

**Trinity Church Meeting**  
**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**  
**After the morning service**

**Present:** Revd. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson (Chair), Cynthia Bartlett; Ian Brawn, Rebecca Brawn, Tricia Cook, Val Dalby, Ruth Dams, Barbara Deakin, Alastair Fear, Judith Fear, Sarah Gibson, Margaret Greaney, John Hutton, Margaret Langsford, Alwyn Langsford, Pauline Main, Paul Newton, Judith Payne, David Perrow, Rosemary Richards, Gloria Sandford, Mike Sandford, Lynnette Seymour-Jackson, Ruth Sillitoe, Heather Townsend, Stuart Townsend, Olive Vaughan, Reg Williams.

**Apologies for absence:** Lindsay Busby, Griff Fellows, Scilla Fellows, Carolyn Hawkes, Clare James, Sue Kyffin, Tom Kyffin, Neil Oastler, Elizabeth Oastler, Nigel Payne, Leif Rasmussen, Petronella Rasmusson

**1. Approval of the minutes of**

These minutes were approved and signed by Georgina.

**2. Matters Arising:**

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

**3. Notification of any (short) items of Other Business:** Three items - see AOB

**4. Nepalese Church**

Sadly, Georgina has received an email from Elder Chandra Sunuwar regretting that it was necessary to pull out of any further engagement at present with Trinity. The Nepalese Church had suffered from a division which had involved some of the leaders. Part of this church was now worshipping at the Abingdon Baptist Church, and while others wished to worship in Abingdon, it was felt that being physically close to the Baptist Church would be difficult. This is clearly a difficult time for the people involved and Georgina asked Trustees to pray for them.

Georgina offered a prayer for the Nepalese Church.

**5. Mission & Ministry**

**a. Circuit Stewards report**

Ann Matthews, Circuit Steward, gave a report from the Circuit Stewards. The team were short staffed currently consisting of Gordon Skidmore, Neil Oastler, Ann Matthews, Mary Hancock. Currently Neil is in South Africa and some consultations about the sale of property have taken place from there! She asked the meeting to pray for the team.

She reminded the meeting of The Circuit Plus consultations two/three years ago. The Circuit is now down to two presbyters. It was clear that someone was needed to assist with the administration of the Circuit and the subsequent appointment of Jane Hawes as Circuit Administrator had been a godsend. She has enabled Georgina and Bruce to

focus on their specialist ministry, not having to be over-involved with administrative tasks.

Ann thanked those who had taken part in the Circuit Plus consultations and the discussions about ministry and local arrangements.

**May 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Growth Day.** This will be held at Southmoor and there will be a buffet lunch provided. All are welcome to attend this day for which the seven churches are responsible. There will be a list to sign.

**The Sale of Church Property in the Circuit:**

- There had been a delay with the sale of the manse at **Wantage**: the buyer could not proceed because their buyer had pulled out. Now they have a new buyer and the sale is proceeding.
- The sale of the manse in **Kingston Close, Abingdon** is proceeding well and it is hoped that contracts will be exchanged this coming week. This will be very helpful in relation to Circuit finances.
- **Childrey** church – the Circuit is applying for a change of use and this sale will go forward in due course.

Georgina thanked Ann for presenting the report and expressed appreciation for the work the Circuit Stewards were doing.

**b. Trinity Growth Plan**

Following the statement from the Circuit Leadership Team which was read out in church on 25<sup>th</sup> January, supporting documents, which Trustees have just received, will be sent out to individuals during the coming week. There will be a few copies left in the Welcome Area for those not on email. There are questions to consider around the main headings – Buildings, Community, People and Mission.

**Action: All are asked to pray about the Growth Action Plan and the journey the church is about to embark on and for the Going for Growth Day.**

**c. Prayer Cards**

These are nearly ready and will be distributed in due course. They will help people to know and remember who their pastoral elder is, addressing an issue raised in a previous church meeting.

**d. Prayer Ministry**

Ruth Dams has led Trinity's Prayer Ministry for some years now. Other members of the Prayer Group who take time on Friday mornings 10-10.30 am to pray at home (although people can vary the time if needed of course) include Ruth, Doreen Keaney, Katie Doney, Margaret Langsford, Malcolm Newton and Rosemary Richards. This group prays for people whose names are in the prayer book or the prayer box and for individual local churches.

**Action: All are asked to consider if they feel called to join the prayer team and how the church can further develop the prayer ministry.**

e. **Pastoral**

Georgina invited the meeting to join her in prayer for Jackie Foreman, Mary Ritchings, Lindsay Busby and Heather & Stuart's daughter and new grandson born on January 12<sup>th</sup> and for Reg Williams' family as they await the birth of a new grandchild.

6. **Property**

In Neil's absence, Alastair gave a brief report on the work which had been done since the last Church Meeting.

- Cycle hooks are now in place outside the Conduit Centre
- Two computers have now been purchased
- The kitchen has had a deep clean
- Chairs have been acquired for the Conduit Centre; some will need patching up and have been set aside.

Neil, Alistair and Reg were thanked for their work on the church property.

**Eco Church**

Trinity has been awarded the Bronze Award. David Perrow reported that this award recognises what the Church has already achieved. Further work can now be done towards achieving a Silver Award and this could be considered in relation to the Buildings and the Garden when the Growth Plan are being considered. There are five categories for the Silver Award: the Church already qualifies on two of these and another is nearly complete.

David thanked the many church members who have helped in providing information and help in submitting the forms. Georgina thanked the team and David for his leadership in pursuing this award.

7. **Finance**

In Tom Kyffin's absence, it was decided to postpone this report until the next meeting.

8. **AOB**

- a. **Easter Leaflets:** Alastair reported that, as has been the custom recently, All Saints and Trinity have prepared leaflets to be distributed with the Easter services listed for each church. They will be available in the Welcome Area and they will need to be distributed in the local areas. It would be helpful if people could take some and deliver them in a street local to their home or near the church.

**Action: Members of the congregation to look out for these leaflets and help with distribution.**

- b. **Local Arrangement services: 1<sup>st</sup> March** – this is a designated 'local arrangement' Sunday but it is also a Junior Church Sunday and a number of

those who have helped with services are involved in Junior Church. It would be good to have other members of the congregation to help with this service.

**24<sup>th</sup> May:** This is another designated local arrangement service and it is thought possible that All Saints and Trinity could unite for these services, perhaps every three months, alternating the venue between the two churches.

**Actions: Alastair to approach members of the congregation to ask if they can help. Members of the congregation to speak to Alastair if they would like to share something at a service.'**

**c. 'Everyone an Evangelist'**

Georgina reminded the meeting of a course due to begin online via Zoom on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. It is a series of four sessions. It will be led by Matt Forsyth, Mission Team Leader for the District.

A point was raised in the meeting about potential difficulties with a definition of 'evangelism', often seen by the public to refer to 'Bible-bashing' and an assertive approach which people distrust and dislike. Georgina accepted this concern but made it clear that the definition of evangelism within the Methodist Church was much broader than this and the purpose of this course would be to explore many ways in which the Mission and Growth of the Church could be effective and at the same time sensitive to peoples' needs.

**Action: Members of the congregation to contact Jane Hawes (the Circuit Administrator) or Georgina if they were interested in attending the course online.**

- d. Re Trinity Learning - new Education Officer:** In response to a question, Pauline Main reported that the advertisement is now out with a deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> February. Interviews will be in the week of 23<sup>rd</sup> February. She asked people to pray for this process. Nicola Williams had done a wonder job in her time with the charity.

Georgina thanked Pauline, David and Neil for their work on this appointment.

**9. Future Events: Covered in items 5 and 8c**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm ONLINE: 'Everyone an Evangelist'**

**Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>: Circuit Growth Day**

**10. Date of Future Meetings**

**Church Meeting: 17th June at 7.30pm in the church – Please note new date**

Cynthia Bartlett