



CiA News – May 2022

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

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHURCHES: Please check the church websites for up-to-date information

Abbey Baptist Church www.abbey-baptist-church.org.uk

Abingdon Baptist Church www.abingdonbaptist.org.uk

Abingdon Community Church 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 All enquiries to Capt Alex Devine at abingdon@salvationarmy.org.uk/01235 523568

Our Lady and St Edmund Roman Catholic Church www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/

St Helen's, St Michael's, St Nicolas' www.abingdon-st-helens.org.uk/Parish/P_resources.html
www.stmichaels-abingdon.org.uk/ www.stnicolasabingdon.org.uk/

Trinity Church www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

Good Friday procession of witness and united service: On Friday 15 April 2022, a procession following a wooden cross walked from Abingdon Library through the town centre, stopping in the Market Place to sing a hymn, to St Nicolas Church for a service led by Deacon Selina Nisbett. About 70 people attended.



Abingdon Street Pastors (ASP): ASP celebrated their 10-year anniversary on Friday 1 April 2022. It was a great evening hearing about the night-time economy in Abingdon, the role of street pastors and their future plans in association with the Safer Streets initiative. Visitors included TVP, TAB and the Abingdon Mayor Cllr Cheryl Briggs.



Easter Experience 2022: For the third year, Trinity Learning (TL) have been unable to welcome schools to Trinity Church. However, thanks to 'new look' videos and the brilliant support of volunteers from a wide range of Abingdon churches, TL were able to 'virtually' welcome hundreds of school children to this year's event. Children who have taken part in this year's event have been supported with 384 resource packs and 14 teacher packs sent out to six local schools. The resource packs contained everything they needed to work through the EE workshops and allowed them to work on simple activities to consider their own emotions as they learnt about the Easter story.



World Day of Prayer: This took place on Friday 4 March 2022. The service, prepared by the women of our own national committee of England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the theme 'I know the plans I have for you', was very much appreciated. There was a very good turnout (about 76 people) and the return of an in-person service was very much welcomed by all. £337.20 was raised for WDP.



WHAT'S GOING ON

Church in Abingdon events

Alpha: The Abingdon alpha website www.abingdnalpha.org will be discontinued in March 2022 and web traffic will be redirected to the CiA website (<https://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk>) where details of local Alpha courses will be posted, as well as on the central Alpha website www.alpha.org.

Christian Focus magazine: It is currently uncertain when the next issue of the Christian Focus magazine will be published as following the lack of content during the pandemic the editorial team is regrouping and refocusing the way forward. If you would be interested in getting involved, contact the CiA Administrator in the first instance.

CiA Annual Bereavement Service: This will be taking place on Sunday 6 November 2022 at 3 pm at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, in liaison with the Footprints bereavement group at CC. If there are any other bereavement groups, please contact the CiA Administrator so we can link up.

CiA Annual Report 2021: This is now available on the CiA website.

CiA Inter-church quiz: The Peachcroft Christian Centre are hoping to reorganise an in-person, inter-church quiz postponed from the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity outside in the summer. Further details to follow.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations: It is hoped that the churches of the CiA can come together and organise a stall for the community event in Rye Farm Meadow on Thursday 2 June 2022 being organised by Abingdon Town Council. Please contact the CiA Administrator at dhmcknight@aol.com if you, your church or a group from your church would like to be involved.

Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 3 June 2022 at 7.30 pm. 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 meeting, please contact Cliff Marshall at cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk.

Christian Aid Week 15 - 21 May 2022

This year Christian Aid Week in Abingdon is back to a new normal with the following activities:

- **Market Place sale on Saturday 21 May** (09:00-13:00) with cake, plant and book stalls. Donations for these stalls will be very gratefully received - by church reps or at candpmarshall@btinternet.com.
- **House - to - House collection** will only involve delivery of envelopes to key areas. There will be collection points for donations via these envelopes at churches, other central locations and at the sale on 21 May. If you can help deliver envelopes, please contact your church reps or Cliff Marshall at candpmarshall@btinternet.com.
- **Abingdon e-envelope for online donations for Christian Aid Week:** the link will be available through your church notices in May.

Thy Kingdom Come 26 May - 5 June 2022: Prayer walking our neighbourhoods

This year between Ascension and Pentecost, we would love Christians across Abingdon to join in praying for and blessing our town and our communities. Prayer walking is simply walking and praying about what you see around you, heading outside and talking with God about the people and places you pass. If walking isn't for you, you could find somewhere to sit in your area as you pray. If you can't get out at all, you could try prayer walking your area in your imagination, maybe using a map to guide you. You can choose how often you go and how far; if you go with others and how many. Between us, let's cover Abingdon with prayer and blessing. Take a look at this guide to prayer walking from 24-7 Prayer: [24-7 Prayer - guide to prayer walking](#).

Abingdon Passion Play: fundraising events

Announcing Abingdon's first ever 'The Queen's Gambit Chess Championship' to be held on Saturday 28 May 2022, 10 am to 5 pm, in the Roysse Room, Guildhall, Abbey Close. Open to all ages but limited to the first 32 contestants who apply by 14 May 2022. This event is being co-hosted by the Abingdon Passion Play Committee and One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre (OPACEC) with the support of Abingdon Town Council. Entry is £10 in aid of the Abingdon Passion Play. Tickets available online at www.abingdonpassionplay.co.uk. Refreshments (tea/coffee/juice and home-made cake) will be provided by OPACEC under the County Hall in the Market Place from 10 am to 4 pm for a donation. There will be an hour's lunch break to meet up with family and friends.

The Abingdon Passion Play (APP) are also holding a 'tea party' at St Ethelwold's House, East St Helens Street on Saturday 26 June 2022 from 3 pm till 5.30 pm. Enquires to John Clare on 01235 525898. All welcome. Proceeds will go towards the next APP production.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

There will be a service of celebration, attended by the Mayor and other signatories, on Thursday 2 June 2022 at 7 pm at St Helen's Church in honour of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. All welcome.

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 to maintain connection and provides opportunities for readers to submit their own creative contributions. Some Individual Support Service meet-ups have taken place but many people remain cautious. Small pilot groups have taken place in Oxford and Abingdon and we continue to roll out the post-Covid support plan to facilitate face-to-face supportive social contact within groups, restrictions and resources permitting. For further details, visit www.archwayfoundation.org.uk or call 01865 790552.

Church Twinning

The planned visit to Sint Niklaas, Belgium, for their Passion Play in April was postponed until 2023 because of Covid. However, the Oberammergau Passion Play performance and stay at Schongau, Germany, in July is still going ahead (see below). This year's visit here will take place at the end of October and is based around a green, ecological theme and is open to all twinned towns. Anyone interested in this subject can contact Eileen Bontempelli on epkbontempelli@gmail.com.

LAMPS looking for new trustees

LAMPS is an Abingdon-based collective of Christian artists that produce fabulous live theatre and creative resources for the church. We are currently looking for people who appreciate the arts as a powerful form of communication and force for good, who could join our friendly team of trustees who look after the governance of the charity and contribute to the planning of its exciting future. To find out more, please contact Sam Pullen-Campbell on pullencampbells@outlook.com.

Mothers' Union looking for a Treasurer

The Mothers' Union in Oxford Diocese is in urgent need of a treasurer. This part-time position requires a person with accountancy skills and would suit someone who is newly retired. For more information, please contact Revd Louise Butler (Finance and Administration for Oxford MU) on 07837 009730 or at finance@muoxford.org.uk.

Moving into Stillness: Taizé circle dancing and stillness

This will be held 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 every Thursday 11 am - 12 noon. Mary Williams and Elizabeth Mitchell are our teachers. 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) for more details, or just come and see. Next date: Thursday 5 May.

Nasio Trust

The Nasio Trust is a Christian charity based in Abingdon that helps children in poverty in Western Kenya. If you would like to find out more and book a talk in your church, please contact Linda Cole at linda.cole@thenasiotrust.org or on 01235 611200.

Pilgrimage to Oberammergau – July 2022

The 2020 Oberammergau Passion Play pilgrimage led by the Revd Dr Charles Miller, originally scheduled for 2020, has been rescheduled for 13-21 July 2022. The 'pilgrims' will be accommodated in the Gutshof outside charming Salzburg for most of the week then travel to Oberammergau for the famous Passion Play itself. A large number of the original group cannot now go so there is plenty of space, especially double occupancy rooms. If you are interested in joining the pilgrimage, please contact Charles Miller either directly or through the Parish Office (01235 520144).

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 9 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. Entry is through the North door 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.

The Abingdon Bridge (TAB)

The Abingdon Bridge is based in Abingdon and provides support for people aged 13-25 years who find themselves in challenging circumstances. We employ counsellors and youth workers who give 1:1 support, run groups and workshops, do gym sessions and outreach work. We are looking for someone who has a keen interest in young people and would like to help with TAB's work as a trustee. We have trustee meetings every three months and subcommittees that meet monthly or quarterly. If you would like to know more, please contact Gill Dean at gill@theabingdonbridge.org.uk.

Volunteering Opportunities

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

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, or would like to support our work, 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@btinternet.com.

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.

LAMPS Collective

LAMPS is a collective of Christian artists that produce fabulous live theatre and creative resources for the church (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.

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. '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

TrinityLearning organise regular volunteering projects in Abingdon schools and are looking for enthusiastic people to join the following groups. Volunteers receive full training and ongoing support. To find out more about volunteering with TL visit <https://bit.ly/2SloZCJ>.



- ❖ **Kingfisher Singing Group:** this group meets once a week for about an hour to sing nursery rhymes and action songs with children with a range of disabilities at Kingfisher School.
- ❖ **Thinking Books project:** this 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.

For more information or an informal chat about volunteering with either of the above, please contact Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

We are also looking for crocheters. Can you put your stitching skills to good use to make a tiny bear? One little bear is sent out with each TrinityLearning Bereavement Pack, a pack designed for adults who are working with bereaved children in schools. We'll supply the pattern, wool, stuffing, buttons, etc. We just need your crochet know-how. If you're interested, we would love to hear from you so please email 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.