**Statement to be read out in all Churches on Sunday 19 January 2025**

The Circuit Leadership Team have asked that the following announcement be read out at the beginning of each service today.

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.