



TRINITY TRIANGLE



DECEMBER/JANUARY 2024/25

Glory to God in the highest

PEACE
ON
EARTH



'Serving God, serving each other, serving community'

TRINITY CHURCH

Methodist/United Reformed/Church in Abingdon

Conduit Road, Abingdon

TRINITY'S WEEK

Sunday Services at 10.30 am, occasionally 4.00pm.

JAM (Jesus and Me) normally meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday morning during the Church Service. It is designed for children who are aged 3+ and parents may stay with their children if they wish.

Communion is normally on third Sunday of the month at 10.30am and as announced in the Calendar.

- Monday** 2.30 pm Evergreen Club: 3rd Monday in month.
5.30 pm Beavers.
6.45 pm Cubs.
7.30 pm Scouts.
- Tuesday** 7.30 pm Abingdon Operatic Society.
- Wednesday** 5.15 pm Brownies.
7.00 pm Guides.
- Thursday** 9.30 am Toddler Group.
7.30 pm Thursday Group. Ladies' Monthly Meeting 2nd Thursday in the month.
- Friday** 10.00 am Prayer Support Group (in their homes).
11.30am-12.30pm. Abingdon Larder (SOFEA)
- Monthly** 7.30 pm Friendship Group - see calendar.

Conduit Centre, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB

Church Office Manager: Eluned Hallas, Tel 520282

e-mail: trinity.abingdon@gmail.com

Office open : Thurs and Fri 9.30am -4.30pm. Closed Mon, Tues, Wed

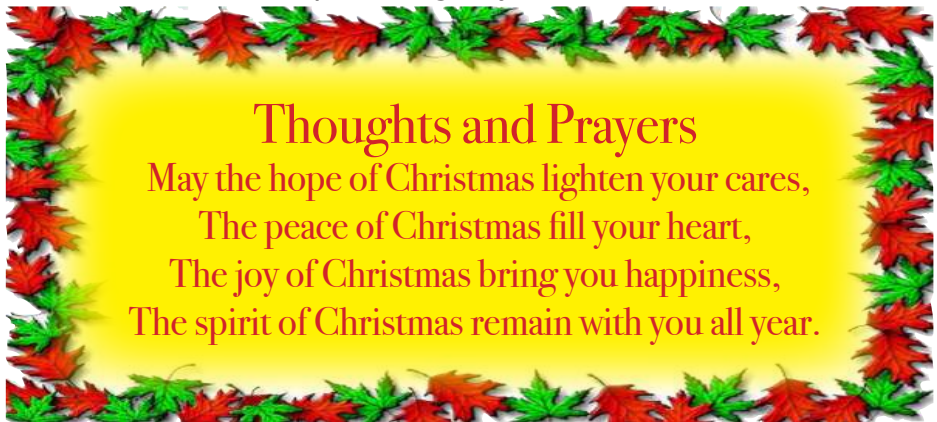
TrinityLearning: Education Development Officer: Nicola Williams, Tel. 07754 116004

e-mail: nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com



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Triangle Joint Editors:

Cynthia Bartlett, Valerie Dalby, Barbara Deakin,
Carolyn Hawkes, Pauline Main, Gloria Sandford.

Advertisements

Cynthia Bartlett
cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk

Distribution

Through Church
Office

The editors reserve the right to edit articles.

Trinity Website: www.trinityabingdon.org.uk



Minister's Letter

Good News of Great Joy!

Luke 2: 9-11



An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

**Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.**

Welcome to this dual edition of The Triangle.

As I write this, armed conflicts continue around the world unabated, most of which do not make the headlines; analysis of the devastating loss of the Democrats in the American elections go on; natural disasters wreak havoc across nations and analysts and ‘working people’ continue to try to make sense of the first Labour budget. On a personal level, some or most of us have at some point or the other in the year, gone through periods when fear and worry have got the better of us. For some of us those fears have been totally overwhelming.

In spite of global, national and local insecurities and uncertainties, the sense of anticipation, of looking forward to the seasons and celebrations of Advent, Christmas and the New Year cannot be ignored. For us Christians, the ‘looking forward to’; the ‘eager anticipation and the ‘expectant wait’ come together in the word HOPE, a key element of the three seasons.

In reality, though, this is often a time of year with mixed feelings; a time when we are supposed to feel excited and happy – family gatherings, exchanging gifts, and so on, but one characterised by deep sadness – poverty, homelessness, unemployment and bereavement, which make it harder for some to hear, let alone embrace the “good news of great joy” message of the angels. Perhaps, that is why it is at this time of year that the church’s call to hospitality and service becomes even more important.

Many of us, through our churches, will continue to support food banks, other charities and projects to ensure that those who will be struggling can also have some form of a celebration and many will, in one way or another, ensure that our elderly and vulnerable members and friends will be shown that we care.

So many centuries later, since the angels appeared to the shepherds, the Good News remains unchanged – a Saviour is born for us, and his

birth is good news for ALL people, especially the lowly and outcast. “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” The child born who is the true Prince of Peace and Saviour, continues to usher in God’s reign on earth as it is in heaven. Our Saviour comes to bring peace on earth by reconciling us to God and to one another with the power of love that casts out fear. Even though this may not be readily visible, our Saviour’s reign continues to break into our world whenever the lowly are lifted up; whenever outcasts are welcomed; when the hungry are fed; when the poor are clothed and sheltered; when the captives are set free; whenever there is forgiveness and reconciliation and whenever people are comforted. Thank God for these glorious seasons of Advent and Christmas, which come each year to remind us of and to renew within us the realisation of the wonderful gift to us from a loving God; a God who sent his only Son into the world to take our fears upon himself and replace them with the joyous Christmas message of peace, hope, light and love. In our Christmas stories, God’s angels repeated the message: “Do not be afraid” to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and, on that glorious Christmas Day, to the shepherds. These were ordinary people like us, who were encouraged to overcome their fears and to step out in faith and obedience to God. They were faithful and trusted in God and in his love for them.

As we prepare to enter into Advent and when we come to celebrate the Messiah’s birth, let us look forward in hope to the day when Jesus’ reign of justice, mercy and peace will come in all its fullness. During these coming seasons may we share, with all people, the good news of our Saviour’s birth for wherever the Good News is proclaimed, lives are transformed. May our churches continue to be places of warmth, welcome and hospitality and may each of you experience the peace and joy of the Christ Child.

Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

With love and blessings in this special season,

Georgina



Trinity Evergreen Club - Monday 20th January 2025

We start our New Year Programme with our version of a Beetle Drive. We play the game but don't move around!!! We start at the normal time of 2.30 and there will be the usual raffle and refreshments.

The Church in Abingdon is again planning Carol Singing in the Market Place. Please come and join in on Saturday December 14th at 10am. We need lots of voices to make an impact. If you can play an instrument do bring it.



Scilla Fellows





Christmas Greetings
2024

Christmas wishes to all my friends at Trinity, I will be making a donation to charity instead of sending cards. Best wishes, Ray Chadwick

Tom and Sue Kyffin wish everyone at Trinity a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2025.

Eve and Malcolm send very good wishes to everyone at Trinity for a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

With our love. Doreen and Brian send warm greetings to their friends at Trinity wishing them all a Happy Christmas and many blessings for the New Year.

Neil and Elizabeth want to wish all their Trinity friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year and instead of sending Christmas Cards they will be making a donation to a homeless charity.

Clare, Huw and David send love and greetings to the Trinity family. May the peace and joy of Christmas time be with you now and in the coming year.

'Barbara Deakin sends love and hopes for a blessed peaceful Christmas and happy New Year to all her Trinity family. An extra donation to Crisis will be given in lieu of Christmas cards.'

Val and Paul Dalby send best wishes for a happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year

Ken and Lin Clark would like to wish all their friends at Trinity a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Rosemary and John Richards send all our friends at Trinity our Best Wishes for an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Andy, Fiona and Kathryn send everyone their best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year. Instead of sending Christmas cards this year, we will make our usual contribution to The Samaritans Oxford Branch for their work in the local community, which is greatly needed in the current climate.



Sun 1st		Advent Sunday
	10.30am	All-Age Gift Service with Baptism led by Deacon Selina Gifts for Asylum Welcome
Mon 2nd	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 4th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 5th	9.30am	Trinity Toddlers Group
Fri 6th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30am – 11.15am	SOFEA Larder
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship, with JaM, led by Elizabeth Wood
Mon 9th	10.30am and 1.30pm	Kingfisher School Carol Services
	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 11th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 12th	10.00am	Toddler Nativity Service led by Deacon Selina
	7.30pm	Thursday Group Christmas Party
Fri 13th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30am – 11.15am	SOFEA Larder
Sat 14th	10.00am	Church in Abingdon Carol Singing in The Market Place
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion, and JaM, led by Georgina
Mon 16th	2.30pm	Evergreen Club: Christmas Party
	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 18th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Fri 20th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
Sun 22nd		No Morning Service
	4.30pm	Trinity Carol Service led by Georgina Collection for Crisis
Tues 24th	4.00pm	Christingle Service led by Deacon Selina Collection for Action for Children
	11.30pm	Abingdon Baptist Church Candlelight Christmas Communion

- Wed 25th **10.00am** Christmas Day service led by Deacon Selina
Collection for Crisis
- Sun 29th 10.30am Morning Worship, with JaM, led by Georgina

January

- Fri 3rd 10.00am Virtual Prayer Support Group
10.30am – 11.15am SOFEA Larder
- Sun 5th 10.30am All Age service with Baptism led by
Georgina and Selina
- Mon 6th 5.00pm Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
- Wed 8th 5.15pm Brownies 7.00pm Guides
- Sun 12th 10.30am Morning Worship, with JaM, led by
Rev. Alan Grist
- Mon 13th 5.00pm Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
- Wed 15th 5.15pm Brownies 7.00pm Guides
- Thurs 16th 7.30pm Thursday Group
- Fri 17th 10.00am Virtual Prayer Support Group
10.30am – 11.15am SOFEA Larder
- Sun 19th 10.30am Covenant Service, with Communion, led by
Georgina
- Mon 20th 2.30pm Evergreen Club:
- Sun 26th 10.30am Morning Worship -local arrangement

FEBRUARY

- Sun 2nd 10.30am All-Age service with Baptism, led by
Georgina and Selina.

Deadline for February Triangle Friday 17th January

Please send contributions to Cynthia (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk)
AND to Val (vadalby17@gmail.com) or via the Office

On the first day of Christmas

As we get closer to Christmas I have, like Ministers up and down the country, begun to look at Carols, and have wondered about some of their origins.

It has been fascinating to learn of their roots, of how people through the centuries have used old tunes and set them to new lyrics and have built upon sometimes very ancient sacred songs, to become the melodies we so enjoy singing at Christmas time.

The one song we relate to Christmas, but which does not at first appear to have any biblical references in it, is the song “On the first day of Christmas.” But look again at it, and you might be as surprised as I was to find a wealth of meaning hidden within its very familiar lyrics!

It begins..... On the first day of Christmas my true love (God the Father who truly loves us) sent to me.....

A partridge in a pear tree – Jesus Christ

2 turtle doves – the Old and New Testaments

3 French hens – the 3 virtues of faith, hope, and love

4 calling birds – the 4 gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John

5 gold rings – the first 5 books of the Old Testament (The Torah)

6 geese a-laying – the 6 days of Creation

7 swans a-swimming – the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord)

8 maids a-milking – the 8 beatitudes

- 1.the poor in spirit
- 2.those who mourn
- 3.the meek
- 4.those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- 5.the merciful
- 6.the pure in heart
- 7.the peacemakers
- 8.the persecuted

9 ladies dancing – the 9 fruits of the Spirit- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control

10 lords a-leaping – the 10 commandments

11 pipers piping – the 11 faithful Apostles

12 drummers drumming – the 12 points of the Apostles Creed

1. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
4. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
5. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
6. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
7. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
9. the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
10. the forgiveness of sins,
11. the resurrection of the body,
12. and the life everlasting

Whoever thought there was so much hidden in one seasonal song!

However you spend your Christmas this year, I pray it will be peaceful, and as we enjoy our peace and freedoms, may we remember to pray especially for those whose lives are sorrowful and so precarious around the world.

With love and blessings Dcn. Selina



TrinityLearning



We're right in the middle of planning Christmas activities as I write this. This year will see us supporting and providing

15 school Christmas events including Carol Concerts, a Nativity play, a celebration of St Nicolas day and a range of Sensory services for Kingfisher school. It is always wonderful to see all the different ways schools remember and celebrate the Christmas story.



Experience Easter Volunteers needed!

It seems strange to be talking about Easter in December but we are

starting to plan for Experience Easter 2025, which will offer schools the choice to visit Trinity Church for live workshops or to take part online. Experience Easter is a series of reflective workshops, specially developed by TrinityLearning to allow Key Stage 2 children (7 to 11-year-olds) to access the Easter Story in a meaningful way. It is also an introduction to mindfulness, using stilling exercises and simple activities to allow the children to consider their emotions. TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding so all Experience Easter volunteers must have completed safer recruitment procedures, including an enhanced DBS check and Safeguarding Training. We are always very happy to support people with this but it all takes time, so please get in touch soon via email or by dropping a note with your contact details into the Conduit Centre if you're interested in helping out at Experience Easter 2025.

Join us at our 2024 TrinityLearning AGM – 6pm, Monday 20th January on Zoom

TrinityLearning's AGM will be held via zoom on 20th January 2025. We would like to invite all our volunteers, beneficiaries and supporters so if you are interested in finding out more about TrinityLearning and what we did last year, please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com for a copy of the Annual Report and a zoom link.



Crafty Volunteers needed - We are looking for confident crocheters and knitters to help make tiny toys for several of our packs. Over the years some of our fantastic volunteers have created tiny Teddies for our TrinityLearning Bereavement Packs. These packs are designed for adults working with bereaved children. We send one bear out with each pack and distribute an average of 10 packs a year to local schools. The packs have been very well received by schools and we also provide Family Change packs to help support adults working with children experiencing change due to divorce or separation. TrinityLearning will provide all the materials needed so if you have crocheting or knitting skills and would like to help, please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.



Mines Advisory Group



As 2024 draws to a close, so does Trinity's year of supporting MAG as our chosen charity. The recent decision by the US to send landmines to Ukraine has prompted MAG to issue, on November 20th, the following statement:

The decision of the US government to transfer anti-personnel (AP) mines to Ukraine is deeply disappointing. It represents a reversal of the commitment made two years ago to not use or produce AP mines outside of the Korean peninsula and to align itself with the Anti Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or Ottawa Treaty, with the ultimate aim of becoming a signatory. Transfer or use of AP mines also means that Ukraine would be in breach of its obligations as a party to the treaty.

While the types of AP mines which would be used in Ukraine are described as non-persistent, that does not mean they are harmless. All landmines are indiscriminate and have the potential to cause civilian harm. They would still have an impact on local populations, both psychologically and in relation to land use and food security. Once laid, these mines would still have to be treated as potentially lethal when the day eventually came to clear them. Such clearance would be expensive and time-consuming, especially since the devices could be surrounded by other explosive hazards.

Their use would come on top of existing massive contamination in Ukraine, which is already thought to be the most landmine-contaminated country in the world. The precise extent of that contamination is unknown but we know that both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle or anti-tank mines have been used extensively. Yuliia Svyrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine and Minister of Economy, said recently that an area larger than the size of England, more than 25 per cent of Ukraine, or more than 139,000 square kilometres, needs to be surveyed for landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The transfer of AP Mines would also represent an undermining of a broad framework of principles and norms that address the human suffering caused by armed conflicts, including customary International Humanitarian Law, binding on all parties. These principles and norms are unambiguous, and the international community has repeatedly confirmed that the freedom

to choose the type of weapon to use in an armed conflict is limited by considerations of humanity, including those protecting civilians or limiting 'superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering'.

On the eve of the Fifth Review Conference of the Treaty, being held next week in Cambodia, there will no doubt be significant dialogue on this development and States Parties must focus on how the norms of the Treaty can be protected and reinforced. We hope there will also be space to recognise the progress that has been made elsewhere.

Everyone accepts there are no comfortable choices for Ukraine as it faces an existential threat. We should never forget the origins of the conflict or the admirable progress Ukrainian authorities have made in addressing the challenge of landmine contamination and the impact of landmines on its communities. It must be also acknowledged that the US is the world's biggest donor to humanitarian mine action and has made a huge difference to the lives of tens of millions of people over the years, freeing them from fear and enabling communities to recover from conflict.

But the use of anti-personnel landmines of any kind, by any party and at any time, is and always will be unacceptable.

Wallingford & Abingdon Methodist Circuit

Can you help lead Sunday worship?

The Circuit designates some services each year to be led in a 'Local Arrangement' and requests churches to make such arrangements. Your local church needs those who will lead the congregation in prayer, song and reflection. It offers training for those who can help in this way.

Training Day

Training Day in person Sunday 1st February 2025 Contact Revd. Bruce Thompson on revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk for more details and for Zoom Code



*Autumn gives nature space to lean back,
relax and enjoy the fruits of its labour
mellow colours in sky and landscape as the
earth prepares to rest.*

*Then winter, cold and
bare as nature takes stock
rests, unwinds, sleeps
until the time is right.
Thank you father for the
seasons of our lives*



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