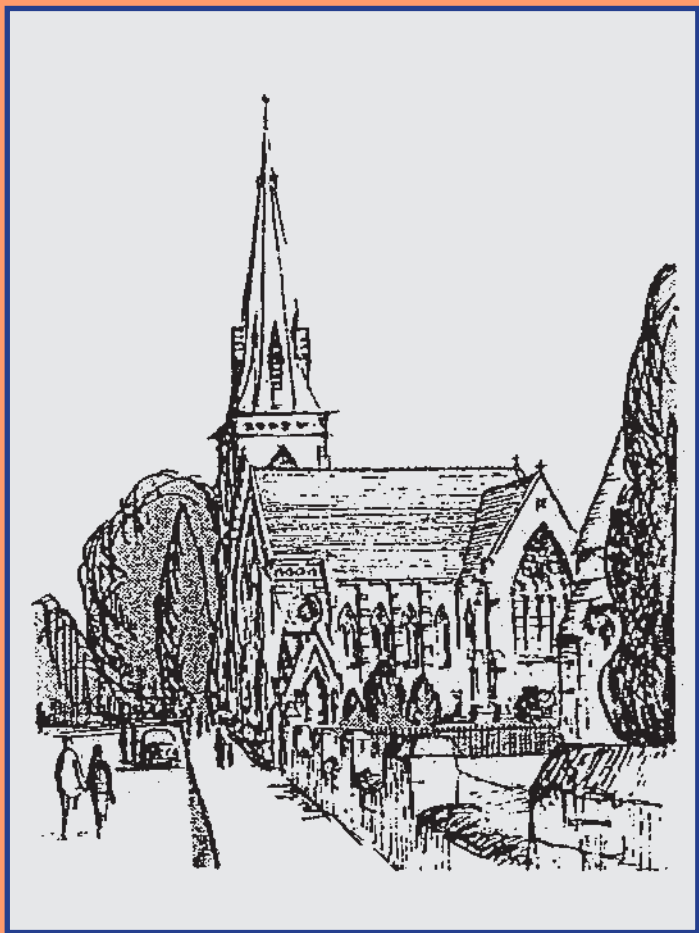




TRINITY TRIANGLE

OCTOBER 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 in the evening.

Junior Church 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

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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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October prayer

This day, Father,
may my eyes be opened
to see the beauty
in all that is ordinary - yet special - around me.
May the glory of all that you have made
remind me of your presence
and lead me closer to you.

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Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

There's something in the human DNA that makes us want to be first and this innate desire cuts across ages, ethnicities and cultures. We want to be first in line for concerts, we want to come in first for a race or to be first in tests or assessments. There's something special about that word "first".

The first two months of the church year are usually observed as the Season of Creation. During this time, many churches hold annual harvest festivals and services - a tradition which dates back to the Old Testament, when at harvest time each Israelite family dedicated the best of the best to the Lord. "I have brought the first fruits of the products of the soil, which you, O Lord, have given me," they prayed at the altar (Deut. 26: 8-10). By offering their firstfruits, the Israelites proclaimed that everything they had, even their lives, was given to them by the Lord.

The apostle Paul referred to Jesus as the "firstborn of all creation" and "the firstborn from the dead", which celebrates the supremacy and sovereignty of Jesus in life and in death. Taking it a step further, James applied Paul's description of Jesus as the firstfruits to us; that our very lives can be "a kind of firstfruits" of God's creation (James 1:18). Offering the best of yourself usually comes with a cost – the cost of time to be first in a concert line; the cost of training to come first in a race and the cost of study to come first in a test. So it is with the cost of discipleship and that cost is a testament to one's faith.

As churches, what firstfruits do we offer to each other and to our communities? As an individual, what is the best of yourself – the best of the best - that you offer to God in this new church year?

A prayer for God's grace to enable us to always bring
our firstfruits to him:

"Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory,
my understanding, and my entire will; all I have and call my own.

You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.

Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me."

St Ignatius of Loyola

With love and blessings
Georgina

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

The URC has confirmed the appointment for January 2026 of an Ecumenical Minister for Oxfordshire to work with those churches which are in Local Ecumenical Partnerships in the North West of the Synod. He is the Revd. Wayne Hawkins, currently minister at Guildford United Reformed Church. Trinity will host his Induction Service on Saturday 10th January at 2pm, followed by refreshments

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been unwell recently or have been unable to come to church .

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

Christmas Box Appeal

Thursday Group and Friendship Group are meeting in the church at 7:30pm on Wednesday 8th October to pack boxes for the House of Opportunity Christmas Box Appeal. Send a box to a marginalised child, woman or man living in poverty in Southeast Europe. Complete boxes welcome. Or if you prefer, there will be a box for your donations in the back of church. Suitable donations include for example, pencils, sharpeners & erasers, notebooks, colouring books, toothpaste and toothbrushes, hats, scarves & gloves, small toys (not war related), soaps & flannels, sweets with a good date (but no chocolate), small soft toys etc - and shoe boxes to put them in. Donations by 5th October please. Thank you for your support, Lindsay Busby

TrinityLearning

Autumn Training- We are back from the summer break and super busy at the moment as we run training and prepare resources for our wonderful in-school volunteers who quietly work through the year on various long term projects. We have already completed two days of Thinking Books Training with 7 volunteers who will hopefully go on to provide 10 Thinking Books mentoring sessions to 30-40 children over the 2025-26 school year. We have also completed the first of our Safeguarding Training sessions where Nicola and Taz provide the full Oxfordshire County Council School's Safeguarding briefing with lots of opportunity to ask questions. All of our volunteers who work in schools complete this training annually. This year, in addition to Thinking Books, we have volunteers going in to schools to sing with the Kingfisher Singing group, hear readers in several schools and help maintain school gardens. If you are interested in volunteering for TrinityLearning, we have lots of different roles available both in-school and in support roles such as knitting bears or becoming a Trustee. To find out more, take a look at the newly updated Volunteer section of our website at <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/volunteer/> and email Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

Mad Week – We are just starting to analyse the feedback sheets from Make a Difference week in July, where Nicola and Taz spent a week in Larkmead School training and supporting 6th Form Volunteers to deliver five days of wellbeing workshops to around 180 year 7 pupils. 6th Form volunteers reported that they enjoyed:



“Making friendships and creating a bond with the younger years”;

“Seeing the kids make friends, especially the quiet kids”;

“Building bonds with my groups and seeing the evolution of their comfort working with me”.



This year's 6th Formers showed a real commitment to the project from day 1. Many gave great reasons why they'd picked TrinityLearning's Toolkit for Happiness project to volunteer with:

"To help younger years deal with stress that comes from school and life";

"Because I had never worked with kids before and I wanted to give it a go";

"To help me build confidence speaking in front of a big group of people".

The year 7s feedback was more practical, about the activities they enjoyed or felt benefitted their wellbeing. We're still fully analysing their responses but so far group skipping is coming out as hugely popular with both year 7s and the 6th form with many students also reporting that they enjoyed the craft activities, getting outdoors and sensory activities such as making herbal tea bags to take home.

And finally... you may have already heard, Nicola Williams will be leaving her role as Education Development Officer at some point this school year. She will be remaining in-post during the recruitment period so that there should be no disruption to school activities or volunteer support and to ensure an effective transition. Please keep TrinityLearning in your prayers during this period and look out for and share our recruitment adverts as they appear.





Sun 5th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Georgina
	3.30pm	Michaelmas Fair service in the Market Place
Mon 6th	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 8th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
NOTE	7.30pm	'Thursday' Group: Filling Christmas shoeboxes with the Friendship Group in the Church
Fri 10th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 12th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Graham Luscombe
Mon 13th	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 15th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
	7.30pm	Pastoral elders
Thurs 16th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 17th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 19th	10.30am	All-age Morning Worship led by Elizabeth Wood
Mon 20th	2.30pm	Evergreen Club: Quiz
	5.00pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 22nd	5.15pm	Brownies No Guides this week
Thurs 23rd	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 24th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 26th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd. Pauline Main, with Baptism

No Uniformed Organisation meetings or Toddler Group
during Half Term (27th-31st)



Sun 2nd 10.30am Morning Worship led by members of the congregation.

**Deadline for October issue of Triangle
Friday 24th October**

**Please send contributions to Cynthia (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk)
AND to Val (vadalby17@gmail.com) or via the Office**

Trinity Evergreen Club Monday 20th October

**This month we will be having a
Quiz afternoon - even some prizes!!.**

**We start at 2.30 as usual and there will
be a Raffle and Refreshments.**

St Edmund's Prayer
(as printed in Prayer Alive, a prayer booklet
from the CiA in the 1990s)

Lord, into your hands and into the hands of your holy angels,
I entrust this day my life, my relatives, my benefactors, my
friends and my enemies, and all Christians. Enlighten my
heart with the grace of your Holy Spirit. Grant that I may
ever be obedient to your commandments, never let me be
separated from you, who live and reign with the Father and
the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Trinity Evergreen Club learns about fire safety



The Abingdon Fire Service dropped in on the Evergreen Club on Monday September 15th to give a talk on fire safety at home.

Members found the talk both entertaining and practical. Key reminders included: have a smoke alarm on every floor, test them regularly, replace batteries as soon as they beep, and agree an escape plan with a meeting point. That last tip can save firefighters from rushing into a house looking for someone who's already safely in the garden.

For more advice, visit Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue's home safety page <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fire-and-community-safety/community-safety/safety-home>

Their fire engine was parked outside to give a sense of drama to the occasion.



Induction of the Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson as Circuit Superintendent

By Back Row Reporter / August 24, 2025



Revd Dr Sonia Hicks and Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

On Saturday, 23rd August 2025, Trinity Church hosted the induction of the Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson – Minister of Trinity Church, All Saints Methodist Church and Grove Methodist Church – as Superintendent Minister of the Wantage & Abingdon Methodist Circuit, which comprises eight churches across Abingdon, Didcot, Grove, Milton, Wantage and Wallingford.

The service was led by the Revd Bruce Thompson, minister in the Circuit, together with the Revd Dr Sonia Hicks, Chair of the Northampton District (which covers Oxfordshire). With the Senior Circuit Steward, the Lay Chair of the Abingdon Deanery, and the congregation, they formally welcomed Georgina to her new role and prayed for her ministry.

Revd Hicks said that the Gospel reading (John 21:15–19) recounts Jesus asking Peter three times, “Do you love me?” and commanding him to “feed my sheep”. This reminder of commitment and calling is relevant for Georgina becoming Superintendent. She told a story of a shop in France selling mystery parcels – some valuable, some ordinary – as a metaphor for the Methodist stationing process. Until ministers and circuits meet, neither knows exactly what they will receive. What matters is trusting God’s call to follow and serve.

The call of Moses in the reading Exodus 3: 7-14 also reminded us that God sees the suffering of his people and leads them into a better existence. We too are called to welcome the stranger and to stand alongside those in need, for each one is a precious child of God. Christian discipleship is not about comfort or echo chambers, but about openness: surprising ourselves, listening for God's voice, and allowing the Spirit to lead us where we might not choose to go.

Revd Hicks said that Georgina, as Superintendent, is called to love, to lead as a shepherd, and to tend God's people in the circuit. She will not always get it right. And she called the people to support, love, and walk with Georgina, so that together you may serve God faithfully in humility and in hope.

Reflecting on the calling, Georgina said "I have been drawn to one particular word: humility – the humility of Christ, which led him to the cross. Humility calls us into the very heart of Christ's way. It is in being humble that we can be open to receive the Spirit of God. My prayer is that more and more of Christ may be seen in me, and less of Georgina. The Superintendency is not about me; it is about you and me together, humbling ourselves before God. So let us go forward together, walking with God and with each other in humility, service, and allegiance."

The Circuit has recently reduced the number of ministers from three to two, and also said goodbye to Deacon Selina, and so lay members and retired ministers are now taking a greater part in leading services and activities.

Among those present were the Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Rawda Jehanli, Georgina's family, and friends from across the circuit and beyond. After the service, everyone gathered in the Conduit Centre for refreshments, where a fine spread of sandwiches and cakes was shared. The abundance



of cakes stretched into Sunday, when they were enjoyed after services at All Saints and Trinity.

The Mayor and her husband with Georgina

News from the Church in Abingdon

Abingdon Compassionate Cafe A comforting space for conversation, along with cake, tea, coffee, or soft drinks, at St Ethelwold's House, East St Helen Street, Abingdon, OX14 5EB. The Café takes place monthly on the first Saturday of the month from 2 pm to 4 pm, and started on 6th September. All welcome.

Fr Paul Smith's farewell service This service will take place at St Michael's on Thursday 9th October 2025 at 7pm. See Fr Paul's farewell article in Round & About Abingdon, October issue.

Licensing of new Team Rector at St Helen's Church The Revd Jen Brown will be licensed as Team Rector and Vicar of St Helen's Church on 21st October 2025 at 7 pm.

Abingdon Community Fridge Abingdon Community Fridge exists to prevent food waste and is open to everyone. It collects surplus food from local businesses and distributes to the community. Help to stop excess food being thrown out by coming to Hadland Road Community Centre, Abingdon OX14 3YH:

Mondays: 4 - 4.30 pm

Thursdays: 1 - 2 pm

Saturdays: 10.30 - 11.30 am

For more information,
go to www.facebook.com/abingdoncommunityfridge.

Moving into Stillness: Taizé circle dancing and stillness Circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes takes place on the first Thursday of the month 9.45 - 10.45 am at St Michael and All Angels Church, before the regular circle dancing session, which is held on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 11 am to 12 noon. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided. Contact Sue Sheppy (susan.sheppy@btinternet.com) for further information.

Silent Reflection This will be held on the last Tuesday of every month (except for December) at St Michael and All Angels Church from 7.30 to 8.30 pm. Material will be available to support your prayer in the quiet of the sanctuary, and the opportunity is always available to walk the labyrinth. We begin in the church room, so please enter through the door on the south side of the church. If you park in Park Road or Crescent, come in to get a parking permit, otherwise the parking is free in the surrounding streets.

Seasonal Prayers

A prayer for Abingdon Fair

Almighty God, bless the Abingdon Michaelmas Fair and the Runaway Fair, a centuries-old tradition of our town. Grant that they may continue to bring joy and pleasure for years to come. Bless the organizers, the stallholders, the showmen, and the visitors. Keep safe all those who gather during the fair. May the lights, sounds, and laughter of the fair brighten our spirits and leave happy memories.

We pray too for Ock Street and its residents, giving thanks that they are willing to cope with inconvenience for the sake of this historic event.

The annual Fair Service will be held on Sunday Oct. 5th. at 3.30pm in the Market Place.



A prayer for schools and young people *(adapted from material from the Salvation Army)*

We thank you for the children and young people in our area. Thank you that you love them and that you have given each of them unique gifts and talents. We pray that they may have opportunities to flourish and to know true joy and love.

We thank you for those who work with children and young people in our area: for the work of TrinityLearning; for teachers, youth workers, volunteers, parents and carers. We thank you for their

sacrifice, generosity and patience, and we pray that you will restore them and give them new life where they feel weary and weak. We ask you to provide all that they need to care and support children and young people as they grow and develop.

"Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Matthew 19:13-14



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