



**All Saints
Methodist Church**

Appleford Drive
Abingdon

www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1184115



**Trinity Church
Methodist & United Reformed**

Conduit Road
Abingdon

www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1148634

Presbyter: Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

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Administrator: Eluned Hallas: 01235 520282.

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Notices

Sunday 30 August 2026

All Saints	Trinity
Sunday 30 August 10:30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Carol Hamilton-Foyn	Sunday 30 August 10:30am Morning Worship led by Rev. Wayne Hawkins
6:30pm Evening Reflective Service at Trinity Lay led	
Sunday 6 September 10:30am Morning Worship & Communion led by Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson	Sunday 6 September 10:30am Morning Worship Local Arrangement led by members of the Congregation

The **Singing Group** will meet at **2pm on Friday September 4th** in the Perry Room at All Saints. All are welcome - from All Saints, Trinity and other local churches! We just enjoy singing hymns and no special ability is needed!

Ian Sturt, RIP

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with deep sadness that I write to inform you of the death of our brother, Ian Sturt, a faithful member of Grove Methodist Church.

The Circuit has lost a much-loved brother and a seasoned local preacher whose ministry, friendship, and Christian witness touched many lives.

Please hold Ian's family in your prayers together with the community of Christian Bikers with whom he regularly fellowshiped, and our brothers and sisters at Grove Methodist Church as they mourn his passing.

Even in the midst of our sorrow, we give thanks for the assurance of eternal life that is ours through Jesus Christ. Our hope is grounded in the resurrection of our Lord, who has conquered death and opened the way to eternal life.

May the Holy Spirit sustain and comfort us all, reminding us of the hope we have in Christ and granting us peace in the days and weeks ahead.

"Blessed are those who die in the Lord... they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

May Ian rest in peace and rise in glory.

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson

From the Methodist eNews:

Prayer for Nepal and Tibet

Loving God,

We pray for all those affected by the floods in Nepal and Tibet.

Be near to those who mourn the loss of loved ones, and to all who wait in uncertainty for news of family and friends.

Hold close those whose homes, livelihoods and communities have been swept away, and all who are shocked, displaced or afraid.

Strengthen rescue workers, local communities, churches and all who are searching, serving and offering care in the midst of this crisis.

Grant courage and resilience to those waiting for news, facing uncertainty, and fearing the days ahead.

As we witness the growing fragility of creation, renew our commitment to care for one another and for the earth of which we are a part.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

ALL SAINTS NEWS

Derek Kay, Derek has now been transferred from the JR to Abingdon Community Hospital (Abbey Ward). *Diane*

Quest will meet on **Wednesday September 2nd**. The *afternoon group* will meet at 2:30 and the *evening group* at 7:30 at Valerie and Alan's. We will begin our study of The Letter to The Philippians.

Ride and Stride for Churches 12 September, Help preserve the history on your doorstep by raising funds for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. All funds raised go to OHCT and 50% can be passed on to a church of your choice.

If any member of All Saints would like to visit, on foot or cycle, as many churches as possible between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. on 12 September, having obtained sponsorship, then please ask Maurice Tubb for a sponsorship form. Money collected should be returned to Maurice together with Sponsorship form he will then pay into the OHCT account.

Help is also needed to greet and check-in sponsored visitors to All Saints. It requires two people to be at the entrance to our church for two hour shifts between 10 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Please speak to Maurice who will allocate a suitable time for you.

Global Harvest Supper. On **Saturday September 19th @ 6pm**, All Saints hosts a Global Harvest Supper. All our members who have come to the UK from elsewhere have been invited to attend and if able, provide a main course dish from their home country! Book your place on the foyer sign-up sheet now, and perhaps tick the box if you can offer a British pud to round off what will be a world-class occasion.

AS Church Family Committee

CHURCH NEWS

Foodbank: At present the following items are needed: corned beef, tinned ham, hot chocolate, tinned fruit, fruit squash, sunflower oil, whole UHT milk, instant coffee and biscuits. The foodbank would also appreciate loo rolls, soap and shampoo. Thank you very much *JPB*

11th September – to raise funds for FPZ - Rosemary is offering the chance to enjoy a delicious meal at her house @ 6.30pm. This month '*Vegan is delicious – eat the Mediterranean Way*'. Booking required. See details on p7

See also p8 for details of a **virtual fundraising auction** in aid of FPZ.

Messy Church Meeting: Wednesday 16 September, Trinity Church. Come along and hear more about Messy Church, and see if you would like to get involved. All welcome. More details on p6

Raising Faith: Thursdays, 7.30 - 9.30pm starting September 17th at Peachcroft Christian Centre

As Christian parents, grandparents and carers we want our children to grow up knowing God and developing a mature faith that will last, but sometimes we feel ill-equipped or just too busy to do much more than get them to church on a Sunday.

Raising Faith is a series of six evening sessions, exploring a variety of ways to create strong and healthy foundations of faith in our children, using the opportunities that come up in the everyday ups and downs of family life.

Find out more and book a place here:

<https://www.peachcroftcc.org/community/parenting-course>



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 29 August, Cream Teas and live piano music at St Michael's Church
2.30 - 4.30 pm.

Sunday 6 September, Piano Recital by Huw Rhys James. St Michael's Church, 3pm featuring works by Bach, Schumann and Debussy. Tickets £15. Refreshments available.

Sunday 6 September, Abbey Chamber Concert, St Nicolas Church, 3pm. Brahms Quintet for clarinet and strings Op 115 Bernard Herrmann Clarinet Quintet 'Souvenirs de Voyage' Catriona Scott clarinet OXUS string quartet. Tickets £13.00

Tuesday 8 September, In Conversation with Monawar Hussain MBE, Imam Eton College, Founder Oxford Foundation. Wallingford Methodist Church, 12 noon till 1.00pm. Soup lunch to follow. Admission free, donations welcome

Tuesday 15 September, launch of Abingdon against Domestic Abuse (AaDA). AaDA is a new community initiative with a vision to create a town where all forms of domestic abuse are recognised early, challenged safely, and responded to with compassion, understanding, and with accessible local services. The evening will include a presentation on AaDA, contributions from key partners and local people with lived experience. Followed by a Q&A session and an opportunity for you to tell us about your thoughts on the plans.

After the presentations, there will be a screening of *The Burning Bed*, the 1984 film that helped transform public understanding of domestic abuse and bring the issue into mainstream discussion.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this significant evening of reflection, learning, and community action. You can book tickets here -

<https://theabbey.ac/web?film=6a85b45a9ad4c4148e7a12f7>

Abingdon Town Council and the Abbey Cinema are kindly supporting this event.

Wednesday 16th September, showing of *The People's Emergency Briefing*, 7.30pm in the Baptist Church in Ock Street. Booking recommended

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/abingdoncarboncutters/2277189>

This is a short film showing reactions to National Emergency Briefing which took place in Westminster Hall in November 2025.

Advanced Notice: Wantage & Abingdon Circuit Black History Month, Saturday 17 October 2.30 – 5.30, Trinity Church Abingdon. Lord Paul Boateng, Rev Sonia Hicks, Chair Northampton Methodist District and others

TRINITY NEWS

Ride & Stride - Saturday 12th September: Visit as many churches as possible on the day, with 50% of the money raised coming to Trinity and 50% to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust who gave a grant to Trinity for the recent Conduit Centre project. *Want to take part?* Get a sponsorship form and a list of open churches from Alastair.

Can you help as a Welcomer? We need volunteers to create a warm welcome for other Riders and Striders between 10am and 2pm. After 2pm a sign up sheet will be left outside the church. The rota is available at the back of the church.

Best Wishes, Alastair

The Next Church Meeting will be *Sunday 27th September* after church, and the Annual Church Meeting on *Sunday 22nd November* after church

First Aid Course at All Saints Church, 10th October.

Several Trinity First Aiders have certificates that expire in October, so this is a good opportunity to renew your qualification. We would also welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a First Aider for the first time.

If you are interested, please contact Alastair Fear at church or via alastair.fear@gmail.com or 07999 134 175.

Roof Works: A huge thank you to everyone who has responded to our Gift Day Appeal by making a donation towards the essential repairs needed to the Church and Conduit Centre roofs. The donations we have received so far total over £21,700, ie almost 95% of the £23,000 needed. There is still time to make donations. If you wish to donate by bank transfer, please include 'roofs' in the reference.

We are now confident that we can reach our target, so a contract to do the much-needed works have been agreed and work is scheduled to start on early October.

The Trustees



MESSY CHURCH IS COMING TO TRINITY

The recent Messy Church planning meeting was productive, despite the small number present. It was particularly valuable to hear Clare share her experiences of running Messy Church in her previous church.

Be sure to read Clare's article further on in these notices.

Our next Messy Church planning meeting will take place on

Wednesday 16 September at 7.30 pm.

We would love to hear more voices and welcome anyone interested in helping to shape this exciting new ministry.

Please come along and support this fresh approach to growth and outreach.



MESSY CHURCH – Clare's experience 2009 to 2013

Messy Church in Brinkworth, a large village in North Wiltshire, started as a way to reach out to our communities where families were not coming to church any more. The aim was 'to do church differently', by going to them on a weekday, in a fun and creative way.

After school, the children came into Brinkworth Village Hall, with a parent.

They had a drink, made a name badge then did a short hour of craft; next there was a 15 minutes worship celebration which was followed by a sit-down-together cooked tea; it was all over by 5.30pm for the families.

In our first year, 2009, we held 3; in 2010 we held 4 Messy Churches, 6 in 2011.

It took a lot of planning and required lots of helpers for craft, worship and catering.

Ideas for themes came from Lucy Moore's book 'Messy Church - fresh ideas for building a Christ centred community', published in 2006 by The Bible Reading Fellowship.

Numbers attending increased - we had mums, dads, grandparents, child-minders, older siblings later on,

We learnt as we went along, changing something each session, and felt that the overall mix was working well with many non-church families coming along.

Some became regular attendees and we continued to attract new families.

We felt that God was working in our community through Messy Church.

Church and school links strengthened – invitations were sent home to all children beforehand; craft was displayed afterwards at both sites of the federated village primary schools, Church of England Voluntary Controlled.

Messy Church was 'messy' because

- we included messy crafts
- we aimed to gather in those around the messy edges of our local church area who did not worship regularly but liked to feel the church was there for weddings, funerals, baptisms, times of stress, times of celebration

With Messy Church

- we were being a worshipping community of all ages, centred on Christ;
- we were giving people a chance to express their creativity and have fun within a church context;
- we were showing Christian hospitality and sat down to eat a meal together.

It was rewarding to feel we were also keeping promises we made at Baptisms to support the child (or adult), and their families, to grow in grace and the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord.

In 2009, the Diocese of Bristol was three years into its 'Going for Growth' strategy with the strategic aim of 'Building local communities of wholeness with Christ at the centre' and for every parish to have a rolling growth plan with 4 key components: growth in influence, growth in commitment, growth in numbers, growing together. Growth in numbers included 'Being sensitive to both context and culture (e.g. new expressions, church transplants)' and 'Focussing on Children and Young People'. The introduction and development of Messy Church was part of our response.

Clare Bishop
July 2026



Future Pillars Zambia

Hunger - Food - Brain Power ~ Hunger - Food - Brain Power

A Message from Rosemary, 3 Kingston Close OX14 1ES

Future Pillars Zambia – Food and Farming Project.

I am a Founding Trustee of this small charity in Zambia. We began when we saw a lady teaching children arithmetic and reading under a tree, writing in the sand. Based in Oxfordshire, Hampshire and Cornwall we have built a School, Skills Training Centre and MOST importantly a Feeding Programme. We are a Christian group, centred around 3 very poor shanty compounds. All our children are vulnerable and bought to us by Social Services.

I invite you to 4 meals at my house, over the summer, to raise funds for
Future Pillars Zambia - Food & Farming Project. (futurepillarszambia.org.uk)

Our feeding programme (*feed the stomach - feed the brain*) needs long term funding and to this end we are in negotiation with a local farmer to purchase land, in order to grow our own crops and sell some for ongoing expenses, ie fuel, plates, utensils, employing a manager. The Trustees in UK and the Leadership Team in Kabwe are, together, working on a business plan.

The updated dates are:

11 th September @ 6.30pm - Vegan is delicious – eat the Mediterranean Way

9 th October @ 6.30pm – Meat ‘n’ 2 veg – Mother’s 1960s Way

13 th November @ 6.30pm – {mild or hotter} Curry night – the Rajasthani Way

These will be yummy, full meals. Don’t be afraid!

Gift Aid envelopes available.

Please book - my table only accommodates max 10 – rgstanbury@aol.com, 01235 537653 or by talking to me, and tell me any dietary/allergy requirements. Transport can be arranged.

Thank you. I’m looking forward to feeding you!

Rosemary/Mthunzi (Ps 64 v4).

LOTS 4 LAND
 Future Pillars Zambia 
Auction of Promises

**Saturday 5th September
 2026 3.00pm start**

**St Mary Magdalene Hall,
 New Milton BH25 6QL**

Charles Hanson, celebrity auctioneer,
 will officiate the hybrid auction

QR Code for the Auction site, or
 access via
www.jumblebee.co.uk/lots4land

**visit the site and register to
 take part now**



Future Pillars Zambia is delighted to announce that our much-anticipated Lots 4 Land, Auction of Promises Catalogue is now available to view online. To access the Auction website please click on the link: <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/lots4land>

The catalogue showcases an exciting selection of auction lots, generously donated in support of our fundraising efforts. Whether you are hoping to secure a unique item, enjoy a memorable experience, or simply support a worthwhile cause, there is something for everyone. You will notice that each Lot has a guide value, indicating what we would hope to achieve, at least, during the auction.

Through our online auction website, you can:

- ☐ Browse the full auction catalogue.
- ☐ Register and place bids on your favourite auction lots.
- ☐ Purchase tickets to attend the auction in person. With a limited number of places in the physical space of the auction room, entry will be by ticket only.
- ☐ Make a donation pledge if you would like to support the charity without bidding.

If you plan to participate in the auction in any way, please ensure you read the Auction Terms and Conditions, which are available via the link under the Lots 4 Land information. These contain important information about bidding, purchases, payments and participation.

Please note, the Auction website will close temporarily on September 3rd at midnight.

Bidding will then reopen from Lot 1 on September 5th at 3pm when Charles Hanson, TV celebrity auctioneer, starts the hybrid auction taking bids on a Lot-by-Lot basis from within the auction room or from online. On the day, the starting bid will be the highest bid from the pre-auction, online opportunity.

A very big thank you to everyone who has donated prizes, supported the event, and continued to help us make a difference. We wish all bidders an enjoyable experience and look forward to welcoming those attending the auction in person. Together, your generosity will help us achieve our goal of securing land for farming in Kabwe, Zambia.

Any queries concerning the Auction and/or the Auction website should be directed to the Auction website administrator by clicking on the wheel in the top right-hand corner of the 'home' page and then clicking on 'Contact auction'.