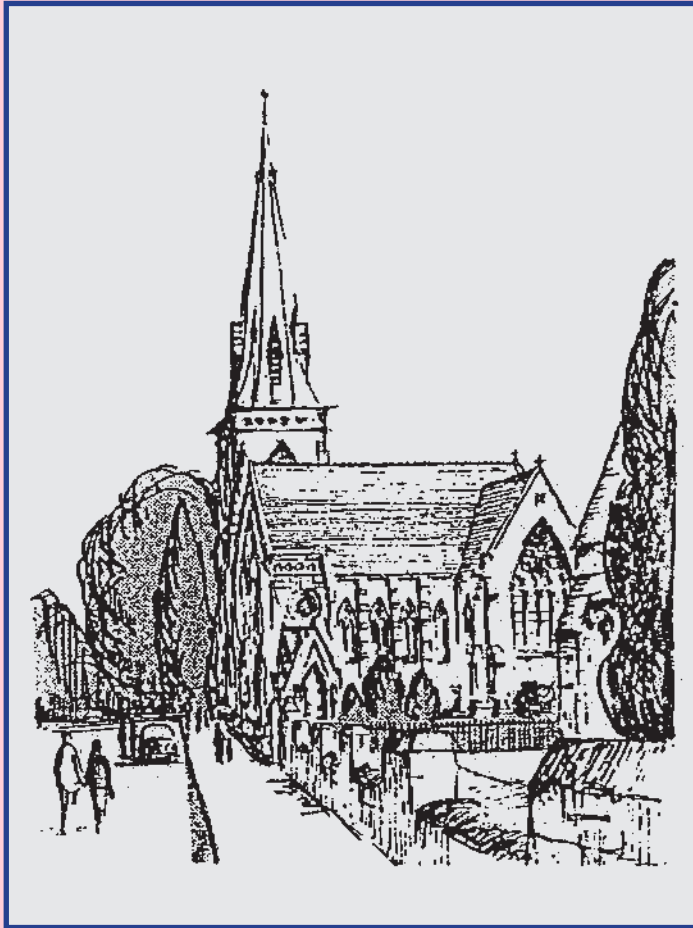


# TRINITY TRIANGLE

MAY 2026



*'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 in the evening.

Junior Church meets on the first Sunday morning of the month during the Church Service. It is designed for children who are aged 3+ and parents may stay with their children if they wish. Holy Communion is normally celebrated at 10.30 within the morning service as announced in the Calendar.

<b>Monday</b>	2.30 pm Evergreen Club: 3rd Monday in month. 5.30 pm Beavers. 6.45 pm Cubs. 7.30 pm Scouts.
<b>Tuesday</b>	7.30 pm Abingdon Operatic Society.
<b>Wednesday</b>	5.15 pm Brownies. 7.00 pm Guides.
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30 am Toddler Group. 7.30 pm Thursday Group. 2nd Thursday in the month.
<b>Friday</b>	10.00 am Prayer Support Group (in their homes). 9.30am Coffee 10-10.45am. Abingdon Larder (SOFEA)
<b>Monthly</b>	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



## CONTENTS

Minister's Letter	4
Church Family News	5
Trinity Learning	6
Calendar and Deadline	8
Thursday Group	10
Road to Emmaus sermon points	12
Christian Aid Week	14
All shall be well?	15

*Come, Holy Spirit,  
come as the robin in the morning,  
awakening our hearts with your song.*

*Come as the dove at evening,  
bringing blessing and peace.*

*Come as the blackbird at noonday,  
gladdening your world with joy.*

*Come to us today,  
that we may sing to the Creator,  
seek healing for the wounds of creation  
and find peace through active prayer.*

### Triangle Joint Editors:

Cynthia Bartlett, Valerie Dalby,  
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](http://www.trinityabingdon.org.uk)

## Minister's Letter

**'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?**

**This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'** (Acts 1: 11)

The month of May includes a number of important dates in the Christian calendar: Ascension Day (14th), Pentecost (24th) and Trinity Sunday (31st) all fall within the same month this year.

Ascension Day always falls on the fortieth day from Easter and, since Easter always falls on a Sunday, Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday. Unlike Pentecost and Trinity, the Ascension is not widely celebrated in Western Churches. In fact, across many Christian traditions, there appears to be more focus on Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. Yet, this ancient but often-overlooked event has been marked since the fourth century, one of the ecumenical feasts that is noted across all Christian traditions. It is a key aspect of our faith, worthy of celebration.

The Ascension is the transitional moment when Jesus Christ physically ascended into heaven in the presence of his disciples. It marks an ending – the ending of the physical presence of Jesus on earth; but it also marks a beginning - the beginning of Jesus' heavenly reign, as well as the beginning of the disciples taking Jesus' ministry on. It is not just a historical event, but a powerful reminder that Jesus completed his mission on earth and returned to his Father in glory.

The Ascension is very relevant to us today:

- It signifies Jesus' enthronement at the right hand of God, "above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the present age but also in the one to come" (Ephesians 1:20).
- It marks the start of Jesus' high priestly ministry, where he intercedes on our behalf (Hebrews 7: 25; 8:24)
- Like a door, it connects Jesus' earthly ministry to the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1: 4-5), empowering us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to others
- It assures all believers of Christ's second coming (Acts 1: 10-11)

In a world filled with so much fear, uncertainty and brokenness, the Ascension gives us hope; real, tangible hope. It assures us that Jesus is alive and that he reigns above all.

At the scene of the Ascension, the two men in white asked the disciples, “Why do you stand looking up at the sky?” That was the nudge they needed to get going again. We also sometimes need a gentle nudge from the Holy Spirit to stop us merely staring and to jolt us back into action with the commission to be witnesses (Acts 1:8).

For this same Lord Jesus  
shall return again,  
with his Father’s glory,  
with his angel train;  
all the wreaths of empire  
meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him  
King of glory now.  
(Stf 317)

Love and blessings, Georgina

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We would like to thank all those who were involved in the Easter Services and those who engaged with school children in Experience Easter. We send our love to Donald and the family of Heather Ross who died in March and whose funeral took place in April. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been unwell recently or have been unable to come to church.

*“In You, Father, we are one family in earth and heaven”*

### **Trinity Evergreen Club - Monday 18 May**

We are delighted that Alastair Fear is coming to give us an illustrated talk on Ireland. He has given us two recent talks which we very much enjoyed - and we are looking forward to this one.

There will be a raffle and refreshments and as usual we start at 2.30 pm.

Tricia Cook

## Feedback from Experience Easter 2026

We have had some fantastic feedback from this year's Experience Easter!



As we reported last month, many schools brought more than one class this year to the sessions at Trinity Church, while others took part online through our videos. In total, nine schools took part in person, in Trinity Church or online through our

website videos. Our fantastic volunteers made up over 550 packs for children and adults to explore the Easter story in a hands-on way through activities like bead threading, hand washing and making plasticine models. These interactive moments help bring the story to life and allow children to engage with it in a fun and meaningful way.

Feedback overall has been extremely positive and is really valuable for ensuring we are on the right track. Some of the comments we have received include:

“The activities were really engaging and thought-provoking, allowing the children to reflect on each part of the story.”

Everything was “Really well explained to the children, love the different areas for the story“.

“The children were really engaged because of the pace, range of activities and having something in each section to help them reflect and think of the meaning of Easter. Thank you.”

Many schools expressed how much the children enjoyed visiting Trinity Church with comments such as:

“It was really well organised and the children all immediately felt at ease in the space. They loved their packs and felt a sense of awe and wonder when the doors opened. They all gasped!”



“Thank you so much. What a lovely way to spend the afternoon, so thoughtful and peaceful. The children were all really engaged and you made them think and reflect. I love the interactive elements ...”

One school, accessing the online version of Experience Easter commented that it was “very well organised and easy to follow. Timings were perfect - short activities with lots of discussion. The children enjoyed the activities and had insightful responses”.

We haven't had time to do much more than read through the many positive responses and comments received so far. They definitely show how much Experience Easter is valued by the local school communities and how much the children and staff appreciate the opportunity to come and learn about the Easter story in the beautiful, peaceful setting of Trinity Church!





Fri 1st	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Georgina
Mon 4th	Beginning of the Week of Prayer 4th-8th May Bank Holiday- no uniformed organisations meeting	
Wed 6th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 7th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 8th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sat 9th	9.30-3.00pm	Going for Growth Day: Southmoor Village Hall
Sun 10th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Revd. Pauline Main
	10-16th May: Christian Aid Week	
Mon 11th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 13th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 14th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
	7.30pm	The Thursday Group: Quiz Evening
Fri 15th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 17th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd. Wayne Hawkins
Mon 18th	2.30pm	Evergreen: Alastair Fear – A talk on travelling in Ireland
	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 20th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 21st	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 22nd	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
		<b>Deadline for June issue of Triangle</b>

Sun 24th 10.30am Morning at ALL SAINTS led by members of the congregations of Trinity and All Saints  
 6.30pm Evening Reflective Service, led by members of Trinity and All Saints

Mon 25th Bank Holiday- no uniformed organisations meeting

Wed 27th 5.15pm Brownies 7.00pm Guides

Thurs 28th 9.30am Trinity Toddler Group

Fri 29th 10.30am Virtual Prayer Support Group  
 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder

Sun 31st 10.30am Morning Worship led by Revd. Carol Hamilton Foyl



Sun 7th 10.30am Morning Worship

**Deadline for June issue of the Triangle  
 Friday 22 May 26**

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

Wantage & Abingdon Circuit  
 Week of Prayer (4 May – 8 May)

Day Churches to Pray for:

Monday 4 May	All Saints & Wallingford
Tuesday 5 May	Peachcroft & Wantage
Wednesday 6 May	Grove & Didcot
Thursday 7 May	Trinity & Milton
Friday 8 May	The Circuit The Growth Day

An example of a prayer you could use:

God of new life, whose Spirit is poured out on those who believe in you,  
 We pray for the members and friends of ..... (local church or Circuit)  
 grant that our confidence grows and our courage deepens,  
 as we explore new ways of responding to the world about us. Amen



## Thursday Group

At our April meeting, Thursday Group members brought a poem or passage to share. These ranged from the humorous to the moving. We heard about two of T S Eliot's "Practical cats" and other cat-related memories; we learnt about King John's Christmas (a poem by A A Milne); we remembered Wordsworth's daffodils; we shared the anxiety of someone packing for the weekend "just in case"; we heard how Nanny was forgiven for letting Alexander the beetle out of his matchbox (A A Milne again) – and many more.

On a more serious note, someone shared this hymn which we had sung during Lent, at a service led by our Ecumenical Minister Wayne Hawkins:

1. God who sets us on a journey  
to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people  
in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward,  
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbour  
marks the way that Christ defined.
2. Exploration brings new insights,  
changes, choices we must face;  
give us wisdom in deciding,  
mindful always of your grace;  
should we stumble, lose our bearings,  
find it hard to know what's right,  
we regain our true direction  
focused on the Jesus light.
3. End our longing for the old days,  
grant the vision that we lack –  
once we've started on this journey  
there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding  
excess baggage from our past,  
cherish only what's essential,  
choosing treasure that will last.
4. When we set up camp and settle  
to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort,  
pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us travelling in the knowledge  
you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey,  
Christ our goal and Christ our guide,  
*Words: Joy Dine (1937 – 2001)*

And, very appropriate to our troubled times, were these words:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—  
because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—  
because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—  
because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—  
and there was no one left to speak for me.

*Martin Niemöller*

*Thursday Group meets in the Conduit Centre every month (on a Thursday!), during the afternoon in the winter months and in the evening when the days are longer.*

*We enjoy speakers, quizzes etc, sharing fellowship – sometimes in member's gardens – a Christmas party, and anything else which appeals to us. New members very welcome – speak to Maggie Greaney for more details.*

## **A prayer of thanksgiving**

Loving God  
we thank you for the beauty of your creation  
and for the joy of living in a world so full of wonder.  
May all nature join us in praise and worship,  
adoration and longing love, in response  
to the gift of life you have given us.

Lord of all creation,  
may the beauty of this earth  
lead us to a deeper worship of you;  
a reverence that causes gentleness,  
fear that leads to holiness  
and a peace we long to share.

*Pat Randall, from "What a World"*

# **Points from the sermon preached by Carolyn Luscombe on Sunday 19th April at Trinity Church**

**The Road to Emmaus:** Luke Chapter 24, Verses 13 – 35

**How Jesus 'Listens' and meets us in our traumas**

## **Are we being listened to?**

### **The Disciples' and Our Response to Traumatic Events**

- Anger at injustice
- Feeling powerless
- Guilt
- Fearing for safety
- Not sure who to believe or trust
- Disappointment
- Forgetting what Jesus said
- Grief stricken and perplexed
- Loneliness and isolation
- Fear of losing faith

### **Jesus' Response to the Disciples and to Our Bad Experiences**

- He knows where we are and what we are thinking
- He meets us where we are
- He meets us even if we're not praying
- He appears unrecognisable sometimes
- Gets to the heart of the matter
- He is gentle and respectful - he does not force himself on us
- He comes to all not just the special ones
- He helps us understand the message of his death and resurrection

### **The Disciples and Our Response to Jesus - Transformation**

- Understand what and why things have happened
- Faith restored and belief in Jesus as Messiah
- Hearts warmed
- Tell others
- Feel justice has been done

## **“All shall be well”?**

Some time ago now, I led a study day on Julian of Norwich, a 14th century anchoress – someone dedicated to religion and living a solitary life in a cell attached to a church. Julian’s life and times may seem a world away from our own, yet her writings have brought comfort and inspiration to many. Why?

*‘all shall be well’* says Julian, in perhaps her most famous phrase, words that can seem blindly optimistic, typical of someone isolated from the realities of the world. But Julian was not as isolated as might first appear. She lived in harsh times – the nation was involved in a European war costing lives as well as money. Life was cheap, and the Black Death was an ever-present threat. Julian herself suffered an agonising illness from which she almost died. And an anchoress was expected to offer guidance and help to any who came to her cell window, so it is likely that she was well-known in that busy commercial city, listening to many people’s troubles.

Julian wrestles with all this. How can all be “well”, she asks, when there is so much evil and suffering in the world? And like so many before and since, she arrives at no definite answers. But what sustains Julian – and those who find inspiration in her writings – is her understanding of the love of God, a love which encompasses everything, and which holds her fast. She sees in her hand a “little thing, the size of a hazel-nut”, which encapsulates “all that is made”. The little ball – our earth? the universe? – seems so tiny and insignificant, but it is safe and secure, because it is held, not just in Julian’s hand, but in God’s hand. God made it, God cares for it, God sustains it. Held in that assurance, all can indeed be well.

*Pauline Main*

*[First published in the Oxford Mail Feb 2014]*

### **A prayer inspired by Julian’s writings, from the World Day of Prayer 2022**

God of everything, both great and small, we praise you for the rich variety of your creation and for the love and care you lavish on all that you have made. Help us to appreciate your world, to care for it properly and not to damage it. We thank you for the wisdom of the Bible and for the works of Christian thinkers such as Julian of Norwich. Help us to pay attention, to understand and to follow.

We praise and thank you for the knowledge that, despite all the sin and suffering humankind has caused, you are always with us ready to support and encourage us and that all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.

Amen



## Christian Aid Market Place Sale 9th May

The annual Christian Aid Market Place sale in Abingdon will take place on Saturday 9th May 2026, 9 am to 12 noon. There will be stalls selling plants, cakes, preserves, books, CDs and DVDs.

We need volunteers to help run the sale, and items to sell - plants, cakes, books, etc.

**Plants:** Gardeners, please can you save some garden plants in a saleable condition – either bedding plants, perennials or vegetable seedlings, and houseplants? Please label these and bring them to Abingdon Baptist Church (ABC) before 9 May or to the Market Place on the day.

**Preserves and cakes:** Cooks, we'd appreciate lots of home made cakes and preserves for sale. Remember to put a list of allergens with the cake and bring them down to ABC before 9 May or to the Market Place on the day.

**Books, CDs and vinyl records:** Please look out any items you no longer want that are in a saleable condition and you think would sell well.

**Volunteer helpers:** If you can spare an hour or two to help staff a stall, please contact Christine Hutt or Doug Bradshaw at ABC (01235 530080).



## Christian Aid Week

**Christian Aid Week** runs from 10th - 16th May. This Christian Aid Week, the focus is on helping mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, who face the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children and grandchildren.

Fridah knows this reality well. But she's determined to protect her grandchildren from hunger.

Through our partner, Beacon of Hope, she's received tools, seeds and training to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space – food she can cook for her family or sell to earn income.

***'Now I can plan. I can buy this; I can buy that. I can help my family,' she says.***

**A prayer for Christian Aid Week 2026, by Bob Kikuyu, Christian Aid's Global Theology Advisor, Nairobi.**

Gracious God,  
when we stand on the plains of uncertainty,  
with no path before us, we look to you.

We remember what you have done before  
and our anxious hearts are comforted.  
Showing mercy, you delivered us then;  
in your love and faithfulness, you will do it again.

Give us the strength to step forward in hope.  
Give us faith that changes us,  
hope that feeds us,  
love that moves us.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

# EDWARD CARTER

## Funeral Director



***24 Hour Service***

*DEDICATED CHAPEL OF REST*

A private, family business, upholding the  
traditional values of dignity and respect

Pre-paid Funeral Plan

107 South Avenue, Abingdon  
Oxon OX14 1QS  
(01235) 528293



**Repairs to most makes of  
Washing Machines,  
Cookers, Dryers,  
Dishwashers etc...**



**For a fast reliable service  
Tel: 01235 - 764185  
or 07981-941221**



# **Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors**



**Abingdon & Kennington  
Tel 01235 539444**

or

**www.tonksbrothers.com**  
*'Proud to be a family business'*

## **DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS**



**Most carpets dry  
within the hour  
Unbeatable results  
removes almost  
all spots & stains**

**call  
GRIMEBUSTERS**

**01865 726983 01235 555533**

**www.grimebusters.co.uk**

Come and Join the  
fun and laughter  
at our once a  
month Triangle Meeting  
and help produce Triangle.  
Coffee and biscuits supplied.  
The Triangle Editors.