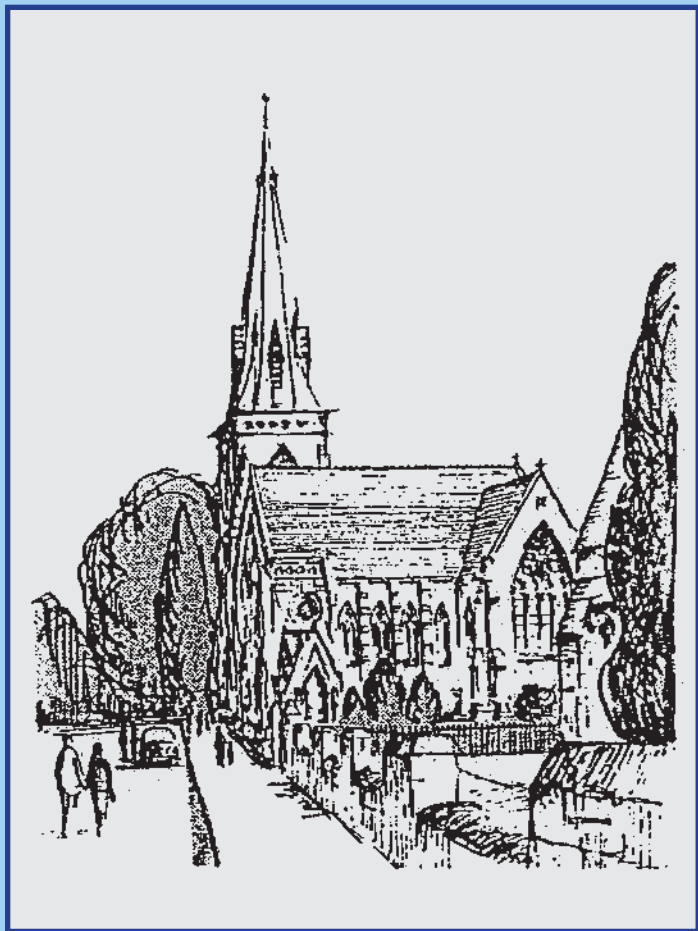




# TRINITY TRIANGLE

FEBRUARY 2026



‘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 meets on the first Sunday morning of the month during the Church Service. It is designed for children who are aged 3+ and parents may stay with their children if they wish. Holy Communion is normally celebrated at 10.30 within the morning service as announced in the Calendar.

<b>Monday</b>	2.30 pm Evergreen Club: 3rd Monday in month. 5.30 pm Beavers. 6.45 pm Cubs. 7.30 pm Scouts.
<b>Tuesday</b>	7.30 pm Abingdon Operatic Society.
<b>Wednesday</b>	5.15 pm Brownies. 7.00 pm Guides.
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30 am Toddler Group. 2.30 pm Thursday Group. 2nd Thursday in the month.
<b>Friday</b>	10.00 am Prayer Support Group (in their homes). 9.30am Coffee 10-10.45am. Abingdon Larder (SOFEA)
<b>Monthly</b>	7.30 pm Friendship Group - see calendar.

**Conduit Centre, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB**

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Office open : Thurs and Fri 9.30am -4.30pm. Closed Mon, Tues, Wed

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## CONTENTS

Minister's Letter	4
Church Family News	6
Calendar and Deadline	8
Trinity Learning	10
Mercy Ships	12
Induction Service	13

*If there is not a place where tears are understood,  
Where can I go to cry?  
If there is not a place where my spirit can take wing,  
Where do I fly?  
If there is not a place where my questions can be asked,  
Where do I seek?  
If there is not a place where my feelings can be heard,  
Where do I speak?  
If there is not a place where I can try and learn and grow,  
Where can I be just me?*

*Author Unknown.*

### Triangle Joint Editors:

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

#### **Advertisements**

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# Minister's Letter

## Be Thou My Vision

The words 'vision' and 'seeing/sight' are very often considered the same and used interchangeably, even though they are distinct processes. Sight refers to the eyes' ability to detect light and transmit signals to the brain using rods and cones, which is what Optometrists check during appointments. Vision, on the other hand, involves the brain interpreting these signals, engaging various regions to assign meaning, value, and emotional response to what is seen. This complex process allows us to understand and interact with our environment, highlighting that vision is a comprehensive brain function, not just a sensory one.

My beloved father, who was passionate about reading and writing, lost his sight twenty years before he passed away. During his final visit to Moorfields Eye Hospital, he was told there was little that could be done to prevent him from going completely blind. True to this prognosis, a few years later he described himself as having been "shut out from the world". However, in those 'dark' years, he always insisted that God was his true vision. Remarkably, even after losing his physical sight, my father's spiritual vision seemed to grow stronger. Until his passing at the age of 93, he often sensed who was entering his room, and on numerous occasions, he shared with us dreams and messages from God, some of which have come to pass; reminding us often: "Be thou my vision."

'Seeing' in the Gospel of John is intricately linked to faith, belief and the divine revelation of Jesus, emphasising that true understanding comes from spiritual insight rather than mere physical sight. The experiences of Nathanael (John 1: 45-50) and Thomas (John 20: 24-29) involved various aspects of seeing and resulted in transformation. During the supper that followed the walk to Emmaus (Luke 24: 30-32), Cleopas and the other disciple experienced an epiphany when their eyes were opened and they recognised Jesus. This evolution resulted in them immediately returning to Jerusalem to share the truth of Jesus' resurrection with the other disciples.

One of the verses of StF 668, a hymn based on George Herbert's poem, 'The Elixir', has always stayed with me. It goes:

A man that looks on glass,  
On it may stay his eye;  
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass,  
And then the heav'n espy.

Herbert, in this verse, highlights the theme of seeing beyond and conjures a sense that there is more to be revealed in the ordinary and everyday things of life than meets the eye. Glass allows light to pass through, but it can also blur or hide what lies beyond it. We can look at glass, or we can look through it. I imagine Herbert was influenced by St Paul's words, "now we see as through a glass, darkly: but then face to face" (1 Cor. 13: 12). For Herbert, God was like the light shining behind the glass – the illumination that brings clarity to us and to the world.

As this new year unfolds, let us claim Paul's powerful prayer for the Ephesians as our own: "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you grasp the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." (Ephesians 1: 18) Let Christ be both our light and our vision - guiding, illuminating, revealing and transforming our journey each day.

"Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart..."

With every blessing for 2026.

Georgina

*In the lengthening of days, Snowdrops emerging,  
from winter's frozen ground.*

*We see the Creator's hand*

*In the sight of a tiny lamb  
joyfully bounding  
across hillside farm*

*We see the Creator's hand.*

*Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,  
the spiritual blindness that prevents us  
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,  
the endless cycle of nature,  
of life and death and rebirth.*

*Forgive us for taking without giving,  
reaping without sowing.*

*Open our eyes to see,  
our lips to praise,  
our hands to share,  
and may our feet tread lightly  
on the road that, together, we travel.*

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Approximately 100 people attended the Induction of Revd. Wayne Hawkins on Saturday 10th January 2026 at 2pm in Trinity (see page 13). A number of church members were present and appreciated the work which those involved in stewarding and in the Reception in the Conduit Centre after the service had done to ensure everything ran smoothly.

As many of you will have heard, Nicola Williams, the Education Development Officer for TrinityLearning, is planning to step down from this post once a suitable replacement has been found (see page 10). As 2026 begins, we want to express our appreciation for all that she has done for TrinityLearning during the last seven years. A number of initiatives have been introduced or further developed during her time and many children have benefitted from all that she has done to coordinate activities, train and support volunteers, develop relationships with schools and oversee projects. She has also contributed regularly to the Triangle so that we can share in the charity's work and take advantage of the opportunities for work for children which she and her team have provided.

*"In You, Father, we are one family in earth and heaven"*

**CANDLEMASS**

*February 2<sup>nd</sup>*



May the light we celebrate at  
Candlemass shine in our lives  
throughout the year.

## **Reducing the Risk: Trinity's charity for 2025**

Congratulations to all those who contributed in 2025 to the raising of £1500 for 'Reducing the Risk'! In the last few years, Trinity has alternated support for a local charity with that for a national or international charity.



*Selina*

In 2024, Deacon Selina suggested a charity the church might consider was 'Reducing the Risk'. This is an Oxfordshire-based charity which supports victims of domestic violence, both men and women. It aims to increase the safety and wellbeing of adults and children who are at risk through domestic abuse and to protect people who are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. It also aims to prevent such abuse by promoting good practice and multi-agency partnership,

During her time in Abingdon, Selina worked with many community organisations including the Toddlers' Group, work in schools and with the army base, and supporting children, young people and their families in so many ways. She provided support in practical ways as well as giving to many, both in the Circuit and in the wider community, both spiritual comfort and pastoral care.

At Selina's last Church Meeting at Trinity in July 2025, Georgina said that Selina's presence at Trinity had been a great blessing. She would not be forgotten, and she was leaving a huge legacy. Part of that legacy has been her support of local charities and those in need in the local community – and of course her support for 'Reducing the Risk'.

We have sent a message to Selina, who is now working in the Salisbury Circuit, to let her know the final total and to thank her for suggesting the charity.



Sun 1st	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Georgina
Mon 2nd	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 4th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 5th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group
Fri 6th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 - 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Graham Luscombe plus Church Meeting after the service
Mon 9th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 11th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 12th	<b>2.30pm</b>	The Thursday Group
Fri 13th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 - 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd. Wayne Hawkins
Mon 16th	2.30pm	Evergreen: Ellen's Seated Exercise
		Half term: No uniformed organisation meetings this week. No Toddler Group this week
Fri 20th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group
	9.30am	Coffee 10.00 - 10.45am SOFEA Larder
		Deadline for March issue of Triangle
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Georgina
Mon 23rd	2.30pm	Evergreen: Games Afternoon
	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 25th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 26th	9.30am	Trinity Toddler Group



Fri 27th      10.30am    Virtual Prayer Support Group  
                 9.30am      Coffee 10.00 - 10.45am SOFEA Larder

## **March 2026**

Sun 1st      10.30am    Morning Worship to be led by members of  
   the congregation

### **Deadline for March issue of Triangle Friday 20th February**

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

### **Trinity Evergreen Club Monday - 16th February**

We are delighted that we have managed to secure Exercises with Ellen this month. Ellen Shepherd (nee Busby) has been coming for many years and we all enjoy her wonderful sessions of exercises to music. We are also surprised at what we can actually do!!!

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

### **Thursday Group Meeting - Thursday 12th February at 2.30pm**

We are delighted to welcome Dick Richards to an OPEN AFTERNOON when he will give an illustrated talk on The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Dick is a Guide at the Botley Cemetery, where there are over 700 service people buried in the local graveyard.

Thursday group members would be delighted to welcome church members who would also like to attend this afternoon's talk.

Tricia Cook



## Vacancy at TrinityLearning

Sadly, Nicola Williams, our current Education Development Officer will be stepping down from her post shortly. This means we are looking for an inspirational and caring leader to become our new Education Development Officer. This is a fantastic, creative and worthwhile job for an experienced teacher so if you know someone who would fit the bill, please do tell them about us! Our short recruitment advert is:

**TrinityLearning** is looking for a new **Education Development Officer**. Are you an experienced education professional who could lead this small Abingdon based Charity? This is a two year contract, starting as soon as possible. 0.4 FTE, salary £33,000 pro rata per annum. (£13,200). For the full job advert, an application form and details of how to apply, please see our website <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/vacancy-education-development-officer-position> for further details, or for an informal conversation about the role, please contact Pauline revmain@gmail.com. Tel 01235 531028. *TrinityLearning is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people.*

Please do share the vacancy widely to help us get a wide range of candidates. Thank you.

**Kingfisher Sensory Christmas Services** - these services were an absolute joy again in December! We delivered them nine times over one week with a variety of different resources to suit the different groups of children.

Many of our incredible volunteers from the Kingfisher Singing Group and Thinking Books teams, along with several of our Trustees, came to support the services at Trinity Church.

During these sessions, the children really engaged with the small resource packs, with the gold stars proving a particular favourite this year.

The Kingfisher Singing Group then led two services at Kingfisher School on Wednesday, with Taz and Nicola leading five more on Thursday afternoon. For these services we used a mixture of small packs and larger resources including large feathers, as soft as an angel, and big



fleecy blankets for the children to wrap themselves up as the baby Jesus or feel how soft sheep are.

It was lovely to see how the children calmed, listened and joined in with the singing, a testament to how much they have loved the Singing Group's weekly sessions over the years.

### **Call for volunteers**

#### **Volunteer from home to knit or crochet-**as many of you know



TrinityLearning gives out a tiny handmade teddy with each Bereavement Pack provided to support a recently bereaved child. Last school year we gave out 17 bears and so we are looking to restock. If you are able to knit or crochet please could you consider making a tiny bear? We provide everything you need. If you are interested in helping with this please email Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com)

#### **Volunteer from home or with us in Trinity Church for Experience**

**Easter-**we are starting to plan for Experience Easter 2026, which will offer schools the choice to visit Trinity Church for live workshops or to take part online. Experience Easter is a series of reflective workshops, specially developed to allow Key Stage 2 children (7 to 11-year-olds) to access the Easter Story in a meaningful way. It is also an introduction to mindfulness, using stilling exercises and simple activities to allow the children to consider their emotions.

We are looking for volunteers to help prepare simple craft packs as well as storytellers to help with the fully scripted live Experience Easter which will be held in Trinity Church.

#### **Volunteer in school with our Kingfisher Singing group** -this is one of

our regular volunteering projects where our Kingfisher Singing Group visit Kingfisher School one morning a week in term-time to sing simple songs and nursery rhymes. Volunteers need to be over 18, willing to volunteer regularly and be willing to undertake a DBS.

**TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding and all our volunteer opportunities are subject to safer recruitment procedures. If you would like to volunteer with us or would like any more information please email Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com).**



## *Greetings from Sierra Leone!*

I am writing from my cabin on board the 'Global Mercy', a big hospital ship run by the Christian charity 'Mercy Ships' which provides free surgery for people in Africa. This week I will begin operating on children with extreme leg deformities that make it hard for them to walk.

The team on board are amazing- a bunch of truly committed people willing to come and work for free and 'go the extra mile' which means I find being here to be a breath of fresh air, despite the hard work.

This last week I reviewed around 50 patients that we operated on last year. They were all super happy to be back on board, and there were lots of hugs and 'high fives', and we were happy with the outcomes of the surgeries.

A visit to a local children's hospital yesterday brought home to me the stark contrast between ship life and the country we serve. It was noisy, crowded and hot. Three babies to a bed. There was a poster on display giving statistics- 30% of children in Sierra Leone under age 5 are stunted, only 9% of children aged 6-23 months were fed a minimum acceptable diet in the day or night preceding the interview. 68% of children age 6-59 months and 47% of women aged 15-49 are anaemic, and so on.

The ship on the other hand is air conditioned (to the point where patients will often be sat in bed wearing woolly hats while it is 30 degrees outside!) and everything is state of the art.

But looking forward to the week ahead: I am excited to see the children transform. Not only do we get their legs straight, but they begin to smile and then to make friends. At this point the ward comes alive with chatter and laughter and often music and spontaneous songs.

Rachel Buckingham

(Rachel is Griff and Scilla's daughter and is the Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultant at the John Radcliffe Hospital).

## Induction of Revd Wayne Hawkins as Oxfordshire Ecumenical Minister

Trinity Church, Abingdon, welcomed people from across England and Wales on Saturday 10th January as Revd Wayne Hawkins was inducted as Oxfordshire Ecumenical Minister for the URC Wessex Synod. The service was led by the Moderator, Revd Dr Michael Hopkins, with contributions from ministers and church leaders from across the county.



The preacher was Revd Dr Susan Durber, URC minister and European President of the World Council of Churches. In her sermon she reflected on the ecumenical movement and Abingdon's long tradition of churches working together. She recalled the progress in ecumenical cooperation, especially during the 1970s and 1980s when new forms of partnership emerged and the United Reformed Church was formed through the coming together of different traditions. Today, she said, people are far more familiar with one another's church practices, but that has not yet led to the kind of deep structural unity anticipated in those earlier years.

Drawing on the readings from Philippians (2: 5-11) and John (13:34-35), she spoke of Jesus' command to love one another, stressing that love is not just a feeling but something practical and lived out day by day. True unity, she suggested, grows when Christians commit themselves to love in their relationships with one another within and across churches.

During the service Revd Wayne Hawkins affirmed his faith and his commitment to serve the local ecumenical partnership (LEP) churches of Oxfordshire in this ecumenical role in helping them in their missions to their communities. Representatives of local ecumenical partnerships, Wessex Synod and the wider





church formally welcomed him and promised their support and prayers. The service concluded with prayers for the churches and the world, by Canon Neil Roberts, Rector of St Nicolas Church, Guildford. He was sorry to lose Wayne Hawkins who had been a fellow minister in Guildford but said people in Oxfordshire would be blessed through his work in this new ecumenical role.



Rev'd Wayne Hawkins concluded with the blessing:

God

Creator, Son and Spirit

Hold us now in the place where we belong,  
In your heart of love.

Bless us now as we open our eyes,  
To see one another as your beloved people,  
To see your image set in each one of us,  
To know that we are loved.

Amen

Taken from the Trinity Church, Abingdon website,  
with thanks to Alastair Fear

In heavenly love abiding,  
No change my heart shall fear;  
And safe is such confiding,  
For nothing changes here;  
The storm may roar without me,  
My heart may low be laid;  
But God is round about me,  
And can I be dismayed?

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