



CiA News – December 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

The Community Hub, formerly Cafe@35, is open for tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits on Monday - Saturday 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. We offer a warm welcome with space to meet with friends. Our last day before the Christmas break is Tuesday 23 December and we re-open on Monday 5 January 2026.

Christian cards and books

Cards covering all events, including birthdays, anniversaries, get well, thinking of you, and Christmas, are available for purchase from 35 Ock Street, Abingdon Baptist Church. There is also a range of books for sale; 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. We are open when the Community Hub is open: 10.30 am - 12.30 pm Monday - Saturday.

Back to 35

Our 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:

- 4 December – *Change to the programme* – Songs, Carols, poems with guests the JAM Band
- 18 December - Quiz and mince pies

The New year starts with a Beetle Drive on Thursday 15 January 2026.

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

Lunchtime music hour at Abingdon Baptist Church



Abingdon Baptist Church welcomes you to spend an hour relaxing to live music from local musicians and singers on the second Monday of each month in the church sanctuary from 12.30 to 1.30 pm. You are encouraged to bring a packed lunch; tea and coffee are available. Open to all. Free admission. Limited parking.

- 8 December – Join us for an hour of Christmas music and poems with Pam and Linda. There will be a collection for Crisis.

Our first session in the new year will be on 9 February 2026 with the Eynsham Trio.

If you are a musician and would like to give an hour freely to entertain us in the new year please contact Pam Pratt on pampratt@btinternet.com. We meet on the second Monday of each month.

Advent Labyrinth Walks

St Michael and All Angels Church will be open on Tuesday 2, 9 and 16 December 2025 between 11 am and noon. There will 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: *Watch, Walk, Wonder*. 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 porch on the south side of the church. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

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.

Fundraising concert

A family concert with Carol singing and Christmas refreshments will be held at St Helen's on Saturday 13 December 2025 at 4 pm in aid of TAB. See poster for further details.

Heavenly Realms

LAMPS Collective are returning with their brand new Christmas show offering festive fun for all the family from age 8 – 800 on:

- Saturday 20 December 2025: 3 pm and 7 pm, Peachcroft Christian Centre

Join the OAPs (Old Angel Pensioners), from the retirement home Heavenly Realms, as they get ready to celebrate Christmas and share memories of the very first one. Hold on to your halo and enjoy a 'holy' new take on the Nativity story.

Tickets: £10 adult: £5 Child/young person (8-18).

Ticket link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/peachcroft-christian-centre/heavenly-realms/e-gpygml>



The poster features a nutcracker figure on the right, surrounded by warm, glowing Christmas lights. The text is arranged in a clear, festive layout.

Abingdon & District Musical Society

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 4PM

FAMILY CONCERT WITH
CAROL SINGING
AND CHRISTMAS REFRESHMENTS

TCHAIKOVSKY — NUTCRACKER SUITE
THEME FROM CHICKEN RUN
THEME FROM WALLACE AND GROMIT
LEROY ANDERSON — SLEIGH RIDE
WINTER WONDERLAND
PLUS CHORAL PIECES AND A
SELECTION OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

ST HELEN'S CHURCH
ST HELEN'S COURT
ABINGDON
OX14 5BS

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH
WWW.WEGOTTICKETS.COM/ADMS

CHARITY
CONCERT
SUPPORTING

TAB
The Abingdon Bridge

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.

From donkey puppets to golden stars - Christmas is coming to TrinityLearning!



Just like Santa Claus, we're making our lists and checking them twice as we get together everything we need for this year's Trinity Kingfisher Christmas services. In total, nine groups from Kingfisher School will join us to enjoy a sensory Nativity story.

Two groups of pupils will visit Trinity Church, where they'll take part in short, interactive services featuring props such as a donkey puppet, chamomile-scented hay and gold stars. Each child will receive a small resource pack and a song sheet to use during the service and to take home, helping them retell the story in their own way.

The remaining seven groups will take part in in-school services led by TrinityLearning volunteers and staff. To make sure every child can fully take part, we provide a range of large, sensory-friendly resources such as fleece blankets and giant feathers, ideal for children with limited manual dexterity. This enables us to adapt each service so every group can meaningfully engage with the Christmas story.



The Kingfisher School services mark the beginning of an exceptionally busy fortnight at Trinity Church, with eight performances to follow, including Carol concerts, Nativity plays and a St Nicolas celebration. Many of these events are supported by TrinityLearning alongside volunteers who come from many different local church communities.

Christmas Day Lunch 2025

Once again, we are offering a Christmas Day lunch at Peachcroft Christian Centre. This is for people who are going to be alone this Christmas, for whatever reason, but who would like to celebrate in the company of others. Our catchment area is Abingdon and surrounding villages. Transport can be provided for those unable to make their own way. The lunch is always a joyous occasion, enjoyed by guests and volunteers alike. If you know of anyone who might benefit from joining us as a guest this year, please get in touch with Fiona on 07503 178893 or at christmaslunch25@peachcroftcc.org.



Christian Aid Christmas Appeal 2025

No crib for a bed... when you're fleeing violence... When Chance escaped armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, her baby wore only a nappy. With your support, she can rebuild her family's future. For more info, go to: <http://caid.org.uk/christmas>.

The Christmas Appeal will support people like Chance, who escaped armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The funds you raise this Christmas could fund nutritious meals, medicine, blankets and other essential supplies. Click on the link above for fundraising and worship resources including posters, a short film and worship service guides (including for the Sundays in Advent)

Reflections and prayers

St Nicolas church will be open between 10 and 12 noon from Monday 19 to Friday 23 January 2026, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Chancel will offer a quiet place for people's personal prayers or for people to use the reflections and prayers provided for the 2026 theme that centres on Ephesians 4:4:

There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.

There may also be some prayer stations to help guide prayers. Everyone is welcome. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Annual New Year Inter-church quiz

This will take place on Friday 23 January 2026, 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start, at Abingdon Baptist Church. Please enter your church team (up to six people) by Friday 17 January 2026 by contacting Ian Millgate at i.l.millgate@btinternet.com or on 01235 206583. A second team may be provisionally booked depending on space. Entry is £2 per person and all proceeds will go to Sobell House. Bring your own drinks and nibbles – teas and coffees will be provided.

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 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.

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.

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).

Food Bank

WOW!!! 4 tonnes of Harvest donations!

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated: we have been inundated with collections from the general public and all different parts of our community and have beaten last year's harvest total quite considerably!

We had huge support from our local schools and our local networks of churches – it has been so wonderful to see these communities thriving and coming together in their support of the spirit of harvest festival. It is always fantastic to see new businesses coming forward with donations, and we have certainly seen this during the harvest gatherings – we are pleased to be reaching new communities and raising awareness of our important work helping those facing hardship.

Thank you so much for your support, these donations are stored up to keep us going through winter and into spring next year, to be shared between our North and South centres.

As the colder weather approaches, we will need to stock up with 'cold weather food', such as soup, tinned meat, fish and vegetables, and puddings. Download our BanktheFood app which allows you to quickly and easily see what items Abingdon Food Bank is in need of.

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.

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.



Christ's Hospital of Abingdon

Almshouses - Education - Relief in Need - Albert Park



We currently have 3 vacancies in self-contained accommodation in the historic centre of Abingdon-on-Thames, close to all amenities. Applicants should be single, able to live independently, of modest means, with a strong Abingdon connection and aged 50+ (preferably 60+). Find out more at <http://www.ch-of-abingdon.org> or contact clerk@christshospital.org or 01235 526487.

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.