



TRINITY CHURCH
(Methodist & United Reformed)

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'Serving God, serving each other, serving community'

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NOTICES 22 November 2020

Dear Friends,

Some of Wesley's last words are reported to be "The Best of all is God is with us". Sometimes it is very hard to recognise this as we go about our daily routine. Sometimes we only recognise it years later. Very often we need someone else to help us recognise those 'God-incidents'. Yet the truth remains that God is with you, me, us. In this second period of lockdown as it pushes some people to limits beyond those they knew they had, or are finding life much harder because all the natural ways of responding are so much more difficult, I pray that we will be able to ponder these words of Wesley, "The Best of all is God is with us", and learn to delight in knowing that God is with us - perhaps a way of helping us to do that is to remember the hymn "Be still and know that I am God". Often singing this short hymn has helped me to realise that God truly is with us and that we are in the presence of God. May we delight in God and praise his holy name.

Every blessing

Ian

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

Anonymous, Based on Psalm 46:10-11

Singing the Faith, 18 CCL 215980

TRINITY CHURCH ABINGDON AGM - Virtual Meeting, November 2020

You will be aware that we will be unable to hold the AGM for Trinity in the Church this year as originally planned. However, the silver lining here is that this will be the Church Meeting with the largest attendance in some years! The Annual Report and papers will be out soon – look out for them. If you usually receive information by email, but would prefer the Annual Report in hard copy please contact the Office.

The Trustees

CHURCH NEWS



Annual CiA Bereavement Service. This year, due to Covid restrictions the annual Bereavement Service - hosted by All Saints & Trinity Churches – is available [online](#).

An opportunity to remember those we love but see no longer as we give thanks for their lives

This week's rhyme

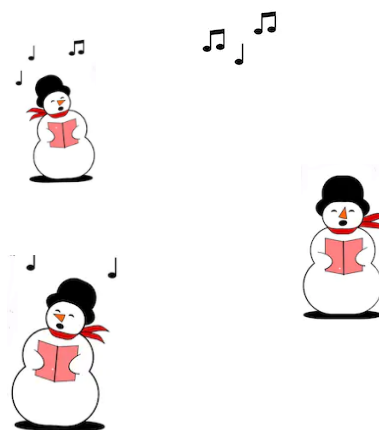
Will we, won't we see the family for Christmas?
Will a break in isolation come to pass
In time to have a few days, when
We can travel to their houses once again?
And what about a Carol sing?
Is that still a forbidden thing?
This Festive Time will be so strange
If we celebrate it at long range.

Margaret Langsford

Trinity Shoebox Collection: Despite the difficulties of lockdown & that only a few of us have been able to come to church, many have contributed to make it a great success. Many toys, knitted hats, colouring pens and toothbrushes etc - some in bags & some in boxes - have come in, together with donations amounting to £153. Thank you for your wonderfully generous response which will delight some very poor families in Eastern Europe once again.

Trinity Compilation: I hope to edit a video to be shown on the Trinity website (with password control) and sent out as a dvd. It will contain messages from people to the rest of the church so we can see or hear each other. It might be you simply saying Merry Christmas, reading a poem, singing, or even showing an artwork or picture. I can come round and video pieces from people's front doors at a social distance, or via zoom on you computer, or record messages by phone. Alternatively, make your own piece and send it to me at alastair.fear@gmail.com. I will also put together another more public video for the website with messages from the Minister etc.

Trinity Triangle, Christmas and the New Year Edition: The deadline for the December/January edition is **Sunday 22nd November**. Please send all contributions to both Val Dalby (vadalby17@gmail.com) and Cynthia Bartlett (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk) or via the Office. If you have information to share about the Church Family please contact Val Dalby at the email address above or send via the Office. *Thank you*





Write for Rights: Each year, Amnesty runs a campaign in Nov. and Dec. on behalf of individuals and groups in countries around the world who are victims of injustice. This year, the campaign is taking place on line. Case studies and suggestions for action can be found on their [web-site](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights) - <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights>. At present, there are four case-studies, but others may be added later.

Ruth Dams

The November Edition of the **URC Sharing the Vision** is now available online. Or contact the office if you'd like a hard copy.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Guide & Scout Christmas Post: Due to the COVID-19 situation, the restrictions required and the safety of our young members and volunteers it has been decided that this year's operation of the Abingdon Scouts & Guides Christmas Post is cancelled. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but we look forward to serving you again in 2021.

Christian Focus: Given the enforced lack of newsworthy activity across the Church in Abingdon over the last few months, and the continuing uncertainty about the future, there will not be a winter edition of Christian Focus, either printed or online. However, we hope very much to be able to produce an issue in the Spring. For example, it would be great to hear how each church celebrated Christmas and how it is going in to 2021. If you have anything at all that you would like to share with other Christians in Abingdon, please send it either to Margaret Langsford or direct to the editor: benjeapes@gmail.com.

The Church in Abingdon Church Twinning Group is selling packs of Christmas cards priced at £4.50 in order to raise funds. Packs of 10 cards, 5 each of two designs. If you would like to support this fund raising effort please contact Maggie Greaney or Ruth Sillitoe

Peachcroft Christian Centre Christmas hampers for those alone at Christmas: Due to COVID, it is not possible to organise our usual Christmas day meal and celebration at CC for people across Abingdon on their own. So, this year we are hoping to create and distribute Christmas hampers (with edible and non-edible items), with the help of a team of volunteers, on Christmas Day so our guests receive the simple but important gift of human contact showing that someone in their community cares about them. If you would like to support us by making a donation, know anyone that would benefit from receiving a parcel, or have any questions please contact Stephanie by emailing stephanie.ouzman@peachcroftcc.org or events@peachcroftcc.org

Christian Forum column: This continues to be published monthly in the Abingdon Round & About magazine, distributed freely around Abingdon residents. If you would like to submit an article (not time sensitive) of no more than 300 words on any subject with a Christian message, please send to the CiA Administrator at debra.mcknight@aol.com.

Bread and Starlight: In this one-woman show for Advent by Christian theatre group LAMPS, Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, recalls the months of her pregnancy and a very special visitor. Touching on the themes of mystery and miracle, what is temporary and what lasts, Bread and Starlight combines storytelling, song and space for reflection in the lead up to Christmas. For more information visit www.lampscollective.com / or buy the Audiobook: <https://lampscollective.com/product/bread-and-starlight-audiobook>

LAMPS

WORSHIP

The Wantage & Abingdon Methodist Circuit Advent Devotional 2020 containing readings, reflections and prayers for the Advent Season is now available, with contributions from around the circuit.



‘Advent always finds us in the darkest of days, that time of year when the nights are long and the days are short. This year the darkness that surrounds us is far more than the usual lack of sunlight that we expect and are used to. This year it hangs heavily upon us in the form of the

politics of our age and the all-consuming global pandemic that is Covid-19. There is an air of oppressiveness to the darkness that is visceral and at times all encompassing.

Into the darkness of these days comes the Advent hope and its message of hope, light and love. If our faith and the message it proclaims is to be of any use, then it must be able to have something to say about the days and times in which we currently live and of course it does.

Advent helps us to prepare for the truth of the incarnation that is at the heart of our celebrations. Advent reminds us that God comes to us in the midst of the messiness of our world and our lives. Advent reminds us that we are not on our own in the darkness, for into the darkness of the world comes the light of God himself.

May the words of wisdom contained within this booklet and the movement of God’s Spirit, be as “a lamp to our feet and a light to our path”, as together we travel to Bethlehem once more to greet the one born to be the light of the world.’

With love and God Bless, Keith.

If you would like a hard copy of the booklet posted to you please email / phone the Office office.allsaintsab@gmail.com / 01235 520282

In the Circuit:

The Circuit Team prepare written worship material for use at home which is circulated in hard copy / by email.

Keith leads an on-line Zoom service, Sunday mornings at 10:30am. If you would like to join in or know more about this, please contact him - keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk.

A short *Act of Worship* will be posted on the [Circuit YouTube channel](#)

Occasional reflections and thoughts for the day are made available on the Circuit website - <https://www.wantab.org.uk>

and more widely the Methodist and URC are making resources available on line:

Methodist or see <https://Methodist.org.uk>

URC or see <https://urc.org.uk/>

By phone: Listen to a prayer 0808 281 2514 or News: 0808 281 2478

Content updated Thursday afternoon

In our weakness, O Christ, let us trust your strength;
in our darkness let us see your light;
in our doubt let us feel your presence
and in our despair let us cling to your Cross;
for your truth and your mercies’ sake. Amen.

François Fénelon (1651-1715)