



## CiA News – November 2023

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

#### **CiA Annual Bereavement Service**

The Footprints Group at Christ Church has agreed to anchor this with their annual remembrance service around All Souls Day on Sunday 5 November 2023, 3 pm. All welcome. Please advertise this in your local areas and groups.

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

Back by popular demand, we invite you to come and listen to live music over lunch from 12.30 to 1.30 pm on the first Monday of the month:

- ❖ Monday 6 November 2023: piano duets with Linda King and Gill Carpin
- ❖ Monday 11 December 2024: Christmas fun with Pam Pratt and Linda King

Bring your own lunch or buy from Cafe@35. Donations invited for the ABC Development Project.

#### **Abingdon 4<sup>th</sup> Passion Play 22 June 2024 – Second round of auditions 11 November 2023**

The Abingdon Passion Play (APP) depicts the last days in the life of Jesus Christ, up to and including his crucifixion and resurrection. APP has an excellent script (Bible-based and in a modern setting) and intend to give two presentations of the play on Saturday 22 June 2024 - outdoors in the Abbey Gardens, at the height of summer.

Lots of people are needed to make this play work (bringing God's word to the people of Abingdon) and to that end a second round of auditions for both principal actors and supporting roles (with and without experience) and singers will be held on 11 November 2023, including Jesus, Peter, Judas, Mary (Jesus' mother), Mary Magdalene, Caiaphas, Pontius Pilate, King Herod plus others (with and without speaking roles) such as Roman Soldiers and sellers in the Temple, to name but a few. We also need help off-stage as well as on-stage. Age is not a barrier to participating in this venture - we currently have interest from people aged 12 to 80+.

For more information, please see the website [www.abingdonpassionplay.org.uk](http://www.abingdonpassionplay.org.uk); alternatively, contact the Producer/Director Ralph Westby directly at [lowbasse1@gmail.com](mailto:lowbasse1@gmail.com) or on 07790 498718.

#### **CiA Church Twinning Barn Dance**

A French Bourree band from Argentan has offered to provide a workshop for learning this type of dance on the afternoon of Saturday 18 November 2023 at Trinity Church Conduit Hall, 5.30 – 7 pm. This will be followed by a light buffet, then an actual Bourree dance followed by a British barn dance, 7.30 – 10 pm, with refreshments. Entrance only by ticket - £10 per person (under 18s free). For more details, please contact Eileen Bontempelli at [epkbontempelli@gmail.com](mailto:epkbontempelli@gmail.com) or on 07821 617333, or your church twinning rep. None of the twin towns are sending visitors so we are just running the dance, not a normal long weekend exchange.

#### **Christmas Fayre**

Abingdon Baptist Church is holding a Christmas Fayre in aid of its Development Project on Saturday 18 November 2023, 10 am – 2 pm. The fayre will be opened by the Mayor. On sale will be cakes, hand-made gifts and cards, adopt a teddy, jams and preserves, and gifts with Christmas in mind, including Christmas

cards. Vouchers for a free drink per customer can be redeemed in our Cafe@35 where bacon butties will be for sale as well as soup and a roll from 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Quiet Garden Day at Aston Tirrold Centre for Reflection – *In the dark of the moon***

On Saturday 25 November 2023, 10 am - 4 pm, Revd Elizabeth Birch will explore the idea that Advent takes us into darkness, absence and stillness to prepare us to engage more fully with the light, presence and energy of the Christmas narrative. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. To attend, please email [atquietgardendays@gmail.com](mailto:atquietgardendays@gmail.com) in advance.

### **CiA Christmas Carol Singing**

This event has proved very successful and a great witness to the town so it is planned to try and expand it this year on Saturday 16 December 2023, 10 am to 12 pm, in Abingdon Market Place with the addition of

- ❖ A pop-up nativity scene providing a photo opportunity for friends and families
- ❖ A crafting table with an Advent theme

Sally Mears has agreed to lead the choir again. Put the date in your diary and come along and join us in singing Carols, or perhaps you might like to help with any of the following – if you can, please contact Debra Mcknight the CiA administrator on 07896 860381.

- Musicians
- People to help supervise with children's crafts
- People to help supervise the photo shoot nativity crib scene
- Costumes for the nativity crib scene – adults and children
- Props, including life-sized stuffed/toy sheep and donkey
- Seasonal nibbles and tipples for passers-by
- People to come from all churches to sing along and be a witness to the people of Abingdon
- Chairs for extra seating for those who cannot stand too long

Please come along and join in this wonderful, successful event – its third year by demand.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – CiA - Caring for the Planet, January 2024**

For the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2024, here in Abingdon our theme will be 'Caring for the Planet'. At the United Service and the Midday Prayers, there will be a series of talks about how people can actively help to reduce their carbon footprint in response to climate change, and how working together will have a greater impact. Also, what is the responsibility, if any, of Christians/Steward's of God's planet to care for it.

- ❖ **United Service, Sunday 21 January 2024, 4 pm, Our Lady and St Edmund's Church** - we welcome our speakers, Martin and Margot Hodson, from the John Ray Initiative (JRI), an educational charity with a vision to bring together scientific and Christian understandings of the environment in a way that can be widely communicated and lead to effective action. JRI's mission is to promote responsible environmental stewardship in accordance with Christian principles and the wise use of science and technology.
- ❖ **Midday prayers, Mon 22 to Friday 26 Jan 2024, 12 pm, St Nics Church** – there will be speakers on the following:
  - Monday 22 January: EcoChurch - a way of mobilising congregations to care for creation
  - Tuesday 23 January: Plastic pollution and what we can do about it
  - Wednesday 24 January: Reducing your transport footprint
  - Thursday 25 January: The effect of climate change on biodiversity

- Friday 26 January: For their futures: One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre and the work we are doing with young people

Each talk will be followed by a Q&A session and prayers. Clergy will lead each day as done in the past. Refreshments will be served after each service. All welcome.

And of course there will be the Inter-Church quiz hosted by Long Furlong on Friday 19 Jan 2024. Please start publicising these events around your churches and friends. Any queries to DebraM the CiA Administrator.

### Youth Weekend Away 9-11 February 2024



There are only 62 places available so be sure to book your spot. For any who would like to attend but have concerns about the cost, please contact Shannon or Abi at Christ Church on 01235 539172. Or if you feel able to bless a young person and wish to make a contribution, we would love to hear from you.

This year the weekend away will be at Youlbury in Boar's Hill. There will also be day visitor tickets available for youth that may have anxiety issues or school events that make it difficult for them to stay over.

### CiA - World Day of Prayer

This year the service has been prepared by the women of Palestine and will take place on Friday 1 March 2024, 4 pm, at All Saints Church, led by Revd Ian Griffiths. Any queries to DebraM the CiA Administrator.

### The Abingdon Bridge



The Abingdon Bridge Charity (TAB) is looking for new trustees to join their board. TAB is a registered 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>). For further information please contact Hilary Daffern, Chair at [hilary@theabingdonbridge.org.uk](mailto:hilary@theabingdonbridge.org.uk).

### 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 - 3 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).

### **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, 10.30 – 11.30 am. For details, please contact David Lovegrove/35 Ock Street on 01235 530080. Dates for future meetings are:

- ❖ 2 November: Spotlight singers
- ❖ 16 Nov: Games morning
- ❖ 7 Dec: Drayton School
- ❖ 21 Dec: Christmas social

### **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. NB: We will be closed on Sat 4 Nov 2023.

A new exhibition starts this week at 35 Ock Street with artwork by Grace Clark. Do come and see this talented young artist.

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

This will be held 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 every Thursday 11 am - 12 noon. Mary Williams and Elizabeth Mitchell are our teachers. 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](mailto: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. Entry is through the North door 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.

### **TrinityLearning Volunteer Appeal**



We are now looking for Thinking Books volunteers for the 2023-24 school year. Thinking Books is TrinityLearning's mentoring scheme for primary schools. Our volunteer mentors go into schools regularly to meet children on a one-to-one basis 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 and provides full training and ongoing support to volunteers through the application process and DBS checks.

Forest School volunteer: Carswell School is looking for a volunteer to help out with their Forest School on Wednesday mornings from mid September 2023 to mid March 2024. The volunteer needs to be comfortable with taking part in outdoor activities in all weathers! Forest School runs weekly in term time.

Knitters and crocheters: Our fabulous and ever-expanding group of knitters and crocheters have created over 40 tiny bears and rabbits over the past year. These are added to two of our packs: bears in the bereavement packs that support adults working with bereaved children; rabbits in our Thinking Books packs. We would also soon like to add chameleons to the range as we are developing a pack for adults working with children affected by family change such as divorce or separation. These small creatures, made with such care and love, are truly appreciated by the children who receive them.

More information about TrinityLearning and our volunteer opportunities can be found on our website at <https://trinitylearning.org.uk/>

If you are interested in volunteering to crochet or knit, or for any of our other volunteer opportunities, please email Nicola Williams at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com).

### **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?**

**Like being around food?**



Then we might just have what you're looking for. Could you, or someone you know, take on a catering role, volunteering in a friendly workplace, then please contact our Administrator, Stephen Bodey, on 01235 530080 for a chat. It's rewarding and he'd love to hear from you. If you can offer once a week, once a fortnight or even once a month, it will be a great help. Training will be 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 refreshments only but, as a special, bacon baps are available.

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#### **The Abingdon Bridge**

The Abingdon Bridge is a well-regarded Abingdon charity that supports young people aged 13-25. We are currently looking for more volunteers to act as a receptionist at our new premises at 3 Market Place, Abingdon. As we have a bank of volunteers, you may only do a slot once a week or fortnightly or monthly. Currently, our opening hours are Monday to Thursday 2-7 pm and Friday 2-6 pm, subject to

change as we follow current government COVID guidelines. The work is not onerous and mainly involves buzzing clients in and showing them to the waiting room, but this is a vital role that supports the counsellors. 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.

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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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### **Abingdon Passion Play**

The Abingdon Passion Play Committee is a small interdenominational group whose aim is to continue the production of an Abingdon Passion Play, with the next one fixed provisionally for June 2024. We are in urgent need of new members from local churches within the Church in Abingdon who are helpful, enthusiastic and full of suggestions, as well as a Publicity Officer. If you would like to find out more or would like to get involved, please contact John Clare at [johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com](mailto:johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com).

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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).

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### **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 have a gift you would like to share with others or would like to be involved in some other way, please pop into 12 West St Helen Street (OX14 5BL) and speak to either Paul or Alexandra Devine, or call us 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. If you are looking for a rewarding regular volunteer activity and can offer to volunteer for around an hour a week, please contact Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) to find out more. TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks.



**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/](https://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).