

All Saints Methodist Church

Appleford Drive

Abingdon

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

Registered Charity Number 1184115



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NOTICES 9 January 2022

Future Services:

Sunday 9 January: 10:30am Morning Worship led by Revd John Anderson

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

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*

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 pp 3 & 4. 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

Church Council: the next Church Council meeting is on **Thursday 13 January**, 7:30pm in the Church.

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against him be immediately withdrawn.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

Wednesday 12 January, Just Women: 7.30pm, to discuss circuit sustainability via zoom. All women welcome.

Friday, 21 January at 7.30 pm Men's Night: The men's group will meet in the hall for supper and an illustrated talk by Chris Caddy on the hymn composer J B Dykes. The cook will be Paul Williams so, to give him time to seek culinary inspiration, please let him know as soon as possible whether or not you plan to attend.

We need to see whether a face to face meeting is going to be numerically viable so please contact Paul at williamspaul819@gmail.com, by 'phone 01235 524654 or just tell him when you see him at church.

Christian Aid New Year Walk 2022, 1st – 31st January: The Christian Aid New Year Sponsored Walk for 2022 is following the pattern used in 2021. Your support for this event is, as ever, very much appreciated and in 2022 your help is needed as much as ever. The impact of Covid-19 on the poorest countries in the world is only now fully emerging and it only makes their situation even more in need of our help. 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>

You may choose when and with whom you complete your walk; either on one day or spread across as many days as you wish in January. As you carry out your walk(s), you are asked to take great care to stay safe, both when crossing roads and by following the health guidelines in force in Abingdon at the time you are out walking. For more information please contact Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com

Monday 17 January TrinityLearning AGM via Zoom at 6pm. We are inviting all our supporters, volunteers and stakeholders to come along, ask any questions they may have and find out more about TrinityLearning's work in local schools. 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/3dTmk13>

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. These houses will generate more energy than they use! Is this the building technique of the future, or is it too good to be true? Come and find out and quiz the man himself. Please contact carbon.cutters@gmail.com for the Zoom link details.

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?