

TRINITY CHURCH ABINGDON

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 / 2026

FOREWORD FOR TRINITY CHURCH REPORT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am delighted to commend to you Trinity's Annual Report for 2025–26. It tells something of the story of our shared life and ministry during the past year, within the church and across the communities we seek to serve. In these pages we find reasons for celebration and gratitude, alongside challenges that invite us to continue growing in faith, service and witness.

Following a year of prayerful work in developing our Growth Action Plan (GAP), our focus now turns to putting some of the identified priorities into action. As we move forward, we continue to trust in the Lord's guidance, seeking to discern where he is leading us and how we might faithfully share in his mission.

The year has also seen our relationship with All Saints continue to strengthen through the work of the Working Together Group. Our growing number of united services has enriched our worship and fellowship, and we look forward to deepening our partnership.

This year has brought its share of trials, both for individuals and for the life of our church. There have been serious illnesses and health concerns, the sorrow of losing loved ones, and the continuing financial pressures of caring for our buildings. Yet, through it all, we have witnessed the strength of our fellowship and the grace of God at work as we have supported, encouraged and upheld one another.

Our immense thanks to all who have contributed to this invaluable resource. My sincere gratitude goes to each one of you, from the youngest to the oldest, for all that you bring, offer and sacrifice in the life and mission of Trinity Church. Together, through our worship, witness, service and care for one another, we continue to participate in God's work of hope, healing and transformation within our church and the wider community. May we continue to discern and respond faithfully to where God is leading us.

''Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.'' (1 Corinthians 15:58.)

Every blessing,

Georgina

Trinity Church Abingdon,
Annual Report
September 2025 – August 2026

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CHURCH MEETING & TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees met on 13th November 2025 and on 6th January, 25th March, 12th May, 7th July and 10th September 2026.

The Church Meeting AGM took place on Sunday 16th November 2025. Other Church Meetings were held on Sunday 8th February, Sunday 18th May, Wednesday 17th June at 7.30pm and Sunday 27th September 2026.

Trustees for the church year 2025-2026

Cynthia Bartlett
Revd. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson
Ian Brawn
Alastair Fear
Carolyn Hawkes
Tom Kyffin
Neil Oastler
David Perrow
Lynnette Seymour-Jackson
Heather Townsend
Stuart Townsend

As a Circuit Steward, Neil Oastler continues to represent Trinity at Circuit Steward meetings.

From March 2026 Revd. Wayne Hawkins (URC Ecumenical Minister for Oxfordshire) has attended Trustees Meetings (see p23 for the Wessex Synod Report).

Alastair Fear, whose term of office came to an end in November 2025, confirmed that he was prepared to stand for re-election. The Church Meeting in the November AGM approved unanimously of his appointment and re-elected Alastair to serve for a further three years. He was thanked for all the work he was currently undertaking.

Papers and documents are circulated by Eluned in advance of Trustees' meetings and email correspondence, where needed, has been undertaken in between the meetings. The Trustees are very appreciative of all the work Eluned does to prepare for Trustees and Church meetings and the initiatives she takes to ensure that all runs smoothly. They are also well aware of many - though probably not all! - of the other tasks which she undertakes as Office Manager and the valuable links and service which she provides for the Community who use the church premises.

A number of the Trustees are involved in work related to the buildings and grounds of the property, finance, health and safety, safeguarding, catering and hospitality, acting as stewards and as representatives to the Circuit and Synod. Some are also involved in special groups e.g. the Working Together Group and the Eco Team.

The Trustees routinely spend time in meetings discussing Finance, Property, Health and Safety and Safeguarding issues. These topics are the subject of separate reports within the Annual Report and both the Trustees and Church meetings have expressed their appreciation to Tom Kyffin, Neil Oastler, Alastair Fear and Ian Brawn

respectively for their leadership and work in these crucial areas of Trinity's life and work.

The Trustees would be very happy to invite anyone who was interested in becoming a Trustee to attend a Trustees meeting in order to see what might be involved.

Ministry and Worship

The Abingdon and Wantage Circuit currently has two presbyters, Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson, the Superintendent Minister, and Revd. Bruce Thompson.

On Saturday 10 January, 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 and the preacher was Revd Dr Susan Durber, URC minister and European President of the World Council of Churches.

During the service, Wayne affirmed his faith and his commitment to serve the local ecumenical partnership (LEP) churches of Oxfordshire in this ecumenical role. He would be supporting 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, led by Canon Neil Roberts, Rector of St Nicolas Church, Guildford.

Revd. Abigail Perrow, Rosemary and David's daughter, was ordained on 12th September at Water Lane URC, Bishop Stortford. She has now begun her ministry with the Four Rivers Mission Partnership

Minister's Sabbatical: The Church Meeting held in September 2026 were informed that Georgina will be taking a sabbatical from May to July 2027. A Sabbatical Committee, chaired by Revd. Bruce Thompson, will ensure this runs smoothly for Georgina, her family and her churches.

Worship led by the Circuit members or URC lay preachers or ministers

Trinity remains grateful to the many local and lay preachers and supernumerary ministers who lead worship. The Circuit remains blessed to have so many who volunteer to take services.

Worship led by members of the congregation

Trinity is also grateful to members of the congregation who have been involved in leading worship on Sundays which the Circuit has designated for 'Local Arrangement'. These services took place on 2nd November 2025, 1st March, 28th June and 6th September 2026.

Joint morning services for Trinity and All Saints were held on 24th May, and with these two churches and Peachcroft at All Saints on 2nd August 2026. Both these services were led by members of the congregation.

The occasional Evening Reflective Services led by members of the congregation continued this year in the summer months. These took place on 26th April, 24th May, 28th June, 30th August and 30th September 2026.

Christmas services 2025

Sunday 21st December 4.30 pm: Carol Service. There was no morning worship
Wednesday 24th December 4 pm: A Christingle Service led by Georgina
Christmas Day 10am: Morning worship led by Georgina

Easter Services 2026

Palm Sunday: 29th March. 10 30am at Trinity led by Revd. Bruce Thompson
Maundy Thursday: 2nd April. United Service at All Saints led by Georgina
Good Friday: 3rd April. 10am United Service at Trinity led by Georgina. This was followed by the Church in Abingdon Walk of Witness and Service in the town centre starting at 11.45am
Easter Saturday: 4th April. 8pm Trinity people were invited to join with St Michael's Park Road for their Easter Vigil Service
Easter Sunday: 5th April. 10.30am Morning Worship and Easter Communion at Trinity led by Georgina

Other Special Services

The Remembrance Service with Communion was held on Sunday 9th November 2025 led by Revd. Alan Grist
On Thursday 4th December, Georgina led the Toddlers Christmas service.
The Covenant Service was held on Sunday 4th January 2026 led by Georgina.
The annual Commissioning Service for Pastoral Elders led by Georgina was held on 22nd February 2026.
On Saturday 10th January at 2pm, a special service for the Induction of Revd Wayne Hawkins to the new post of Oxfordshire Ecumenical Minister was held and a Reception for everyone who had attended was held in the Conduit Centre.
Sunday 12th July Action for Children: Worship was led by Georgina and the staff and children of Junior Church.
The Harvest Festival took place on Sunday 20th September 2026, led by Revd. Wayne Hawkins. Food items were sent to the Food Bank and donations to Asylum Welcome.

The Junior Church (JAM)

Junior Church now meets on the first Sunday of the month during the Church Service. It is designed for children who are 3+ and parents may stay with their children if they wish. Trinity is grateful to all those involved in supporting Junior Church and to Angharad Saunders who coordinates their activities.

In May 2026, Katie Doney and a parent highlighted to the Trustees a training event in the village of Wintershall, just outside Guildford, focusing on the life and ministry to Jesus. There were three parents who were interesting in going. There was a need for

a grant of £60 to support the costs of this training day. The Richard Belcher Trust provided this grant.

Prayer Ministry

In February 2926, a discussion was held at the Church Meeting concerning ways in which the Church could further develop the prayer ministry of Trinity. It was noted that 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) included 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.

Prayer Cards

These were distributed during the summer to members of the congregation. They help people to know and remember who their pastoral elder is, addressing an issue raised in a previous church meeting.

Music

We have been grateful to a number of people who have played the organ for Sunday services this year. These include Chris Caddy, Chris Greenough, Phillip Kimber and Larysa Vlasenko. The congregation always enjoys the organ and the piano being played for services as it enriches the worship. The music played at the beginnings and ends of worship is also greatly appreciated.

Bible Study

A Trinity Bible Study group continues to meet at Margaret Langsford's house, led by Revd. Pauline Main. In July it was reported to the Trustees that Sarah Gibson and others were interesting in working to establish a core group to consider developing another Bible Study group and a face-to-face Prayer group.

Joint Bible Study Group

In Advent 2025, an Advent Bible study for All Saints and Trinity in the weeks leading up to Christmas was by led by Revd Carol Hamilton-Foyn. The group looked at passages of Scripture relating to the birth of Jesus, in the Old and the New Testaments, together with music and reflection.

4 sessions were held:

Friday November 28th – Light in the Darkness – the People of God
Friday December 5th – Trust in the Promises – the Prophets
Friday December 12th – Hope in the Wilderness – John the Baptist
Friday December 19th – Joy in the Unexpected – Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Carol also held Bible Study meetings for Trinity and All Saints in Lent 2026.

Engagement with The New Life (Nepalese) Church

Sadly, in the New Year 2026, Georgina 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 was clearly a difficult time for the people involved and Georgina asked Trustees and the Church Meeting to pray for them.

The Ministry and Witness of the Church: Growth Plan

Two documents, including the last Growth Plan Trinity for 2018-2021, had been circulated in September 2025 and the Church Meeting in November was asked to consider these. It was important 'that we can listen to what God is doing and how he wants us to partner Him in this plan.' The Circuit asked churches to complete a Growth Plan. These were then fed into the Circuit so that it could decide how best to support these plans.

The Trustees agreed the headings: Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism/Outreach. These were very similar to those in Trinity's Growth Plans in the past; they also reflected in the aims and priorities of the Methodist and United Reformed Church which were also set out on the circulated sheets.

When the Circuit had reflected on the Growth Plans from the churches, it was decided to hold a Circuit Growth Day on Saturday May 9th 2026 at Southmoor Village Hall. On the 16th May, Revd Wayne Hawkins led morning worship at Trinity, focused on elements on the Growth Plan and including a 'tree' for Growth Plan suggestions which Heather Townsend had put together. A coffee and cake morning was also held on 6th June at Trinity when further ideas were offered and discussion took place. Wayne led another service on 14th June on the same focus.

The draft Church Growth Action Plan 2026-2027 with suggestions and supporting papers and a paper on Messy Church was presented on 17th June to the Church Meeting which was asked to make any comments or suggestions.

On behalf of the Trustees, Georgina thanked everyone who had been involved in this initiative and those who had contributed to these suggestions and collated the many responses. It was clear that the Church would need to consider resources and finance in relation to such developments. There would need to be realism as well as aspiration – what can be afforded, what resources were available and importantly, what needs of the community were being served.

Messy Church

One of the actions on the Growth Action Plan was to begin Messy Church with a Messy Christingle on 19 December 2026, 4-6pm. Revd Wayne Hawkins will lead on

Messy Church in the first instance, but there is a need for people in different roles for Messy Church (Catering team, Welcomer, Craft table leader, Celebration leader, Co-ordinator). The Church Meeting in September 2026 were asked to let Wayne, Georgina, the Stewards or Eluned know if they were interested in helping in any way. The meeting was also asked to pray for this new ministry and way of doing church.

Trinity Toddlers

Trinity Toddlers has been going for 40 years or more and it is an important part of Trinity's outreach. This last church year has presented some challenges, chiefly because the leader of Toddlers had not been well and has now resigned. Volunteers took on more of the responsibility and parents and grandparents were also asked to help if they could. The Church was grateful to them for all they did to keep Toddlers running. In the meantime, it was clear that more assistance in leadership was needed.

During the summer, the Trustees have considered how best to support Trinity Toddlers, recognising the need to bring together the team of volunteers and provide a positive and united approach to this provision. They understood that there was a need for team meetings and for further training of volunteers. It was agreed by the Trustees that the next Toddlers leader should be a paid employee It was thought possible that the funding for this post could be shared by grant from the Circuit and the District together with Trinity's share which could come from the Belcher Trust.

Georgina and others were involved in arranging provision for Toddlers to continue once a month during the autumn term 2026, parents and volunteers sharing the leadership responsibilities. There was an understanding that this was a temporary arrangement and that a leader would be in place by January.

Subsequently it seemed sensible, given the intention of beginning Messy Church, to advertise for a leader who might lead on both Toddlers and Messy Church. The Church Meeting in September voted unanimously to recruit a leader for Toddlers and Messy Church. It is hoped that someone will be appointed to this post in January 2027.

Evergreen Club

It is clear that the Evergreen Club, meeting once a month, provides excellent outreach for members of the local community, including some very elderly and vulnerable members. It is led by Tricia Cook and a committee of volunteers. Currently there are 40 active members and 53 (including Committee and non-active members) on the membership list. Membership is guided by the accommodation and the number of volunteers required to give good care and attention.

The Working Together Group

The group of representatives from Trinity and All Saints, established during 2024-5, continues to meet to consider ways of working together. Alastair Fear has continued to be involved in leading this group and has informed the Trustees regularly of the discussions. The group has done a great deal to enable the two churches to work together, including discussing Easter services and joint acts of worship for local arrangement services. They have shared information and experience about Bible study groups and evening reflective services and have discussed other needs of the congregations and how they might be met.

The group meets quarterly during the day. It has achieved a greater understanding between the two churches. In September 2026, Trinity Trustees and the Church Meeting supported the continuation of this group who wish to explore further insight on models of working together.

The Pastoral Elders

The Trustees are mindful of all the work which the pastoral elders continue to undertake quietly during the year. The pastoral elders have held meetings with Georgina during the year and attended one training session in the summer term. More training sessions are being planned for this year.

Prayer Cards were distributed during the summer to members of the congregation, thanks to the work of Eluned and Eve Newton. They will help people to know and remember who their pastoral elder is, addressing an issue raised in a previous church meeting.

The Stewards

The Trustees and the Church Meeting continue to be mindful of all the quiet and careful work undertaken by the stewards to ensure that all worship runs smoothly and that all who attend have what is needed and feel welcomed and safe.

The Catering Team and Hospitality

Trinity continues to be grateful to all those involved in providing coffee and tea at the end of services. In a meeting in January 2026, the Trustees agreed that people might be asked for a 50p donation to offset the cost (see p13 Fairtrade Church) and a donation box has been available since then.

Georgina reported to the Trustees that five people, Judith Fear. Elizabeth Oastler, Heather Townsend, Lyndsay Busby & Petronella Rasmussen, had come forward to form a Catering Team and that a suitable Hygiene course had been found for those people to take. Trinity is also grateful to Judith for her willingness to coordinate the catering and hospitality events.

During the year, on a number of different occasions, this team have provided hospitality and catering which the Church and Circuit have much appreciated.

Triangle

The Triangle editorial team includes Cynthia Bartlett, Val Dalby, Barbara Deakin, Carolyn Hawkes, Pauline Main and Gloria Sandford have produced the usual 10 copies of Triangle this year. The team remain grateful to everyone who provides information for Church Family News, an article or photograph or suggestions for the content and would urge people to continue to do so. The Triangle is valued by many including those who have now moved away from Abingdon but enjoy staying in touch.

Some members continue to make an invaluable contribution to meetings but are now unable do the IT work necessary to collate information with Mike Coleman. If the work is to continue, the team need one or two volunteers to help produce the magazine. If you are able to help with this, please contact one of the team.

Trinity's Charity for the Year

In the year beginning in January 2025, Trinity had chosen a local charity 'Reducing the Risk' to support. In November 2025, the Church meeting, recognising that the charities chosen should alternate between international charities and more local ones, decided to support Mercy Ships in the year beginning January 2026. Mercy Ships is a charity which provides much need medical operations for people in parts of Africa who would otherwise not have access to life changing treatments

Eco Church

In autumn 2025, David Perrow, who has led this initiative, had shared a leaflet with Trustees, published by A Rocha UK, entitled 'Your church caring for God's earth' This defined an Eco Church and gives more detail on the online Eco Survey which sets out how church can reach an award level under five headings 'Worship and Teaching, Buildings and Energy, Land and Nature, Community and Global Engagement, Lifestyle.'

In January 2026, the Trustees passed a Resolution to allow David to submit an Eco Church application online on Trinity's behalf and approved the payment of £125 as a donation. Some Trustees, Alastair, Neil, Heather and Stuart and Ian together with Eluned were asked to check details on the application's five categories – Worship and Teaching, Buildings and Energy, Land and Nature, Lifestyle and Community and Global Engagement. An Eco Team consisting of Carolyn Hawkes, Rebecca Brawn and David was established.

In February, Trinity heard that it had been awarded the Bronze Award. David 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 is being considered. There are five categories for the Silver Award: the Church already qualifies on two of these categories 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 those who had contributed to this success and David for his leadership in pursuing this award.

Fairtrade Church

In November 2025, the Trustees discussed Trinity's continuing commitment to Fairtrade products, particularly those used in catering. Heather and Stuart Townsend were also using eco-friendly products in caring for the church garden. It was acknowledged that Fairtrade coffee and tea was a little more expensive but it was important to support this cause. The Trustees agreed that Trinity should complete the Statement on Intent re Fairtrade. In January 2026 therefore, the Trustees suggested that a request for a donation of 50p for a coffee/tea after church services might be made (see above). The Trustees also agreed that Trinity should now reapply for renewed Fairtrade status and agreed to authorise David to act on Trinity's behalf.

TrinityLearning (now an independent charity)

Pauline Main (the Chair of TrinityLearning) reported to the Church Meeting in February that the post of Education Development Officer had been advertised. She praised the work of Nicola Williams who had done a wonderful job in her time with the Charity. Hannah Richards was appointed in Spring 2026 and the TrinityLearning Trustees are grateful to Nicola and to Hannah for their work in achieving a smooth handover during the summer. Hannah took up her post with TrinityLearning in September 2026.

The Uniformed Organisations

Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers continue to meet at the Conduit Centre each week in term time. The Trustees are aware of the importance of the work that the leaders of each of these branches are undertaking and much appreciate all that is done to support and encourage young people in their personal development, to teach them life skills and to enable them to take a full part in their communities.

A Gift Day: 27th June 2026

In November 2025, it was reported to the Trustees that All Saints had held a Gift Day which had raised £10,000. It was thought that Trinity might hold a similar event and

following some discussion, the Trustees proposed to the Church Meeting that Trinity should hold such an event in June. The focus would be on the roofs of the church and the Conduit Centre. This provided an opportunity to learn about why Trinity needed to spend significantly to maintain the roofing and guttering for the church and Conduit Centre, so that the Church may continue to enjoy using the buildings for years to come. This was a successful event which included a Cream Tea organised by the Hospitality team. The Property team had estimated that £23,000 would be needed and on 31st August 2026, the total raised stood at £22,067.87, with more received since then and Gift Aid still to come.

Other issues discussed by the Trustees

1. 1.Policy Review: The following policies have been reviewed by the Trustees during the last year:

   GDPR documents: May 2026
   Lettings Policy: May 2026
   Lone Working Policy: May 2026
   Safeguarding Policy: July 2026
   Health and Safety: September 2026
   Dog Policy: reviewed in September 2026
   Safer Recruitment Policy: The Trustees believe that Trinity should have a Safer Recruitment Policy and both the Methodist and URC policies will be helpful in establishing one.

2. During the spring of 2026, the Trustees also discussed the importance of installing permanently a card reader in the Welcome Area. This would need to be purchased, would require a power supply and would have to be secure.
3. In summer 2026, Ken Clark gave notice that he and Lin stepping down from responsibility for the Church insurance. Ken had undertaken this work for nearly 20 years and the Church Meeting in June expressed gratitude to him for all that he done in this regard. The Trustees decided that the Property Committee would now take on the responsibility for insurance.
4. Succession Planning: This has been an item on each Trustees Meeting agenda during the last year. The Trustees felt it was important to include forward planning and the sharing of information and responsibilities, in order that all ran smoothly and that when people resigned, others were in a position to take up the reins or share responsibilities.
5. Lettings issues: The Trustees have discussed during the year both the financial issues relating to charges and also the different responsibilities of Trinity and the organisation themselves in relation to use of premises and insurance.

6. The Trustees have noted that the Circuit has initiated some discussion about Extended Communion i.e. the possibility of sending out blessed bread and wine after Communion services to members of the congregation who are unable to attend. The URC have also requested an update on authorisation of lay preachers to conduct communion services in individual churches.
7. At last November's AGM It was decided that a Collection Plate would be placed at the back of the church and any money contributed at the end of the service will be placed by stewards in the box. During baptism services, the collection bags will be used and during charity services e.g.Christingle. Pens are now available for people wanting to donate or applying for gift aid. It was agreed that for services involving the collection bags, the baskets would still be available in the Welcome Area. This is now happening generally but we need to work on ensuring it happens consistently.

Cynthia Bartlett, Church Secretary, on behalf of the Trustees

October 2026

FINANCE REPORT

The Church annual accounts are included in this report – see pp 26-28

Church Unrestricted Funds

Last year, when we set the budget for the unrestricted funds for the 2025/26 financial year, we predicted that we would make a deficit of about £25,000. In the event we finished the year with a deficit of just over £10, 700. This improvement is due to several factors:

- Our income was about £7,000 more than we expected because:
    - During the year a number of regular givers reviewed their giving and increased their regular donations. As a result, by the end of the year our regular donations had increased by 8% compared to the beginning of the year. Gift Aid also increased because of the increase in regular donations. Since the end of the financial year several more regular givers have increased their regular donations which will be reflected in the 2026/27 accounts.
    - Lettings income was about £1,000 more than expected.
    - The uncertain world political situation has had an impact on interest rates so that the income from our savings and investments was significantly more than we had anticipated.
- Our expenditure was about £7,000 less than expected because:
    - The Circuit budget for 2026/27 has reduced as we now have fewer ministers in the Circuit. Trinity benefits financially from this as the cost of our share of the circuit budget has reduced. We pay our Assessment

to the Circuit quarterly in advance, so our payment to the Circuit in August was at the new lower rate which means that Assessment costs were nearly £1,700 less than expected.

- Although utility costs were about £1,000 more than expected, we spent about £6,000 less than predicted on maintenance. This was mainly because we decided to pause any work on the roofs and gutters while we developed a comprehensive plan and launched our Roofs Fund appeal. We are very grateful to the Trinity members, congregation and uses who have generously donated to the fund - the appeal (with associated Gift Aid) has raised more than the £23,000 needed. Any extra in the fund will be used to remediate damage caused by leaks.

At 31st August there was £93,200 remaining in the Church's unrestricted reserves.

Church Restricted Funds

The restricted funds relate to monies that have been given for specific purposes and can only be spent on those purposes. The specific purposes that our restricted funds currently relate to are:

- Trinity Church manages the salary payments for Trinity Learning, the CiA & Street Pastors staff. Trinity Learning, the CiA & Street Pastors pay the salaries and salary related costs to the church account and we produce the payslips and make the necessary payments to the staff, HMRC and the pension provider.
- The Church manages a grant fund for taxi fares for the Evergreen Club. The grant funds sit in the restricted accounts and we pay the invoices for taxi fares to take elderly members to and from meetings.
- The Church manages the Toddler Group Funds. In 2025, The Toddler Group closed its bank account and passed its monies to the Church to manage on its behalf. The Toddler Group funds are accounted separately within the restricted funds.
- This year, there were 2 grants received from the Charity of Richard Belcher for specific purposes – the purchase of new computers for the Church and Conduit Centre office, and support for 2 members of the Toddler Group to attend a Christian performance). These grants were held in the restricted funds and were paid out for the purposes specified.
- This year we made a specific appeal for donations to the Roof Fund. These donations and associated Gift Aid are held in the restricted funds and will be used to pay for the repairs to the roofs and gutters and repair of damage caused by leaks.

Charity of Richard Belcher

The annual accounts for the Charity of Richard Belcher are included on p 29 of this report.

The charity administers a Permanent Endowment left by Richard Belcher in his will in 1713. The Permanent Endowment is currently £223,270.37. The Trustees use the income (currently interest from fixed -term savings accounts) from the Permanent Endowment to 'further the religious and other charitable work of the Methodist and United Reformed Church in the parish'.
During the year the charity received £9,630 in interest and gave grants totalling £7,098.32:

- £6,000 to Trinity Learning to ensure that it had sufficient funds while payment of grants was awaited.
- £1,009.32 to Trinity Church for new computers for the Church and Conduit Centre office.
- £80 to Trinity Church for 2 members of the Toddler Group to attend a Christian performance.

Donations to Charities 2025-26

Each calendar year the congregation selects a particular charity to support for the whole year – in 2024/25 it was Reducing the Risk and this year it is Mercy Ships. Throughout the year members and the congregation give donations for this charity. In addition, they also give donations for other charities (and occasionally, for gifts). These donations are held in the restricted funds and are paid to the charities along with the associated Gift Aid. During the year we made the following donations to charities:

Trinity Learning	£3,030.50
Reducing the Risk	£1,500.00
Crisis	£750.00
Action for Children	£663.00
Methodist Mission in Britain Fund	£205.00
Methodist World Mission Fund	£330.00
Methodist Church Fund	£188.00
All We Can	£188.00
Council for World Mission	£133.00
Commitment for Life	£100.00
The Abingdon Bridge	£200.00
Asylum Welcome	£170.00
URC Retreat Group	£20.00
Historic Churches Trust	£25.00
	£7,502.50

Tom Kyffin

HEALTH & SAFETY

The trustees are committed to ensuring the health and safety of everyone using the church premises. A Health and Safety Policy is in place and is reviewed annually. The policy is available on the church website.

During the year, we have sought to strengthen our approach to health and safety by working more closely with the Health and Safety team at All Saints. The policy has been reviewed and updated, with appendices identifying those with specific responsibilities and setting out the documents and information that should be kept in the Health and Safety folder.

The Health and Safety Trustee undertakes regular health and safety audits and fire risk assessments. Monthly checks are also carried out on fire alarms, first aid kits, and potential slip and trip hazards.

First aid boxes are located in the stewards' cupboard, the church kitchen and the Conduit Centre kitchen. Accident books are kept with the first aid boxes, and all incidents should be recorded and reported to the administrator. A list of church first aiders is displayed in the church and Conduit Centre. 5 people from Trinity attended a First Aid course this year.

Specific risk assessments are also prepared where particular activities require them. Trinity now has a generic risk assessment for hosting a large church event such as Black History Month, and a separate risk assessment for catering for such a large event.

Fire action plans are displayed in the church and the Conduit Centre. In the event of an emergency evacuation, these should be followed under the direction of the stewards, or by the user groups in the Conduit Centre.

We will continue to review our procedures and work with All Saints to maintain a safe environment for everyone using our buildings.

Alastair Fear, Health & Safety Trustee

PROPERTY REPORT

On first reading of this year's report, little seems to have been achieved of what was laid out in last year's report. This does a disservice to the newly formed Property Committee of myself, Alastair Fear, David Perrow, Reg Williams, Tom Kyffin and Adam Hager to whom I am very grateful for everything they have contributed in the past year. Next year's report will I hope to reflect the benefit of all the "groundwork" that has been laid this year and be a very different read.

The four security hooks were eventually installed on the North Walls of the Conduit Centre and seem to be well utilised by visitors.

New contracts have negotiated for servicing and maintaining of our Fire Extinguishers through Red Metal Box which will in the long term realise significant cost savings.

The company that carries out the servicing of the sliding door went into liquidation so a new company based in Bicester has carried out our annual safety review and

maintenance and made recommendations (which have been actioned) regarding renewing our battery back-up provision should there be a power cut in the Conduit Centre.
Ken and Lin Clark have given up oversight of our building insurance provision which has now become the responsibility of the new property committee. We are very grateful to Ken and Lin for everything they have done for the church in respect of property over many years and thank them profusely. We hope to review and renegotiate our insurance provision to make cost savings for the coming years.
Rodents chewed through the BT phone cabling to the office which has now been replaced and upgraded to fibre optic from cabinet having previously been copper. Monitoring of the signal we have historically enjoyed suggested there was an intermittent problem, but never considered it was a physical problem on our premises right outside the window.
The heating systems in both the church and the Conduit Centre have been on balance slightly less problematic this year than previously. We are grateful to Adam Hagar for keep a diligent eye on things and keeping us warm.
It took most of the past year to get a consensus regarding measures that needed to be implemented on the roofs and gutters. Quotations were sought and the property committee recommended, and it was agreed by the Trustees, that a medium-term view was the best course of action i.e. to address the immediate problems and those issues that which were identified as likely to be problematic over the next five years. We were also advised to replace all the flat roofing and substructure to the RHS of the Conduit Building above the scout storage, the small toilet block and the table store. Contracts were agreed at a cost of £23k.
A Gift Day was held on 27th June. Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our membership and congregation the vast majority of the monies needed was pledged by the end of August.
Grants have also been secured from the Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit, and the local scout group and other organisations that regularly use the hall have made donations or pledges to carry out fundraising in the coming year. The work should be carried out in the autumn and redecoration and the repair of internal damage caused by water ingress can be addressed in Spring 2027.
Additional work was identified as being necessary to address trees along our boundaries with Abingdon School and Trinity House. The encroachment of the trees had been responsible for much of the cumulative damage to the many roof aspects and associated guttering. Because we are within a conservation area we have had to apply for planning permission before any tree woks can be undertaken from the VOWH Distict Council.
We are grateful to Abingdon School for agreeing to undertake works on the trees on their land and for paying for them (subject to their getting planning permission).

We have also had to approach the new owners of Trinity House for permission to undertake works on their trees that have significantly encroached over the shared boundary.
Once the roof and guttering work has been completed two water butts will be fitted to help with garden maintenance and to fulfil a pledge made when we applied and were awarded Bronze Eco Church Status.
Coincident with the Gift Day Appeal for the roof fund was an anonymous donation, specifically for replacement of the carpet tilling throughout the ground floor of the church, and for lino to be placed in the kitchen area. Having agreed on the colour and texture (we didn't have many options), it is hoped that new floor will be laid in the autumn and will give the church a warmer, welcoming feel. The Trustees are so grateful to this benefactor for their generosity for something we didn't believe was achievable in the foreseeable future.

Neil Oastler, Property Trustee

SAFEGUARDING

During this period there have been no Safeguarding referrals. Three members of Trinity have had their DBS accreditation renewed or acquired it for the first time, and eleven of us have received Foundation-level Safeguarding training. Further training sessions have been arranged and those in need have been contacted. I remind you that Safeguarding training must be renewed every five years and DBS accreditation must be renewed every four.
Our safeguarding policy was reviewed in July 2026 and updated with some minor changes to terminology.
More significantly, a new email address has been created for safeguarding matters related to Trinity. Please use ***safeguarding.trinity.abingdon@gmail.com***.
I would like to thank all for their time and cooperation in these matters, which is much appreciated.

Ian Brawn, Trinity Safeguarding Officer

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Baptisms

We welcomed the following members into the family of Christ during the year:

		Parents
05/07/2026	Kady Buggins	Kelly Williams & Christopher Buggins
26/07/2026	Aran Radia	Anna Townsend & Bhaveet Radia

In Memoriam

We remember with thanksgiving the following people, whose lives were remembered and celebrated at Trinity during the year:

11/12/2025	Robert Alan Michael Perry Thorne
10/04/2026	Heather Ross
24/04/2026	Jamie Peter McGowan
29/04/2026	Michael Ronald Goodway
17/06/2026	Shirley Ann Caswell
22/06/2026	Margaret Jay Butcher
10/07/2026	Grace Webster
04/08/2026	John Murrie Hutton

SPONSORING BODY NEWS

Wantage & Abingdon Methodist Circuit

Circuit Stewards' Report for Autumn 2025/26

It has been a full Connexional year now since Revd. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson assumed the role of Circuit Superintendent. She has worked tirelessly alongside Revd. Bruce Thompson, and they have both attended to the multiple issues on the circuit agenda throughout the year with enthusiasm and drive.

The Circuit Steward (CS) team has supported their work as a team of five – Anne Matthews (Senior CS), Gordon Skidmore (Finance CS), Neil Oastler, Richard Hamilton-Foyn and Martin Appleyard.

We celebrate the appointment in September of Jane Hawes, our Circuit Administrator, who has supported the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) wonderfully during this year since arriving in post.

Mary Hancock has stepped down as Circuit Property Secretary, a role she has maintained for many years and for which we give her our heartfelt thanks with gratitude but are very pleased that she has agreed to be available in an advisory role when needed.

A Circuit Property Team has been put together - Anne Matthews, Richard Hamilton-Foyn, Martin Appleyard and Neil Oastler - taking responsibility for the two manses, circuit churches and Southmoor graveyard between them, sharing out the roles, and with Martin Appleyard as Property Coordinator.

We offer a profound thank you to Libby Hawkness-Smith as our chaplaincy on Great Western Park has closed, and to Wendy Moorin and June Grunwald, our volunteer chaplains in the circuit, who have both stepped down.

As the new Methodist year begins, the Circuit Stewards will turn their attention to the Stationing process as Revd. Bruce's appointment within the circuit ends in August 2028.

The Circuit have spent considerable time this year considering the Going for Growth initiative, led by Revd. Georgina. A focal point was a gathering of people from around the Circuit and including Peachcroft Christian Centre, Abingdon, in May 2026 at Southmoor Village Hall. The day included presentations from the circuit churches and culminated in a sharing of suggestions for action to facilitate growth within and between churches. During the summer, churches have been submitting their Going for Growth Action Plans. The Circuit Leadership Team has begun to look within these documents for common themes, so that it can take strategic action over the coming

Methodist year to support our church communities with concrete steps to further each church's vision for growth.
One theme present in virtually all growth plans, is the wish to engage with social media as a communication tool for reaching out to a range of communities. In taking this theme forward, Revd. Georgina has contacted the District Digital Officer who will be offering the circuit dates and times for advice and training to all interested parties. Watch this space!
We are delighted that, as part of their vision for growth and led by Revd. Bruce, Wallingford Methodist Church will be hosting the Methodist Modern Art Collection during ArtWeeks in May 2027. We are excited to already see other circuit churches begin new initiatives as part of their growth plans, and news of these will be shared as the year progresses. We wish them God's blessing as these new opportunities develop.

As the Circuit Property Team has begun its work, they have taken charge of the successful sales of the Haywards Close and Kingston Close manses over the summer. There have already been recent Quinquennial Inspections for both manses, and schedules of the necessary works are being developed in order to provide the highest standard of accommodation for our presbyters. In addition, there will be quinquennial inspections for some circuit church buildings in the coming year, led by the team. Regarding Childrey, meetings are now being held between Circuit Stewards and a recommended surveyor, to take advice about a potential change of use planning application before sale.

The Circuit Steward team will continue to attend your Church Councils / Meetings to listen and learn about the activities and concerns of each church. Please do contact any Circuit Steward if there is any circuit matter you wish to raise. We pledge to continue to manage the affairs of the circuit, but we only do so with your support. Please continue to hold the whole of the Circuit Leadership Team in prayer as an old year ends and a new one begins. We step out in faith and hope into 2026/27.

Anne Matthews, Senior Circuit Steward

Wessex Synod of the URC



Synod meetings were held on Saturday 10 October 2024 at United Church, Winchester, and on Tuesday 27 February and Wednesday 29th April on Zoom.
In October 2024, the Synod, in celebrating the long service of a number of ministers, recognised the 70 years of ministry of Revd. Tony Tucker, ordained in 1954. Tony was at one time the minister of Summertown URC, has been associated with Mansfield

College and has worked with students in the universities in Oxford. Some people may remember him since he has visited Trinity on a number of occasions.
Trinity welcomed the new Moderator, Revd. Michael Hopkins, on Sunday 11 May 2025. He led worship and, given it was Christian Aid week, preached on Jesus as the Good Shepherd, using the examples of Tabitha (Dorcas) from Acts and the work of Aurelia in Guatemala. He kindly agreed to his sermon being printed in the June issue of the Triangle.
Within the NW of the Wessex Synod, towards the end of last year, Kirsty Smith was commissioned as a student outreach worker, working across St Columba's URC, New Road Baptist Church and Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, all in Oxford. Kirsty-Ann Mabbott was inducted as Church-Related Community Worker at Holy Family Blackbird Leys in Oxford on 27 April 2025. In June 2025, Revd Lynda Spokes, retired from Banbury URC and Bernwode Forest Group, Revd. Romilly Micklem and Revd. Anne Bedford have been serving as Interim Moderators of the Oxford Group and the Bernwode Forest Churches (in the north of Oxfordshire) and Wheatley pastorates respectively. On 2nd November, Revd. Glyn Millington will be inducted into ministry at Aston Tirrold Church. He will continue his responsibilities for Christ Church, Henley on Thames URC and Caversham Park URC .
The URC has recently appointed an Ecumenical Officer for Oxfordshire, Revd. Wayne Hawkins, to work with Local Ecumenical Partnership churches in Oxfordshire from January 2026. The appointment is to help the URC provide input and support into LEPs; what particular form this help will take will be negotiated with each LEP/ Circuit. Trinity hosted his Induction on Saturday 10 January 2026 at 2pm followed by refreshments in the Conduit Centre.

Cynthia Bartlett, October 2026

A CLOSING PRAYER

God of the past, present and future,
we thank you for all that has been possible through your grace
in the life of Trinity Church during the past year.

For worship offered, friendships shared,
care given, challenges faced
and opportunities for mission and service,
we give you thanks.

As we journey forward together,
help us to respond faithfully to your call,
to deepen our discipleship,
to seek justice, show compassion,
welcome generously and serve our neighbours with love.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,
make us ever more the people you call us to be,
that through the life of this church
the love and hope of Jesus Christ may be made known.

Amen.

APPENDICES
Trinity Church Abingdon Charity Reg. No. 1148634

Receipts Payments Accounts
Year Ending 31 August 2026

Unrestricted Funds

RECEIPTS

	2023-24	*2024-25*	***2025-26***
Collections	£49,229.70	£47,657.50	**£49,197.96**
Fundraising	£783.90	£465.00	**£250.00**
Gift Aid	£11,803.51	£11,323.06	**£11,670.52**
Lettings	£10,329.50	£13,882.00	**£13,585.50**
Weddings and Funerals	£3,855.00	£235.00	**£1,750.00**
Interest	£6,559.42	£4,934.52	**£3,285.99**
Other Income	£18,594.10	£21,130.66	**£21,099.12**
Legacies	£1,000.00	£1,500.00	**£0.00**
	£102,155.13	***£101,127.74***	**£100,839.09**

PAYMENTS

	2023-24	*2024-25*	***2025-26***
Circuit Assessment	£44,741.00	£49,944.00	**£49,320.00**
Insurance	£9,650.01	£9,969.73	**£10,318.23**
Cleaning	£6,160.00	£6,126.00	**£6,414.00**
Utilities	£13,658.54	£14,276.12	**£14,911.26**
Repairs & Maintenance	£13,418.31	£17,201.28	**£8,791.00**
Conduit Centre	£10,837.82	£11,496.50	**£12,306.03**
Administration & Miscellaneous	£9,954.08	£8,692.75	**£8,817.23**
Gifts and Charities	£667.58	£628.40	**£669.15**
	£109,087.34	***£118,334.78***	**£111,546.90**
Surplus/Deficit	***-£6,932.21***	***-£17,207.04***	***-£10,707.81***

Trinity Church Abingdon Charity Reg. No. 1148634

Restricted Funds

RECEIPTS

	2023-24	*2024-25*	***2025-26***
Collections for Charities and Gifts	£14,362.93	£16,735.34	**£14,179.76**
External Salaries	£31,606.47	£32,267.78	**£27,843.27**
Benevolent Fund	£0.00	£1,000.00	**£0.00**
Belcher Trust Grants	£0.00	£0.00	**£80.00**
Grant - New Computers	£0.00	£0.00	**£1,009.32**
150th Anniversary	£0.00	£1,256.50	**£0.00**
Roofs Fund (Gift Day)	£0.00	£0.00	**£22,067.87**
Toddler Group	£0.00	£1,172.47	**£210.79**
Evergreen Club	£0.00	£0.00	**£0.00**
	£45,969.40	***£52,432.09***	**£65,391.01**

PAYMENTS

	2023-24	*2024-25*	***2025-26***
Charities and Gifts	£15,287.92	£16,130.59	**£14,369.76**
External Salaries	£31,606.47	£32,267.78	**£27,843.27**
Benevolent Fund	£0.00	£200.00	**£0.00**
Belcher Trust Grants	£0.00	£0.00	**£80.00**
New Computers	£0.00	£0.00	**£1,009.32**
150th Anniversary	£0.00	£1,256.50	**£0.00**
Toddler Group	£1,552.62	£700.00	**£672.44**
Evergreen Club	£737.76	£317.28	**£396.12**
	£49,184.77	***£50,872.15***	**£44,370.91**
Surplus/Deficit	***-£3,215.37***	***£1,559.94***	***£21,020.10***

Roofs Fund:		
	Brought forward	£0.00
	Income	£22,067.87
	Expenditure	£0.00
	Carried forward	£22,067.87

Benevolent Fund:		
	Brought forward	£800.00
	Income	£0.00
	Expenditure	£0.00
	Carried forward	£800.00

Evergreen Club Fund:		
	Brought forward	£1,470.70
	Income	£0.00
	Expenditure	-£396.12
	Carried forward	£1,074.58

Toddler Group Fund:		
	Brought forward	£1,077.17
	Income	£210.79
	Expenditure	-£672.44
	Carried forward	£615.52

Charity Funds Carried forward:		
	Mercy Ships	£805.75
	Food Bank	£50.00

Trinity Church Abingdon Charity Reg. No. 1148634

Assets at 31st August 2026

CASH ASSETS

Methodist Central Finance Board Accounts:			
Deposit Account	£44,626.00		
Legacy Fund	£23,076.09		
URC Manse Fund	£37,545.02		
		£105,247.11	
HSBC Current Account:		£11,503.25	
			£116,750.36
Of which:			
Unrestricted Funds		£91,336.64	
Restricted Funds			
Evergreen Club Fund	£1,074.58		
Toddler Group Fund	£615.52		
Benevolent Fund	£800.00		
Roofs Fund	£22,067.87		
Charity Funds	£855.75		
		£25,413.72	
			£116,750.36
Represented by:			
Methodist Central Finance Board Deposit Account:			
Brought forward	£42,712.43		
plus Interest	£1,233.57		
plus transfer from Current Account	£50,000.00		
less transfer to Current Account	£0.00		
less Assessment	-£49,320.00		
		£44,626.00	
Methodist Central Finance Board Legacy Fund			
Brought forward	£23,493.50		
plus Interest	£806.42		
plus transfer from Current Account	£0.00		
less transfer to Current Account	-£1,223.83		
		£23,076.09	
Methodist Central Finance Board URC Manse Fund			
Brought forward	£36,299.02		
plus Interest	£1,246.00		
		£37,545.02	
HSBC Current Account:			
Brought forward	£3,933.12		
plus Surplus/*less* Deficit	£7,570.13		
		£11,503.25	
			£116,750.36

INVESTMENT ASSETS

Unrestricted Funds	
Richard Frank Cox Trust held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	£1,863.28
Restricted Funds	
Spring Road Trust Funds (URC) invested in:	
a) COIF (Trinity Church/URC Fund) Income Units	£22,408.88
b) Black Rock Income Units	£8,595.67
c) Spring Road Charities Trust Fund (sale of 2 Withington Court) held in COIF Deposit Fund	£173,774.69
Other URC Investments held as COIF Income units	£5,219.08
	£211,861.60

Charity of Richard Belcher Charity No. 204666
Income and Expenditure Year Ending 31 August 2026 / Balance Sheet at 31 August 2026

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Interest	£9,630.00	Grants	£7,089.32
		Surplus/Deficit	£2,540.68

Brought Forward	£238,838.36
Surplus/Deficit	£2,540.68
Carried Forward	£241,379.04

ASSETS	
Barclays Current Account	£10,859.76
Cambridge & Counties Bank	£90,519.28
United Trust Bank	£80,000.00
Redwood Bank	£60,000.00
	£241,379.04

The Permanent Endowment of the Charity is **£223,270.37** (see Note).

Note:

The Permanent Endowment of the Charity at August 2016 was £230,911.61; this being the value from the sale in 2002 of the land and buildings endowed to the Charity. In August 2016 the Charity Commission agreed that up to £15,000 of the Permanent Endowment could be used as if income. At that time, it was believed that the value of the Permanent Endowment was £238,270.37 and this figure was advised to the Charity Commission. This difference arose because the Trustees in 2002 & 2003 had chosen to allow some of the interest earned from investing the Permanent Endowment to add to the invested sum. In May 2019, the Trustees agreed that, as the Charity Commission had been advised that the value of the Permanent Endowment was £238,270.37 and that it had agreed that up to £15,000 of the Permanent Endowment could be used as if income, only enough Permanent Endowment would be used as income to bring the invested sum to £223,270.37 and that the value of the Permanent Endowment would become **£223,270.37**.

Trinity Personnel

Presbyter:	Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson MBE
Safeguarding Officer:	Ian Brawn
Church Secretary & Clerk to Church Meeting:	Cynthia Bartlett
Church Treasurer:	Tom Kyffin
Senior Steward:	Alastair Fear
Hall/Church Bookings:	Via Church Office 520282 / trinity.abingdon@gmail.com

Don't forget

Trinity Church Website: http://www.trinityabingdon.org.uk
Trinity Church Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/TrinityAbingdon
Trinity Toddlers Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Trinitytoddlergroupabingdon/