



CiA News – July 2025

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

Christian Aid 80th anniversary

Amounts raised for Christian Aid week (11-17 May 2025):

- Market Place sale 10 May 2025
 - cash taken £384.15
 - card payments £165.50 plus gift aid
 - street collection £50.00 plus £7.50 gift aid
 - E-envelope(which has now been taken down) £2,245.25 plus £325.50 gift aid
- Total: £3,177.90



Thanks to everyone who helped with the sale or donated items for sale. Thanks also to Doug for collecting tables and gazebos and erecting them.

WHAT'S COMING UP

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.

Dorcus dress project

The Dorcus Dress Project is up and running on Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30 am at Peachcroft Christian Centre, Lindsey Drive, Abingdon OX14 2RT. The sessions will be held until 10 July 2025. All welcome.



The sewing sessions are a friendly and social time where people can either complete their own projects or learn new skills through pre-set topics. People may use our sewing equipment knowing there is technical advice at hand or bring their own sewing equipment. Each session includes:

- A space to complete your own project
- A teaching space where you are welcome to participate with the topic of the week
- A mid-session refreshment break where we gather and chat together – being friends and knowing each other is important to us.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from learning a new skill, particularly if they are in financial hardship, do let them know.

For more details, go to <https://dorcusdressproject.org/sewing-sessions-uk/> or email dorcusdressproject@gmail.com to confirm dates.

Back to 35

A group for over 50s meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the church sanctuary at Abingdon Baptist Church from 10.30 to 11.30 am. Doors open at 10.00 am for tea, coffee and cake. A varied programme is on offer:

- 3 July - Seated exercises with Elizabeth Glover
- 17 July - End of term quiz

Admission only £1. Limited parking at the church. All welcome.

TAB fundraising concert



Saturday 5 July 2025, 7 pm - Wantage Academy Brass & Youth Brass Concert, St Michael's Church, Abingdon.

Contact Kirsty Darter for further info (kirsty@theabingdonbridge.org.uk; 01235 522375).

Moving into Stillness: Taizé circle dancing and stillness

Circle dancing to Taizé music with silent interludes takes place 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 Thursdays of the month from 11 am to 12 noon. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. No prior experience/partner needed. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Please note the change from the normal pattern for July only: circle dancing on Thursday **10 July** in the church 9.45 – 10.45 am before the regular circle dancing session at 11 am. The second regular session will be on Thursday **24 July** at 11 am.

NB: there will be no dancing of any kind during August.

Contact Sue Sheppy (susan.sheppy@btinternet.com) for further information.



Lunchtime music hour at Abingdon Baptist Church

Abingdon Baptist Church is open on Monday 14 July 2025 for an hour of music from 12.30 to 1.30 pm featuring the Singing Together Choir with Sally Mears. Listen as you enjoy your lunch which can be bought from Cafe@35 or bring your own. All donations will go to Carousel. Open to all. Limited parking.

Pearly Gates Church 10th Anniversary

To celebrate 10 years of being in Abingdon, the Pearly Gates Church have been holding a series of events. Their final celebration, a thanksgiving and celebration concert will be held on 26 July 2025, 3 – 8 pm, at Fitzharry's School in Northcourt Road. All welcome. For more info, contact Pastor Theo on 07515 435466.

Family fun morning

On Saturday 16 August 2025 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, Abingdon Baptist Church is having a morning of free fun for all ages. There will be live music from the JAM Band plus games and activities for all. Tea, coffee, squash and home-made cakes will be served.

Out of this World: Holiday club 2025

Christ Church (Northcourt Road, OX14 1PL) will be holding a holiday club on 18 - 21 August 2025, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm, for School Years Reception to Year 6. This is a Bible-based activity week with stories, singing, drama, games, craft and fun!

Cost: £20 per child (subsidies and discounts for siblings are available).

Follow this link for further information and to book: www.cca.uk.net/events.



Food Bank

As we approach the summer holidays, Abingdon Foodbank is preparing our Kids' Summer Meals campaign. The summer holidays can be difficult for families who have relied on their children having free school meals and maybe breakfast clubs too. So we have asked the local schools to name families whom they are aware of who could struggle, and we will be providing a weekly top-up bag of food for them. We will supply children-friendly items such as baked beans, tuna, jam or Nutella, squash and fruit, plus cereal and milk, and also some sun cream. You can find a full list here:

<https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/2025/06/09/kids-summer-meals-campaign-returns-in-2025/>

All support will, as ever, be very gratefully received.

Abingdon Compassionate Cafe

A comforting space for conversation, along with cake, tea, coffee, or soft drinks, at St Ethelwold's House, East St Helen Street, Abingdon, OX14 5EB.

From September, the the Café will be held monthly on the first Saturday of the month, starting with Saturday 6 September 2025 from 2 pm to 4 pm. All welcome.

TAB charity golf day



Friday 19 September 2025, 10 am – 3 pm, Hadden Hill Golf Club, Didcot.

Teams of 4, Stableford Competition

Cost £50 per person (£200 per team) (cost includes breakfast on arrival, halfway refreshments and sandwiches/chips at finish)

To enter, please contact Kirsty Darter at kirsty@theabingdonbridge.org.uk.

Non-golf players – if you would like to sponsor a hole (where your company logo is on the tee) or donate a raffle prize, please contact Kirsty at the above email.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 28 AUGUST 2025. An information pack will be sent to Captains nearer the date.



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

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/abingdoncommunityfridge.

Abingdon's International Welcome Café – Fridays, 1 – 2.30 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 once a month as a small group volunteer, or as a volunteer driver, you can make a huge difference to someone's week. We are especially keen to find volunteers to support our monthly Abingdon group. Excellent training and support is given and any travel expenses reimbursed. If you think you could help, please get in touch. An application form can be found at www.archwayfoundation.org.uk, or a hard copy is available by calling 01865 790552.

Christian cards and books

Cards covering all events, including 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.

New Horizons group for the over 50s

This takes place every Wednesday at the Salvation Army base at 12 West St Helen Street, Abingdon. Coffee and chat from 10.30 am with a meal at 12 noon – please let us know a week ahead if you want a meal on oxford@salvationarmy.org.uk.

The meal is followed by an activity: a 'sing by heart' – a dementia friendly session – once a month, and a craft activity monthly.

Open Doors initiative

Open Doors runs most Mondays (except Bank Holidays) from 11 am until 2 pm at St Edmund's Parish Centre.

We welcome anyone who is on there own or would just like some company to join us for a chat and lunch or just pop in for a tea/coffee.

Open Doors sessions are informal and you are welcome to come along for all or part of the session. Lunch (a home-cooked main meal and dessert) is served around 12.15. There are usually about 20 guests at each session. Hope you can join us.

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.

Upcoming free eco events

See www.oneplanetabingdon.org for full details.

Appeal for building fund support

The RCCG Lighthouse Abingdon Parish has been presented with a remarkable opportunity to acquire the former British Red Cross Facility in Abingdon as our permanent place of worship, ministry, and community impact. This is a divine moment—a chance for us to secure a spiritual home that will serve generations to come. But we need your help.



We are raising a deposit of £180,000 to secure the purchase.



This building will be a lighthouse of hope, worship, and transformation in the heart of Abingdon.



Churches, families and individuals are invited to partner with us through faith-filled pledges and giving.

How you can support us:

- Pledge a minimum of £500 (redeemable only if our bid proposal is successful).
- Give any amount now into our Church Building Account (no amount is too small).

If you would like to make a pledge/gift or receive more information, please email:

info@rccglighthouseabingdon.org

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
numbers have dropped due to



to join our friendly team as our volunteer
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. 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 Kirsty Darter at kirsty@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 at abingdon@streetpastors.org.uk.

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, or join the writing team, please contact the CiA Administrator.

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.

Thinking Books

We are now looking for volunteers for our Thinking Books project for the 2025-26 school year starting in September. Thinking Books is TrinityLearning's mentoring scheme for primary schools.

Our volunteer mentors go into schools regularly to meet children one-to-one 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. We provide full training and support volunteers through the application process and DBS checks as well as providing ongoing support and training throughout the project.

If you're interested or want to find out more, contact Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.



Volunteer crocheters

Our fabulous and ever-expanding group of knitters and crocheters have created over 60 tiny bears and rabbits over the past few years. These are added to two of our packs: bears in the Bereavement packs which support adults working with bereaved children; rabbits in our Thinking Books packs.

I have been asked to speak at the Abingdon Partnership Head teacher's meeting in May to share details of our Bereavement and Family Change packs with all the local Head teachers. We would really like to have extra packs made up ready in case there is a surge in demand following the meeting. If you have knitting or crocheting skills and would like to have a go, please get in touch. We provide the pattern and all the resources.

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, knit or for any of our other volunteer opportunities, please email 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. 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.