

All Saints Methodist Church

Appleford Drive

Abingdon

<http://www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk>

Registered Charity Number 1184115



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NOTICES 16 January 2022

Future Services:

Sunday 16 January: 10:30am Morning Worship led by Revd Alan Grist

Sunday 23 January: 10:30am Morning Worship led by Revd Michael Appleyard

If you wish to keep a safe distance from others while seated in church then please collect one of the '**Do not sit here**' cards from the table as you enter church and put this on the seat beside you. At the end of the service please return this to the table as you leave. *The Stewards*

Hymnbooks and bibles will now be available for you to use in church. Please help yourself to a hymnbook as you go in from the book trolley. Bibles are available from the top of the sound system cabinet (near the collection plate). To avoid others having to handle these please remember to return them to their places at the end of the service. *The Stewards*

CHURCH NEWS

Church Forum: On Saturday 29 January we are holding a **whole-church forum** on the issue of '**A Sustainable Circuit**'. This will enable us to share thoughts and opinions and contribute to the deliberations of the whole Circuit as it contemplates its future. **The event will be held in the church, starting at 9.30 a.m. and finishing at 12.30 or 1.00 p.m. at the latest.** Please prepare by reading the discussion document on p4. I am keen that as many voices be heard as possible, so if you are unable to make it on the day, please email me any thoughts you have so that I can bring them all together. Ideally I'd like these by **Thursday 27** so they can be fed into the Saturday morning. *Ian*

Do you have some free time, would you like to volunteer in Abingdon? The January edition of CiA News (available from the website – or in hard copy from the Office) lists local charities seeking help.

Amnesty Cards, Sylvia Wilson writes:

I was delighted to receive a reply from the person I contacted this year. He is Nigerian, Adeyeun Imoleayo Michael whom I know as Michael. He is a computer programmer who supported demonstrators against violence, extortion and killings by the Special Branch. 2 weeks later 20 armed men raided his house, shattering windows and forcing him to open his front door. They locked his wife, elderly mother and seven month old son in a room, and locked Michael in an underground cell for 41 days. He now faces years in prison. I wrote to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice asking that all charges against him

be immediately withdrawn.

I then sent an Email to Michael telling him this and got a quick reply, saying "thank you so much, Sylvia. I really appreciate your concern and support".

We have now exchanged several EMails. This is the first time I have ever received a reply to one of the Amnesty letters. It seemed easy because he was able to use E Mail.

Contributions to the Notices: may be sent to:

notices@abingdonallsaints.org.uk or office.allsaintsab@gmail.com

Please note, Notices for postal distribution are put in the post on Wednesday (Thursday at the latest). Items sent in after this deadline will be added to that week's electronic notices if space and time permit, otherwise will be included the following week.

DIARY DATES

Monday 17 January, Trinity Evergreens: Usual time: 2pm in the Conduit Centre.

Refreshments and raffle. Speaker: Alastair Fear – Guernsey.

Monday 17 January: The Tubb House Group will meet at 36 The Warren at 7.30pm to commence a study of Mark's Gospel. Study books will be provided.

'Men's Night' All Saints Men's Group: meets usually on the last Friday of a month at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall. We eat together a hot meal prepared by one of the members of the group on a rotational basis and listen to an invited speaker. There is a modest charge of £2.50 to cover catering costs with any surplus being donated to a chosen charity. The primary purpose of the Group is to provide an environment for Fellowship for the men of the Church. The Group is not afraid to discuss controversial matters. Attendance is not restricted to All Saints members, but men intending to attend a meeting need to register in advance with the Chef for the evening to make sure that there is enough food for everyone. Meetings are publicised in advance in All Saints and Trinity weekly notices that are available on their websites.

For January: the meeting will be on **Friday, 21 January** with an illustrated talk by Chris Caddy on the hymn composer J B Dykes. The cook will be Paul please let him know as soon as possible whether or not you plan to attend. williamspaul819@gmail.com, or 01235 524654

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 17 – 21 January:

Dear Friends,

As you are all probably aware, the in-person Midday Prayers, as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, have been cancelled due to the prevailing high Covid infection rates circulating and many people feeling it is not safe to attend what may be unnecessary meetings/events.

So that all the members of Abingdon churches can still join together in unity for this week of prayer, the CiA has put together a prayer leaflet (on the church website and the CiA website (www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk)) Printed copies can also be made available on request (contact the Office).

For each day, there is a Bible reading, a thought for the day, a short extract highlighting the work of a specific church group, together with some example prayers and ideas for people's own prayers. People may choose to follow the material on their own, join up with a friend or even form a zoom group. Please use this material as best suits you and please do let us have feedback. We hope that focusing on prayer for local church task groups will bear fruit and lead to new working relationships and opportunities.

With our blessing, *Church in Abingdon Administrator*

Monday 17 January Trinity Learning AGM via Zoom at 6pm Please email nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com if you would like to attend and she will send you the Zoom

link and Agenda in January. A copy of the 2020/21 Annual Report is available from the TrinityLearning website: <https://bit.ly/3dTmkl3>

Christian Aid New Year Walk 2022, 1st – 31st January: This year we have planned another self-service walk with the request that you and your 'sponsors' make donations to our unique Just Giving webpage when you have completed the walk and solved the puzzle we have set:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abingdon-newyearwalk-2022>. For more information please contact Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Leprosy Mission is collecting used postage stamps. Will you please trim your stamps and bring them to church and put them in the Leprosy Mission box in the Foyer. *Thank you, Marion Williams.*

The Foodbank: currently needs longlife milk (full fat), small jars of coffee, peanut butter and microwavable meals for one. Many single people are housed in a room with limited cooking facilities, often only a microwave, so ready prepared meals are needed. The foodbank can always use empty egg boxes. Thank you for your continuing support.

Wednesday 19 January, Abingdon Carbon Cutters meeting: Climate Positive Houses. 7:30pm via Zoom. Speaker Ian Pritchett, founder and CEO of Greencore Construction who are building Springfield Meadows in Southmoor. Please contact carbon.cutters@gmail.com for the Zoom link details.

Friday 21 January SWWCP* Spring Lecture Series ***Falling at the last hurdle: the vital importance of death.*** 18:45 online. Speaker Liz Rothschild is a death educator, performer and author of "Outside the Box – Everyday Stories of Death, Bereavement and Life". Through collected stories, Liz shows that talking openly about death can change the way we live. Using a mixture of reflection, storytelling and conversation, Liz will pose questions for us to consider and discuss. She looks forward to hearing our stories and experiences. To register email: admin@stpeterswolvercote.org

*Summertown, Wolvercote and Wytham Church Partnership www.swwcp.org.uk

Christ's Hospital of Abingdon is seeking to appoint a new Governor. Christ's Hospital is the oldest of Oxfordshire's charities and dates from 1553. It is controlled by The Master, twelve Governors and support staff managed by The Clerk to the Governors. For further details please see :

<http://www.ch-of-abingdon.org/> or

<http://www.ch-of-abingdon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/New-Gov-Ad-Nov-2021-V4-04122021.pdf>

The closing date for applications is the end of February 2022.

WORSHIP in the Circuit

Orders of Service for **Worship at Home** are made available on-line or in hard copy. Keith leads an on-line Zoom service, Sunday mornings at 10:30am. To join or find out more please contact him - keith.underhill@methodist.org.uk.

A short **Act of Worship** will also be posted on the [Circuit YouTube channel](#)

CHURCH FORUM

Sustainable Circuit – Sustainable Church – All Saints

The Circuit is made up of Local Churches, so considering the sustainability of the Circuit requires the consideration of the Local Church. Nearly all the things we need to consider will overlap to some extent. What I offer is a starting point for conversations within All Saints.

Context

1. **Abingdon.** All Saints does not stand alone. The Circuit has two other churches in the same town, Trinity and Peachcroft Christian Centre. Of these, Trinity and All Saints are in many ways more aligned to each other than to Peachcroft, which operates as a LEP very differently to Trinity.
2. **Circuit Ordained Staff.** Currently, 3 Presbyters are funded through Circuit Assessment, and 1 Deacon is funded largely by the sale of churches. Circuit membership is now less than 450 (across 8 churches): nationally the average number of members per Presbyter is 200. Given the shortage of ministers to appointments in recent years it's possible that even if the Circuit wished to retain 3 Presbyters, it would not succeed.

Vision for Mission and Ministry

1. What is your group's vision?
2. How are you currently pursuing this?

Challenges

1. Do we think we can continue as we are?
2. What can we do together with Trinity &/or Peachcroft as part of our mission and ministry?
3. Do we need to re-group for the sake of the Gospel?

All Saints – particular challenges

1. **Volunteers.** Every year it has proved difficult to recruit Stewards. In 2021/22 we have not succeeded in recruiting a Named Treasurer or a Chair of Property, and all our current four Stewards wish to stand down. We don't know how we will fill these positions this year, let alone in 3-5 years' time.
2. What do you think are the reasons people are reluctant to fill these roles and how might we better encourage people with the gifts and graces into the various roles and ministries required?

If ...

1. **What if ...** the Circuit reduced the number of Ordained Staff?
 - More of the local Church Mission and Ministry would rely on Local Lay Leadership – where might this come from and how do we resource it?
 - Clearer realistic expectations/roles of/for Ordained Staff would be required.
 - Could we look at models of having Local Lay Pastors – assuming we can find a local volunteer?
2. **What if ...** We stopped doing some things, to do fewer things well. What would they be?
3. **What if ...** All Saints chose to re-group with Trinity (for example). What would we lose/gain?

Looking Back and Forward

How might our Future Focus Document help us to consider all these things?