



TRINITY TRIANGLE

MARCH 2024



Easter Blessings



‘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 4.00pm.

JAM (Jesus and Me) normally meets every 2nd and 4th 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	2.30 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	5.00 pm Brownies. 7.00 pm Guides.
Thursday	9.30 am Toddler Group. 7.30 pm Thursday Group. Ladies' Monthly Meeting 2nd Thursday in the month.
Friday	10.00 am Prayer Support Group (in their homes). 11.30am-12.30pm. Abingdon Larder (SOFEA)
Monthly	7.30 pm Friendship Group - see calendar.

Conduit Centre, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB

Church Office Manager: Eluned Hallas, Tel 520282

e-mail: trinity.abingdon@gmail.com

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

Trinity Learning: Education Development Officer: Nicola Williams, Tel. 07754 116004

e-mail: nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com



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EASTER TIDINGS

Easter is a Miracle

- the miracle of newness of life.

Easter is a Glory

-the glory of resurrection power.

Easter is a Triumph

-the triumph of love over hate.

Easter is a Promise

-the promise of unending fellowship.

Easter is a Consolation

- the consolation of a living companion.

Easter is a Victory

- the victory of life over death.

Easter is a Hope

-the hope of eternal life.



J. Harold Gwynne DD

Triangle Joint Editors:

Cynthia Bartlett, Valerie Dalby, Barbara Deakin,
Carolyn Hawkes, Pauline Main, Gloria Sandford.

Advertisements

Cynthia Bartlett
cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk

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Trinity Website: www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

It is often a joy to hear of someone's faith journey and what it is that led them to this particular point in their journey. This was especially true at the service where Libby Hawkness-Smith was fully accredited as a Methodist Local Preacher. Part of the encouragement was found in hearing how Libby responded to God's call, and in realising that God does indeed continue to call people to particular ministries.

In the church we are good at recognising certain ministries but not all of them. We don't commission every person to every task, yet the task of welcoming is a ministry, the task of washing up the cups after tea and coffee are served is a ministry just as much as visiting those who are ill, or even those of us who are called to specific ministries such as the ordained roles. Sometimes, we can see some of these tasks not as ministries but as 'just helping out'. Yet, without those 'helpers out', the life, ministry and mission of God's church would rapidly come to a halt.

We might not commission the tea and coffee makers, and they in turn might not see what they do as a ministry serving God. But God is interested in those every day ordinary things, for it is in these that God's love and care and joy are glimpsed.

During Lent, we are called to draw closer to God and in that drawing closer we may well find that God invites us to explore some new, or different. It could be something that we never thought we might take on or have tried to keep avoiding. Yet, God's call keep nudges us into this or that direction. It is in following this nudge, that we often find great blessing from God and in turn find even more reason to offer to God our thanks and praise.

So as we journey to the cross and to Easter morning this month, may we discover God's blessing and be filled with a spirit of thankfulness to the Lord our God who offers us life in all its fullness.

Every blessing



Church Family News

The funeral of Peter Gilbert took place on 16th February and it was good to see so many Trinity People at the service.

Some of us will remember Martin Cleveland who was a member of Trinity for some years before moving to Bromley, Martin died suddenly on January 31st and we send our sympathy to his wife Jane and daughter Lisa.

Doreen Keaney has heard from Catriona, the daughter of Reg and Jean Bass who were members of Trinity from about 1974 before they moved to Basingstoke. Jean died in 2012 but Reg passed away recently at the age of 95. Catriona has fond memories of her time and friendships at Trinity and we send her our condolences.

Our prayers and thoughts are with all those who are unwell or are unable to be in church at this time.

On Sunday, February 18th Trinity joined with All Saints for their morning service which was led by Daphne Savage and enjoyed the fellowship after the service with coffee and cake

Funerals

16th February Peter Gilbert

20th February Lily May Cordell

"In You, Father, we are one family in earth and heaven"

Tribute to Peter Gilbert 23rd March 1935 – 2nd January 2024

Peter George Gilbert was born in East Challow to Cyril and Dorothy Gilbert on 23rd March 1935. He was their second child born three years after their daughter Stella. Three years after Peter another son Chris was born. He weighed just under 2 lbs and both mother and child were very unwell, so little Peter was fostered by a lovely lady called Mrs Timms who lived in Stanford in the Vale. Peter could not quite remember how long he stayed with her, but it was probably until Chris had become a healthy toddler.

Peter attended a Church of England Boys' School in Wantage but was not at all academic. He was always the practical type and had

very fond memories of one of the masters who there who always called him Bert and gave him practical jobs especially gardening which Peter enjoyed. Sport was not his forte either so during football training he was given the spare ball to kick about behind the goal.

When he was 15 he started his working life at a local dental practice training as a dental technician. Before leaving school, he had spent some time at this practice doing Saturday work. There he did not make false teeth as so many people assumed but made the dentures to fit false teeth to.

When he was 20 Peter was called up to his National Service of 2 years with the RAF. As there were no vacancies in his line of work, he was trained to become a dental nurse and spent his two years travelling back and forth to Medmenham where he was based. He travelled by motorcycle which frequently broke down and often he had to hitchhike back home. On one occasion he was with a group of friends and colleagues from the camp who were supposed to have a sports afternoon which involved travelling to High Wycombe for swimming, but they skived off to the local cinema. Unfortunately, they were caught and given 'jankers', an RAF punishment for misdemeanours. Peter's punishment was peeling potatoes – lots, and lots, and lots. He never peeled potatoes again according to Rita.

After finishing his National Service, he returned to the dental practice in 1957 where he originally worked and remained there prior to his marriage to Rita in 1964. They had just bought a bungalow in Letcombe Regis when Peter was made redundant, but fortunately as he was excellent at his work he quickly found another job at a small practice in Newbury which was looking for new staff. He stayed with that same firm until he retired although they moved to different premises around the Newbury area finishing up in the old American Library at Greenham Common.

Peter and his father both shared a love of motorbikes and went on many trips together on their bikes. One memorable holiday was spent on the Isle of Man travelling around the race circuit. Peter's real hobby, however, was model making – boats, planes, etc but his favourite was a stagecoach which included interior lighting. For

several years he made some wonderful Christmas displays for the large office window of RB Pollard in Ock Street which were enjoyed by passers and office staff alike.

Peter and Rita moved to Abingdon in 1980 and became members of the Trinity Church family where Peter was a very willing helper in the background. He supported Rita with her flower arranging and helped to run the monthly Traidcraft stall along with Ruth Sillitoe. He was on the subcommittee of the Wesley Guild which ran for many years under the guidance of Dennis Foxon. Peter and Rita often went on the annual Guild holiday and Peter was also a communion steward in the days when they were overseen by Leslie Argyll. Another hobby of Peter's was stained glass work. He repaired some Victorian glass for Malcolm Atherton from a panel over the front door of Malcolm's father's Victorian house. Peter and Rita enjoyed many happy holidays in UK and abroad and had great fun learning ballroom dancing at Bretts School of Dancing in Abingdon before spending many happy years attending dances.

Peter has been described by many as a gentle kind man which he most definitely was. He had no claims to fame like climbing Mount Everest or winning a 100m race in record time. He was an average man and it is all the average people in this world who keep the wheels of life running smoothly as he helped quietly and conscientiously with the smooth running of Trinity church.

Sadly, over recent years his health deteriorated, both physically and mentally and he became housebound needing 24 hour care which was carried out throughout by his devoted wife Rita. He had a long life with all the experiences of joy and sadness that 88 years could bring and remained smiling and positive to the end.





Fri 1st		Prayer Group
	11.30- 12.30	SOFEA -South Oxford Food Bank - Milton Trading Estate
	4.00pm	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER CiA Service at All Saints' Church led by Ian Prepared by the women of Palestine
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Elizabeth Wood
	7.45pm	Plans for Abingdon Passion Play 2024 Open evening in The Conduit Centre
Mon 4th	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30 Scouts
Wed 6th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 7th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 8th		Prayer Group
	11.30- 12.30	SOFEA -South Oxford Food Bank - Milton Trading Estate
Sun 10th		Mothering Sunday
	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Ian JaM meets today
Mon 11th	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30 Scouts
Wed 13th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides Friendship Group meets.
Thurs 14th	7.30pm	Thursday Group - 'Objects of interest'
Fri 15th		Prayer Group
	11.30- 12.30	SOFEA -South Oxford Food Bank - Milton Trading Estate
Sun 17th	10.30am	Morning Worship
Mon 18th	2.30pm	Evergreen Club - Songs of Praise. 100th Birthday of Phyllis Gregory
	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30 Scouts



Wed 20th	5.00pm	Brownies	7.00pm Guides
Thurs 21st	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group	
Fri 22nd		Prayer Group	
		DEADLINE FOR APRIL TRIANGLE	
Sun 24th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Ian CHURCH MEETING AFTER THE SERVICE.	
Mon 27th	5.00pm	Beavers	6.45pm Cubs 7.30 Scouts
Wed 26th	5.00pm	Brownies	7.00pm Guides
Thurs 28th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group	
	7.00pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY service at the Baptist Church	
Fri 29th		GOOD FRIDAY	
	10.00am	Service at Trinity joined by All Saints led by Selina	
Sun 31st	Summer time begins – clocks go forward		
		EASTER SUNDAY	
	10.30am	Morning worship with Communion led by Revd. John Anderson	

APRIL

Sun 7th	10.30am	Morning worship led by Stephen Atkinson	
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Evergreen Club - Monday 18th March

We are holding our annual Songs of Praise. We are delighted that Ian will be playing for us, as he has done in the past, but of course this will be his last time.

Members request their favourite hymns and we lustily sing them. We make a very “Joyful Noise”.

The afternoon will start at 2.30 and there will be the usual raffle and refreshments.

Tricia Cook.



Experience Easter 2024 with Trinity Learning by Petronella Rasmussen

Preparations are well under way for the Experience Easter programme of Trinity Learning for this year. A good number of schools both in Abingdon and the surrounding villages have enrolled their pupils into the programme.

For those children able to walk to Trinity Church Experience Easter will be held in the church itself. For schools farther away a self contained programme will be delivered to the staff.

Videos of members of churches in Abingdon will tell different episodes of the Easter story. Each episode will be followed by an activity in discussion with a leader. Every child will be given their own zip lock bag at the beginning of the story. In the bag there is a palm cross for the Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem, to think about hopes and dreams for the world; a small towel to dry a neighbours hands just as Jesus the servant king washed his disciples' feet; hard plasticine to represent the fear of the garden of Gethsemane which, when worked on, perhaps with help, can be moulded into something beautiful like a flower; three beads to string together as we think of others, at home, at school and across the world, just as Jesus did even on the cross,, and notes to consider and write down how Jesus friends must have felt when they discovered the empty tomb on the third day.

Finally, a folded A4 sheet retells the story in episodes, with representative pictures to cut out and match with each episode.

So far 440 children (15 classes) from 7 different schools have been enrolled for Experience Easter and a bag as described above has been prepared for each one by the Trinity Learning team.

Hopefully something of the true meaning of Easter will stay with each one of the children.

OPEN MEETING AND BRING AND BUY. NASIO NOW.

NASIO

Trinity Thursday group will hold an open meeting with bring and buy stall on Thursday 14th March at 7 30 pm in the Conduit Centre. Funds raised will directly support The Nasio Trust in Kenya.

Our main speaker is Sue Russell, a trustee of The Nasio Trust and a member of All Saints Church.

Sue along with three teenage grandchildren, has just returned from a 10 day visit to the Trust in Kenya and will show her present day photos of the school, medical centre, and of numerous projects being developed by The Nasio Trust, which involve both children and adults, and the wider local community. Sue will be supported by the teenagers who plan to share some of their experiences with us.

EVERYONE WELCOME

TRINITY 150 YEARS ANNIVERSARY PEN

Trinity 150 years anniversary pens are still available if you are looking forward to giving small gifts to friends and family for Easter.

All funds raised are for Trinity Church.

Available from Petronella at church on Sundays,
or by phone on 01865 34015



Place Names Quiz

All the answers are place names!

1. Piggott's First
2. 1066 and All That
3. Ship's Company
4. Toilet
5. Famous for mint cake
6. Hero of Jane Eyre
7. Milk Producers
8. Untouched Food
9. Dogs do it up the wrong tree
10. Fairbanks
11. Sheep's Entrance
12. Monarch's Girl
13. Saucy City
14. Journey's End for Dr. Foster
15. Eric and the Seaside
16. Really Fast
17. Plumber's Problem
18. Around the Trees
19. Water Source
20. Essential to Learn

Trinity Snackers come second in the Church in Abingdon Quiz

The annual Church in Abingdon quiz set the brains buzzing on Friday, January 19th 2024. Questions were set by last year's champions, Christchurch Long Furlong. The quiz was held in one of Christchurch's barns and raised funds for "See-saw," a charity supporting bereaved children.

It was also the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, so a good time for churches to get together.

Katie thought up the name 'Snackers' for the Trinity team because we had more nibbles than any other team. It was the same team as last year: Ian(organiser), Neil(main trivia master and wit), Selina, Katie, Elizabeth(for young person's knowledge), and Alastair.

Alastair was surprised by the other Snackers' deep knowledge of trivia. Selina knew that Giraffes have blue tongues. Katie knew that Mary Ann Evans is better known as George Eliot. Neil's greatest achievement was knowing the highest volcano in the world was in Hawaii. Ian knew Neil Diamond wrote "I'm a Believer" for the Monkeys. Alastair doubted Selina's claim that Pakistan had more red-haired people than any other country.

Abingdon Baptist Church (ABC) ultimately won, beating the Snackers by three points into second place. Katie commented, 'We seem to have mastered the skill of doing very well but not quite well enough to win.' ABC will now have the task of setting the questions and hosting next year's quiz.

After deductions for refreshments, the evening raised £94.27 for See-saw. (And one Franc.)

Our thanks to Christchurch Long Furlong, who created such an interesting quiz and an enjoyable evening. Neil thought the best round was matching characters and famous people with addresses. Only Ian knew that Danger Mouse resided in a pillar box near 221 Baker Street.

Regarding redheads in Pakistan, Selina said that 0.1% of the population in Pakistan have red hair (they descend from Alexander the Great and live mostly in the mountain regions.)

10% of people in Scotland have red hair, which gives approximately 545,400 people in Scotland with red hair 0.1% of people in Pakistan have red hair, which gives approximately 2,173,500 people in Pakistan with red hair.

However, the Question Master said the answer was Scotland, and we all accepted the "Question Master is always right" rule in furthering Christian Unity.

Alastair



From the Archives (3) ... Ministerial DIY

In the days when the Minister lived in Trinity House, (the then Manse), next door to the Church, and one of its incumbents had a DIY bent, he began to explore what was possible using one Giant Boiler in the Manse to heat Manse, Church and Conduit Centre alike. Part of the plan was to lay pipes across the lawn, and to that end the Minister wielded his spade to good effect, digging a trench from the corner near the Choir vestry diagonally across through the turf in the direction of the Conduit Centre. (You can still see where it runs when the weather is dry, the grass struggles, and the+ line of the trench turns brown). The Monster Boiler idea came to a sticky end when, the boiler being gravity-fed, it was discovered that, to create sufficient pressure, the water tank would have to be placed at the top of the spire.

Undeterred, other avenues were explored until, on one otherwise unexceptional day, the Minister's wife couldn't find him when lunch was ready. Having waited patiently for a while, then having explored all of his usual haunts, she finally ventured into the cavities underneath the Chancel, beyond the boiler room. And there he was. Lunch wasn't on his mind, as he was doing an Atlas-imitation at the time, holding up the Church floor on his shoulders. He had inadvertently knocked down with his sledgehammer a supporting wall. What his wife said isn't recorded; what she did was to run down the road to fetch Mike Greaney and his building jack before her husband was squashed flat. How long after that it took the Minister to straighten up isn't recorded either.

Tom Jarratt



Answers from p12

1 Leicester, 2 Hastings, 3 Crewe, 4 Looe, 5 Kendal, 6 Rochester,
7 Cowes, 8 Nuneaton, 9 Barking, 10 Douglas, 11 Ramsgate,
12 King's Lynn, 13 Worcester, 14 Gloucester, 15 Morecombe,
16 Fleet, 17 Leek, 18 Ringwood, 19 Wells, 20 Reading.

Thoughts for Mothering Sunday

What their mothers might have said...

Christopher Columbus' mother: 'I don't care what you've discovered, Christopher. You still could have sent a postcard.'

Michelangelo's mother: 'Mike, can't you paint on the walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?'

Mary's mother: 'I'm not cross that your little lamb followed you to school, Mary: but I would like to know how she got better marks than you?'

Thomas Edison's mother: 'Of course I'm proud you invented the light bulb, Thomas. Now turn it off and go to sleep.'

Jonah's mother: 'That's a nice story: now tell me where you have really been these last three days.'

'As a mother comforts her child so will I comfort you says the Lord. Isaiah 66:13

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