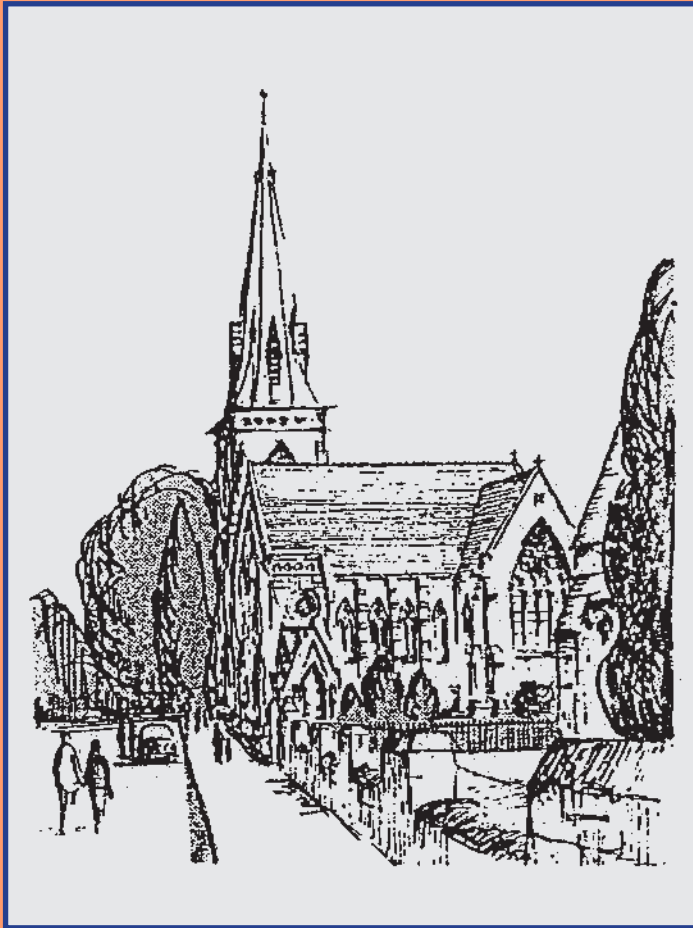




TRINITY TRIANGLE

OCTOBER 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** 5.15 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

e-mail: nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com



CONTENTS

Minister's Letter	4
Church Family News	6
Calendar	12
Tribute to Claire Hann	14
Trinity Learning	18

*In Christ there is no east or west,
In Christ no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.*

William A. Dunkerley

Triangle Joint Editors:

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

Advertisements

Cynthia Bartlett
cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk

Distribution

Through Church
Office

The editors reserve the right to edit articles.

Trinity Website: www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

Minister's Letter

OLD and NEW

We all like brand new things. And yet we love, treasure, and hold on to some old things because they are precious to us, irrespective of their monetary value. It is often things with sentimental value that we cherish: – a mug or candle received from a grandson, or a ring or necklace that belonged to a loved one. According to one edition of Reader's Digest 'something old' a bride wears on her wedding day, represents "continuity and protection for a bride's future child."

Many current examples of the new abound in our church contexts – a new Church year; a new Chair of District; a new minister. In nature, Autumn prepares to receive the baton from Summer; and during this time of natural change, the United Reformed Church annually marks its Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October).

The Bible commonly makes contrasts between the old and the new. Scripture talks about the old covenant, the covenant God made with Israel after saving his people from Egypt, and the new covenant, which was made through Jesus - "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22: 20b) In Mark 2, Jesus uses metaphors of patches and wineskins - It will not work to put a patch of new, unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, or to put new wine in old wineskins. The patch will pull away and tear, and the old wineskins will burst. And in Christ we become new people; the old life goes, and a new life begins!

The old and the new; the past and the future are inextricably linked. Both old and new; vintage and contemporary are valuable and valued!

Yet the reference to old and new in Isaiah 43: 18-19 comes with the directive to do away with the old: "Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" But does it really?

The Israelites, who received this word from the prophet Isaiah, were in exile at the time. They were most probably consumed by the past and present and probably had very little or no motivation to look forward to 'the new' that the future held. It is into this situation that the prophet Isaiah spoke to the Israelites and these words are as much for us now as they were for them then – past and present; old and new.

Isaiah's words are words of hope; words of hope rooted in the realities of the past and present; of the old and the new. And we can anchor

ourselves in this hope because it is hope that is steeped in God's power and goodness and in God's faithfulness and commitment to renew, to recreate and to restore. It is a hope that stands firmly on what God can and will do for us in the coming year.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God has begun a new season among us. As individuals and in our church communities, let us continue to partner with God and to actively seek glimpses of God's active grace as he continues to do new things.

Wishing you every blessing,
Georgina

New every morning is the love
our waking and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life, and power and thought.

new mercies each returning day
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

the trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask;
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us nearer God.

John Keble (1792-1866)

House of Opportunity Christmas Box Appeal

We are doing the Christmas shoe boxes again this year.
I will put a box at the back of the church for your contributions.



It's the usual things:
sweets (not chocolate),
Hats, scarves, gloves,
toys (not war related),
small balls, cuddly toys,
colouring pencils, colouring books,
soap, flannels, toothpaste.
No liquids please.

If anyone has any empty shoe boxes they would be very helpful too please.

The Friendship group and the Thursday group will have the usual evening together, wrapping and filling the boxes on
WEDNESDAY 9th OCTOBER at 7.30pm in the church.

This year the boxes are going to South Eastern Europe.

Thank you for your support for this worthy cause.

Lindsay Busby.

Trinity Evergreen Club

Monday 21 October at 2.30pm

Having used our brains for the Quiz at our last meeting, this month we are having a talk by Ann Ford about "Morris Minors in the Media".

We all know these cars from when we were young....

There will be the usual raffle and refreshments.

Tricia Cook

The Working Together Group

We are a new group from All Saints and Trinity who wish to find ways to work more closely with each other. From All Saints the members are Helen Appleyard, Margaret Ellwood, Dawn Tyrrell and Sue Butler and from Trinity Alastair Fear, Lynnette Seymour-Jackson and Carolyn Hawkes. We now also have Deacon Selina involved.

Initially we looked at planning the Sundays when a “local arrangement” was scheduled this summer. We agreed to go to each other’s churches at least once each quarter when there is a “local arrangement”. Closing one church on a Sunday is an uncomfortable decision, so another idea is for a small group from one church to go to lead the service at the other. We have already repeated our “Mines Advisory Group /Faith in Action” service at All Saints and are grateful for the help we received from pianist Jenny Pooley and the Audio-visual team of Paul Williams and Derek Pooley.

We considered joining together for other services, such as around Christmas and Easter. Both churches have Christmas Carol Services, so we could invite people to go to each others services for example. Our Maundy Thursday service is shared with Abingdon Baptist Church, so it would be good to invite the All Saints congregation too. The Good Friday service could be a joint one at All Saints.

Our Friday prayer group could be extended to include people from All Saints.

All Saints are reaching out to invite the people in the new houses in North Abingdon to their Harvest Service (Oct 6th), using a two-sided leaflet with our own Harvest Service (Sept 29th) details on the reverse. The leaflets will also be delivered in our own church localities.

We are looking forward to having a joint study group in October and November, over the course of four weeks, led by Selina. (See page 22)

Joint social events, perhaps to raise funds for charity, are in the pipeline for the future also.

Organist Nigel Payne's Plaque

On Sunday, August 25th, a plaque was unveiled above the Trinity organ in honour of Nigel Payne, who served as the church's organist from 1982 to 2023. The service, led by Deacon Selina Nesbitt, included a lively atmosphere with a large baptismal party.

Nigel, known for his love of music, expressed his appreciation for the plaque, joking that it's typically reserved for those who have passed away. The service had the theme of music in worship and featured two of Nigel's favourite hymns, "Lord, for the years" and one sung to the tune of "Londonderry Air." Nigel's musical talents extended beyond the organ, as he often played the piano before services, sharing a variety of classical, spiritual, and popular hymns, and always keeping people guessing.

Nigel joins two other retired Trinity organists' with a plaque in the Trinity organ hall of fame: Robert West Langford (1897-1949) and Tony Garrard (1981-2009).





RIDE + STRIDES Sept 14th.

for Churches

It is many years since I have done the sponsored R & S. Readers will know that “done” does not mean, unlike Jackie and Lynnette, I have been actually Riding and Striding but just M & G, Meeting and Greeting!! What could be better than sitting in the September sunshine, M & G visitors to the church?

I arrived on time to see that our Organiser, Alastair, had already briefed Olive and she was now hard at work bundling up the Harvest Flyers. Alastair had kindly provided squash, jug of water, bananas and satsumas. As no one was taking over from us, Olive and I agreed that we would stay until 12.30 giving Alastair time to look at some of the Historic Buildings that were open on the day.

The first person arrived – a big, solid man with a very booming voice and a great mane of grey hair below his shoulders. Whilst Olive marked his papers and he checked in we exchanged greetings. He was from East Hendred – that’s miles away!!

Our next visitors were 2 lovely ladies from St Michaels. They were only going to cycle for the morning as they had to be on duty making Cream Teas later in the afternoon, so appreciative of the refreshments.

Another group were a family of 4, from Didcot where they had started at the Methodist Church. The parents watched as the children signed in. Drinks and bananas all round. The mother was about to take a photo of the family and I asked if I could take one of the 4 of them. She was delighted, as normally she is never in the photos!!!!

Another gentleman arrived, certainly not very young. He parked his bike and his phone rang. He knelt on the grass, answered the phone and got up again. He was from Upton (that’s even further away!). His church used to have 4 organists, and they had to take playing in turns. He is now the sole organist. I explained that we would love to have him and warned him that if he came again he might be kidnapped!!! Alastair now appeared and asked for a photograph of the gentleman, Olive and myself. The gentleman was totally delightful and we couldn’t believe our ears when he said he was 86, cycling from Upton and getting up off the grass unaided!!!!

All our visitors were so lovely, so appreciative and such fun. It is very easy to be despondent when we listen to the news, but there are lots of genuinely Christian people around us and it was a joy for Olive and I to meet them at Trinity.

Feeling guilty, I thrust money into Lynnette’s hand the following day!!!!

Tricia Cook.

Trinity Friendship Group

Visit to Dorchester Abbey and Museum,
(followed by tea and cake!!)



**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 TRIANGLE
IS FRIDAY 18th OCTOBER**

Please send contributions by email to
BOTH Cynthia Bartlett (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk)
AND Val Dalby (vadalby17@gmail.com)
OR via the Trinity Office.



Calendar for October

Wed 2nd	5.15pm	Brownies, 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 3rd	9.30am	Toddler Group
	7.30pm	“Salt and Light” at Peachcroft Christian Centre
Fri 4th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Group
	11.30am - 1.00pm	SOFEA Larder
Sun 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Belinda Kaur
Mon 7th	5.30pm	Beavers, 6.45pm Cubs, 7.30pm Scouts
	7.30pm	“Discipleship” conversation at the Perry Room, All Saints.
Wed 9th	5.15pm	Brownies, 7.00pm Guides,
	7.30pm	Friendship Group and Thursday Group in church
Thurs 10th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 11th	10.00am	Virtual Prayer Group
	11.30am - 1.00pm	SOFEA Larder
Sun 13th	10.30am	Morning Worship, with communion led by Georgina, followed by church meeting after service.
	4.00pm	Childrey Methodist Church 30th Anniversary (and last) Service. With the new Chair of District, Dr Sonia Hicks.
Mon 14th	5.30pm	Beavers, 6.45pm Cubs, 7.30pm Scouts
	7.30pm	“Evangelism” conversation at the Perry Room, All Saints

Wed 16th 5.15pm Brownies, 7.00pm Guides

Fri 18th 10.00am Virtual Prayer Group
11.30am - 1.00pm SOFEA Larder

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER TRIANGLE

Sun 20th 10.30am Morning Worship with Baptism, led by Selina

Mon 21st 2.30pm Trinity Evergreen Club
5.30pm Beavers, 6.45pm Cubs, 7.30pm Scouts

Wed 23rd 5.15pm Brownies, 7pm Guides

Thurs 24th 9.30am Trinity Toddler Group

Fri 25th 10.00am Virtual Prayer Group
11.30am - 1.00pm SOFEA Larder

Sun 27th 10.30am Morning Worship led by Georgina

HALF TERM

Wed 30th 9.45am Bold Walk

Thurs 31st 9.30am Trinity Toddler Group



Fri 1st 10.00am Virtual Prayer Group
11.30am - 1.00pm SOFEA Larder

Sun 3rd 10.30am Morning Worship, led by Libby Hawkness- Smith

Heather and Stuart Townsend have been active members of Trinity Church for many years. They are currently trustees. Notably, the beautifully kept gardens and lawn at Trinity have been under their much appreciated care for over 30 years. Their daughter Claire's funeral was held in Trinity on 15th August, led by Revd Keith Underhill:

Tribute to Claire Hann
By Revd Keith Underhill

I welcome you here this afternoon to Trinity Church as we gather to give thanks for, and to celebrate, Claire's life.

Of course you don't need me to point out that what we are doing here seems so wrong.....that this should not be happeningbut as we know only too well, such are the vagaries, capriciousness and unpredictability of life, of what it means to be human, that we do indeed find ourselves here, here in the unimaginable, with all the feelings and emotions that have been swirling around within us following Claire's death.

We will have cried out and wondered why this should happen and where is God in all of this – we will have so many questions to which we seek some kind of answer that helps to make sense of it all.

And I don't want to offer you trite platitudes.

But here now, we leave those questions to one side, not to ignore or neglect them but rather in order that we may remember with a real sense of gratitude Claire and her life, yes a life that was so cruelly cut short but nonetheless a life that was full, a life that was filled with love and a life that touched the lives of so many people, (the fact that this church is so full today bears testimony to that truth)

It is right and fitting that this service for Claire should be held here at Trinity, for it was here that she was baptised on 15th February 1981 having been born in the John Radcliffe Hospital on 12th August 1980

Her first two years were spent at a house in Radley Green, Abingdon before the family moved to Grove, near Wantage.

It was here that her sister Anna and her brother Mark became part of the family in 1984 and 1986 respectively.

Aged four, Claire went to playgroup and soon after Grove C of E Primary School.

Claire was very able but extremely shy, two aspects of her personality which followed her throughout her schooling.

It was in Grove that Claire began to learn the piano and the violin and her love for and skill in, music began.

When Claire was ten, the family moved back to Abingdon and Claire, Anna and Mark went to St Nicholas C of E Primary School.

Claire passed the entrance exam and joined St Helen and St Katharine School in September 1991. This was an environment in which she academically thrived, winning an academic prize every year and passing her G.C.S.E's and A-levels with stunning results.

In fact, her geography A-level result was the top mark in the country for her examination board. Claire attended a prize-giving at the Royal Geographical Society in South Kensington.

Meanwhile, she gained distinctions at Grade 8 in both piano and violin. Whilst at St. Helen's Claire enjoyed playing the violin as part of the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra.

In 1998 Claire went to Christ Church, Oxford to read Geography. Whilst there Claire joined the John Wesley Society, sang in several choirs and joined the Christ Church orchestra.

Claire left Oxford when she was 21, having gained a double first degree. Further studies in Leicester led to a master's and then a PhD in historical geography.

And it was whilst in Leicester that Claire met a certain Andrew Hann in 2001 whilst Claire was studying for her MA in Urban History.

In fact, their paths had indeed crossed earlier when Claire was still an undergraduate at Oxford and Andrew had been asked to chair the Historical Geography research seminars.

It was in Leicester that Andrew discovered what a wonderful cook Claire was and learnt to value her sense of tidiness and her subsequent encouragement to spruce up his house.

Whilst Claire introduced Andrew to church and her friends and he came to watch her sing and play in the local orchestra, Andrew in turn introduced Claire to his walking group and persuaded her to join them for walks and even a couple of walking weekends, although it should be noted that Claire refused to stay in the Youth Hostel, booking herself in to a nice B&B down the road!

By the end of 2004 Claire had finished her PhD on regional distinctiveness in the East Midlands and got her first job working for the East Midlands Development Agency, and then later working for SEEDA – the South East England Development Agency.

In 2008 Claire and Andrew bought their first house together in Woking and were married here in this church on 31st May 2008 – with the reception following

the wedding service in the Conduit Centre. Claire looked amazing in her white dress and her bridesmaids wore turquoise, Claire's favourite colour.

Claire and Andrew honeymooned in Canada taking a cruise from Vancouver up to the Artic Circle then catching the Rocky Mountain train across Canada to Calgary.

Claire and Andrew's first daughter, Lucy, was born in 2010 and Claire threw herself fully into motherhood.

Before Emma was born in 2012, they had moved to Great Western Park in Didcot and were amongst the first 50 households on this new estate with a real sense of being part of a pioneering community

It was here that Claire was instrumental in setting up a community café for young mums - winning a business and community award from the local council in the process.

The family were part of Didcot Methodist Church at this time and Claire was involved with Junior Church and the Church Leadership Team.

Claire then returned to work at the school of Geography in Oxford - involved with Equality and Diversity – helping women to thrive in the workplace.

Not surprisingly, Claire ended up going way beyond her job description and commissioned the "Wall of Women", a display celebrating the role of women in Geography at Oxford, which still has pride of place in the department today.

Claire then moved to the University's central EDI unit and then finally to the People and Organisational Development Team.

In the past six months despite all that Claire was facing and going through she put together a detailed action plan to further the careers of technicians, which is ready for her successor to pick up.

Claire carried on working until a month or two before she died and continued to mentor others at the University, supporting their professional development.

Claire's last and perhaps most challenging project entailed the re-modelling of their latest family home in Shippon, moving there in September 2022. Claire found herself liaising with architects and builders, whilst designing the kitchen and bathrooms and transforming the house with her interior design ideas. The finished house is a lasting testimony to her good taste, inspiration and hard work and planning

It was Claire's final wish that the family create a quiet, reflective garden to complement her rejuvenated house, providing a calm place for them to remember her.

Preparing for this service, I was reminded of two things that happened the last time I visited Claire in Sobell House.

Claire's steely determination to do things on her own terms right to the very end, manifesting itself in her wanting to fill out the form for her meal choice even though in reality she would eat very little of it.

The second was when I played to her John Rutter's song "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" on my iPhone.

I had no idea that this most beautiful piece of music was sung here at Claire and Andrew's wedding, perhaps if I had known, I wouldn't have chosen it, let alone played it.

But I let the song play through to the end for I am convinced that music is the language of the soul, one of God's greatest gifts to us all and one that can move us at the deepest and most profound level of who we are, calming our troubled breasts and allaying our fears.

I will always remember Claire with a real sense of gratitude for the ways in which she played the piano for us in our Zoom services during lockdown.

Andrew told me how in the days leading up to a Sunday service, Claire practiced and practised as she wanted to get it right, she herself knowing the importance of music in worship.

For it is a gateway to God and one that allows us into his presence enabling us to be lifted up and lost as it were, "in wonder love and praise"

To feel something of the eternal, the heavenly and that which lies beyond our understanding and the paucity of our words and language.

Claire did that for us in those scary and uncertain times of lockdown.

Her playing gave us hope and encouraged us in what we were doing and enabled us to look towards a brighter future which was at that time, still unseen.

The thing about music though is that it never ends!

Whilst a tune, a melody, a symphony, a hymn or a great choral work has a date to mark its beginning, its inception if you like, there is no end date.

For that which was created and formed continues to inspire, to move, to excite, to calm and to uplift and to speak to our very being and to make us better for having heard it.

Through all that Claire did and all the different ways in which her life touched ours, we have been made better people and for that we give thanks even as we so keenly feel her death and passing.

Claire, may you rest in his peace and rise in his glory – Amen!

Volunteers!

The Autumn is one of the busiest periods of TrinityLearning's year and it is all about volunteers. Over the last month we have been running training sessions for our regular school based volunteers and our key long term in-school projects Thinking Books and the Kingfisher Singing Group are now restarting with groups of children across Abingdon.



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, shown here during our last minor tidy up in 2023. 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 school's 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.

Kingfisher School Garden:

Two of our long term volunteers, who regularly maintained Kingfisher School's garden have also recently stood down so if you are able to offer regular ongoing garden support please let me know.

Home Based Volunteering!

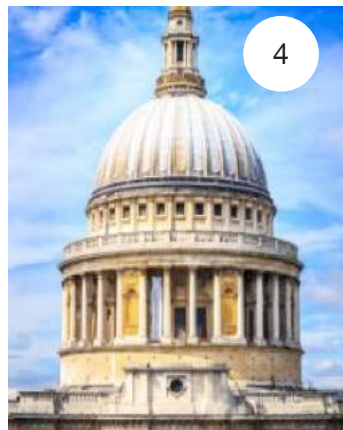
In addition to our in-school and gardening volunteers, TrinityLearning



is always looking for knitters and crocheters to create tiny Teddies for our TrinityLearning Bereavement Packs. These packs are designed for adults working with bereaved children. We send one bear out with each pack and distribute an average of 10 packs a year to local schools. The packs have been very well received by schools and we now also provide Family Change packs to help support adults working with

children experiencing change due to divorce or separation. TrinityLearning will provide all the materials needed so if you have crocheting or knitting skills and would like to help please email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

English Churches Reaching for Heaven... Where are they?



St Francis of Assisi

“Lord make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.”

This is known as the prayer of St Francis of Assisi, (1181-1226), whose Feast Day is October 4th.

As a young man, Francis gave up a life of wealth and pleasure to live in absolute poverty. The beauty of the natural world spoke to him of God's providence and the obligation of care towards his fellow human beings and of all creation.

He worked many miracles and near the end of his life the stigmata appeared miraculously on his body.

He founded the order of the Franciscans, which spread quickly in Europe and around the world. Two years after his death he was canonised as “St Francis”.

In 1290 Giotto painted the now famous huge frescoes in the upper church of the Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi, which recounted the saint's life and his miracles. Many famous artists have portrayed St Francis over the centuries, right up to the present day.

Recently Pope Francis said “The message of St Francis remains remarkably timely for our own day, marked by a spiritual wisdom, a more just and fraternal society and a renewed covenant with the earth, our common home”





BUILDING THE CHURCH

**5 autumn conversations,
reflecting upon our call to
mission, evangelism and growth**

**HOSPITALITY - 30TH SEPT
DISCIPLESHIP - 7TH OCT
EVANGELISM - 14TH OCT
REFLECTION - 4TH NOV
PLANNING - 11TH NOV**

The **Methodist** Church 



**JOIN US FOR SOME OR
ALL OF THESE DATES**

30TH SEPT
7TH OCT
14TH OCT
4TH NOV
11TH NOV

TIME
7.30-9PM

WHERE?
THE PERRY ROOM

@ ALL SAINTS
METHODIST CHURCH,
APPLEFORD DRIVE
ABINGDON
OX14 2AQ

For Trinity Church
and
All Saints Methodist
Church
Facilitated by Deacon
Selina Nisbett

Answers to quiz:

- 1. Chesterfield (St Mary and All Angels).
- 2. Oxford (Christchurch).
- 3. Wells (Cathedral).
- 4. London (St Paul's).
- 5. Salisbury (Cathedral).
- 6. Newcastle upon Tyne (St Nicholas Cathedral).

EDWARD CARTER

Funeral Director



24 Hour Service

DEDICATED CHAPEL OF REST

A private, family business, upholding the traditional values of dignity and respect

Pre-paid Funeral Plan

107 South Avenue, Abingdon

Oxon OX14 1QS

(01235) 528293



**Repairs to most makes of
Washing Machines,
Cookers, Dryers,
Dishwashers etc...**



**For a fast reliable service
Tel: 01235 - 764185
or 07981-941221**



Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors



**Abingdon & Kennington
Tel 01235 539444**

or

www.tonksbrothers.com
'Proud to be a family business'

DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



**Most carpets dry
within the hour
Unbeatable results
removes almost
all spots & stains**

**call
GRIMEBUSTERS**

01865 726983 01235 555533

www.grimebusters.co.uk

You
could
advertise
here