

Trinity Annual Reports 2013

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Introduction

As you'll see from the breadth and depth of the following reports; Trinity continues to be very active in many different areas. All churches face challenges (that's what church life is about) and there are plenty of places where keeping this level of activity going falls to fewer people (nothing new there, do read the reports 20 years ago – fascinating how so many reports make the same requests for support).

I thank all those who offer their time so generously to maintain and active response to 'serving God together in community'.

We press on into a time of new possibilities as well as change. It's easy to get caught in the details, but let's all work together to make sure that we listen to the Spirit as She works through us in this time of transition.

Richard

Action for Children

I have recently taken over the 'ACTION FOR CHILDREN' position from Ron Etheridge and would like to pay tribute to Ron for all his hard work on this project over the years. He will be a hard act to follow but I hope to do o.k once I have learned to count past 10!

'Action for children' are in the process of attempting to change the child protection laws with regard to 'emotional neglect' being included in such laws and I'm sure that we all wish them well in this cause.

Kevin Goodman

Baptismal Report

Dedications	this last year	5
Baptisms	this last year	14

Figures for this year have doubled for both dedications and baptisms from last year.

I am pleased to report that we have a lot of families that seem to be returning to Trinity after their Baptism/Dedication which is very encouraging.

I have tried to encourage people with 1st Anniversary card reminders to return for a re-lighting of their candles in order for the link to Trinity to continue.

*Angie Goodman
Baptismal Co-ordinator*

Sunday Morning Bible Reading Rota

Trinity Church is very fortunate in having a very loyal and reliable group ready to commit to reading the Bible during Sunday morning services. Their contribution to the service is very much appreciated by Richard, visiting preachers and the Congregation. Thank you to all those who contribute to Church life in this way. I am, of course, very happy for the list of volunteers to grow so if anyone else would like to read on a Sunday morning please let me know.

Jacky Purtell

Trinity Church Fairs

Our two Trinity Church Fairs took place as usual during the last year. They continue to be important financial contributions to Church funds as well as enjoyable social occasions with many people contributing in lots of different ways. We raised the grand sum of over £2,500 between the last two Fairs. Thanks to everyone for their help and support.

Jacky Purtell

Trinity Catering Group

The year ending on August 31st 2013 was not quite as hectic as the previous year, but individually we have helped at Cafe Services and at Church meetings. We are

always grateful to all those who regularly help our small group at larger events as listed below.

In 2012 - In September we had a Harvest Lunch catering for 60 healthy appetites. In December we helped at the Evergreen's Christmas event,(always a happy time).

In 2013- April found us supporting the family of Jack Strawson on the day of his funeral, providing hot drinks in the Church for family and friends travelling from afar, and also providing a Buffet Lunch for 50 people in the Conduit Centre after the service.

May was the Kitchen's 1st Birthday and 42 people sat down to our 1st attempt at Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding for Sunday Lunch. A great success which also helped us raise funds to finish off our loan for the dishwasher.

June saw us serving endless Teas and Coffees with filled rolls and tray bakes at the June fair. It is always fun (but Noisy) to have some gentlemen helping us too on Fair Days. Thank you for your continued support, and to repeat the last sentence of last year's report " we do need some new recruits".

June Etheridge

Communion Stewards

The communion services are an important part of our worship at Trinity and the levels of participation are always reassuringly high. There have been one or two helpful suggestions on how the communion experience can be improved, but all in all services have functioned smoothly through the year. For this I would like to thank my communion steward colleagues for their work and support. If there are any suggestions about how the communion service can be improved further, then please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, if anyone would like to become a communion steward, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Paul Newton

Door Stewards Report

The rota is such that people do one "duty" every six months. If anyone would like to be added to this rota please let me know. A thank you to all those who stand at the door to our Church and welcome everyone with a smile.

John Cook

Stewards Report

We are delighted to welcome Douglas Pryde to join our happy group of stewards. We are very grateful to the rota of pianists who now play for the evening services. Again my thanks go to the book stewards for their very valuable contribution. I am repeating what I say every year – my thanks go to all the stewards for their great commitment, kindness and generosity.

Tricia Cook

Report from Circuit Stewards

Circuit Steward team

- We are now into Adam Hager's final year as a Circuit Steward and so the need for at least one new Circuit Steward is becoming a pressing issue. Please pray that someone, or preferably two people, may be found to serve the Circuit in this role. Any of the Circuit Stewards would be very happy to talk to anyone about the role. It is a privilege to serve the Circuit through being part of this

team. Martin has asked that anyone interested should contact him - thus having just one point of contact.

Church and Circuit

- At the recent Circuit Meeting it was agreed to ask for a Presbyterian through the stationing process. They will have pastoral charge of All Saints and Trinity from September 2014. As soon as we have any news - hopefully in November - the Circuit will be informed.
- At the same meeting it was agreed that the possibility of applying for a Deacon when Peter Bennett leaves the Circuit is to be explored.
- The Circuit Mission Audit responses have been collated and each church has been sent a copy of the results. There are many mission based activities going on throughout the Circuit, and that is great. It would appear that children/family/youth work is the most common theme where churches have indicated they would like help with.
- An updated edition of the Circuit Directory has been distributed to all churches. If there are any errors then please let Adam Hager know.
- Please review communication of Circuit matters within your church - does everyone now have sight of the Circuit Exchange?
- There are conversations happening at the moment as regards the possibility of having a Circuit Calendar - online one - probably a Google Calendar. The idea is for a named person within each church will have access to add events, but that everyone will be able to see the entries. This will hopefully help stop any clashes of dates for events and promote a sense of Circuit. In the meantime, as well as giving Adam Hager information to circulate to all churches, please could you let Alan Chipperfield have calendar dates to put in the Circuit web site so anyone thinking of planning an event can see if there is likely to be a clash.
- Two Circuit Services have been arranged in 2014. Firstly - 23rd March at 6pm. at Wantage - a celebration of the Diaconal Ministry led by Maggie Blake and Debbie Wilde. Then on 2nd November at 6.30pm at All Saints with Ruth Gee, currently President of Conference.

'Training' opportunities

- "First Impressions" as we know are very important when someone comes to the church for the first time. There are two sessions where this topic will be under discussion. The Circuit staff will be running these sessions on Wednesday 6th November at Didcot and Thursday 14th November in Abingdon (venue tbc). If attendance at both is possible that would be great - but different days of the week have been chosen with the hope that there will be a good number of people who can attend at least one of these sessions.
- There will be another 4-week course at Didcot on Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 starting on 11th January entitled "Creative Spirit". The first session will be led by Tim Woolley (District Director of Mission) with Circuit staff leading the others.
- With the date yet to be decided, there will be an opportunity to learn about the Diaconal Ministry to help guide the discussions re applying for a Deacon for the Circuit.
- If you have other ideas for what is needed by way of training within the Circuit, then please let your minister or one of the Circuit Stewards know.

Finance

- At the Circuit Meeting Geoffrey reminded all churches that they can apply for funds for any mission based events or projects. There is an application form for such applications available from Geoffrey.

Adam Hagar

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group has had an interesting year doing a variety of things, such as:

- A film night.
- Favourite book evening.
- Visited Blenheim Flower Show followed by afternoon tea in Woodstock.
- A local walk with the Thursday Group followed by a shared supper and fellowship.
- A trip on Angie's boat followed by some yummy food and drinks – the highlight of this day was when Angie got rather wet!

The group now has approximately 20 members and we hope that this number will increase.

During the last year, we also managed to raise £82 for Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA) by giving small donations whenever we meet.

We managed to do the children's Christmas shoeboxes again, which we are just about to do this year.

Looking forward to the next twelve months, which we have just planned, with events such as, a craft evening, Flower arranging, a walk around Steventon and an outing, and in doing all of our activities, we are also enjoying friendship and support for each other.

Lyndsay Busby

JaM Group & Creche

JaM takes place on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, with Creche in the welcome area every Sunday.

In the past year, we have seen an increase in the number of younger families coming to Trinity, which we are really pleased about.

We have been developing the way that we do things, with more craft activities; still starting with a story, and ending with a prayer, but also singing songs.

We are now lucky enough to have the use of the Whittier Room, which is a well equipped and pleasant room, that is shared with Trinity Learning so there is access to Christian books and computers as well as craft materials

In the welcome area, we have a new unit which has brightly coloured boxes and drawers, the unit contains toys, colouring sheets, word searches and books for those children that need something to do on non-JaM Sundays. (First, third and fifth Sundays each month)

In January, we had a JaM party, where we enjoyed games and a shared lunch, which was enjoyed by all of the children.

We are looking forward to a new event on December the 7th, a fun day for families, "getting ready for Christmas", which is being run by Amanda Stead, This will take place in the Conduit Centre, from 10:00 – 12:00 with different activities, including dressing up to be part of the Nativity scene.

Lindsay Busby

Triangle

The Editors of Triangle continue to meet on ten months of the year, excluding July and December.

We would gladly welcome anyone who would like to join our team We. take it in turns to collate and check each issue.

We appreciate all contributions from readers towards the cost of our magazine and thank those who send interesting articles for inclusion in Triangle. We are also grateful for any news of the church family.

Our thanks go to Mike Coleman and Wessex Press for their help and cooperation.

Esther Hughes

Thursday Group Report

Another busy year has passed very quickly!! We have 29 members and our monthly meetings have been well attended. In October we held a craft evening with 5 activities to choose from – these activities included making items for the Xmas fair in November. In November Ruth Dams gave us a talk with slides about the time she spent in Kenya at the Kaaga Girls school. Ruth told us about the history of the school and also about the day-to-day running of the school during her time there. Our party in December was well attended with the usual excellent supply of food!! We played games and were entertained with a sketch about the "discontented angel"! Well done June and Petronella!

We held our A.G.M. in January and after the election of officers we arranged the programme for 2013. In February Val Dalby brought along a host of treasures from her parents' house. Some of the items were general e.g. button boxes but some were of a more personal nature and we felt privileged to have been allowed to share these with Val. March saw a belated Burns Supper organised mainly by Margaret Greaney to celebrate her 70th birthday. We had "haggis, neeps and tatties" followed by cranaghan and took part in a group rendition of Burns' famous epic poem "Tam O'Shanter".

In April Rosemary Perrow talked to us about her role as Trinity Learning Education Officer. This was an eye-opener for many of our members as we were not fully aware of just how hard Rosemary works and how committed she is. In lieu of the mystery supper which was usually held in April we decided to have a celebration supper in the Conduit Centre – a sort of static mystery supper!! The food was provided by the Thursday group members and the supper was open to all. The evening proved to be a great success and donations of £495 were given to church funds. Our May meeting saw us on a guided walk round Park Crescent and the park led by Jackie Smith. The

weather was reasonable and Jackie shared many interesting fact about the area. After the walk we had a shared supper in the Conduit Centre.

Carol Parker joined us for our June meeting and led us in an evening of line dancing. We were not very proficient to begin with but improved as time went on! We went to Val and Paul Dalby's home for our July barbecue. The weather was very good and we enjoyed excellent food and good company in lovely surroundings. Eileen welcomed us to her home for a coffee evening in August and once again the weather was warm and we had a lovely evening.

In September Margaret Butcher (assisted by Gordon) talked to us about her visit to Kenya last November with NASIO. Margaret explained to us how and why the charity was set up, who it caters for now and what it needs to further support the children in its care. We had a bring-and buy-stall and this with some of the goods Margaret was selling on behalf of the charity raised £51.50.

Myra Bolle

Scout Group

The Scout Group continues to thrive with 56 young people currently attending our meetings on a Monday evening and 11 adults helping to provide an interesting, enjoyable and varied programme.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts enjoyed preparing for the church service on Sunday 19th May. They spent many weeks before the service finding out about the needs of people in developing countries and the work of charities in helping them. We shared what we had learned with the congregation through presentations, song and prayers. As the whole Scout Group worked together on this project, everyone earned the International Partnership Award.

The Scout Group also participated in the District St George's Day Parade and celebration in Didcot in April, the District cross-country running competition at Youlbury in June and the Scouts and Guides Christmas post – collecting, sorting and delivering the cards.

We held another successful family camp at Youlbury in September 2012 in conjunction with the Beavers and Cubs from 10th Abingdon (St Helen's). 140 people camped over the weekend and everyone had a great time learning and sharing new skills and participating in all the activities, which included archery, climbing, crate stacking, zip wire, a 3G swing, pedal go-karts, a blindfold trail and, of course, the campfire. In July we joined the County OneWorld camp at Thame where over 4000 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their families camped over a very hot weekend; the young people enjoyed an A-Z of activities from Abseiling to Zorbing.

Beavers (6-8 years old)

During the last year the Beavers enjoyed a well planned and varied programme. They worked towards their Creative, Fitness, Promise and Outdoor challenge badges and their Adventure, Air Activities, Creative, Experiment and Faith activity badges. One of the Beavers achieved the Chief Scout's Bronze Award, which is the highest award for Beavers. The Beavers made puppets and used them to act out the Christmas story. They made rainmakers, 'grass heads' and Mothering Sunday favours, and made and flew paper planes, helicopters and kites. They built towers, cooked pancakes and decorated biscuits. They learned to fold paper, separate colours and to track. They learned about Fair Trade, birds and health & fitness.

They visited the Church, wrote prayers, went hiking and went on Easter egg and scavenger hunts.

In October 2012 they participated in the District 'torch trails' at Youlbury and in March they joined in the County 'Eggstravaganza', also at Youlbury,

Cubs (8-10½ years old)

The Cub pack had a full programme over the year. They worked towards their Creative, Fitness, Global, Promise and Outdoor challenge badges and their Air Activities, Animal Carer, Astronomy, Athletics and Emergency Aid activity badges. Two of the Cubs achieved the Chief Scout's Silver Award, which is the highest award for Cubs. They played cricket, hockey and wide games and visited the Police Station. They cooked pancakes, decorated biscuits and tasted international foods. They built shelters and made clay models and Christmas cards. They learned about astronomy, first aid, fitness and pet care. They learned about Water Aid and about other faiths and cultures. They held a 'cinema night' for which they previously prepared posters and the whole pack enjoyed the Group annual night hike & sleepover at the end of June.

The pack participated in a number of District events and competitions, including the hockey tournament, chess competition, karty rally, advent service and athletes' day. In June, the older Cubs took part in the District Sixer and Seconder camp at Dry Sandford.

Scouts (10½-14 years old)

Over the last year the Scouts worked towards their Adventure, Creative, Fitness, Outdoor and Outdoor Plus challenge badges and their Cyclist, Camper, Navigator, Chef and Emergency Aid activity badges. One of the Scouts achieved the Chief Scout's Gold Award, which is the highest award for Scouts. They mastered construction challenges and learned about the safe use and maintenance of knives, axes & saws. They learned about food hygiene, planned a menu for a 3 course meal then cooked it on camping stoves. They researched the work of 4 international charities as part of their preparation for the Church parade service in May. They also learned about navigation, local knowledge, knots & pioneering, first aid and went orienteering and hiking in the dark. At Christmas they had 'cocktails on the beach'. Over the summer months the programme involved a variety of outdoor activities including fire lighting, backwoods cooking, wide games, hikes, and a tent pitching competition.

The older Scouts camped at Youlbury in June where they started working towards the Outdoor Plus challenge and most completed it at the camp for the whole troop at the beginning of September. Many of the Scouts attended 'Aqua Camp' organised by the County at Standlake where they participated in a wide variety of water based activities. They Scouts also participated in the County 'Winter Challenge' hike on the Ridgeway in February where some completed 16 miles on a cold, snowy day. And a few also completed their Cyclist badge when they took part in a 40 km cycle ride in July.

Leaders and Helpers:

The position with respect to leaders and adult helpers is healthier than it has been for many years and I am grateful to all the adults who have given of their time and skills to help our young people over the last year.

Tom Kyffin

6th Abingdon Trinity Guides continue to thrive.

This year we had three girls gain the highest award in Guides, The Baden-Powell Award and we are very proud of Katie, Megan and Isabel who worked incredibly hard to achieve this award. We currently have another group of guides working hard to gain this special award.

We joined thousands of guides in Sheffield for The Big Gig, where the guides enjoyed the performances of well known acts who were performing just for Guides. We also went along to Oxfordshire's Scout and Guide Gang Show as we had members in the cast. Katie, Fiona and Lauren gave excellent performances.

The Guides continue to follow an active programme where they take the lead in planning and deciding the activities and this year they all completed their First Aid badge. We are currently participating in the Girls In Action scheme which involves them learning more about their chosen charities. The guides have chosen AVA which aims to reduce domestic violence and The Railway Children which supports homeless children. As well as learning more about the issues so they are empowered to make a difference, they have held a sponsored bounce to raise money for the charities.

Congratulations too to Celina, one of our leaders who gave birth to a little girl, Jessica, in September. This does mean we are looking for additional leaders, please contact Carol if you are able to help. It doesn't have to be every week and is hugely rewarding volunteering.

Carol Dunne and Lou Shuttleworth
email: carol.dunne@btopenworld.com

Treasury Team

We have had a change on the team this year, with Simon Purtell replacing Owain Hughes as Gift Aid secretary. He has also taken over the recording of pledged giving through the envelope system from Lilian Seymour and of Trinity Learning regular donations from Margaret Langsford. You won't find Simon in the vestry on a Sunday morning though, as the other three are still continuing there, freeing Simon to be available for you to consult after a morning service if you have questions or wish to start regular giving or amend it. A great thanks for Simon for volunteering for these tasks.

Also thanks are due to both Owain and Lilian for their many years spending time at home keeping these records so that we can claim a substantial sum each year from the tax-man towards our income.

Again this year I have to report that we have spent more than we received in income, and that was before we had the hall decorated. Somehow we need to increase our giving or reduce our expenditure, but we don't seem to be very good at either. As I said last year, an extra £1 per week per person would do it, and that includes us all.

Ruth Sillitoe

Elders' Report

We are delighted that eight people have been received into membership by Richard this year. Elders are always pleased to talk to anyone in their groups who is thinking about making this commitment. The active group of elders was reduced when John Deakin stood down, and many must miss the encouraging, gentle support John gave them.

Through regular contact with their groups, the elders have been well placed to help in the work of updating the Directory which is so useful in maintaining the Trinity network. The new edition is a great resource and we are grateful to Richard and Gordon, and also to Adam and Alastair who have taken many photos to be included. The new series of home group discussions is now under way affording opportunity both for exploring faith issues and good fellowship. Harvest is passed and it was a pleasure to distribute gifts of flowers to a number of our older members as well as to those who are housebound.

Eve Newton

Trinity Church Choir

The past year has been a challenging one as we no longer have a regular Organist, but thanks to the invaluable help and skill of our deputy organist Nigel Payne, we keep the practices going from week to week. Richard also has come along on many a Friday evening despite a busy schedule to accompany us on the piano. Anita and Jean Mears add support, so thanks to all these good people.

Although we are a very small choir we are large in commitment and strive to lead the hymns and make a contribution with our Introit and Anthem or Song.

I'm always glad to hear of any singers who would like to join us. Just come along to the Church at 7pm on Friday & make yourself know to me. Maybe try it out for a few weeks and if it is not for you, then no harm done!

Christine Hutchinson

Trinity Book and Card Stall

It is good to know that the stall provides a service to the congregation and also to visitors. I try to keep a reasonable variety of cards to suit the need! The sale of books is very slow and I have to be careful that those on show do not become 'shop soiled' by being too long on the stand. I shall change the books more frequently to avoid this happening.

Christine Hutchinson

Safeguarding

Trinity carefully adheres to Safeguarding Guidelines as set down by both national and Methodist policy. In 2012/2013 many changes were made and the Wantage and Abingdon Circuit have had training sessions for all those who need it. Over the next year, Trinity (as an LEP) will be aligned with the Methodist practices (as this is the governing agency from 2014). Richard steps down as Safeguarding Officer for the circuit shortly and all future enquiries should be directed to Peter Bennett. Tom Kyffin and Richard both thank Trinity members for their cooperation in engaging in the required training.

Richard Bittleston

Home Groups

This is one of the most active and enduring facets of Trinity life. I really enjoyed discovering the wealth and diversity of these groups early in the year. Over 60 people in the Trinity family participate on a regular basis in Home Groups that run the year round. They are hosted and facilitated in a most welcoming and friendly way, and the quality of fellowship is very special. My thanks to all those who open their living spaces to these groups, and to the facilitators who rise to the challenge of making sure that lively conversations take place.

Richard Bittleston

Faith in Action

The Faith in Action Group tries to keep Trinity informed about outreach into the community locally and further afield. We also coordinate fund-raising for such projects.

The Mission Sunday in Autumn 2012 featured local mission. At the Spring Mission Service, the uniformed organisations ably told us about the charities which they have been supporting.

The Commitment for Life booklets given out at the Harvest service told how the building of a dam by one of the projects we support in Zimbabwe has transformed the lives of local farmers. Further information about the Zimbabwe projects is regularly posted on the Faith in Action Notice-board.

In January, Margaret Butcher told us about her recent visit to NASIO projects in Kenya. In February, Rod More O'Farrall introduced us to the charity "Walking with Maasai" which was the subject of the 2012 Lent Project.

Information about other projects can be seen on the Faith in Action Board - the Methodist Church publication "Mission Matters, the most recent newsletters from The Porch, Asylum Welcome, the Abingdon Bridge etc.

Trinity gives 1% of its disposable income to the Mission Funds (National and World-wide) of URC and Methodist Churches. This was supplemented by the annual Mission Collection in April (£222) and by the contents of Mission Boxes (£272.88). Kathryn Perkins JMA collecting raised £172.61.

At Harvest, we raised funds for Commitment for Life, at Christmas for Christian Aid, Action for children, Shelter and Crisis, in January for NASIO and during Lent for "Walking with Maasai. A special collection for UNICEF's appeal for help for Syrian children raised £255.50.

Last Christmas, shoe boxes were filled by the Friendship Group and others to send via the Trussel Trust to orphanages in Bulgaria. Very generous donations of food-stuffs on Harvest Sunday were taken to Asylum Welcome for their Store Cupboard to provide help for needy asylum-seekers.

At the Spring Mission Service, cards were provided to send to the Prime Minister in support of the Christian Aid IF campaign aimed at tackling the causes of world hunger.

As this report is about the activities of the Faith in Action Group, it does not include the many interests and the giving of other groups and individuals.

In summary, Trinity has continued to learn about and help people outside its church community.

Ruth Dams (Secretary)

Trinity Learning

Links with Carswell Community School have really grown over the year. Rosemary was actively involved in helping Year 3 pupils prepare elements of the worship for both Harvest and Christmas services. A sequence of full-class workshops on the nativity proved quite challenging, covering literacy, ICT and PSHE as well as RE, but the resulting Christmas story, illustrated by Playmobil bible scenes, really brought the story alive for the young congregation. Carswell showed their appreciation of our work by raising £250 for us through a summer concert. They also made us feel part of the school community by inviting us to run a stall at their summer fete.

We have also been working closely with the Home:School Link 'Worker for Forces' Children, based at Carswell. Our grant from The Community Covenant has meant that our magazine project, *Hello Abingdon*, has this year been specifically targeted at children from forces' families. The uptake was initially slow, because schools often do not know which of their pupils fit this category- but there have been some really worthwhile outcomes with the children and those they interview. With the help of Welfare Officers at Dalton Barracks, every home on the base has received a copy of each magazine. " The issue on "Our Lives" was particularly moving, as was the e-mail from a mother there, thanking us for giving her children a voice.

St Nicolas' and Carswell Schools now use the church regularly for curriculum workshops. The teacher from St Nicolas' wrote "They gained a lot from the trip and it will be valuable for the following weeks learning. They thoroughly enjoyed being allowed to have a good look round and when they visit on St Nicolas' Day the information they have gained will be with them."

We have been pleased to strengthen our contacts with other schools. For the first time, Experience Easter visitors included both South Abingdon schools. Following a successful "*Putting Yourself First*" training morning at St Edmunds School, we were asked to provide a series of DIY assembly workshops for a group of their Yr.6 students. They illustrated their chosen theme, "God can do amazing things", with a Powerpoint of creation and specially written song. The group's parents attended the assembly and were amazed by their achievements. St Edmunds staff have already booked their place for Experience Easter 2014!

Our workshop sessions now take place in the refurbished Whittier Room. Funds raised at The Harvest Supper, alongside money from The Belcher Trust, have enabled us to refurbish this, such that it is now a quality learning environment and resource-base for all our young people.

Our work experience students this year have been an amazing asset to the church community.

David from John Mason was an invaluable part of Experience Easter, which he found truly fascinating, while Aaron's cheerfulness was an inspiration to us all. We are expanding this side of our work in 2013-14 through our role in The Methodist Connexion's One Programme. In March we heard that our application for a paid gap-year student from The Methodist Connexion (one of only 10 in the country) had been

successful. Advertisements went out and in May we appointed Miriam Garnett. She will be working an average of 9 hours/week for Trinity Learning and 6 hours/week with The Connexion and has lots of ideas for fresh activities.

We are also using our experience to involve other organisations in our schools work, giving advice on paperwork and planning. Rosemary has helped Carbon Cutters to organise and implement a cookery course for Caldecott School and provided a reflective training morning for schoolchildren singing for The Abingdon Passion Play. Rosemary has taken part in several Prayer Spaces sessions in Abingdon Schools and will be providing a similar event at Carswell in 2014.

Rosemary Perrow

Trinity Trustees

The main events of last year were the break in to the offices, the resulting actions to safeguard our property and the redecoration of the main halls in the Conduit Centre. The break in cause damage to doors and drawers requiring a new desk and filing cabinet and we decided to fit a new steel reinforced door to the outer office, much of the cost being funded by insurance. In addition we have installed exterior lighting in the surrounds, automatically activated, which adds to both safety and deterrence. New keys were issued on a more limited scale than before and the key registration required by our insurers has been completed.

Displacement of the dividing wall between the church and 13 Conduit Road was a cause for concern but initial thought that the neighbour's tree was the cause was dispelled by expert opinion and disproved when the wall was rebuilt. New owners of no 13 have now removed the tree as part of their improvements to the property. The Quinquennial Inspection carried out at the end of August 2012 resulted in very little being required to be done, mainly attention to gutters and loose tiles which is a very satisfactory outcome.

Agreement has been made with the architect responsible for the work being undertaken at Trinity House regarding their access to a corner of our grounds to facilitate the removal of the former garage, which formed part of the boundary and the replacement extension to the house

We offered our warmest thanks to Owain Hughes and Lillian Seymour for many years of devoted work as covenant and envelope secretaries respectively, both tasks now being undertaken by Simon Purtell. Both Owain and Lillian remain as Trustees.

Gordon Grossart

Gift Aid

This time last year Owain Hughes indicated that he wanted to give up his role as Gift Aid Secretary, as HMRC had made it clear that they were no longer prepared to accept Gift Aid claims which had not been submitted using a computer. Realising the importance to Trinity of the income we get via Gift Aid, I volunteered to take over this role, at which point I discovered that I was actually taking over two roles, as Lillian Seymour also wanted to give up her role as Envelope Secretary, and it made sense for the two roles to be combined, as they had been in Bert Samphire's day.

The Envelope Secretary part of the role involves distributing the boxes of weekly envelopes to those who donate that way (currently 46 people) and then keeping a record of the amount given by each individual each week.

The Gift Aid Secretary part of the role involves recording all donations made by Standing Order for which we can make a Gift Aid claim (currently 34 people) and also all the miscellaneous Gift Aid contributions to Trinity funds and to charities, which are mostly made in white Gift Aid envelopes.

Submitting Gift Aid claims, which I do three times a year, involves adding together the contributions (weekly envelope, Standing Order and "white envelope") made by each of the 70 or so people with current Gift Aid declarations for Trinity, plus all other casual Gift Aid contributions (for example charity donations from visitors made at our Christmas services) and submitting an on-line claim to HMRC.

One important change over the past year is the introduction of the Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme which effectively enables us to make a Gift Aid claim in respect of all loose cash donated at Sunday services, plus contributions made in weekly envelopes by folk who do not pay income tax and so cannot make a Gift Aid declaration, up to a maximum total of £5,000.

Simon Purtell

General Church Meetings: September 2012 to August 2013

There have been 3 General Church Meetings this year in addition to the Annual Church Meeting and also a Special Church Meeting, chaired by Phyllis Williams, Convenor of the North Western area of the Wessex synod, after the morning service on May 12th to consider Trinity's future ministry. All meetings were held in the Church.

- General Church Meeting on September 12th. Small group discussions were held as to how Trinity can help parents make an informed decision about baptisms or dedications for their children.
- The Annual Church Meeting was held on November 15th when annual reports from all the various committees, groups and organisations were considered and the previous year's accounts were presented. Groups discussed what Church Membership involves.
- A General Church Meeting was held in the Church on February 28th. Updates were given on the Church review carried out at two café style services taken by Rev Peter Hurter on 3rd April and 21st April.
- A General Church Meeting, chaired by Malcolm Newton was held on ^{May} 16th. Appointments for September were made.

Val Dalby, Church Secretary

Methodist Homes for the Aged.

The members of Trinity raised £197.50, an increase on the amount raised last year, a welcome result for Methodist Homes for the Aged. The MHA magazine, 'HEART', is issued quarterly and is available in the Welcome Area.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting this worthy cause.

Eileen Pennington

Church in Abingdon

2013 has seen some changes. 'Welcome to Abingdon' and 'Town Centre Chaplains' Groups have come to an end. Rev David Fleming of the Baptist Church has moved to

the Luton area and Christchurch and Long Furlong are now a separate Anglican Benefice from that in the town centre.

The CiA Administrator, Debra McNight, is now circulating the CiA News and also organises writers for the Christian Forum slot in the Abingdon Herald for which volunteers are always needed, so please contact Debra if you could write occasionally. The Passion Play at Easter was a great success in spite of the cold weather and the Annual Quiz was as enjoyable as ever. The work of Christian Aid, Town Twinning and the Women's World Day of Prayer are ongoing and the CiA Annual Celebration will be in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January.

The annual Bereavement Service will be in Trinity on November 10th – this is always a moving event and helps many recently bereaved families.

Margaret Langsford

JMA

Our only collector, Kathryn Perkins, collected £152.61 this year and a late amount of £19.80 from July 2012 was also sent. Thanks to Kathryn and all the givers. More Collectors are always welcome.

Margaret Langsford

Prayer Support Group.

We meet on Fridays at 10am and pray, not just for those we know are ill, bereaved or have problems, but for all the Church Family as we concentrate on a different page of our Directory each week. We also pray for the wider world. Do join us if you can.

Margaret Langsford

Worship

Many and varied are our preachers and styles of worship. Each week is different, even when our Minister, Richard is preaching. No chance of being in a rut or of repeating the same words so that they become too familiar. Our thanks for the challenging sermons and thoughts from Richard and Kate Pryde, and our own Local/Lay Preachers, Malcolm Newton, Ruth Dams, and Cynthia Bartlett.

Our thanks go too, to the Choir, Organists, Stewards and those organising the special Services at Easter and the Carol and Torchlight Services. It is always good and thought provoking when the Uniformed Organisations or invited Speakers take part.

Margaret Langsford.

The Flower Group

The Flower Group would like to thank everyone who has contributed towards buying and providing flowers for Trinity during the year, and also those who have arranged and distributed them. We would particularly like to thank the team who set up the lovely arrangements for the Harvest Flower Festival :- Christine Hutchinson, Rita Gilbert, Rosemary Richards, Petronella Rasmussen, Tricia Cook and Janet Down. Jane Egerton King from St. Helen's Church and three members of the Abingdon Flower Club – Caroline Binning, Moira Hinkley-Smith and Margaret Gardener also arranged flowers. We had plenty of visitors during the afternoon, while Nigel played the piano and raised £209 towards decorating the Conduit Centre.

Judith Payne

Coffee Rota

A big thank you to all the volunteers who provide the liquid refreshment at the end of the morning service. Each person will do one session in one period and two in the

next period so it is not too onerous. There has been a few volunteers leaving but a few more have offered their services, anyone else willing to help out occasionally should see either of us and will be most welcome. If some of the provisions are getting low please let me know.

Margaret Butcher Eve Newton

Helping the Homeless

Not all those who come to the Soup Kitchen are homeless so we term them The Needy. Trinity has been very supportive by bringing, each week, a variety of foods which is taken to the Soup Kitchen each week. If any item is not suitable to be used, it is taken to the Food Bank. Trinity has also been very important in providing clothes for the clients, and also supplying towels, sleeping bags etc.. Thank you very much and please continue to bring items each week.

Margaret Butcher

Office Manager

Once again, it has been a very busy, but enjoyable year for me in the church office with the satisfaction of meeting the challenge of service sheets, Powerpoint displays, photocopying and visitor and telephone requests. It is amazing how many people request to see inside the Church and appreciate a visit. Special thanks as always to Adam Hager and his Reprographic Team and also to those who operate the Powerpoint display in the church.

John Morley

Christian Focus

Trinity still has 53 subscribers to this Church in Abingdon magazine. It is a quarterly magazine with interesting articles written by members of the Churches. It costs just £1.60 per year which is collected in December. Copies can be found in the Welcome area or by becoming a regular subscriber by seeing me, so that your name can be added to the list.

Margaret Lloyd

Christian Aid

Abingdon Christian Aid Committee continue their fund-raising again this year with a Sponsored Walk, Market-Place Sale, House- to -House Collection and a Joint Choirs Concert raising a total of £13,793.96 in all.

Future events include the Annual New-Years Day sponsored walk. Please support this event by walking or sponsoring. Our thanks to all who continue to support us

Margaret Lloyd

URC Wessex Synod

In March 2013, the Synod formally remembered Richard Taylor, a former minister of Trinity, who had died in November 2012. Tony Tucker had written an obituary for the Synod in which he wrote: 'In 1985 Richard accepted the pastorate of Trinity Church, Abingdon, a union of United Reformed and Methodist congregations in the town. He was attracted by the ecumenism of the churches who were committed to working together as 'The Church in Abingdon'. Trinity Church had until then had two ministers, both Methodist and United Reformed. Richard was the first sole minister and worked tirelessly to weld the two traditions into a unified congregation.'

The Synod has been exploring during the year ways of empowering lay ministry in the churches, recognising the vast number of roles in which lay people exercise leadership.

The programmes for Local Mission and Ministry Review and for Ministerial Appraisal are now in operation across the Synod. In March 2013, 14 churches in the Synod were then involved in the process, including Trinity.

The URC is keen to encourage churches to work together. It recognises that while the abolition of Districts was necessary owing chiefly to the difficulty in finding representatives and the duplication, to some extent, of agendas with other committees and local groups, there is now a gap in the network of churches. In order to address this, it is hoped that local churches will look at those URC churches with whom they could develop firmer links and perhaps share in providing, leadership, ministry, groups and support.

The Synod has highlighted and recommended the report 'The lies we tell ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty.' This report was published in March 2013 by the Baptism Union, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Church of Scotland. This report can be read at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty.

Cynthia Bartlett

EVERGREEN CLUB

In 2014 the Evergreen club will have been in existence for 34 years. By records it does not appear to change much but people who attend seem to enjoy what we do. This last year we have had some great speakers. The exceptional one being Gwyneth Pedlar who had done a trip on the "Tall Ships" for people with Disabilities. She is a remarkable lady of 84 and an inspiration to all.

We have over 50+ members on our list. Unfortunately some are housebound but we still try to keep in touch with them. The yearly programmes are quite a headache to do but the committee work very hard to produce a varied one.

I am very grateful to all the committee members for all the hard work they put in and have done in my time as Chairman. The club would like to thank the church family for the help and support we receive in so many ways.

I hope the club will continue for many years to come.

Nan Draper