



CiA News – June 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' <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH>
<https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StM> <https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StN>

Trinity Church www.trinityabingdon.org.uk

WHAT'S GOING ON



make them count

June is the national month of prayer for toddler groups.

Please pray for:

- ❖ The parents, grandparents and carers who come into our buildings each week, that they may see the love of Christ through those who serve.
- ❖ The children, that they may feel loved, nurtured, valued and accepted for who they are.
- ❖ The team who are committed to this valuable ministry, that they may feel encouraged and supported in all that they aim to be and do in God's name.
- ❖ For the continued vision for our under-5s ministry, that we may be faithful to God's call, so that lives may be transformed.
- ❖ For the faithful and loving witness and service, of those who have served and have gone before us, we give thanks to God.

1,277 are the average number of days a child has from birth, before they start school.

We want to 'make them count' for the children, for their families and for the toddler groups that they attend.

Church in Abingdon events

Alpha: The Abingdon alpha website www.abingdonalpha.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 Inter-church quiz: The Peachcroft Christian Centre will be holding the postponed quiz on Friday 15 July 2022, 7 pm. Further details to follow.

Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7 June 2022 at 7.30 pm via Zoom entitled 'Rethinking Christianity for the 21st century – an American perspective. Following earlier discussions with Dave Tomlinson and Ben Whitney, we shall be joined on this occasion by a pastor from the United Methodist Church in Washington State, USA. Rich Lang is exploring with his congregation in Lake Washington the ways the Church needs to evolve in the future. We have been listening to two sermons which Rich recently gave and anyone wishing to join us this time should contact Cliff Marshall for the YouTube links for these sermons. 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 cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk.

Abingdon Passion Play: fundraising event

Abingdon Passion Play (APP) are 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.

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.

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: 9 June due to Jubilee Bank Holiday on 2 June

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.

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, 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.

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.