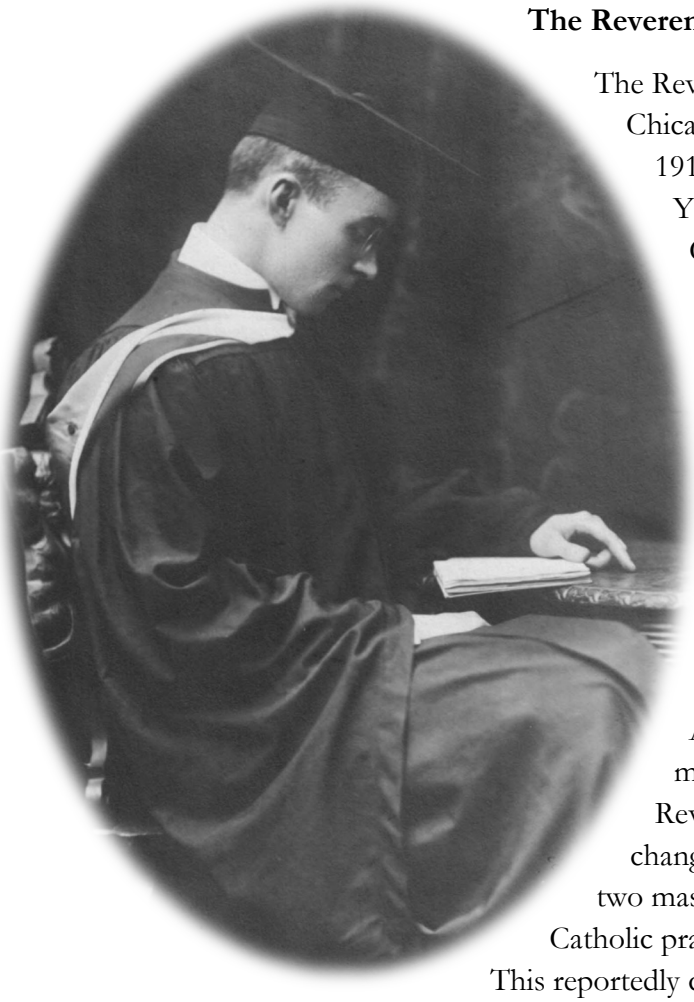
Rectors of Trinity Episcopal Church

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania



The Reverend Julian D. Hamlin 1916-1918

The Reverend Julian Delemeter Hamlin was born in Chicago in 1880. He graduated from Williams College in 1912, and the General Theological Seminary in New York, followed by a year in the Graduate School at Columbia University. He was ordained to the deaconate in 1916 by the Right Rev. Paul Mathews, Bishop of New Jersey.

Hamlin was ordained a priest and installed at Trinity Church on November 12, 1916, by the Right Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem. Almost immediately there existed a contentious relationship between the rector and the vestry. The vestry felt that Hamlin was presented as a friend of the late Rev. Mr. Johnston and held the same theological views. Additionally, Hamlin was advised by the Bishop to maintain all ritual and practices in the parish as the Rev. Johnston had but instead, Hamlin made "radical" changes such as referring to himself as "father," having two masses a month, hearing confessions, and other Anglo-Catholic practices such as the use of acolytes and altar lights. This reportedly caused church attendance to drop. In October 1917 the vestry unanimously asked Hamlin to resign.

The Rev. Hamlin resigned on January 19, 1918, after having served at Trinity for just over a year. As World War I was underway, he became a chaplain in the 19th United States Infantry at Fort Meade under the Church War Commission. He went from there to Fort Sam Houston in Texas. The war ended before he was deployed to Europe.

After his discharge from the army, he went to Newport, Rhode Island in 1919 as rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist. He served there until 1929, when he left to become the rector of The Church of the Advent in Boston. As an adherent of the Anglo-Catholic branch of the Episcopal church, during his time in Boston, Hamlin became heavily involved in the Oxford movement, and was a member of The Central Conference, the governing board of the Catholic Congress. Hamlin was described as a liberal and served as president of the New England branch of the Church League for Industrial Democracy, a socialist movement. He had an interest in social problems and held a prominent position

among leaders of social thought both in England and in this country. He made headlines by accusing steel companies of preparing for World War II by working with international munitions firms. He was also a member of the National Council of the Church Mission of Help.

Hamlin served at The Church of the Advent until 1934, when he resigned, partly due to health reasons, but also to travel to England and devote time to study and writing. As he had a large inheritance from his father, he was easily able to do this. He returned to the U.S. briefly in 1937 to urge raising funds to support the civilians in Spain during the Spanish revolution.

The Rev. Hamlin died in London England on December 17, 1937, at the age of 49. He was survived by his spouse Winifred. They had been married for twenty years but did not have children.