



CiA News – May 2024

This news sheet is available on the CiA website at www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk. Please take a look.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

TrinityLearning – Easter Experience



In March this year, TrinityLearning (Reg. Charity 1182742) ran one of their largest ever Experience Easter projects with over 500 children from nine different schools taking part online or joining us in Trinity Church.

Experience Easter runs every year in the form of a series of six workshops that share the Easter story and provide opportunities for children to reflect and relate the story to their own experiences. In response to feedback received from our school communities, we run the event as both a 'live' one where children visit us in Trinity Church as well as online, delivered via our website.

Many volunteers from local churches were involved in all aspects of Experience Easter from bead threading and plasticine rolling for each child's small activity pack through to storytelling and supporting the visiting school groups.

We received some great feedback from teaching staff who attended the live Experience Easter:



I felt it went very well. The layout and the structure of the session kept the children engaged and entertained. Having something physical to do in each area helped to retain the information they were given. Thank you.

Very calm, well organised, peaceful. The activities were thought provoking. Age appropriate.

The retelling of the Easter story in order as a journey was very good. Lovely, simple activities.

Children were engaged throughout and enjoyed the activities. Helped them to remember the story in order.



Two local church ministry teams also came to observe sessions as they work towards setting up Experience Easter in the Didcot and Wallingford areas:

Thank you so much for accommodating us... It really was wonderful to observe the tremendous impact the session had on the children. It was very well done indeed.

Churches in Abingdon (CiA) provide grant funding to support Experience Easter each year. For more information about the work of TrinityLearning, and a call for volunteers for various projects, please see the website (<https://trinitylearning.org.uk>),

WHAT'S COMING UP

Back to 35

A meeting for over 50s with coffee, tea, cake (£1) and good fellowship on the first and third Thursday of the month at Abingdon Baptist Church Hall, 10.30 – 11.30 am:

- ❖ 2 May 2024 – Organ and piano recital with Gill Carpin
- ❖ 16 May – Beetle drive
- ❖ 6 June – Games morning
- ❖ 20 June -Musical quiz with Monica
- ❖ 4 July – Scamming with Mandy Massam AgeUK
- ❖ 18 July – Quiz and cream tea

For more information, please call 01235 533373.

World Labyrinth Day

St Michael's Church will be open on Saturday 4 May 2024, 12.30 – 2.30 pm, 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'. This will be followed by prayers and a simple bread and cheese lunch. All welcome.

TAB Charity night

TAB are holding a charity night on Saturday 4 May 2024, 7 – 11 pm, at the Loose Cannon Brewery (Unit 6, Suffolk Way, Abingdon, OX14 5JX). There will be music from The Bob Cutting Big Band and food from the Fat Tabby Catering Company. Free entry. Hope to see you there. Should be a great night.

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.

Christian Aid Week 12 – 18 May 2024

The annual Market Place Sale will take place on Saturday 11 May 2024, 9 am – 12 noon, with stalls selling plants, cakes/preserves, books, CDs/DVDs, etc. There will also be a street collection. Volunteers are needed to help run the stalls/collect money. Items for the stalls are also needed – any plants and cakes should be labelled (the latter with a list of allergens). Please bring these items to ABC before 11 May, or on the day, as needed. People will also be able to donate via an e envelope. For more information, please contact Christine Hutt (christinehutt7@gmail.co) or Doug Bradshaw (bradshaw.doug@gmail.com) at ABC.

John Rutter Singing Day

The Oxford Bach Choir have been trying to organise this special day for three years. It will take place on Saturday 11 May 2024, 11 am – 5 pm, at St Edward's School, Olivier Hall, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 7NN (registration from 10 am). Singers from far and wide are invited. For further information on the day, and to book tickets, please see the website www.oxfordbachchoir.org.

Lunchtime music hour at Abingdon Baptist Church

Abingdon Baptist Church invite you to their monthly lunchtime music hour on Monday 13 May 2024 when we welcome back the Eynsham Trio with a selection of Palm Court-type music (i.e. light classical). Buy your lunch in Cafe@35 or bring your own to eat as you listen. We start at 12.30 pm.

On 10 June, we welcome back Paul Herrington playing a variety of styles on organ, piano and keyboard.



Christians and Muslims in a fractured world

You are invited to this talk and discussion organised by the Friends of St Helen's Church and led by Dr Richard McCallum, Director of the Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies in Oxford, on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at St Nicolas' Church, Abingdon, OX14 3HG, at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

Local Houses of Prayer Training Day

Would you love God to use you more in prayer and mission right where you are? Come and join us on Saturday 1 June 2024, 10 am – 4 pm, at Christ Church for a day of training and encouragement to find out more about Local Houses of Prayer. For more information, contact the Abingdon Network Leader, Ruth Savage, on ruthsavage@aol.com or see the website [Local Houses of Prayer](#). To sign up for the day, click [here](#).



TAB volunteer celebration

We would like to invite all our volunteers and supporters, and those thinking of volunteering or supporting TrinityLearning, to come and celebrate TrinityLearning's work and find out more about our projects over a cup of tea and some delicious cake. Come and join us on 20 June 2024, 4 – 6 pm, in the Conduit Centre Hall, Trinity Church.

Church Twinning event

Visitors from our twin towns Argentan, Schongau and Sint Niklaas have been invited for a long weekend (20 - 24 June 2024) to attend Abingdon's Passion Play on Saturday 22 June. We expect more visitors than usual to attend so we are seeking host families to accommodate them. If you are interested in meeting our friends from abroad, exchanging information about how we live here... and there, etc., please contact Eileen on 07821 617333 or epkbontempelli@gmail.com.

Abingdon 4th Passion Play 22 June 2024



It's now less than 8 weeks until the Abingdon Passion Play 2024 on 22 June 2024. Rehearsals have been taking place at All Saints Church, St Helen's and St Nicolas' Church. We are all working hard to learn our lines and create the characters we play, in particular, of course, Simon, who is playing Jesus and who appears in almost every scene. The cast members come from many different walks of life, travelling back and forth to and from rehearsals, often after a long day at work, and we have all grown

together over the past few months, particularly over tea and delicious homemade cake during tea break. We are all in awe of the wonderful script, which contains many moving but also some humorous moments, as we see Jesus and his disciples come to life in front of us, and we hope our audience will enjoy the story we are telling as much as the actors are.

It's now time to put together costumes, scenery and props, and between now and mid June you will see some of us in the shops and cafes around Abingdon, distributing leaflets or looking for props to decorate the stage. There will also be an opportunity to hear some of the music of the Passion Play on 2 June 2024, between 2 and 3 pm, at the Food Festival on Rye Farm Meadow.

Excited about the event and want to get involved? You can still join the production at this stage, as we are still looking for some people happy to act as Temple Guards, Roman Soldiers and crowd. We also need people who can help as stage crew, and makeup. As we are hoping for a large audience, we are also urgently looking for stewards on the day. If you feel you can help, please contact our Director, Ralph Westby, by email lowbasse1@gmail.com, or by phone 07790 498718, or see the website www.abingdonpassionplay.org.uk.

The Passion Play is a great opportunity so sow a 'mustard seed' in the hearts and minds of our audience, which may grow to the glory of God's creation when the time is right: *To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life* (Revelations 21:6). Thank you all for your ongoing support and prayers, and we look forward to seeing you on the day!

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. For more information, go to 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.



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, 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

This will be held on the first Thursday of the month (2 May) 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 is our teacher. All dances are demonstrated and then broken down into smaller stages for teaching. No prior experience/partner needed. Contact Sue Sheppy (susan.sheppy@btinternet.com) for more details, or just come and see.

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 for full details, including:

- Sewing Repair Café
- Junior Chess / Chess and Coffee
- Repair and Sharpening Cafe
- Chill and Crotchet
- Chill and Craft
- Knit and Chat
- EcoTots
- Basic Sewing

Volunteering Opportunities

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

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. 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.

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. Volunteers will be DBS checked.

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.

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.

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.

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/>).

LAMPS Collective

LAMPS is a collective of Christian artists that produce fabulous live theatre and creative resources for the church (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.

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 either Paul or Alexandra Devine on 01235 523568.

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.

We are now looking for volunteers for our Thinking Books project for the 2024-25 school year starting in September. Thinking Books is TrinityLearning's mentoring scheme for primary schools. Our volunteer mentors go into schools regularly to meet children one-to-one or in small groups. They share reading of carefully selected books which start conversations about feelings and relationships. Thinking Books volunteers commit to weekly one-hour sessions in a local primary school. 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. For more information, please contact Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

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 (dhmcknight@aol.com). 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.