



CiA News – October 2025

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

WHAT'S COMING UP

The Community Hub

A warm welcome to all as we are pleased to say that the servery in 35 Ock Street (formerly Cafe@35) will be open Monday - Saturday 10.30 am - 12.30 pm serving tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits. Please note we will be closed for the fair. We hope you will take the opportunity to meet with friends over a drink. Come and see the photographs from Abingdon Camera Club on exhibition.

Back to 35

Our group for over 50s meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month with talks, games and activities 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:

- 2 October - Hilary Beale will tell us about Abingdon Food Bank: monetary and food donations are welcome
- 16 October - We welcome back Christine Ewing keeping us moving with seated exercises

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

Lunchtime music hour at Abingdon Baptist Church



On Monday 13 October, we are pleased to welcome back Gill Carpin who will be entertaining us on the piano and organ from 12.30 pm. You are welcome to bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee will be available. Open to all. Limited parking.

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. The Café takes place monthly on the first Saturday of the month, from 2 pm to 4 pm. All welcome.

Dorcus dress project

This project is now taking place in a new location:



7th Abingdon Air Scouts Hut, on Dalton Barracks,
Shippon,
9.30 - 11.30 am.

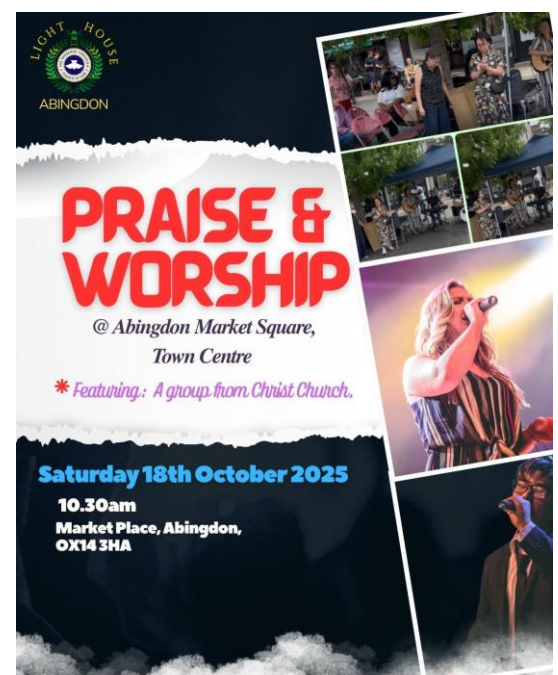
Access is from Barrow Road (car boot sale turning).

Fr Paul Smith's farewell service

This service will take place at St Michael's on Thursday 9 October 2025 at 7 pm. See Fr Paul's farewell article in Round & About Abingdon, October issue.

CD launch of new inspirational hymns by David Preston

All welcome to a CD launch on Friday 10 October 2025, 7.30 pm, in St Michael's Church, with Sally Mears conducting the Northcourt Singers. (£15 a ticket, including refreshments on the door. Children free.) Proceeds to church funds and Abingdon Passion Play. Please come along to hear newly written hymns that are to be a free resource for any church that cares to download them.



Licensing of new Team Rector at St Helen's Church

The Revd Jen Brown will be licensed as Team Rector and Vicar of St Helen's Church on 21 October 2025 at 7 pm.

Performance of Haydn's *Creation*

This will take place on Saturday 25 October 2025 at 7.15 pm at St Helen's, led by Sally Mears. Tickets £15; accompanied under-16s free: available from the Bookstore, [Ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or on the door. Refreshments available. Proceeds to St Helen's and a charity based in Sierra Leone.

Faith Forum

The Faith Forum talk on Sunday 26 October 2025 will be given by Sr Lizzie Ruth, CSMV, on Lectio Divina and Meditation on the Scriptures, as part of a series on personal spirituality. Faith Forum meets in St Helen's Parish Centre (entry through the churchyard). A buffet lunch will be served from 12.20 pm, with the talk beginning at 12.45 pm. No need to book in advance.

Agnostics Anonymous

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28 October 2025 at 6 pm, in St Helen's Parish Centre. The speaker will be Revd John Barton on the theme 'Why do Christians bother with the Old Testament?', followed by questions and discussion.

Governor Vacancy: St Nicolas CE Primary School

We are looking for a member of one of the local churches who would be interested in becoming a Foundation Governor for St Nicolas CE Primary School. Foundation Governors have a special responsibility for Collective Worship and Religious Education, and work with the school and Governing Body to uphold and promote the school's distinctive Christian foundation and ethos as we seek to support each child to 'live life to the full'. For more information about this role, please contact the Chair of Governors, Katrina Hancock, for an informal discussion (cgov3247@st-nicolas.sch.oxon.uk) before Friday 24 October 2025.

Performance of music and readings by the Oxford Waits

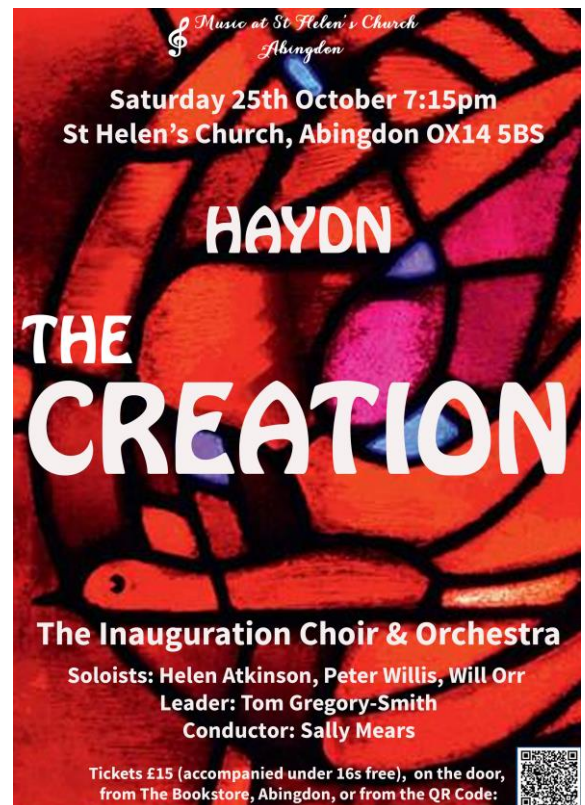
This will take place on Saturday 1 November 2025 at 7.30 pm in St Helen's Church. Tickets £15; accompanied under-16s free: available from the Bookstore, [Ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or at the door. Refreshments available. A fun and entertaining evening for all.

CiA Christmas Carol Singing – put the date in your diary

This will be taking place on Saturday 13 December 2025 in the Market Place, from about 10 am. Please come along and join us as we sing Christmas Carols together to the people of Abingdon. All musicians welcome – please contact Debra Mcknight, the CiA Administrator, for details of Carols and keys. Sally Mears has kindly agreed to be our wonderful conductor yet again. And there will be chairs for those who would prefer to be off their feet. Bring along your Christmas hats and bells, drums, etc. to this wonderful celebration of Christmas. Abingdon Street Pastors will be joining us after the Carol singing to offer hot pasties and drinks to all.

Hilarious Religious Christmas shows for Children

LolBear is a touring company that puts on Professional Christian Productions; our family shows are hugely interactive. We have a few December dates left for our brilliant Religious Christmas pantos, and are already booking our Religious Easter, Summer and Autumn dates. We bring the full theatre set-up to your



church, so no travel needed. For further information, please contact Areli at arelibecerril428@gmail.com. They also offer drama lessons for nursery and primary schools.

850th Anniversary of birth of St Edmund, great Saint and Abingdonian

A small group of the town and church community will be launching a project to 'Raise the profile of our most famous Son in his Hometown' – Watch this space.

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.

HOST ABINGDON - Be part of a positive response to local refugees and asylum seekers

The Host Abingdon team offers a warm welcome and practical help. Volunteers are needed to join our small team in providing organisation and support, as well as working directly with the women and families we help. You would play a part in welcoming, accessing services, helping people connect with ESOL teaching and community groups, and supporting people in moving on when they get good news of leave to remain.

Are you practical and well organised as well as friendly and open-hearted? Personal qualities and life experience matter more than qualifications... and we will give you induction training and on-going support. Please contact us to find out more by emailing 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.

Food Bank

Harvest is an important time for us at the Food Bank - a time when we are able to re-stock, thanks to the generosity of so many of you. If you are planning to bring harvest gifts to the Food Bank, then firstly thank you! We don't take it for granted. Secondly, if we can help with any signs, a list of what we particularly need or someone to give a talk at your church, do let us know. We can also open up our warehouse at

Christ Church at any time during the week to receive harvest gifts. During the summer holidays, we gave out extra top-up parcels to families coming to the Food Bank and to other families recommended to us by schools as needing free school meals. Now as autumn approaches, we will need to stock up with 'cold weather food', such as soup, tinned meat, fish and vegetables, and puddings. Thank you as always for your support.

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

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 their 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.

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.