

TRINITY CHURCH ABINGDON

Church Meeting

to be held in the Church on
Sunday 27 September 2026
at 11:45am

AGENDA

Welcome and apologies for absence

Opening Prayer

1. **Approval of Minutes of 17 June** *(see attached)*
2. **Matters Arising**
3. **Notification of any (short) items of Other Business**
4. **Finance**
 Gift Day
5. **Property**
 Roofing
6. **Conversations on the work of God**
 - a. **Growth Action Plan**
 Toddlers / Messy Church
 Christmas Lunch
 - b. **Extended Communion**
 - c. **Art Exhibition**
7. **Circuit Stewards Report**
8. **AOB**
 Minister's Sabbatical
9. **Future Events**
 Black History Event
 Christmas Services
 Messy Christmas – Saturday 19 December 4pm
 Carol Service – Sunday 20 December 4pm (no Morning Service)
 Torchlight- Thursday 24 December 4pm
 Christmas Day - Friday 25 December 10am
10. **Dates of Future Meetings**
 Sunday 22nd November 2026 (AGM) after church
 Sunday 21st February 2027 after church
 Tuesday 15th June 2027, 7.30 pm in the church

Trinity Church Meeting

Wednesday 17th June 2026 7.30pm

Present: Revd. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson (Chair), Cynthia Bartlett, Clare Bishop, Ian Brawn, Tricia Cook, Val Dalby, Katie Doney, Alastair Fear, Judith Fear, Margaret Greaney, Carolyn Hawkes, Sue Kyffin, Tom Kyffin, Paul Newton, David Perrow, Lynnette Seymour-Jackson, Heather Townsend, Stuart Townsend, Olive Vaughan.

Anne Matthews – Circuit Steward

Apologies for absence: Rebecca Brawn, Ruth Dams, Griff Fellows, Scilla Fellows, Clare James, Margaret Langsford, Alwyn Langsford, Fiona Mackay, Eve Newton, Malcolm Newton, Neil Oastler, Elizabeth Oastler, Leif Rasmussen, Petronella Rasmusson, Rosemary Richards.

1. Approval of the minutes of 8th February 2026

The 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:

Request for more Stewards;
Ken Clark- Church Insurance.

4. Growth Action Plan:

Papers had been provided with the agenda- The Church Growth Action Plan 2026-2027 with suggestions and supporting papers and a paper on Messy Church including information about Messy Vintage. The Growth Plan suggestions are grouped under four headings – Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism/Outreach.

On behalf of the Trustees Georgina, thanked everyone who had contributed to these suggestions and to those who had collated the many responses. The Church Meeting is now asked for comments on these suggestions. The Growth Plan will then go to the Trustees and back to the next Church Meeting. Georgina also thanked Heather for putting together the tree (for Growth Plan suggestions) and thanked all those who planned and organised the coffee and cakes morning on Saturday 6th June. Revd Wayne Hawkins had led a service on 14th June which had focused on elements of the Growth Plan.

There will be a blank template to complete – this will include the action, who is responsible, timescale, outcome etc. The Church will also need to consider resources and finance in relation to such developments. There needs to be realism as well as aspiration – what can be afforded, what resources are available. Importantly, what are the needs of the community being served? Sometimes there is a danger of forgetting that this is not a social club; there is a call to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. In consideration of these headings, it is of course clear that there will be overlap in the priorities listed.

A Worship

Many elements are highlighted here but it is a whole package. One of the issues to be decided is what the church needs to focus on this year – which aspects should go into the Growth Plan for this coming year. Other things are also important and can be kept for another year.

The meeting felt that Trinity was a welcoming church to those who come in but there was a need for people to be more outgoing and outward looking. There was a need to communicate with younger people – perhaps the church is not using social media sufficiently. It would be good to have live streaming and services available from which both existing members unable to attend in person and people who simply wanted to see a service in a church could benefit. It might be possible to have a link on the website. These IT developments would have implications for the required training and for the necessary equipment. It was noted that this was the kind of issue, which might be a priority for a number of churches, with which the Circuit might be able to offer support. Wantage Methodist Church has live streaming and would be able to give advice.

B Learning and Caring

Junior Church: was agreed that Junior Church should be a priority for the coming year – including the **production of jammy dodgers** requested by the children. There were links here with TrinityLearnng, Toddlers and Messy Church.

The timing of worship and activities might need to be reviewed. Sunday mornings were now full of activities for children, for example, and families were committed to supporting children with these. It brought to mind the need ‘to serve the present age’ (a quotation from Wesley’s hymn ‘A charge to keep I have’, 658 in StF). Ideas here included the possibility of offering reflective services during a week, afternoon services with cake.

Bereavement and friendship: It was felt that these were important areas to review. There was an annual bereavement service but perhaps more could be done to address bereavement and promote friendship. The existence of Trinity’s Friendship Group was noted. Again, it would be good to bear in mind the remit of groups already in existence e.g. Maggie’s (offering support to families with cancer sufferers). It was important to work together with the Churches in Abingdon. It might be possible to put useful links on websites.

Prayer Group/Bible Study: It was also important to think about adult learning. Prayer groups were being held and a review was considering whether there should be a face to face prayer group as well as/instead of the current long-running prayer group, online since Covid. Possible timings for such a group might be evenings or mornings or before a church service. In terms of Bible Study, there were some ongoing study groups, one which had continued with Trinity members and another which was serving mostly All Saints members and a few Trinity members as well. There have been Advent and Lent groups and there needs to be encouragement for others to join Bible study groups.

C Service

Eco Church: David Perrow has been leading this and the Church has gained a Bronze Award. The Church need to continue the focus. In response to a question, David offered to give any advice to those wanting to pursue environmentally friendly policies e.g. in relation to catering. He indicated that Eco Church initiatives were really part of the wider ‘Caring for God’s World’. Support for Traidcraft and Christian Aid was important.

Toddlers: There was a need for further development here. The Trustees would discuss this further and this focus would then come back to the Church Meeting.

Parent group: one suggestion had been to offer coffee to parents before they pick up children from school. It would be good to have ‘up-market’ coffee and even wagon wheels! As always there is the need to resource this initiative with volunteers. All Saints provides coffee once a month in similar circumstances.

Holiday lunches: this has been done elsewhere- provision could involve lunch packs. It will be important not to be seen to be competing with existing provision e.g. Christ Church provides a food bank and an entire programme. There is also a food bank in South Abingdon.

D Evangelism/Outreach

In a time when mental health is being highlighted, particularly in relation to young people, it was thought important that the outreach offered meaning to life. Young people need meaning and structure in their lives.

Messy Church: Georgina referred to the information on the sheet provided. Messy Church is specifically Christian as is specified in the details in the paper provided and begs the question as to what the Church is. It is intended to exist separately. There would be a need to learn from other churches how this was run. All Saints had run this for ten years or so but had stopped it. The initiative is very labour-intensive and there needs to be a team of people to lead it. To some extent it attracts families already in the church.

Games Café: In relation to attracting young people, there was the suggestion to develop a Games Café, although it was recognised that these already existed elsewhere.

Working/Coming together with All Saints: This was regarded as important and now developing but equally, it was felt that more ties needed to be made with Church in Abingdon. These links might benefit a number of initiatives.

Evergreen: it was noted that actually Evergreen does not run a waiting list but it is true that the accommodation and the number of volunteers required to give good care and attention to all cannot increase. Currently there are 40 active members and 53 on the membership list. Hence the Committee are not actively seeking other people to join them. So there may be a place for another activity aimed at older people – Messy Vintage perhaps?

Note: It was noted that since the church noticeboard had been taken down, which had been crumbling away and in danger of falling, activities at the church were not being publicised routinely to passersby. The Trustees had debated this several times – the cost of replacing it would run to several hundred pounds since the fact that the church was in a conservation area led to restrictions on replacing it. However, it was possible to put up ‘temporary’ banners as Trinity has done previously and it was generally agreed that Trinity should advertise to passersby.

5. Gift Day: 27th June 2026

This event would begin at 3pm and would include a cream tea. Georgina asked that people would keep this date in mind and remember it in their prayers.

6. Pastoral:

The pastoral groups are operating. There is a need for more pastoral elders.

7. Property : this item was postponed until the next Church Meeting

8. Finance:

Tom Kyffin reported that given that the church was 90% through the current church year and the finances were largely on prediction. The exception was that spending on maintenance had not been as high as predicted and so the deficit would be slightly less than the £25,000 predicted. However, one reason for this was that it was hoped that the Gift Day would provide contributions towards the church roof and work here remained to be done. Tom reported that he and Neil Oastler were putting together information for the Gift Day.

9. Circuit Stewards Report

Ann Matthews reported that, in this summer season of church meetings, the Circuit had ensured that it was represented at all the meetings. This was a crucial time in view of the Growth Plan discussions. Circuit stewards needed to understand the feelings of each church – members' hopes, reactions, and assessment of what could be achieved. Following this, the Circuit team would assess what it can do to assist the churches in reaching their goals e.g. if several churches were wanting to improve digital awareness, the Circuit would try to support by finding advice, expertise etc.

The Circuit is aware, especially with the resignation of Mary Hancock, that the Circuit stewards are 'Abingdon heavy' – 3 from All Saints and 1 from Trinity

Other news:

- The Circuit is about to sell the second manse- this has involved a lot of work for Gordon Skidmore.
- Once this is complete, the Circuit will move to explore how Childrey Church will be sold and whether change of use permission will be sought.
- Ann referred to Mary Hancock's resignation and noted how grateful the Circuit was for all she has done.
- The Circuit is working to support the two presbyters, Georgina and Bruce, and emphasised how grateful people were for the work they were doing.
- The work of Jane Hawes, the Circuit Administrator, was making a real difference – she was dealing with many issues, including property, relieving the burden placed on the presbyters and 'enabling the possibilities.'

10. AOB:

a. **Stewards:** Alastair reported that the church needed more stewards. A job description was being drawn up – it would involve a commitment of two Sundays in three months. He asked people to consider this and indicated that some people might be approached in the next few weeks to ask whether they might help.

b. **Insurance:** Cynthia noted that Ken Clark has recently given notice that he is stepping down from having responsibility for the church insurance which is due for renewal at the end of September. So it will be important for someone to take over this role. Ken had undertaken this work for nearly 20 years and the Church meeting expressed its gratitude to him for all that he has done in this regard.

11. Future Events: Gift Day, 27th June.

12. Date of Future Meetings: the dates for the Church Meetings in the coming church year would be provided shortly.

Cynthia Bartlett