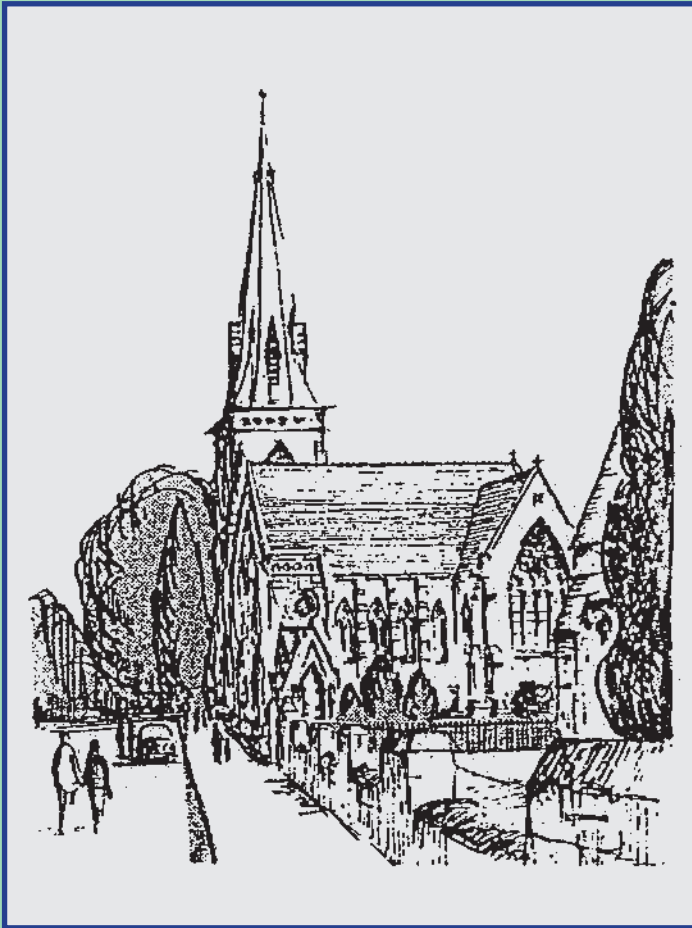




TRINITY TRIANGLE

JUNE 2024



'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

TrinityLearning: Education Development Officer: Nicola Williams, Tel. 07754 116004

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*Lord, go before us to lead us,
behind us to prompt us,
under us to support us.
above us to bless us,
around us to protect us;
come within us that we may serve you
with body and soul and mind,
to the glory of your name. Amen*

☐Nathan S☐derblom, Archbishop of Uppsala☐

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Trinity Website: www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

This year, when we celebrated Pentecost one of the phrases that kept coming back to me was the relentless restlessness of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, each of us will have travelled a journey of faith. Some remember Sunday School days very well along with who taught us what, but then as the experience of life continues our understanding of God's activity also changes.

There is a wonderful verse in Isaiah (43:19) which says, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" God it seems is always doing a new thing, whether it be with individuals and their faith journey, or with churches and their mission and ministry in any given place. We are not static. The church, God's church, has never been a place of memorial or preservation, rather a dynamic living entity.

At a recent Circuit Meeting Plus event, one of the themes that came across is that in the life of today's church, there are many things that need to be done. Some more visible than others, yet each of them is service to God and we are all in this together, ordained and lay alike. One of the most cherished parts of our non-conformist history is the way we have always tried to express the ministry of the whole people of God. This is as true now as it has ever been.

In recent years, we have tried to structure our annual reports in a way that recognises the different ministries that people exercise in the life of our church. It is much more than giving it the title of 'ministry' as it seeks to express our faithfulness to God in the tasks that we take up. When I was a teenager, the minister I had said a few times, that if we wanted evening services to work well, then we needed to give everyone a job, for this was the only way to get a congregation. Evening services are now very rare in most churches, but I thank God that the majority of people in the congregations don't have jobs to do every Sunday. One of the gifts is to simply be in worship and receive what God wants to say.

One of the more recent hymnwriters puts it this way, "God who sets us on a journey to discover, dream and grow, lead us as you led your people long ago Exploration brings new insights, changes, choices we must face; give us wisdom in deciding, mindful always of your grace." There is more than a strong hint in this hymn that to be led

by God is not to be led as individuals but to be led together, and I am grateful for the leadership at both Trinity and All Saints that grapple with some of what that all entails.

There is no doubt that we live in interesting and challenging times and in a society that has changed enormously over very short periods. The Covid pandemic taught us of the importance of using Zoom and other means of keeping in touch with each other, and that technology, whether websites or social media, was how so many people engage with the world. This sometimes means a more fragmented community, but also has the potential to bring a fragmented community together. God's "new thing" today embraces this as much as everything with which we are more familiar. The last verse of the hymn I quoted earlier says this, "Keep us travelling in the knowledge you are always at our side, give us courage for the journey, Christ our goal and Christ our guide." And may we say "Amen" to that.

Every blessing



Farewell to Ian and Tabitha

Lunch at 12.15 on Sunday 23rd June 2024.

After the 10.30am service, led by Ian, he and Tabitha will share fellowship at a simple lunch in the Conduit Centre. We hope as many as possible will come along.

Important. For catering purposes we need to know how many are coming.

Either Please sign your name on the list in the

Welcome Area as soon as possible

Or phone or email Eluned on trinity.abingdon@gmail.com

Or email Eve on pering79@icloud.com,
leaving your name & dietary requirements.

Church Family News

Some of our Church Family may remember Ena Mitchell who was a long time member of Trinity until, more recently, she went to live in the Royal Star and Garter home in High Wycombe. Those of us who remember her will be saddened to hear that Ena has died at the age of 105 (see page 7 for a celebration of Ena's life).

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

THE TRIANGLE

We hope readers enjoy reading the Triangle, which we produce ten times per year. We are so very grateful to Mike Coleman for his wonderful work in producing the finished publication.

Many of our readers receive a copy online free of charge, but others choose to receive a paper copy during the year, either black and white for £10 per year or in colour for £15 per year.

You can pick them up from the pigeon holes in the Welcome Area. Alternatively they can be posted to you for an extra £10 per year. If you wish to pay by bank transfer the church account details are:

Payee: The Trinity Church Abingdon

Sort Code: 40-35-34

Account number: 44211952

Reference: Your name Triangle

Or put the money in an envelope with your name and "Triangle" written on it into the Trinity basket in the Welcome area.

The Triangle Editors wish to thank you for all your support.

Ena Mitchell

1918-2024

Ena was born in 1918. She was the fifth child of the family and the youngest. In fact her brother arrived home from the fighting of World War I delighted to meet his baby sister! The family lived in Kingsley in Hampshire and attended the Congregational Church where her mother was the organist and her father, an agricultural engineer, was a



lay preacher. It was a happy childhood. Ena attended the village school and then went to the Eggars Grammar School in Alton

In 1939, Ena married Bill and in 1941 their daughter Anne was born. Bill was a civil servant and acted as a Company Quartermaster Sergeant during the war. Sadly he died from wounds in Belgium in 1944. Ena was quickly made aware of the very little provision made for war widows at the time and this was to influence her work in the years to come. When Anne was accepted at St Helen and St Katherine, a school which friends had recommended, Ena moved to Abingdon. Here she had a number of different jobs, including that of a traffic control officer (later known as a 'lollipop lady'!) and hotel receptionist at the former Oriel Hotel in Ock Street. She also became Chairman of the Women's Conservative Club in Abingdon.

Ena's daughter met her husband, a metallurgist, while they were both working at Harwell. They had two children, Sarah and Charlotte, and decided to emigrate to Australia when the children were little. Ena visited Australia five times over the years. She was a great-grandmother to Sophie Rose, Sarah's daughter.

Ena was involved in an amazing amount of charity work. She was a member of the Royal British Legion and the NSPCC, serving on committees and doing many door-to-door collections. She was also associated with the Royal National Institute for the Blind. Much of her work over seventy years was for the War Widows Association of which she was a founder member. She took part in campaigns on their behalf and witnessed many improvements after the end of the Second World War. The organisation has just heard that King Charles, who as Prince Charles has been their Patron for many years, has agreed to retain his patronage of the Association. In representing the war widows, Ena met him many times, including visits to Clarence House, Buckingham Palace, Mansion House and Highgrove House in Gloucestershire.



When she moved to Abingdon, she became a member of St Helen's Church. In the time of Richard Taylor's ministry, she decided to attend Trinity Church, returning to her Congregational/URC roots where she felt happily settled. In September 2018, she celebrated her 100th birthday at Trinity, an occasion which one of her granddaughters was able to attend.

Editorial Note: A profile of Ena was included in Triangle as a profile in 2018 and this article includes information shared at that time.

LIFE AND LOVE

The Rule of Love

“The rule for all of us is perfectly simple.

Do not waste time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbour; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love them. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him or her more. If you do someone a good turn, you will find yourself disliking them less.

There is, indeed, one exception. If you do a person a good turn, not to please God and obey the law of love, but to show the person what a fine forgiving individual you are, and to put him or her in your debt, and then sit down to wait for their ‘gratitude’, you will probably be disappointed. (People are not fools; they have a very quick eye for anything like showing off, or being patronizing.) But whenever we do good to another human being, just because he or she is a human being, made by God, and desiring their own happiness as we desire ours, we shall have learned to love them a little more or, at least, to dislike them less.”

C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

The Angry Young Man

One day a rude and angry young man came up to the Buddha and started insulting him. The Buddha did not get upset. Instead, he asked the young man, ‘If you buy a gift for someone, and that person does not take it, to whom does the gift belong?’ The young man replied gruffly, ‘It would belong to me because I bought the gift.’ The Buddha, with a smile all over his face, replied, ‘That is right. And it is exactly the same with your anger. If you become angry with me but I do not become affronted, then the anger falls back on you. Then you are the one who becomes unhappy, not me. If you want to stop hurting yourself you must get rid of your anger and become loving instead. When you hate others, you yourself become unhappy.’

A traditional Buddhist story



Sun 2nd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Daphne Savage
Mon 3rd	5.00pm	Beavers, 6.45pm, Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 5th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 6th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 7th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30- 11.15	SOFEA LARDER
Sun 9th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Ian
Mon 10th	5.00pm	Beavers, 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 12th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 13th	6.30pm	Thursday Group: walk with Shared supper
Fri 14th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30am – 11.15pm	SOFEA Larder
Sun 16th	10.30am	Morning Worship – to be announced
Mon 17th	2.30pm	Trinity Evergreen Club
	5.00pm	Beavers, 6.45pm, Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 18th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 20th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 21st	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30am – 11.15pm	SOFEA Larder
Sat 22nd		Passion Play

Sun 23rd	10.30am 12.15	Morning Worship led by Ian Lunch in the Conduit Centre Church Farewell to Ian and Tabitha
Mon 24th	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 26th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 27th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 28th	10.00am 10.30 – 11.15am	Virtual Prayer Support Group SOFEA LARDER
Sun 30th	10.30am	Morning Worship with JaM led by Tabitha



Sun 7th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Pauline Main
Mon 8th	5.00pm	Beavers, 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 10th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides

**Deadline for July and August Triangle
Friday 21st June**

Trinity Evergreen Club - Monday 17th June

We will be delighted to welcome Alastair Fear who will give an illustrated talk about his recent walk along The Pilgrims' Way. This will be a new experience for most of us and we look forward very much to hearing how the journey went. We start at 2.30 and there will be the usual raffle and refreshments.



In April, we welcomed three secondary school students who came to do their work experience with us. You can find out what they got up to in their brilliant 'Farewell TrinityLearning' blog below.

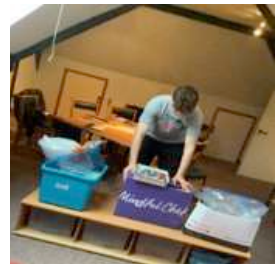
Farewell TrinityLearning

The last week of April 2024 wasn't an ordinary week at TrinityLearning as me, Ethan, Ben, and Noel did our work experience at the charity.

When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive, to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love, then make that day count.

On the first day, me and my fellow work experience peers met with Nicola Williams (the Education Development Officer for TrinityLearning.) We were told the policies, went over some paperwork and health and safety. Heading into the church, all of us had to remove the items placed on the display board, it was relatively easy and we all enjoyed the challenge.

After that we went for lunch and after lunch we met Taz with a handshake, "The boys greeted me with smiles and introduced themselves very professionally with a handshake" – Taz (Workshop Leader for TrinityLearning). We then proceeded to do stocktaking, which consisted of: counting items, ordering items, and bagging items. We then moved onto working on the new Toolkit for Happiness.



When the sun came up the team knew it was going to be a good day as



we met Taz waiting for us with the brightest smile as we started with cleaning the office for the church administrator, with Ethan simultaneously making a service sheet for the church taking place on Sunday 5th using a laptop as well as printing it out. Putting up new displays in the church was part of our tasks. Despite Nicola and Taz being proud we still had to keep going, so we cleaned up the church as well. We took part in sharpening

pencils, checking the gluesticks are working. We all went home with a big smile on our faces tired but excited for the next day.

The morning was a dark and gloomy, but the day fun because we went over to the church and finished the display we had put up. We then

took pictures of it for a task we had later on while Ethan was finishing the Sunday church service, me (Noel) and Ben took pictures of what we had done over the week to document it into this blog.

Then we went downstairs to see the election for the new police commissioner then we interviewed Nicola about her job and why she chose it and after that we cleared and



tidied a small room with a decent amount of rubbish and useless bits and bobs and the room looked unrecognizable and after lunch, we interviewed Taz which was a great experience.

We ended our work experience writing this blog, Farewell TrinityLearning, a big shout out to an amazing time we've spent together.

“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.”

Volunteering with TrinityLearning

Thinking Books: Could you spare an afternoon per week to work with children to improve their understanding of others' emotions? Thinking Books is Trinity Learning's volunteer mentoring project. Trained volunteers meet children weekly in school for 10 sessions to discuss character's emotions using carefully chosen books. We are now recruiting for volunteers to start the project this September. Please email Nicola nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com if you would like to know more about any of this project or any of our other volunteer opportunities.



Volunteer Celebration Event – join us on 20th June 4pm-6pm in the Conduit Centre Hall as we get together to celebrate our amazing volunteers. All past, present and potential volunteers and supporters are invited to come and celebrate TrinityLearning's work over a cup of tea and some delicious cake! Just email Nicola nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.

Mines Advisory Group (MAG) Trinity's charity for the year



The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) was established in 1989 by a British Army engineer who had seen for himself the impact on civilians of landmines and unexploded bombs while he was working in Afghanistan. He also appreciated how these dangers hindered reconstruction and the delivery of aid. Such weapons can remain hidden in the ground for many years and every day, an average of 13 people are killed or injured, nearly half of them children.

Every year MAG helps over a million people in many parts of the world to rebuild their lives and livelihoods after war.

MAG aims to find and clear landmines, cluster munitions, and unexploded bombs and return safe land to communities, enabling them to build a safer and more sustainable future.

Their work includes:

Clearing landmines and cluster bombs - using a range of equipment, special vehicles and mine-detection dogs to clear areas metre by metre.

Clearing former battle areas – by systematically clearing and returning the land to local communities for productive use.

Listening to local communities agencies and authorities – by listening, MAG comes to to understand where danger areas are located and their effect on the people's lives. This helps set priorities and target particular areas.

Recruiting people from mine-affected communities - giving them the opportunity to clear the mines and at the same time support their families and communities

Raising awareness of the issues – by using radio, billboards, television, SMS messages and emergency hotlines, to ensure those most in danger are aware of the risks. If children can correctly identify such weapons, they can save their lives.

Providing risk education – by giving people potentially life-saving information on how to recognise, avoid and report threats. This is especially important for children and returning communities. These safety sessions may include how to recognise landmines, how to report a dangerous item and what to do in an emergency

Responding to emergencies – through surveys and humanitarian planning, as well as risk education and clearance, MAG helps to prevent casualties and supports other humanitarian organisations to carry out their emergency programmes.

MAG shared a Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for its work

Further information is available on MAG's website <https://www.maginternational.org>



Saint Barnabas

Saint's Day: June 11th



*Anonymous, St. Barnabas,
18th century*

Barnabas was a Jew from Cyprus. He is named as an apostle who travelled with Paul on missionary journeys in about 46-48CE. Paul notes in his letter to the Colossians (4:10) that John Mark was Barnabas' cousin. He was called Joseph at birth. He is first mentioned in Acts 4:36, when he brought the proceeds of the sale of some land to the apostles in Jerusalem and the disciples called him Barnabas, son of encouragement. When Saul, later Paul, returned to Jerusalem following his conversion, Barnabas introduced him to the apostles. When the early Christians in

Antioch were successful in preaching to non-Jews in Antioch, they sent Barnabas to continue the work (Acts 11:22-23). He is described here as 'a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.' He then went to Tarsus and asked Saul to return with him to Antioch. After a year of preaching and teaching, both were sent to Jerusalem with contributions from the Antioch church for assist poor Christians in Judea suffering from a famine.

They returned from Jerusalem to Antioch taking with them John Mark. Saul, now known as Paul, and Barnabas travelled to Cyprus and then to cities in Pamphylia, Pisidia and Lycaonia on Paul's first missionary journey. The citizens of Lystra regarded Paul as Hermes and Barnabas as Zeus, probably a reflection on their roles, Barnabas representing the Jerusalem church and Paul being an eloquent preacher. (Acts 14:12). They travelled again to Jerusalem sharing with Jewish Christians their experiences of non-Jews becoming Christians and receiving the Holy Spirit. This dispute amongst the early Christians about whether non-Jews could become Christian without becoming fully Jewish is also mentioned in Galatians 2, detailing an occasion on which Barnabas was present. The early

Christians in Jerusalem then sent out Paul, Barnabas, and two other representatives to make peace with non-Jewish Christians, not requiring them to be circumcised. On their return to Antioch, Paul wanted to retrace his steps in order to visit believers they had preached to on the first missionary journey. Barnabas wanted to take Mark with him but Paul was unhappy about this (Acts 15:37-40) so they divided up the work. Barnabas and Mark set sail for Cyprus and Paul chose Silas and set out for Syria and Cileisia.

Little is known of the later life of Barnabas. He was still working as an Apostle in 56 or 57CE, when Paul wrote I Corinthians (9:5–6), in which he refers to both himself and Barnabas as earning their own living. He is thought to have died in c 61CE. When Paul was a prisoner in Rome (61–63CE), John Mark was attached to him as a disciple, which perhaps suggests that Barnabas had died (Colossians 4:10).

Christian tradition suggests that Barnabas was martyred at Salamis in Cyprus. The manner of his death is unknown. One tradition tells of Barnabas being stoned to death; another refers to him being burned to death. He is traditionally identified as the founder of the Cypriot Orthodox Church and is the patron saint of Cyprus and of peace-making.

St Barnabas is usually pictured with a scroll or a book. Many legends state that he took a copy of Matthew's gospel with him when he preached in Cyprus and would lay it on the sick to heal them. In the picture here he holds a flame, symbolising his martyrdom. In others, he may be pictured with an olive branch to remember his mission of peace, sent out with Paul by the church in Jerusalem in Acts 15.





Church in Abingdon



Abingdon 4th Passion Play 22 June 2024 12noon and 5pm

It's now time to put together costumes, scenery and props, and between now and mid June you will see some of us in the shops and cafes around Abingdon, distributing leaflets or looking for props to decorate the stage. There will also be an opportunity to hear some of the music of the Passion Play on 2 June 2024, between 2 and 3 pm, at the Food Festival on Rye Farm Meadow.

You can still join the production at this stage, as we are still looking for some people happy to act as Temple Guards, Roman Soldiers and crowd. We also need people who can help as stage crew, and makeup. As we are hoping for a large audience, we are also urgently looking for stewards on the day. If you feel you can help, please contact our Director, Ralph Westby, by email lowbasse1@gmail.com, or by phone 07790 498718, or see the website www.abingdonpassionplay.org.uk.

The Passion Play is a great opportunity to sow a 'mustard seed' in the hearts and minds of our audience, which may grow to the glory of God's creation when the time is right. Thank you all for your ongoing support and prayers, and we look forward to seeing you on the day!

Thursday 6 June, The Abingdon Bridge AGM:

7pm in The Barn Christ

Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, OX14 1PL. RSVP by 30th May 2024 – kirsty@theabingdonbridge.org.uk

Saturday 8 June, Quiet Garden Day at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection

10 am - 4 pm. Leader: Philip Mader-Grayson. Theme: The Joy of Lament: exploring thoughts from Esther de Waal's book 'The White Stone'. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. To attend it would be helpful to email: atquietgardendays@gmail.com in advance. All are welcome.

A PRAYER for PEACE

Lead us from Death to Life
from Falsehood to Truth
Lead us from Despair to Hope
from Fear to Trust
Lead us from Hate to Love
from War to Peace
Let Peace fill our Heart,
our world our Universe,
PEACE, PEACE, PEACE



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