



TRINITY TRIANGLE

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2020/21



‘Serving God, serving each other, serving community’

TRINITY CHURCH

Methodist/United Reformed/Church in Abingdon

Conduit Road, Abingdon

TRINITY'S WEEK (*Currently suspended*)

Sunday Services at 10.30 am and 6.30pm, occasionally 4.00pm.

JAM (Jesus and Me) normally meets every 1st and 3rd 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	2.00 pm Evergreen Club: 3rd Monday in month. 2.00 pm The Stroke Club: 2nd & 4th Mondays in month. 5.30 pm Beavers 6.45 pm Cubs. 7.15 pm Scouts.
Tuesday	7.30 pm Abingdon Operatic Society.
Wednesday	5.00 pm Brownies. 7.00 pm Guides.
Thursday	9.30 am Toddler Group. 7.30 pm Thursday Group. Ladies' Monthly Meeting.
Friday	10.00 am Prayer Support Group Meeting in the Garden Room.
Monthly	7.30 pm Friendship Group - see calendar.

Conduit Centre, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB

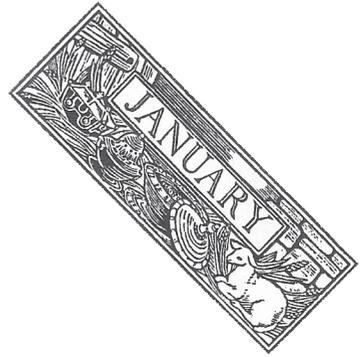
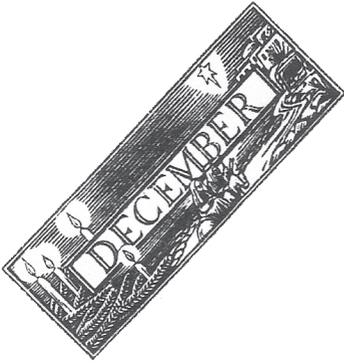
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Love came down at Christmas and that love was seen in Jesus.

May that love be with us now.

Peace came down at Christmas and that peace was seen in Jesus.

May that peace be with us now.

Joy came down at Christmas and that joy was seen in Jesus.

May that joy be with us now.

May love, peace and joy be in our hearts
as we celebrate the coming of God to his people,
in Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Triangle Joint Editors:

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Distribution

Through Church
Office

The editors reserve the right to edit articles.

Trinity Website: www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The Christmas Story is all about journeys: The journey to Bethlehem by Mary and Joseph, the journey to the manger by the Shepherds, the journey of the Magi who brought their gifts. Yet this Christmas we don't yet know whether we will be able to make journeys to our friends and families. This Christmas will feel like none other we have ever known. In recent days, I have been talking about Carol Services, even though we don't think we will be allowed to sing!

Yet it was into this world that Jesus was born. It was into a world and a country where things were not perfect, the reality was gritty and the politics uncomfortable. Into this world, Jesus was born. This world will once again celebrate his birth, retell the story and know the best of all truths, that God is with us. God travels with us as we enter into a new year.

Many of us will be praying for a better new year, but like every new year, we take a moment to remember those precious moments of the year that has passed. We remember the celebrations as well as the difficulties. We remember how God has accompanied us on our journey. We remember how, as a church family we have supported each other despite not being able to worship together as we would like. To be part of God's family has been one of the most amazing things that has never separated our fellowship and friendship.

One of the Advent carols I have always enjoyed singing is 'O come, O come Emmanuel'. This year we have learned in a different way the meaning of Emmanuel - God with us. My prayer as we celebrate Christmas and move into 2021 is that we will continue to celebrate God's choice to be near us in all things. That God will continue to encourage and inspire us, lift us and comfort us. We can be confident that God will be with us now and as we travel into 2021 and join in the adventure of all that God is doing in this part of His world.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rev Ian



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

**The deadline for the February edition is
Sunday 17th January, 2021**

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

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Rosemary and John Richards would like to wish all their friends at Trinity a very happy and peaceful Christmas and our best wishes for a healthy New Year.

Val and Paul Dalby send Christmas greetings to friends at Trinity and wishes for a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year.

‘I wish all my Trinity family a Peaceful Christmas and a Blessed New Year’. With love, Barbara Deakin.

Eve and Malcolm Newton send love and best wishes for a peaceful and blessed Christmas to all at Trinity.

‘I would like to wish my Trinity family a safe and very happy Christmas and new year. I will be giving a donation to charity this year instead of sending Christmas cards.’ Lindsay, David and Ellen’

Esther Hughes send loving greetings and best wishes for a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year to all my dear friends at Trinity and grateful thanks for all your love and friendship over the past year. A donation in lieu of Christmas cards will go as usual to Water Aid

Clare and Trevor send their love and Christmas greetings to the Trinity Family. ‘We shall be sending a donation to the charity Freedom from Torture instead of Christmas cards.’

Doreen and Brian would like to thank friends at Trinity for kindnesses shown during the past year. They wish all their Trinity friends a Peaceful and Blessed Christmas and good wishes for the New Year. They will be making a financial donation to Abingdon Foodbank instead of sending cards this year.

Leif and Petronella send all good wishes for Christmas to Trinity friends. ‘We plan to donate extra support to the Nasio Trust in Kenya this year.’

Neil and Elizabeth Oastler would like to wish all of 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 charity for the homeless.

Ray Chadwick wishes his Trinity friends a Happy Christmas. He will not be sending cards this year, but will, instead, be making a donation to charity.

Eileen Pennington sends love and Christmas Greetings to all her Trinity family.

Douglas and Kate would like to wish all their dear friends at Trinity ‘A Very Happy Christmas’ in spite of the virus. And many Blessings for the New Year.



GO WELL AND SAFELY

On December 6th 1980 the first meeting of **Trinity Evergreen Club** was held in the Church Hall -now The Conduit Centre- with Revd John Dolling, Revd Justine Wyatt, and about fifteen prospective members from Trinity and the neighbourhood present. John and Justine spoke to us about their vision for the club, mince pies and tea were consumed and suggestions for future meetings discussed.

Since that first meeting the Club has grown and flourished, giving a warm and caring welcome to all who have come of whatever faith or none; but always bearing witness to the love of God for all men. In the words of the hymn chosen to show our “reason for being”:-

Christ's is the world in which we move;
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love;
Christ's is the voice that calls us to care,
and Christ is the one who meets us here.

Meetings ended with a simple prayer and The Grace said together by those who wished to do so, One Monday afternoon, we were entertained by two singers who ended their programme with a song, “Go well and safely”, which touched our hearts and we later decided to sing it altogether at the end of every meeting followed by The Grace and have done so ever since. Little did we know that that song would be so relevant to people in the Pandemic World of 2020. It is there in all the goodbyes we say to each other, “Take care, keep well, stay safe.”

So, from Trinity Evergreen Club, on our 40th Birthday, we say to the Church Family, our readers and to all people near and far:-

Go well and safely, Stay well and safely,
The Lord be ever with you

Clare James

Shoebboxes

A very big thank you to the many people who have brought in a great mix of toys, books, warm knitted hats, and generous donations. The donations amount to £153!

What a wonderful response in a year when so few of us have been in church. We wish Rich Parsons a smooth run to deliver the boxes to needy children in Eastern Europe.

Eve Newton

A Tribute to Gordon Smith Grossart

Gordon Smith Grossart was born in Glasgow on 7th December 1923 to a butcher, William Grossart, and his wife Isabella. Life in a 1920's Glasgow tenement was hard, however the Grossart family considered themselves lucky as they were one of the few families with an inside bathroom!

At Primary school Gordon's hard work gained him a scholarship to Allan Glen's Private School. In his final year there he won the engineering prize resulting in him being given one of the latest 'calculators' of the day – a slide rule, which he never got rid of.

Whilst at school Gordon attended the local Plantation Church where he helped with Youth Fellowship, played the organ, and taught in the Sunday School. He became Church treasurer, a Boys' Brigade Officer and Leader in charge of Life Boys. He sang in the choir and was a member of the badminton club. Church was clearly a big part of his life from a young age.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war, at the age of 16, Gordon went to Glasgow University where in just two and a half years he gained a BSc in Electrical Engineering. At University he joined the Senior Training Corps and also had fire-watching duties (in case of enemy invasion) as a member of The Home Guard.

After graduating in 1943 Gordon started his Army training; he was commissioned in November 1943 and until 1947 was attached to the recently formed Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; he was promoted to Captain and spent two years in the UK before sailing to Naples in 1945 from where he travelled around Italy and then Austria, repairing trucks and tanks from mobile workshops.

Captain Grossart was de-mobbed in 1947, and his first civilian job was as an electrical engineer in Glasgow. He reconnected with Plantation Church and soon got involved in all the activities he had enjoyed before the war, and it was when singing with the Youth Fellowship Quartet that he met 16-year-old Betty Brown. Their relationship blossomed, helped by their shared interest in the church; it just so happened that they could meet up there six nights during the week and four times each Sunday!!

Betty and Gordon were married in March 1952 and honeymooned in London – Betty's first ever trip outside Scotland! The following year they finally moved into their own house, in Wishaw, and in June '54 their first daughter - appropriately named June – was born. Two and a half years later, in December 1956, Pauline was born. Gordon continued to be fully involved in the running of The Boy's Brigade, was area secretary for the Life Boys, and was ordained as an elder at Cambusnethan North Church in Wishaw.

In February 1958 Gordon took a job at Harwell and subsequently The Rutherford Laboratory, where he stayed until he retired 30 years later. Gordon moved to Abingdon,



Gordon in his REME uniform

but Betty, June and Pauline did not join him until eight months later. In 1961 they bought their first and only house, in North Avenue, and they joined the Congregational Church, later to unite with Trinity Church. The Church became a very big part of the entire Grossart family's life and Gordon took on numerous roles including Sunday School Superintendent, Church Secretary and Chairman of the Property Committee. He was also a Pastoral Elder and counted the collection money each week for many years. Gordon was always involved in the process of choosing the next minister and he also served on numerous other committees over almost 60 years in the Church!.



Betty and Gordon

In September 1967 Fiona was born, becoming Gordon and Betty's third daughter, and as a family the Grossarts enjoyed numerous holidays, mostly in a caravan to Scotland visiting relatives, but they later ventured across the channel to France and Germany.

After Gordon retired in 1988 he joined the Probus Club and enjoyed regular social activities,

enabling him to keep in touch with old work colleagues and friends for many years. Betty and Gordon enjoyed a few foreign holidays together once their children had grown up, including work trips to Stuttgart and Vienna, as well as more relaxing breaks to Madeira, Cyprus, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Canada before Betty's untimely death in 1996.

After Betty died Gordon took great strength from his faith, and with the support of the church, his many friends and his family he continued to live his life in the way Betty would have wanted. He cooked for himself, which he had rarely done before, even making apple pies and jam. He also showed great courage by continuing his travels alone; he visited relatives in Canada, went on a world cruise, and even took his caravan up to Scotland many times to visit relatives and old friends.

Gordon had the patience of a Saint. Not only did he teach all three of his daughters to drive but he would often persevere for hours to repair a zip, untangle a ball of string or glue a broken piece of china together! Gordon's philosophy was to make do and mend. His grandchildren called him 'Mr Fixit' for very good reason - nothing ever got thrown away, including all things broken, just in case they were needed for a future repair. His garage was testament to this! He would rather repair an old appliance or stick something back together with tape than have to buy new!

Gordon was always very thorough in everything that he did, as evidenced by the cupboards full of church paperwork he left in his house, dating back to at least the early 1960s. A real stalwart of the church, Gordon also became a registrar for weddings; it is quite special and unusual that his signature is on the marriage certificates of his three daughters, all of whom married in Trinity Church.



*Gordon on his motorised scooter
in Abbey Meadows 2019*

Gordon's family all have their own special memories of him, especially the weekends spent together as a family to celebrate his 90th and 95th birthdays, and a chilly weekend spent camping in Cornwall to celebrate Fiona's 50th birthday. Gordon rarely showed or spoke of his feelings; it was obvious to everyone that he loved spending time with his family, and these three gatherings were particularly special to him.

In March last year Gordon travelled to the Scottish Highlands to see his first grandson, David, marry Vesper, and in August this year

he was able to attend the wedding of his third grandson, Robert, who married Alice in a ceremony that had been postponed from April as a result of the pandemic. Gordon was overjoyed to get the chance to meet and cuddle his great-grandson, David and Vesper's son Peter, just after the summer lockdown.

Gordon continued to drive and be very independent at home right up until the beginning of this year. He was particularly good with technology, using his computer for his on-line shopping, to research the family tree and of course to keep a record of his finances!! He enjoyed following family and friends on Facebook and looked forward to the weekly family Zoom sessions during lockdown and beyond.

Gordon was a true inspiration to many; he lived his life with great dignity and honesty and was both a true gentleman and a proud Scot. He never had a bad word to say about anyone and never seemed to get angry about anything. He had a seemingly endless knowledge on an incredibly wide range of topics and always seemed to know the answer to everything. He often reminisced about his past, illustrating his unbelievable memory.

Trinity Church was a huge part of Gordon's life, and he made many good friends there; it was desperately sad that Gordon's church friends and his neighbours were unable to join his immediate family when they celebrated his life at Trinity in November.

His friends, and especially his family, all feel incredibly lucky to have known him. Gordon truly was a very special person, and his family will all miss him terribly. He leaves behind three devoted daughters and their families: June and Charlie Goodchild, their daughter Lizzie and her partner Callum, and their son Rob and his wife Alice; Pauline and John Walker, their sons Andrew and David, his wife Vesper, and their son Peter, and Fiona George, her partner Jay and her children Ellen and Matthew.

Gordon died peacefully on 29th October 2020 in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, following a short illness. The funeral was held at Trinity Church on Tuesday 17th November following the government guidelines with close family only in attendance. Donations can be made if desired – to be shared between Asthma UK and Breast Cancer UK - c/o Edward Carter (FD), 107 South Avenue, Abingdon, OX14 1QS.

Editor note: These pictures were on the Order of Service for Gordon's funeral and are included with the kind permission of his family.



Advent plans!

December is usually a really busy time for TrinityLearning as we welcome many local schools into Trinity Church to perform their Nativity plays and concerts. Although this year is very different, we still want schools to have accessible resources for sharing the Christmas story at school or at home in case of lockdown.

With that in mind TrinityLearning's workshop leader, Taz, has created some short videos telling the Nativity story from the perspective of Mary, the shepherds and the kings.

These versions of the Christmas story have been specially written for children to learn to tell themselves. We have used a method devised by Storytelling Schools where children hear the story, map the story and step the story before finally telling the story themselves. Taz briefly explains the different stages in her videos which are suitable to use with children of all ages. We would like to thank Storytelling Schools for giving us permission to use their method for learning stories in our videos and if you'd like to know more about them the Storytelling Schools website is at <https://storytellingschools.com/>.

In addition to these storytelling videos, Taz has also created some great video and print guides for simple Christmas crafts. These all promote positive ideas such as sharing and giving and can all be made from readily available or recycled household resources. The crafts and stories can all be downloaded from the TrinityLearning website. Please do send us a photo of your craft if you have a go at any. We'd love to make a gallery to display the best!

TrinityLearning's Christmas stories and crafts can be found on our website at <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/christmas-storytelling/>.

TrinityLearning is a registered Charity, number 1182742



An update on our Peaceful Activity Packs



Many of you will remember the trial Peaceful Activity Packs we sent out to children from two local schools back in July. The idea behind the packs was to find simple resources and activities that would support good mental health, were easy to do, and could be done independently by children or together with family members.

The trial packs were well received and the concept behind them formed the basis of our grant bid to the National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund. In mid-October, we were excited to learn that our bid had been successful!



The funds awarded have enabled us to continue and extend the Peaceful Activity Packs to provide three packs each for six children from three local primary schools. In addition to this, we are now also able to provide three packs each to twenty-four

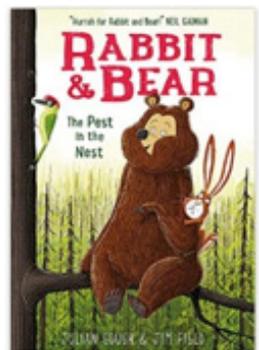
children from Kingfisher School who would usually benefit from regular visits from the TrinityLearning Kingfisher Singing Group.

Recent conversations with headteachers in the area highlighted however that the current need for support and encouragement was still great and it became apparent that schools needed more packs than the lottery funding would cover.

In order to meet these additional demands, TrinityLearning Trustees agreed that some of the donations made regularly and generously to TrinityLearning by St Helen's church could be used to provide additional packs which has allowed us to send out packs to an additional 18 children. In total, TrinityLearning will be sending out three packs each to sixty children.

Singing, sticking and sketching with our new packs

Our second Peaceful Activities Pack, which is currently going out to primary school pupils, is based around an excellent book called 'Rabbit and Bear: The Pest in the Nest' by Julian Gough and Jim Field. This funny story gently explores how being kind and looking at problems from another perspective can help different personalities to live together. The book is beautifully illustrated and the other items in the pack include drawing pencils, a sketchbook, stickers and stencils to help encourage children to have a go at drawing their own animals and plants.



Our first pack for children at Kingfisher school is based around music and provides colourful scarves, bells and shakers to wave and play along with the rhymes and songs



our volunteer Kingfisher Singing group are beginning to video to allow children and their parents to access them from home. These children all have significant needs and limited mobility so the resources are carefully selected to be suitable, and fun for them. More details about the packs are available on our website at <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/>.

Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to The National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund, the UK Government and St Helen's Church for their funding and thank you for all the support we receive from volunteers. All of this enables us to continue to be here for children, their families and local schools throughout Covid19.

If you are interested in volunteering with TrinityLearning we currently have volunteer roles available involving singing, storytelling, craft making and preparation, walk planning and gardening. All of these roles are suitable to do whilst isolating! To find out more please email: nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

TrinityLearning is a registered charity number: 1182742.

Women in the Bible

Answers to the Quiz

1. Eve (Gen 3:20)
2. Rebekah (Gen 27:6-17)
3. Ruth (Ruth 1:22)
4. Naomi (Ruth 1:22)
5. Leah and Rachel (Gen 29:23; 29:28)
6. The Queen of Sheba (I Kings 10:1)
7. Miriam (Exodus 2:4; Exodus 15:20
-Aaron was Moses' brother)
8. Hannah (I Sam:1:20; I Sam 2:19)
9. Esther (Esther 2:17)
10. Deborah (Judges 4:4)
11. Elizabeth (Luke 1:13)
12. Anna (Luke 2:36)
13. Herodias (Matthew 14:3-12)
14. Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2)
15. The Samaritans (John 4:7)
16. The wife of Pilate (Matthew 27:19)
17. Mary the mother of James, Salome,
(Mark 16:1) Joanna (Luke 24:10)
18. Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)
19. Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5)
20. Tabitha (also called Dorcas) (Acts 9:36-37)

The Nasio Trust

‘Changing Lives for Good’

We had a rather exciting ‘Zoom lunch’ this week as a meeting had been arranged direct to Kenya, so we were able to ‘meet’ and hear from leaders of the different Nasio departments directly.

The head of education told how 2020 and the spread of coronavirus and closure of schools impacted the vulnerable children from impoverished families. Nasio has this year been giving the children hands-on skills, and training in health matters, teaching them to face up to life challenges.

The social work department has held sessions on child protection, with home visits tracking child health. Using tippy taps for more regular hand washing, and drying dishes in the sun has already helped reduce water borne diseases.

Peer education at Nasio gives older children the confidence to speak in their communities about the importance of health.

The Nasio tailoring project enables youngsters to learn to sew skirts and dresses - also coronavirus masks- a useful life skill. A bicycle repair group has had 510 customers so far, teaching both practical and negotiation skills.

The leader of children’s education stresses its importance in enabling pupils to follow career paths and to empower them to speak to others freely. She summed up saying, ‘Without education we are nowhere’.

The medical centre teaches the signs and symptoms of coronavirus and how to prevent it, also family planning in the community , prevention of teenage pregnancy. The maternity department has on average 40 births a month, with immunisation for mothers.

The agriculture farm group grow trees in their nursery and vegetables to supply the schools. They grow fish in ponds next to the river and supply milk for the children from their dairy. The children are encouraged to help on the farms, learning skills for independence. The spirulina unit grows this vital protein to supplement the school meals, and to earn money through local sales, educating community members and training volunteers.

The team leading these departments of the Nasio project show great passion and commitment to develop health and education in their community, many of whom are very poor and with no TVs, radios or mobile phones, had never heard of coronavirus. Nasio plans to give all the families of children they support, about 400, a wind-up radio, which does not need electricity, to keep them informed about the disease.

By helping families to grow their own food resulting in better health, by providing adult classes in literacy and numeracy and teaching life skills to young people, Nasio works to break the cycle of poverty for this and the next generation.

Petronella Rasmussen

Autumn 2020 Update Zimbabwe

Bumper butternuts bring essential income

Zimbabwe has seen lockdown restrictions and a reduction in already struggling social services due to the global pandemic. The impact has been most severe on poor communities already struggling with the deteriorating economy and the effects of drought and climate change.

The Christian Aid Zimbabwe programme have been responding by strengthening their water and sanitation work. They have sunk and repaired boreholes to provide essential clean water and supported over 6000 families in growing nutritious vegetables to help with income and food security.

In Chingamuka Village in Mudzi District, 18 households have benefitted from a community garden project. Christian Aid partner Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) have provided training for smallholder farmers.

The training includes business skills, accessing good quality seed, improved crop varieties, profitable vegetable production, soil and water management and good storage of harvested produce.

The village also had help to add solar power to their borehole meaning they no longer have to carry buckets of water over a long distance but use solar panels to pump the water up to the garden.

This year's harvest has provided a better income due to new crops and better watering. The butternut crop has been especially successful as it is very nutritious for families but also fetches a good price at the market.

'This year's crops have provided better income'

One member of the garden group, Mrs Muronda, sold 50kg of butternut squash and earned \$200 which helped a lot with their family needs.

Thank you for your support through Commitment for Life, which has helped families to have food and income security through lockdown.

Note: This is the URC's global justice programme to which Trinity contributes each year.

Prayer for Zimbabwe

Lord God, in pursuit of justice, freedom and civil liberties, we pray for the leadership of Zimbabwe. Give them wisdom, vision and a desire for justice. We bring before you men and women serving prison sentences for crimes they did not commit. Men, women, and children struggling to put food on their tables as all their means of survival have been thwarted. Lord, we pray for the eroding economy of this land. Weed out all corrupt elements to prepare for the kind of governance that you desire. We pray for those risking their lives crossing borders in search of greener pastures elsewhere, which for some remain a 'pie in the sky' even when they get there. We bring before you those dying in hospitals or at home with no access to drugs or better facilities. We do not forget those sacrificing their own lives for the sake of others - doctors, nurses, teachers and all other civil servants fighting for the good of all. You are a good God and you hear the prayers of your people. Hear us Lord and come and heal Zimbabwe. Amen

Wilbert Sayimani



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>. At present, there are four case-studies, but others may be added later.

Ruth Dams

A Christmas Quotation From Scrooge's nephew:

There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, I dare say,' returned the nephew, 'Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round - apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that - as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it.'

A Christmas Carol: Charles Dickens

A Bible Quiz for Children -and grandchildren!

Old Testament

1. What is the name of the first book in the Bible?
2. In the story of the Creation of the world in six days, what was the last of God's creations before he rested on the 7th day?
3. Who built an ark to escape flood waters?
4. Who was given a coat of many colours (or 'a long robe with sleeves')?
5. To whom did God give the 10 Commandments?
6. Which city did Joshua capture after the walls fell down when the trumpets were blown?
7. Samson, a Judge who ruled Israel, had one great quality for which he was well known - what was it?
8. Which book in the Bible is full of poetry and hymns to God (it includes the lines, 'The Lord is my Shepherd')?
9. Which animal is connected with the Prophet Jonah?
10. Who was put into a lions' den?

New Testament- the Gospels

11. What was the name of the angel who came to Mary to tell her she was going to have a child?
12. Where was Jesus born?
13. What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?
14. Four of the disciples of Jesus were fishermen. Can you name two of them?
15. What was the job of Zacchaeus who climbed a tree to see Jesus?
16. Five thousand people followed Jesus all day and were hungry. What food did a boy bring to Jesus to give them?
17. Jesus told a story about an injured man who was not helped by a priest or a Levite. Who stopped to help the injured man?
18. What did Jesus do for the 12 year old daughter of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue?
19. What did Jesus share with his disciples at the Last Supper?
20. Jesus said, 'I am the.....of the world?'

The answers to this Quiz can be found on page 22

CiA News

Christmas hampers for those alone at Christmas

Due to COVID, it is not possible to organise our usual Christmas day meal and celebration at PCC for people across Abingdon on their own – our first Christmas day lunch was back in 2013. 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. We will also make contact with other organisations in the town (such as Foodbank and GPs surgeries) and ask for referrals.

This is not an evangelism event. We are called to love our neighbours and see this project as a form of service to our community. We are following appropriate safeguarding and health and safety guidelines. Peachcroft Christian Centre (PCC) is the operating name of the charitable company The Church in Abingdon Development Trust Limited (Company number 1497393; Charity number 280719).

We are hoping to fund 80 hampers at £25/hamper. If we do not reach our target funds (£2,000), we will look to reduce the amount spent on each hamper or the number of people we can offer hampers to. If we get funds in excess of the cost of the project, we will pass funds on to The Abingdon Foodbank or The Abingdon Bridge. If you would like to support us by making a grant or have any questions please contact Stephanie by emailing stephanie.ouzman@peachcroftcc.org.

Carol on your doorstep: To celebrate Christmas together – socially distanced - join in with your community and sing the carol 'Silent Night' from your own doorstep on Thursday 17 December 2020 at 8 pm. Abingdon Town Council are supporting this event.

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth



Abingdon Food Bank

Trussell Trust: We are getting a huge amount of support both locally and nationally for the Abingdon Food Bank, and are so grateful for the contributions from the local churches and greatly appreciate everyone's support at this time. We have seen a huge increase in demand for the Food bank, but the supply has increased dramatically, so we are in an excellent position to give all the support that is needed.

The following link takes you to some information from the Trussell Trust regarding the national food bank situation - www.trusselltrust.org/get-involved/church-support - with updated news for churches.

Cake and Conversation

This friendly, informal group for those whose first language is not English is continuing to meet virtually through Zoom on Wednesday mornings. For further information, contact Angela Waterhouse on 01235 532296 or Anne Dodd on 01235 525997 or email abingdoncakeandconversation@gmail.com.

Note: The CiA Newsletter will not be published again until the Spring, so information on activities and online worship has been included here. Information on churches re-opening when possible will be available from the individual church websites.

Abbey Baptist Church

Abbey Baptist Church will be streaming Sunday morning services on YouTube. For further information, see the website <https://www.abbey-baptist-church.org.uk/>.

Abingdon Baptist Church

Abingdon Baptist Church will be live streaming on both our facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/watch/150064391721929/> - and our YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJC53RxYD8m0v-wNi1a03TA>. Join us live and add comments during the stream so we can see them during the service, especially requests for prayer.

Launch and Dynamite activities for our children and young people are available each week - see <https://www.abingdonbaptist.org.uk/events/familychurchathome/> for details.

There is also an archive of sermons, by topic, book of the Bible, date, series and speaker, available on our website – <https://www.abingdonbaptist.org.uk/sermon-archive/>.

Abingdon Vineyard Church

All meetings including Sunday mornings, Baby and Toddler Group and Youth Clubs have been suspended, but we send out a Sunday message via email and our Facebook Community page. There is an online service at 10.30 am on Sunday mornings, which can be viewed on our YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgCbfmG5oSIRIshR5q6cb5w>.

Small groups are running online via Zoom. We are also running an Alpha course online. If you would like any information about our groups/emails, please contact us through the contact page on our website - <https://www.abingdonvineyard.org.uk>.

The South Abingdon satellite of the Abingdon Emergency Foodbank continues to be open on Wednesdays between 1 and 2.30 pm.

All Saints Methodist Church

There will be no church-based acts of worship in All Saints for the next 4 weeks. Worship, and Junior Church, material and links to other resources will be available on the website (by Saturday each week), and from Circuit. The church will not be open for private prayer. All Saints: <https://www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk/newletters/>
Circuit: Videos of services: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpMj71hDzpMhVj6t_ZQt0w/videos Other resources: <https://www.wantab.org.uk>

Christ Church

Services include a children's and families video at 10 am and live streamed Sunday services at 10.30 am and 6.30 pm. Full details can be found on our websites: <https://www.cca.uk.net/> and <https://www.longfurlongchurch.org.uk>. Christ Church is currently not open for private prayer.

Food Bank continues to be open Tuesday and Friday at Northcourt Road between 11 am and 1 pm. There is a great team of volunteers but food donations are still very much needed – see <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk> for details.

Our Lady and St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church

Sunday Live Stream will take place at 10.15 am. The church is open for Private Prayer: Tuesday 12-1 pm; Thursday 7.30-8.30 am; and Friday 12-1 pm. For full details, see our website <https://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/>.

Peachcroft Christian Centre

Sunday Worship is available on our YouTube channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_ImikBOKezdRI3lpsmbk6A/

A playlist is made available by 9.15 am which allows you to watch the service at 10.00 am or at a time that suits you. A families video is available as an alternative to the main talk.

Online small groups meet after the service and midweek for fellowship, Bible study and prayer, using video conferencing. If you would like to join, email secretary@peachcroftcc.org.

Bible verses, music and a variety of other aids to worship and prayer are sent out regularly via our WhatsApp group and Daily Digest email. A weekly email is also sent to families with children with ideas and thoughts, and useful links to articles, videos and advice. To join any of these, please email your mobile number to secretary@peachcroftcc.org.

For more Information go to our website - <http://peachcroftcc.org/>.

Quakers

Abingdon Quakers are holding virtual meetings for worship on the Zoom platform at our normal time: Sundays 10.15 - 11:15 am, followed by virtual coffee and tea. All are welcome. If you would like to join us, please email Zoom@abingdonquakers.org.uk for log-in details.

St Helen's, St Michael's, St Nicolas'

Services are suspended until further notice. A recorded Sunday Eucharistic service will be available on the Parish website -

http://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html.

- ◆ St Nicolas' will be open for private prayer on Mondays from 10 am to 1 pm.
- ◆ St Michael's will be open for private prayer on Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm.
- ◆ St Helen's Church will not be open until further notice.

Resources and links to online resources are available on the church websites:

Trinity Church

There will be no church-based acts of worship in Trinity for the next 4 weeks. Worship, and Junior Church, material and links to other resources will be available on the website (by Saturday each week), and from Circuit. The church will not be open for private prayer.

Trinity: <https://trinityabingdon.org.uk/wordpress/>

Circuit: Videos of services: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpMj71hDzpMhVj6t_ZQt0w/videos

Other resources: <https://www.wantab.org.uk>

- <https://www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk/>

- <http://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/>

- http://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html

THE GATE OF THE YEAR

‘God Knows’

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

This is part of a poem by Minnie Haskins (1875-1957). It was a favourite of the Queen Mother and was quoted by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas broadcast.

A prayer for Epiphany

Lord, wise men from distant lands visited you as a child. We thank you that people from every part of the world can share your love.

You received gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. We thank you that you are always glad to receive the gifts your people bring: the gifts of love and service, the gifts of caring and compassion, the gift of work well done.

Receive us today with our gift of thanksgiving for the happiness that Christmas brings; our thanksgiving for the promise of this season that you are among us, sharing in our festival; our thanksgiving that Christmas, your coming to the world, is not for one day only but for every day of the year. Amen.

Answers to the Children's Quiz

Old Testament

1. Genesis
2. Man and woman/human beings/living creatures (Genesis 1:24-27)
3. Noah (Genesis 6:13-14)
4. Joseph (Genesis 37:3)
5. Moses or the people of Israel (Exodus 34:29; Deuteronomy 5:1-4)
6. Jericho (Joshua 6)
7. His strength (Judges 15:14, 16:17 16:28-30)
8. Psalms
9. A whale/ a great fish (Jonah 1:17)
10. Daniel (Daniel 6:15-23)

New Testament -the Gospels

11. Gabriel (Luke 1:26)
12. Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1)
13. Gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11)
14. Peter, Andrew, James and John (Mark 1: 16, 19)
15. A tax collector (Luke 19:2)
16. (5) loaves and (2) fish (John 6:9)
17. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:33)
18. Jesus raised her from the dead (Mark 5:41-42)
19. Bread and wine (Mark 14:22-25)
20. Light (John 8:12)



The Work of Christmas Begins

When the carols have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree is taken down,
When family and friends are gone home,
When we are back to our schedules

The work of Christmas begins:

To welcome the refugee,
To heal a broken planet,
To feed the hungry,
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace for all people,
To bring Christ's light to the world.

- by Michael Dougherty, a variation on Howard Thurman's
'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled'





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