



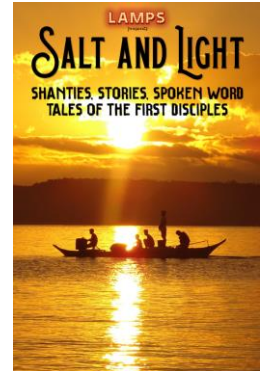
## CiA News – October 2024

This news sheet is available on the CiA website at [www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk](http://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk). Please take a look.

### WHAT'S COMING UP

#### **LAMPS production 'Salt and Light', Peachcroft Christian Centre, OX14 2RT, 3 October 2024, 7.30 pm**

LAMPS Collective invite us to Lake Galilee, AD 30, and in the little fishing community of Capernaum, rumours of miracles and healings abound. Five members of one family struggle to make sense of the radical new teacher walking their shores. Who is this man? What is he? And what might it mean for them and their lives? Join us around the campfire for shanties, stories and spoken word – the tales of the first disciples. *Suitable for age 10 and upwards.*



To book, go to: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/RdiEJKhzXNnT>

#### **Charity concert**

A concert 'Sounding the Sacred Space' will take place at St Helen's Church on 5 October 2024 at 7.30 pm. Tickets on the door £12. Free for under 18s. Refreshments available. Proceeds for Helen and Douglas House and St Helens.

#### **Faith Forum**

This continues on Sunday 6 October in St Helen's Parish Centre with a light buffet lunch at 12.30 pm followed by a talk at 12.45 pm. The autumn series will look at different ways of engaging with scripture. Those unable to attend in person will be able to join via Zoom. The next talk is on 1 December. A recording of the talk on 1 September, Understanding the Bible, written by John Barton and read by Jen Brown, is now available at [https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P\\_faith\\_forum.html](https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_faith_forum.html).

#### **Michaelmas Fair Service**

This year the fair service will be taking part on Sunday 6 October at 3 pm, then the fair will open on the Sunday at 4 pm until 9 pm. The service will be led by Deacon Selina Nisbett.

#### **Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network Group**

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting is held on Zoom and the link for joining the meeting is available from the convenor, Cliff Marshall, at [cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk](mailto:cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk).

The Abingdon PCN Group is holding an open event on 8 October 2024, 7.30 pm, at All Saints Methodist Church, when Revd Dave Tomlinson will be speaking about his new book: *OMG! A Bad Christian's Book of Prayers*. This is an open meeting and all are welcome. Contact Cliff Marshall for more details at [cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk](mailto:cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk).

Before retirement, Dave was vicar of St Luke's in N. London Parish Church North London and he now provides a weekly 'Holy Shed' podcast. In his latest book, for those he celebrates as 'bad Christians', Dave explores the idea that prayer is not so much a religious activity as a universal human instinct, something we all do, one way or another, whether we realise it or not. As he says, it isn't necessary to believe in God to pray.

#### **St Helen's Church – Taize Prayer**

You are welcome to join us at St Helen's Church for Taize Prayer - usually on the second Sunday in the month at 5.30 pm: 13 October, 8 December. About 45 minutes of prayers, readings, singing and silence.

### **Lunchtime music hour at Abingdon Baptist Church**

Abingdon Baptist Church invite you to a free hour of music on Monday 14 October 2024 from 12.30 to 1.30 pm in the church. This month we welcome Old Gold who bring us music from the 60s onwards, music to sing along to and tap your feet. Why not buy your light lunch from our Cafe@35 to eat while you listen, or bring your own. Next month we welcome Gill Carpin on piano and organ.



### **Alpha courses**

Two Alpha courses are running on Wednesday evenings from end of September until the first week of December at St Edmunds Roman Catholic Church and at Christ Church, Abingdon.

Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Alpha is free of charge, and we begin every evening with a wonderful two-course dinner. We then hear a short talk before breaking into groups for a discussion time over tea and coffee. For more information about Alpha at St Edmunds or Christ Church, please feel free to get in touch with Andrew Gilmour ([andrew.gilmour@cca.uk.net](mailto:andrew.gilmour@cca.uk.net)).

### **Agnostics Anonymous**

The next meeting of this open discussion group will take place in the Abingdon Parish Centre (entrance opposite St Helen's Church in West St Helen Street) on Tuesday 15 October 2024 from 6 pm to 7.30 pm. Keith Ward will give the introductory talk on 'Do Christians believe in three gods'? John Barton and John Kerr will be there to take questions and join in the discussion. Free and all are welcome. For more information, please contact Jill Gant on 01235 528929.

### **The Revd Dr Charles Miller final service**

The Revd Dr Charles Miller will preside and preach at his final service as Vicar of St Helen's Church & Team Rector of Abingdon-on-Thames on All Saints' Sunday, 3 November 2024 in St Helen's Church at 3 pm. All welcome.

### **St Michael & All Angels' Church Christmas fair**

Please join us for our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 9 November 2024 from 10 am until 2 pm. There will be an exciting range of craft and gift stalls plus a raffle with generous prizes. Cakes, bottles, books, plants and bric-a-brac will be on sale and there will be live music and activities for children. Free parking and refreshments available including our favourite bacon butties. All welcome. Proceeds to church funds and local charity Flexicare (Oxford & Abingdon). Event generously sponsored by Breckon & Breckon.

### **Service of Loss**

This will be taking place at Christ Church on Sunday 1 December 2024 at 1 pm. All welcome. There will be no CiA Annual Bereavement Service.

### **CiA - Christmas Carol Singing**

Due to popular demand, this will be taking place again this year on Saturday 14 December 2024 at 10 am in Abingdon Market Place. Hope to see you all there with your best voices and all musicians welcome. Sally Mears will be leading us all again in song. For further information, please contact the CiA Administrator on 07896 860381.

### **CiA - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Watch this space for updates on the various events during the week of prayer for Christian Unity 18- 15 January 2025: United Service, Midday Prayers (St Nics), Inter-church quiz (Friday 24 Jan 2025, Abingdon Baptist Church).

## **CiA - World Day of Prayer**

This will be taking place on Friday 7 March 2025 at 2.30 pm at St Helen's Church. Please put the date in your diary. This year the service is prepared by the women of The Cook Islands.

## **Abingdon Food Bank**

Abingdon Food Bank needs your support more than ever now, with the increasing cost of living adversely affecting those already struggling to make ends meet. A typical food parcel might contain: cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk, fruit juice. Also toiletries, nappies and household cleaning items. Food can be taken to either Preston Road Food Bank or Christ Church Food Bank. Some supermarkets also have collection baskets. Financial donations are also welcome.

## **Abingdon Community Fridge**

Abingdon Community Fridge exists to prevent food waste and is open to everyone. It collects surplus food from local businesses and distributes to the community. Help to stop excess food being thrown out by coming to Hadland Road Community Centre, Abingdon OX14 3YH:

Mondays: 4 - 4.30 pm

Thursdays: 1 - 2 pm

Saturdays: 10.30 - 11.30 am

The Community Fridge is in need of funding to continue its work (hire of hall, insurance, food safety training for volunteers, etc.). To donate, go to <https://chuffed.org/project/abingdon-community-fridge> or contact [margaretdhancox@gmail.com](mailto:margaretdhancox@gmail.com). For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/abingdoncommunityfridge](http://www.facebook.com/abingdoncommunityfridge).

## **Abingdon's International Welcome Café – Fridays, 1 – 2.30 pm, The Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road, OX14 1PL**

This café was set up in response to the Homes for Ukraine scheme and to provide wider support of refugees through a collaborative partnership of Christ Church and Host Abingdon, the main partners, as well as many other churches in Abingdon as well as local groups and organisations, including the Food Bank. The café offers friendship, support, refreshments, toys and help with English run by a qualified TEFL teacher. For further information, please contact [hello@hostabingdon.org](mailto:hello@hostabingdon.org).

## **Archway**

The Archway Foundation, a locally founded registered charity 'serving those hurt by loneliness', offers a pathway of support including individual support via telephone or face-to-face, and small supportive social groups. By volunteering for an hour a fortnight as an Individual Support or once a month as a small group volunteer, or as a volunteer driver, you can make a huge difference to someone's week. We are especially keen to find volunteers



to support our monthly Abingdon group. Excellent training and support is given and any travel expenses reimbursed. If you think you could help, please get in touch. An application form can be found at [www.archwayfoundation.org.uk](http://www.archwayfoundation.org.uk), or a hard copy is available by calling

01865 790552.

## **Christian cards and books**

Cards covering all events, birthdays, anniversaries, get well, thinking of you, etc., which are regularly topped up, are available for purchase from 35 Ock Street, Abingdon Baptist Church. There is also a range of books for sale, regularly updated; books can also be ordered. Do come along and see what we have. Our stock is sourced from St Andrew's Christian Bookshop whose nearest outlet is Witney since they closed their shop in Oxford.

### **Moving into Stillness: Taizé circle dancing and stillness**

Circle dancing takes place on the first Thursday of the month 9.45 - 10.45 am at St Michael and All Angels Church, before the regular circle dancing session, which is held on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 11 am to 12 noon. Contact Sue Sheppy ([susan.sheppy@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.sheppy@btinternet.com)) for further information.

### **Silent Reflections**

This will be held on the last Tuesday of every month (except for December) at St Michael and All Angels Church from 7.30 to 8.30 pm. Material will be available to support your prayer in the quiet of the sanctuary, and the opportunity is always available to walk the labyrinth. We begin in the church room, so please enter through the door on the south side of the church. If you park in Park Road or Crescent, come in to get a parking permit, otherwise the parking is free in the surrounding streets.

### **Upcoming free eco events**

See [www.oneplanetabingdon.org](http://www.oneplanetabingdon.org) for full details

## **Volunteering Opportunities**

Are you looking to give a few hours of help? If so, here are some ways of volunteering for local community groups.

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### **Abingdon Baptist Church, 35 Ock Street**



**Looking for something new? Like meeting people? Have you considered volunteering?**

Research shows that being a volunteer has lots of benefits. It can bring meaning and purpose to your life, while increasing your self-esteem and wellbeing. Volunteering can also relieve stress, and alleviate symptoms of depression, as well as having a positive impact on your community.

35 Ock Street and Café is a hugely valuable and important resource for the church in its mission to the community. Our team is made up of volunteers who have a passion for serving our community.

**We are looking for new people to join our friendly team as our volunteer numbers have dropped due to changes in circumstances.**



If you think you could take on a **catering role** or **reception duties** and you want to learn more, why not drop us an email at [office@35ockst.org.uk](mailto:office@35ockst.org.uk). We'd love to hear from you! Give as much time as you feel able - once a week, once a fortnight or even once a month. Training is given.

Current opening times: Monday – Thursday 10.30 am - 2.00 pm with light tasty lunches served between 12.00 pm and 1.30 pm; Fridays and Saturdays 10.30 am – 12.30 pm with refreshments only but, as a special, bacon baps are available.

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### **The Abingdon Bridge**



The Abingdon Bridge is a well-regarded registered Abingdon charity supported by both the National Lottery Community Fund and the BBC's Children in Need Fund, as well as funding from the CiA. TAB provides support to young people (aged 13-25 years) to enable them to have the resilience to help overcome life's challenges (<https://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk>). TAB has a bank of volunteers that perform a vital role, often doing a slot once a week or fortnight or monthly. If

you are interested or would like further information, please contact Sandy Kruger at [sandy@theabingdonbridge.org.uk](mailto:sandy@theabingdonbridge.org.uk). Volunteers will be DBS checked.

TAB are looking for the following personnel:

- Trustees to join the board
- Volunteer data manager

**Trustees:** We are keen to diversify the current Board as we celebrate over 30 years of providing support to the young people of Abingdon, the Vale and South Oxfordshire District Council areas. It is an exciting time to be joining TAB as a Trustee to help us shape our future to ensure that we can continue to provide support for those that need us.

Previous board experience is not necessary, and we welcome applications from all ages aged 18 and over and from all backgrounds, including:

- Finance
- Education
- Health & safety
- Safeguarding
- Fundraising
- Law

Please be in touch if you are:

- A person who would like to learn how a charity is run.
- A person who has a passion to make a difference to the lives of young people and their future.

For further information, please contact Luke Mattam, Chair at [Luke@theabingdonbridge.org.uk](mailto:Luke@theabingdonbridge.org.uk)

**Volunteer Data Manager:** to work alongside our current data manager with a view to taking over the role towards the end of 2025. We are looking for someone with: an IT background, an analytical mind, good with Excel, committed to helping TAB in their support of young people. Other personal qualities needed: integrity, team worker, discretion, curious, some leadership skills, approachable and available, can meet deadlines.

The volunteer could expect to spend about 12 hours preparing the data for the TAB quarterly meeting; answering occasional e-mails from staff; meeting with the CEO monthly; plus attending occasional staff meetings.

If you are interested in this role please e-mail Gill Dean at [gill@theabingdonbridge.org.uk](mailto:gill@theabingdonbridge.org.uk).

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### **Abingdon Street Pastors – helping to make the community a safe place**

Street Pastors is a worldwide network of Christian volunteers from local churches who have concern for the community and provide help as needed in neutral and reassuring ways at the point of need. Abingdon Street Pastors has been part of the night-time economy in the town centre on Saturday nights since 2011, going out from about 10 pm till everyone is safely on their way home. We work in close collaboration with the police, the local council and other local groups and bodies. We would love to have more volunteers working with us – either as Street Pastors out on the street or as Prayer Pastors who stay and pray at our base during a shift. If you feel that this is something close to your heart and would like to give it a try, please contact the Coordinator Debra Mcknight at [abingdon@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:abingdon@streetpastors.org.uk).

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### **Christian Forum**

This Christian witness continues to be published monthly in the Abingdon Round & About magazine, distributed around Abingdon residents. If you would like to submit an article (300 words max) on any subject with a Christian message, please send to the CiA Administrator at [debra.mcknight@aol.com](mailto:debra.mcknight@aol.com).



## Church Twinning

Our committee would welcome new members from any of the interdenominational churches of the Church in Abingdon. Committee members enjoy meeting Christians from other countries as well as discussing ecumenism. We plan visits to Abingdon from a twin town annually, as well as arrange and take part in these visits. We also organize an away visit to a twin town each year. The twin towns are Argentan and Colmar (France), Lucca (Italy), Sint Niklaas (Belgium) and Schongau (Germany). There are only four committee meetings a year, plus an informal planning meeting for any visit here. If you are interested in this outreach, contact Eileen Bontempelli on 01235 526331 or at [epkbontempelli@gmail.com](mailto:epkbontempelli@gmail.com).

To read more about the twinning visits, see the reports posted on the CiA website under 'CiA-supported task groups: additional information' (<https://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk/>).

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## LAMPS Collective

LAMPS is a collective of Christian artists that produce fabulous live theatre and creative resources for the church ([www.lampscollective.com](http://www.lampscollective.com)). We are based in Abingdon and are thankful for the support of many local churches. Our aim is to create work that will inspire, challenge, entertain and provoke thought about the nature of God, life and the universe. LAMPS is an acronym which stands for Love, Action, Music, Poetry and Stories – all things close to our hearts! If you appreciate the Christian arts and have some time available we'd love to have you join our volunteer team. There are many ways to help, ranging from sharing skills like marketing, admin, IT, front of house, to helping steer the charity by sitting on our Board of Trustees. To find out more, contact Sam Pullen-Campbell on [pullencampbells@outlook.com](mailto:pullencampbells@outlook.com).

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## The Sanctuary

'The Sanctuary' is a weekly community day at the Salvation Army which is open to all every Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm. 'The Sanctuary' will be a place where anyone can come for support and friendship, and there will be activities for all to share– crafts, puzzles, gardening to name a few. If you would like to be involved in some way, please contact Alexandra Devine on 01235 523568.

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## Trinity Learning



TrinityLearning is a tiny, church-funded Abingdon charity that aims to improve wellbeing in Abingdon's school communities. TrinityLearning works with volunteers from across Abingdon's church communities providing a wide range of volunteering opportunities.

**Thinking Books:** Could you spare an afternoon per week to work with children to improve their understanding of others' emotions? Thinking Books is Trinity Learning's volunteer mentoring project. Trained volunteers meet children weekly in school for 10 sessions to discuss character's emotions using carefully chosen books. We are now recruiting for volunteers to start the project this September. TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks as well as providing ongoing support and training throughout the project.

**Gardening:** Are you a keen gardener? Could you spare an hour or so a week (term time only) throughout the year to help maintain a TrinityLearning school Peace garden?

Please email Nicola [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) if you would like to know more about these or any of our volunteer opportunities.

**NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHURCHES:** Please check church websites for up-to-date info

**Abingdon Baptist Church** [www.abingdonbaptist.org.uk](http://www.abingdonbaptist.org.uk)

**Abingdon Community Church** <https://abingdoncc.org.uk> / [www.facebook.com/groups/AbingdonCC/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/AbingdonCC/)

**Abingdon Vineyard Church** [www.abingdonvineyard.org.uk](http://www.abingdonvineyard.org.uk)

**All Saints Methodist Church** [www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk)

**Christ Church** [www.cca.uk.net/](http://www.cca.uk.net/) and [www.longfurlongchurch.org.uk](http://www.longfurlongchurch.org.uk)

**RCCG Light House Abingdon** [www.rccglighthouseabingdon.org](http://www.rccglighthouseabingdon.org)

**Peachcroft Christian Centre** [www.peachcroftcc.org/](http://www.peachcroftcc.org/)

**Quakers** [www.abingdonquakers.org/](http://www.abingdonquakers.org/)

**Salvation Army** [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/abingdon](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/abingdon)

**Our Lady and St Edmund Roman Catholic Church** [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/)

**St Helen's, St Michael's, St Nicolas'** <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH>  
<https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM> <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StN>

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

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The CiA News is circulated by the Church in Abingdon to member churches within Abingdon to promote church activities and groups, news and any other information that may be of interest to CiA news readers. If you would like to submit news or receive the news by email, please contact the CiA Administrator ([dhmcknight@aol.com](mailto:dhmcknight@aol.com)). The deadline for publication is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to publication. For more information about the Church in Abingdon, go to [www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk](http://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk).