



CiA News – November 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 and soft drinks on Monday - Saturday 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Come for friendship and conversation and enjoy a friendly welcome, and see the Abingdon Camera Club's exhibition of framed photographs which are available to purchase.

Christian cards and books

Cards covering all events, including birthdays, anniversaries, get well, thinking of you, etc., 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.

Performance of music and readings by the Oxford Waits

A fun evening of entertainment from the Oxford Waits at St Helen's Church, Saturday 1 November 2025 at 7.30 pm. The Waits (Caroline Butler, Jon Fletcher, Ian Giles, Tim Healey and Edwin Pritchard) will present an evening of 17th century readings, dance tunes and songs on period instruments. Tickets £15; accompanied under-16s free: available from the Bookstore, Ticketsource.co.uk or on the door. Refreshments available.

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:

- 6 November – Talk on Country music by Ian Millgate
- 20 November - Talk by our community street officers Ali and Maddie

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.

- 10 November - The group Old Gold are bringing music from the 60's to present day. There will be an opportunity to donate to Helen and Douglas House.
- 8 December - Pam and Linda bring a variety of Christmas music, songs and poetry. There will be an opportunity to donate to the Abingdon Bridge.

Quiet Garden Day

Join us for a festive 'quiet garden day' at the Village Hall, Thorpe St, Aston Upthorpe, Didcot OX11 9EQ, while the Centre for Reflection is being renovated. Joan Impey will lead us on an Advent theme on Saturday 22 November 2025, 10 am - 4 pm. Refreshments are provided, but please bring a packed lunch. A donation of £10 would be welcome. To help with planning, please email: atquietgardendays@gmail.com in advance. All welcome.



Abingdon Passion Play AGM

This will take place on Saturday 22 November 2025, 7 pm, at The Barn at Christ Church Northcourt Road. There will be a talk from Jackie Sheppard, producer of the new television series TESTAMENT, a performance from ACCord (Abingdon Community Choir) followed by the AGM itself. We will also be laying on pizza and refreshments. As the committee is now small in numbers, we encourage as many participants as possible. We will also discuss the appetite in Abingdon for future Passion Plays. All welcome.

Fundraising concert

We are delighted that Tim Robson and Abingdon Chorale will be holding an informal Christmas concert in aid of TAB on Saturday 29 November 2025, 4 pm, at St Michael and All Angels Church. Hear and sing beautiful music then join us for festive refreshments.

Christmas Fayre at Abingdon Baptist Church

After a break last year, Abingdon Baptist Church is back with its Christmas fayre on Saturday 29 November 2025, 10 am – 2 pm. There will be lots of great ideas for Christmas presents, 'Guess the weight of the hamper', Adopt a teddy, cake stall, children's crafts and second-hand paperback books. Take the weight off your feet with a tea, coffee or soft drink. Come and join the fun; parking limited.

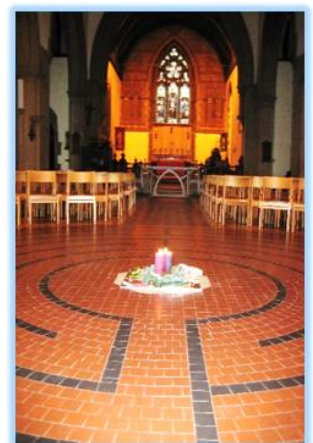


Christmas Market

Come along to our Christmas market on 29 November 2025, 10 am – 1 pm at St Helen's Church. There will be lots to eat and lots to buy: bacon butties, cakes, drinks for sale throughout along with home baking and preserves to take home. More stalls selling books, jewellery, new gifts, artwork, plants, a raffle, a tombola and much, much more. Listen out for the peal attempt by the bellringers.

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.

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>

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.

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).

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

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.

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.

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.