



CiA News – January 2022



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

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHURCHES:

Please check the church websites for up-to-date information on onsite services and other activities.

Abbey Baptist Church www.abbey-baptist-church.org.uk

Abingdon Baptist Church www.abingdonbaptist.org.uk

Abingdon Community Church 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 All enquiries to Captain Alexandra Devine at abingdon@salvationarmy.org.uk or on 01235 523568

Our Lady and St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/

St Helen's, St Michael's, St Nicolas'
www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk/
www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/
www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html

Trinity Church www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

[Cont.](#)

Church in Abingdon events



Carol Singing: On Saturday 18 December 2021, a group of people from all the churches in Abingdon came together to sing carols in Abingdon Market Place and give out leaflets of the main Christmas Services taking place in all the Abingdon Churches to passers-by. This was a very successful event: we had a great turnout of both singers and musicians, and lots of passers-by gathered to listen and join in with the carols. Many thanks to all those who came along - the musicians, the singers, the dogs and our choir lead Sally Mears. We hope to repeat this for Christmas 2022.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, the **inter-church quiz** and the usual **united service** will not now be taking place.

However, the **midday prayers** will be taking place but in a different format. A prayer leaflet will be available from churches and the CiA website (www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk) for people to join in prayer at home. Material will be available for Monday 17 Jan to Friday 21 Jan. Each day will concentrate on prayer for a specific area of church work and will include:

- ❖ a thought for the day, a Bible reading and a prayer - from a member of clergy
- ❖ a short account of a specific area of church work and areas for prayer - from a member of that team

Areas of specific church work will include:

- ❖ Administrator and other support staff
- ❖ Children and families
- ❖ Youth/Young Adults
- ❖ Outreach – e.g. Street Pastors, Food Bank, Cafes
- ❖ Seniors – e.g. Bereavement groups

CiA AGM: This will be taking place on Thursday 10 February 2022, 7.30 pm, at the Salvation Army, West St Helen Street. All welcome.

CiA Lent Lectures (Covid permitting): Revd Dr Charles Miller is hoping to lead these lectures that had to be cancelled in 2020 – The Spiritual Adventure of Henri Matisse, Vence's Chapel of the Rosary – at St Helen's Church, South Aisle, from the last Monday of February 2022. Watch for an update in the February issue of the CiA News.

World Day of Prayer: This will take place on Friday 4 March 2021, 2.30 pm, at the Salvation Army, West St Helen St. This year the service has been prepared by the women of our own national committee of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For further information, please contact the CiA Administrator at dhmcknight@aol.com.

Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 1 February 2022 at 7.30 pm via Zoom. At this meeting, we will welcome Revd Dave Tomlin, an Anglican minister and author of many books about progressive Christianity. He will discuss the approaches a progressive Christian minister might take with their congregation and community. We welcome new members to this group; you do not need to be a member of the Progressive Christianity Network but we hope you will be interested in exploring open and contemporary Christian understanding. For more information or/and to attend this online meeting, please contact Cliff Marshall at cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk.

Archway

Archway's Telephone Support Service continues to provide much needed emotional support to adults of all ages coping with the loneliness and uncertainty of this time while the Bright Side Newsletter helps to maintain connection and provides opportunities for readers to submit their own creative contributions. Some Individual Support Service meet-ups have taken place but many people remain cautious. Small pilot groups have taken place in Oxford and Abingdon and we continue to roll out the post-Covid support plan to facilitate face-to-face supportive social contact within groups, restrictions and resources permitting. For further details, visit www.archwayfoundation.org.uk or call 01865 790552.

Christian Aid New Year walk January 2022

Following the success of last year's walk, the New Year walk for Christian Aid in 2022 will again be a self-directed walk. Walkers will be able to complete the walk whenever they wish in January either on one day or spread across the month as convenient. Details of the challenge set for walkers, the destination points to be visited and how to make donations will be available from church representatives and notices in churches. For more information, please contact RobKing at rking.home@ntlworld.com. If you wish to donate to the fund for Christian Aid linked to the walk please go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/abingdon-newyearwalk-2022.

Enneagram subtype workshop

An Enneagram subtype workshop will be led by Helen Watts and Jeanie Honey on Saturday 26 March 2022 at the New Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road from 10 am to 4.30 pm. We are influenced in our focus and choices by subconscious drivers, which are expressed through our personality. Three of these drivers are essential for survival and have a huge effect on our relationships. This workshop will focus on how our personality effects our relationships - what we have to offer and what gets in the way. This understanding of our differences will challenge and expand our perception. If you are interested, please contact andrew.d.turner@outlook.com for further information.

Silent Reflections

Silent Reflections this month (25 January) will be held 'at home' due to an event at St Michael's. Material will be sent round and will also be available for download from the 'prayer and resources' section of the church website (www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk).

Volunteering Opportunities

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

35 Ock Street – community cafe



If you would be prepared to join our loyal band of cake makers to make a cake every one or two months for the cafe, on a day of your choice, I would love to hear from you. Please contact Rosemary Brown on 01235 529261 or at rosemary.annbrown70@gmail.com.

Volunteers are also needed in the café, for catering and washing up. The café is open six days a week 10.30 am - 2 pm Monday – Friday and 10.30 am – 12.30 pm on Saturdays, serving light lunches and refreshments. 35 Ock Street is a CiA-supported meeting place and has volunteers from many of the churches in Abingdon. For more information, please contact Stephen Bodey on 01235 527828.

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 Jane Cadogan at jane.cadogan@btinternet.com. We hope to begin fundraising in January 2022 for our next production.

Christian Forum

This Christian witness continues to be published monthly in the Abingdon Round & About magazine, distributed freely around Abingdon residents. If you would like to submit an article (not time sensitive) of no more than 300 words 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.

The Sanctuary

'The Sanctuary' is a weekly community day at the Salvation Army which is open to all every Wednesday from 10 am to 12 noon. '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 - supporting children and young people to learn new skills

TrinityLearning organise regular volunteering projects in Abingdon schools and are looking for enthusiastic people to join the following groups. Volunteers receive full training and ongoing support. To find out more about volunteering with TL visit <https://bit.ly/2SloZCJ>.



- ❖ **Kingfisher Singing Group:** this group meets once a week for about an hour to sing nursery rhymes and action songs with children with a range of disabilities at Kingfisher School.
- ❖ **Thinking Books project:** this involves mentoring young children through shared reading and discussion of carefully chosen books. This project helps children to develop empathy by reflecting on their own and other people's feelings.

For more information or an informal chat about volunteering with either of the above, please contact Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

We are also looking for crocheters. Can you put your stitching skills to good use to make a tiny bear? One little bear is sent out with each TrinityLearning Bereavement Pack, a pack designed for adults who are working with bereaved children in schools. We'll supply the pattern, wool, stuffing, buttons, etc. We just need your crochet know-how. If you're interested, we would love to hear from you so please email nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

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 Debra Mcknight (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.