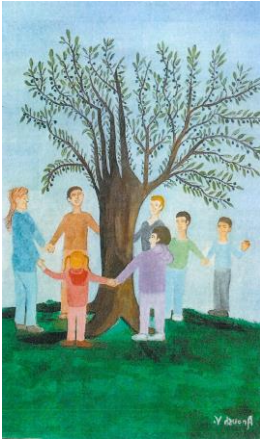




## CiA News – March 2024

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



#### **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. The theme this year is 'I beg you, bear with another in love'.

All welcome to come, remember and pray for the people of Palestine. Free parking behind the church and on neighbouring streets. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

Any queries to DebraM the CiA Administrator.

#### **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 next meeting on 4 March 2024 will discuss the topic, 'Why do we pray, or not pray'. All welcome to these open discussions about progressive Christianity in the contemporary world.

#### **Agnostics anonymous**

At the next open discussion meeting on Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 6 pm at St Helen's Parish Centre, Keith Ward will give a talk on the question 'Is there a God?', followed by a chance for questions and discussion. Everyone welcome. Free. For more information, please contact Jill Gant on 01235 528929.

At the open discussion meeting on Tuesday 23 April 2024 at 6 pm at St Helen's Parish Centre, John Kerr will give a talk about miracles, entitled 'Six impossible things before breakfast', followed by a chance for questions and discussion. Everyone welcome. Free. For more information, please contact Jill Gant on 01235 528929.

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

Come and bring your friends to hear live music from local musicians and singers from 12.30 to 1.30 pm on the first Monday of the month. You can bring your own lunch or buy from our Cafe@35, or just come and listen.

- ❖ Monday 11 March 2024: Group 'Old Gold' – sing along
- ❖ Monday 8 April 2024: Pam Pratt and Linda King – pianist/guitarist/singers



#### **TrinityLearning**



**Experience Easter 2024:** This will be taking place from 12 March 2024 at Trinity Church. About 440 children are already booked on: 220 taking part online and 220 attending in-person workshops at Trinity Learning. Experience Easter is a series of reflective workshops that allows Key Stage 2 children (7 to 11-year-olds) to access the Easter Story in a meaningful way. It is also an introduction to mindfulness, using stilling

exercises and simple activities to allow the children to consider their emotions. We are still looking for volunteers to help with storytelling in the live workshops. Volunteers need to have an enhanced DBS. If you're interested in finding out more, please email Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com)

**Trustees:** We are looking for a new trustee to join us. Trustees are essential to the running of TrinityLearning and work as a team to provide inclusive, strategic leadership and ensure proper governance for the charity. They meet around five times a year – both in person and online. There is lots of training and support available, so whether you are an experienced trustee, or are thinking of becoming a trustee for the first time, we would love to hear from you. We welcome applications from all ages (16+) and levels of experience. As a charity working with volunteers and young people, TrinityLearning is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all those with whom it works. All Trustees are expected to hold DBS clearance and the relevant safeguarding training, which TrinityLearning can provide. A keen interest in children and enthusiasm for promoting their needs is essential. If you would like an informal chat about this voluntary role, please email Nicola on [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com).

**Crafty volunteers:** We are looking for crocheters and knitters to help make tiny toys for several of our packs, including tiny teddies for our TrinityLearning Bereavement Packs and our new Family Change pack. All materials supplied so if you have crocheting or knitting skills and would like to help, please email Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com).

### **Carbon Cutters - Waste Reduction**

The current Green Forum, on Reducing Waste, is hoping to collect as many responses as possible to the Challenge and Survey which it has compiled. We would very much appreciate it if as many people as possible can complete the anonymous Survey, which can be found if you scroll down below the Waste Reduction Challenge, on this link [Join our Waste Reduction Challenge! – One Planet Abingdon](#).

Please complete the survey by 15 March 2024: two students from the Oxford Uni Intern scheme will be analyzing the results during the week beginning 18 March.

### **Abingdon Artists**

Do drop into St Helen's Church in the week 11 - 16 March 2024, 10 am to 4.30 pm, when the church will be hosting Abingdon Artists' Spring Exhibition. There will be nearly 100 works of art to look at, and both framed and unframed works and cards to buy. Everyone welcome. It's accessible and free.

### **Abingdon and District Musical Society**

They will perform works of Duruflé, Fauré, Saint-Saëns, Dupré and Mozart on Saturday 27 March 2024, 7.30 pm, at St Helen's Church. Tickets at the door or from [tickets@adms.org.uk](mailto:tickets@adms.org.uk).

### **CiA – Good Friday Procession of Witness and Outdoor Service**

Good Friday procession of witness will be taking place on Good Friday 29 March 2024 at 11.45 am from Abingdon Library proceeding through the town centre to the Market Place for a short outdoor service at 12 noon. The leading minister will be Pastor Ellie Ball from the Abingdon Vineyard Church. All welcome.

### **Parish of Abingdon – Good Friday – Procession of the Stations of the Cross**

On Good Friday, 29 March 2024, 9 pm, there will be a candlelit outdoor procession of the Stations of the Cross beginning at St Helen's Church (weather permitting). All welcome. For info on the event, see the website <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH>.

### **Church Twinning April visit of a small group of ladies from Abingdon's twin town of Schongau**

Church Twinning has organised a visit from churchgoers in Schongau in Bavaria, Germany over the long weekend Thursday 4 - Monday 8 April 2024. A full and varied programme has been prepared for their visit and we are seeking host families to accommodate the ladies, especially someone with a bedroom accessible without using stairs. We are also looking for meal hosts to offer an evening dinner and

associated time afterwards on Saturday 6 April. If you are interested in exchanging information about how we live here... and there, please contact Eileen Bontempelli on 07821 617333 or at [epkbontempelli@gmail.com](mailto:epkbontempelli@gmail.com)

### **Organ recital**

On 13 April 2024, Simon Lawford will be giving an organ recital at St Helen's Church at 7 pm, including works by Franck, Dupre and Boellmann. Simon is currently organist at Notre Dame de France, London and has held posts at many cathedrals in England as well as in Perth, Australia. Tickets: £12 (under-16s free), available at the door or from Ticketsource. Refreshments available after the concert.

### **Abingdon 4<sup>th</sup> Passion Play 22 June 2024**

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.

**Call for Actors/Singers/Helpers/Practise Venues:** Lots of people are needed to make this play work and we are still in need of both principal actors and supporting roles (with and without experience) and singers. 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.

### **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](https://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).

**Volunteer Coordinator needed:** Host Abingdon are looking for a third Coordinator to work with two other volunteers who help refugees and asylum seekers locally. It would involve working up to around 6 hours a week with time out for holidays and family commitments. We would work as a team of three, each developing areas of responsibility, all with an overall picture and a place on Host Abingdon Committee. You may connect with and support a group of female asylum seekers, new refugee families moving into our area as well as members of the International Welcome Café. It will be important to connect with other local organisations such as Salvation Army, Carousel Children’s Centre, Abingdon and Witney College, Asylum Welcome and more. We need someone who is well organised, able to welcome, and seeking to understand and empower refugees locally, responding in practical ways. You need to be good at working in a team, sometimes able to take the lead. There will be a thorough induction to our policies and procedures and you will be supported as you get involved. If you would like to find out more, please email [hello@hostabingdon](mailto:hello@hostabingdon) or text 07964 433720 for more information by Monday 26 February 2024.



**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.

**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 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 Thursday 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](mailto:susan.sheppy@btinternet.com)) for more details, or just come and see.

*NB: There will be no MintoS or regular circle dancing on Thursday 4 April*

**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.

## Salvation Army Abingdon – Job opportunity – Community Manager – Addiction Recovery



Abingdon Salvation Army is developing an integrated supported housing project for people in abstinent-based recovery. The successful candidate will provide 1:1 and group support, build relationships, assist motivation for change and continuing abstinence, and work towards life-changing outcomes. They will oversee the running of the supported housing programme including administrative duties relating to housing benefit, support planning and risk assessments.

There is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian. It is a permanent contract, working 16 hours/week (to be agreed) with 25 days annual leave. Salary £14.57 to 15.86 per hour depending on skills and experience. For further details and to apply, please visit [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/jobs](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/jobs).

### Upcoming free eco events

See [www.oneplanetabingdon.org](http://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](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.

---

## **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.

---

## **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).

---

## **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).

---

## **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/>).

---

## **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).

---

### **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. 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).



**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)

---

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).