

TRINITY CHURCH ABINGDON AGM
Meeting to be held in the Church on
Sunday 16 November 2025 at 11.45am

AGENDA

Welcome and apologies for absence
Opening Prayer

1. **Approval of Minutes** – *(see attached)*
Matters Arising
2. **Conversation on the Ministry and Witness of the Church: Growth Plan**
(See separate sheet)
3. **Finance** – *Please see pages 17 & 44, 45 of the Trinity 2024/25 Annual Report*
4. **Property** – *Please see pages 18 - 19 of the Trinity 2024/25 Annual Report*
5. **Annual Reports** – *Separate document.*
These reports will not be read out and any conversation will be confined to questions arising
6. **Election of Trustees**
Alastair Fear has completed three years as Trustee and has expressed a willingness to serve another term
We are seeking up to two further nominations.

Dates of Church Meetings 2026:

Sunday February 8th after church
Thursday 4th June 7.30 in the church
Others to be agreed, but normally in September & November (AGM)

**Trinity Church Annual General Meeting
Sunday 17th November 2024
After the morning service**

Present: Revd. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson (Chair), Caroline Atkin; Cynthia Bartlett; Clare Bishop; Rebecca Brawn, Lindsay Busby, Lin Clark, Tricia Cook, Val Dalby, Ruth Dams, Barbara Deakin, Katie Doney, Griff Fellows; Scilla Fellows; Sarah Gibson; Margaret Greaney, Adam Hagar; Carolyn Hawkes; Christine Hutchinson; John Hutton; Sue Kyffin; Tom Kyffin; Margaret Langsford, Pauline Main; Eve Newton, David Perrow; John Prout; Dcn. Selina Nesbitt; Leif Rasmussen; Petronella Rasmussen; Rosemary Richards, Lynnette Seymour-Jackson, Ruth Sillitoe; Olive Vaughan.

Anne Matthews, Circuit Steward was also present.

Apologies for absence: Ian Brawn; Ken Clark; Alastair Fear; Judith Fear; Clare James, Judith Payne; Nigel Payne; Heather Townsend; Stuart Townsend

Opening prayer: Georgina

1. Approval of the minutes of the AGM Sunday 15th October 2023:

These minutes were approved and signed.

2. Matters arising: There were no matters arising which were not covered on the agenda.

3. Finance

Tom Kyffin presented the accounts for the year as published in the Annual Report 2023/2024. In referring to the unrestricted accounts, the deficit was almost £7000.

This is an improvement on the cautious estimate from last year that it might be closer to £15,000. Interest rates, a legacy and the generosity of those who increased their freewill giving had made the difference. Over the last 15 years, approx. £123,000 had been spent over budget, consuming a fair amount of the reserves. In terms of income, 60% of income came from Freewill Giving and Gift Aid. It was noted that there had been a steady decline in freewill giving, reflection the decline in membership, until a campaign about two years ago. 10% of the income came from lettings which, following the drop during the Covid pandemic, had risen again and was steady at approx. £10,000. About half of the expenditure relates to the church assessment contribution and insurance costs. Costs are now increasing but the congregation is reducing.

Currently there is about £121,000 in Unrestricted Reserves and about £214,000 in Restricted Reserves. The Restricted Reserves come largely from previous URC funds and here only the interest may be used. The advantage of restricted funds is that they do not count in the annual assessment of the church.

Collection Plates

There was a view that the church was missing contributions from visitors on Sundays since the Collection Plate was not passed round.

Action: Following some discussion, it was decided:

1. In services where there were a number of visitors expected e.g. Baptisms the Collection Plates should be passed round.
2. It was decided that on all other Sundays a Collection Plate would be placed **inside** the main doors to the worship area on a table so that at the end of the services, those wishing to contribute to a retiring collection as they left could easily do so.
3. There would be a note on the Church Notices on Sundays when there would no collection that there would be an opportunity to contribute to the work of the church in a retiring collection.

Note: the Stewards will need to be consulted before this is implemented.

Tom was thanked for all the work he has done in relation to Trinity's Finance. Georgina asked that all should continue to pray for the work and for the financial stability which enables it to continue.

4. Property

This was Malcolm Newton's final report at the end of his work in relation to the Property of the Church. The report was included within the Annual Report. He thanked Georgina's arrival for enabling improvements to the Church which had benefitted all, including the ramp inside the church and improvements in access to the church office and in relation to the door into the Conduit Centre. There was now a new key arrangement to the west door and Reg Williams had installed a light on a sensor outside. Malcolm also noted gratitude to Reg in regulating the heating arrangements in the church toilets and providing additional sockets in the kitchen. The Wifi connection from the Conduit Centre to the Office had been improved and PAT testing completed. Some roofing issues in the church and the Conduit Centre had also been addressed.

Malcolm also thanked Adam Hagar for looking after the boilers and Ken Clark for his work, with Lin, on Insurance and his advice and work in the church in a number of different practical ways. He thanked Alastair Fear for his work in Health and Safety which included practical work and for the advice which Tom Jarratt provided. He expressed the Church's gratitude to Eluned, who continues to monitor the buildings and alerts the Property Committee to any issues, and to her husband, Nick, who does all kinds of jobs to assist the Church. He thanked Neil for taking over responsibility within the Property management together with others.

Malcolm was thanked for this report and for his work in relation to Property matters.

5. Circuit Issues

Anne Matthews, a Circuit Steward, shared some information about Circuit matters:

- She emphasised the advantages of having a representative from Trinity as a Circuit Steward and was hopeful that someone might be appointed shortly.
- Much work had been done to enable Georgina to move into the manse and this move was due to take place later in the week, on Thursday 21st November. In particular Gordon Skidmore and Mary Hancock had used their skills in moving this project along. Hence the builders were only a week behind contract and this was due to delay in necessary materials arriving.
- The departure of Keith Underhill., the Superintendent of the Circuit, and of Selina in August 2025 would have a huge effect on the Circuit. Both were currently involved in the plan for Sunday worship, following an earlier campaign to get permission for Selina to take part in the plan. From September 2025, there would be only two ministers and Georgina would become the Superintendent of the Circuit.
- The link between All Saints and Trinity has been useful and discussion about local arrangement services has been included. Other churches in the Circuit would come up with solutions to local arrangements as well and this was beginning to happen.
- Revd. Bruce Thompson was arranging a workshop to train people who were interested in helping with services. He would be holding an initial meeting on Zoom 7.30-8.30pm on 21st November and would collate people's views. (**Note:** The Zoom link was circulated by Eluned on 20th November. Bruce will hold a Training Day on Saturday 1st February. For the Zoom link to this, please contact revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk)

Tricia Cook, who has represented Trinity at Circuit meetings for many years, underlined the hard work undertaken and the expertise shown by the Circuit stewards over the years. She expressed the Church's appreciation of all they had done in a number of challenging situations. Their commitment was amazing.

Georgina thanked Anne for her contribution and suggested that people might pray about the issues to which Anne had referred.

6. The Annual Report 2023/2024

Eluned had made copies of the Annual Report available electronically on 8th November and additional paper copies were available for the meeting.

Georgina noted that this was a very good report and thanked all those whose hard work had fed into this report. She also thanked Eluned for putting the report together. She prayed that God would continue to bless the work in this report so that it may grow.

7. Election of Trustees:

Cynthia Bartlett, Ian Brawn, Carolyn Hawkes and Tom Kyffin had all completed three years as Trustees and had expressed a willingness to serve another term. The meeting welcomed their continuing service and it was agreed to re-elect them for a further three years.

It was reported that nominations for up to three more Trustees were possible and one or two people had expressed an initial interest. Any further expression of interest would be welcomed and people could be invited to attend a Trustees' meeting to find out more about what might be involved.

8. Stationing Process

It was noted that Selina would be involved in this process this year. Selina referred to a meeting she would attend in Stafford at the end of November as part of the process. She will be informed about her future placement in January. Georgina offered a prayer for Selina and said that those in the meeting would continue to hold her in their prayers.

9. Dates of Church Meetings 2024

Meetings were normally held in February, May, September and November (AGM). It was agreed that dates would be finalised by the Trustees in their meeting at the beginning of January 2025 and then announced in the Church Notices.

Georgina said that she was so pleased to hear about the working relationship between All Saints and Trinity. It was very encouraging and a good example for other churches. She prayed that God may give wisdom to show further ways in which the churches could work together.

She thanked all the leaders taking any responsibility for any aspect of the Church's life e.g. providing tea and coffee, cleaning etc. and asked everyone to continue to pray about what they might be able to contribute.

Cynthia Bartlett

Trinity Church: A Growth Plan

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Outreach

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/our-calling/>

The URC statement of '**What we believe**':

'We believe everyone should have a place to share in God's joy, happiness and make a positive impact on the world.'

The URC statement of '**What we do**':

'We work with children and young people, support communities, fight injustice and support our churches and church members'

'A whole-Church commitment to sharing our faith, developing relationships and transforming communities.'

<https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-believe/>

Trinity Church: A Growth Plan

Worship includes:

- *styles of worship*
- *times of worship*
- *age-specific worship*
- *places of worship*
- *use of the Bible*
- *communion*
- *use of audio-visual*
- *use of music*
- *sets of themed services*
- *opportunities for joint services*

Outreach includes:

- *baptisms, weddings and funerals*
- *contact with the wider community*
- *age-specific groups, e.g. Evergreen*
- *uniformed organizations*
- *work with other churches e.g. CiA*
- *the Working Together Group*
- *publications – electronic and paper*
- *Trinity Learning*
- *Toddlers*
- *premises – how welcoming the building appears; use of building for outreach.*

Learning and Caring includes:

- *different ways of, and resources for, welcoming people*
- *pastoral care including work of elders*
- *stewarding*
- *home groups*
- *fellowship groups*
- *hospitality and catering*
- *coffee/tea after service*
- *training -e.g. safeguarding, taking part in worship*

Service includes:

being a good neighbour
challenging injustice
supporting charities
voluntary work
fundraising for Trinity
providing accommodation e.g. SOFEA