



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer service took place on Friday 6 March 2026 at St Edmund's Church. The service was prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria and the theme was 'I will give you rest, come' from Matthew 11:28 – 30. Around 100 people attended the service.

Several people who attended asked me to pass on their thanks for the lovely service. They all felt it was one of the best, and thought how nice it was to have such a full church!

Thanks to everyone involved in making the service such a success and to St Edmund's for hosting.



WHAT'S COMING UP

Good Friday Procession of Witness and Open Air Service

This will take place on Friday 3 April 2026: the procession will leave from Abingdon Library at 11.45 am through the precinct to Abingdon Market Place for a service at 12 noon. We will be accompanied by the Salvation Army band and the Revd Carol Hamilton-Foyn will lead the service. All welcome.

Back to 35

Abingdon Baptist Church invites all to join us on the first and third Thursdays of the month with an opportunity to get to know each other with talks, interest groups and much more:

- 2 April – A quiz and Hot Cross buns
- 16 April – Board games

Doors open at 10 am and the activity is from 10.30 to 11.30 am. Tea, coffee and home-made cake available. Entry £1.

Lunchtime music hour at Abingdon Baptist Church

Abingdon Baptist Church welcomes you to spend an hour relaxing to live music from local musicians and singers on the second Monday of each month in the church sanctuary from 12.30 to 1.30 pm. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee are available. Open to all. Free admission. Limited parking.



- 13 April - Paul Herrington entertains. Donations to Archway welcome.
- 11 May – Old Gold with music from the 50s onwards.

If you are a musician and would like to give an hour freely to entertain us, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Pam Pratt on pampratt@btinternet.com or ring 01235 526344 for more details.

World Labyrinth Day

St Michael and All Angels' Church, Park Road, Abingdon OX14 1DS will be open from 12 noon to 2.30 pm on Saturday 2 May 2026 for people to walk and pray the Labyrinth. In particular, we hope to have a good number of participants at 1 pm to join in the worldwide 'Walk as One at 1', when people from around the world walk at 1 pm local time. If you would like to bring a packed lunch, you would be welcome to join us to eat your lunch in the church room where hot drinks will be available. If you prefer to walk when it is quieter, feel free to do that either side of the 1 pm focus. All are welcome.

Christian Aid Market Place Sale



The annual Christian Aid Market Place sale in Abingdon will take place on Saturday 9 May 2026, 9 am to 12 noon. There will be stalls selling plants, cakes, preserves, books, CDs and DVDs. We need volunteers to help run the sale, and items to sell - plants, cakes, books, etc.

Plants: Gardeners, please can you save some garden plants in a saleable condition – either bedding plants, perennials or vegetable seedlings, and houseplants? Please label these and bring them to Abingdon Baptist Church (ABC) before 9 May or to the Market Place on the day.

Preserves and cakes: Cooks, we'd appreciate lots of home-made cakes and preserves for sale. Remember to put a list of allergens with the cake and bring them down to ABC before 9 May or to the Market Place on the day.

Books, CDs and vinyl records: Please look out any items you no longer want that are in a saleable condition and you think would sell well.

Volunteer helpers: If you can spare an hour or two to help staff a stall, please contact Christine Hutt or Doug Bradshaw at ABC (01235 530080).



Right now, the world is experiencing a distressing surge in hunger. With your help, we're playing our part to raise much needed funds to push back against the inhumanity of poverty. We have created an e-envelope for financial donations at:

<https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/fundraiser-2026/christines-fundraising-page?campaignkw=btn-your-page& linkgroups=Button>

Thank you for all you do, for your support, your prayers and for your giving. As always: Give – Act – Pray!

**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**
CONCERT



Wantage Academy Brass



CARITAS Children's Choir



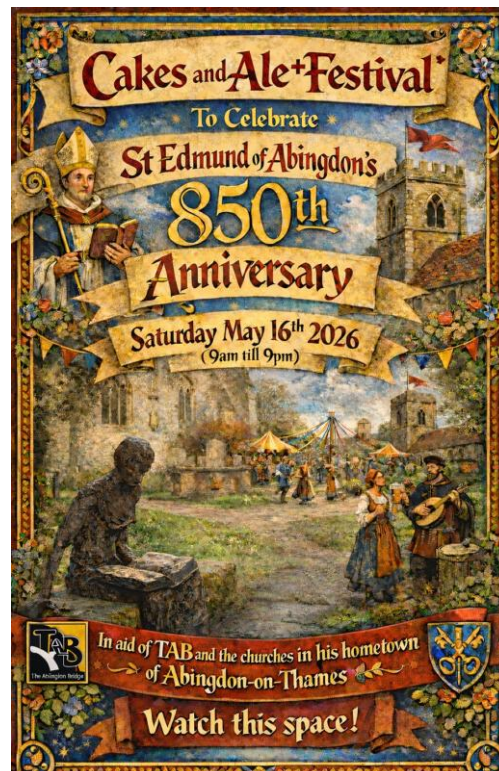
Wantage Youth Band

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
PARK ROAD ABINGDON OX14 1DS
SATURDAY 9 MAY 2026 at 6 pm

ADULT TICKETS £12, CONCESSIONS £10, 16 & UNDER FREE
Available from: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FYLI> or at the door
Refreshments available

RAISING FUNDS FOR THE ABINGDON BRIDGE, THE CHURCH AND
TARIRO – HOPE FOR YOUTH IN ZIMBABWE





See the attached file with this CiA News for a full programme of the Cakes & Ale Festival.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 26 May 2026, 6 – 7.30 pm, at St Helen’s Church. Further details of meeting to follow.

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:

Saturdays: 10.30 - 11.30 am

A comforting space for conversation, along with cake, tea, coffee, or soft drinks, at St Ethelwold's House, East St Helen Street, Abingdon, OX14 5EB. The Café takes place monthly on the first Saturday of the month, from 2 pm to 4 pm. All welcome.

International Welcome is a free and friendly language class for people of all nationalities who want to improve their English. Those who attend are helped by a qualified English teacher and local English-speaking volunteers. It is a collaborative partnership of Host Abingdon (a support group for refugees and asylum seekers) and Christ Church, along with other local groups and organisations. The sessions offer friendship, refreshments, local information and support. For further information, visit the International Welcome web page at hostabingdon.org/english-class or contact iw@hostabingdon.org.



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, or once a month as a small group volunteer, or as a volunteer driver, you can make a huge difference in someone's week. We are especially keen to find volunteers to support our monthly Abingdon Open Day. Training and support is given and any travel expenses reimbursed. If you think you could help, an application form can be found at www.archwayfoundation.org.uk, or a hard copy is available by calling 01865 790552.

The Community Hub, formerly Cafe@35, is open for tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits on Monday - Saturday 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. We offer a warm welcome with space to meet with friends. We close at 12.30 pm on Thursday 2 April and re-open on Tuesday 7 April.

Cards covering all events, including birthdays, anniversaries, get well, thinking of you, are available for purchase from 35 Ock Street, Abingdon Baptist Church, as well as Easter cards. There is also a range of books for sale; 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. We are open when the Community Hub is open: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm Monday - Saturday.

Foodbank

Do download our BanktheFood app to see quickly and easily what items Abingdon Foodbank needs, but we always need tinned meat, squash, UHT milk, custard and rice pudding, washing up liquid and surface spray. Thank you for continuing support: we wouldn't manage without it.



For more information about Abingdon Foodbank – the history of the Foodbank and how it operates, location and opening times, food needed, where you can donate food, other ways you can help, real stories, how to download the Foodbank app – go to <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/>.

Hilarious Religious shows for Children

LolBear is a touring company that puts on Professional Christian Productions; our family shows are hugely interactive. We are already booking our Religious Easter, Summer and Autumn dates. We bring the full theatre set-up to your church, so no travel needed. For further information, please contact Areli at arelibecerril428@gmail.com. They also offer drama lessons for nursery and primary schools.

HOST ABINGDON - Be part of a positive response to local refugees and asylum seekers

The Host Abingdon team offers a warm welcome and practical help. Volunteers are needed to join our small team in providing organisation and support, as well as working directly with the women and families we help. You would play a part in welcoming, accessing services, helping people connect with ESOL teaching and community groups, and supporting people in moving on when they get good news of leave to remain.

Are you practical and well organised as well as friendly and open-hearted? Personal qualities and life experience matter more than qualifications... and we will give you induction training and on-going support. Please contact us to find out more by emailing hello@hostabingdon.org.

Moving into Stillness: Taizé circle dancing and stillness

Circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes 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. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided. Contact Sue Sheppy (susan.sheppy@btinternet.com) for further information.

NB: In April, Moving into Stillness will be held on 9 April with the second regular circle dancing session being held on 23 April.

New Horizons group for the over 50s

This takes place every Wednesday at the Salvation Army base at 12 West St Helen Street, Abingdon. Coffee and chat from 10.30 am with a meal at 12 noon – please let us know a week ahead if you want a meal on oxford@salvationarmy.org.uk.

The meal is followed by an activity: a 'sing by heart' – a dementia friendly session – once a month, and a craft activity monthly.

Open Doors initiative

Open Doors runs most Mondays (except Bank Holidays) from 11 am until 2 pm at St Edmund's Parish Centre.

We welcome anyone who is on their own or would just like some company to join us for a chat and lunch or just pop in for a tea/coffee.

Open Doors sessions are informal and you are welcome to come along for all or part of the session. Lunch (a home-cooked main meal and dessert) is served around 12.15. There are usually about 20 guests at each session. Hope you can join us.

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.

Stepping Stones Bereavement Group

A new cohort of this group started on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 10.30 am in The Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road. This group is for people who have been bereaved in the past 12 months or so, all ages, all faiths or none. It will meet for nine sessions on the second Tuesday of each month with a break in August. The leaders are all volunteers - not counsellors - but all bring different experiences. If people would like to attend, or would like further info, please contact Sue Quantick (Sue.quantick@cca.uk.net) so she can plan ahead.

Vacancy for a Part-time Trust Chaplain, The Ewelme Almshouse Charity

The Ewelme Almshouse Charity is seeking a part-time Trust Chaplain (8 hours per week – flexible – stipend) to provide pastoral care and spiritual guidance to its residents, and to proffer spiritual counsel to Trustees and staff across the breadth of the Charity's operations. We are looking for a people-person, someone who is compassionate, and attuned to the particular needs of older people. The ability to drive is essential as we have almshouses in Ewelme, Oxfordshire and Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire.

The successful applicant will:

- Be licensed or otherwise authorised within the CofE, or hold an equivalent office and be in good standing within a denomination recognised by Churches Together in England.
- Be sensitive to the faith needs of a community, with experience of ministering to a community within or outside the Church of England;
- Be mindful of the challenges older people may face;
- Through spirituality and prayer promote the caring tradition of the Charity;
- Have a clean driving licence, own a car, and be willing to travel between our almshouse locations.

The closing date is Friday 10 April 2026. For an Information Pack containing further details of the role and how to apply, please contact the Trust Manager at trustmanager@ewelmealms Houses.org. For further details of Ewelme Almshouse Charity, please visit: www.ewelmealms Houses.org.

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

Abingdon Baptist Church www.abingdonbaptist.org.uk

Abingdon Community Church <https://abingdoncc.org.uk> / www.facebook.com/groups/AbingdonCC/

Abingdon Vineyard Church www.abingdonvineyard.org.uk

All Saints Methodist Church www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk

Christ Church www.cca.uk.net/ and www.longfurlongchurch.org.uk

RCCG Light House Abingdon www.rccglighthouseabingdon.org

Peachcroft Christian Centre www.peachcroftcc.org/

Quakers www.abingdonquakers.org/

Salvation Army www.salvationarmy.org.uk/abingdon

Our Lady and St Edmund Roman Catholic Church 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

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. The deadline for publication is the 15th of the month previous to publication. For more information about the Church in Abingdon, go to www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk.