



ALL SAINTS
METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
2022-2023

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
1. Minister’s Letter	4
2. In Memoriam.....	5
3. Church Stewards.....	5
4. Our Circuit.....	6
5. Church in Abingdon – review of 2022	7
6 Church Committees and Action Groups.....	9
6.1 Church Family Committee	9
6.2 Finance Committee - Charity Registration number 1184115.....	10
6.3 Mission Action	10
6.4 Pastoral Committee.....	10
6.5 Property Action.....	11
6.6 Safeguarding.....	12
6.7 Youth Forum	12
7. Church Groups & Activities.....	13
7.1 Card Sales	13
7.2 Junior Church and Creche.....	13
7.3 Just Women	13
7.4 Men’s Group.....	13
7.5 Music	14
7.6 Music Fellowship	14
7.7 Tubb House Group.....	14
7.8 Quest	15
7.9 Uniformed Organisations	15
8. Other Church Activities.....	17
8.1 Christian Aid	17
8.2 Future Pillars, Zambia	18
8.3 The Nasio Trust.....	19
8.4 TrinityLearning - highlights of supporting local schools in 2022	20
8.5 Abingdon Foodbank.....	23
8.6 Church Twinning Group.....	23
APPENDIX A: MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS	26

Introduction

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be a face to face meeting in the church on Sunday 26th March.

This report contains accounts from a variety of groups and organisations that have resumed meetings following the previous years of restrictions, unfortunately some groups have now ceased to meet due to various circumstances.

Hopefully reading this report will remind us of our 'church family.' Our church services have, this year, become mask free and it has been refreshing to see smiling faces as well as smiling eyes! Our worshipping numbers on a Sunday have been slowly creeping back up to pre-COVID numbers and for that we are grateful.

May the reading of this report bring us joy that All Saints has now returned to its busy, mission minded business despite us all growing that little bit older and becoming that little bit slower. Despite the difficulties of only having two serving stewards; Dawn and Sue have continued to meet and have diligently prepared a safe and stimulating worship environment along with the help of our band of Welcome stewards who support them on a Sunday morning. We are grateful always for the blessings of those who lead our church and we pray that others may feel called to join them in finding the right direction for All Saints in 2023 and beyond to change and new ventures.

Sue Russell

1. Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

They say time flies when you're having fun. Well this year seems to have rushed passed so maybe it means we are having lots of fun! It is certainly true that while not everything pre-covid has returned, a great deal of things have. All Saints is still a very active church and its reach is almost beyond measure.

As I write, my focus appears to be more on the future than on the past. We have recently had a Circuit Meeting Plus hosted by All Saints and the Circuit is looking to the future considering its mission and its ministry. There are challenges ahead, that much is clear. Yet with each challenge comes the opportunity to call upon God's wisdom and leading. The UK is certainly not as much a Christian country as it once was, and we can lament that, or we can take up the challenge of what it means to communicate, demonstrate and teach our faith to those who know so little of the stories we have to share.

There will always be the question about what we want or what we expect from church and church life, yet there is also the question about what it is we pass on. What are those things our faith in God and the community of the church give to us that we cherish so much we want to share them with others? This annual report may not answer the question fully. Yet it is one that we can keep in mind as we look to shape the activities, the mission and the ministry of All Saints as we look ahead.

Lent is a wonderful time to look ahead, not just to Holy Week and Easter, but to look ahead for the life and ministry we have in Abingdon. Lent traditionally resources us for that mission and ministry as seek to draw closer to God in a variety of ways. So my prayer is as ever, that we will recognise the prompts that God gives us as we seek to be faithful to his call upon our lives. As Wesley said, the best of all is God is with us, may we know that deep within our hearts and may our actions speak of its truth in the year ahead.

Every blessing

2. In Memoriam

We record the names of those members of this church who have passed on in the last year with grateful thanks to God for their lives and service.

Rev. Brian Jones 19th January 1939 - 26th June 2022
Past minister at All Saints

Michael Ellwood 11th September 1949 - 12th July 2022
Husband of Margaret, a member of All Saints

Margaret Caton 21st June 1935 - 27th July 2022
Member of All Saints

Marion Williams 21st September 1933 - 1st September 2022
Member of All Saints

John Dennis 27th January 1926 - 22nd October 2022
Previous member of All Saints and a retired Local Preacher

Sue Butler

3. Church Stewards

Our stewarding team would like to start this report with a massive thank you to our dedicated team of Worship stewards who ensure the services at Church run smoothly Sunday by Sunday. You keep our Church open!

Ongoing work has included;

AV system – we have visited 2 churches to look at their systems and 2 companies have visited us to talk about what they could offer in light of our requirements. Our next steps are to wait for quotes and meet to put together a recommendation for the finance committee and church council. This will of course be shared with the church at an appropriate point.

GDPR – this has been updated to current requirements.

First Aid training – this has now been satisfactorily completed by 4 people and the stewards will be undertaking a review of First aid boxes to ensure these are up to date.

Communion Rail – this has now been replaced.

Welcome cards – these have been updated, smartly printed and placed in pews and at the front of church for visitors who would like more information.

Queen's Green Canopy – we thank our uniformed organisations who organised the plaque and tree which has now been planted at the side of the Church.

Services

Thank you to our minister's who led our lovely, well attended and thought provoking services over the Christmas period and to Rev. Ian Griffiths for our Covenant service on January 8th.

Local Arrangements

Thank you to all who were involved in a variety of roles in these very successful services.

23rd October - All Saint's joined with Trinity and the service was very well received.

6th November – Anniversary service, organised by and including contributions from a wide range of Church members.

Tubb house group service – included information on the Anti-poverty charter.

Dawn Tyrrell

4. Our Circuit

The work of the Circuit Leadership Team is carried out by the Circuit Staff – Rev Keith Underhill (Superintendent), Rev Ian Griffiths, Rev Jocelyn Bennett, Deacon Selina Nisbett and the Circuit Stewards – Anne Matthews, Geoffrey Maunder, Carolyn Roche, Mary Hancock (Property) and Gordon Skidmore (Treasurer). We are very pleased to welcome Gordon to the team and to thank him for becoming the new Circuit treasurer. We also thank Geoffrey for all the hard work he has put in as the previous treasurer and are pleased that he remains as a Circuit Steward. We continue to look for new people to become Circuit Stewards. It is an interesting and rewarding role. If you wish to find out more then please speak to one of the CLT.

As well as meetings dealing with the usual business of the Circuit, the CLT has been holding meetings concentrating on the future sustainability of the Circuit. We are aware that certainly by 2025, when Keith retires, we are likely to be a two presbyter circuit. The Methodist Connexion is already having great difficulty in finding presbyters to fill all the appointments and as noted last year the Circuit is currently supporting churches with the assessment but this is not sustainable in the long term. Matt Forsyth, the District Mission Enabler, has been part of our conversations and will be joining the special Circuit meeting on 4th March.

All churches have returned to their normal pattern of Sunday morning. Wallingford are also having a monthly evening service. Morning Worship at Wantage Methodist Church continues to be shared on Zoom with all who have requested access. Thank you to all those who enable fellowships to meet and worship to take place. It perhaps should be noted that Local Arrangements are becoming more frequent on the plan. Childrey have now become a class of Wantage. Services of worship continue in Childrey Chapel on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Keith was finally able to undertake the final two months of his sabbatical in May and June of last year. He was able to take a pilgrimage walk along the full extent of the Thames Path. From this has come the 'Stepping out with Noah' reflective walks. Selina took her sabbatical from September to November 2022 and we look forward to hearing more on what she has done and how she is going to use this in the future.

Jocelyn is the next presbyter to undertake a three month sabbatical and this will run from May to July. Jocelyn will be leaving the Circuit at the end of the connexional year. We wish her well in her new appointment and thank her for the work she has done in Didcot, Milton and Wallingford. Rev Bruce Thompson, current Chair of the Lincolnshire District, will be stationed to our Circuit, subject to Conference in September 2023. Rev Ian Griffith's appointment to the Circuit ends in August 2024. This May he will enter the stationing/re-invitation process.

Libby Hawkness-Smith continues as the sole lead chaplain. Her chaplaincy work takes place at Great Western Park and at Wantage and Grove with the assistance of Theo, her canine chaplain. Libby spoke about her work at the Circuit service held at Wallingford on 5th February. At this service Wendy Moorin was officially recognised as an Anna chaplain and her dog Tilly as a canine chaplain. We are very thankful for all the work that they do.

Carolyn Roache, Circuit Steward

5. Church in Abingdon – review of 2022

Member churches and staff: Much of the life and work of the CiA, and the individual churches, resumed slowly in 2022 following the COVID-19 pandemic dating back to March 2020, with some people still reticent to attend church and activities in person.

There have been a few changes in the clergy over the past year: Revd Rachel Hughes was appointed as the new minister of Abingdon Baptist Church in November 2022. Revd Rebecca Peters left Peachcroft Christian Centre in December 2022 - a new minister is yet to be appointed. Nessa Watts left Christ Church in June 2022 having completed her term there. Andrew Gilmour and Ros Steel started their curacies at Christ Church in July 2022.

One new church has joined the CiA: the Lighthouse Parish, part of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, under the lead of Michael and Lillian Davies.

Task groups and associated projects: The CiA has continued to support a number of community projects and working groups that concentrate on specific areas of cooperation. These include:

- 35 Ock Street, a hospitality centre for the community offering a café and a listening ear, and meeting rooms for local groups and agencies.
- The Abingdon Bridge, which has continued to reach out to the youth of Abingdon, providing support, advice and guidance to an increasing number of vulnerable young people in the community.
- Abingdon Street Pastors who are out on the streets of Abingdon on Saturday nights
- The Christian Aid group in Abingdon

- The Christian Forum column continues to appear in the Abingdon Round & About monthly magazine under the direction of the CiA Administrator Debra Mcknight.
- Several exchange visits of the Church Twinning group have taken place – one to Abingdon and one to Schongau.
- The work of Desire continues in a slightly different format having been limited by a lack of youth workers.
- A ‘virtual’ Experience Easter was again organised by Trinity Learning.
- The Alpha launch-type event could not take place but various online Alpha courses took place.
- The work of Prayer Spaces in Abingdon schools is slowly starting up now the pandemic is largely over.

Communication: The CiA News and a newly launched website have continued under the direction of the CiA Administrator Debra Mcknight, while publication of the Christian Focus magazine has ceased until a new editorial team can be set up.

United activities 2022

January:

Christian Aid’s self directed New Year’s Day walk raised £880 + 197.50 GiftAid for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal. A post-Christmas online quiz, which raised a further £690 + 162.50 GiftAid.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, no in-person events took place but a prayer leaflet was prepared by the CiA Administrator for use during the week instead of the usual midday prayers.

February

The CiA AGM took place.

March

The CiA Lent Lectures did not take place in person due high risk aversion among congregations but the CiA Administrator prepared a list of various online courses and other resources for people to follow at home as people so wished singly or in groups.

The World Day of Prayer service took place at the Salvation Army organised by the CiA Administrator and volunteers from the previous WDP committee. The service for 2022 was prepared by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the theme ‘I know the plans I have for you’.

April

The procession of witness took place on Good Friday stopping in the Market Place to sing a hymn before proceeding to St Nics for a united service led by Deacon Selina Nisbett.

TrinityLearning again ran a ‘virtual’ Easter Experience which allowed children to take part from their classrooms supported by resource packs and teacher packs.

May

The Christian Aid week activities took place with adaptations, raising just over £4000.

Christians across Abingdon were encouraged to join in 'prayer walking' as part of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative.

June

Abingdon's Fun in the Park event was replaced by the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Rye Meadow in which various churches came together as normally done for Fun in the Park.

July

The South Abingdon Play & Activity Day event took place in Southern Town Park with Abingdon Vineyard and Abingdon Community churches taking part.

October

The Michaelmas fair service took place with Revd Kath Cooke leading. Church Twinning ran their 'eco' event in Abingdon for visitors from twinned towns.

November

The Annual Bereavement Service took place at Christ Church in collaboration with the Footprints Bereavement group who usually hold an annual bereavement service for their members.

Several churches started offering warm spaces as part of the Warm Welcome campaign.

December

People from all the churches gathered in the Market Square to sing carols and give out leaflets detailing all the Christmas services taking place across Abingdon.

A full report is available on the CiA website at

<http://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk>

6 Church Committees and Action Groups

6.1 Church Family Committee

Church Family Committee

Members: Anne Matthews (Chair), Becky Batey (Secretary), Kate Jones, Helen Appleyard, Judith Penrose Brown, Maurice Tubb, Rona Quigley, Mike Quigley, Ian Griffiths, Selina Nisbett



The Church Family Committee continues to meet three times a year to oversee the social life of the church and receive reports from the many and varied groups that make up the friendships and fellowship at All Saints:

Tubb House Group
Music Fellowship

Just Women
Youth Forum

Men's Group
Junior Church
Crèche

Pre-School
Sunday Music Group
Quest

Outlined below are events the Family Committee have been involved in since the last AGM in May 2022.

During August we held a cream tea where plenty of scones and cakes were consumed. It was one of the hottest days of the year and only those who liked the heat braved sitting in the church garden whilst the rest sat in the slightly cooler church hall.

In October the Hartley family had Timothy's Christening followed by lunch in the hall. Will and Caroline kindly invited the congregation to stay for the lunch and it was lovely to share in Timothy's celebrations with his family and their friends.

In November we invited Trinity church members to a supper in our church hall. This proved to be a very enjoyable evening where we were able to meet and get to know some of Trinity's congregation whilst also learning more about Trinity Learning through Nicola Williams, Trinity Learning's Education Development Officer.

The Family Committee continues to try and arrange events to include everyone in the All Saints family, to allow for times of companionship and fellowship and more often than not to share food and drink together.

We will be hosting a spring coffee morning in the church hall on Saturday 18 March from 10 am to which everyone is welcome.

Becky Batey

On behalf of Church Family Committee

6.2 Finance Committee - Charity Registration number 1184115

See separate document

6.3 Mission Action

Due to COVID there were no meetings last year

Paul Williams, Secretary of Mission Action

6.4 Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral Committee meets twice a year and at these meetings Pastoral Visitors report any concerns they may have about people in their group and possible ways to help and support are discussed.

Paul Williams and Sue Russell have stood down as Pastoral Visitors after many years and their dedication to the role has been invaluable. Grateful thanks and best wishes go to them from everyone at All Saints.

The pastoral list is updated regularly and to comply with data protection rules everyone on the list has been asked to complete a form which gives the Church

permission to hold their contact details. The number of people attending services is now back to pre-Covid levels with often 50 or more people at Communion Services. In October Timothy Hartley was baptised and five children now regularly attend Junior Church and the Crèche.

Some children who attend the rush common Pre-School live under quite difficult circumstances and as a result of All Saints adopting the Anti-Poverty Charter it has been proposed that a one-off bursary of £600 is set up to provide help for one term. On acceptance of this proposal by the Church Council the funds will be made available to the Pre-School leaders who know the needs of the children and can allocate the money as necessary.

Sue Butler

6.5 Property Action

David Perrow has stood down as Property Action Coordinator and very many thanks must go to David for his hard work and dedication to property matters at All Saints over many years.

Members of Property Action and their responsibilities now are:

Secretary and Administration	Emma Standhaft
Building maintenance interior	Martin Wilson
Gardens/dishwasher	Alistair Batey
User liaison including key control	Chris Caddy
Cleaning	Maurice Tubb
Electrical	David Gray
Heating and energy efficiency	John Orchard

David Perrow was responsible for exterior building maintenance, furniture and interior decoration and as Property Action Coordinator he did the following:

- i) Received reports of repairs and passed these on to the appropriate person to be acted on
- ii) Liaised with Pre-School on property matters
- iii) Acted as Fire and Health and Safety Officer
- iv) Completed the annual buildings checklist
- v) Ensured the annual gas boiler service was done
- vi) Kept the building log up to date
- vii) Took part in the building quinquennial inspection and insurance visit.

On January 31st Rev. Ian Griffiths, Dawn Tyrell, Sue Butler, David Gray, Martin Wilson and Chris Caddy met together to discuss how to take things forward with no Property Coordinator in post at the moment and it was decided that as a temporary measure Property Action members would cover most of the work with Dawn and Sue covering Health and Safety. The quinquennial building inspection will take place sometime after Easter and Sue Butler will liaise with Mary Hancock about this.

Regular maintenance of the building has taken place during the last year and in addition the hall fire door to the garden has been replaced, the organ has been serviced and tuned, the three pianos have been tuned and the internal keys have been simplified so that there is a full set available to whoever might need them. With respect to the garden play surface this work is on hold because the Pre-School may move to the main Rush Common site in September and would therefore no longer use All Saints premises.

As well as maintaining the Church building regular maintenance of the area around the Church including the car park and garden has been carried out during the year with John and Marian Orchard looking after the garden, David Gray cutting the grass and Maurice Tubb keeping the car park and the areas around the entrances to the building weed free so that they are tidy and welcoming.

Sue Butler

6.6 Safeguarding

We continue to follow good practice in our Church life with safeguarding and follow Safer Recruitment Practice for those taking on certain responsibilities with the church.

The church Safeguarding policy and various contact telephone numbers are up to date and are displayed on the Safeguarding noticeboard in the foyer.

Safeguarding training (Creating Safer Spaces) for those in various roles across the church family was undertaken in October 2022 by most people who are required to take part in this. Further training will be offered in the circuit in Spring this year for those few people who were unable to attend in Autumn.

Helen Appleyard

6.7 Youth Forum

Youth Forum has not quite got back into its usual routine: an aftermath of Covid and other reasons. Rev John Anderson met with the Youth Forum to plan Harvest Festival and took the environment as the theme. This led to planting a tree at All Saints in memory of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, to contribute to the Queen's Green Canopy, which was done before the Annual Family Christmas Carol Service led by Deacon Selina. It was a pity that the service, enjoyed greatly by those who were there, was poorly attended.

The decision was made not to have the Advent Gift Service as a parade service and also not to hold a parade service in the spring. There are various reasons for this but is weakening the links between the uniformed organisations and the church. Can this be linked with the news from the 2021 Census that fewer than half the population labelled themselves Christian?

Judith Penrose Brown, Chair Youth Forum

7. Church Groups & Activities

7.1 Card Sales

Despite plenty of choice in new cards being added to the collection, sales are very much lower since lockdown but there is still good support for them. The quality remains very high and although some prices have risen slightly, they are very reasonably priced. We try and refresh the range two to three times a year.

Profit for the past two years for All Saints charities is £53.80 Thank you to all for your support.

Beryl Fudge and Joanne Phipps

7.2 Junior Church and Creche

We are fortunate to have children and young people in our church family on Sunday mornings. Interesting, varied sessions are developed for a wide age range with the crèche leaders helping out; sharing Gods love and helping the young people develop. We meet mainly during school term times except for family services and the Covenant Sunday. Our Junior Church leaders are Sue, Anne, Mike and Menna. Our crèche leaders are Becky, Helen, Beryl, Kate, Rona and Caroline. We have a few families with children of a range of ages including the crèche .

Trudy Hall and Becky Bates

After many years service, Trudy is now stepping down from the role of Junior Church Co-ordinator. All the team wish her well and thank her for all her efforts over the years.

7.3 Just Women

Just Women started meeting together instead of virtually, before the 2022 AGM and has continued to do so since then. We have had a mixture of speakers and chat evenings with a specific focus, as well as a meal out and a Christmas Party that involved food and Secret Santa. The most recent speaker was Keith Underhill who told us about his walk along the Thames Path as part of his sabbatical; this was an open meeting and several men joined the women too. We are keen to find speakers and would welcome any offers. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month in the Perry Room and all women are welcome to join us.

Judith Penrose Brown, on behalf of Just Women

7.4 Men's Group

Due to COVID there were no meetings last year

Paul Williams

7.5 Music

This year we have been very fortunate in having live music the majority of Sundays and, as we look forward, we anticipate that piped music should only be necessary for new or tricky hymns, apart from any unforeseen occasions.

We have had some wonderful music from the band and our whole-hearted thanks go to Chris Caddy for his amazing contribution with the band and for his leadership over the last 37 years.

Gareth Hawkes has offered to organise the band and we look forward to hearing them regularly.

Our grateful thanks also to Jenny Pooley for her beautiful accompaniments on Sundays and our thanks to Chris Caddy who takes on a new musical role as our second pianist.

We also thank Alistair Batey, William Hartley and Gareth Hawkes for their musical contributions one Sunday a month.

Dawn Tyrrell

7.6 Music Fellowship

Due to COVID there were no meetings last year

Paul Williams



7.7 Tubb House Group



Some time ago the House Group followed a study entitled Life on the Breadline. This study looked at the reasons for poverty in a time of austerity the effect on individuals and communities and what could be and was being done to alleviate problems. The role of churches was particularly considered.

Following our discussions the Group led a service at All Saints' presenting some of the material we had studied and facts which emerged. As part of the worship we were challenged to consider what we could do to help those in need, being reminded that eventually we will be judged by our actions – or lack of them.

The Group then felt prompted to request the Church Council to sign up to the Anti Poverty Charter, an interactive charter providing ideas of what churches could do to assist those in poverty.

The Council were happy to sign up to the Charter but also there was a rider stating that each Council meeting should consider what action had been taken.

Following on from this it is hoped to provide a bursary to be administered by the Pre – School staff to assist parents in providing books and other educational items together with morning healthy snacks for their children. By this means we hope to assist with need in our immediate community.

More recently the Group has been following the Bible Month study of the Book of Isaiah. Although only a short study it has given us some interesting insights.

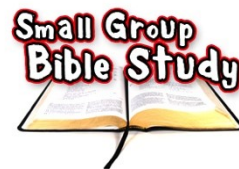
The Group will continue with a Lent Study.

Maurice Tubb

7.8 Quest

We resumed our regular monthly meetings after the interruption of the covid pandemic.

Recently we have looking at some significant characters and events in The Acts of the Apostles and discussing their relevance for us in our present time.



Lent and the Easter period will provide us with the opportunity to reflect and discuss the great themes connected to this period in the Christian calendar.

Quest, as the name suggests is an attempt to explore and understand what it means to be Christian in this modern age.

As a group we encourage and support each other in our faith journey.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Valerie and Alan's home.

You are welcome to join us.

Alan and Valerie Grist.

7.9 Uniformed Organisations

8th Abingdon Rainbows



We meet on Wednesday afternoons in term time and currently have 11 girls on our register (maximum 16).

In the past year we have completed the Theme badges of Express Myself (Communicate), Have Adventures (Explore), Take Action (Make Change) and Be Well (First Aid). The girls have completed 21 interest badges between them. Four girls have achieved their Bronze Award, three their Silver Award and two girls achieved their Rainbow Gold Award (highest award in Rainbows).

We have one qualified Leader (Jackie), one Unit Helper and one occasional Unit Helper in our leadership team. We also have a parent helper (who comes to support their grandchild) and two Duke of Edinburgh award teenagers completing their volunteer section with us. We would love to welcome anyone who would like join our Guiding family once a week in term time. All volunteers are welcome, as long as they don't mind having a DBS check, either as a Unit Helper, or to train to become a Unit Leader like Jackie.

8th Abingdon (All Saints) Brownies

This year the Brownies raised money for Sobell House and been on various outings: carol singing and walking around Abingdon to learn about the town's history. We celebrated Chinese New Year, Burns Night, Diwali and Pancake Day. The Brownies have many badges including cooking, mindfulness, history and others. There was also a family treasure hunt and we are planning another pack holiday in September.



Nicola Wheatcroft and Laura Stevens Brownie Leaders

11th Abingdon (All Saints) Scouts



This year has been another exciting year for the group. All leaders have completed training including 1st Aid and Safeguarding Training. These are both requirements and help us to ensure we deliver good quality, safe Scouting at All Saints as well as the other venues we use. We are blessed to have a group of dedicated leaders who give freely of their time to ensure that young people can get the very best out of Scouting.

This year is yet another challenging year. The costs of being part of the Scout Association continue to increase and the cost of badges increase. This means that our leaders are doing an excellent job of running activities on smaller and smaller budgets. No easy task! We are incredibly grateful to be part of All Saints Methodist Church and the support you give us, not least by helping us keep costs to an absolute minimum.

Highlights of the year include:

Beavers at 11th Abingdon have had a terrific year doing various activities and exploring new things, one of the highlights was sailing their home made boats on a very warm summer's evening at Radley Lakes with a vast majority making the most of the opportunity to go into the lake and cool down.

Cubs have also been very busy with lots of camps and fantastic meetings too, one of them being a trip to see the Fire Station. We were able to offer the young people in Cubs two opportunities to spend a couple of nights away with the group, this being the first time for many since COVID and the first time at all in some cases. Either way we are incredibly proud of the young people who clearly had a good time as lots have signed up for the next sleepover at Dry Sandford in March.

Scouts have had a very productive year too again with lots of opportunities to spend time away with the group. I was very fortunate enough to spend some time away with the Troop in Coventry for their summer camp and each young person was a credit to themselves and their families, we did a couple of local trips one of them to Coventry Cathedral and the way the Scouts looked around the ruins you really could see that they were interested in the story and how it affected the people of Coventry.

So another successful year for the group we are looking forward to another year of more adventures and fun.

James Dagg, Group Scout Leader

8. Other Church Activities

8.1 Christian Aid

During the Christian Aid accounting year 2021-22, ending in July 2022, the total raised and forwarded to Christian Aid from Abingdon across all activities was £5,977 excluding Gift Aid. In addition, we were able to track online donations to our



Christian Aid Week e-envelope and the 2022 New Year Walk which together gave a total of £2,235. We know that the online donations will have produced Gift Aid contributions totalling £465. This means that the known total of donations in Abingdon for 2021-22 was £8,677. This was £200 lower than the 2020-21 total.



Although ongoing pandemic restrictions resulted in another year where activities were curtailed, for Christian Aid Week we were able to use House to House Delivery-Only envelopes in selected areas and return to our traditional Market Place event for sales of cakes, books and plants. We were also able to receive donations of delivery-only envelopes at the Sale. As ever, we are most grateful for the generous support

given to Christian Aid by All Saints' members and friends, through attendance at events, singing carols, walking at New Year, etc.

As we explained last year, the three of us stepped aside as the Christian Aid task group representatives for All Saints as of September 2022. Thus far no offers have apparently been forthcoming for any new representatives and the task group committee is now limited to five people from just three churches of the Church in Abingdon as others also stepped down this time. The commitment includes taking part in four or five planning meetings per year and helping with the organisation of events, including those of Christian Aid Week. If you would like to know more about what being a Christian Aid representative for All Saints involves, do please talk to one of us.

Needless to say, given the continuing need of the world's poorest people and the growing impact of climate change on these poorest of communities, your support in the coming years will be sought. It is certain that their health services, basic community hygiene facilities, food supplies and resilience will continue to need the

support of agencies such as Christian Aid. Please do try to contribute to appeals from Christian Aid locally and nationally as it tries to meet the emergency needs of the poorest as well as continuing its ongoing long-term projects.

Thank you

Cliff, Pauline and Chris, March 2023

8.2 Future Pillars, Zambia

FPZ thanks All Saints very much for all the support that you give to us. Without our supporters we should not be able to feed and educate our 1,100 vulnerable children.



**Future
Pillars
Zambia**

Three Trustees and two supporters made 2 reconnecting visits in 2022, the first since Covid.

Our new Secondary School is now partially completed, with 3 classrooms and a science lab. in use. Unfortunately, we had problems with the building contractors, thus slowing the construction. We are moving again now, so that Grades 10/11/12 (previously sponsored by FPZ in local schools) are in situ, and loving being in an amazing new school. Grades 1 to 9 continue to progress, due largely, to the teacher training constantly delivered by our Chair, Barry Gransden, via zoom.

I have been appointed lead Safeguarding Trustee, working closely with the Safeguarding Officer at Family Future Community School. This began after a disturbing incident during our visit last year. We have refurbished the wall fence around our campus, built a gatehouse (with surplus materials from the new school) at the entrance with gatekeepers, so that everyone in the campus is safe and secure.

We are managing to continue the important Feeding programme for all the learners and staff, but the costs of mealie meal and beans have increased enormously. Fortunately, we have just enough space to grow cabbages, tomatoes, and onions – to add nutrition and taste.

(Some of) the trustees accomplished a 'dawn to dusk' sponsored walk in October, along the Ridgeway from Ivinghoe Beacon to Wallingford. As usual my car and I were the 'support team' keeping them fed and watered during the 12 hour hike. We feel that it is important that our supporters see that we, also, are fundraising. Part 2 will be next year.

Our next major fundraiser is the 'Bridport Boomerang' – a circular walk in 6 sections for easy, medium and experienced walkers around Bridport on Saturday, 13th May. Again, Ed and I will operate the support vehicles. We'd love you to join us or support us via [justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) Thank you.

I am planning to make my 14th visit in July. Phew!

FPZ sends greetings and God's Blessings to you all.

Rosemary Stanbury Trustee Future Pillars, Zambia.

8.3 The Nasio Trust

The NASIO TRUST has, like all charities, continued to witness a decline in donations due to the high cost of living, both food and fuel as well as a knock-on effect from the continued war in Ukraine and recent appeals for funds for the Turkish/Syrian earthquakes.



Our UK office staff have changed again this year with Divya Godbole taking the role of Programme Manager reporting to Nancy Hunt CEO and Oliver Johnson becoming Assistant Programme & Administration Manager responsible for child sponsorship. Keith Butler has become our finance manager working alongside his assistant Elizabeth Bolongaro. The office has recently moved to share the BRF premises at 13 The Chambers, Vineyard, Abingdon, OXON, OX14 3FE

Kenyan schools reverted back to their pre covid terms in 2022 meaning national exams for our Standard 8 and Form 4 secondary pupils were in November and December. Of our Form 4 students both Leonard and Vincent want to become doctors, Sylvia and Elizabeth aim to become nurses, Manzur and Fauzia are hoping to study further to qualify as teachers, Zulfa wants to become a justice officer, Hezron an engineer and Fadhili an agricultural officer. We still are waiting to hear their scores and are always grateful for the sponsorship that allows these students to fly!

During the holidays our older students stepped up again as volunteers to help with activities that keep our children safe. Japheth, the Headteacher, organised Peer Education, music and drama, debating, farming, tailoring, bike repairing, story time, daily religious devotions with Zulfa in charge of sanitary instruction and female issues.

Our medical centre has treated over 19,000 patients this year with 4K under 5's vaccinated and 1.5K new families registered for National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) with over 430 babies delivered on our maternity room. We thank all our knitters for the continued supply of 'fish & chip' tops and bonnets to add to our Mummy bags that each new mother receives. We are fundraising to expand the clinic to be able to work more closely with secondary students at local schools to prevent loss of learning days.

In 2022 we gave 47 YoCO young people from Berinsfield, Blackbird Leys and Farringdon the opportunity to travel to our projects and experience 'life as a Kenyan child', build a home and visit all our projects: spirulina, GMK medical centre and both our ECD and their feeder schools.



We continue to feed over 180 children daily. We had 51 ECD children graduating in December to start their government education in primary school in January.

Our Peer Education programme, thanks to ongoing funding, continues to grow with lessons on STIs and HIV transmission given recently presented to the wider local community at the Mumias School for the Deaf. We also have enrolled more farmers onto our One Acre Farm project funded by 'The World We Want.' Tree planting to prevent soil erosion with climate change has continued with every visitor being given one to plant. We continue to improve the health of our malnourished children our spirulina tanks produced 52.8kg of spirulina in 2022. The dried spaghetti is also sold on recommendation of the doctors to the adult community.



Nasio is always grateful for the support that is given by All Saints church and by individual members for the ongoing work of this small charity. Your donations go a long way to supporting our education and feeding programmes and improving the lives of our students, their families and the wider community. THANK YOU.

Sue Russell, *Nasio Trustee*

8.4 TrinityLearning - highlights of supporting local schools in 2022

2022 was a busy year which saw us move back into more regular volunteer and in-school activities as classroom-based learning returned. However, the impact of the pandemic on children and young people's mental wellbeing was still being felt and so we found ourselves increasingly working on activities that benefit large groups of children from a wide range of age groups alongside our more targeted projects. As always, none of the projects below would run without our wonderful team of hardworking and skilled volunteers who share their time so generously with us.



All Saints and Trinity Social Dinner: I was thrilled to be invited to All Saints for their partnership supper with Trinity in November 2022. The evening was very well attended and I enjoyed sharing some updates on TrinityLearning's latest projects. It was lovely to see the strong links between the two churches, many of which have been built and strengthened through shared volunteering for TrinityLearning. Over £265 was raised for TrinityLearning's projects and it was a joy to see so many TrinityLearning volunteers and supporters.

Thinking Books: Thinking Books was redesigned in 2021 to limit sharing of resources and Abingdon Town Council kindly provided a grant of £900 from their Covid Support fund to allow us to do this. In the summer of 2022 we redesigned again as we moved back towards our original model using a shared box of resources but have continued giving each child on the project the book they work with.



An additional grant from Christ's Hospital awarded in February 2023 will allow us to continue this work for both this school year and next.

Our Thinking Books training took place in October 2022. Nine volunteers took part and feedback from the training was very positive. Due to changing conditions and Covid restrictions it was extremely difficult for volunteers to work in school over this year. Seven volunteers managed at least some time working in four Abingdon schools over the 2021-2022 school year and ran the full programme to 15 students. In order to help potential volunteers understand why and how we run our Thinking Books programme we put together a short blog with more details which can be found at <https://bit.ly/3zYOzBb>. In the current school year, volunteer working is much more stable and so far the nine volunteers we trained in September 2022 have worked with over 30 children.

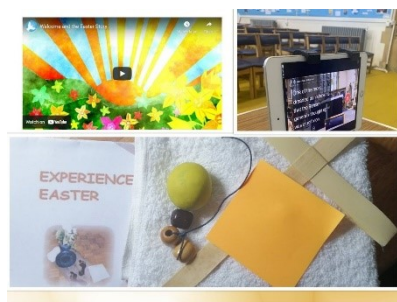
Kingfisher Singing Group: The Kingfisher Singing Group volunteers restarted regular sessions in October 2021, initially with just two volunteers and the TrinityLearning Workshop Leader. The group was able to provide regular sessions over most of the school year and the group size expanded as restrictions lifted and more vulnerable volunteers felt able to restart their volunteering.

The Group, which now has six regular members, has continued to grow and meet once a week to sing nursery rhymes and action songs with children with a range of impairments and health conditions.

TrinityLearning's AGM: our third AGM was held online on 16th January 2022. Trustees welcomed volunteers, church representatives, and supporters as we launched our 2021 - 2022 Annual Report, and shared news and project updates. Despite being another 'virtual' AGM it was great to be able to get together! Our Annual Report can be found online on our TrinityLearning website.

Experience Easter 2022: many schools were still avoiding large in-person get togethers in spring 2022, so we made the decision to keep Experience Easter as an online event with new look re-recorded videos from in and around Trinity Church.

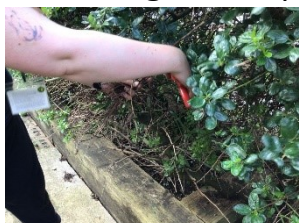
During lockdown in 2021, our intrepid volunteers had to film their Experience Easter workshops from home, with very little support. In 2022 we were able to offer more technical support to volunteers and a snazzy new clip-on microphone for better sound quality! Many



volunteers re-filmed their workshops in and around Trinity Church, to give a flavour of the 'live' Experience Easter event which is taking place this year. We continue to offer the online version as well.

We also had some lovely feedback including, "As a teacher with a Christian faith, I find the way you present the gospel uplifting and the reflection activities are accessible and spiritually valuable to children of no faith, or a non-Christian faith or who do have a Christian faith."

Green fingers: In spring, a small group of volunteers gave up two afternoons to tidy up the Carswell School Sensory Garden in response to a request for help from the school. The Garden was originally designed by Rosemary Perrow in 2012 and is still looking beautiful 10 years on. In addition to this, a regular group of volunteers continued with the ongoing care and maintenance of the Kingfisher Garden over the year.



The Toolkit for Happiness project and Larkmead's Make A Difference Week: in

July 2022, Taz and Nicola worked with a team of eighteen 6th formers from Larkmead school who then led Toolkit for Happiness workshops to five year-7 classes over their 'Make A Difference' week - around 150 pupils in all. The 6th formers received training for two hours each morning and then delivered the workshops to year 7 classes, supported by Nicola and Taz. They were involved in all aspects of the project including leading whole class sessions, leading small groups, teaching specific skills and organising resources. The 6th formers were amazing and the feedback from the year 7s was extremely positive.



Due to the impact of Covid this was the first time most of the 6th formers and year 7s had worked extensively with another year group. The older students showed impressive diligence, resilience and perseverance throughout the week to ensure that the year 7s enjoyed and benefited from the project. We were extremely impressed by their hard work and attitude.

Welcoming back work experience students: in summer 2022 we provided



The Trinity Learning display in Trinity Church looking terrific thanks to the hard work of two work experience students.

supported work experience to students from local secondary schools. From one or two days with us to more regular part-time placements, students took part in work related activities, giving them valuable opportunities to communicate with others and experience new environments, as well as building confidence and communication skills. But we also learn a lot from the students who often bring their own ideas and ways of doing things! Supported work experience will continue

throughout the next academic year and we're delighted to be able to support young people from across our school communities in this way.

Welcoming a new chair of Trustees: TrinityLearning was delighted to welcome Katie Doney as our new Chair of Trustees in September 2022. Katie has been a volunteer for many years with TrinityLearning - working on a range of projects and sharing our aim of helping to improve the quality of life in local schools and wider school communities. Find out more about Katie's appointment on our website at <https://bit.ly/3syQk39>.

Thinking of calling into the office? TrinityLearning staff and volunteers are now working a mix of both home and office-based hours so please do email before popping in to see us.

Thank you: We continue to work closely with and feel supported by the All Saints Church community. Please remember TrinityLearning and the wider Abingdon School communities in your prayers and if you would like to know more about our volunteering opportunities, please contact me at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Nicola Williams, Education Development Officer

8.5 Abingdon Foodbank

The hugely generous contributions from All Saints have continued throughout the year and are gratefully received at the foodbank at Christ Church. The gifts at Harvest and Christmas were particularly welcomed and appreciated by foodbank clients as well as by the Foodbank Coordinator and all the foodbank volunteers. The need for parcels has increased so much that Christ Church, in conjunction with the Trussell Trust, is looking to employ a Foodbank Manager.



Tinned vegetables, fruit or meat, longlife milk, either full fat or semi-skimmed, bottles of sugar-free squash and small packets of tea or jars of coffee are needed regularly. On the non-food side, soap and loo rolls are always useful. The weekly notice shows what is urgently needed that week. The foodbank basket is in the foyer, please leave your donations there or take them to Christ Church on Tuesday or Friday between 9am and 1pm.

Our friends at Christ Church are very grateful for all the support and express their thanks to all those who have contributed either money or food and non-food items.

Judith Penrose Brown

8.6 Church Twinning Group

Maurice Tubb and Diane Livesley have served on the Church in Abingdon Church Twinning Group during the past year.

The object of the Group is to encourage friendship and understanding between Christians in Abingdon and our twin towns.

During the summer a group from Abingdon visited Schongau, our twin town in Bavaria, from here they went to Oberammagau for a performance of the Passion Play. During the visit people were hosted by church people in Schongau.

September saw the Abingdon group hosting friends from Argentan and St Niklaas for an Eco week end, a project first thought of by the late Rosemary Perrow.

The event took place at various venues throughout the town.

Guests were invited from our five twin towns to participate in an eco-weekend with the theme of Christian Stewardship of the Environment.

Most of the guests arrived on Thursday afternoon and after tea and cake at 35 Ock Street they went off with their hosts for an evening meal. Later most went to the Loose Cannon Brewery along with some hosts and committee members to enjoy a pub quiz evening and sample Abingdon beer.

Friday 28th began at the Conduit Centre with an illustrated talk by Rev Dr David Gregory who is a Baptist minister and Chair of the John Ray Initiative, connecting Environment, Science and Christianity. The planetary issues he touched on were very thought provoking and sobering. After a coffee break and lots of social mingling, Helena Burm and Lara de Beer from St Niklaas gave us another well-prepared illustrated report about what Eco-church means in their diocese. Anne de Gouville, wearing a bright Eglise Verte T-shirt, and Marie-Lise Marie from Argentan followed with an equally well thought out report about the French Green Church initiative and the recently celebrated Month of the Creation.

Lunch was provided by the Blue Sky Eco café and everyone enjoyed a choice of hot vegetarian dishes and an unusual selection of salads using ingredients ethically sourced. A talk about this Eco café and the Abingdon Larder was given.

In the afternoon the group moved on by foot as the weather was warm and sunny to Mill Lane, South Abingdon to take part in tree planting organised and helped by Abingdon Carbon Cutters. Everyone assisted by digging, holding stakes and installing deer-proof cylinders. Ten alder saplings were planted by the edge of the River Ock, being suitable for the wet conditions of the flood area. A plaque was placed nearby to commemorate the planting and to ask passers-by on the adjacent footpath to assist with watering the trees until they took root. This scheme (and the whole theme) had been proposed by our late committee member Rosemary Perrow as a carbon-reducing offset to the carbon footprint of the guests' travel

On Saturday 29th the visitors, along with any Abingdon people who were interested in the theme of the weekend, spent the morning in the hall of All Saints' Church to listen to three local environmental groups giving presentations.

Anne Smart brought much useful information and spoke about Carbon Cutters.

David Perrow spoke of the many environmental changes made to All Saints' Church in response to Eco Church initiative.

Patrick Holligan from The Climate Emergency Centre talked of the activities of One Planet.

In the afternoon a visit to the Peachcroft Christian Centre meant we could learn from Martin Tillin about the riveting subject of the new type of energy the Centre uses - heat pumps based on groundwater, followed by more tea and cake.

On Saturday evening all the visitors along with many of their hosts went out for a meal with another family in Abingdon. Several dinner hosts joined up to provide a larger group and some invited committee members who were unable to have guests in their home

All the visitors were Roman Catholic but on Sunday they went to many other churches in Abingdon with their hosts. So a variety of Sunday Worship was experienced.

The next part of the day was spent with hosts having lunch then sight-seeing and shopping. In the evening we gathered in St Edmund's Parish Centre for a reflection on the weekend given by Deacon Selina Nisbett of the Methodist Church. Each person was given a leaf-shaped note to write down an ecological change they hoped to make in response to all heard and seen over the weekend. The 'leaves' decorated a potted tree. A short ecumenical service was organised by Anne Dodd and Pat Warren in St Edmund's Church followed by a bring-and-share supper back in the Centre with farewell speeches. Our new Church in Abingdon Twinning Banner was given to Argentan to place in the Abingdon side chapel in St Germain Church in the Centre of the town

Finally on Monday morning we all assembled at 35 Ock Street to bid our visitors farewell, *bonne voyage de retour* or *goede reis naar huis!*

This whole eco-weekend had been devised in 2019 by the aforementioned Rosemary Perrow. We were able to expand on her ideas 3 years later to produce this well appreciated and stimulating event.

In March people from Abingdon will visit St Niklaas where they will be able to see a Passion Play filmed in the town. Local people will host the visitors. Following this visit the Group will travel to Ypres and the Menin Gate.

Later this year we hope to host visitors from one of the twin towns here in Abingdon.

Diane Livesley has stood down from the Committee after excellent work as one of our reps. A replacement is needed for this interesting and worthwhile activity.

Maurice Tubb

APPENDIX A: MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Information as at the date of this report

Church Stewards

Sue Butler

Dawn Tyrrell

Communion Stewards

Margaret
Hoskins

Colin
Bartlett

Marian
Orchard

Larissa
Richards

Ruth
Coward

Margaret Hoskins

Colin Bartlett

Marian Orchard

Church Council

Minister

Rev. Ian Griffiths

Deacon

Deacon Selina Nisbett

Acting Treasurer

Richard Matthews

Stewards

Sue Butler

Dawn Tyrrell

Secretary

Sue Russell

Family Committee / Youth Forum

Judith Penrose Brown

Pastoral Committee Secretary

Sue Butler

Circuit Steward

In rotation

Church in Abingdon

Ruth Coward

Junior Church

Property Action

Finance Committee

Richard Matthews

Mission Action

Paul Williams

Safeguarding

Helen Appleyard

Communion Steward

Margaret Hoskins

Annual Church Meeting Representatives (6 to 15 allowed)

Alistair Batey

Jenny Pooley

Margaret Ellwood

Joanne Phipps

Paul Williams

Derek Pooley

Representatives to Circuit Meeting

Sue Butler

Anne Matthews

Church Family Committee

Chair

Anne Matthews

Secretary & Crèche Organiser

Becky Batey

Steward Rep

Members:

Maurice Tubb

Rev. Ian Griffiths

Kate Jones

Helen Appleyard

Mike Quigley

Judith Penrose Brown

Rona Quigley

Dcn. Selina Nisbett

Finance Committee

Chair

Richard Matthews

Acting Treasurer

Richard Matthews

Secretary

Gillian Griffiths

Steward

Members

Pam Guthrie

Larissa Richards

David Gray

Margaret Ellwood

Mike Brown

Mission Action

Chair

Dcn. Selina Nisbett

Secretary

Paul Williams

Steward

Members

Rev Ian Griffiths

Martin Appleyard

Rosemary Stanbury

Sue Russell

Joanne Phipps – Finance Grp Rep

Pastoral Committee

Chair Rev. Ian Griffiths
Secretary Sue Butler
Steward All stewards
Deacon Selina Nisbett

Visitors

Paul Williams	John & Marian Orchard
Maurice Tubb	Pauline Sykes
Kate Jones	Anne and Richard Matthews
Helen & Martin Appleyard	Joanne Phipps
Trisha Evans	Diane Livesly
Jenny Pooley	Beryl Manners

Property Action

Chair & Steward

Secretary Emma Standhaft

Steward Rep.

Members

David Gray	Martin Wilson
Chris Caddy	Maurice Tubb
Alistair Batey	Jan Malin

Junior Church Council

Co-ordinator Trudy Hall

Secretary Sue Butler

Leaders

Anne Matthews	Mike Pearl
Menna Hull	

Crèche

Helen Appleyard	Beryl Manners
Becky Batey	Kate Jones
Rona Quigley	