



Abingdon

**All Saints  
Methodist Church**

Appleford Drive  
Abingdon

[www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk)

Registered Charity: 1184115



**Trinity Church  
Methodist & United Reformed**

Conduit Road  
Abingdon

[www.trinityabingdon.org.uk](http://www.trinityabingdon.org.uk)

Registered Charity: 1148634

**Presbyter: Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson**

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## Notices Sunday 26 January

### Worship

All Saints	Trinity
<p><b>Sunday 26 January</b> <b>10:30am</b> Morning Worship led by Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson</p>	<p><b>Sunday 26 January</b> <b>10:30am</b> Morning Worship led by members of the Congregation</p>
<p><b>Sunday 2 February</b> <b>10:30am</b> Morning Worship led by Revd Alan Grist</p>	<p><b>Sunday 2 February</b> <b>10:30am</b> Morning Worship led by Deacon Selina &amp; Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson</p>

## **CIRCUIT NEWS**

### **Statement from the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) to all Churches**

The Wantage & Abingdon Circuit consists of 7 churches and is currently served by 4 ordained ministers. From September onwards, following the retirement of Revd Keith Underhill and the relocation to another Circuit of Deacon Selina Nisbett, there will be just 2 ordained ministers to have pastoral oversight of all seven churches.

It has been agreed that Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson will be the Superintendent Minister with specific oversight of All Saints Abingdon, Trinity Church Abingdon, and Grove, with occasional involvement with Peachcroft; and that Revd Bruce Thompson will have specific oversight of Didcot, Milton, Wallingford, and Wantage.

The reduction in staff numbers brings with it many changes and challenges, not least the pastoral care of each church, plus additional calls on the time of our ministers. In the coming weeks we will be addressing this at each of the Church Councils. The Circuit Leadership Team strongly encourages all to consider how, from September 2025 onwards, we might together ensure that not only are the members of churches cared for as effectively as possible but also the ministers too.

A booklet will be produced that will highlight these changes and possible ways forward as together we work towards ever more meaningful ways of being church in each of our local settings.

Please remember all the ministers in your prayers, Revd Keith as he prepares to retire from Circuit ministry, Deacon Selina as she prepares to move to another Circuit, Revd Georgina, and Revd Bruce as they prepare to take up additional responsibilities in the Circuit. Please pray too for the future of our Circuit, for the Lord to continue to lead and direct the Circuit Stewards as we plan for the changes we are going to be faced with.

**Calling all potential Local Leaders:** following the online meeting there will be an In Person Local Arrangement Training Morning on Saturday 1 February, Milton Methodist Church. Contact Rev Bruce for more details.  
revbrucet@yahoo.co.uk / 01235 813242.

## ALL SAINTS NEWS

### **Lent Study Groups:**

During lent it is planned to hold two weekly study groups jointly with our friends from Trinity. One of these will be on a Monday evening when the Tubb house group will join with folk from Trinity. The other day is yet to be decided. This will be a daytime group on either a Tuesday or Wednesday morning or afternoon. To help with the planning of this second group please indicate by placing a tick on the sheet in the foyer which of these daytime slots you would prefer.

**Next Knitting Project:** Can I suggest that for our next knitting project, following our scheme to make dainty garments for pre-med babies at the JR Hospital in Britain, we now make some 'Fish and Chip' jumpers for new born babies supported by the Nasio project in Africa. The title is used because babies used to be sent home from hospital wrapped in newspaper! Matching bonnets, if possible, also welcome. The brighter the colours from your wool stash the better, but please **NO WHITE** as this colour is used at funerals.

This may well be a useful occupation during these dark winter evenings! A big Thank You to all you knitters for your readiness to be involved in these various projects.

*Eileen*

**Quest** will meet at Valerie & Alan's at 7:30 on **Wednesday February 5th**. The subject for reflection and discussion is, ***Our Pilgrim Journey***.

Change of email: **Tina Hearn** has changed her email address, please ask her, or contact the office, for her new details.

**Write for Rights:** It's not too late to take part in this year's Amnesty International prisoners campaign as the closing date is 31 January. Here's the link if you've not had chance to send a card yet. [Write For Rights 2024](#): Get started The booklet with information is still on hymn trolley in foyer. *JPB*

**Against Breast Cancer** collect used **stamps** for recycling. 1kg =£20. Please will you collect yours - snip 1cm round each stamp - and give to me, or put in S pigeonhole, by the end of January?

They also recycle **bras, clothes, printer cartridges, old & foreign currency & notes, and jewellery**. Any of these can be brought to 3 Kingston Close and left in the meter cupboard or bring to church by the end of January. I will deliver them to Napier Road.

For more info - [againstbreastcancer.org.uk/recycling](https://againstbreastcancer.org.uk/recycling) Thank you, Rosemary.



## NOTICES

### **A message from Keith Underhill:**

You might find it hard to imagine me running - let alone undertaking a half-marathon, yet, Liz, Becca (Jon - Liz's brother) and I will be taking on the London Landmark's half marathon on Sunday 6th April. We are running to raise money for **the Skye High Foundation** and the brilliant work they do. It is a small charity specifically providing support to hospital staff, medical professionals and families during and after the loss of a twin, or a baby from a multiple birth and we wanted to do something practical to help them as a way of saying thank you for all their help and support to our nephew and his wife. We run in loving memory of Nuala, never forgotten, and of Nancy who brings so much joy. It's great to have Jon, Papa to Nuala and Nancy, running with us. We would value your prayers for this venture and if you felt able to sponsor us that would mean a great deal. The link to our Just Giving page is :

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/keith-underhill-1736248913715?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/keith-underhill-1736248913715?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

**Foodbank:** as ever, thank you for the everlasting support from All Saints. Currently the foodbank needs oat milk, tinned ravioli, kidney beans, tinned mac and cheese, fruit squash, honey, fruit juice and UHT milk. Shampoo is also needed and strong carrier bags, but not, at the moment, any more egg boxes. Many thanks *JPB*

## TRINITY NEWS

**Margaret and Alwyn Langsford are inviting their friends at Trinity Church** to join them and their family on **22nd February** in the Conduit Centre (between 3.00 and 5.00 p.m.) for a Tea Party to celebrate their 90th birthday anniversaries. If you wish to come, please will you sign the form in the Welcome Area so that we can better establish guest numbers. Thank you.

**Please note:** Eve Newton has handed the **catering organising baton** to Judith Fear.

The **Trinity Jesus & Me (JAM) Group** – please see the important notice about JAM on pp 7 & 8. This information will also be on the Notice Boards in the Welcome Area.

**Ministry of Flowers:** there is a 2025 rota on the board, for members to offer to provide the flowers for Church. Two simple vases on the Altar or a vase / plant on the Welcome Table are all that are required.

Flowers enhance our worship and remind us of God's wonderful creation and plenteous bounty. Do please consider whether you might be able to help in this

Ministry and sign up.

Judith, Petronella or Scilla are always willing to give advice.

## Trinity Anniversary

The first Sunday Worship at Trinity was likely to have been on Sunday 30th May 1875, following the church's official opening on Friday 28th May. The Trustees felt that this should be marked by a special service, likely to be 3.00 pm on Sunday 1st June 2025 replacing our normal morning worship.

The hope is that the church will be filled to the rafters and an invitation will go out to all the past presbyters to participate in the act of worship in some way. We hope to invite "our neighbours", other churches in Abingdon and their officials, the circuit, local dignitaries etc etc.

We would like everyone who feels able to contribute to get involved in some way. There will be the usual sign up sheets no doubt, but we would appreciate some volunteers to come forward to help Neil Oastler and Heather Townsend with the pre-planning.

Please let them, or Rev Georgina, know if you feel you can help in anyway especially if you have an inspired idea of how to make our 150th birthday a very special one-off event.

## DATES

**Tuesday 28 January, Agnostics Anonymous;** 6-7.30 pm in the Parish Centre, opposite the entrance to St Helen's Church. John Barton will give the introductory talk on *Is Christian language too male?* John Kerr and Jennifer Brown will answer questions and join the discussion. Free and Everyone Welcome. Contact Jill Gant (01235 528929).

**Friday 31 January, concert by The Joint Chamber Choir of Abingdon School and St Helen and St Katharine School.** St Michael's Church 7 pm, Free but tickets needed from <https://www.abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/performance/joint-chamber-choir-concert/>

**Saturday 1st February** Barn Dance at St. Helen's Church. Music by the Chameleons, 6:30-9:30pm to include Ploughman's supper. Tickets £15 Adults, £5 accompanied children under 16. Tickets available from The Bookstore, Abingdon or see St. Helen's Church website.

**Saturday 8 February, Crown Singers Concert;** St Michael's Church 3pm Sacred Choral works by Bach, Brahms and Bruckner. Tickets £10 (children free) on the door. Refreshments available. Free parking

**'Share the Love' Coffee Morning** filter coffee, hot chocolate, tea ❤️ Valentine's Day treats **All Saints Hall 10.30am - 12 noon** bring yourself, bring friends, everyone welcome

**Church in Abingdon AGM:** Advance notice that the CiA AGM will be held on **27th February** at 7:30 pm at Abingdon Baptist Church. All are welcome to come along and hear about the work of the CiA.

### **A prayer for Holocaust Memorial Day**

*The Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference, shares a prayer for Holocaust Memorial Day, marked on Monday 27 January.*

Loving God, holy and immortal,  
on this Holocaust Memorial Day forgive us whenever we are slow to  
acknowledge rising hatred against the other and fail to act to protect the  
vulnerable, leading to catastrophe.

Loving God, holy and immortal  
may we always remember and mourn the six million Jewish children, women and  
men, murdered at Auschwitz- Birkenau, Treblinka, Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor,  
Majdanek, Babyn Yar and in so many other places.

Loving God, holy and immortal  
may we never forget all those murdered by the Nazi regime,  
those with disabilities, gay women and men, communists and other political  
opponents, Roma and Sinti people, Jehovah's Witnesses.

Loving God, holy and immortal,  
on this day we remember and mourn those killed in genocides  
across the globe, Darfur, Rwanda, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Cambodia.  
We pray for peace and an end to all war and violence, help us to see one another  
as you see us, all your children, precious and beloved.  
Amen

The Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church, The United  
Reformed Church have released a statement on the announcement of a *ceasefire  
agreement between Israel and Hamas* – read the full text at  
[https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/statement-on-the-announcement-of-a-  
ceasefire-agreement-between-israel-and-hamas](https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/news/statement-on-the-announcement-of-a-ceasefire-agreement-between-israel-and-hamas)

# TRINITY JAM GROUP

As you know, JAM is our children's group which has supported our young people for many years, but it is going to have to make some changes. After many years of devoted service to our children's group Lindsay and Eve have notified us that they will be stepping down at Easter. We give great thanks to God for their ministry over a long period of time with the children at Trinity.

Children's ministry is an important part of the life of the church and belongs to the **whole** church. We therefore ask you all to pray about our children's ministry here at Trinity, and to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to be involved in this important life-giving aspect of ministry.

As you pray and reflect, we invite you to consider the words and actions of Jesus who placed the child at the centre saying,

*"whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."*

## **MISSION STATEMENT FOR JAM (Jesus and Me group)**

- **WHY we do this**

Recognising children live in a complex world, JAM seeks to provide a safe, welcoming, and prayerful space, where children's confidence in Jesus Christ is nurtured and developed.

- **HOW we do this**

We do this by sharing stories from the bible, by listening carefully to one another, by providing appropriate materials and activities to help each child explore their faith and by providing access to holy communion which all children may receive (subject to their parent's permission).

- **WHAT is the outcome**

Together, our relationships with God, and with each other are strengthened, making us more confident and caring disciples.

## **ROLE DESCRIPTIONS**

**ALL ROLES WILL REQUIRE AN UP-TO-DATE DBS;  
SAFEGUARDING AND EDI TRAINING IS MANDATORY**

**MINIMUM MEETING SCHEDULE 3 PER YEAR**

## **JAM PATTERN**

ALL AGE SERVICE 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

JAM IS CURRENTLY HELD ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY

**No provision on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays**

### **JAM CO ORDINATOR (THIS ROLE DOES NOT NECESSARILY INCLUDE LEADING THE GROUPS)**

- To take the lead in any safeguarding matters that arise and liaise with the Minister in Pastoral charge and the church safeguarding officer
- To pray for our children and their families
- To convene termly JAM meetings
- To plan and send out a simple termly rota
- To liaise with parents by phone, email, WhatsApp or text about upcoming events, including reminders of when JAM and All Age Services take place.
- To oversee any problems that may arise with leaders/ children
- To support and share the responsibility with the leader/s in seeking out appropriate resources
- To ensure that permission and medical forms are filled in and kept up to date and securely held.

### **JAM LEADER**

- To be mindful of our commitment to safeguarding children
- To pray for our children and their families
- To keep a register of attendees
- To meet termly with the Co Ordinator and Support member/s to discuss plan for term
- To provide appropriate materials for children which will encourage and foster their faith
- To lead JAM sessions
- To liaise with parents/ carers on a Sunday

### **JAM SUPPORT ROLE**

- To be mindful of our commitment to safeguarding children
- To pray for our children and their families
- To meet termly with the Co-Ordinator and Leaders
- To support the leader/s in delivering the sessions
- To help set up and tidy up
- To support the children in their activities
- To keep the resources in the welcome area for our younger visitors tidy, inviting and safe.

**YOU WILL NOT BE WORKING ON YOUR OWN; YOU WILL BE WELL SUPPORTED**

**\*\*\*\*JAM has traditionally prepared the flowers for Mothering Sunday and distributed to those attending church\*\*\*\***