TRINITY TRIANGLE

NOVEMBER 2026



'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.

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TrinityLearning: Education Development Officer: Hannah Richards.
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In God's Hands

In your journeys to and fro God direct you;
In your happiness and pleasure God bless you;
In care, anxiety or trouble God sustain you;
In peril and in danger God protect you.

Archbishop Timothy Olufosoye (1918-92) Nigeria

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Distribution
Through Church Office

The editors reserve the right to edit articles.

Trinity Website: www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

Minister's Letter

Advent: Judgement and Hope, Redemption and Restoration

Since ancient times, the Christian church has followed the annual rhythm of the liturgical year which begins four Sundavs before Christmas and includes seven seasons. These seasons unfold in a pattern that follows the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and continues through to the day before Christmas. This year, the first Sunday of this four-week period falls on 29 November. The name Advent, derived from a Latin word for 'corning', is considered a time of preparation, hope, and expectation, as the church awaits both Christ's earthly birth as the baby born in Bethlehem and his final coming "in power and glory," as we confess when reciting the Nicene Creed.

The theological word that describes Jesus' final coming is 'apocalyptic', and if truth be told, many Christians find the apocalyptic Jesus very uncomfortable or difficult to engage with. Most of us favour the Holy Child, Emmanuel: the loving and gentle Jesus, who comforts us and teaches through stories and parables. Christians and non-Christians alike love the image of Christ the shepherd, holding a lamb in his arms or carting the lost sheep home on his shoulders, one of the very first images and icons - Christ the Good Shepherd. We like the Jesus whose teaching we can turn into helpful advice for how to make our day just a little bit better and the Jesus we agree with; and sometimes we love the angry, justice-seeking Jesus - the Jesus who turned over tables in the temple. Yet the apocalyptic Jesus, who talks of judgement, promises another Advent when he will come again in glorious majesty to be our judge. This is very much a part of the Good News of celebrating Advent now.

The Good News at the heart of Advent is that the One who comes as Judge comes also as Redeemer. This is the God who took our humanity upon himself, entering our world in the vulnerability of a child and sharing fully in our human life. The Good News at the heart of Advent is that the God who comes as Judge is the God who loves us enough to confront what diminishes us and separates us from one another, calling us back to the life for which we were created: a life of receiving love, living in love and sharing love.

The four weeks of Advent offer us the space and time to prepare for Christ's birth as well as his second coming: to make things right, to give, to share, to forgive and to apologise. The season affords us the opportunity to let go of our grudges, to let go of ways in which we hurt others and to walk in the Lord's ways - ways of righteousness and justice. (Psalm 89:14)

Christ's coming among us as a vulnerable child gives us hope. The Christ

who will come again as Judge fills us with hope too, because the one who judges is the same one who loves, forgives and redeems us. We can therefore face his coming with confidence, holding firmly to that hope we proclaim.

May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen.

"Yes, I am coming soon."
"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20)

Every blessing, Georgina

Deadline for December/January issue of the Triangle
Friday 20th November
Please send contributions to Cynthia (cynbartlett@yahoo.co.uk) AND to Val (vadalby17@gmail.com) or via the Office.

Trinity Evergreen Club - Monday 16th November

This month we are doing a Craft Afternoon, and the meeting will be led by Carolyn Hawkes. We shall be showing our artistic sides to produce a beautiful Masterpiece!!

We start at 2.30 and as usual there will be a raffle and refreshments.
Tricia Cook

‘ECHOES’

I have recently been given the programme of a Song Recital in which English poems were set to music. One of the poems was ‘The Splendour Falls’ by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. This is a poem I knew and loved but had forgotten over the years.

On reading it again, the repeated refrain of the bugle blowing struck me and I became suddenly conscious of the dying strains of the bugle playing ‘The Last Post’ on Remembrance Day and on many other tragic occasions. I often think the dying sound of the bugle call fills the sudden silence as we remember the Fallen.

It is strange how one’s perceptions and understanding change over the years. As a child, this poem was one of fantasy, fairyland, but having lived through two world wars and as warfare continues to cause tragedy and loss, this poem to me has a deeper and spiritual meaning as the ‘echoes roll from soul to soul’ – one that the poet can never have envisaged?

The splendour falls on castle walls
And snowy summits old in story:
The long light shakes across the lakes,
And the wild cataract leaps in glory.
Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying,
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.

O hark, O hear! how thin and clear,
And thinner, clearer, farther going!
O sweet and far from cliff and scar
The horns of Elfland faintly blowing!
Blow, let us hear the purple glens replying:
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.

O love, they die in yon rich sky,
They faint on hill or field or river:
Our echoes roll from soul to soul,
And grow for ever and for ever.
Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying,
And answer, echoes, answer, dying, dying, dying.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson 1809-1892

‘At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them’

Clare James

Morning Worship led by Philip Nalpanis of A Rocha

By Trinity Correspondent / October 5, 2026



Morning Worship on Sunday 4 October 2026 was led by Philip Nalpanis of A Rocha UK, the Christian environmental charity that supports churches in caring for God's creation. As an Eco Church, Trinity is already recognised with a Bronze Award for its commitment to the environment, and we are now actively working towards a Silver Award under A Rocha's scheme.

Philip's service brought together hymns, Bible readings, prayers, and a sermon that reminded us how faith and practical action come together in caring for the world God has entrusted to us as stewards.

He explored the biblical foundations of care for the environment in Genesis, saying that our calling is to be faithful stewards of God's world. He explained that 'subdue' and 'have dominion' are not about exploitation but about cultivating, serving, and preserving the earth. Drawing on Colossians 1, he said that Christ is the one through whom all things were created and through whom all things are reconciled, placing the care of creation at the heart of the gospel. He echoed the Pope's words that destroying creation is a sin. Philip went on to say that our hope in the

resurrection is not an escape from the world but taking part in God's work of restoring the Kingdom, as we pray in the Lord's Prayer: 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.'



He encouraged practical steps that express care for creation in everyday life:

- Reduce consumption and buy only what is needed
- Repair items instead of replacing them
- Borrow or share tools and equipment
- Support environmental groups and take part in local conservation projects
- Campaign for stronger environmental policy by writing to MPs
- Pray regularly for the environment and talk openly about the environment

He ended with a reminder that Christian hope is active: every small act of care, every choice to protect creation, and every prayer for the earth is part of God's work. As he quoted from The Message: "Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort." (1 Corinthians 15:58b)

From Trinity Church's website https://trinityabingdon.org.uk/wordpress/news/morning-worship-led-by-philip-nalpanis-of-a-rocha/

TrinityLearning

TrinityLearning has been moving forward with our new Development Officer Hannah at the helm. Hannah reported to her first Trustees meeting in October, including the following news:

Eight volunteers attended the Emotional Reading training with Lisa Lloyd on 23rd September. This year we opened the training up to the Kingfisher singers which worked well. It would be good to do a different training session next year as many volunteers have done this quite a few times now. Hannah is going to explore options.

A new Thinking Books volunteer is starting at Thameside school. As part of their training, the volunteer met more experienced volunteers who were able to give support and advice.

Hannah and two TL volunteers attended Larkmead School's Make a Difference week celebration. They said that it was a fantastic event and wonderful to see all the different charities and projects the pupils worked on, from helping the charities with sewing princess dresses to painting a sleigh, to writing social media posts. It was wonderful to see the TL pupil team deliver their report and hear about their experiences.

TrinityLearning have been asked to support a SEND pupil from Larkmead with a work experience placement, for a few days in February. It's encouraging that TL is seen very positively in this way by the school.

As well as the project-focussed work, Hannah and the team have dealt with various admin matters, safeguarding training, dbs checks and so on – less "glamourous" but still very necessary tasks.

Pauline Main, Chair of TrinityLearning

NOVEMBER



Sun 1st	10.30am 4.00pm	Morning Worship led by Daphne Savage Service of Remembrance at Trinity
Mon 2nd	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 4th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Fri 6th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 8th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Peter Hemmings United Service with All Saints
Mon 9th	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 116h	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Thurs 12th	9.30am -11.00am	monthly autumn meeting of Trinity Toddler Group
	2.30pm	Thursday Group: Seasonal Crafts – Wendy Glover
Fri 13th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 15th	10.30am	Morning Worship: led by Revd Wayne Hawkins
Mon 16th	5.30pm 2.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts Evergreen: Craft Session
Wed 18th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Fri 20th	10.30am	Virtual Prayer Support Group 9.30am Coffee 10.00 – 10.45am SOFEA Larder
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Georgina
Mon 23rd	5.30pm	Beavers 6.45pm Cubs 7.30pm Scouts
Wed 25th	5.15pm	Brownies 7.00pm Guides
Sun 29th	10.30am	Morning Worship led by members of the congregation

Nasio Celebrations

On Saturday 10th October I was happy to attend Kennington's celebration of Nasio's 25 years and the official opening of the new library and cultural centre in Mumias, Kenya.

A gathering of about 80 Nasio supporters settled under the flags of Britain and Kenya to the music of the Kennington silver band.

A zoom link with Nasio in Kenya was soon established and we all stood for each others' singing of our national anthems.

Short talks on Nasio's 25 years followed.

Sylvia Vetta, on her visit to Nasio in Kenya, spoke on zoom, dedicating the new library and cultural centre recently completed, and of the value of books and reading.

Javan Okware spoke of his experiences growing up supported by Nasio.

An exuberant young children's choir sang to us on zoom from Kenya, looking very smart in their red jumpers which are knitted and donated by supporters in Britain.

Kennington's football referee and trainer who supervises multiple youth teams told us he was so impressed, on his visit by the Mumias Nasio girls footballing talent and enthusiasm.

He has supplied these Kenyan teams with football strip and is now collecting football boots so that they don't have to play in bare feet.

The Kennington choir led by Judith Sawyer then ambitiously sang a joyful song in Swahili.

The chair of Nasio summed up Nasio's aims of education, provision of nutritious food and of nurturing independence over their 25 years of work in Mumias, Kenya.

The mayor of Kennington spoke of their community dedication to an evolving friendship with the community of Mumias in Kenya.

The morning was dynamically rounded off by the Kennington silver band. Swahili celebration song

Jambo	-	Hello
Jambo bwana	-	Hello friend
Habari gani	-	How are you?
Msuri sana	-	Very well
Jambo	-	Hello
Habari gani	-	How are you
Msuri sana	-	Very good
Asante sana	-	Thank you very much

Petronella Rasmussen



On October 18th the Wantage and Abingdon Circuit marked Black History Month with a celebration at Trinity Church, Abingdon, bringing together talks, storytelling, music, and conversation. About 80 visitors attended from across the circuit and beyond.

The programme opened with an address by Mr Bevan Powell MBE, who explored both the origins and the continuing significance of Black History Month. He began by noting that 'there is so much division in this world', and stressed the need for Britain to become a place where 'every voice is heard'. Drawing on Genesis 1:27: 'we are all made in the image of God', he reminded people that although the Christian faith affirms the equal dignity of all people, 'not every story is told', and 'not every achievement is recognised'. Black History Month, he said, exists to correct this imbalance and to ensure that contributions long overlooked are brought into the light.

Mr Powell traced the movement back to Dr Carter G. Woodson, the pioneering African American historian who believed that 'a people without a history are treated as a negligible factor in the thought of the world'. In 1915 Woodson founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History , creating a platform for research, education, and celebration of Black achievement. The movement grew steadily: the civil rights era of the 1960s gave it new momentum, and in 1976 Black History Month was officially recognised across the United States. It reached Britain in 1987, where it has since become an annual opportunity to honour Black heritage, culture, and leadership.

Turning to Methodism, Mr Powell highlighted Black pioneers in British and Caribbean Methodist life, including John Hodge, Ivan Weekes, George Pottinger, and Inderjit Bhogal. Their ministries, he said, helped shape the church's commitment to justice, hospitality, and inclusion. He also spoke about Racial Justice Sunday, explaining its origins and purpose. The Methodist Church established Racial Justice Sunday in 1995, following

the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993. The Lawrence family were members of Trinity Methodist Church, Plumstead, and the tragedy compelled Methodists to confront the deadly reality of racism in Britain. Racial Justice Sunday has since become an annual observance across British and Irish churches, encouraging congregations to reflect, pray, and act for racial justice.

The programme continued with absorbing storytelling from Mr Joseph Kingsley Nyinah, delivered entirely without notes. A conversation followed with The Rt Hon Lord Boateng, remembered by many as Paul Boateng, Britain's first Black Cabinet minister. He spoke about the role of faith in his life, his training and practice as a lawyer, and the sense of calling that eventually drew him into politics as a means of making a difference.



Lord Boateng emphasised that 'no political party has a monopoly on advancing racial justice'. As an example, he pointed to the repeal in 1981 of the so-called 'sus' law: a provision of the Vagrancy Act 1824 that allowed police to arrest people suspected of intending to commit an offence. The law was used disproportionately against Black men and contributed to tensions between Black communities and the police. Its repeal under Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government followed a campaign involving Black community activists and politicians from across the political spectrum, including Lord Boateng himself.

He went on to argue that political campaigning is just as important as what politicians do once in office in bringing about positive change. Reflecting on today's political climate, in which many people feel disenchanted or disconnected from politics, he encouraged Christians to continue campaigning for their core values: peace, justice, and care for creation.



Music was provided by three members of the Methodist Zimbabwe Fellowship Choir, whose performance was very lively.

The event was introduced by Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson, minister of Trinity and All Saints, and ended with a short service led by Revd Sonia Hicks, chair of the Northampton Methodist District.

After the formal programme, many attendees moved through to the church hall to enjoy a generous spread of African and Caribbean food, including jerk chicken, fried plantain, salt-fish fritters, sea bass in coconut cream, and much more. Numerous people contributed dishes, and the Trinity catering team managed the impressive task of keeping everything hot and well presented using chafing dishes.



Guests included the Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Andrew Skinner, and his wife, along with Cllr Rawda Jehanli, last year's Mayor. A lot of the work to put the event together was thanks to Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson and the Circuit Administrator, Jane Hawes.

From Trinity Church's website https://trinityabingdon.org.uk/wordpress/news/black-history-month/:

EXTENDED COMMUNION MINISTRY: A CALL TO SERVE

We Need Representatives from Every Local Church

As our Circuit seeks to strengthen its pastoral care of those unable to attend public worship, we invite members to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling them to serve in the ministry of Extended Communion.
As part of our Circuit Development Plan, and in support of our ministers, Bruce and Georgina, we are seeking lay members from each church who feel called to assist in the ministry of Extended Communion by taking pre consecrated bread and wine to people in their own homes or care homes.
Could God be calling you to serve in this important ministry?
For further details: https://www.wantab.org.uk/lib/file-1059555.pdf
Contact Georgina or Jane Hawes in the Circuit Office if you would like to talk further about this ministry.

Abingdon and Wantage Methodist Circuit

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The Triangle Editors.