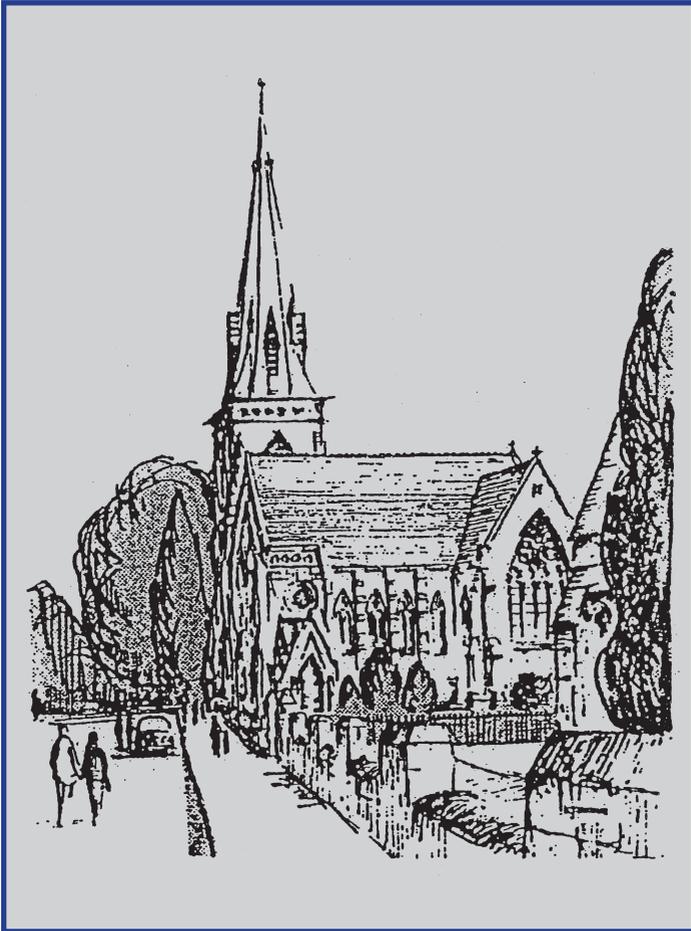
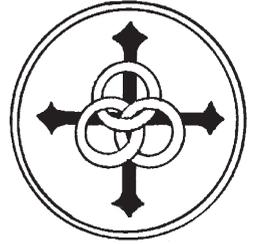


TRINITY TRIANGLE

SEPTEMBER 2020



'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.

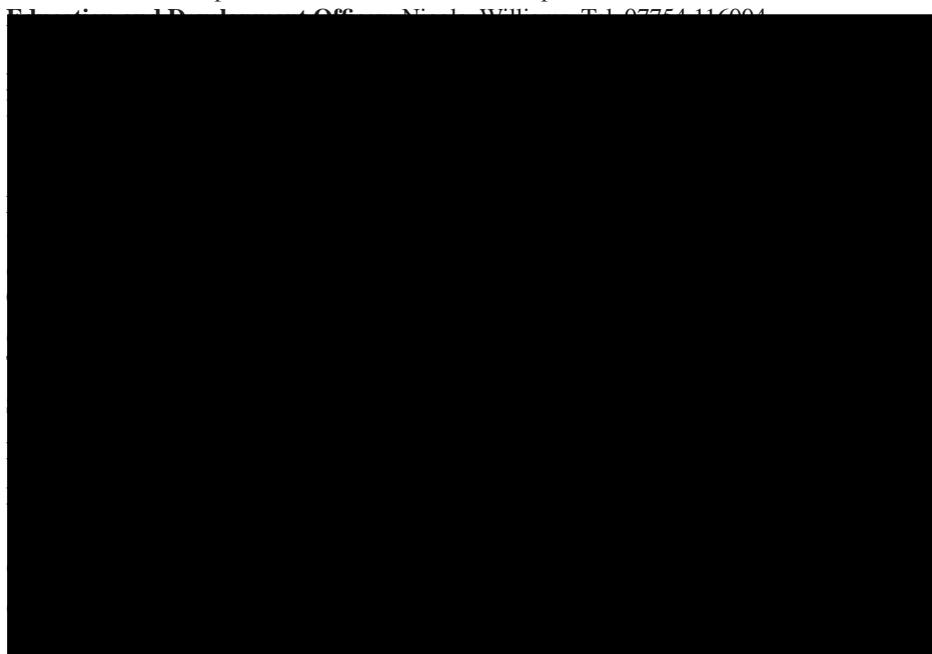
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Office open : Thurs and Fri 9.30am -4.30pm. Closed Mon, Tues, Wed

Edmund Hallas, Church Office, 11, Wellington Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DB. Tel: 07754 116004



Tel. 534900



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*Almighty God, Creator:
The morning is yours, rising into fullness.
The summer is yours, dipping into autumn.
Eternity is yours, dipping into time.
The vibrant grasses, the scent of flowers,
The lichen on the rocks, the tang of sea-weed,
All are yours.
Gladly we live in this garden of your creating.*

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Carolyn Hawkes, Gloria Sandford.

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Office

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Trinity Website: www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

In more usual times August is a month when I spend some time reflecting on the last year, trying to identify priorities for the year that lies ahead as well as identifying planning needs etc. This year, it has been different, with lots of time spent on advice and guidance about what is or is not permitted during the Covid pandemic, and asking questions like “Can we and indeed should we try reopening churches for worship? What needs to be in place?” and all those kinds of things.

I am very grateful that Trinity has a wonderful group of Trustees who are able to look at these things in detail, do the required Risk Assessments etc. We have also been looking at church finances and will continue to do so. Your commitment to Trinity Church, its mission and its ministry is amazing. Not to forget the exceptional ways that everyone has been caring for each other over these strange months of lockdown.

Please continue to keep the Trustees in your prayers as they seek to fulfil their responsibilities faithfully and well in times when the advice appears to change by the day. It is a challenging time to be in positions of responsibility and leadership in the Church.

Still, we look to the future in the confidence that God has not stopped calling us, not stopped loving us, not stopped longing for us to deepen our relationship with Him. And none of that has been affected by a virus or lockdown!

Often people say things like “when we get back to normal ...” which is in part longing for the restrictions of Covid to be relaxed and in part wanting to go back to how it was before lockdown. Yet I cannot help but think that those who are wondering what the ‘new normal’ may be are closer to the mark. There is no doubt in my mind that there will be a ‘new normal’. People have learned how to do things differently and however much we want to get back to seeing people properly and having the human contact in the way that God designed us to live, it will not be the same. Yet this should not be any surprise to us, life and society has always moved on. Things have always changed.

I heard someone say recently - almost in jest - that “I’m not sure I’ll have time for Church on Sunday when it starts back again! I’m so busy online, I visit X church and then Y church and catch up with so many people.” She then said, “well of course I will go back”. It has been fascinating to hear just how many people have found so many different ways of worshipping God. It reminds us that God’s church is global in its reach and diverse in its traditions and styles. What has been even more encouraging is to read about churches whose congregations have increased substantially because they offered things online. It is something we will need to look at. But the really encouraging thing about it as far as the researchers can tell, is that many of those connecting online are not just people from different churches shopping around, but that there are lots of people searching for, or wanting to explore, spirituality.

Will we get back to normal? Yes, or at least something like it, when it is deemed safe for us to do so. What will the ‘new normal’ look like? In truth no one is sure. But I am sure that we are entering into a new chapter where mission and ministry will be exercised in more ways than before. This might be a little unsettling for some and an exciting prospect for others. However we feel about it, we are called by God to share the Good News of Jesus and bring people to an awareness that they are loved by God. I am thankful that we worship a God who is full of wisdom and I pray that God will pour out his wisdom on us that we may engage creatively however this new normal begins to emerge.

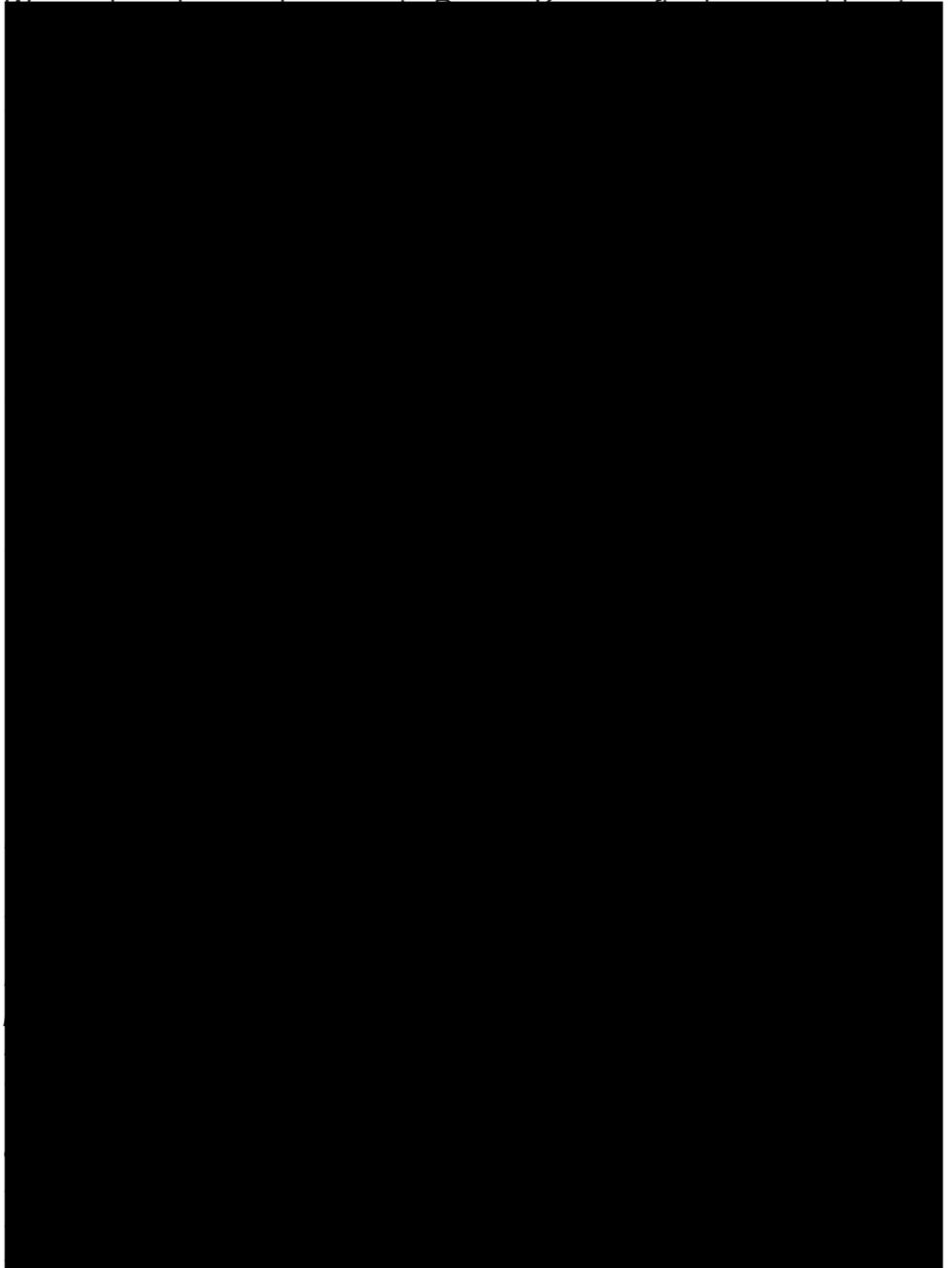
I am looking forward to leading worship in Church again and pray that God will continue to sustain us all during these uncertain times.

Wishing you all Every Blessing

Rev Ian

*For the inner spirit of power that lifts us when we are down;
For the inner spirit of delight that restores joy in sadness;
For the inner spirit of light that dispels darkness;
For the inner spirit of truth that pierces ignorance;
For the inner spirit of love that conquers prejudice;
We give thanks to the Spirit of God, source of all that is good.*

Church Family News



Open letter to GCSE Class of 2020 - You are all so much more than a grade!



Whatever tomorrow brings for you when you open that envelope, please remember, this year has been tough for so many reasons and you all need to know that you all are so much more than a GCSE grade.

The year 11 class of 2020 ended their physical term with no goodbyes or celebrations, no leavers mass, no prize giving, no scholars concert, no summer concert, no prom, no leavers day, no goodbyes to GCSE teachers or classmates leaving year 11.

You are so much more than a grade – why? You have learnt so much more through this pandemic, you have learnt new words like furlough, zoom and teams, you have risen to the challenge on online lessons and learning, you have dealt with loss on a huge scale, you have shown kindness to neighbours and your local communities, resilience to the almost daily changes, accepted change and restrictions to the freedom you yearn, kept a sense of humour, shown compassion, spent 24/7 time with family, siblings and in some cases grandparents and extended family, you have zoomed, whatsapp'd and instagrammed friends for some normality and keep connected, enjoyed zoom quizzes, walks with the dog, baked and cooked, read books, watch tv series, boxed sets and films, relearning the importance of simple pleasures. **Yes, you are all so much more than a grade, be proud and passionate about your next chapter, you most certainly deserve it. You are bright, beautiful and our future.** Well done Class of 2020, you are all stars.

A Blackbird

Alone upon the leafless bough a blackbird sang a song
The sky was grey and wintry but his note was sweet and strong.

No company, encouragement or coaxing did he need,
No cue, no audience to applaud, no prompting and no lead.

Alone he sang for pure delight and as I listened there,
There came the thought that love too sings where all is bleak and bare -
It's nature to express in face of malice and distrust.
Love, unprompted, gives itself and sings because it must.....
Meeting the unspoken need with clarity and grace.....
Like the bird that sings impromptu in a lonely place.

Patience Strong

Harvest Sunday

We are still hoping to celebrate Harvest in church on October 18th. Some time ago, I asked people for their preferred destination for our Harvest Gifts. The majority of those who replied opted to continue taking the gifts to Asylum Welcome in Oxford. These food donations enable Asylum Welcome to provide a weekly food bag for asylum seekers in urgent need.

This is only a small part of the help given by Asylum Welcome to those who have been so unsafe in their own countries that they have made their way to Britain and arrived in the neighbourhood of Oxford. These extracts from a letter from the Director of Asylum Welcome give some idea of how the organisation is presently giving help.

“Having kept emergency services running through lockdown, we have been steadily restoring most of our full range of services. Our office never really closed; staff and volunteers used it to handle the most urgent cases, arrange housing for people without shelter, make hardship payments and extend the food bank deliveries. But it still felt like a big step forward when we were able to properly reopen to clients early in July, offer consultations, advice and language classes. Our youth services have adapted and are doing as much as possible outside through the summer, bikes are being repaired and distributed, residence advice being given to vulnerable migrants needing to regularise their status after the UK leaves the EU and help with access to education and healthcare.”

There is a lot more information on their web-site www.asylum-welcome.org

In the present uncertain circumstances, we do not know for sure whether and how we shall meet on October 18th. Also, there may be people who, though wanting to give thanks for Harvest, still are unable to take the risk of meeting with others. So we need to consider how donations in kind can be made, and whether and how financial donations can be given instead. The weekly notice sheet will provide further information nearer to the time of Harvest.

The items most needed are these:-

Cooking oil (1 litre), UHT milk, Sugar (1kg), toiletries, washing powder, spaghetti, pasta, basmati rice, coffee, tea. The following tinned items - fish in oil, chickpeas, tomatoes, fruit, sweet corn, vegetables.

I do not need to remind you that the items should have a long use-by date.

I hope to see you on October 18th and that you are keeping well in health and spirits.

Ruth Dams

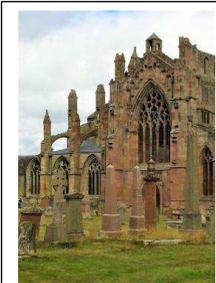
ANSWERS TO JUNE QUIZ: Kings in the Old Testament

1. Who was the King of Salem? **Melchizedek**
2. Who was the first King of Israel? **Saul**
3. Which king planned the building of the first Temple in Jerusalem? **David**
4. Which King of Tyre sent timber to help Solomon build the Temple in Jerusalem? **Hiram**
5. Which King died in the year that Isaiah had his famous vision in which he was called to be a prophet? **Uzziah**
6. Which Assyrian king, according to Byron, 'came down like a wolf on the fold'? **Sennacherib**
7. Which Babylonian king gave a great feast in which people saw 'the writing on the wall'? **Belshazzar**
8. It was said of this king that he drove 'furiously'. **Jehu**
9. To which 'good' king, according to the book of Isaiah, did God grant another 15 years of life in answer to his prayers during a serious illness? **Hezekiah**
10. Which Babylonian king ordered three Jews to be thrown into a fiery furnace? **Nebuchadnezzar**
11. Which king burned a scroll of Jeremiah's prophecy? **Jehoiakim**
12. Which king, who, according to the Chronicler, 'did what was right in the eyes of the Lord' was killed in battle against the king of Egypt at Megiddo? **Josiah**
13. Which Persian king ordered the return of the Jews to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon? **Cyrus the Great**
14. Who coveted Naboth's Vineyard and was told off by the prophet Elijah? **King Ahab**
15. Who was the last King of Judah whose reign ended with the fall of Jerusalem? **Zedekiah.**

Refs: Genesis 14v18, I Samuel 10v1, I Chronicles 28v11, I Kings 5v10, Isaiah 6v1, Isaiah 36v1, Daniel 5v5, II Kings 9v20, Isaiah 38v5, Daniel 3v20, Jeremiah 36v23, II Kings 23v29, Ezra 1v1-4, I Kings 21v4, II Kings 24v18-20.

St Cuthbert's Way Pilgrimage.

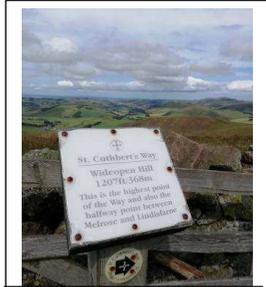
We are all pilgrims, searching for God in our lives. In recent years I have had the privilege of joining the URC Northern Synod annual pilgrimage, led by the Moderator, Dave Herbert. As this year's pilgrimage did not happen, I have been enjoying re-living last year's, in which we followed St Cuthbert's Way over the course of 6 days. It is 62 miles from Melrose Abbey, where Cuthbert trained as a monk from boyhood, to Lindisfarne Priory where he was sent, initially as a teacher to train the monks. After years living on Inner Farne as a hermit, he was called to become the Bishop of Lindisfarne. Carolyn Hawkes



From Melrose Abbey



.. over the Eildon Hills...



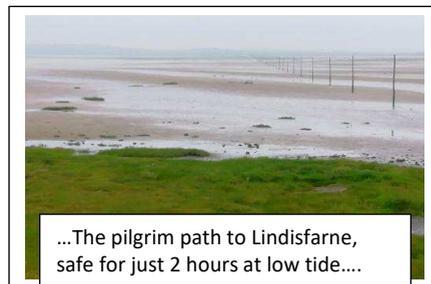
...still in Scotland...



..over the border into the Cheviots...



...descending towards Wooler...



...The pilgrim path to Lindisfarne, safe for just 2 hours at low tide....



...Lindisfarne, Holy Island arrival.

A Pilgrim Prayer (Day six, Fenwick to Holy Island 7 miles)

I glimpsed you from afar,
through mist and rain,
your strong walls standing
above silvered pools
of a withdrawing tide.

There, on Mons Gaudi,
my heart rejoiced,
and my body was glad

to see the longed for
Journey's end and heart's desire,
to see it and know it as Home.

I would walk
on my knees
these last miles;
each advance a prayer.

I would close my eyes
and navigate by inner sense,
as a swallow makes its way
north over the Sahara,
and a puffin south
from the Atlantic
to its North Sea nest.

I would let the song
of my soul guide me,
my deepest desire
mapping the way.

So the longing
for heaven on earth
guides us day by day.

So glimpses of kindness,
the best of who we can be,
shine a light on the path.

So the strong hands
and generous hearts
of companions make short,
make joyful, the journey.

Carla A Grosch-Miller, from The Way of St Cuthbert - poems and prayers, 'Lifelines', 2020.

With kind permission of the Canterbury Press.

Shopping Lists – and how to grab a slot!!

“I like it with Fish Fingers”

“I like it with Beef Burgers”

“Darling – you can’t have a BBQ without it”

The Cooks were having an in depth discussion on the merits of what we, in our house, call, Tommy K. Perhaps better known to you as Tomato Ketchup.

We were off to Nigeria. The Wills had been written. Guardians had been organised to look after the children in the event of our deaths. Who would have my engagement ring had been decided.

Now all that was left was The Shopping List. When you are “advised” to take enough long life food to provide one meal a day for two years – one’s mind boggles. At least mine did. It does rather put The Tesco Weekly Delivery Slot into perspective.

The final worrying detail was that the Ministry of Defence were offering to pay us money in advance!!!! In all John’s 30 years of service in the Army from Private to Colonel – this was unprecedented.

The NAAFI (younger readers please google) offered to ship the food out for us. So we were sent an enormous parcel of A3 paper – 4 inches in depth - that had come from a word processor which detailed all the food that the NAAFI stocked. They were prepared to send on our behalf complete boxes of goods in packing cases to Nigeria.

Do you remember Surprise Peas, Angel Delight, Nestle Cream, Vesta packet meals?

All of these we could have, provided we ordered a “Box of”.

Tins of tuna came in boxes of 48 – so how many would we need? Pink Salmon, Red Salmon, Peaches, Pears, Corned Beef, Steak and Kidney Pies, Cereals, Flour, Dried fruit. Tins of apples only came in catering size – did I want 7 tins.

John, having served in both Singapore and Oman, knew all about our bathroom requirements: Johnson’s baby lotion, powder, soap and shampoo and how many loo rolls?

Did we really need a carton containing 48 bottles of Tommy K – that is THE question facing the Cooks.

This left me with the task of buying food that we would have to pack ourselves. Packet mixes, condiments, Tommy K, but not 48 bottles, and so on.

You won't be surprised to learn that over 30 crates were shipped out. In our house, there was an enormous store room where all the booty was placed. At times when the local supermarket had no food on the shelves at all, we were very glad of our store room of goodies.

Powdered milk was used and from that we could make fresh cream if we could buy butter. Do you remember hand operated Cream Makers? If anyone went to UK they always brought back a pot of natural yoghurt, which was then dispensed around "the Patch" and from which we could make our own yoghurt with the aid of a thermos flask. I even made cottage cheese with the aid of some muslin.

We could always buy some fruit and veg at the local stalls at the side of the road. Instead of buying one lettuce you would buy 5 or 6 as each lettuce comprised about 4 leaves each. And eggs – they were a godsend. As you might have read in the previous articles we could buy meat (of a kind) at the central market.

John and I were particularly fortunate to be asked by some missionaries to go to their Rest Home. This was situated in The Plateau State. The name is a clue to its location. The Rest Home served missionaries from many countries in West Africa. Very few secular people were invited. There was a central Reception/ Dining/ Recreational Area with small bungalows dotted around the site. Somehow I imagined that it was based on what used to happen in India when missionaries, during the height of the summer, went up to the Highlands.

Whenever we travelled to/ from UK the Military insisted we had to stay overnight in Kano before catching/ meeting the plane, and were only allowed to travel during daylight hours. This was because the road that we had to use was so dangerous, due to the number of fires, explosions and accidents that occurred daily. So accommodation was provided at a 5 star hotel in Kano. Suffice to say that it wasn't just us who enjoyed the accommodation, but the nits and bed lice as well. The Rest Home was far superior to the hotel.

The Managers of the Rest Home visited us in the UK and we kept in touch with its Site Manager until he died in retirement in America.

Tricia Cook





QUIZ: Collective Names of Birds

We have enjoyed seeing and hearing birds over the last few months. Which of each of the following describes a group of the birds in the table below?

Example: - **A FLIGHT** of DOVES

**A PRAYER, A CONGREGATION, A FLOCK, A CRECHE,
A CONVOCATION, A CHIME, A CAROL, AN EXULTATION,
A WISDOM, A CONSOLATION.**

1. of ROBINS	6. of SEAGULLS
2. of OWLS	7. of SKYLARKS
3. of FIELDFARES	8. of PLOVERS
4. of WRENS	9. of GODWITS
5. of EAGLES	10. of PENGUINS

(Answers in the October Triangle)

Nature on your doorstep – TrinityLearning's Wildlife Safari Walks

July saw the launch of our new TrinityLearning Wildlife Safari Walks, designed to give children and parents the opportunity to investigate nature in their local areas.

To create our first Wildlife Safari Walk, Taz Round, TrinityLearning's Workshop Leader, went to explore the wide variety of trees, leaves, flowers, insects and wild-life in Albert Park in Abingdon. Taking photos as she went round and plotting these onto a map with additional information about each photo, we were able to create a Wildlife Safari Walk for the park which families can follow.

Taz explains, "We hope that families will be able to walk, talk and have fun spotting the different aspects of nature in their local area whilst being out in the fresh air".

Creating Wildlife Safari Walks is an activity that we hope Trinity Learning volunteers can get involved in by taking photographs in order as they walk round other local areas, suggesting good areas for us to walk or sending us lists of birds or other wildlife spotted in local areas.

You can take a look at our Albert Park Wildlife Safari Walk by visiting our website www.trinitylearning.org.uk

Meanwhile, if you have suggestions or ideas for other local Wildlife Safari Walks, we would love to hear from you via trinitylearning@gmail.com

TrinityLearning is very grateful for the generous support it receives from Trinity Church which makes projects like this possible.

(I have included the map and photos on the following two pages so that those of us able to walk around Albert Park can enjoy this TrinityLearning Wildlife Walk. Ed)



<p>1. South Gate</p>  <p>Our walk starts and ends at the South gate. Go through the gate and turn right.</p>	<p>2. Monkey Puzzle Tree</p>  <p>These are from Chile and Western Argentina in South America. Trees like this grew in dinosaur times!</p>	<p>3. Dandelion</p>  <p>Dandelions are great for pollinators so you might see bees, hoverflies or butterflies near them.</p>	<p>4. Laurel</p>  <p>Laurel are repeated several times in the park. You can see plain and variegated (spotted leaf) versions.</p>
<p>5. Birch Tree</p>  <p>We loved the stripy bark on this tree.</p>	<p>6. Blackbird nest box.</p>  <p>Blackbirds nest 3 to 4 times a year so you may see a new group of chicks. Male blackbirds have orange beaks and females have brown beaks. The babies make a beeping noise and the parents click to distract predators.</p>	<p>7.Green Alkanet</p>  <p>Bees like these flowers.</p>	<p>8.Yew</p>  <p>Very poisonous to humans and other mammals (so keep any pets away!). Yew is great for birds!</p>
<p>9. Giant Red Wood</p>  <p>The tallest trees in the world are Giant Red Wood trees. They are from California and can grow 50 to 80 m tall!</p>	<p>10. Feverfew</p>  <p>Feverfew is great for pollinators!</p>	<p>11.</p>  <p>We thought this tree trunk looked like an elephant's foot!</p>	<p>12 Buddleia.</p>  <p>This kind comes from China and Japan. Butterflies love them!</p>
<p>13. Holly</p>  <p>Caterpillars and spider mites can sometimes be found on prickly holly bushes.</p>	<p>14. Rose</p>  <p>Pollinators love these roses! The hips (rose fruit) make great food for birds too!</p> 	<p>15. Monterey Pine</p>  <p>This tree is originally from California and Mexico.</p>	<p>16. Beech?</p>  <p>We think this could be a beech tree. Grey squirrels often collect food near these large trees.</p>
<p>Common Pollinators - these spread pollen so plants can make new seeds. Look out for them!</p>			
<p>Hover fly</p>  <p>These hover in the air like helicopters. They are stripy like wasps but do not sting!</p>	<p>Bees</p>  <p>There are lots of different kinds of bee. They are all great pollinators and won't sting if you don't touch them.</p>	<p>Butterflies</p>  <p>This is a gatekeeper butterfly. There are loads of different kinds of butterfly.</p>	<p>If you enjoyed this walk, Wildlife Watch do some lovely spotters guides! We liked: Butterfly Detective & Beetle Detective. Friends of the Earth also do a lovely bee identification sheet</p>

The Clothing and Footwear of the Brothers

If the pandemic has meant we are rethinking our need for lots of clothes, we may like to be guided by the Rule of St Benedict (“A little book for beginners in the monastic life”):

Clothing is distributed by the Abbot according to the local climate: Each brother would receive 2 woollen cowls and tunics in winter, but two thinner (or almost worn out) ones in summer. Two each were needed as the monks wore them in bed also. They were given a belt and a knife. (The knife was to be removed from the belt at night in case it cut into the body while the monk slept...) Each was given a scapular to wear around his neck, a pair of sandals plus a pair of shoes. Each was also given a mat to sleep on, a woollen blanket and a lightweight sheet plus a pillow. Each was supplied with a handkerchief, a needle and thread plus a writing tablet and stylus. The Abbot regularly inspected each bed to check no private possessions were there. If any such were found the monk would be very severely punished.

The brothers were not allowed to complain about the coarseness or colour of their dress, but allowance was made for the stature of each, so their clothes were neither too long nor too short.

(If it has crossed your mind to wonder about underwear...the monks were only allowed it if they were undertaking a journey, in which case they borrowed a pair from the communal wardrobe - to be washed and replaced on their return so that another brother could use them.)

However, monasteries were self contained and the monks had everything they needed. Roaming outside was discouraged as it was considered “not good for their souls”.

Carolyn Hawkes



The Effects of Lockdown?

Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home!

I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my coffee, and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge, cause he's been acting cold and distant!

In the end, the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!

The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic...told me to just suck it up buttercup! But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!! You can just about guess what the curtains told me: they told me to "pull myself together!"

We will survive!! (#alonetogether2020)

MISUNDERSTANDINGS ?!!

The bride wore a long white lace dress which fell to the floor.

For those of you who have small children and don't know it we have a nursery downstairs.

When properly stewed, I really enjoy carrots.

I like to mow the lawn with my wife.

Wash your face in the morning and neck at night.

A gentleman never crumbles his bread or rolls in the soup.

Psalm 27 Redux

You are my Source, my Way, my Home.
In You I rest secure.
In You I gather strength.
In You I begin to see.

When fear arises
from within or from without
I remember
who You are
and how I am
in You.

Oh that I may dwell in You
day by day, moment by moment.
Then peace would be mine.
Then I could persevere
when waters threaten to overwhelm.
Then my eyes would be filled with beauty
and my mouth with song.
Then courage and wisdom
would carry me to safe shores.

This I know:
You are.
In You,
I am.

Your goodness is seen
in the land of the living.
All who turn to You,
turn towards Home.

*Carla A. Grosch-Miller, from Psalms Redux - Poems and Prayers, 2014.
With kind permission of the Canterbury Press.*

The Plus and Minus of Lockdown Church

The Plus side: At least I was never late, hoping to sneak into my seat without too many people noticing. I never found myself sitting behind a tall person who obscured my view of the screen. I didn't have to haul myself to my feet to sing the hymns. My attention wasn't interrupted by crying children or coughing adults.

By reading the hymns I could concentrate on the words rather than trying to sing in tune or learning a new tune or fussing about the hymn being sung to the 'wrong' tune. And best of all, I could absorb the message of the Sermon in my own time, reread bits that set off a train of thought and not find I had missed the next three minutes of what the Preacher was saying, so losing the thread.

The Minus side: But then I missed out on so many other things. Being with other people which enhances the worship and prayer; enjoying the singing; hearing the organ and the lovely voices of the choir. Listening to the chit chat over coffee and the feeling of being 'All in it together'; catching up on other people and their families; news of forthcoming events and ones that have just happened.

So I'd swap the plusses if the things I missed out on could come back to our Sundays again.

I'd love to see you in Church, soon.

Margaret Langsford.



**Deadline for October Triangle 2020
Sunday 20th September**

Please send to Cynthia Bartlett (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk)
AND to Val Dalby (vadalby17@gmail.com)



Christian Focus: Summer 2020 issue:

The bumper summer edition of the Christian Focus magazine is available on the CiA website - www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk., as it is also on the Trinity website.

NOTE: Due to the current pandemic and lockdown, this issue will not be printed – it will be a purely electronic edition, so please pass it on to colleagues, friends, congregations, and where possible provide printed copies to those who have no access to IT resources.

This edition has several articles about the current lockdown: poems galore and reports on how various groups and churches are dealing with the issues – TAB, 35 Ock Street, Trinity Learning. There are also reports on the World Day of Prayer 2020; Rocha; the 2020 Bloxham Festival of Faith and Literature; How Jews/ Christians read The Bible, from a talk by Prof Barton to the Abingdon Progressive Christian Network, as well as the usual puzzles.

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.

Abingdon Bridge

The AGM was deferred due to Covid-19 and is now re-scheduled for Tuesday September 23rd at 7pm in The Barn, Christchurch, Northcourt Rd., Abingdon, OX14 1PL.



Churches Together in Britain & Ireland: “Creation Time”

In 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarch suggested that 1 September, the first day of the Eastern Orthodox Church year, should be observed as a day “of protection of the natural environment”. Ten years later the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) widened this proposal, urging churches to adopt a Time for Creation stretching from **1 September to the feast of St Francis on 4 October** and this was endorsed by the 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly in 2007, which recommended that the period “be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change”.

Since 2008 Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (<https://ctbi.org.uk>) has compiled a programme of resources to encourage and assist churches to observe Creation Time. These include suggestions on a variety of ways in which churches, groups and individuals could choose to focus on a creation theme at this particular time of the year. Pope Francis made the Catholic Church’s warm welcoming of the season official in 2015, using powerful words to encourage participation in the ecumenical Season of Creation:

“This is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew by closeness to nature...to reflect on our lifestyles...for undertaking prophetic actions...directing the planet towards life, not death.”



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