



ALL SAINTS
METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
2024-2025

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Introduction

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be held in the church on Sunday 8th June.

During this year, following the stationing process, we said 'Goodbye' to Rev. Ian Griffiths and his wife Tabitha and we welcomed Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson, who was able to move to Abingdon once the manse was finally adapted.

This report contains accounts from a variety of groups and organisations that have met throughout the year. Report numbers have reduced this year for various reasons as some groups do not meet anymore.

Hopefully reading this report will remind us of our 'church family.' We have enjoyed a variety of church services this year including our covenant service in January and our Holy Week services through April; this year these included a Maundy Thursday simple, shared evening meal and service as well as an Easter morning breakfast. We held parade services with our uniformed organisations, our Harvest festival, our Church Anniversary, Advent and Christmas worship. Our worshipping numbers on a Sunday have remained stable but we have also welcomed members from Trinity to combined services.

With so many new homes being built on the town outskirts of north Abingdon we have reached out in mission this year to these new neighbours with welcoming leafletting of the homes with flyers detailing our Christmas and Easter services.

May reading of this report bring you joy. All Saints is a busy, mission minded church despite us all growing that little bit older and becoming that little bit slower. We have been grateful that Helen Appleyard joined our three serving stewards, Dawn, Sue and Margaret, and this group have continued to meet monthly. They 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 always grateful 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 2025/26 and beyond.

Sue Russell

1. Minister's Letter

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is a joy to introduce the Annual Report for 2024-25 to you. The report represents a snapshot of the work being done here at All Saints and beyond. There's much in here to be proud of, to be challenged by and to be grateful for.

This year, we have continued to explore Mission and Ministry as it relates to our context and the community in which our church sits. I would encourage us to keep Jesus' words in focus - "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28); and James' reminder - "Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works." (James 2) There are many examples in this report that testify to Jesus' words and those of James. I hope we will hear them as a spur to, and an inspiration for, our future mission and ministry.

Other aspects of life continue to affect our church, positively and sometimes, in more challenging ways, for example, our ageing congregation; the continuing cost of living crisis; the need for more volunteers; rising assessments and the loss of dedicated members, which has resulted in a reduction of our income. It is right to recognise these, but we also have so much to celebrate. What's more, we believe in a God of abundance who walks with us, and who promises to stay with us, regardless of our apprehension and our challenges.

Our immense thanks to all who have contributed to this invaluable resource and my sincere gratitude to you all for everything that you bring, offer and sacrifice to make alive God's message of hope, healing and transformation.

All praise and thanks to God, as we see one year through and journey on into the next together; bound by our love for each other, our hope and confidence in Christ and our partnership with him, to enable new life through our mission and ministry at All Saints.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58.

Every blessing,
Georgina

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.

Sue Harmsworth

Myrtle Hodgkins

Margaret Long

Bob Smith

Ed Peacock

Sue Russell

3. Church Stewards

As a Stewarding team we are currently working alongside a range of people as well as dealing with day-to-day queries and jobs that come our way:

We would like to ask that the Church Council should join us in formally thanking Chris Caddy as he steps down from the job of Bookings Secretary, we are immensely grateful for all his hard work and for being the face of All Saints during his long stint in this role.

The Bookings Secretary role will now be split into three. Eluned will now manage the bookings part including the calendar. The Finance team will deal with invoicing etc. And we are actively seeking a Bookings Liaison officer to be the face of All Saints and deal with any day to day issues

There will be job descriptions for both the Bookings Liaison officer and Property Coordinator put into the notices using the Methodist Church advertisement format
There has been a talk through of the fire drill, and we will have a walk through in June at some point.

Our grateful thanks to our amazing property team, who continue to ensure our premises are kept up to the highest standards. Also, to our gardeners who do such a wonderful job.

Boiler - quotes have been received

Pastoral – names are brought forward at each meeting and prayers said for those mentioned.

Services and events - We would like to give our grateful thanks to all involved in all our special Services and events over Easter and since then with special thanks to Alan and the team for the lovely Maundy Thursday Service

Organisation of music rotas - ongoing

Increasing the visibility of the Church – This has been costed and designed and hopefully will shortly be in place

The stewards meet regularly with Trinity in the Working Together Group to ensure a more cohesive approach and sharing of resource where appropriate.

Easter leaflets were a joint venture with Trinity, designed by Selina with our thanks. Our thanks to everyone involved.

Recommendations for the coming year are that we leaflet drop for Christmas and Easter again as a joint venture with Trinity.

Welcome cards and Church leaflets have now been updated, thank you to Helen for designing these and Eluned for printing them. Also thank you to Helen in her role as website manager and coordinator

GDPR has now been updated, thank you to Martin for his support

Property Returns have also been completed with many thanks to Emma

Also most importantly is our thanks to our team of Worship Stewards, our Church officers and all who fulfil a range of different jobs who enable our Church to run smoothly Sunday by Sunday as well as our amazing pastoral team.

Without you our jobs would be impossible!

Dawn Tyrrell

4. Our Circuit

The work of the Circuit Leadership Team is carried out by the Circuit Staff – Rev Keith Underhill (Superintendent), Rev Bruce Thompson, Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson, Deacon Selina Nisbett and the Circuit Stewards – Anne Matthews, Carolyn Roche, Mary Hancock (Property), Gordon Skidmore (Treasurer) and Neil Oastler. Carolyn will definitely be retiring this year and we are very pleased to have welcomed Neil to the team. We continue to look for new people to become Circuit Stewards. It is an interesting and rewarding role and if you wish to find out more then please speak to one of us.

This year the Circuit has been busy adapting and updating the manse in St Amand Road. Having welcomed Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson and her husband Leslie on 31 August, they were finally able to move into the manse in November. As well as pastoring the two Abingdon churches, All Saints and Trinity, Georgina has been shadowing Keith, in his role as Superintendent, in preparation for her taking up this role in September 2025.

Rev Bruce Thompson and Deacon Selina Nesbitt both entered the stationing/re-invitation process. Bruce's appointment has now been extended for a further 3 years and we look forward to working with him until the end of August 2028. Selina, after 10 hardworking and fruitful years, will be moving to a new appointment. We wish her and her family well and thank her for all the work she has done in the Circuit, All Saints, Trinity and within the town of Abingdon. Keith will also be leaving the Circuit as he sits down (retires) in August 2025. We wish him and Liz well in this new phase in their lives and thank him for his work and leadership across the Circuit and his churches in Wantage, Grove and Childrey. The Circuit farewell service for Keith and Selina will be held in Wantage on 27th July.

As from September 2025 we will be a two presbyter Circuit. As mentioned above, Georgina will be the Superintendent while also pastoring All Saints, Trinity and Grove churches. Bruce will pastor the Didcot, Milton, Wallingford and Wantage churches.

The CLT has continued with the usual business of the Circuit as well as concentrating on the future sustainability of the Circuit. It has looked at and worked on ideas that have come from the discussions at the three Circuit Meeting Plus meetings. We are currently in the process of looking for a Circuit Administrator and help with funding for this role.

Libby Hawkness-Smith continues as the lead chaplain. Her chaplaincy work takes place at Great Western Park and at Wantage and Grove with the assistance of her canine chaplains. Wendy Moorin continues her work as an Anna chaplain and her dog Tilly as a canine chaplain. We are very grateful for all the work that the chaplains do.

Carolyn Roche, Circuit Steward

5. Church in Abingdon – review of 2024-5

The CiA have again been busy this year enabling the following events to take place:

- The Passion Play last June
- Christmas Carol Singing in the Market Place in December
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January
- World Day of Prayer in March
- Good Friday Procession of Witness and Open-Air Service in April

Many other events throughout the year are also supported by CiA; details of which are published in the monthly CiA News

Helen Appleyard, May 2025

5.1 The Church in Abingdon Church Twinning Group

In June 2024 members of Abingdon churches hosted friends from St Niklaas in Belgium and Argentan in France. The visitors came to see the Abingdon Passion Play and also went to places of interest in Abingdon and Oxford.

In June 2025 we will host visitors from these same two places again when we hope to further develop friendships.

Church members from Abingdon are invited to Schongau in 2026.

Maurice Tubb

6 Church Committees and Action Groups

6.1 Church Family Committee

Members: Anne Matthews (Chair), Becky Batey (Secretary), Kate Jones, Helen Appleyard, Judith Penrose Brown, Maurice Tubb, Rona Quigley, Dawn Tyrell, Georgina Bondzi-Simpson, 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
Men's Group
Junior Church

Crèche
Just Women
Youth Forum

Sunday Music Group
Quest
Friday Morning Coffee

Outlined below are events the Family Committee have been involved in since the last AGM in 2024.

Hosting coffee mornings seems to have been a feature of the Family Committee over the last year including one for harvest whilst the church was being decorated with flowers and greenery and one at the end of November with a craft table where people could decorate paper doves to hang on the tree as the theme for peace. There were plenty of homemade festive treats to accompany the coffee too.

During July we held another coffee morning to say an All Saint's personal farewell to Ian and Tabitha Griffiths and in August a welcome tea after the formal circuit service to welcome Georgina Bonzi-Simpson and family.

The regular monthly Friday coffee mornings continue with occasional themes. On Valentine's day the theme was 'Share the Love' and this was attended by some people from Trinity and some people from the Pilates class which is held in the church. It is hoped these coffee mornings will continue to be an opportunity for outreach in the community.

On Easter Sunday morning we provided breakfast in the church hall before the morning service. It was a special time but sadly only supported by a few. We hope if we repeat this next year more people will attend.

In May we were delighted to be involved with Nasio Trust in hosting a special evening which included a typical Kenyan meal cooked by Eunice and Rajab who were staying with Sue Enoch. Eunice and Rajab are Nasio ambassadors having previously been supported by the charity and they were visiting the UK to accept the 'Best Performing Organisation Award'. On the night we were joined by Nancy Hunt the daughter of the founder of Nasio, Irene, and Moses who was the abandoned baby rescued by Irene from where the charity began. It was a fabulous evening where we learnt more about the charity by listening to personal stories from each of the visitors. The whole event was overseen by Sue Russell, and the family committee were pleased to support the event and the worthwhile charity.

At the beginning of June we will host a bring-and-share lunch in the church hall after the morning service and AGM. The format last year worked well and encouraged people to stay for the annual meeting.

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. If anyone has any ideas for future social events, please speak to one of the committee.

Becky Batey

On behalf of Church Family Committee

6.2 Finance Committee - Charity Registration number 1184115

The Committee is grateful to the members of All Saints for their important and generous contributions to the financial and day-to-day running of our church. We are very fortunate to have a membership that responds positively whenever called upon to do so.

FINANCIAL YEAR 23/24

Attached to the report (as Appendix B) is the Receipts and Payments Account for 23/24 following the independent examination.

Although a surplus of £5,105 was achieved, despite a budgeted deficit for the full year, this is misleading since it includes £15,000 from a legacy and memorable donations (not budgeted for) and excludes £11,785 sound system improvement costs and donations of £1,100 paid in September 2024 (that relate to 23/24) When adjusted for, the actual surplus would become a deficit of £7,800.

FINANCIAL YEAR 24/25 (THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDS ON 31ST AUGUST 2025)

In summary, the church is in a better financial position following the gift day in November 2024 and the consequential increase in giving on a regular basis by our members. As a result, the projection is that by the end of August 2025 being the end of our financial year our overall giving is likely to exceed the budget with a projected figure of £66,695 as against a budget figure, admittedly a cautious one, of £57,425. It will also be recalled that the gift day raised including gift aid £7,825 which exceeded the target set by the church council of £5,000. An overall surplus of approximately £2,000 for the year is considered realistic at this stage.

This financial year has also seen generous donations from the estate of Margaret Long, and the families of Bob Smith and Myrtle Hodgkins.

Lettings income also exceeds already the budget set of £10,000, with £11,222 in hand at the end of April. Whilst the summer months generally do not realise a significant level of rental income the projection of £12,500 is not unrealistic. Utility costs are also below forecast, and we managed to save £2,100 earlier in the financial year by the change of independent examiner.

Insofar as outgoings are concerned the Church in Abingdon contribution is still to be paid and the copyright licence fees. The administrator's costs will slightly exceed budget because of a recent pay rise and the annual circuit assessment will increase by £1,006 per annum with the first quarterly increase due at the end of August 2025. Further we also now pay a modest charge for the monthly Internet connection.

As of 30 April 2025, the NatWest current account held £39,004 with the interest-bearing fund held by the CFB at £62,322 and with the TMCP also holding £9,229. The CFB fund includes the £5,000 legacy received from the estate of Margaret Long and the current rate of interest payable is about 4%. At the time of preparing this report, two quarterly circuit assessments are still to be paid at the end of May and August 2025.

The Church Council will not be meeting before our AGM and it is possible that projects not budgeted may be approved which will impact upon the overall financial position of the church for this financial year and the spending of the legacy of £5,000 from the estate of our dear member Margaret Long.

Thank you again for your support of the church.

Richard Matthews,

Chairman of All Saints Finance Committee and Acting Treasurer.

28 May 2025

6.3 Pastoral Committee

At Pastoral Committee meetings each Pastoral Visitor informs the meeting of any concerns they have relating to members of their group and possible ways of helping are considered.

This year sadly it has to be reported that Myrtle Hodgkins, Bob Smith, Margaret Long and Sue Harmsworth have passed away, their families held the funeral services for these people at All Saints.

After very many years as a dedicated Pastoral Visitor Pauline Sykes has decided to stand down so grateful thanks and very best wishes from everyone at All Saints go to Pauline. Thanks, too, must go to the Pastoral Visitors who have taken the people from Pauline's list onto their own.

It is very good to be able to report that Aveline May and Paul and Nyasha Kapswara have been received into full membership of the Methodist Church and Rev. Carol Hamilton-Foyn, Richard Hamilton-Foyn, Maureen Douglas and Derek Kay have transferred their membership to All Saints from other Churches. Aveline, Paul, Nyasha, Richard, Maureen and Derek have been formally welcomed at services led by Georgina.

Sue Butler

6.4 Property Report

Regular maintenance of the building, car park and garden has taken place during the year.

The hall and adjoining store room were decorated last summer and the spare chairs and ladder that were kept in the Church are now in the store room so the Church looks much tidier.

The AV system has been upgraded and the possibility of adding a streaming facility is being considered.

The 2023 QQR report suggested that although the boilers are still serviceable consideration should be given to their replacement. The cost for doing this has been looked into and the boiler will be replaced when necessary.

Sue Butler

6.5 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 is up to date and as the Church Safeguarding Office I have attended the Advanced Module.

Helen Appleyard, May 2025

6.6 Youth Forum

Youth Forum, the leaders of the Uniformed Organisations met with Georgina soon after her arrival to discuss how the Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts and their leaders can be part of the church. This was a discussion started with Ian as numbers at traditional Church Parades have been declining steadily over the past few years.

We were unable to fix a date for anything at Christmas but held an Easter Egg Hunt before Easter. This was hugely successful; there were over 100 people present, and the children and young people found 46 Easter Eggs. Geogina gave an excellent (and brief) explanation of Easter, which was well received and appreciated by parents and their children alike. The leaders have noted the date for Harvest – 5 October and we are due to meet before the end of term to discuss how this will happen.

It was noticeable that there were very few from All Saints at the Easter Egg Hunt. There is a danger that, although the Uniformed Organisations do feel part of the church, if we continue to recognise and celebrate significant church events separately, neither group will meet each other.

Judith Penrose Brown, Chair Youth Forum

7. Church Groups & Activities

7.1 Card Sales

Card sales tick over slowly but they are very good value and it helps our congregation when necessary. The supplier choice has remained unchanged for a number of years now so I tend to choose cards that have sold well over a period of time. All Saints charities benefit from the profit which is around £30 a year. Thank you for your ongoing support and to the welcome stewards who put the stand out each week.

Joanne Phipps

7.2 Flower Group

The Flower Rota has worked well this year to provide wonderful flower arrangements in church for our Sunday services. Many thanks to all the ladies who so willingly give of their time to make this happen.

If anyone would be interested in joining us to ensure the church is looking attractive each Sunday and so enhancing our Sunday Services please let me know. You do not need to be an expert flower arranger. Our displays vary from professional looking arrangements to a bunch of flowers arranged attractively in a vase. Normally it works out as one person being responsible for the flower display once every 3-4 months.

If anyone would like to have the flower display one Sunday arranged in memory of a loved one please let me know.

Rona Quigley

7.3 Junior Church and Creche

Junior Church meets during school term times and Crèche facilities are available for younger children. Sessions are prepared to cover a wide age range and although the numbers attending are small the young people who do come attend regularly.

There is now a children's corner set up in Church where activities are available for young people on the Sundays when there is no Junior Church.

Sue Butler

7.4 Just Women

Just Women continues its usual programme of focussed chats and occasional speakers on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month in the Perry Room and all women are welcome to join us. Our highlights from the year are the Christmas Party with Secret Santa and the end of year Eat Out. We played New Age Kurling again and show no signs of any improvement since the previous time. We visited St Ethelwold's House last year and had a follow-up talk in the autumn. We are keen to find speakers and would welcome any offers.

Judith Penrose Brown, on behalf of Just Women

7.5 Music

I'm delighted that we have had another full year of excellent live music for our services.

Many thanks to our organists Louissette Johnson and Dr Iain Russell, as well as Chris Caddy who has taken up the organ this past year; it is wonderful to hear. Thank you to Jenny Pooley as your piano playing is a joy, and thank you to the music group (Alistair, Joanne, Anne and Dawn) for your energetic and fun performances, and a very warm welcome to Carol Foyn who has joined us as a vocalist. It's always a pleasure to have live music to support our worship, as well as fantastic solo performances before and after the services.

We are very blessed as a church to have so many talented performers, and I'm grateful to all of you for the work, time and effort you put in to make our services just that bit more special. I look forward to another great year of music coming up.

Gareth Hawkes

7.6 Tubb House Group

The Tubb housegroup meets on Monday evening every fortnight at 7:30pm. We have recently welcomed new friends from Trinity and Carol and Richard from All Saints.



We have studied *Revive us again* by Leslie Newton, Christmas supper and carol singing, participated in the joint initiative on Mission and growth for us and Trinity and a Methodist book Sunshine and Showers - prayer's beautiful messiness.

We are ably led by Maurice and at times others in the group take one of the sessions. Spending time in prayer at each meeting we also think about local and international concerns and what are we called to do in response.

New members are most welcome, drop in and see what we are about or speak to Maurice Tubb, All Saints or David Perrow, Trinity.

Maurice Tubb

7.7 Quest

Quest has continued to meet regularly on the evening of the first Wednesday of the month.

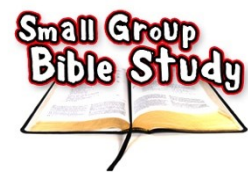
We have covered a variety of subjects for reflection, study and discussion. At present we are looking at passages in John's Gospel.

Our aim is to support in our faith journey.

We will conclude our present session on July 2nd with our Summer Social Evening.

At present we have 14 members in the Group.

Alan and Valerie Grist.



7.8 Uniformed Organisations

8th Abingdon Rainbows



Rainbow Guides are aged 4-7. We meet on Wednesday afternoons in term time. We have expanded to 20 girls on our register, because of the need in the area, as a unit has recently closed nearby. My waiting list is currently at 16, 8 of whom are

already aged 5, some of whom may not get a place before they are Brownie age.

Last year we have completed the Theme badges of Express Myself (Innovate), Know Myself (Reflect) and Skills for my Future (Live Smart), Take Action (Influence). The girls have completed 22 interest badges between them. Six girls have achieved their Bronze Award and two their Silver Award. Although no girls achieved their Rainbow

Gold Award (highest award in Rainbows) last year, we have three Rainbows who look like they will earn their Gold this term .

We have only one qualified Leader (Jackie), one Unit Helper and one occasional Unit Helper in our leadership team. We also have two young leaders and a Duke of Edinburgh award helper completing their volunteer section with us.

Jackie Walker, Leader, 8th Abingdon (All Saints) Rainbow Guide Unit

8th Abingdon (All Saints) Brownies

This year we have been very busy. We have been to the donkey sanctuary and then we fundraised for them by doing a sponsored silence. We raised over £400. We also visit Abingdon Care Home and do various activities there with the residents. We have 17 brownies at the moment. A very young pack as we lost all the older ones at Easter. We invited the mothers for afternoon tea for Mothering Sunday. Had games evenings and a sixer challenge which was great fun. We had 8 girls achieve their Gold award. We had an evening at Abingdon Boys School in their planetarium which was really enjoyable. Plus we celebrated Chinese New Year, Pancake Day, Mothering Sunday and our own Birthday.

Nicola Dixey



11th Abingdon (All Saints) Scouts



2024-25 has been a busy and exciting year for the 11th Abingdon Scout Group. We now have about 75 Young People in the group supported by a small dedicated team of volunteers.

This year, we opened a new Section in the Group - Squirrels. There are 15, 4 and 5 year old, boys and girls, who are just starting their Scouting journey with a fun theme based programme - you won't be able to miss them in their red jumpers and big smiles.

All sections have been camping locally and further afield and getting involved in activities with others from across Oxfordshire - we look forward to doing more with all sections in the year ahead.

In February, young people and volunteers (leaders) from the group appeared on stage at St Helen & St Katherine's School for the Oxfordshire Scout and Guide Gangshow. They were all fantastic and some would say that one of the leaders somewhat stole the show. Others from the group supported them backstage. Plans and workshops for the 2026 show will be happening this summer - and we will be encouraging them all again.

The group has supported several Church activities, including the Easter Egg Hunt and the Cubs helped with some gardening. We will be supporting other events this year and are looking out for other ways that we can support All Saints.

Scouting has undergone a big change in the last year or so and we're adjusting to the new Team based structures. This has caused some disruption both within our group and across Abingdon and Oxfordshire - we're coming out the other side now,

and will always welcome any offers of help/support. The idea of the team based structure is that workloads are shared across several volunteers rather than falling to a single person. As always, we are indebted to the support offered by Judith Penrose Brown on the Trustee Board.

We are very thankful for the support offered by All Saints and we hope that we'll be able to continue making a positive impact on the Church community.

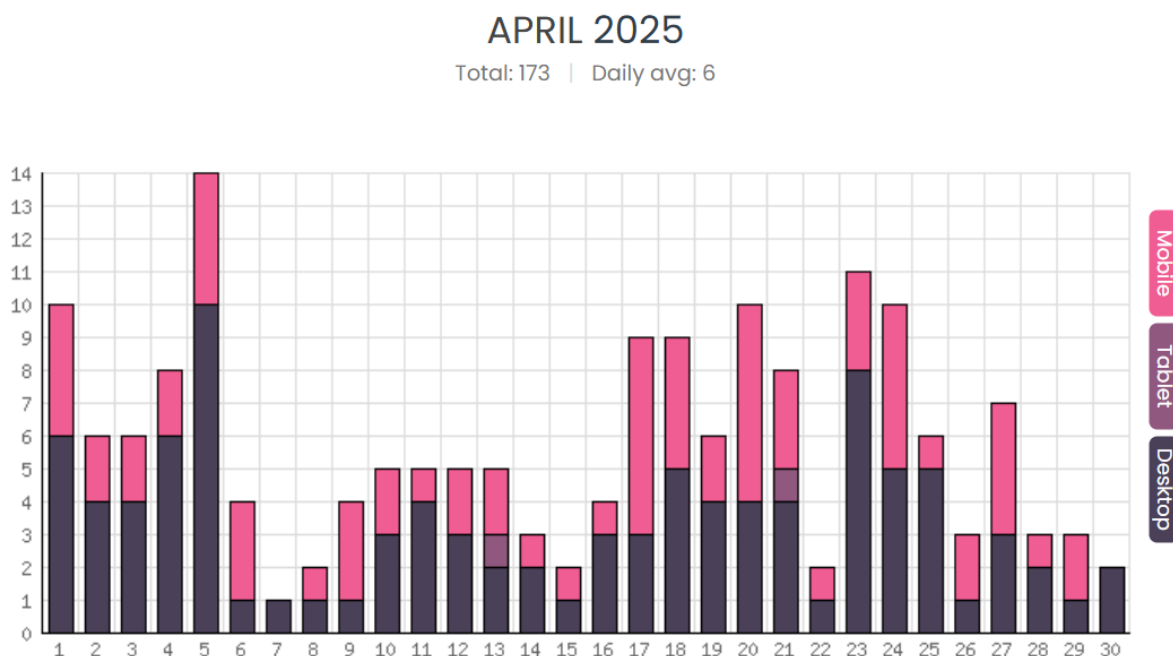
Phil, Jack, Eve - Lead Volunteer Team, 11th Abingdon (All Saints) Scout Group

7.9 Church Website www.allsaintsabingdon/org.uk

The All Saints website is kept up to date, particularly the home page slide show which shows upcoming events.

Up to date News Items to add to the website would be greatly appreciated.

The chart below shows a typical month of usage of the website.



Helen Appleyard

8. Other Church Activities

8.1 Abingdon Foodbank

The foodbank, situated at Christ Church in Northcourt Road, continues to support hundreds of people needing support just to exist. All Saints continues to be a major supporter of the foodbank and a week never goes by without donations being left to be taken to the foodbank

There is a new notice on the foodbank basket with a QR Code. If you scan this, you can see the Bank the Food app which has a list of what is currently needed urgently. This may be helpful when you are shopping if you are wondering what to buy for the foodbank.

Thank you for your continued support, it is truly much appreciated and makes a huge difference to people less fortunate than many of us.

Judith Penrose Brown, All Saints Foodbank Link

8.2 Bold Walking Group

The Bold walking group, started by Derek and Christine Bold, has always been very ecumenical with people from Trinity, the Baptist Church, St Helen's and St Nicolas as well as people from All Saints and the Circuit, plus one or two with no church affiliation. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month, except December. In the early days, more than 30 years ago, nine mile walks were common but now we do shorter walks of about five miles in the morning and then have a pub lunch before returning home. Sometimes a shorter walk of about three miles is offered. Those who feel unable to walk may still come to enjoy the fellowship at lunch. New walkers will also be very welcome.

Margaret Ellwood

8.3 Future Pillars, Zambia

As Rosemary is no longer a Trustee this report has been written by the Chair of FPZ



**Future
Pillars
Zambia**

FPZ is a Christian-based, non-denominational charity. Our mission statement: To empower the vulnerable children in Zambia.

The Charity was formed on 22nd June 2017 to support life-changing work going on in one school in Kabwe, Central Province, Zambia. Completing our 8th year of operation, we are encouraged by the progress we have made in relation to the four essential elements of our programme in Zambia:

These elements are:

- Feeding – ensuring 1000 children get a nutritious meal 5 days a week – 52 weeks a year.
- Education – Family Futures Community School from Reception to Grade 12.
- Skills training – Future Pillars Vocational Skills Training Centre offering courses in a range of trade skills accredited through TEVETA.
- Shelter – 2 boarding houses for children without any family support.

FPZ has 3 UK-based trustees who are totally committed to ensuring that all the vulnerable children who attend Family Futures Community School (FFCS) are properly provided for – feeding their stomachs as well as their minds. 100% of all money donated to FPZ goes to the projects in Kabwe. All UK expenses, including administrative costs, are met by individual trustees. We ensure that donors' gifts are appropriately used, with annual visits being made to monitor the school's progress and provide training and development opportunities for the staff. All costs for these visits are met by individual trustees.

Income

The charity's income is derived entirely from donations by individuals, predominantly living in the UK. The many regular donations form the backbone of the support for the school in Kabwe and allow for long-term sustainability of the project. In addition, they help ensure that fundraising cost can be kept to a minimum.

The funds raised by Future Pillars (Zambia) in 2023-24 totalled £58,429.

The standing orders are augmented by one-off donations, and fundraising efforts by the trustees. There was no planned fundraising walk in 2023-2024, which historically has generated in excess of 10% of annual funds.

All Saints Church, Abingdon continues to play its part in our fundraising and FPZ is very grateful for such loyal and longstanding support, both from individuals and the whole church.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the period reported is £55,236.

The 2023-24 year has seen the lowest annual cost in the history of the charity, mirroring the reduction in income generated. FPZ has been benefiting from favourable exchange rates in this period, as well as cost reductions.

Challenges for 2025 and beyond

The severe and prolonged drought in 2024 brought challenges beyond the financial year and has exacerbated the effects of poverty on Zambian society for some time to come. For FPZ, it highlights the need to improve the school's resilience to climate change effects (especially floods and droughts), and we will continue to work with our friends in Kabwe to assess and improve the infrastructure where possible. The Zambian Government has just announced the lifting of the electricity load shedding in July after nearly two years – often with no power or water for 17 hours a day. Investigations are underway to equip the school with solar panelling, appreciating this would entail a huge investment.

The long-anticipated Learning Resource Centre, a new building to house the school library, a staff room, computer access room and a classroom, has begun construction, utilising four shipping containers that are already on site.

The trustees are running a fundraising walk on 7th June 2025 to collect donations for supporting the building of the Learning Resource Centre.

Replacement of the outdoor open-fire cooking area for the feeding programme is also underway with an enclosed cooking area adjacent to the current kitchen to improve health & safety for the cooks and reduce the use of firewood.

We continue to seek God's guidance in all that we do so that His name may be honoured.

Thank you.

Barry Gransden, Chair of Future Pillars, Zambia.

8.4 The Nasio Trust

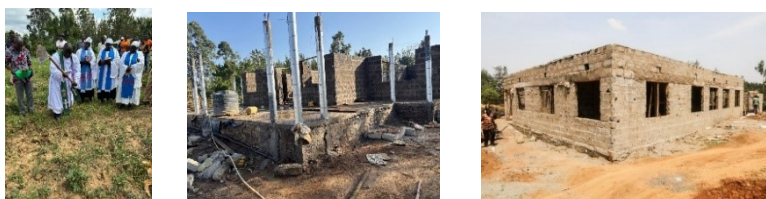
I have been privileged this year to be able to host our first ever two visitors from Kenya who came to the UK to collect the award presented in London by Egmont Trust for the BEST ORGANISATION in respect of our Peer Education work we do in the local community on HIV AIDs awareness, drink and drug abuse, mental health, sexually transmitted diseases and period poverty.



Thank you to all those who came to the Kenyan meal of bean stew, sukuma-wiki chapatti and rice as well as a talks by Rajab, Eunice and Nancy, telling their stories of a journey through NASIO as children to their current roles as a clinician and social worker. Their testimonies were humbling to listen to.

Some of Rajab's leaving comments were how amazed he was by the clean the roads, not dusty and muddy and full of pot holes; how different it is eating when it's still light; and that meals are timed by the clock - not by light and dark. Both he and Eunice commented on how quickly the London tube gets you to places and the English and their time keeping. They noted that time management and punctuality is highly valued rather than the relaxed 'Kenyan timing.' Eunice said that the trip had strengthened her confidence, independence and adaptability. She returns to her social work with an insight into early years learning through creative play, inclusivity and child participation, however, without the equipment to implement such ideas. Playing with food (dried rice or pasta) or water play would not be considered as these are precious commodities.

In 2024 Nasio celebrated with the local Bishop who broke the soil for the building of its library within the grounds of St Irenes. The building is the first of its kind in the area and will be used by the whole community, with adult literacy and IT lessons held there as well as story reading and books for both professionals, Mumias West college students to borrow and for younger children.



Plans were also submitted this year to extend our medical clinic and upgrade the status to a level 3 hospital. This will necessitate the building of wards to accommodate more than 30 beds, have two theatres, a morgue, kitchens and laundry rooms as well as rooms to take x-rays. GMK clinic is now self-funding and the extension is needed as footfall continues to increase due to the good reputation it has within the area and often referrals are made to the clinic from the state-run hospital in Mumias. 2024/25 has seen over 15,880 patients treated, 300 people treated for jiggers, over 2900 vaccinations administered, and 341 babies delivered. With the visit last year of Dr Katie Jeffery and Dr Louise Downs from Oxfordshire University Hospitals a pilot scheme was launched for HEP B testing reaching 700 people. Nasio also linked with DOT Glasses and many local people attended the clinic.



Kenyan health care is undergoing a restructure and SHA health insurance supersedes NHIF. Nasio managed to enrol 388 families to the new programme, along with court affidavits needed to prove guardianship of children that are not direct siblings.

In the autumn last year, in collaboration with Wageningen and Laikipia Universities Nasio now produces organic spirulina as a replacement, cheaper feed for its fishponds and replaces commercial feeds as a more sustainable source of income for small scale farmers. Using chicken, goat and rabbit manure our women's group and young farmers are producing a healthier and more nutritious animal feed.



In 2024, Nasio saw a successful partnership established with the Peace Corp and hosted Elda who joined the Youth Programme department and made valuable contributions to the Young Mothers Group that provides support to teenage mothers with healthcare and nutritional information. Elda also established a partnership with Greenblades – a local women's football team and accessed funding for start up businesses including a barbers shop, honey making, soap making, and hair braiding enterprises.



In 2024, 37 young people from Farringdon, Abingdon and Berinsfield visited NASIO to work on various projects that included a jiggers clinic, house building and other local community activities forming a life changing experience for them and empowering the Kenyan community.

Nasio's primary focus remains the 336 beneficiaries it supports with an education, a daily meal and the medical or social welfare care that each child and its wider family needs. We were delighted in January – the beginning of the Kenyan school year - to reopen Noah's Ark with a PP1 class of 20 pupils after a settlement was reached on the land ownership issues that caused it to close two years ago. In December 2024 NASIO celebrated the Graduation of Moses, the child found by Mama Irene, as he qualified as a dentist and of Esther as an accountant, one of the first pupils to be educated in St Irenes. This was held alongside a ceremony to celebrate 8 women who graduated from the Adult Literacy programme.



Nasio remains the biggest employer in the Musanda area in Kenya. There are 74 members of staff spread over the various departments.

Our UK team of Divya Godbole and Jenny Dicks lead the UK staff in Nancy's long absences in the role of Programme Manager work tirelessly to raise NASIO's profile and raise much needed funds. Ruth Knight is responsible for Child Sponsorship and has initiated Nasio Quiz nights held at the Loose Cannon Brewery, Rachel Dodimead has returned for a year following her 'masters' to work with volunteers, interns and Kilimanjaro climbers as well as continuing our Global Youth Education Programme, organise story exchanges and manage our annual Golf Event held every September, while Olivia Rand is an Intern working on Women's programmes. Keith Butler remains as our finance manager and Elizabeth Bolongaro assists him. The office shares the BRF premises at 13 The Chambers, Vineyard, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 3FE.

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

8.5 TrinityLearning Update (up to August 2024)



It was another busy and productive year for TrinityLearning and we are so very grateful for the commitment of all those involved with the charity. It is great to know that so many children have had the opportunity to engage with us, as we recognise that children and schools currently face many challenges and pressures, so our work continues to really support our local school communities.

Bereavement support: It was a difficult start to 2024 with three local schools suffering significant bereavements within their communities. In response, TrinityLearning provided six Bereavement Packs and 13 additional Bereavement Journals. For context, we would usually distribute around 10 packs per year. We were very grateful for the offers from our knitting volunteers to restock our supplies of the tiny bears which go out with each pack - most notably this year from the All Saints Church community.



Experience Easter 2024: In March 2024 we ran one of our largest ever Experience Easter projects with over 500 children from nine different schools taking part online or joining us in Trinity Church.

Experience Easter runs every year in the form of a series of six workshops which share the Easter story and provide opportunities for children to reflect and relate the story to their own experiences. In response to feedback received from our school communities we run the event as both a 'live' one where children visit us in Trinity Church as well as online, delivered via our website to ensure as many schools are able to access the event in the way they prefer.

This time we also ran a simpler adapted version for children from Kingfisher School who visited the workshop spaces in Trinity Church and sang simple songs supported by the Kingfisher Singing Group.

During Experience Easter volunteer storytellers supported us as they shared a simple, scripted story with groups of primary school children and helped them take an active part in the stories in lots of different ways, from writing their hopes and dreams onto palm crosses to working their way through their angry and fearful thoughts using plasticine. Teacher feedback from the event was very positive.



"Very good recount of Easter story with lovely props for clear understanding. Children were very engaged."

"Calm, relaxing atmosphere. A great opportunity for the children to reflect on the Easter story."

TEACHER FEEDBACK



Two local church ministry teams also came to observe sessions as they work towards setting up Experience Easter in the Didcot and Wallingford areas: “Thank you so much for accommodating us ... It really was wonderful to observe the tremendous impact the session had on the children. It was very well done indeed.”

Supported work experience: We offered supported work placements to three secondary school students in the summer. The students demonstrated excellent teamwork and initiative during the placement and took on lots of different jobs including a stock take of the Toolkit for Happiness resources, and creating PowerPoints and notices for the Sunday services. They also took down and replaced the large TrinityLearning display in the church.

They wrote about the time spent with TrinityLearning- with some reflections on how they felt - in an amazing ‘Farewell TrinityLearning’ blog.

Supported Work Experience also took place with a group of students from Kingfisher School at the Trinity Toddler Group. Students were supported by one staff member from school and one staff member from TrinityLearning.

Celebrating our Volunteers: Our 2024 Volunteer Celebration in June was an opportunity for us to say a huge thank you to the many volunteers who support our work by generously donating their time, skills and experience. As well as volunteers, we were also joined by staff from some of the local schools we work in, Ministers from one of our major funders – the Wantage and Abingdon Methodist Circuit – as well as and friends and supporters from local church communities.

Our Trustees put on a super spread of snacks and cakes and it was great to have everyone together in one place and for volunteers to have a chance to connect with others they hadn’t met before. Presentation boards at the event highlighted just some of the many ways volunteers support our work both in schools – as Thinking Books volunteers or part of our Kingfisher school singing group, as well as from home – knitting toys, and making up resource packs.

Reflecting on what they most enjoyed about volunteering with TrinityLearning volunteers shared they enjoyed feeling as though they were making a difference.

“Working with children makes me feel useful and I get great satisfaction and joy at their growth in confidence.”



Make a Difference Week: Seventeen 6th form students from Larkmead School volunteered for our Toolkit for Happiness project in July 2024 and gave between two and five days each of their time to deliver wellbeing workshops to around 180 year 7 pupils.

This year we developed the reflection aspect of the workshops through the introduction of a daily journaling sheet which encouraged pupils to notice and record simple observations on the weather and their own feelings, enabling them to

reflect on different aspects of the workshops throughout the week. The 6th Form Team really went above and beyond to ensure each year 7 pupil felt included and able to access the activities.



Thank you to All Saints volunteers - Although not covered in this report we wanted to say a very special thank you to volunteers from All Saints for their fantastic support preparing Experience Easter 2025. This year was an exceptional year for our craft preparation as, in addition to our fantastic regular craft preparers, a wonderful team from All Saints church met several times to chat over coffee whilst slicing plasticine, threading beads and filling up the resource packs given to each child who takes part. This all meant that we were ready in record breaking time so we were deeply grateful for all their work.

Keep up to date with our work - Our Facebook page is updated regularly so is a great place to keep up to date with our news – you can find us at

www.facebook.com/TrinityLearning-108933674177652

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 at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Nicola Williams, Education Development Officer

APPENDIX A: MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

Information as at the date of this report

Church Stewards

Helen Appleyard
Sue Butler
Margaret Ellwood
Dawn Tyrrell

Communion Stewards

Colin Bartlett Marian Orchard Larissa Richards

Church Council

Minister	Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson
Deacon	Deacon Selina Nisbett
Acting Treasurer	Richard Matthews
Stewards	Helen Appleyard Sue Butler Dawn Tyrrell Margaret Ellwood
Secretary	Sue Russell
Family Committee / Youth Forum	Judith Penrose Brown
Pastoral Committee Secretary	Sue Butler
Circuit Steward	Anne Matthews
Church in Abingdon	Helen Appleyard
Junior Church	
Finance Committee	Richard Matthews
Safeguarding	Helen Appleyard
Communion Steward	

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
Paul Williams

Church Family Committee

Chair	Anne Matthews
Secretary & Crèche Organiser	Becky Batey
Steward Rep	Dawn Tyrell
Members:	
Helen Appleyard	Rev. Georgina Bondzi-Simpson
Kate Jones	Judith Penrose Brown
Dcn. Selina Nisbett	Rona Quigley
Maurice Tubb	

Finance Committee

Chair	Richard Matthews
Acting Treasurer	Richard Matthews
Secretary	Gillian Griffiths
Steward	
Members	
Pam Guthrie	Larissa Richards
David Gray	Margaret Ellwood
Mike Brown	

Pastoral Committee

Chair	Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson
Secretary	Sue Butler
Steward	All stewards Deacon Selina Nisbett
Visitors	
Helen & Martin Appleyard	John & Marian Orchard
Trisha Evans	Joanne Phipps
Kate Jones	Jenny Pooley
Beryl Manners	Maurice Tubb
Anne and Richard Matthews	

Junior Church Council

Co-ordinator

Mike Pearl

Secretary

Leaders

Sue Butler

Menna Hull

Anne Matthews

Crèche

Helen Appleyard

Beryl Manners

Becky Batey

Kate Jones

Rona Quigley

APPENDIX B: FINANCE

ALL SAINTS METHODIST CHURCH ABINGDON

Charity Commission Number 1184115

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st August, 2024

	2023 /2024	2022/ 2023
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£	£
Unrestricted		
Collections	51,948.12	59,103.21
Tax recoveries	12,692.46	13,250.36
	<u>64,640.58</u>	<u>72,353.57</u>
Lettings	14,512.91	18,408.41
Interest	1,818.43	807.66
Bequests	14,663.02	-
Other income	809.66	683.19
Unrestricted income	<u>96,444.60</u>	<u>92,252.83</u>
Restricted		
Memorable donation (incl. tax refund and interest)	701.24	437.07
Special events and appeals	1,924.86	1,875.41
Men's Group - member donations	-	-
Just Women - member donations, events and gift aid	115.00	531.74
Friendship - interest	-	-
Restricted income	<u>2,741.10</u>	<u>2,844.22</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>99,185.70</u>	<u>95,097.05</u>
 <u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Unrestricted		
Circuit assessment	50,512.00	47,155.00
Donations to Methodist Funds	4,195.96	5,136.59
Other donations	2,052.12	3,536.35
All Saints costs -		
Operational costs	7,943.84	7,849.06
Property costs	26,857.36	20,094.41
Expenditure out of unrestricted income	<u>91,561.28</u>	<u>83,771.41</u>
Restricted		
Memorable donations (organist fees)	550.00	-
Special events and appeals	1,854.86	1,848.81
Just Women - donations and other payments	143.25	489.50
Friendship	-	-
Expenditure out of restricted income	<u>2,548.11</u>	<u>2,338.31</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>94,109.39</u>	<u>86,109.72</u>
 SURPLUS or NET DEFICIT for the year	 5,076.31	 8,987.33

Represented by

	2023 /2024	2022/ 2023
	£	£
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>94,109.39</u>	<u>86,109.72</u>
SURPLUS or NET DEFICIT for the year	5,076.31	8,987.33

The accounts were approved by Church Council on 6 February 2025