

TRINITY CHURCH ABINGDON
Church Meeting
to be held in the Church on
Sunday February 8 2026
at 11:45am

AGENDA

Welcome and apologies for absence
Opening Prayer

1. **Approval of Minutes of 21 September** (*see attached*)
2. **Matters Arising**
3. **Notification of any (short) items of Other Business**
4. **Nepalese Church**
5. **Mission & Ministry**
Growth Plan
Prayer Cards
Prayer Ministry
6. **Property**
7. **Finance**
8. **Circuit Stewards Report**
9. **AOB**
10. **Future Events**
11. **Date of Future Meetings**

17th June at 7.30pm in the church – please note new date

Trinity Church Meeting
Sunday 21st September 2025
After the morning service

Present: Revd. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson (Chair), Cynthia Bartlett; Ian Brawn, Ken Clark, Lin Clark, Tricia Cook, Val Dalby, Ruth Dams, Barbara Deakin, Torika Draumai, Chris Foskett, Alastair Fear, Judith Fear, Carolyn Hawkes, John Hutton, Sue Kyffin, Tom Kyffin, Margaret Langsford, Alwyn Langsford, Pauline Main, Lynda Msonthi, Eve Newton, Judith Payne, Nigel Payne, David Perrow, Leif Rasmussen, Petronella Rasmussen, Rosemary Richards, Gloria Sandford, Michael Sandford, Lynnette Seymour-Jackson, Ruth Sillitoe, Heather Townsend, Stuart Townsend, Olive Vaughan, Reg Williams.

Apologies for absence: Rebecca Brawn, Lindsay Busby, Griff Fellows, Scilla Fellows, Clare James, Malcolm Newton, Elizabeth Oastler, Neil Oastler,

Note: Georgina was leading worship at All Saints. Hence the Property item was taken out of order in order to give time for her return and enable her to lead on other items.

Opening prayer: Cynthia

1. Approval of the minutes of 17th July 2025:

One amendment: Ruth Sillitoe was not present at this meeting.

These minutes, with the amendment, were approved and later signed by Georgina.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising which were not included in the agenda.

3. Notification of Any Other Business: TrinityLearning (see below)

Ride and Stride: Lynnette reported that she had completed the Ride and Stride challenge the previous weekend and had visited 9 churches. Unfortunately Jackie Foreman had not been well and had been unable to take part. Lynnette was now collecting sponsorship money and so far £150 had been donated.

4. Christmas Charities

It was decided that the following charities would benefit from the Christmas services.

Gift Day: Reducing the Risk

Carol Service Crisis at Christmas

Christingle: Action for Children

Christmas Day: Joint service with All Saints (If at Trinity, then to Crisis at Christmas)

8. Property – Chairs (taken out of order -see above)

Alastair Fear reported a new development in acquiring chairs needed for the Conduit Centre. Rebecca had managed to negotiate with Radley College to donate between 60 and 90 chairs free of charge. Trinity would not now need to pay for these replacement chairs. The chairs had upholstered seats with metal legs which could be stacked in fours. They would be more comfortable than the existing chairs. A trolley would be bought in order to enable easy stacking and transporting of the chairs. A few existing chairs would be kept to be used for messy jobs etc. It was acknowledged that some chairs with arms would need to be found. The meeting was grateful to Alastair for pursuing this issue and acknowledged that the gift from Radley College was very good news.

5. Membership Cards

Georgina explained that the Methodist Church had membership cards which could be issued each year and these could be rewritten for membership at Trinity. They provided an opportunity to consider what membership implied. They were not intended to be divisive – membership represented a commitment, and it was accepted that there were people who might be committed to a particular church for a long time but would not wish to become members. The cards would not be handed out publicly but could be given to pastoral elders to deliver.

It was, of course, clear that only members could vote at Church Meetings, as has been the normal practice in the Methodist and URC churches and since Trinity became an LEP.

A number of reservations were expressed:

- There was a concern that in some way people would be excluded or feel second class in some way, whatever their denomination or none.
- Some felt that this might interfere with the open welcome all receive at Trinity.
- Others thought that issuing them once would be sufficient.
- Some people thought that, having had a membership card issued years ago, they did not need another.
- Others thought that to issue specific cards for Trinity would be a waste of money
- Some were unsure about why they would be carried but if they were, they should be no bigger than a credit card
- Another comment was that nowadays, cards were becoming outdated and people tended to use technology e.g. mobiles etc

Action: This item would be postponed for further consideration until the next Church Meeting

Note: Georgina asked whether any individuals were not clear about who was their pastoral elder. One or two people expressed some doubt here. In the light of a reduced ministry, the Circuit were hoping to develop a robust pastoral system and it was important that everyone knew who their pastoral elder was.

Action: This would be an item on the next Pastoral Elders meeting.

6. The Nepalese Church

Following a meeting of the Trustees on 9th September, a paper 'The New Life Church - Engagement' had been circulated. This summarised the information available at the previous Church Meeting on 17th July, noted issues needing further discussion, and presented some logistical problems which would need to be negotiated. The Trustees unanimously supported the view of the Church Meeting in July that Trinity should begin an engagement with the New Life Church. Georgina thanked Cynthia for writing the paper.

The next steps will include:

- Georgina to meet shortly with some elders of the New Life Church, including Elder Chandra Sunwar who had made the original request.
- Forms to be completed for the Methodist Church requesting permission for the New Life Church to use the church.
- Giving thought and prayer to this development.

It was decided to take a vote on this matter which could be recorded. It was made clear that, at this point, that what was being considered was the first stage of any engagement with the New Life Church.

Thus the Church Meeting was asked to vote on whether Trinity wished to '*engage with the New Life Church in the hiring of the premises and with the opportunity to attend each other's services if individuals should wish to do so*'.

The result: 28 votes in favour 1 abstention

7. Growth Plans

Two documents had been circulated prior to the meeting: 'Document for discussion at the Church Meeting on 25th March 2018 of Trinity's Growth Plan' and 'Growth Plan 2018-2021'. It was important at this stage to review and update these plans. So it would be good if the congregation could consider these issues which would then be discussed and a new Growth Plan drawn up.

Action: These would be taken for consideration at the next Trustees meeting and would then be returned for discussion to the Church Meeting.

8. Finance

Tom Kyffin gave a report of the Churches Finances to 31st August 2025. This was a draft report because the accounts had yet to be audited. The prediction for this year had been a deficit of £14,000 but in fact the deficit was £17,200. Income had been quite promising but more had been spent on

repairs and maintenance than had been expected. The exceptional item was perhaps the plastering of walls in the church much of which was accounted for in this year's figures.

Georgina thanked Tom for his work and ask the Church Meeting to pray about the issues raised.

9. Mission and Ministry

a. Eco Church

Georgina reported that it was hoped that the Circuit could become an Eco-Circuit and it would be good if Trinity was able to join this scheme. David Perrow was prepared to lead on this and the Church Meeting thanked him for his willingness to do so. Georgina asked for volunteers to become part of the team to investigate the possibilities here and Carolyn Hawkes volunteered. It was hoped that an appeal in the Church Notices might provide others with the opportunity to volunteer.

David Perrow indicated that Trinity might already be close to qualifying for a Bronze award on this scheme. This would not require spending a lot of money, but rather spending time thinking about what could be done over a period of time.

Action: Cynthia to ask Eluned to put a request about joining the team in the Church Notices.

b. Appointment of Revd. Wayne Hawkins (URC)

It was reported that the URC had recently appointed an Ecumenical Officer for Oxfordshire, Revd. Wayne Hawkins, to work with Local Ecumenical Partnership churches to begin work in January 2026. Trinity had been asked to host his Induction which would be held in the church on Saturday 10th January 2026 at 2pm following which refreshments, provided by the URC would be served.

This was good news and the Trustees had already had a conversation about areas in which they felt the minister's involvement would be appreciated.

c. Hospitality and Catering

Georgina expressed the appreciation of the Church for the commitment, dedication and willingness of the team of volunteers, who had worked on a number of major events at the church in the last few months. The team included Judith Fear, Elizabeth Oastler, Lindsay Busby, Heather Townsend, Petronella Rasmussen, and Carolyn Hawkes. She thanked them and all who had supported them.

11. Any Other Business

TrinityLearning: Georgina confirmed that Nicola Williams had resigned as Education Development Officer for some point during this school year. The Church was grateful that she would 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.

Action: The congregation was asked to pray about this.

Circuit Matters: Anne Matthews was welcomed. The Circuit Stewards Report for the Methodist Year 2024/2025 had been tabled. She made the additional following points:

- She thanked the Catering team at Trinity for all their work in the last two months.
- She reminded people that there were now more local arrangements on the plan. The Circuit were grateful to all those who had taken part in local arrangements services. Bruce Thompson was arranging further training for those who would like to attend – the next one being on Saturday morning 27th September, 9.30am for a 10 am start.
- Jane Hawes, the Circuit Administrator, had begun work in the Conduit Centre. She is using the Watts Room. Anne expressed the gratitude of the Circuit stewards for Neil Oastler's help with this and thanked Trinity for the accommodation.
- She also informed the Meeting that after eight years on Great Western Park, the Community Chaplaincy there was drawing to a close at the end of the next year. It was important to continue to give support to Libby (Hawness-Smith), the Chaplain.

Note: Alastair indicated that he was attending the training on 27th September and would be happy to offer a lift there.

Closing prayer: All shared in the Grace.