



## CiA News – June 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.

### **LATEST NEWS**

#### **Pre-election hustings for Oxford West & Abingdon**

**Abingdon Baptist Church, 35 Ock Street, OX14 5AG**

**Friday 21 June 2024, 7:30 – 9:30 pm**

Come along to these hustings organized by the CiA and meet the candidates standing for election in July 2024 and find out about their policies and local priorities.

If you would like to put a question to the candidates, please email to the CiA Administrator at [helenmac930@gmail.com](mailto:helenmac930@gmail.com) or drop off at reception at Abingdon Baptist Church FAO CiA Administrator by 19 June 2024.

Please keep your questions as succinct as possible. A selection of questions will be chosen from all those submitted to cover as many topics as possible.

All are welcome and entrance is free but any donations to help towards the evening's costs would be greatly appreciated.

Some parking is available on site for any disabled guests but please contact the CiA Administrator to book. There are various public car parks in the town and some on-street parking locally (go to <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/parking-roads-and-streets/parking/car-parks/abingdon-car-parks/>).

#### **Abingdon 4<sup>th</sup> Passion Play 22 June 2024, 12 pm and 5 pm, Abbey Gardens**



Recently, the Abingdon Passion Play committee, some cast members and production team met for a prayer retreat.

*Speak, for your servant is listening.* 1 Samuel, 3, 10

The above verse is one of the Bible texts chosen as a starting point for this time together. As the production team are pulling together the complex technical aspects of sound and staging it was important for the team to take some time together to reflect and focus on God's promise, for our audience as well as the participants in the event.

We hope that many people will come to watch the play, so please spread the word to family and friends. As this is an outdoor event, we are obviously all hoping that the weather will be kind to us on the day. In the final few weeks until the performance, you will see more posters and flyers around the town, as well as production members handing out leaflets to remind the people of Abingdon about the event. Feel free to come and talk to us.

Even at this late stage, you can still join the production, as we are still looking for some helpers on the day - for example, to hand out programmes and help backstage. If you would like to be part of the production, please contact Ralph Westby, by email at [lowbasse1@gmail.com](mailto:lowbasse1@gmail.com) or by phone on 07790 498718.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and prayers, and we look forward to seeing you on the day. Bring a chair/rug and picnic. If it is wet, performances will be in St Helen's Church.

St Helen and St Katharine's School is giving a free opportunity to primary-aged children and Yrs 7/8 to learn three songs and their actions for the APP on Thursday 13 June 2024. Registration 4.2 - 4.45 pm and the event ends by 6 pm. Names to Sally on [smears@gmail.com](mailto:smears@gmail.com) in advance please.

## WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

### **Christian Aid Week 12 – 18 May 2024**

Thank you so much for supporting our market place sale and cash collection on Saturday morning. Whether you transported goods and equipment to the sale, or stood behind the tables of our stalls and encouraged passers-by to buy - all for the sake of our partners on the other side of the world whom we may never meet - it is all very highly valued and appreciated.

The sale made a total of £666.80 between cakes, pre-loved books and plants. This compares very favourably with last year's total of around £500. Our street collection raised £352.20 so that the total raised on the day was £1,024.

Thank you all for your contribution to that tremendous achievement, which I know involved a lot of sacrifice for many of you. Thanks also to the people who brought wonderful home-made cakes, garden and indoor plants and seedlings (and garden accessories), and the many books for sale. I'm sure the sunny weather played a small part, too, as did Abingdon's Town Crier, punctuating the proceedings.

## 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](mailto:cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk).

### **Back to 35**

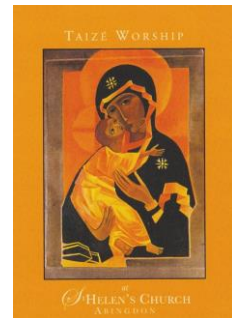
A meeting for over 50s with coffee, tea, cake (£1) and good fellowship on the first and third Thursday of the month at Abingdon Baptist Church Hall, 10.30 – 11.30 am:

- ❖ 6 June – Games morning
- ❖ 20 June -Musical quiz with Monica
- ❖ 4 July – Scamming with Mandy Massam AgeUK
- ❖ 18 July – Quiz and cream tea

For more information, please call 01235 533373.

### **Taize prayer at St Helen's Church**

Join us for Taizé prayer at 5.30 pm on 9 June and 14 July 2024.



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

Abingdon Baptist Church invite you to their monthly lunchtime music hour on Monday 10 June 2024 when Paul Herrington will play a collection of music on piano, keyboard and organ. This will be the last music hour in this half of the year, but we hope to be back again in September.



### **TAB volunteer celebration**

We would like to invite all our volunteers and supporters, and those thinking of volunteering or supporting TrinityLearning, to come and celebrate TrinityLearning's work and find out more about our projects over a cup of tea and some delicious cake. Come and join us on 20 June 2024, 4 – 6 pm, in the Conduit Centre Hall, Trinity Church.

### **Church Twinning event**

Visitors from our twin towns Argentan, Schongau and Sint Niklaas have been invited for a long weekend (20 - 24 June 2024) to attend Abingdon's Passion Play on Saturday 22 June. We expect more visitors than usual to attend so we are seeking host families to accommodate them. If you are interested in meeting our friends from abroad, exchanging information about how we live here... and there, etc., please contact Eileen on 07821 617333 or [epkbontempelli@gmail.com](mailto:epkbontempelli@gmail.com).

### **Agnostics Anonymous**

The next meeting of the Agnostics Anonymous open discussion group will take place on Tuesday 25 June 2024 at 6 - 7.30 pm at St Helen's Parish Centre. John Barton will give the introductory talk on 'How We Got the New Testament'. Keith Ward and John Kerr will take questions and contribute to the discussion. All welcome and free. For more information, call Jill Gant (01235 528929).

### **Fundraising concert for TAB**

These popular bands are returning to give another fundraising concert for TAB, TARIRO (Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe) and St Michael's Church on Saturday 6 July 2024 at 7 pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance from [www.trybooking.com/uk/DKYX](http://www.trybooking.com/uk/DKYX): adults £12, concessions £10 (plus 15p booking free per ticket), 16s and under free.

### **Fundraising concert for TAB**

Abingdon Chorale is delighted to present their first ever summer concert in aid of TAB on Sunday 14 July 2024, 8 pm at St Michael & All Angels Church, Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DS. Join us for an hour of gorgeous music, followed by refreshments. There will be a selection of songs on a Shakespearean theme, with a few jazzy numbers thrown in for good measure. Tickets £10 (£2.50 for under-16s): [www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-abingdon-bridge/t-xmovmye](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-abingdon-bridge/t-xmovmye).

### **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.archwayfoundation.org.uk), or a hard copy is available by calling 01865 790552.



## **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 (6 June) 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 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.

## **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](http://www.oneplanetabingdon.org) for full details, including:

- Zine making workshop, Sundays, 1 – 3 pm
- Junior Chess, Sundays 12.30 – 3.30 pm
- Chess and Coffee, Fridays, 10 am – 12 pm
- Knit and Chat, Thursdays, 12 – 2 pm

One Planet Living Festival -Saturday 15 June 2024, Abingdon Market Place, 10 am – 5 pm. All welcome.

## Volunteering Opportunities

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

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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).

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### **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).

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## 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/>).

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## 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).

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## 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.

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## 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:** Could you spare an afternoon per week to work with children to improve their understanding of others' emotions? Thinking Books is Trinity Learning's volunteer mentoring project. Trained volunteers meet children weekly in school for 10 sessions to discuss character's emotions using carefully chosen books. We are now recruiting for volunteers to start the project this September. 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.

**Gardening:** Are you a keen gardener? Could you spare an hour or so a week (term time only) throughout the year to help maintain a TrinityLearning school Peace garden?

Please email Nicola [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) if you would like to know more about these or any of our volunteer opportunities.

**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)

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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 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).