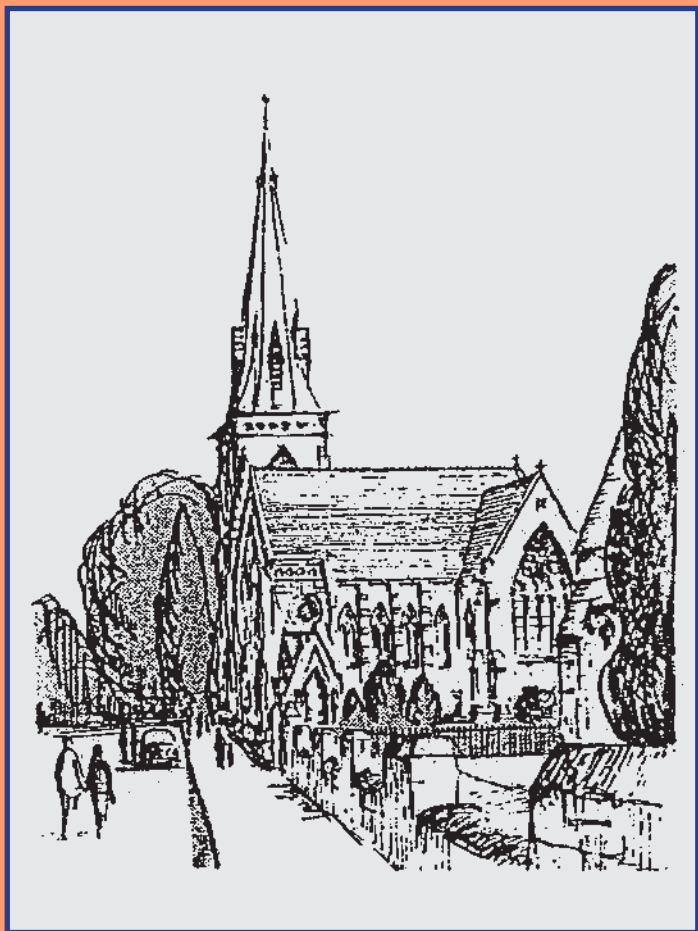




TRINITY TRIANGLE

OCTOBER 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

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e-mail: trinity.abingdon@gmail.com

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

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*Lord, you came so that we might
have life, and have it more
abundantly,
grant us power in our love,
strength in our humility,
purity in our zeal,
kindness in our laughter,
and your peace in our
hearts at all times.
Amen*

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Minister's Letter

For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. (Colossians 1:6)

One of my most memorable experiences as a teacher came each autumn during the harvest assembly. Young children would proudly process to the front clutching a tin or two of baked beans or canned soup, occasionally so close to its expiry date that one wondered whether it was really intended as a gift! With great seriousness and pride, they would add their contributions to a growing collection of groceries, which a chosen class would later deliver to a local care home before the end of the school day.

It is that time of year again, when churches and schools across the UK fill tables and baskets with tins, fruit and vegetables, sing about sowing, reaping and gathering, and give thanks for God's provision. Harvest Festival, with all its beauty and bounty, remains one of the few church traditions that still connects our everyday lives with the land and with God. While most of us no longer work the soil ourselves, many of us still find something deeply meaningful in this annual moment of pause and celebration: a chance to express our gratitude to the One through whom all things come into being; a chance to share with others, and to mark the changing seasons.

As we journey through Creationtide and prepare to celebrate Harvest, the words of Colossians 1:16 offer a helpful reminder: "for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created... all things have been created through him and for him." Creationtide invites us to pause and notice the beauty, wonder and diversity of God's creation. The changing colours of autumn, the abundance of gardens and fields, and the intricate web of life around us, all speak of our Creator's handiwork.

The Colossians passage, alongside the creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2, teaches us that caring for creation is at the heart of Christian discipleship and mission. Creation belongs to Christ, in whom all things hold together and through him all creation continues to be renewed and sustained. Recognising this calls us to respond to God's love and care

with gratitude, responsibility and a renewed commitment to care for the earth and its resources. In the words of Pope Francis, "As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family."

As we celebrate Harvest this year, may our thankfulness deepen our commitment to care for creation and to use its gifts wisely and generously, for the glory of God and the good of our neighbours.

May this season of Creationtide and Harvest renew our sense of wonder, gratitude and responsibility as we seek to care for God's world and share God's gifts with all.

Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love
from leaders and people who struggle and serve
for patience and kindness, that all may be led
to freedom and justice, and all may be fed.

Brian Wren

Every blessing,
Georgina

Trinity Toddlers

Trinity Toddlers is currently undergoing a change of leadership and in September a letter was sent by Georgina to all those involved, which includes the dates for meetings this term. The following is an extract from the letter:

'Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, carers and volunteers who make Trinity Toddlers such a valued part of our church community.

Trinity Toddlers will not be meeting every week this term. We are looking forward to returning to weekly sessions once we are able to appoint a leader.

Trinity Toddlers dates for the rest of this term:

- Thursday 15 October, 9.30am to 11.00am
- Thursday 12 November, 9.30am to 11.00am
- Thursday 10 December, 9.30am to 11.00am

We look forward to welcoming you to the sessions over the coming months.

Georgina'

The Triangle: Printed copies

Thank you to those who have requested printed copies of the Triangle which we hope you have enjoyed. For those who have not yet contributed to this year's costs, this is just a reminder.

We are retaining the price for paper copies for a further year:

10 Black and White copies for £10

10 Coloured copies for £15

If you would like them posted to you, a donation of £9 towards postage (or stamps to use) would be most welcome.

You can send a cheque to the Church Office or pay via BACS at:

Payee: The Trinity Church Abingdon

Sort Code: 40-35-34

Account No: 44211952

Please let the office know if you make a BACS transfer and give as a reference 'Triangle'.



At the last minute Elizabeth and I decided that we should do the Ride and Stride challenge

this year. Elizabeth planned a route from the official list which included several churches in Oxford, as well as calling in at Iffley, Kennington, Radley, Abingdon, Culham, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay.

We set out at 9am on Saturday, she in the lead and me in hot pursuit! Elizabeth had chosen the Sustrans 5 cycle route to get us to Oxford. This was a very pretty way through villages and along the river and we managed to get to our first and very grand destination of Oxford Cathedral shortly before 10am. This was followed by another 14 churches in Oxford. We were always given a friendly welcome when we arrived, and often invited to look around the church. It was very interesting to see how different each one was (and also to have a nose at their noticeboards to see what they had got going on!) Many churches had beautiful stained glass windows, Wesley Memorial Church being one.

Returning home from Oxford we took a detour to Iffley which was a really interesting church again with the most amazing stained glass windows framed by Norman arches. With the light streaming through them the colours were fantastic and I would definitely recommend going to see them if you haven't already.

We headed on to Kennington, up and over the railway track using all our might as we pushed our bicycles up the narrow guttering provided at the side of the stairway. Once in the village we visited two churches before continuing on to Radley. I particularly liked the posters that St Swithun's had lining their walls which were beautifully and colourfully drawn, some were personalised to their congregation. Each one had a bible passage to make the story as you followed them round the church.

We finally got back to Abingdon and signed off the nine churches here, feeling some delight just sitting on the steps of our 'home' church. We made it to our actual home at about 4.30pm. At this point I had to get the kettle on for a much needed cup of tea, but Elizabeth with energy still unspent, cycled away to sign off another four churches.

It was a brilliant day and in the end we saw 32 churches and thoroughly enjoyed visiting each one. We would like to say thank you very much to all those who sponsored and supported us. To date we have made £341.50 which will be split between Oxford Historic Churches Trust and Trinity Church.

Rebecca Brawn



Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Stephen Atkinson
Mon 5th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 7th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 8th	7.30pm	Abingdon Baptist Church: United Prayer Event (see p9)
Fri 9th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Revd Wayne Hawkins
Mon 12th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 14th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 15th	9.30am -11.00am	monthly autumn meeting of Trinity Toddler Group
	2.30pm	Thursday Group: Pauline Main -Talk 'Cities and the Holy City'
Fri 16th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship: led by Graham Luscombe
Mon 19th	5.30pm 2.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts Evergreen: Belinda Kaur – Indian Cooking and talk on Diwali (see p9)
Wed 21st	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Fri 23rd	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Georgina
Mon 26th -30th		HALF TERM No Uniformed Organisation meetings



Sun 1st 10.30am Morning Worship led by Daphne Savage

Deadline for November issue of the Triangle

Friday 23rd October

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

Trinity Evergreen Club - Monday 19th October

We are delighted that Belinda Kaur is coming to demonstrate Indian Cooking and also talk about Diwali. This will be something very different for us all. Refreshments and raffle as usual - and we start at 2.30 pm

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.

Thursday 8 October United Prayer Event

The Church in Abingdon invites you to an evening of worship, prayer and vision, as well as the Church in Abingdon Annual General Meeting, at Abingdon Baptist Church, 7.30 pm.

Settling into the autumn term - we are back from the summer break and settling into the new term with our volunteer training and our new Education Development Officer, Hannah. Many of you may have already met Hannah through some of our TrinityLearning projects or at our Volunteer Celebration in the summer but it's great to have her officially in post as we move forward.

Volunteer training – we are super busy at the moment as we run training and prepare resources for our wonderful in-school volunteers who quietly work throughout the school year on various long term projects. We have already completed our Safeguarding Training session for this year with Hannah and Taz providing the full Oxfordshire County Council School Safeguarding briefing - and plenty of time for questions and biscuits.

Coming up next is our Thinking Books Training with Lisa Lloyd who is a Chartered Psychologist, consultant and coach. While traditionally aimed at our Thinking Books volunteers, this year we are also extending the training to our Kingfisher School Singing Group. The training offers a great overview of key things to consider for anyone working with children and will provide useful guidance and insight for all our in-school volunteers.

The Toolkit for Happiness project and Larkmead's Make A Difference Week: in July, we returned to Larkmead school for their annual Make a Difference week. Nicola and Taz spent five days training and supporting 15 sixth form volunteers to deliver our Toolkit for Happiness - a series of well-being workshops - to approximately 180 Year 7 students.



The week was jampacked as students went out into nature and did lots of physical exercise, including the ever popular skipping. Creativity is also a key part of the workshops and students made some amazing and thoughtful cards and bracelets to give away.



The week ended with reflective and relaxing workshops to help students wind down and reflect on their experiences and learning.

Feedback from the 6th formers during the week was very positive and there was also lots of positive feedback from the Year 7 pupils:

“Mixing the seeds into the clay helped my emotions and improved my mood.”

“Being with friends and doing calm activities really helped my mental health.”

“I like being outside, making things and would like to do it again!”

Hannah will attend Larkmead’s ‘Make A Difference’ celebration week later this month.

‘Thank you so much for a warm welcome as I start my new role. It has been great to get stuck in running the training sessions and meeting all the volunteers properly. I was lucky enough to join Make A Difference week for a couple of days shadowing Nicola and Taz and what an amazing job they did enriching the well-being of the lucky pupils who took part. I especially enjoyed the dances we were taught by the 6th formers!’ Hannah

THANK YOU!

It became apparent early in 2026 that both the Church and the Conduit Centre were suffering from damp, most likely due to problems with displaced and cracked tiles on the roofs, defective lead flashing, blocked drainage hoppers and deterioration of the cast iron guttering which has been in place for nigh on



150 years. In addition, areas of flat roofing to the side and rear of the Conduit Centre had reached the end of their natural lives, with the deterioration having been exacerbated by the untamed growth of many trees within our boundary at Trinity House and on the Abingdon School playing fields.

The newly reconvened Property Committee decided to seek professional advice from multiple roofing specialist firms and a tree surgeon. Their advice was condensed into recommendations for urgent, medium term and long term remedial works. The Trustees then agreed to accept the quotation that best addressed the urgent and medium term work at an affordable price.

An appeal was launched in late June at the Gift Day to raise the necessary funds. Approximately £23,000 was estimated to be required to address the roof and guttering repairs and replacement, the erection of temporary scaffolding and the necessary tree works. Should a surplus of funds be accrued, it was hoped that this could be used to address the internal redecoration and repairs needed as a consequence of the damp.

The Trustees wrote an open letter to all members and regular worshippers, as well as to many of the organisations that regularly use the Church and Hall, appealing for funds. The request was not only in respect of the roofs, but also sought to address the deficit through a review of regular giving.

As is typical of Trinity, when a swift and appropriate response is needed to address a major problem, sufficient funds were received or pledged by the end of August. This has enabled us to engage contractors to start the work before the onset of the winter weather. The project is scheduled to commence on 5 October and is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

Georgina and the Trustees are immensely grateful to each and every person who has contributed to the appeal. Hopefully, by the time this article has been published, all known donors will have received a personalised thank you, but there may be one or two who have made an anonymous gift or slipped through the net unrecognised. THANK YOU!

Unexpectedly, back in the summer, the Trustees were made aware of another amazing act of generosity. An anonymous donor came forward offering to cover the significant cost of new flooring and carpeting for the Church and small kitchen. This is something the Trustees have felt has been needed for some time, but it was not something we could afford to consider at this stage. As a result of this generosity, the work will start on 25 October.

Also at the Gift Day, alongside the launch of the roof appeal, was a request for everyone to consider their regular weekly or monthly giving. A significant number of people increased their giving immediately, and we hope that more will commit to doing so during the autumn. To date, it appears that giving has increased by about 8% compared with this time last year.

We thank God for all these amazing acts of generosity from across the spectrum of the Trinity family.

Neil Oastler on behalf of Georgina and the Trustees

Santiago de Compostela: St Frideswide's Way



Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela: by Carolyn Hawkes

Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia, northwest Spain, is well known as the culmination of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. The pilgrimage began in the early ninth century (between 814-820 AD) following the discovery of a tomb believed to be that of the apostle St James, known as St James the Greater, son of Zebedee, one of the twelve apostles. The beautiful cathedral there was consecrated in 1211 and has welcomed many pilgrims since then.

A pilgrim way, known as St James' Way, was devised to follow a route through the south of England likely to have been taken by medieval pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela i.e. from Reading Abbey via Winchester to Southampton. There they would have taken a boat to Galicia and then followed what is now called the Camino Ingles (English Way) to Compostela. St James Way therefore is a modern-day Camino in the South of England. It is approximately 68.5 miles/110 kilometres long. In 2024, part of the Thames Path National Trail from St Frideswide's shrine in Oxford to Reading was recognised as the latest Camino Ingles, ie routes that pilgrims would have walked in the UK before setting sail for the second part of their journey to reach Santiago de Compostela.

St Frideswide's Way starts from Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford and passes through Abingdon, Wallingford and Dorchester-on-Thames, finishing at St James Catholic Church in the ruins of Reading Abbey. St. Ethelwold's House in East St Helen Street is a recognised stop for pilgrims to have a rest or to pick a stamp for their pilgrim passport. From Reading, pilgrims can take St. James' Way for the next step of their journey.

In December 2016, the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela allowed the City Council of A Coruña (a transit port for medieval pilgrims, 73.7 km from Santiago) to accept distances walked by Santiago-bound pilgrims travelling from overseas. This meant that pilgrims can now combine a Camino in the UK, such as St James' Way, or St Frideswide's way (25km+) with a *Camino Inglés* from A Coruña (75km), collecting stamps as they go in an accredited pilgrim passport, to make up the minimum distance needed (100km) to qualify for a Compostela certificate of pilgrimage from the Santiago Pilgrims' Office. So now walking through Abingdon on this route enables pilgrims to collect official stamps to count towards this goal.

More information on the St Frideswide section of the route can be found on the official [Confraternity of St James website](#).

BEQUESTS

At the Gift Day in June, a number of people asked questions about leaving a legacy to Trinity. The Treasurer, Tom Kyffin, has produced a leaflet which gives information about bequests and answers some frequently asked questions. The Church Office has copies of this leaflet – if you would like one, please email Eluned at trinity.abingdon@gmail.com

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