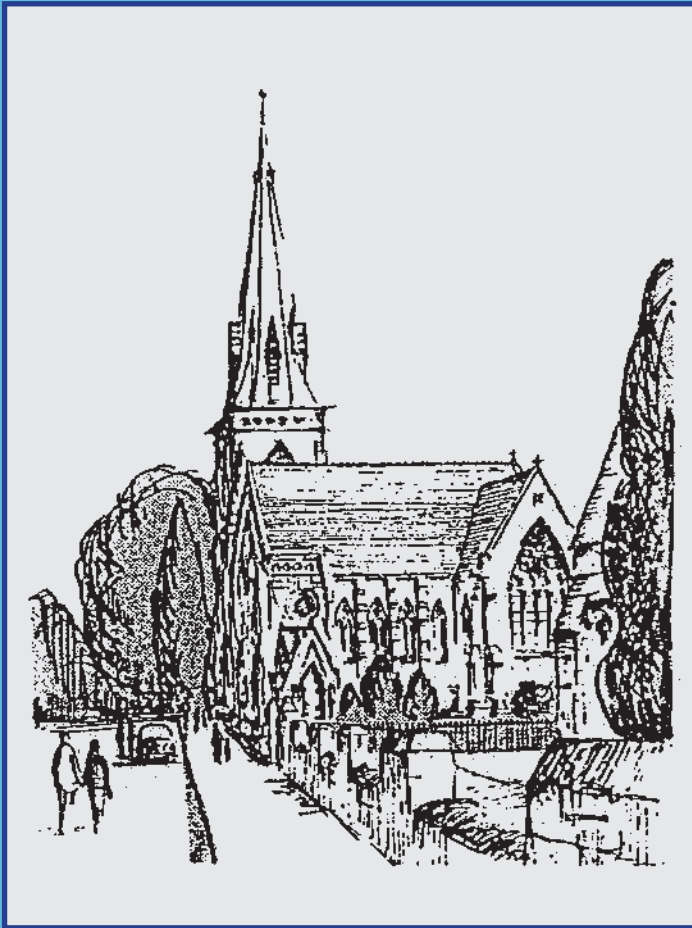




# TRINITY TRIANGLE

JULY/AUGUST 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](mailto: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

e-mail: [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com)



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*“Hot July brings cooling showers,  
apricots and gillyflowers.*

*August brings the sheaves of corn,  
then the harvest home is borne.”*

*(from The Months, by Sara Coleridge 1802-52)*

### Triangle Joint Editors:

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

#### **Advertisements**

Cynthia Bartlett  
cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk

#### **Distribution**

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Office

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Trinity Website: [www.trinityabingdon.org.uk](http://www.trinityabingdon.org.uk)

## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

What a privilege it has been to be the minister here and part of the Trinity community for the last ten years. It hardly seems a moment ago that Tabitha and I were preparing to move here. But, as the saying goes, 'time flies when you're having fun'.

Ministry is never an isolated activity, and it has been a huge blessing to work with teams of Trustees, Stewards, Leaders, Baptismal Secretaries, Musicians, Catering Teams, Vergers, Administrators ... the list could go on, but the ministry of Trinity really has involved the whole church. To list you all would require me to print the whole directory! In the life of any church there are some people whom we more regularly recognise as having gifts and roles, and there are always some who wonder what it is they give. The life of the Church is made up of all those who worship God, and those who come and do just that offer an enormous amount – for in worship, we give of ourselves to God. Just as each of us is important to God, so each of us is important to Trinity Church, and this must never be forgotten.

Trinity is a place that sees those memorable, significant and sacred moments in the lives of people, such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. Each has its place, each its importance, yet the regular work of prayer and worship never ceases. It will come as no surprise to some for me to quote from one particular hymn these words: "The voice of prayer is never silent, nor dies the strain of praise away". It comes of course from that great evening hymn, "The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended" – but our voice, the voice of Trinity church, will not be silenced or restrained. As another hymn says, "We have a gospel to proclaim", and proclaim it we must because, as people have said in every generation, our generation needs to hear it more urgently than ever before.

As I prepare to handover to Rev Georgina, I am filled with confidence and hope for the future mission and ministry of Trinity. Yes, there are challenges ahead, but there is also great potential, and I find myself excited by the prospect of a new chapter here. But time moves on, and I am ordained into an itinerant ministry, and God is calling us to new things.

So a new chapter dawns: Tabitha and I prepare to move to Chepstow, and a new minister prepares to begin her ministry here. Daunting times – perhaps, but also exciting times. What will this next new chapter bring? Perhaps none of us is entirely sure, but we do know that as we enter into this new chapter, God continues to shape and guide us, and the Holy Spirit of God will be with us every step of the way. So we can all live in hope and confidence that God is indeed with us.

Tabitha and I were amused that when we spoke to one of our new neighbours in Chepstow, they paused a for a second or two, and said, “Ah, Abingdon ... Masons”. The fame of Masons shop goes into Wales. So it may be that trips to Masons will continue, as will the friendships made here.

It is, and has been, a blessing to be the minister of Trinity, and I wish you all every blessing in the chapters that are to follow.

With love and prayers,



### **A favourite hymn of Ian's –**

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended;  
The darkness falls at thy behest;  
To thee our morning hymns ascended,  
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that thy church unsleeping,  
While earth rolls onward into light,  
Through all the world her watch is keeping,  
And rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent,  
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
And hour by hour fresh lips are making  
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,  
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,  
Till all thy creatures own thy sway.

### **Words of thanks from Ian and Tabitha**

I would like to express our thanks to Trinity Church for their generosity and for the wonderful farewell lunch. Tabitha and I were deeply touched by it. The gifts were all perfect and so generous.

## **Thank you and farewell to Ian and Tabitha**

Trinity said 'goodbye' to Ian and Tabitha at the service on Sunday, 23rd June, followed by a lunch in the Conduit Centre. Ian was presented with a framed print of the Church, and a cheque totalling the donations Trinity folk had made. And later, at the lunch, Ian and Tabitha were given some additional gifts for their new life in Wales.

A big 'thank you' for the day is due to so many people, from those who were able to attend the lunch - and make such generous contributions to Trinity Church - to all those who helped in any and every way to make it possible.

Ian and Tabitha were well and truly seen on their way; (though ironically, the way the Circuit Plan has worked out, they will both still lead a service each, one more time!).

Nevertheless, all our good wishes go with them both for a 'bon voyage'!

### **Words of thanks to Ian, given by our Church Secretary Cynthia Bartlett, during the service on June 23rd**

On behalf of Trinity Church, I would like to thank you for all you have done in the last ten years to help us continue to be a Christian presence in Abingdon both in terms of worship and of mission.

We have much appreciated the contribution you have made to worship in the church. We have been grateful for the thought you have given to services here, for the thought-provoking sermons and not least, we are grateful for the contribution to our music – your ability to move between the table and the piano with great calm and dignity is much admired!

I mentioned at the last Church Meeting that your approach to these meetings has always been calm and considered and this has been important to us, as there have been a number of challenges which you have helped us face as we have tried together to discern the right paths for the Church to take.

The Trustees have enjoyed working with you and all of us have benefitted from guidance and your sense of humour.

I know people have also expressed much appreciation of the home and hospital visiting you have done and of the baptisms, weddings and funerals you have taken. Your interest in the Scouts has been valued as has your support for the Church in Abingdon and working together with your colleagues in the town.

We are also grateful to Tabitha for being prepared to come and lead worship here and for her encouraging and lively services.

We do wish you and Tabitha Godspeed in your ministry within the Newport and the Lower Wye Circuit.

### **Alastair Fear offered another message and gifts during lunch**

We are here to say thank you to Ian and Tabitha, who will soon be off to new pastures - Welsh pastures with leeks, sheep, and possibly dragons. Cynthia presented you with the church's present earlier in church but some of us thought other small things for the journey were still needed.

The move from Abingdon to Chepstow is a significant one, and includes a border from England into Wales. You are going to foreign parts. To help you adjust, we are presenting this small book. You may be able to guess what is inside if I say this small book could help you sprinkle your sermons with some phrases of the local language.

Just remember, when in doubt, "dim problem" (no problem) is a great phrase to master.

And for those inevitable moments, when "these things happen" say "*mae'r pethau hyn yn digwydd.*"

If during a church council meeting you hear the word cadeiriau you will know they have strayed into talking about the old topic of chairs, as often happened at Trinity trustees.

If you're ever in doubt, throw in a few extra "L"s and "W"s, and you'll probably be close enough.

Soon you'll be saying impressive words like:

*Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch.* Here are the phonetics to help:

clanvire·porth·gwingehth·go·gereth·windroboff·clanta·silly·o·go·go·gock

In preparation for other more cosmic challenges, we have another gift for you. We present to you these lightsabres! Why, you might ask? As you journey into the unknown, "may the Force go with you".

Finally, of no particular use, but for sentimental reasons we did think of giving you a piece of the church mortar recently chiselled off by the plasterers but it was too bulky. Then we remembered that the church is not the bricks and mortar but the people and so instead have this mug with pictures of people from Trinity so you can look back at your times here occasionally while drinking coffee.

Thank you, Ian and Tabitha, for everything. May your time in foreign parts be rewarding, and may God go with you.





## “The Word beyond words”

During his time at college, Ian created amazing wall hangings to communicate ideas about faith visually. He has shared them with us from time to time, most recently at Thursday Group in May. Ian says “The hangings have been given names rather than titles because they encompass more than simple Gospel episodes. Indeed, when they have been exhibited, people have sometimes seen ideas and connections I could never have guessed at. Looking at images can free the viewer from liturgical wordiness to explore what the Gospel means to them.”



*Hinri - Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews (INRI) - shown at Thursday Group May 2024*



Putting away a hanging - Thursday Group 2021

### Exhibited in St Helen's during Artweeks 2023



*Ed - Eagle and Dove*



*Favokes - Christ is alive and the universe must celebrate*





Mon 1st	5.30pm	Beavers, 6.45pm, Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 3rd	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 4th	<b>NO TODDLERS GROUP – POLLING DAY</b>	
Fri 5th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30- 11.15	SOFEA LARDER
Sun 7th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Baptism led by Selina
Mon 8th	5.30pm	Beavers, 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 10th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 11th	9.30am	Toddlers Group
	6.30pm	Thursday Group: barbeque; bring salad or dessert
Fri 12th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30am – 11.15pm	SOFEA Larder
Sun 14th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Ian
Mon 15th	2.30pm	Trinity Evergreen Club: see below
	5.30pm	Beavers, 6.45pm, Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 17th	5.00pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 18th	9.30am	Toddlers Group. End of term meeting in the Church.
Fri 19th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30am – 11.15pm	SOFEA Larder
Sun 21st	<b>NO MORNING SERVICE</b>	
	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>Circuit farewell for Ian and Tabitha At Trinity</b>
Fri 26th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30am – 11.15pm	SOFEA Larder
Sun 28th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by members of Trinity



Fri 2nd	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30 – 11.15am	SOFEA LARDER
Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Dcn. Selina Nisbett
Thur 8th	7.00 pm	Thursday Group:. Coffee and chat with the Friendship Group at Selina's
Fri 9th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30 – 11.15am	SOFEA LARDER
Sun 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Alan Grist
Fri 16th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30 – 11.15am	SOFEA LARDER
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Elizabeth Wood
Fri 23rd	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
		<b>NO SOFEA LARDER</b>
Sun 25th	10.30- am	Morning Worship with Baptism led by Selina
Fri 30th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	10.30 – 11.15am	SOFEA LARDER
<b>Sat 31st</b>	<b>3.00pm</b>	<b>At ALL SAINTS Welcome service for Revd. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson led by Revd. Sonia Hicks, Chair of Northampton Circuit</b>

**Deadline for September Triangle  
Friday 10th August**

**Trinity Evergreen Club - Monday 15th July 2.30 to 4.00pm**  
**We will welcome Paul Herrington who is to entertain us on the piano.**  
**This is a cream tea afternoon.**



## TrinityLearning into the Summer

We have a lot going on at TrinityLearning this summer! As well as our successful Work Experience for students from John Mason School, we have

been supporting students from Kingfisher School as they come to experience and help out with the Trinity Toddler Group on Thursdays. At least five students have taken part so far and



we hope several more will get the opportunity before the end of term.



John Mason students busy updating our display in Trinity Church

We are also in preparation for Make a Difference Week at Larkmead School in July where this year we will train around 22 sixth form pupils and then support them

in delivering our Toolkit for Happiness wellbeing workshops to around 180 year 7 pupils. This is always a busy week for TrinityLearning but is extremely rewarding as we see the 6th form students really develop in confidence over the week.

We thoroughly enjoyed meeting with lots of our volunteers and supporters at our TrinityLearning Volunteer Celebration this week and will share some photos and highlights of the event with you in September.



### Volunteer Appeal

**Make a difference with Thinking Books:** We are still looking for additional volunteers to join our Thinking Books project from September. This volunteer mentoring project involves trained

volunteers meeting children for ten weekly in-school sessions to discuss characters' emotions using carefully chosen books. The project requires a commitment of around an hour a week in term time.

We know that Thinking Books volunteers are greatly appreciated by the schools they support from the feedback we've received – "Thinking books has been very useful for a child in my class who ... does not have

much confidence with reading but is always smiling when I see them outside with their adult from Thinking Books. Throughout the week they sometimes ask how many days until they can read with the Thinking Books adult again...It has definitely been a worthwhile and useful tool.” (Class teacher at an Abingdon Primary School).

TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks. We are now recruiting for volunteers to start the project this September. Please email Nicola [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) if you would like to know more about any of this project or any of our other volunteer opportunities.

**Help us to ‘grow’ our volunteer gardeners’ team:** We are in the very early stages of planning a refurbishment to the Carswell School Sensory Garden. The garden was originally designed by Rosemary Perrow in 2012 and has been used by many Carswell School pupils as well as being appreciated by the local community. Now however, many of the original features have become overgrown and features such as seating are in need of replacement.

Refurbishing the garden to reflect the schools changing needs will be a major project and will require both short term and long-term volunteer support. If you have experience in garden design or would be interested in volunteering for one off gardening sessions or regular maintenance of the completed garden please let Nicola know at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com).



### **Children’s prayers, found in *Children at Prayer* by Rachel Stowe**

Dear Lord, thank you for our world and everything in it. The trees that stand in the sun and the birds that sing in the trees. Thank you for our food and drink, and help us to make this world a better place for us all.



Dear God, thank you for the living things; birds that sing, bright coloured flowers and trees. Thank you God for animals, from a little beetle to the big giraffe. God made people: little or big, thin or fat, poor or rich, bad or good. Thank you God for them all.



# FIND THE HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

(Answers will be given in the September Triangle)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Bible is a remarkable book. Within this letter there are 25 books of the Bible hidden. Can you find them all? Have a go at it.

The Bible was written by God, using many authors from all sorts of backgrounds, having many different jobs. God tells us the story of his nation Israel and His son, Jesus Christ, making sure it has been preserved for us through the ages for us to read today.

The Bible outlines the right way to lead our lives, as well as containing many historical accounts. Moses led Israel through the Red Sea, at the battle of Jericho trumpeters marched round the walls for seven days, Judea saw great wars and captivity, Abishag gained David as a husband, the Pharisees would act superior to everyone else, perhaps almsgiving for example, but Jesus kept giving them a most stern rebuke. Jesus also performed many miracles, after receiving the Holy Spirit upon his baptismal achievement, with his first miracle being turning the water into wine for the groom at the wedding, maybe it was a nice Spanish Rioja? Mesopotamia was an important region in Biblical history, with Ur and Babylon in that area, as was Sudan I elsewhere read.

When studying the Bible it is helpful to look out for any Bible echo. Search for them whenever you read as you will see some fascinating things, particularly when reading the letters to the various churches, or ecclesias. Testing what you hear against the Bible is also very important to show if it is true, for example if someone suggests Jesus was born in Suez rather than Bethlehem, you would use the Bible to check its accuracy. The same applies if you think Paul ate locusts, David played a banjo eloquently for Saul, Barnabas went on missionary work to Dijon, a horse carried Jesus into Jerusalem or Lazarus died of swine flu, keep going back to the Bible as you can learn a lot from answers to your questions. There is no need to put being academic ahead of everything else though as Jesus said it is most important to love one another, in a humble spirit. Jesus gave his life for us and when we are in a spiritual rut, his love will give us the comfort we need.

Sincerely,

The Rev. E. Lation

With thanks to Aston Tirrold URC who found this puzzle

## **A Modern Miracle: The 2024 Abingdon Passion Play**

The spirit of faith and community was alive in the Abbey Gardens on Saturday, June 22nd, as the 2024 Abingdon Passion Play unfolded. Standing on the hallowed ground where St Mary's, The Abbey Church, once stood, the production offered a fresh perspective on the story of Jesus. This was the fourth Abingdon Passion Play, and each has told the same story differently.

Blessed with sunshine, the lunchtime and late afternoon productions saw audiences settle down to watch, some with their foldable seats and picnics. Two women, seated at a cafe set on the stage, asked the questions we all may carry as the drama unfolded.

The play didn't rush straight into the events of the Passion. Instead, it began with a procession, with Jesus, his disciples, and a crowd of cheering children and adults. The music, a collaboration between orchestra and choir, added to the moving scenes, under the direction of Sally Mears, who also arranged much of the score.

Before witnessing the Passion itself, the audience was reminded of Jesus' miracles. We saw the sick healed, and the moment of the feeding of the 5,000. Jesus sent disciples into the audience, just as they did with the crowd, asking if anyone had food. A child's lunchbox became the catalyst for a miracle that fed a multitude.

As the story progressed, the play explored the rising tension. Jesus' act of clearing traders from the temple angered the authorities, who plotted his demise. We witnessed the Last Supper, the solitary prayer in Gethsemane strengthened by an angel's presence, the betrayal, the trials, Jesus carrying the cross, and ultimately, the crucifixion and death of Jesus at Calvary.

The two women returned to a transformed cafe, bearing the words "Under New Management." Hope returned as the disciples discovered the empty tomb. A waiter, unrecognized as the resurrected Jesus, approached the women, offering them drinks and the promise of new life.

This production was a result of the tireless efforts of all involved. The spirit of ecumenism shone, with each Abingdon church contributing spaces and volunteers. The result was a deeply moving play, witnessed by an estimated 1,200 people across two performances.

The 2024 Abingdon Passion Play served as a powerful reminder of the enduring power of faith, the strength of community, and the transformative message of Jesus' life and sacrifice.

*Alastair Fear*







## Church in Abingdon



### **Fundraising Concert for three charities**

A concert by Wantage Academy Brass and Youth Brass, at St Michael's on Saturday 6th July 2024 at 7 pm, raising funds for three charities: The Abingdon Bridge (TAB), TARIRO (Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe), and for St Michael's Church. Tickets can be purchased in advance from [www.trybooking.com/uk/DKYX](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/DKYX): adults £12, concessions £10 (plus 15p booking free per ticket), 16s and under free.

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### **Fundraising concert for TAB**

Also at St Michael's, Abingdon Chorale is delighted to present their first ever summer concert in aid of TAB on Sunday 14th July 2024 at 8 pm. Join us for an hour of gorgeous music, followed by refreshments. There will be a selection of songs on a Shakespearean theme, with a few jazzy numbers thrown in for good measure. Tickets £10 (£2.50 for under-16s):

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-abingdon-bridge/t-xmovmye](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-abingdon-bridge/t-xmovmye)

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### **Abingdon's International Welcome Café**

Fridays, 1.00–2.30 pm, The Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road, OX14 1PL.

This café was set up in response to the Homes for Ukraine scheme and to provide wider support of refugees through a collaborative partnership of Christ Church and Host Abingdon, the main partners, as well as many other churches in Abingdon as well as local groups and organisations, including the Food Bank. The café offers friendship, support, refreshments, toys and help with English run by a qualified TEFL teacher. For further information, please contact [hello@hostabingdon.org](mailto:hello@hostabingdon.org).

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God,  
we thank you for the beauty of your creation,  
and for the joy of living in a world so full of wonder.  
May all nature join us in praise and worship  
adoration and thankfulness,  
in response to the gift of life which you have given to us.

Lord of all creation,  
may the beauty of this earth  
lead us to a deeper worship of you:  
a reverence that brings gentleness,  
fear that leads to holiness,  
and a peace we long to share.

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