



CiA News – April 2024

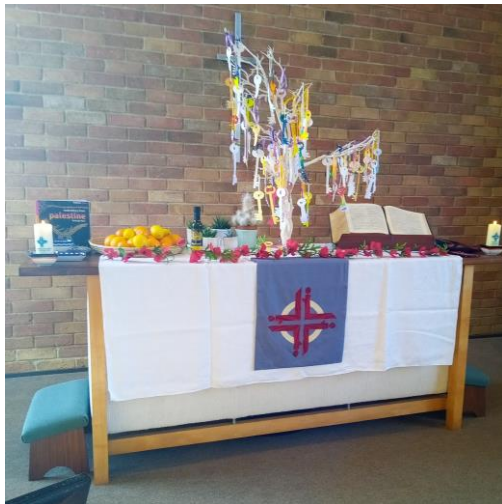
This news sheet is available on the CiA website at www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk. Please take a look.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

CiA - World Day of Prayer

About 80 people attended the service this year, prepared by the women of Palestine, with the theme 'I beg you, bear with another in love'. The service was hosted by All Saints Church and led by Revd Ian Griffiths. It was a lovely service with lots of symbols of Palestinian life. Children from many of the churches had decorated paper keys which were displayed on a prayer tree. In Palestine, keys are a symbol of hope. Refreshments were provided after the service by the people of All Saints and included lots of specially made Palestinian delicacies prepared by the WDP committee members.

Thanks to all the WDP committee members who helped to bring the service together, either reading, cooking, organising, etc. Thanks also to all those at All Saints who hosted us, either by preparing the church, organising refreshments, etc.



CiA – Good Friday Procession of Witness and Outdoor Service

Nearly 100 people came along to take part in the Good Friday procession of witness from Abingdon Library proceeding through the town centre to the Market Place for an outdoor service, led by Pastor Ellie Ball of the Abingdon Vineyard Church. The weather was very unsettled, threatening rain, but people came prepared and as the procession entered the Market Place the sun came out. This year there were additional volunteer musicians and singers – Ed and Lucy from Christ Church, as well as their worship group singers, and Pam and Chris from Abingdon Baptist Church, all protected from the elements by Abingdon Street Pastor’s gazebo. It was a wonderful service and a great witness. Mini Easter eggs and an Easter tract, including the details of Easter Sunday services around Abingdon churches, were given out to passers-by. A worship session led by the group from Christ Church followed the main service, with a testimony from a lady from Abingdon Baptist Church.

Thanks to the musicians, Pastor Ellie Ball and various people at St Nics who helped with set-up and the provision of chairs, and to all those from Abingdon Vineyard Church for their help in setting up.



WHAT'S COMING UP

Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network Group

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting is held on Zoom and the link for joining the meeting is available from the convenor, Cliff Marshall, at cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk.

Lunchtime music hour at Abingdon Baptist Church

Come and bring your friends to hear live music from local musicians and singers from 12.30 to 1.30 pm on the second Monday of the month. You can bring your own lunch or buy from our Cafe@35, or just come and listen.

- ❖ Monday 8 April 2024: Pam Pratt and Linda King – pianist/guitarist/singers



AgeUK Abingdon Information Day – Dementia

Come along to the Conduit Centre, Trinity Church, OX14 1DB, on Monday 8 April 2024, 10 am – 1 pm, for free information and advice about living with and caring for dementia. Meet your local Dementia Advisers and a wide range of other local services who are here to support you. For more information, please contact kerryhyatt@dementiaoxfordshire.org.uk (07468 862180).

Organ recital

On 13 April 2024, Simon Lawford will be giving an organ recital at St Helen's Church at 7 pm, including works by Franck, Dupre and Boellmann. Simon is currently organist at Notre Dame de France, London and has held posts at many cathedrals in England as well as in Perth, Australia. Tickets: £12 (under-16s free), available at the door or from Ticketsource. Refreshments available after the concert.

CONNECT event – Heart of Worship

Plans are under way for the next Connect event at the beginning of next term on 19 April 2024, 7 – 9 pm, at Christ Church, Northcourt Road. The theme will be Heart of Worship and will be led by Rob Finch of All Saints Church, Marcham.

If you have any youth that are interested in attending, we do ask that at least one leader accompanies them on the night.

Link for Youth to sign up: [CONNECT \(Yr 7-13\) \(19-Apr-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

Link for Leaders to sign up: [CONNECT \(Leaders\) \(19-Apr-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Abi at abigail.pike@cca.uk.net.

Concert by Harmony InSpires

This ladies capella choir will be returning to St Michael's Church on Saturday 20 April 2024, 5 pm, to delight us with 'Harmony in Springtime', a concert of four-part harmony in a wide variety of styles from musicals, pop classics and beautiful ballads. Tickets: adults £12/accompanied children under 16 free, available online at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DCXA> or by card/cash on the door. Kindly sponsored by Taylor-Made Mobility. Proceeds to St Michael's Church funds. Proceeds from refreshments and raffle on the day to Harmony InSpires. Free parking.

Agnostics anonymous

The next meeting of the Agnostics Anonymous open discussion group will be held on Tuesday 23 April 2024 from 6 pm to 7.30 pm at St Helen's Parish Centre. John Kerr will give the introductory talk on 'Miracles: 6 impossible things before breakfast?' Keith Ward and John Barton will also be there to field questions and join the discussion. Everyone welcome. Free. For more information, please contact Jill Gant on 01235 528929.

Local Houses of Prayer Training Day

Would you love God to use you more in prayer and mission right where you are? Come and join us on Saturday 1 June 2024, 10 am – 4 pm, at Christ Church for a day of training and encouragement to find out more about Local Houses of Prayer. For more information, contact the Abingdon Network Leader, Ruth Savage, on ruthsavage@aol.com or see the website [Local Houses of Prayer](#). To sign up for the day, click [here](#).

Abingdon 4th Passion Play 22 June 2024

The Abingdon Passion Play (APP) depicts the last days in the life of Jesus Christ, up to and including his crucifixion and resurrection. APP has an excellent script (Bible-based and in a modern setting) and intend to give two presentations of the play on Saturday 22 June 2024 - outdoors in the Abbey Gardens, at the height of summer.

Call for Actors/Singers/Helpers/Practise Venues: Lots of people are needed to make this play work and we are still in need of both principal actors and supporting roles (with and without experience) and singers. We also need help off-stage as well as on-stage. Age is not a barrier to participating in this venture - we currently have interest from people aged 12 to 80+.

For more information, please see the website www.abingdonpassionplay.org.uk; alternatively, contact the Producer/Director Ralph Westby directly at lowbasse1@gmail.com or on 07790 498718.

Abingdon Food Bank

Abingdon Food Bank needs your support more than ever now, with the increasing cost of living adversely affecting those already struggling to make ends meet. A typical food parcel might contain: cereal, soup, pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes/pasta sauce, lentils, beans and pulses, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tea/coffee, tinned fruit, biscuits, UHT milk, fruit juice. Also toiletries, nappies and household cleaning items. Food can be taken to either Preston Road Food Bank or Christ Church Food Bank. Some supermarkets also have collection baskets. Financial donations are also welcome.

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

The Community Fridge is in need of funding to continue its work (hire of hall, insurance, food safety training for volunteers, etc.). To donate, go to <https://chuffed.org/project/abingdon-community-fridge> or contact margaretdhancox@gmail.com. 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.

Back to 35

A meeting for over 50s with coffee, tea, cake (£1) and good fellowship on the first and third Thursday of the month at Abingdon Baptist Church, 10.30 – 11.30 am. For details, please contact David Lovegrove/35 Ock Street on 01235 530080.

Christian cards and books

Cards covering all events, birthdays, anniversaries, get well, thinking of you, etc., which are regularly topped up, are available for purchase from 35 Ock Street, Abingdon Baptist Church. There is also a range of books for sale, regularly updated; 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.

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 on the first and third Thursday of the month from 11 am to 12 noon. Elizabeth Mitchell is our teacher. 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.

NB: There will be no MintoS or regular circle dancing on Thursday 4 April

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.

Salvation Army Abingdon – Job opportunity – Community Manager – Addiction Recovery



Abingdon Salvation Army is developing an integrated supported housing project for people in abstinent-based recovery. The successful candidate will provide 1:1 and group support, build relationships, assist motivation for change and continuing abstinence, and work towards life-changing outcomes. They will oversee the running of the supported housing programme including administrative duties relating to housing benefit, support planning and risk assessments.

There is an occupational requirement for the post holder to be a practising Christian. It is a permanent contract, working 16 hours/week (to be agreed) with 25 days annual leave. Salary £14.57 to 15.86 per hour depending on skills and experience. For further details and to apply, please visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/jobs.

Upcoming free eco events

See www.oneplanetabingdon.org for full details, including:

- Sewing Repair Café
- Junior Chess / Chess and Coffee
- Repair and Sharpening Cafe
- Chill and Crotchet
- Chill and Craft
- Knit and Chat
- EcoTots
- Basic Sewing

Volunteering Opportunities

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

Abingdon Baptist Church, 35 Ock Street



Looking for something new? Like meeting people? Have you considered volunteering?

Research shows that being a volunteer has lots of benefits. It can bring meaning and purpose to your life, while increasing your self-esteem and wellbeing. Volunteering can also relieve stress, and alleviate symptoms of depression, as well as having a positive impact on your community.

35 Ock Street and Café is a hugely valuable and important resource for the church in its mission to the community. Our team is made up of volunteers who have a passion for serving our community.

We are looking for new people to join our friendly team as our volunteer numbers have dropped due to changes in circumstances.



If you think you could take on a **catering role** or **reception duties** and you want to learn more, why not drop us an email at office@35ockst.org.uk. We'd love to hear from you! Give as much time as you feel able - once a week, once a fortnight or even once a month. Training is given.

Current opening times: Monday – Thursday 10.30 am - 2.00 pm with light tasty lunches served between 12.00 pm and 1.30 pm; Fridays and Saturdays 10.30 am – 12.30 pm with refreshments only but, as a special, bacon baps are available.

The Abingdon Bridge



The Abingdon Bridge is a well-regarded registered Abingdon charity supported by both the National Lottery Community Fund and the BBC's Children in Need Fund, as well as funding from the CiA. TAB provides support to young people (aged 13-25 years) to enable them to have the resilience to help overcome life's challenges (<https://www.theabingdonbridge.org.uk>). TAB

has a bank of volunteers that perform a vital role, often doing a slot once a week or fortnight or monthly. 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 John Clare at johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com.

Christian Forum

This Christian witness continues to be published monthly in the Abingdon Round & About magazine, distributed around Abingdon residents. If you would like to submit an article (300 words max) 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.

To read more about the twinning visits, see the reports posted on the CiA website under 'CiA-supported task groups: additional information' (<https://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk/>).

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 2 pm. '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 would like to be involved in some way, please contact either Paul or Alexandra Devine on 01235 523568.

Trinity Learning

TrinityLearning is a tiny, church-funded Abingdon charity that aims to improve wellbeing in Abingdon's school communities. TrinityLearning works with volunteers from across Abingdon's church communities providing a wide range of volunteering opportunities. If you are looking for a rewarding regular volunteer activity and can offer to volunteer for around an hour a week, please contact Nicola at nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com.



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 (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.