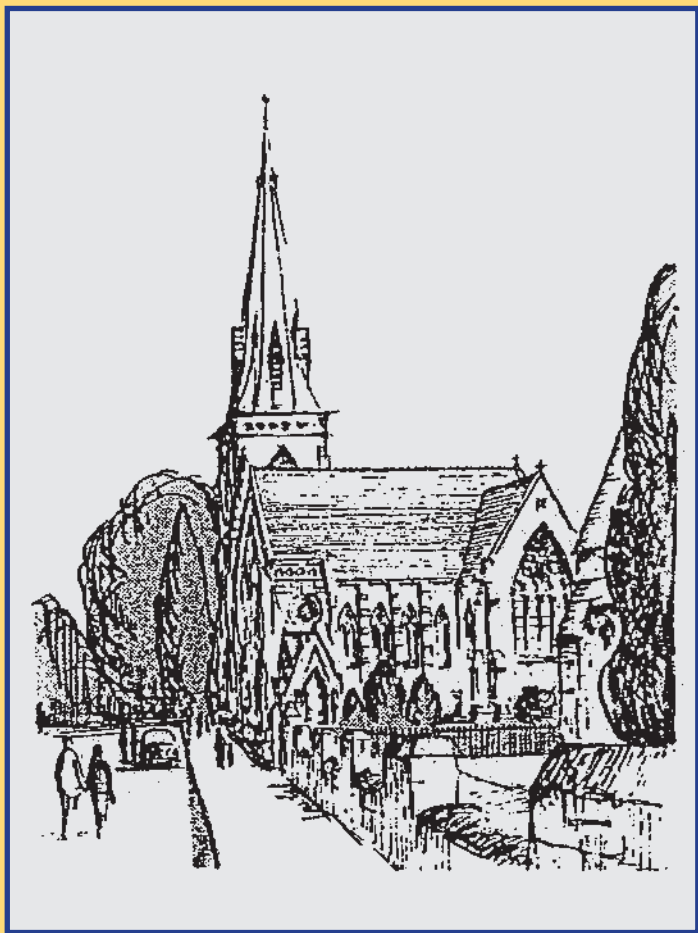




TRINITY TRIANGLE

SEPTEMBER 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.

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. 2nd Thursday in the month.
Friday	10.00 am Prayer Support Group (in their homes). 9.30am Coffee 10-10.45am. 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

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



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A blessing for holidays

May the Lord refresh and renew you so that,
restored in body, mind and spirit,
you may return to your daily tasks strengthened
and invigorated for the months ahead.

Amen

(B. Bye, Prayers for all seasons)

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“Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.” Psalm 84: 5

The words pilgrim and pilgrimage are derived from the Latin peregrinus and peregrinatio, from ‘per ager’, meaning “across the fields”. In Roman times, these terms referred to foreigners or travellers who, though not Roman citizens, were free to move throughout the Empire within its laws (Eade and Albera, *New Pathways in Pilgrimage Studies*). Originally, the terms were without religious meaning, but have gradually acquired spiritual significance through developments in language, church tradition, and lived experience. This has given rise to the diverse meanings and practices associated with Christian pilgrimage today, whether physical, internal or metaphorical.

The concept of life as a pilgrimage is a profound theme woven throughout Scripture, portraying the Christian journey as a temporary sojourn on earth with a heavenly destination. Scripture affirms that we are pilgrims. In the New Testament, Peter reflects the idea when he describes his readers as “elect exiles” (1 Peter 1:1); and, the author of Hebrews refers to the faithful believers of the Old Testament as “strangers and exiles” (Hebrews 11:13). The Pilgrim Psalms (Psalms 120-134), also known as the Songs of Ascent, were traditionally sung by pilgrims travelling to Jerusalem for religious festivals, reflecting both physical and spiritual ascent. This concept has inspired music such as Albert E. Brumley’s ‘This World Is Not My Home’ and literature such as John Bunyan’s ‘The Pilgrim’s Progress’, both of which emphasise the transient nature of earthly life and our true citizenship in heaven. Their words capture the spirit of the pilgrim, reminding us that the trials, struggles, and sorrows of this world are fleeting when compared with the eternal joy that awaits us in the presence of Christ.

Today, pilgrimage takes many forms. People undertake pilgrimages for faith, healing, reflection, challenge, or personal well-being. In our increasingly digital world, walkers often use digital maps and mobile technology to follow ancient routes, while virtual pilgrimages and online communities create new ways to participate. The Open University, in a programme exploring the evolution of pilgrimage, raises important questions about what it means to journey without physical movement and whether pilgrimage can still foster community when participation shifts into digital spaces. These questions echo those facing the Church today. Since the Covid pandemic, many congregations have embraced a mixture of in-person, online, and hybrid forms of worship, prompting similar reflections on community, presence, and belonging in a digital age. As pilgrimage adapts to digital spaces while seeking to preserve community and meaning, so too the Church continues to ask how we can remain a connected people of God across in-person, online, and hybrid forms of worship. The question is not simply where we gather, but how we journey together in faith.

As a circuit, we too are fellow pilgrims on this journey of faith. Our pilgrimage is shaped by the particular places and times in which we live, by our longing for a deeper and more meaningful union with our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our daily commitment to walk in faith and obedience as we seek to align our thoughts, actions, and intentions with God's will. Together with Christians across time and throughout the world, we are united by our confession of "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph. 4:5). We are "the body of Christ, and individually members of it" (1 Cor. 12:27); "for in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body... and all were made to drink of the one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13).

Our pilgrimage together continues as we enter this new Connexional year. From Sunday to Sunday, those who are able will gather in their local churches, whether in person or in hybrid form, to worship, share fellowship, and learn from one another. Together, we will continue to care for one another, as Scripture urges (1 Cor. 12:25). We will rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep in times of joy and sorrow. Though we may at times feel tired, overstretched, or under-resourced, we will continue to offer our gifts, skills, talents, and energies in service to God, our communities, and one another, united by our Lord's commission to make disciples of all nations. And each month, as we gather around the Lord's Table and experience anew the mystery of Christ's presence in Holy Communion, we will be strengthened in faith and drawn ever closer together in him.

Together, let us praise God for the past year and our past travels, trusting in his strength, grace and deliverance for the new year and journey that has just begun.

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore;
feed me now and evermore.

(StF 465 v.1)

Every blessing,
Georgina

Grant us, Lord,
during the time of this earthly pilgrimage,
a spirit free from all ill-will,
a pure heart and a sincere mind.
And give us also the charity we need
to love all our brothers and sisters.

The Coptic Liturgy



Back to school Volunteer Appeal

Are you looking for a rewarding regular volunteer activity from September? Thinking Books is TrinityLearning's volunteer mentoring project. It involves trained volunteers meeting children for ten weekly in-school sessions to discuss characters' emotions using carefully chosen books. The project requires a commitment of around an hour and a half a week in term time.

Thinking Books has been running since 2019 and around 40-50 local children a year benefit from 10 sessions. Thanks to grants from Christ's Hospital Trust each child taking part is gifted the book they work with.

We know that Thinking Books volunteers are greatly appreciated by the schools they support from the feedback we've received –

"Thinking books has been very useful for a child in my class who ... does not have much confidence with reading but is always smiling when I see them outside with their adult from Thinking Books. Throughout the week they sometimes ask how many days until they can read with the Thinking Books adult again...It has definitely been a worthwhile and useful tool."

(Class teacher at an Abingdon Primary School).

TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks. We will be running training for these projects in mid September so please email Hannah hannah.trinitylearning@gmail.com if you would like to know more about this project or any of our other volunteer opportunities.

The Kingfisher Singing Group meet each week to share Nursery Rhymes and simple songs with children on the Sensory Pathway at Kingfisher School. Over the last 8 years their diligent regular volunteering has brought joy to many children, staff and families and they are valued as members of the school community. Maggie from the Singing Group has written a short piece about their recent visit to the school gardens below:

'Towards the end of term we were invited to visit the garden that the 6th Form staff and their students are creating. They have been learning how to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables and look after the wildlife. They welcomed the opportunity to engage with the local community (i.e. us!) and show and tell us all about what they had been doing. They are clearly very proud and pleased with their garden and would really welcome any offers of cuttings or seeds if anyone has any to spare!



On the way out we visited the Sensory Garden which was conceived and created by Rosemary Perrow and a team from Trinity Learning many years ago. It's a well-used peaceful place where children and staff can decompress and be calm. There are various fragrances to smell, textures to feel, paths to follow, things to look at, colours and light catchers. It's accessible to everyone and there are places to sit and just be quiet. This was my first visit and I was so impressed with all the effort that

has clearly gone into it over the years and the school has clearly benefitted from being able to use it.'



Sun 30th	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning worship led by Revd. Wayne Hawkins Reflective service at Trinity
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Fri 3rd	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
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Sun 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by members of the congregation
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Thurs 10th	7.00pm	Thursday Group: A talk about superstitions by Malcolm Newton
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Fri 11th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
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Sat 12th	Ride & Stride	
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Sun 13th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Georgina
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Mon 14th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
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Wed 16th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
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Thurs 17th	9.30am	proposed first autumn meeting of Trinity Toddler Group To be confirmed.
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Fri 18th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
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Sun 20th	10.30am	Morning Worship: Harvest Festival led by Revd. Wayne Hawkins
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Mon 21st	2.30pm 5.30pm	Evergreen: AGM and Quiz Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
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Wed 23rd	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
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Fri 25th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 27th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Peter Hemmings CHURCH MEETING: to be held after morning worship
Mon 28th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 30th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides



Fri 2nd	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Stephen Atkinson
Mon 5th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts

Deadline for October issue of the Triangle

Friday 18th September

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

Trinity Evergreen - Monday 21 September 2026

After our summer break, we meet again on the 21st September at the start of a New Church year. We shall hold our Annual General Meeting where there is always time for members to offer ideas for future meetings. If time allows there will be a short quiz at the end before refreshments. There will be the usual raffle. *Tricia Cook*

First Aid Course at All Saints Church, 10th October.

Several Trinity First Aiders have certificates that expire in October, so this is a good opportunity to renew your qualification. We would also welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a First Aider for the first time. If you are interested, please contact Alastair Fear at church or via alastair.fear@gmail.com or 07999 134 175.



John Hutton 1942-2026

The Eulogy

Background

John's early years were shaped by the hardships of wartime Britain. Born in Torquay in August 1942 during an air raid, he entered the world while his father, a civil engineer, was serving in Africa after being called up to support the war effort.

For the first years of his life, John and his mother lived in a modest flat in Torquay with his aunt. As the town endured heavy bombing, daily life was challenging and often frightening. Among the many wartime memories were finding a window blown in during a bombing raid and the family cat killed nearby.

When the war ended and his father returned home, the family moved to Bath, where his father briefly worked for the Admiralty. Further opportunities in civil engineering led them to Stanmore, where John's sister, Catherine, was born. The family later relocated to Horsham in Sussex before eventually settling in Plymouth, the city where John would spend much of his life.

John left school at the age of 15 and quickly entered the world of work. His first job was in a men's tailor's shop at a time when clothing was still commonly made to measure. He later worked for Crown Paints, serving customers and selling paint over the counter. His next role was with the local council, where he drove between offices across the city, delivering important documents and paperwork.

These varied early experiences helped shape the hardworking, friendly character that would define much of John's life.

Memories

The lasting memory of John is of someone who was genuinely interested in people. He was always keen to help, eager to learn, and curious about the world around him.

John loved being outdoors. For many years he was an active member of a rambling group and often led walks himself. If John was with you, you never had to worry about losing your way — his sense of direction was legendary.

After his mother passed away, John moved to Abingdon, where he embraced his new surroundings with enthusiasm. We would like to thank the residents of Ladygrove Paddock for making him so welcome. He took

great pleasure in exploring the area, often travelling by bus and discovering new places. He also became a valued member of Trinity Church, where he found friendship, support, and a true sense of belonging. His family will always be grateful for the kindness shown to him here.

In recent years, John was able to spend much more time with his family, something that brought him immense happiness. He took a genuine interest in everyone's lives and seemed to know every family birthday and exactly what each person was doing. His warmth, attentiveness, and love for those around him made him someone people always looked forward to seeing.

One of John's greatest gifts was his remarkable knowledge and memory. He seemed to know something about almost everything, whether it was politics, public transport, or, of course, his beloved Arsenal Football Club. He built that knowledge the old-fashioned way, reading the newspapers from cover to cover every day and absorbing an extraordinary amount of information. Yet he never wore his knowledge to impress people; he simply loved understanding the world and sharing what he had learned. John cared deeply about fairness and always stood firmly on the side of ordinary working people. Issues such as the Post Office scandal genuinely troubled him because he believed that honesty and justice mattered. Those same values shaped the way he lived his own life. He was hardworking, honest, dependable, and deeply caring, always taking a genuine interest in others and never losing sight of what he believed was right.

Football was a particular passion of John's, and his knowledge of the game was extraordinary. A lifelong Arsenal supporter, he could recall historical results and details from decades ago, yet he also kept closely in touch with the modern game. In recent years he developed a real enthusiasm for women's football too. He loved watching football on the BBC and ITV, and especially listening to it on Radio 5 Live - although Sky Sports was never for him. He could reel off the names of presenters and commentators from across the years, along with the matches they had covered. Rob and I always loved talking to John about football, particularly hearing the historical knowledge he carried so effortlessly, and those conversations are something we will miss very much.

John was never overly concerned with what others thought of him. He approached life with enthusiasm and a wonderful sense of childlike wonder. Even in his seventies, he could be found jumping on a trampoline

with his grandnieces or kicking a football around with them. He was not someone who stood on the sidelines or overthought things — he simply joined in and enjoyed the moment.

He also had a remarkable ability to make people laugh, often without even trying. One story that perfectly captures this was during a hospital visit when doctors wanted to measure his height and asked him to stand against a wall. Instead of standing with his back to it, he faced the wall. Then, eager as ever to be helpful, he asked whether they wanted his head “in it” as well. It was pure John — good-natured, sincere, and unintentionally hilarious.

Today, we reflect on a life that was truly well lived. John’s positivity, his willingness to embrace new experiences, and his genuine interest in other people touched many lives. His example reminds us to stay curious, stay involved, and find joy in the people and world around us. For that, he will be remembered with great affection and gratitude.

With thanks to Jeremy Cardew and Catherine Cardew



John Hutton

Action for Children

On Sunday 12th July, Morning Worship was led by Georgina, Alastair Fear and the children and staff of the Junior Church. The focus was the charity Action for Children which Trinity has supported for many years. Included in the service were some videos, including a message from Revd. Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference (2024-2025) The following is part of this message:

Action for Children's story began over 150 years ago when the Reverend Dr. Thomas Bowman Stephenson saw children sleeping rough under the arches of Waterloo Station and took action. He responded from a place of love and wanting to stop children's suffering. This motivation remains at the heart of everything the charity does today. I've seen this firsthand when I visited a number of their services in Scotland. When I visited an Action for Children project in Edinburgh, I asked the project manager what on top of fundraising could local Methodists do to make a difference to the young people and families they supported. The answer was simple. If you meet our young people within the community learning to use a supermarket or trying out a sport or in a cafe, please show the acceptance, patience, and courtesy you would also like to receive.



A lot has changed since 1869, but the needs of children haven't. Childhood should be safe and happy with food, warmth, the chance to grow and learn, and the support to cope with life's challenges. But this isn't the reality for so many children. That's why Action for Children runs over 370 services in communities across the UK, in schools, and online, helping children and young people with some of the biggest challenges they can face. The charity provides safe and loving homes and friendly foster carers for children and

young people in care, something it has done since it began. When families are in crisis and they can't afford the basics, the charity puts food on the table and provides clothes that fit for children living in poverty today. Action for Children's services for disabled children help them gain independence and make friends whatever their needs, disability or neurodivergence. And their mental health and well-being services help children talk about how they're feeling, recognize when they need support, and know they're not alone.

A prayer for Action for Children

Holy God, you made each of us and love us all. You want each of us and all of us to flourish and become the people you made us to be. You want us all to know life in all its fullness. We pray for the work of Action for Children which seeks to ensure every child and young person can know abundant life. We pray for staff and supporters. And most of all, we pray for the children, young people, families, and communities which action for children seek to support. Bless this work of transformation and love offered in your name. Amen.

“Living stones”

As a child I wasn't interested in dolls, I much preferred making models from building sets. There was one called Bayko, not much remembered now, though I've discovered it has a following on the internet! Models started with a foundation of rods; bricks slid onto the rods to make the walls, but tended to fall out, which wasn't very effective. Much better was Lego - red and white pieces of different sizes which fitted snugly together - still going strong, though almost unrecognisable today from the simple toy I played with!

One of the New Testament writers urges us to be rather like a building set: Come to Jesus, a living stone ...and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house (from 1 Peter 2:4-5).

Living lego bricks? Lego bricks, at least in my day, were uniform, different sizes but otherwise all the same. Perhaps the image is more like a dry stone wall, different shapes and sizes fitted together. In such a wall, every stone is needed. All are important, all need to fit together doing their particular “job”, so there are no gaps, no crumbling, a solid structure. In the same way, every single stone in this spiritual house is vital – each person brings something unique, contributing to the life of the faith community.

All buildings need good foundations. My Bayko models tumbled because the foundation, the framework, didn't work well. The foundation for the spiritual building is Christ, the “cornerstone” on whom his followers – the “stones” of the spiritual house (the church) depend.

One final thought - because of their unique construction method, dry stone walls are strong. I suggest it's the same with people. Surely, our city, our nation, is strengthened by new people coming amongst us, adding their own unique “stones” to the building which is our community life.

Pauline Main

Note: Originally written for the Oxford Mail

A Prayer for the beginning of a new academic year

*Almighty God, as schools and colleges begin a new term,
we remember it is your purpose that all should have the
opportunity to lead a full and rich life.*

*As we give thanks for all opportunities for education,
so we pray for teachers, children and young people.*

*For those who accept the responsibility of guiding
children in their search for knowledge and for the
children whose minds are awakening to the wonders,
mysteries and challenges of life.*

*May the power of your presence be in each community,
in all the teaching which children receive,
in the interests and skills they develop
and in the friendships they form.*

*May they include in their growing knowledge
the wisdom that comes from you.*

Amen

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