



CiA News – November 2021



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

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHURCHES

Due to the relaxation of COVID restrictions, most churches have now resumed services on site, as well as started up group activities. Please check the church websites for up-to-date information on these and other activities.

Abbey Baptist Church

Abbey Baptist Church is holding Sunday morning services in the building at 10.30 am each week, in line with government guidelines. If anyone would like to save a seat or to find details of the livestream available on YouTube, please visit www.abbey-baptist-church.org.uk.

Abingdon Baptist Church

Morning services have now resumed on site but will also continue to be streamed. Services are socially distanced and people are encouraged to wear masks. For further details of activities, please see the website <https://www.abingdonbaptist.org.uk>.

Abingdon Community Church

Abingdon Community Church has resumed meeting at Thameside School on Sundays at 10.30 am. For further details, please see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AbingdonCC/>.

Abingdon Vineyard Church

Abingdon Vineyard Church is back meeting in person on Sundays at 10.30 am at Preston Road Community Centre. For the time being, we are not online on Sundays. For further details, please see <https://www.abingdonvineyard.org.uk>.

The South Abingdon satellite of the Abingdon Emergency Foodbank continues to be open on Wednesdays between 1 and 2.30 pm.

All Saints Methodist Church

In-church services have resumed with weekly Morning Worship at 10.30 am. Services will follow Covid guidelines. No need to book in advance but social distancing will be observed and masks worn. For further details, please see <https://www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk>

Christ Church

Services are now taking place at Northcourt Road (10.30 am and 6.30 pm) and Long Furlong (10.30 am). For further details, please see <https://www.cca.uk.net/> and <https://www.longfurlongchurch.org.uk>.

The North Abingdon satellite of the Abingdon Emergency Food Bank continues to be open Tuesday and Friday at Northcourt Road between 10 am and 1 pm. There is a great team of volunteers but food donations are still very much needed – see <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk> for details of urgently needed foods. Donation points are located in Waitrose (during shop hours), North Abingdon satellite Foodbank and South Abingdon satellite Foodbank.

Peachcroft Christian Centre

In-church services and live streams are now taking place. We will be running an online Alpha Course from September. Please see <http://peachcroftcc.org/> for details of activities.

Quakers

Abingdon Quakers are now meeting in person on Sundays, but in different venues from before. We hold a Meeting for Worship at the Northcourt Centre in Northcourt Road on Sundays at 10.15 am, except for the second Sunday of the month when we meet in the garden of St Ethelwold's House at 10.30 am. We also have a Zoom Meeting for Worship on Thursdays at 7.30 pm each week (see the website for details) and this is also an in-person meeting at St Ethelwold's on the first Thursday of the month. Please see <https://abingdonquakers.org/> for full details.

Salvation Army

All enquiries to Captain Alexandra Devine at abingdon@salvationarmy.org.uk or on 01235 523568. Sunday worship is at 10.30 am.

Our Lady and St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church

The Baby & Toddler group will be restarting on Friday 10 September 2021, 9.30 - 11.15 am at the Parish Centre. It is a friendly drop-in group providing an opportunity for play, crafts, singing and refreshments for £1 per family per week. It only runs during term time. Please come along if you are the parent, grandparent or carer of a baby or preschool child, even if English is not your first language. Newcomers are always very welcome. For details of services, please see <https://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/>.

St Helen's, St Michael's, St Nicolas'

St Helen's is open for private prayer Monday to Friday from 10 am to 3 pm. The 10.30 Eucharist will be live-streamed via Zoom and a recording made available afterwards. For further details, please see <https://www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk/>
<http://www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/>
http://www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html

St Nicolas Church

Services have now resumed and there is no need to book in advance. Covid guidelines will be followed. Services will continue to be zoomed contact@stnicolasabingdon.org.uk for the link. Recordings of the sermons are available from <https://stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/download.html>. The Church will be open for private prayer on Monday mornings.

Trinity Church

Trinity Methodist Church is now fully open without any need to book for services. Seating is socially distanced in groups of 4 and masks are worn but we are happily singing hymns again. The Conduit Centre has reopened for Toddlers and other activities. For further details, please see <https://trinityabingdon.org.uk>.

NEWS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

Abingdon Community Fridge (Hadland Road Community Centre, OX14 3YH)

The opening hours have changed slightly, as follows:

- ❖ Mondays 5 - 6 pm
- ❖ Thursdays 1 - 2 pm
- ❖ Saturdays 10.30 - 11.30 am

The Fridge is for everyone and is free. <https://www.facebook.com/abingdoncommunityfridge>

Abingdon Good Neighbour Scheme

Abingdon Good Neighbour Scheme (AGNS) began about 10 years ago. It helps the elderly, vulnerable, isolated and disabled people in their own homes in Abingdon. There are many things that we can help with but our main request is for befriending, which usually means visiting the neighbour for a chat or if possible going out for a coffee or a short walk. We can also help with form filling, sorting letters, shopping, basic DIY, using the Internet, small gardening tasks and much more! One of the more unusual tasks has been to take a neighbour's dog to have his claws trimmed! Luckily, he was quite happy to go with the volunteer and behaved very well. We are always eager to recruit new volunteers, so if you feel you could help by sparing, maybe, an hour a week to visit a lonely person or do some shopping, then please get in touch. Our email is gns.nea@gmail.com and the website is www.neagns.co.uk.

Abingdon Passion Play

The Abingdon Passion Play will be holding its AGM on Saturday 27 November 2021, 7 pm. Please come along if you would like to find out about the plans for the next production. All welcome. There will be refreshments and light entertainment. For further info, please contact John Clare at johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com.

Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom. At this meeting, we will continue our discussions about what being progressive means in terms of both Christianity and other beliefs. 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.

Advent labyrinth walks

St Michael and All Angels Church, Park Road, will be open on Tuesday 7, 14 and 21 December 2021 between 11 am and noon, and 7 pm and 8 pm for people to have an opportunity to walk the labyrinth or simply to enjoy the sacred space. Material for reflection will be available on a different Advent theme each week. A short prayer will be said at the beginning and end of each session, but feel free to come and go as you please. Entry will be through the door on the north side of the church (opposite Albert Park). The wearing of masks is still recommended in areas of close contact. If you park in Park Road or Crescent, come in to get a parking permit, otherwise the parking is free in the surrounding streets.

Advent Service of Loss

An Advent service for those who are living with loss will take place at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, on 5 December 2021 at 3 pm. The service will be followed by refreshments. All those in the community living with loss are warmly welcome.

Albert Park singers

Rehearsals resumed at St Michael's Church. New members are welcome. For more details see <https://albertparksingers.wordpress.com/>.

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 maintain connection and provides opportunities for readers to submit their own creative contributions. The easing of restrictions in May enabled some Individual Support Service meet-ups to take place but the impact of Covid 19 on Friends, Volunteers and staff require us to take a fresh look at how we provide post-

Covid recovery support and facilitate face-to-face supportive social contact within groups. For further details, visit www.archwayfoundation.org.uk or call 01865 790552.

Back to 35

At long last, Back to 35 is meeting at ABC on 1st and 3rd Thursdays, from 10 am starting at 10.30 promptly:

7 Oct: Quiz with David Lovegrove

21 Oct: Your CDs with David Lovegrove and Geoff Pratt

4 Nov: John Bacchus Dykes, composer of hymn tunes with Chris Caddy

18 Nov: Police update with PCSO Ali Blood

2 Dec: Singing for Pleasure with Sally Mears

16 Dec: Christmas social

For further info, please contact David Lovegrove on 01235 533373

Book sale

St Nicolas' Church will be holding a book sale on Saturday 13 November 2021, 10 am – 1 pm, Covid allowing. Come and find out the great books that everyone else was reading during lockdown!

Christian Aid autumn quiz

Everyone is invited to our autumn quiz with seasonal puddings at 7 pm on 6 November 2021 at All Saints' Methodist Church, Appleford Drive. We shall be following the latest Covid-19 guidelines with masks worn except when refreshments are being taken. The quiz will be in two halves with a range of seasonal puddings to choose from during the interval. Teams will be set up *ad hoc* on the night. Donations for the work of Christian Aid will be very welcome during the event. For further information, please contact Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com.

Christmas fayre

Abingdon Baptist Church is holding a Christmas fayre on Saturday 20 November 2021, 10 am to 2pm. There will be cakes, hand-made gifts and cards, jams and preserves, and gifts with Christmas in mind for sale. There will also be a Teddy Tombola, and guess the weight of the hamper. There will be free drinks; Cafe@35 will be offering soup and roll, and bacon butties.

Christmas market

A Christmas market will take place at St Helen's Church, Saturday 27 November 2021, 10 am – 2.30 pm.

Church in Abingdon:

Annual Bereavement Service

This will take place on Sunday 7 November 2021, 3 pm, at Trinity Church. All those who have lost loved ones are welcome. We will this year remember in particular those that have lost their lives during the Covid pandemic.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The following events will be taking place in January 2022:

Mon 17 Jan – Friday 21 Jan: Midday prayers at St Nicolas' Church with refreshments and fellowship afterwards. Further details to follow.

Friday 21 Jan: Inter-church quiz at Peachcroft Christian Centre. Further details to follow.

There will be no united service.

World Day of Prayer

This will take place on Friday 4 March 2021 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. Further details to follow.

Circle Dancing/Moving into Stillness

Circle Dancing will be held in St Michael and All Angels' Church from 11 am to 12 noon every Thursday. Moving into Stillness continues on the first Thursday of every month in St Michael and All Angels' Church from 9.45 am to 10.45 am. Our teachers, Mary Williams and Elizabeth Mitchell, teach all the dances in a very gentle manner. All welcome. Any queries to Sue Sheppy on 07786 736226.

Friends of St Helen's (Registered Charity)

You are invited to join us for a book-signing talk, with tasters and wine, entitled *Sweet Slices of History* by Marjory Szurko on Thursday 4 November 2021 at 7.30 pm in St Helen's Church Centre, West St Helen St. The event is free for members and guests, £5 for non-members. If you would like to come, please contact Jackie at administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk or on 01235 520144 before 12 noon on Monday 1 November. Copies of Marjory's book of the same name, which tells the story of the development of sweet dishes and cakes, will be available for purchase. For further info or to become a member, please Mary Anderson on mary.fulani@gmail.com.

Meeting God in the Silence

This takes place on the first Monday of each month in the church hall at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, for 30 min of silent prayer in the morning or evening: **10.30 am for 11 am start** or 7.30 pm for 8 pm start. Any queries to Sarah Turner on 01235 521433 or 07980 949917.

Mindfulness meditation

Could you do with some spaciousness? Some quiet and some guided meditation? Would you like to restart or deepen your mindfulness practice? If the answer is yes, come and join an online half-day mindfulness session on Saturday 27 November, 10 am to 1 pm. Cost £15. The morning involves some guided meditation, including meditative tea/coffee & snack and some gentle mindful movement. You will be invited to keep quiet throughout and the session will come to a conclusion with an invitation to share reflections. This is for anyone who has already done a course or is familiar with mindfulness meditation. Booking is essential. For more information, please contact Susie Stead at soozstead@gmail.com or on 07962 531704. Susie is a freelance mindfulness teacher, trained and competency assessed by the Oxford Mindfulness Centre.

Music for a Sunday afternoon

St Michael's will be hosting Sunday afternoon concerts over the next couple of months. We do hope you will come along to support us and to help us in raising money for church funds – although the main reason for coming is, of course, to enjoy some good music.

- ❖ 14 November 2021, 3 pm: Pavlova Winds with Glynne Butt (piano) will play trios by Poulenc and Glinka. Some exhilarating and tuneful music! We are delighted that all four players are available to repeat a concert they performed recently in Oxford.

Remembrance Sunday

St Helen's Church will be holding a Civic Remembrance Service on Sunday 14 November 2021 at 10 am, followed by attendance at the War Memorial at 11 am.

St Helen's Church will be open on Saturday 6 November 2021, 10 am – 3 pm, to welcome in anyone to remember those who have been lost through the Covid pandemic by lighting a candle and, if they so wish, saying a prayer.

Silent Reflections

Silent Reflections on the last Tuesday of each month will be held at 7.30 pm in St Michael and All Angels Church in the following manner. Entry will be by the north door of the church (by Albert Park). Currently, masks are still worn and hand sanitisers are available. Labyrinth walks are possible, and refreshments are available after our final prayers at 8.30 pm. There will be no Silent Reflections in December. Any queries to Sue Sheppy on 07786 736226.

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 – calling all cake makers

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@tinternet.com. We are planning an AGM in November 2021 and 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 from 18 August 2021. '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

Here at TrinityLearning we are planning to restart regular volunteering projects in Abingdon schools from September 2021 with training in the summer term.



- ❖ Our **Thinking Books project** 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.
- ❖ **Kingfisher Singing Group** visits Kingfisher School one morning a week in term time to sing simple songs and nursery rhymes.

If you are interested in helping out with either of these rewarding projects you need to be over 18, willing to volunteer regularly - usually 1-2 hours/week in term time - preferably have some experience of working with children and be willing to undertake a DBS. For more information or an informal chat, please contact Nicola at 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.