



CiA News – January 2024

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

CiA Christmas Carol singing

On Saturday 16 December 2023, around 70+ people from all the churches in Abingdon came together to sing Christmas Carols and spread the real message of Christmas to the people of Abingdon in Abingdon Market Place.



There were Christmas crafts for children, various themed nibbles and a pop-up nativity. Abingdon Street Pastors also put their 'safe places' gazebo up. Lots of good fellowship was had and the addition of chairs was a great bonus. Thanks to all those who helped with the preparation and set-up on the day.

Trinity Learning

Kingfisher School Christmas service: Under the leadership of Deacon Selina a Christmas Service was run five times to pupils from 11 different classes because of a high demand from the pupils to be involved. Some classes came to Trinity Church while others took part in the service at school. The service consisted of a simple retelling of the Christmas story with songs adapted from nursery rhymes as well as some traditional Christmas favourites such as Little Donkey and Away in a Manger. We made a sensory pack for each child which included some pictures of a baby and a donkey, a bag of scented chamomile hay, a fleecy square (which felt like a sheep) and a star. Children thoroughly enjoyed finding the things in their pack and holding them up as they sang along. The commitment of the volunteers was reflected in the enthusiasm and involvement of the staff and children, many of whom had clearly been practising their singing!

Volunteer training: September and early October saw Nicola and Taz (Designated Safeguarding Officer and Deput respectively) busy with volunteer safeguarding training in three sessions.

In September, the annual Thinking Books training took place for all volunteers who are involved in this in-school project which involves mentoring young children through shared reading and discussion of

books. This training is run over two days with the focus on the first day being a look at the practical aspects of the project concentrating on the books and other resources we use. On the second day, an external trainer provides an overview of the importance of developing emotional language as well as providing a range of strategies to enable volunteers to appropriately deepen their conversations about the characters and situations in the books.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Termly CONNECT meeting

Friday night 12 Jan 2024 is our termly Connect gathering. We are still in need of leaders, so please sign up if you are able to be there: [CONNECT \(Leaders\) \(12-Jan-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

A small group will start setting up at 2 pm. If you are around and would like to help with this then we will be meeting in church around 2 pm.

Another group will be doing a later setup at 5 pm (lights, decor, etc.).

If all leaders and band can be there by 6 pm. There will be pizza available. Team briefing and prayer will take place at 6.30 pm prior to the doors opening at 7 pm.

A detailed timetable will be sent out prior to Friday and printed copies will be available on Friday.

TrinityLearning



AGM: We will be holding our AGM via Zoom on Tuesday 16 January 2024 at 7 pm when we will present the the annual report and accounts will be presented. This is a great opportunity for all our volunteers and supporters to hear more about what we have been up to and our plans for future work. Please email Nicola (nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) if you would like to receive a Zoom link and agenda for the AGM.

Experience Easter 2024: We are beginning to think about and plan for Experience Easter 2024 which will offer schools the choice to visit Trinity Church for live workshops or to take part online. 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.

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available for Experience Easter including home-based volunteering for craft preparation as well as in-person volunteering which consists of supporting school groups and storytelling during the live workshops. If you're interested in finding out more, please email Nicola at 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.

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.

Singing from the Gallery in Oxfordshire - the lost Church musical tradition of the 18th and 19th centuries

West Gallery music is a largely forgotten genre of church music that flourished all over the English-speaking world from the early 1700s to the mid-19th century. It was a tradition of vernacular music-making, performed and often composed by people of humble origins operating outside the mainstream of contemporary art music. In this workshop on Thursday 18 January 2024, 7.45 pm, Northcourt Centre OX14 1NS, Dave Townsend, who has been performing, researching and teaching West Gallery music since the 1980s, will describe its origins, development, gradual decline and present-day survivals with reference to local churches and communities, illustrating his talk with sound recordings.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – CiA - Caring for the Planet – Our Home, 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/Stewards 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, Monday 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 / Eco cleaning
 - 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. DO COME ALONG AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PROTECTING OUR HOME

- ❖ And of course there will be the **Inter-Church quiz** hosted by Long Furlong.
HAVE YOU GOT YOUR CHURCH TEAM TOGETHER AND REGISTERED? IT IS NOT TOO LATE.

Time: Friday 19 January 2024, 7.30 pm

Venue: Christ Church, Northcourt Road (Street-facing Barn next to cafe)

Teams: Up to 6 people

Entry fee: £2 (to be donated to a named charity, TBC)

Refreshments: Bring your own; teas and coffees provided

Whom to contact: Derek Walker del@walkercrew.plus.com / 01235 528134.

Concert of music and readings for Epiphany and Candlemas

On Saturday 27 January 2024, 3 pm, the Crown Singers conducted by Paul Hedley will be presenting 'Here is the little door' at St Michael and All Angels' Church. This is a rare opportunity to hear a varied programme including music by Poulenc, Byrd and Howells. Kindly sponsored by Taylor-Made Mobility. Tickets: adults £10/accompanied children free, available from the Bookstore, Bury Street, Abingdon, or on the door. Proceeds to Crown Singers/church funds. Refreshments available and free parking.

Care for creation course

An online course over six sessions for anyone interested in understanding more about the theology and science of caring for creation, and practical ideas about how to take action, both as individuals and as churches, will take place from 30 January 2024. It is free to attend and will be led by the Diocese of Oxford's Environment Programme Manager, Hannah Mann, in partnership with Winchester Diocese. Contact Hannah Mann (hannah.mann@oxford.anglican.org) for more info and to sign up.

Abingdon 4th 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.

Fundraiser: Come and celebrate Burns Night with a traditional Haggis supper and dancing on Saturday 27 January 2024 at 7.30 pm at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon OX14 1 DB. Tickets: £20 including meal and first drink, available from The Bookstore and www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk

Let's Talk! Come and meet the director and the rest of the team for the Abingdon Passion Play 2024. We are holding an open evening at the Conduit Centre, Trinity Church, OX14 1DB, on Sunday 4 February 2024 at 7.45 pm. Find out how you can get involved in next summer's fabulous community event - as a performer, backstage, in makeup, props, costumes and front of house or as a steward. For catering purposes, please let Ralph know as soon as possible if you are coming on 4 February.

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; alternatively, contact the Producer/Director Ralph Westby directly at lowbasse1@gmail.com or on 07790 498718.

Agnostics anonymous

At the next open discussion meeting on Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 6 pm at St Michael's Parish Centre, John Barton will give a talk on the question 'Do you have to believe everything in the Bible to be a Christian?' followed by a chance for questions and discussion. Everyone welcome.

Youth Weekend Away 9-11 February 2024

Things are falling into place for this event so if your youth have not signed up, encourage them to do so before this Sunday when bookings close.

[Connect Youth Weekend - Years 7-13 \(09-Feb-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

There will be day tickets available as well now for those less keen on sleeping over but still wanting to attend.



There will be an information session on Monday 15 January 2024, 7 – 9 pm in the Lounge at Christ Church Abingdon for parents. Leaders are also welcome to attend.

Lunchtime music hour at Abingdon Baptist Church

Back by popular demand, we invite you to come and relax over lunch to free live music from local musicians and singers from 12.30 to 1.30 pm on the first Monday of the month. Bring your own lunch or buy from Cafe@35.

- ❖ Monday 12 February 2024: Gill Carpin - pianist/organist
- ❖ Monday 11 March 2024: Old Gold
- ❖ Monday 8 April 2024: Pam Pratt and Linda King – pianist/guitarist/singers



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. All welcome to come, remember and pray for the people of Palestine. Any queries to DebraM the CiA Administrator.

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-fridgeor> 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.

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) 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.

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.

Upcoming free eco events

See 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?

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.

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. 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 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). 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 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.



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.