TRINITY TRIANGLE

DECEMBER 2026 - JANUARY 2027

Good news of great joy



to all people

'Serving God, serving each other, serving community'

TRINITY CHURCH

Methodist/United Reformed/Church in Abingdon

Conduit Road, Abingdon

TRINITY'S WEEK

Sunday Services at 10.30 am, occasionally in the evening.
Junior Church meets on the first Sunday morning of the month during the Church Service. It is designed for children who are aged 3+ and parents may stay with their children if they wish. Holy Communion is normally celebrated at 10.30 within the morning service as announced in the Calendar.

Monday	2.30 pm Evergreen Club: 3rd Monday in month.
	5.30 pm Beavers.
	6.45 pm Cubs.
	7.30 pm Scouts.
Tuesday	7.30 pm Abingdon Operatic Society.
Wednesday	5.15 pm Brownies.
	7.00 pm Guides.
Thursday	9.30 am Toddler Group.
	7.30 pm Thursday Group. 2nd Thursday in the month.
Friday	10.00 am Prayer Support Group (in their homes).
	9.30am Coffee 10-10.45am. Abingdon Larder (SOFEA)
Monthly	7.30 pm Friendship Group - see calendar.

Conduit Centre, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1DB
Church Office Manager: Eluned Hallas, Tel 520282
e-mail: trinity.abingdon@gmail.com
Office open : Thurs and Fri 9.30am -4.30pm. Closed Mon, Tues, Wed
TrinityLearning: Education Development Officer: Hannah Richards.
e-mail: hannah.trinitylearning@gmail.com



December 2026 - January 2027

CONTENTS



Minister's Letter	4
Church Family News	6
Remembering Loved Ones	7
Calendar and Deadline	8
Christmas Messages	10
Trinity Learning	11
Christmas is for Old People	13



A prayer of St Benedict (480 – 587)

Gracious and Holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate on you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Triangle Joint Editors:

Cynthia Bartlett,
Pauline Main, Gloria Sandford.

Advertisements
Cynthia Bartlett
cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk

Distribution
Through Church Office

The editors reserve the right to edit articles.

Trinity Website: www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

Minister's Letter

Crossing the Threshold

Let them make me a sanctuary, so that
I may dwell among them. (Exodus 25: 8)

And the Word became flesh and lived among us… (John 1:14, NRSV)

Though he was in the form of God... he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. (Philippians 2: 6-8)

From the tabernacle in the wilderness to the manger in Bethlehem, the story of Scripture is the story of a God who refuses to remain distant, but continually crosses the threshold to dwell with his people. In Jesus, that journey reaches its fullest expression – the God who once dwelt in a tent now dwells in humankind; our infinite God crossing the threshold into finite human life without ceasing to be God. Charles Wesley expresses this fact so beautifully:

"Our God contracted to a span,
Incomprehensibly made man."
StF 208

The phrase "cross the threshold" is used to reference physically crossing a doorway or figuratively crossing an important boundary in a person's life. Every threshold separates a 'before' from an 'after', making the act of crossing both significant and transformative. There is a reason the tradition of carrying a bride across the threshold has endured across so many cultures. The longstanding tradition symbolises not just a new beginning, but also expresses the bridegroom's commitment to share his life, love, protection, and resources with his bride. In the Bible, threshold moments are key turning points when people stand on the edge of change. They mark the transition from one stage of life or faith to another and call for trust, obedience, and courage. They also serve as reminders to us that God is sovereign over the transitions in our lives and that his plans are ultimately for our good and his glory.

As I write this, we find ourselves on the threshold of Advent, which begins on 29 November, and only four weeks away from once again crossing into the season of Christmas. Yet Christmas is not the only threshold before us. Within a few weeks, we will also stand at the gateway of a new year, leaving behind the blessings, challenges and lessons of 2026 as we step into the unknown path ahead. Such moments invite us to reflect on God's faithfulness in the past and to place our trust in God's promises

for the future. Just as Christ crossed the threshold from heaven to earth to dwell among us, so we cross into a new year with the assurance that Emmanuel, 'God with us', the One who first crossed the greatest threshold of all and came to dwell among us goes before us and walks beside us in every season of life.

During these coming seasons may we share, with all people, the firm hope of the Advent season and the good news of our Saviour's birth; for wherever the Good News is proclaimed, spiritual thresholds are crossed and lives are transformed (Colossians 1: 13; 2 Corinthians 5: 17). May our churches continue to be places of warmth, welcome and hospitality and may each of you experience the peace and joy of the Christ Child.
Wishing you all a blessed Advent season, a joyous Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

With love and blessings in this special season,

Georgina

The Millennium Resolution

Let there be respect for the earth
peace for its people
love in our lives
delight in the good
forgiveness for past wrongs
and from now on a new start.

Carols in Abingdon Market Place Saturday December 12th 10am to 12 noon



This is a great opportunity to witness to our town. Please come and join in . Bring a musical instrument if you have one but come and sing anyway.

"In You, Father, we are one family in earth and heaven"



Christmas Boxes A big 'Thank you' for all those who contributed to the children's Christmas boxes and helped to pack them, and to Lindsay Busby who co-ordinated this appeal.
Each shoebox was wrapped and filled with small gifts, including toys, toiletries, warm clothing and treats. 38 boxes were filled and £70 given in cash.

The boxes were blessed on Sunday 15th by Revd. Wayne Hawkins and were collected on 16th November.

The boxes will go via Operation Christmas Child to disadvantaged and vulnerable children and families across Europe. Operation Christmas Child, a project run by Samaritan's Purse, aims to demonstrate God's love to children in need around the world.

All Saints/Trinity Advent Bible study

The joint Bible studies which began on November 27th will continue on Friday December 4th, Friday December 11th and Friday December 18th. We will meet in the Perry Room at All Saints from 2-3.30pm

We will be looking at the opening chapter(s) of each of the Gospels, as they tell of the birth of Jesus.

Week 2 (December 4th) coincides with the Singing group and, as Mark simply tells us of 'the beginning of the Good News about Jesus' , we will sing about that Good News and explore some of the themes of our well-known carols.

Week 3 Luke Chapter 1 and verses 1-7 of chapter 2,

Week 4 - John Chapter 1 v. 1-14.

All are welcome to come to one or more of the studies as they all 'stand alone'.
Revd. Carol Hamilton Foyn

Trinity Church remembers loved ones on All Saints Day



Trinity Church held a special Service of Remembrance on Sunday 1 November, bringing people together to remember loved ones who had recently passed away.

The 4pm service, led by Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson and Revd Wayne Hawkins, provided a quiet and reflective opportunity for people to remember family members and friends who are no longer with them.

The service included readings from the Wisdom of Solomon and Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, alongside prayers, hymns and a poem entitled Go Gently with Grief. An important part of the service was the lighting of candles, when those attending were invited to light one in memory of a loved one. Following the candle lighting, the ministers read out the names of those being remembered.

The service also held particular significance for members of the Trinity congregation. According to the church's Remembrance Book, three well-known and much-loved members of the congregation had passed away on 1 November in previous years.

Following the service, those attending were invited to stay for tea, coffee and cakes, providing an opportunity to chat, share memories and enjoy the fellowship of others.

Held on All Saints' Day, the service was a fitting occasion to remember and give thanks for the lives of those who have died, while offering comfort and support to all who continue to miss them.

Our God is a God
who longs to be with us:
in our deepest places,
in our sadness and tears.

Our God is a God
who holds us compassionately:
bringing us comfort,
sharing our pain

Our God is like a rock:
unmoved from love,
firm beneath our feet

Written by Gary Walsingham and From: Saying Goodbye



Fri 4th	2.00pm	Bible Study at All Saints, Perry Room
Sun 6th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Georgina United Service at Trinity with All Saints
Mon 7th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 9th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 10th	9.30am	Toddlers Christmas Service
	7.00pm	Thursday Group: Christmas Party
Fri 11th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
	11.00am	Toddler service
	2.00pm	Bible Study at All Saints, Perry Room
Sat 12th	10.00am- 12 noon	Carol Singing in the Market Place, Abingdon
Sun 13th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd. Wayne Hawkins
Mon 14th	2.30pm	Evergreen: Christmas Party
	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 16th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Fri 18th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder 2.00pm Bible Study at All Saints, Perry Room
Sun 20th		**NO MORNING SERVICE** 4.00pm Carol Service led by Georgina
Wed 24th	4.00pm	Messy Christmas led by Georgina
Fri 25th	**10.00am**	**CHRISTMAS MORNING** Service led by Revd. Wayne Hawkins
		NO SOFEA THIS WEEK
Sun 27th	10.30am	NO MORNING SERVICE AT TRINITY
	10.30am	Morning Service at All Saints led by Revd. Alan Grist



January 2027



Fri 1st	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Georgina

Fri 8th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 10th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Andrew Dixon
Mon 11th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 13th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 14th	2.30pm	Thursday Group, Conduit Centre. Afghanistan
Fri 15th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sat 16th	10.00am – 3.00pm	Circuit Showcase Day The Carmelite Centre for Spirituality, Chilswell, Boars Hill, OX1 5HB
Sun 17th	10.30am	Morning Worship: All-age-service led by Revd. Wayne Hawkins
Mon 18th	2.30pm	Evergreen: Musical Bingo 5.30pm Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 20th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Fri 22nd	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder Deadline for February issue of Triangle
Sun 24th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Georgina
Mon 25th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 27th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Fri 29th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 31st	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Revd. Alan Grist

February 2026

Sun 7th	10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion led by Georgina

Deadline for February issue of Triangle
Friday 22nd January 2027
Please send contributions to Cynthia (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk)
AND to Pauline (revmain@gmail.com) or via the Office

Thursday Group: An Open Meeting about Afghanistan

The first Thursday Group meeting in 2027 is on 14th January at 2.30pm in the Conduit Centre. This will be an open meeting to hear about life in Afghanistan now two years after the speaker came to tell us about her work in a poor rural mountainous area.



Wishing everybody at Trinity a Happy Christmas and New Year, with love and peace. *Ken and Lin Clark*

'Just wishing all my church family a happy Christmas and New Year. I shall be giving a donation to charity this year.' *Lindsay and David*

'I wish all my Trinity family a Happy Christmas and Peace and Joy in the New Year. Instead of cards I will be sending a Christmas donation to Crisis.' *Barbara Deakin*

'Christmas Blessings to all my friends at Trinity. I will be making a donation to charity instead of sending cards. Best wishes', *Ray Chadwick.*

Doreen and Brian would like to wish all our friends at Trinity, a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and Blessings for the New Year. 'We plan to donate to a homeless charity instead of sending cards.'

Tom and Sue Kyffin wish everyone at Trinity a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2027.

'Our Christmas greetings and best wishes for the season to all at Trinity.' *Leif and Petronella*

'Andy, Fiona, and Kathryn would like to take this opportunity to extend their warmest wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone. This year, instead of sending out Christmas cards, we will be contributing to the work of the Abingdon Compassionate Café.'

Val Dalby and family send their best wishes to Trinity friends and will be giving a donation to a charity.

Eve and Malcolm send warmest Christmas Greetings to everyone at Trinity; and instead of cards will be making a donation to Mercy Ships.

Neil and Elizabeth want to wish all their Trinity friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Instead of sending Christmas cards, they will be making a donation to SOFEA.

Clare, Huw and David send love and greetings to the Trinity family. May the peace and joy of Christmas time be with you now and in the coming year.

Ernest and Nan Draper send their greetings to all their friends at Trinity and wish them a peaceful, happy and safe New Year.*

*We received this message for Triangle from Ernest only a few days before he died so we are sure he would have liked to have these words included just as he had agreed them.

In October, TrinityLearning had the privilege of supporting Carswell's Harvest Festival at the church, which proved to be a truly wonderful celebration.

The service was filled with moments of joyful and reflective singing alongside thoughtful readings. The school shared a wonderful presentation on the screen featuring the Year 1 and 2 children's beautiful artwork of vibrant root vegetables and scenes from the story of the Little Red Hen.



Throughout the event, the children were exemplary role models for their school, and it was a pleasure to be part of such a warm community gathering. A particular highlight was watching the children take great delight in carrying the generous food donations provided by their parents. These donations have now been sent to the Abingdon Food Bank to support local families.



We are now very much looking forward to the Christmas season here at TrinityLearning.

As the festive period approaches, we are delighted to be supporting local primary and secondary schools as they fill the church with music and joy for their annual concerts and services. It promises to be a magical time, and we cannot wait to share the joy of the season with our wonderful school communities.

Come and join us for our TrinityLearning 2027 AGM

TrinityLearning's AGM will take place via Zoom on 26th January from 6:00 – 6:30pm, and we warmly welcome everyone interested in our work to join us.

Please email Hannah at hannah.trinitylearning@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link and a



copy of our Annual Report - which will also be sent separately to all our volunteers and supporters. We look forward to seeing you there.

Would you like to support our work in 2027?

Looking ahead to the new year, we are already starting to plan for our fantastic Experience Easter event, which will run for two weeks in the church in March.



An event of this scale relies on a wonderful team of people, and we would love for you to be involved. If you are able to volunteer, either behind the scenes helping us put packs together or by supporting us at the event itself then please email Hannah at hannah.trinitylearning@gmail.com for more information.

We are also looking for extra volunteers to join our ongoing projects. If you would like to find out more about supporting our Thinking Books project, or joining our singing group at Kingfisher School, please get in touch for a friendly chat about what either role entails. Your time and support make a massive difference to the local children we work with.

TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding and all our volunteer opportunities are subject to safer recruitment procedures.

Finally, we would like to wish all of our wonderful volunteers, trustees, supporters and friends a truly wonderful break over Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you all so much for your ongoing dedication, support for our work and for making such a positive difference in our Abingdon school communities.

Trinity Learning

Christmas is for old people



Based on a reflection by John Bell of the Iona Community

We are used to thinking about Christmas as for the young and we love having children around us at Christmas when we can. We enjoy seeing their excitement as the day gets closer, seeing their eyes widen with wonder at Christmas trees and Christmas lights; their pleasure at opening their presents from Father Christmas.

And of course, at the heart of the Christmas story is a child. God making himself vulnerable, trusting himself completely to us as he allows himself to be born as a baby in Bethlehem.

So what is John Bell talking about when he says Christmas is about old people?

Old people

The Advent stories begin with an elderly couple, Elizabeth and Zechariah, he a priest helping out in his retirement years, she a childless senior citizen. And they are blessed by God with a baby, John, who will be the herald of the Messiah. Mary visits her older cousin Elizabeth, and Elizabeth's baby leaps in the womb.

Then there are the wise men. We don't know their ages, but in Eastern tradition, wisdom was considered as the gift of years, not of youth.

Then there are Joseph and the shepherds. Joseph is traditionally a lot older than Mary. We don't know about the shepherds, but at the time of Jesus' birth, life expectancy for men was around 35, so Joseph and the shepherds may well have left youth well behind!

The Christmas stories end with two more elderly people - one is Simeon, a God-fearing man who regularly visits the temple, the other is Anna, an 84 year-old widow and prophetess. They are the people who witness Jesus being dedicated to God by his parents in accordance with Jewish tradition, and who recognise that he is special.

So – the Christmas story IS about a baby. No doubt about that!
But also – the Christmas story IS about older people.

So what!! - The older people in the story are open to God's message.

There were many, younger, people who met Jesus later in his life who didn't recognise him. But these older people did – Elizabeth and Zechariah, the wise men, Joseph, the shepherds – all hear and respond in their own way.

Simeon and Anna are devout, religious people, but unlike some religious

people we hear of in the New Testament, their minds are not closed. Their expectations of the Messiah would have been like everyone else's – someone who would free Israel from her enemies. But they hear the prompting of God's spirit, and recognise in this baby, the child of a poor couple – the one they have been looking for all their lives. And they rejoice.

So what!! - God is not ageist!

We get worried when we look around our churches. Where are the young people?

But the point John Bell is making is that God doesn't necessarily think like that. He points out that in the scriptures, the beginning of Jewish-Christian history involves an old man, Abraham, in his nineties, and his equally aged wife Sarah, from whom, God maintains, a nation will spring.

God could have chosen a pair of young newly-weds. We would have.

Elizabeth and Zechariah become parents in their old age and Simeon and Anna are given an insight into the uniqueness of Mary's tiny baby, because God will not have people marginalised or written off on account of age.All are important, whatever their age.

But more than that – all have a contribution. God chooses people whom the world would deem 'past it', to be the ones to whom he reveals himself, and he expects them to be active, to spread the good news they have received.

May God bless us all this Christmastide, whatever our age – or youth! – and help us to grow in his service.

Pauline Main



God of grace,
as we are loved by you,
so teach us how to love;
as we are forgiven by you,
so help us to forgive;
as we are trusted by you,
so lead us to greater trust in you;
as we welcome the coming Christ,
so enliven us to reflect the living Christ,
and become channels of hope to a broken world.
(from *Seasons and Celebrations*)

Cat in the Manger A poem by U A Fanthorpe



In the story, I'm not there.
Ox and ass, arranged at prayer
But me? Nowhere.
Anti-cat evangelists
How on earth could you have missed
Such an obvious and able
Occupant of any stable?

Who excluded mouse and rat?
The harmless necessary cat.
Who snuggled in with the holy pair?
Me. And my purr.

Matthew, Mark and Luke and John,
(Who got it wrong, Who left out the cat)
Remember that,
Wherever He went in this great affair
I was there.

EDWARD CARTER
Funeral Director

COMMITMENT with COMPASSION

SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

GOLDEN CHARTER

24 Hour Service

DEDICATED CHAPEL OF REST

A private, family business, upholding the traditional values of dignity and respect

Pre-paid Funeral Plan

107 South Avenue, Abingdon
Oxon OX14 1QS
(01235) 528293

WRIGHT
DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS

Repairs to most makes of Washing Machines, Cookers, Dryers, Dishwashers etc...

For a fast reliable service
Tel: 01235 - 764185
or 07981-941221

Tonks Brothers Funeral Directors

Abingdon & Kennington
Tel 01235 539444
or
www.tonksbrothers.com
'Proud to be a family business'

DIRTY CARPETS, UPHOLSTERY, RUGS



Most carpets dry within the hour
Unbeatable results removes almost all spots & stains

call GRIMEBUSTERS

01865 726983 01235 555533

www.grimebusters.co.uk

Come and Join the fun and laughter at our once a month Triangle Meeting and help produce Triangle. Coffee and biscuits supplied.

The Triangle Editors.