



CiA News – January 2026

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

CiA Christmas Carol Singing

Nearly 200 people joined us for Christmas Carol singing at the Abingdon Market Place on Saturday 13 December 2025 from 10 am. Yet again, the weather was kind to us and the sun was out. In addition to the singing, there were crafts for children; and after the singing, Abingdon Street Pastors served hot pasties and hot (alcohol-free) mulled wine. There was lots of good fellowship and singing prowess accompanied by jingling bells and tambourins, a keyboard and a violin. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day and took part.



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. We re-open on Monday 5 January 2026.

Christian cards and books

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

- 15 January 2026 – Beetle Drive

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

News from TrinityLearning!



Thank you so much for your continued support of TrinityLearning's work. Our Annual Report for the period September 2024 to the end of August 2025 is available on the website (<https://trinitylearning.org.uk>). We are really proud of the real difference our volunteers made in the last year and hope you will enjoy reading about it.

You are invited to join our AGM which will be held via Zoom on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 6 pm. Please email me (nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) if you would like to join us and I will send you a Zoom link.

Many of you will have heard that I will be stepping down from my role as Education Development Officer this school year and recruitment is under way with the advert likely to appear early in the new year. Please look out for it and share it.

For all our latest news with details of our latest projects and some upcoming volunteer opportunities, please go to the website.

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.

Time Out for Parents - The Early Years

This course from Care for the Family will be taking place at Peachcroft Christian Centre on the following Thursdays in January, February and March from 7.30 to 9.30 pm:

January – 22, 29

February – 5, 12, 26

March – 5

This course of six sessions is designed to help parents negotiate the early years (under-5s) with confidence and build strong family relationships for the future. The course will cover: What being a parent is really like; Understanding children's needs; Play and listening; Parenting styles and boundaries; Discipline and safety; The wider family.

Booking and more information at: <https://www.peachcroftcc.org/community/parenting-course>

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.

- 9 February 2026 – Our first session in the new year will be 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.

World Day of Prayer

This year the World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 6 March 2026 at St Edmund's Church, 2.30 pm. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria and the theme is 'I will give you rest, come' from Matthew 11:28 – 30. The service shares the stories of four Nigerian women who inspire us to work towards a world without injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair. We will join a great wave of prayer that encircles the globe, all praying with and for the country and people of Nigeria. All welcome, Refreshments will follow the service.



Good Friday Procession of Witness and Open Air Service

This will take place on Friday 3 April 2026: the procession will leave from Abingdon Library at 11.45 am through the precinct to Abingdon Market Place for a service at 12 noon. We will be accompanied by the Salvation Army band. All 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

For more information, go to www.facebook.com/abingdoncommunityfridge.

Abingdon Compassionate Café

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.

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).

Foodbank

In November 2025, your donations helped Abingdon Foodbank to distribute 233 food parcels to people facing hardship in Abingdon and the surrounding villages. These parcels fed 565 people, of which 197 were children. Thank you so much for your support in November.



For more information about Abingdon Foodbank – the history of the Foodbank and how it operates, location and opening times, food needed, where you can donate food, other ways you can help, real stories, how to download the Foodbank app – go to <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/>.

Hilarious Religious shows for Children

LolBear is a touring company that puts on Professional Christian Productions; our family shows are hugely interactive. We 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.

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.

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 (NB: first session is on 8 January 2026), 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 there 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.ourladyandstedomund.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.