robyn began the service with the bidding prayer from King's College adapted for use at Trinity and the choirs beautifully led us in seasonal anthems and carols, joined by a string ensemble and interspersed with readings heralding the Nativity. Many thanks to our talented musicians. For pictures and a slide show, please [click here](#).



## Memorials

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously at Christmas for the beautiful flowers and mellifluous music. Please see the bottom of our [Christmas photo page](#) for a full list of the gifts given in memory or thanksgiving of loved ones.



## Music Ministry Notes

Christmas at Trinity was marked with beautiful liturgies and glorious music. We prepared for Christ's birth with a Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 12. Our Junior and Senior Choirs were joined by the Bella Corde String Ensemble in beautiful arrangements of Advent and Christmas music. On Christmas Eve at the Family Mass, we listened to the heavenly sounds of our Bell Choir and Junior Choir. Also featured was a flute solo by Maddy Putterman. A lovely Concert of Christmas Music was the prelude to the candlelight "Midnight Mass." Our Senior Choir presented a wonderful program of English carols and traditional solos. It was truly a memorable celebration of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you to all of our musicians for sharing their time and talents at Trinity Church. Happy New Year to all! SOLI DEO GLORIA! Mary Sampson, Organist/Choirmaster



## Souper Bowl Sunday

SM On Sunday, February 6, our GFS will participate in the international effort to refocus the world's biggest football weekend into a weekend of "loving God, loving our neighbor" known as the [Souper Bowl of Caring](#). Please bring in at least one can of soup and give at least one dollar that day. The soup that is collected will be used in a local food cupboard and the money donated will go to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund to be used for victims of disasters in this country and abroad. In 2010, \$10 million was raised with 13,044 churches and organizations participating in this project. The Souper Bowl began in the early 1990's and has raised over \$50 million to feed the hungry and aid in national and international disasters. We thank you for your support. Thanks also to those who donated gifts and money for our December Outreach projects - ECS was most appreciative.



## Vestry Highlights

At our December meeting, we discussed the budget as well as various property issues. Our next Vestry meeting is on Monday, January 17 at 7pm in the Buchanan Building.



## World Council

Trinity Girls' Friendly Society is planning to sell Krispy Kreme gift certificates as a fund-raising project to pay for travel and registrations for those attending [World Council](#). Emily Gelieber will represent Trinity as well as the Diocese of Pennsylvania at the Council which will be held at Kings Hospital, Palmerstown in Dublin, Ireland from June 24 through July 4 this summer. Gift

certificate orders can be placed with any GFS member or Dottie Orr. More information will be in the Weekly Bulletin.

## January Calendar

### Every Sunday

Holy Eucharist (spoken) at 8am in the Church

Holy Eucharist (sung) at 10am in the Church followed by coffee hour in the Buchanan Building

Church School for children during the 10am service

Senior Choir rehearsals at 8:45am in the Buchanan Building

### Epiphany

Thursday, January 6, at 7pm in the Church

### Women of Trinity Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, from noon to 2pm in the Buchanan Building

### Girls' Friendly Society Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, at 7pm in the Children's House

### Wardens' Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, at 1pm in the Church Office

### Property Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 13, at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

### Vestry Meeting

Monday, January 17, at 7pm in the Buchanan Building

### Girls' Friendly Society Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, at 7pm in the Children's House

### Girls' Friendly Society Sunday

Sunday, January 30 at 10am in the Church

## Your Feedback is Important

Please [email Chris Claypoole](mailto:email.Chris.Claypoole) or call her at (215) 745-6114 in the church office with any questions or input for next month's Trinitarian. We are especially interested in your feedback about the new format for the Trinitarian and whether you know of anyone in our community who is not receiving their copy (if so, please let us know their most current email address or else a home mailing address).

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