

AUTUMN/WINTER
2005-06



trinity

TRINITY ALUMNI
MAGAZINE
VOLUME 43
NUMBER 1

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

*Trinity College Chapel
celebrates 50 years*

SCIENCE SUITS HIM TO A 'T'

*Juan-Carlos Zúñiga-Pflücker's
T-cell breakthrough*

SACRED Space

*Trinity College Chapel celebrates
half a century as a place of refuge and reflection,
awe and inspiration, solemnity and joy*

Chapels, by their very nature, are intimate spaces. Even the most glorious of them, soaring skyward as their pipe organs thunder below, are able to capture and convey a sense of sacred intimacy in a way that few other places can. Trinity College Chapel has been capturing this feeling in various ways for the past 50 years, and on November 20th, that half-century was celebrated in a glorious festal evensong held within the chapel's sturdy stone walls.

Trinity Chapel's sandstone exterior, with its Gothic adornments, parapets and turret, forms the southwestern face of the college and anchors it to Hoskin Avenue, which runs through the heart of U of T's St. George campus. But the timeless look fostered by the chapel's Gothic style belies its actual age. For 30 years after Trinity College was moved north to Hoskin from its original site on Queen Street West, there was a great absence at the heart of the institution. Like a Canadian winter without hockey, this Anglican college without a dedicated chapel was missing something essential to its vitality – an absence that endured for three decades, until November 20, 1955. On that historic day, in front of Governor-General Vincent Massey, Ontario Premier Leslie Frost, various Trinity and Anglican worthies, and a CBC television audience, the new chapel was consecrated, to the delight of the packed congregation of students, faculty and friends there to witness the event.

PHOTOGRAPH: CAMELIA LINTA

BY BRAD FAUGHT







Without being too immodest, one could say that college chapels are an Anglican specialty. Anyone who has entered King's College Chapel in Cambridge for the annual Christmas carol service, or slipped into Oxford's Magdalen College Chapel for choral evensong, is almost sure to come away convinced of having just witnessed a particular kind of brilliance of song and spirit resident in the heart of an academic institution. Trinity Chapel offers that same kind of experience to those who enter it, however briefly, whether for a service, a wedding, or for a private moment of prayer and meditation. As the Rev. Dr. Canon David Neelands, who first came to Trinity as an undergraduate in 1961 and is now the dean of the

faculty of divinity, remarks, "the sense of awe is instantaneous."

That sense is primarily owing to the chapel's architect, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (1880-1960), a member of the famous Scott architectural family. His grandfather, Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-1878), was one of the leading architects of the Victorian age and designed nearly 1,000 structures, including London's Albert Memorial and St. Pancras Station. Giles Scott's own career took off in 1903, when as a very young man he won the commission for the new Liverpool Cathedral. During a career that would span the next half-century, Scott designed all manner of important buildings, from Cambridge University Library and

Among the finest examples of perpendicular Gothic architecture in North America, Trinity Chapel's lofty arches and windows inspire "instantaneous awe."

Inset opposite: construction site, 1954



natural light
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to just beneath the almost
50-foot-high ceiling

Scott's Gothic-inspired design might never have come to pass, however, without the seemingly inexhaustible generosity of Trinity's greatest single benefactor, Gerald Larkin. President of the Salada Tea Company Ltd. from 1922 to 1957, Larkin gave gifts to the college amounting to more than \$2 million in his lifetime, and upon his death in 1961, left Trinity a bequest of some \$6 million, which today remains the largest in the institution's history. A key part of his lifetime giving – "a characteristic act of munificence," as former Provost Derwyn Owen described it – were the funds provided for the chapel. Larkin's far-sighted philanthropy, along with that of other friends of the college such as H. Crawford Scadding, whose estate provided the funds for the furnishings, meant that Trinity was finally able to afford a chapel, one that was recognized immediately as being among the finest examples of perpendicular Gothic architecture in North America.

Scott's achievement in Trinity Chapel is indeed a marvel of design and materials. The interior combines free support arches and vaulting, with stunning grisailles windows in the apse and a Roman travertine floor. Marble quarried in Indiana together with

the New Bodleian Library at Oxford, to London's rebuilt Guildhall and the House of Commons, both damaged in the Second World War. He even designed the red telephone box that became a ubiquitous feature of the British streetscape after 1935. In the late 1940s, under Provost Reginald Seeley, Trinity approached Scott to design a new chapel. He accepted the commission, worked on a design in conjunction with the Toronto firm George & Moorhouse, and studied the layout of the property on his first visit to the site in November of 1950. Construction began in the summer of 1953, and two years later, Trinity had its own purpose-built chapel at last.



limestone from the Credit Valley dominate the interior of the chapel. The pews, which can hold about 170 people, and the dons' stalls, are of red oak, and much of the stained glass, made in Toronto in 1887 by the well-known firm of Joseph McCausland & Co., was brought from the Queen Street property and installed in the new chapel. Natural light pours in through the windows, which run the length of the chapel and soar to just beneath the almost 50-foot-high ceiling. The impressive length of the nave accounts for the quick intake of breath that most



Memorable *Moments*

The first service in Trinity Chapel was not its consecration but the nuptials of Peter Alley (5T2) and Daphne Young. Their wedding took place two months before the consecration, on September 17, 1955, a beautiful late-summer day when the temperature soared to 36°C and about 150 people saw the interior of the chapel for the first time. Luckily, construction of the chapel was completed just in time for the wedding, but, says Daphne Alley, she was determined to “walk down the aisle, dust or no dust!”

For the consecration service that then came on November 20th, the dust of construction was all gone, and one of the fortunate Trinity undergraduates invited to attend was Norah Bolton (5T9). She was one of eight student representatives present, the men and women heads of each of the four years, and remembers “a great sense of occasion that combined church and academia. The building had a grandeur that I had never really seen before. The experience was wonderfully overwhelming.”



people experience upon first entering the chapel. The distance from the narthex, where hangs the haunting *Mediterranean Christ* by Juan Sala Santonja, past the memorial tablet commemorating Trinity's 121 dead from the two World Wars, to the reredos behind the high altar, is about 110 feet. In typical Gothic fashion, there is a chapel within a chapel formed in the space that runs along the west wall. The side chapel, which is entered through an 18-foot-high bronze screen designed by Scott, seats about 40 people. At November's anniversary service, it was renamed in honour of Our Lady and St. Hilda, a name of obvious importance in Trinity's history, especially to its women members.

But like any other sacred space, the daily life of the chapel depends upon those who use it. At Trinity, there has never been a shortage of students, faculty and visitors entering its precincts. The Rev. John Beach, Trinity's Constance Humphrys Chaplain since 2001, presides over a vibrant college chaplaincy of 15 services per week during term, one of the largest being Wednesday choral evensong, when attendance ranges anywhere from 75 to 100 and the chapel choir sings under the direction of longtime College Organist and Director of Music Dr. Willis Noble. "We are an intentional Christian presence in the midst of a secular and multicultural institution," says Beach. "But we're not a parish, we're a campus ministry, an outreach." And to underscore that fact, the chaplain notes that "the chapel is open from seven a.m. until midnight every day."

Once they have graduated and left the college, former students often come back for another significant rite of passage when they choose to be married in Trinity Chapel. As Chaplain Beach observes, "Trinity students are part of a community for life." An average of approximately 50 weddings a year (sometimes three or four on a spring or summer Saturday) bring back many alumni. As



Opposite: Stained glass in the newly renamed Chapel of Our Lady and St. Hilda is from the original Queen Street property. Above: The chapel's handsome sandstone exterior is erected

long as either the bride or the groom is a baptized Christian, canonical requirements are met. Of course, funerals are also part of the chapel's round (Robertson Davies' memorial service was held here in 1995), as are special services such as when the Rev. Desmond Tutu, the former Anglican archbishop of Cape Town and a key person in the overthrow of apartheid in South Africa, preached here in 2000 after receiving honorary degrees from both Trinity and U of T.

But you could say that the chief glory of college chapels everywhere is that they exist to serve the daily needs of those for whom the college acts, at least for a time, as a surrogate home. So whether that means a harried student sliding into a pew for a few minutes of silent reflection in the midst of a busy day of lectures and study, a divinity student practising the art of homiletics, or attendance along with many others at evensong, when Trinity's Provost, Margaret MacMillan, might read the lesson, the chapel can offer solitude, teaching, and fellowship.

Fifty years on, Trinity Chapel remains a focal point of the college and an ornament on the face of U of T. Scott's inspired design, maintained by timely repairs over the years (laser levelling, for example, is now used annually to ensure that any movement in the columns is measured), and the generosity of Gerald Larkin and other likeminded donors, have resulted in a beautiful building of substance that speaks clearly of the college's desire to educate the whole person. The consecration of the chapel in 1955 was regarded by Provost Seeley as the "happiest occasion" of his term of office, which came to an end shortly thereafter. It's a sentiment as solid as the stone from which the Trinity Chapel is hewn — and one that is certain to be shared by many others during its 50th anniversary year. ■

Brad Faught is a Toronto historian and writer.

A Golden Celebration

The Faith in Divinity Campaign had much to celebrate on November 20, the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the Trinity College Chapel.

After a Choral Evensong service celebrating the chapel's golden anniversary, the Very Rev. S. Duncan Abraham (ST2, STB '55, DD Hon. '91), co-chair of the campaign, expressed his profound gratitude to all the donors who, through their generosity, have ensured the success of Faith in Divinity. "The \$3 million raised through the campaign will endow the position of the dean of divinity at Trinity College and give the faculty a solid foundation upon which to continue its work," he said.

The campaign, launched in the spring, was kick-started by a gift of \$1 million from James Fleck in honour of his wife, the Rev. Margaret Fleck (MDiv '82, DD Hon. '00), who served as campaign co-chair with Canon Abraham. The result is the newly created Margaret E. Fleck Chair in Anglican Studies, which will be held by Dean David Neelands and his successors. Other major gifts came from Bishop George Boyd Snell, who contributed \$777,600, and William Watters, who donated \$250,000. Alumni, friends, faculty, clergy and parishes donated generously to push the campaign to its goal.

The faculty, created in 1841 by Trinity College founder Bishop John Strachan, is Canada's oldest seat of higher learning in the Anglican tradition. In its 164-year history it has educated and trained a steady stream of Anglican priests, bishops, archbishops and primates (including the two most recent, Michael Peers and Andrew Hutchison), as well as many notable theologians and academics.

The success of the campaign sets the faculty on a firm financial path as it continues to educate priests for the Anglican ministry, as well as lay people who seek to broaden their theological perspective.