



CiA News – June 2023

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

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

TrinityLearning – Report back from Experience Easter event

Experience Easter is made possible by CiA's ongoing financial support as well as the input of many volunteers from across Abingdon's church communities. We had a joyful return to live Experience Easter in Trinity Church this year. The groups of children who attended responded well to the peaceful atmosphere of the church and the increased space enabled all the children, even those who find group activities challenging, to take part in the activities. Kingfisher School's visit with seven pupils was a particular joy as the TrinityLearning Kingfisher Singing Group came along and the children and adults seemed to really enjoy the adapted version of Experience Easter which included many of the lovely songs from Deacon Selina's Toddler Group Service.

On Monday 20 March 2023, Nicola, Taz and Katie Doney visited Drayton School and supported their introduction to the online Experience Easter which was well received. Then from Tuesday 21 March to Thursday 23 March we welcomed groups from St Edmund's School, Carswell School and St Nicolas School to Trinity Church. Highlights included the children's hopes and dreams, written on palms, which included many hopes focused on preserving the environment as well as hopes for kindness and peace.



It was great to be able to reintroduce some elements of the pre-covid Experience Easter such as washing and drying a friend's hands and sharing bread. As always, the plasticine modelling was extremely popular and we heard some very thoughtful responses to thinking of those experiencing difficulties both at home and further afield.

Contemplating the tomb and thinking about how the disciples could have felt on that first Easter morning also produced some thoughtful responses with children suggesting that Jesus's friends could have felt happy, confused, joyful, shocked, perplexed and hopeful.

In addition to our 'live' visits, classes from Europa School, Clifton Hampden School and Wootton St Peter's School also took part in our online Experience Easter.



WHAT'S COMING UP

Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network

The next meeting of this group will be on Tuesday 6 June 2023, 7.30 pm, via Zoom. For more information or/and to attend meetings, please contact Cliff Marshall cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk.

The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)

TAB's AGM will take place on Friday 16 June 2023 at 7 pm at The Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. The AGM will be celebrating 30 years of supporting local young people, 1993 to 2023. Anyone wishing to attend is invited to reply to the administrator kirsty@theabingdonbridge.org.uk by 2 June.

Concert at St Helen's

Come and enjoy a summer evening of relaxing chamber music (Brahms, Vaughan Williams, Beethoven) led by our director of music Dr Peter Foster on Saturday 17 June 2023 at 7.30 pm in St Helen's Church. Tickets: £10 adults, £2 under 16s; available on the door or from St Helen's after the 10.30 am service on 4 and 11 June. Drinks will be available to buy in the interval and the proceeds will be shared between the Abingdon Foodbank and St Helen's Church.

Abingdon Passion Play – fundraising events

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.

There will be a tea party on Sunday 18 June 2023 from 2.30 pm to 6 pm in the beautiful garden of St Ethelwold's House in East St Helen's Street Abingdon. All proceeds to Abingdon Passion Play: adults: £10, children free. Any enquiries to annegreenabingdon@yahoo.com.

Abingdon Baptist Church: Quiz and Ploughman's supper

You are invited to an evening of fun, fellowship and food while tickling those little grey cells on Saturday 24 June 2023, at 6.45 pm (doors open 6.30 pm). The Ploughman's supper will offer a choice of ham or cheese plus an ice cream dessert.

Teams should be no more than 6 per table; come as a team or make up a team on the night. Tickets (adults: £10; children: £7; Family (2 adults/2 children): £30) available from Cafe@35, during opening hours. Or ring 01235 530080 or email office@35ockst.org.uk to reserve your meal choice tickets. Closing date 18 June 2023. Please collect your tickets if possible.



Fundraising concert

A concert featuring the Wantage Academy and Youth brass bands will take place on Saturday 8 July 2023, 7 pm at St Michael's to fundraise for The Abingdon Bridge (TAB), TARIRO – Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe and St Michael's Church. Tickets: £12 adults, £10 concessions, age 16 and under free. Tickets available from St Michael's and The Bookstore, Bury Street, Abingdon; they will also be available on the door.

Festival of Prayer

The 11th Festival of Prayer will be taking place on Saturday 22 July 2023, 10.30 am – 4.35 pm, at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford. The event this year explores the theme of 'Prayer as a way of life' and the keynote speaker is David Runcorn who will be sharing his exploration of what it is to pray in our world and how it requires seeking God in uncertainty, change and even chaos. For further information and to book, go to www.brforonline.org.uk.

Holy Ground: Ecumenical Spiritual Direction Training

An ecumenical spiritual direction training course for Christians who find themselves accompanying others on their spiritual journey, whether in a formal capacity or perhaps for those who have noticed that others turn to them as a listening ear. This foundation course is ideal for all those who would like to train in the ministry of spiritual direction, whether ordained or lay. It will take place September 2023 to May 2024, online in the evening. For further details, go to www.spidirnetwork.org.uk or contact Sue Sheppy at susan.sheppy@btinternet.com.

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.

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.

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 - 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.



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 small group volunteer, or as a volunteer driver, you can make a huge difference to someone's week. Excellent training and support is given and any travel expenses reimbursed. An application form can be found at: www.archwayfoundation.org.uk, or a hard copy is available by calling 01865 790552.

The Archway Foundation has a vacancy for a Social Group Leader (18 hours a week to include Wed and Thurs). For information and application details, please go to <https://www.archwayfoundation.org.uk/work-with-us>.

Back to 35

A meeting for over 50s with coffee, tea, cake 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.

Exploring Faith: Alpha

Several churches in Abingdon are running Alpha courses, both in person and online. For further information, go to the Church in Abingdon website under 'CiA-supported task groups: additional information': <https://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk>.

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) for more details, or just come and see.

Please note change of dates: Thursday 29 June (instead of 6 July); Thursday 27 July (instead of 3 August).

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 9 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.

St Nicolas CE Primary School - vacancy for an 'LA Governor'

St Nicolas CE Primary School is looking for an LA Governor who is able and willing to work as a member of the full Governing Body to secure the best possible education for children at the school. We are looking for someone from the local community (who is not a parent of a current pupil or member of staff) who can provide both an LA and personal perspective as a member of the wider community. This is a fantastic opportunity for the right person to join a dynamic team in an Ofsted 'good' school, and use their passions, skills, and experience to help shape the education and opportunities we provide our pupils. This is a voluntary role that will usually require 5-8 hours per month. Full training is provided. For more information, please contact Katrina Hancock, Chair of Governors, at cgov3247@st-nicolas.oxon.sch.uk by Monday 12 June 2023. The school follows a Safer Recruitment policy and procedure for all governors appointed.

TrinityLearning



TrinityLearning is a small church-funded charity. We work with volunteers to improve the wellbeing and mental health of school communities in Abingdon. We're currently looking for new Thinking Books volunteers to start in September 2023 to go into schools regularly to meet children one-to-one or in small groups and share reading of carefully selected books which start conversations about feelings and relationships. We're committed to Safeguarding and provide full training and ongoing support to volunteers. Email nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com to find out more.

We would like to invite all TrinityLearning Volunteers and supporters to our Volunteer Celebration on Thursday 15 June 2023 from 4 to 6 pm in the Conduit Centre Hall. Come along to help us celebrate our wonderful volunteers and find out more about TrinityLearning's work. Please RSVP, so we can ensure we get plenty of snacks and cake, by dropping a note into the Conduit Centre or emailing Nicola at 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.

Café@35 - 35 Ock Street Community café



The café has been running for over 25 years and is a ministry of Abingdon Baptist Church which is supported by the Church in Abingdon. The volunteers that help run the café come from many of the churches in the town, surrounding area and the local community. As a volunteer, you will become part of a positive and supportive group, where friendships are made while serving the community. We are currently seeking new volunteers to join our friendly team and continue this important mission in the town – would you consider joining us?

A variety of roles are available including reception duties, catering, washing up and listening. We provide training on a regular basis to suit individual needs.

The café is open six days a week 10.30 am – 2.00 pm Monday – Friday serving light lunches and refreshments and 10.30 am – 12.30 pm on Saturdays, serving light refreshments (including bacon baps).

Whether you can offer once a week, once a fortnight, or even once a month – we'd love to hear from you. For more information, please contact Stephen Bodey on 01235 530080. Also, if you would like to see us in operation, do call into the café where a warm welcome awaits you.



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. 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.

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.

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 recent twinning visits – visit to Schongau in 2022, eco-themed visit to Abingdon in October 2022, visit to Sint Niklaas to see their Passion film in March/April 2023, visit to Ypress in April 2023 – 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 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.

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 recruiting for volunteers for our Thinking Books mentoring programme for the next school year.



Thinking Books involves volunteer mentors sharing a carefully chosen book with a child or small group of children over 10 sessions. The focus is on discussing characters’ feelings to help children think about other's feelings and develop empathy. There are notes to accompany each of the books, and volunteers receive initial training and regular follow-up sessions. Training will be running in the summer term and September. 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 to find out more.

TrinityLearning is committed to Safeguarding. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks.

Volunteers are also needed to knit a little rabbit which will be included in each Thinking Books pack for the child to keep at the end of their sessions. We can supply everything you need (pattern and supplies) if you’re happy to supply your knitting know how!

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.