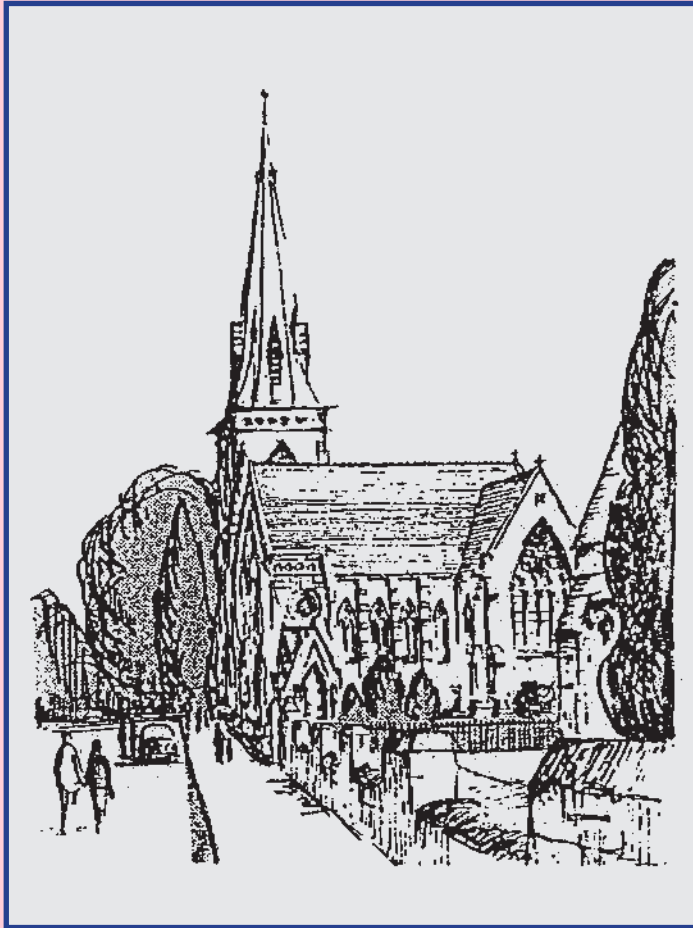


TRINITY TRIANGLE

MAY 2025



'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).
9.30am Coffee 10-10.45am. 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



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Lord of Light, shine on us
Lord of Peace, dwell in us
Lord of Love, enfold us
Lord of Wisdom, enlighten us.

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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Minister's Letter

Easter Hope

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
(1 Peter 1: 3)**

Isn't it wonderful to know that we have fifty days from Easter Day to celebrate Jesus' resurrection? Fifty days leading to the great feast of Pentecost – another cause for rejoicing!

Yet another cause for rejoicing is the hope we have in us through the resurrection of Christ, "Christ in you, the hope of glory". Christian hope is not merely wishful thinking, but a confident expectation based on the promises of God as revealed in Scripture. It is a hope rooted in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ and characterised by certainty and assurance. Jesus has been raised from the dead; Jesus lives. That is the message of Easter and that is the basis of our hope in Christ. Hebrews 6: 19 describes hope as "an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." This metaphor illustrates the stabilising effect of hope in our lives, providing steadfastness amidst life's trials and uncertainties.

After Jesus' crucifixion, the men and women who loved him, who had been his closest followers were left bereft and without hope. Their hearts were broken; they had lost the one who gave them life, and who gave them the hope that never vanishes completely. They did not seem to remember any of Jesus' words and yet, with hope, the women waited and kept vigil. The women carried that irrational hope with them as dawn broke. They climbed to the cave that served as Jesus' tomb, where a great surprise – the surprise of the ages - awaited them. The tomb was open, the body gone, and Jesus was alive!

For hope to be hope, it must be grounded in something real, otherwise it becomes this unrealistic "pie in the sky" optimism or fantasy. Like the Apostle Paul, our hope is concrete, rooted in our experience of the resurrected Christ, our Lord and Saviour. As the well-known hymn goes, "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

Despite all the uncertainties and fears of the times we live in, let us continue to live as people with hope. Let us make sure that the wearing of “the hope of salvation as a helmet (1 Thess. 5:8) becomes part of our daily dress code. Let us become hope for the hopeless, infecting all the people we encounter daily, with that sure and certain hope we have in Christ. The Holy Spirit enables us to do this. Below is a beautiful piece I came across in the 2011/12 Methodist Prayer Handbook:

A Song of Hope

Hope is my companion when all else has been lost to me.
Hope urges me to rest and reflect in a place of possibilities,
so that re-creation and renewal are mine.
Hope is my guide when I am confused.
Even when the darkest of nights seems never-ending
I find that I am embraced, comforted and consoled.
Despair may threaten to overwhelm me,
but hope lingers and anxiety is quelled,
allowing the seeds of joy to be sown.
No matter what may come my way:
assaults from the ignorant,
abuse from the misguided,
silence from those who should stand by me,
I will not be overcome again. Amen.

*(Bruce Thompson, Lincoln and Grimsby District Choir
taken from A Testament of Hope: Transforming Life in Troubled Times)*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)

Every blessing,
Georgina.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

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

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

Thursday Group - Thursday 8th May

As this is the 80th anniversary of VE day, when the second world war ended in Europe, we will share stories, anecdotes, and memories of VE day 80 years ago. We will think of those family members and friends who served in the forces, some of whom did not return and of others who were killed or injured.

We meet at 7.30pm in The Conduit Centre.

A Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2025: May 11th -17th

Lord God, You created a world of community, richness and love. But human greed has brought separation, destruction and injustice. So we pray for the opportunities and boldness to act together with others, to break down the barriers of our selfish desires. We pray our collective actions will be driven by wisdom and love, so that we, your church, will be agents for justice, as we seek a world fruitful for all creation. In Jesus name, Amen.

From <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>.



On Saturday May 10th from 9am to 12 noon, the annual Christian Aid Sale will take place in Abingdon Market Place. Plants, books, CDs, DVDs, cakes and preserves will be on sale as well as a street collection and an online availability to donate.

For further information contact Christine at [christine@the hutts.co.uk](mailto:christine@thehutts.co.uk)

Trinity Evergreen Club - Tricia's 80th Birthday Party

We all thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Tricia's special birthday at our meeting on April 14th.

We were entertained by "Pandemonium", whose 4 musicians involved us all in joining in action songs, as well as listening to their singing and playing.



This was followed by a cream tea with a fabulous birthday cake, made by one of the committee. We had our usual raffle and a collection was made for the Abingdon Bridge.



Thank you to Angie for the photos.

Trinity Evergreen Club - Monday 19th May

Provided there are no local 999 calls to the Fire Brigade, we expect to have a Speaker who is coming to give us a talk about fire safety and security.

As we age we all need to be aware of keeping safe in our own homes.

We have been trying to book the Fire Brigade for many years! At last we have been successful!!!

We start at 2.30pm and there will be the usual raffle and refreshments.

A Moving Encounter in Bath

Tricia Cook's close friend, Margaret Smith, has been a local preacher for almost sixty years and still conducts many services each quarter. She had conducted John Cook's Service of Thanksgiving. She celebrated Tricia's 80th birthday with her, including a visit to Bath. Together they would like you to know of their moving experience:

"On my 80th birthday Margaret and I were having afternoon tea at The Pump Room in Bath. I was last there 30 years ago for another birthday! Everything was as you would expect. Wonderful service, beautiful bone china, delicious food and of course a wonderful trio playing classical music. They played Happy Birthday to me, and it was a delightful afternoon. Next to us was a group of three Americans. When they got up to leave, the couple paused at our table to wish me "Happy Birthday." I smiled and we had a lovely conversation.

The third person who was speaking to Margaret said, "as an American, I have to apologise to you for what is happening in our country." And gesturing to her friends, she said, "we feel terrible about it. Please pray for us." Margaret explained that she is a Local Preacher and replied, "I prayed, in my service, just this Sunday, for the American people." Her new friend was obviously moved, and grateful, and her eyes filled with tears. "Some of my friends are so supportive of all that is happening, and we feel so ashamed. I can't bear to talk with them anymore. It is wonderful to come to this beautiful place, and to meet you both, and to know that you pray for us."





Trinity Church 150th Birthday

Preparations are gathering apace regarding the celebration service for Trinity's 150th Birthday at 3.00pm Sunday 1st June 2025.

Three of our past Ministers will be attending and participating in our act of worship and celebration - Reverends Ian Griffiths, Richard Bittleston and Malcolm Atherton. The circuit Superintendent Revd. Keith Underhill will preach the address, on what is likely to be his last visit to Trinity, before he retires. The service will be led by our own Minister Revd. Georgina and Deacon Selina. The service will weave elements of Trinity's history and its influence within Abingdon over the decades.

The service will be followed by a celebratory tea in the Conduit Centre. Members of the congregation will be invited show off their baking skills with the donation of cakes, to be consumed along with savoury treats provided by caterers.

We hope that many friends of Trinity past and present will be able to attend alongside dignitaries and representatives of organisations that have had a close affiliation with Trinity over the years together with clergy from the Churches in Abingdon.

In addition to the Sunday service there will be a service of remembrance and reflection on Saturday 31st May at 6.30pm in the church led by Deacon Selina as we celebrate and reflect on the lives of those connected with Trinity who are no longer with us.

We would be grateful if anyone who has photographs or other memories of Trinity that they are happy to share, which will either be shared as part of a montage within the service or part of the storyboard exhibition that is being compiled by Alastair Fear. Please send these to Eluned in the office at Trinity trinity.abingdon@gmail.com or Neil Oastler neiloastler@gmail.com.

If anyone wishes to contribute to the overall cost of the celebrations then donations can be made online via the Support Trinity Church, Abingdon link on the church's website trinityabingdon.org.uk

Neil Oastler, Trustee



Thurs 1st		NO Toddler Group – Conduit Centre is a Polling Station
Fri 2nd	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 4th	10.30am	Morning worship led by Revd. John Anderson
Mon 5th	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 7th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 8th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
	7.30pm	Thursday Group
Fri 9th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 11th	10.30am	Morning Worship, led by Revd. Michael Hopkins, Moderator of the URC Wessex Synod
Mon 12th	2.00pm	Evergreen Club
	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 14th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 15th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 16th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 18th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Revd G. Bondzi-Simpson Church Meeting after the service
Mon 19th	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 21st	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides

Thurs 22nd	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 23rd	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Deadline for June Triangle		
Sun 25th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Alan Grist
Fri 30th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
Sat 31st	6.30pm	Deacon Selina's church service remembering those no longer with us.



Sunday 1st June
3pm CHURCH 150th ANNIVERSARY
NO Morning Worship
3pm Service of Celebration led by Georgina
Preacher: Revd Keith Underhill
followed by refreshments in the Conduit Centre

Deadline for June issue of Triangle
Friday 23rd May
 Please send contributions to
 Cynthia (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk)
 AND TO
 Val (vadalby17@gmail.com) or via the Office

Jesus washing the disciples' feet

At our lovely Maundy Thursday communion service, joint with Abingdon Baptist Church, one of the highlights was that we all took it in turns to wash each others hands (rather than feet - as we do not walk along dusty roads in sandals to church, but do touch dirty surfaces with our hands).

Last October I had spent a couple of hours in the Baptistery in Parma, an octagonal building of pink Verona marble completed in 1300, adjacent to the cathedral.

The internal walls were painted from floor to ceiling by local craftsmen in around 1500, with amazing depictions of the life of Christ and his disciples. One of the most renowned paintings is of the baptism of Christ by John the Baptist.

But I was most moved by the scene of Jesus kneeling to wash his disciples' feet.

Carolyn Hawkes



A Japanese Version of Psalm 23

*The Lord is my Pace Setter,
I shall not rush,
He makes me stop and rest
for quiet intervals,
He provides me with images of stillness,
Which restore my serenity.*

*He leads me in ways of efficiency,
Through calmness of mind;
And his guidance is peace.*

*Even though I have a great many things
to accomplish each day,
I will not fret,
For his presence is here.
His timelessness,
His all-importance
Will keep me in balance.*

*He prepares refreshment and renewal
in the midst of my activity,
By anointing my head
With his oils of tranquillity,
My cup of joyous energy overflows.*

*Surely harmony and effectiveness
shall be the fruit of my hours,
For I shall walk
In the pace of my Lord,
and dwell in his house
For ever.*

*Ascribed to Toki Miyashina (original source unknown)
(With thanks to Clare James).*

Lent Groups 2025 - All Saints / Trinity

During Lent, there have been two new Lent groups — one hosted by Maurice from All Saints, and one run at Trinity in the Garden Room. Both groups have included people from both churches. Over twenty people have taken part.

The group at Maurice's house meets on Monday evenings, while the Trinity group meets on Wednesday afternoons. They run every other week, and will continue for a week or so after Easter.

Both groups have been following the same booklet — a Methodist publication called *Sunshine and Showers: Prayers in Beautiful Messiness*. It encourages people to talk about their prayer life. There are also videos to go with the course where people talk about their experience of prayer. There have also been opportunities to pray together in different ways.

The first session asked the question: Do you find prayer boring, or do you find it life-giving? People didn't always like such questions, but they did provoke discussion.

The second session also sparked plenty of discussion. It focused on prayer as rhythm: Do you pray at dedicated times — for example, early in the morning, late at night, or maybe just at church? Or does prayer happen continuously? In one of the groups, it was surprising to find that several people prayed continuously. It's been interesting listening to other people's experiences and learning from one another.

The latest topic, which was the fourth session, asked the questions: Do you feel like God is always with you — or not? Most people in the group said they were aware of God's presence a lot of the time. One person commented, "It's not God who turns away — it's me."

Overall, it's been a very open and interesting discussion, and has brought people together from both churches in a friendly and sharing way.

(with thanks to Alastair Fear)

PRAYER

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
Uttered or unexpressed,
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the contrite sinners voice
Returning from false ways,
While angels in their songs rejoice
And cry: 'the sinner prays!'

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
Our watchword at the gates of death;
We enter heaven with prayer.

O you by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way!
The path of prayer yourself have trod:
Lord, teach us how to pray!

James Montgomery (1771 - 1854)

TrinityLearning - an update on Experience Easter



This year's Experience Easter has been a joy to run! Because many schools visiting last year brought two or more year groups, overall numbers taking part have been lower this year. However, this has allowed us to tweak and develop the workshops to bring them to more diverse groups. This year's visitors have included 2 Beaver Packs and four groups from Kingfisher school as well as classes from both church and state primary schools. Overall around 360 children have taken part either online or live in Trinity Church.

Experience Easter runs every year in the form of a series of six workshops which share the Easter story and provide opportunities for children to reflect and relate the story to their own experiences. In response to feedback received from our school communities we run the event as both a 'live' one where children visit us in Trinity Church as well as online, delivered via our website.

Most of our live workshop visitors this year walked for up to half an hour to reach us. As children enter the church they sit and pause in the entrance area to hear an introduction to the story and receive their individual pack to take on the journey. We then open the doors to reveal the church which is specially decorated for the event. Many children who visit have little experience of entering a church so we often hear a gasp of wonder as the doors are opened!

The children are led around the church to areas decorated to set the scene for different aspects of the Holy Week story. They hear a section of the story and take part in a reflective activity in each area.

Volunteers are integral to the preparation and delivery of Experience Easter. They have helped to update some of our online videos. and this year has been an exceptional year for our craft preparation: In addition to our regular craft preparers, a wonderful team from All Saints Church Abingdon has met



several times to chat over coffee whilst slicing plasticine, threading beads and filling the small activity packs which are given to each child. This all meant that we were ready in record breaking time so we are deeply grateful to all their work and the efforts of all our volunteers from across Abingdon.

Other volunteers have also helped with setting up, story telling, and general support for our in-church workshops. In all around 25 volunteers were involved who between them contributed between 70 and 80 hours of volunteer time.

We received some really wonderful feedback from teaching staff who attended the live Experience Easter:

Really a great morning. Clearly well thought through with many hands on activities which the children all enjoyed. It brought the Easter story to life.

Amazingly organized. Engaging and interactive . Inclusive and adapted to children's needs.

Very well prepared layout and resources. A thoughtful way to present a difficult story. Kind presenters with lots of patience.

Brilliantly set up to keep children wanting to know and understand more- Easy to understand and follow- perfectly done.

As Experience Easter continues to develop, we would like to say a huge thank you to our fabulous volunteers for their continued support and to Churches in Abingdon who provide grant funding to support Experience Easter each year. We are also grateful to the Gladiator Trust, who have provided additional funding for Experience Easter for the next two years. If you would like to have a go at doing Experience Easter yourself then you can get a link to our online workshops, the password and details of where to pick up a pack for Experience Easter by emailing Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

Volunteer Appeal



We are now looking for volunteers for our Thinking Books project for the 2025-26 school year starting in September. Thinking Books is Trinity Learning's mentoring scheme for primary schools. Our volunteer mentors go into schools regularly to meet children one-to-one or in small groups. They share reading

of carefully selected books which start conversations about feelings and relationships. Thinking Books volunteers commit to weekly one-hour sessions in a local primary school. Trinity Learning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks as well as providing ongoing support and training throughout the project. If you're interested or want to find out more contact Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Volunteer Knitters and Crocheters Needed

Our fabulous, ever expanding group of knitters and crocheters have created over 60 tiny rabbits and bears over the last few years. The bears are added to our Bereavement packs which support adults working with children. The rabbits are added in our Thinking Books packs. I have been asked to speak at the Abingdon Partnership Head Teachers' meeting in May to share details of our Bereavement and Family Change packs with all the local Head teachers. So we would love to have some extra packs made up ready for a possible surge in demand following the meeting. We provide the pattern and all the resources. If you have knitting or crocheting skills and would like to have a go, please get in touch.

Have a look at our website: <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/> If you are interested in any of our volunteer opportunities please email nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.



TrinityLearning Volunteer Celebration Event 19th June 4pm-6pm in the Conduit Centre Hall.



Come and join us!

We would like to invite all our volunteers and supporters, and those thinking of volunteering or supporting TrinityLearning, to come and celebrate TrinityLearning's work and find out more about our projects over a cup of tea and some delicious cake!

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