

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

Good Friday Procession of Witness and Open Air Service

About 120 people joined the procession from Abingdon Library to the Market Place for an open-air service on Good Friday, led by Revd Carol Hamilton-Foyn and accompanied by the Salvation Army band.



Changes at Abingdon Community Church (ACC)

ACC is now Hope Church Abingdon (Team leader: Andy O'Connell) and meets at the Northcourt Centre (OX14 1NS). Hope Church is part of Oxfordshire Community Churches, a charity serving across the country through local churches, community projects and partnership in education.

At Hope Church, we're 'a place to belong and a beacon of hope' – offering authentic Christian community, together with a conviction that Jesus brings hope to broken lives. Our people live in Abingdon itself, and in the many surrounding villages, including Appleford, Appleton, the Baldons, Bayworth, Berinsfield, Burcot, Culham, Clifton Hampden, Dorchester, Drayton, Kennington, Long Wittenham, Marcham, Milton, Radley, Shippon, Steventon, Sutton Courtenay and Wootton.

Planted in 1992, ACC has long been a significant partner in The Church in Abingdon. ACC was replanted in 2026 as Hope Church Abingdon, relocating to be a more central Sunday to better serve the whole of the town and its surrounding region. Read more at www.hopechurchabingdon.org.

WHAT'S COMING UP

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:

- 7 May - A history of Ock Street by Doug Bradshaw
- 21 May - Fire safety with Blue Watch Fire Brigade

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.

**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**
CONCERT



Wantage Academy Brass



CARITAS Children's Choir



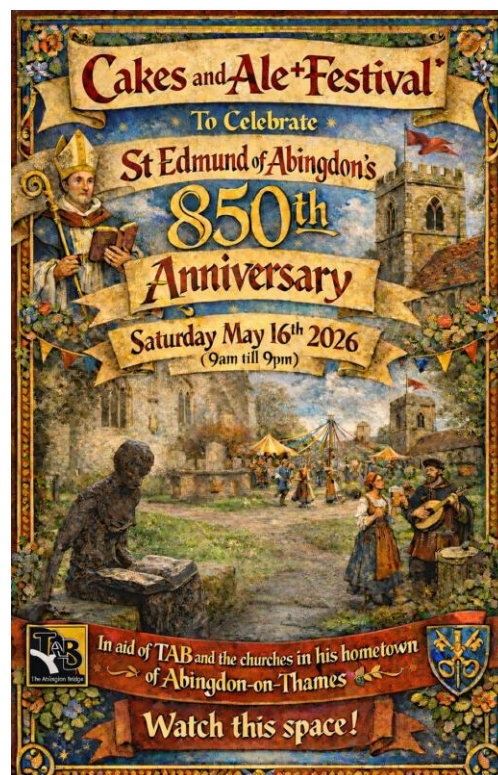
Wantage Youth Band

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





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 all allergens(14 in all) in bold 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!

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.



➤ 11 May – Old Gold with music from the 50s onwards (retiring collection for TAB)

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.

TrinityLearning Volunteer Celebration Event

All TrinityLearning volunteers, supporters and those interested in finding out more about our work are invited to join us on 19 May 2026, 4 – 6 pm, at the Conduit Centre Hall for our Volunteer Celebration Event. This will be Nicola's last event before she leaves in the summer and she is hoping to introduce her replacement as Education Development Officer, Hannah Richards, at the event too.

As always it will be very informal, with lots of cake! Please RSVP so we know how much cake to get! nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com

Agnostics Anonymous

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.

CiA AGM and Prayer Meeting - Thursday 8 October 2026, 7.30 pm, ABC

Put this date in your diary. A chance for people from all the churches to come together to share and prayer for the town and all the outreach work. Further details to follow.

Ecumenical course: Holy Ground to train for spiritual direction

This course is designed for those, whether lay or ordained, who would like to explore accompanying others on their spiritual journey. Holy Ground offers both theoretical, experiential and prayerful learning, and formation in the practice of spiritual direction. The programme includes 22 online evening sessions and 3 in-person days from October 2026 to May 2027. For more details about the course, look on our website www.spidirnetwork.org.uk or for quick access use this link www.spidirnetwork.org.uk/holy-ground. Or contact the local rep Sue Sheppy (susan.sheppy@btinternet.com).

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

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/abingdoncommunityfridge.

Abingdon Compassionate Cafe

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.

Abingdon's International Welcome – Fridays, 1 – 2.30 pm (term time), The Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road, OX14 1PL

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.



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.

The Community Hub

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. Come and see paintings by the Oxfordshire Chinese Brush Painting Group.

Christian cards and books

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 your 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.