



WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

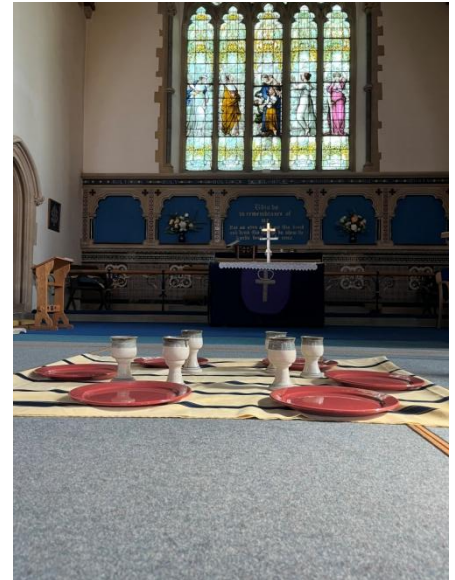
Experience Easter

Thanks to continued support from the CiA and our dedicated volunteers from across the Abingdon churches, Experience Easter has continued to grow with Experience Easter 2026 being our largest yet: 540 pupils from nine different schools took part either in-person in Trinity Church or online with each child receiving a small pack of resources to support the workshops. We are particularly proud of our work on inclusion over the last few years which has helped to ensure that all the children taking part can experience the Holy Week story in ways that are accessible to them.

The annual grant provided by the CiA and an additional small grant from the Gladiator Trust have ensured that we can continue to expand Experience Easter to meet the increasing demand and changing needs of Abingdon's schools.

Volunteers for Experience Easter take part in telling sections of the Easter Story from a carefully designed script, support children with simple reflective activities, prepare crafts and make up resource packs. Experience Easter is ideal for those who are looking for short-time commitments, occasional volunteering and volunteering from home. Please get in touch soon if you are particularly interested in storytelling or in-person volunteering as it takes a while for us to sort out Safer Recruitment procedures such as DBS checks and training. If you would like to know more about volunteering for Experience Easter 2027 please email Hannah hannah.trinitylearning@gmail.com.

Hannah Richards takes over from Nicola Williams as Education Development Officer for TrinityLearning from September 2026. Nicola would like to thank people for their help and support over the last 7 ½ years.



WHAT'S COMING UP

Back to 35

The Abingdon Baptist Church group for over 50s next session will be on Thursday 3 September 2026 with board games and an opportunity to do a watercolour painting. The doors open at 10.00 am when tea, coffee and homemade cake is served and we run from 10.30 to 11.30 am. Admission £1.

Lunchtime music hour at Abingdon Baptist Church

We take a break for August and return on Monday 14 September 2026 at Abingdon Baptist Church with Old Gold to entertain us over lunch from 12.30 to 1.30 pm.



Family Fun Morning, ABC

On Saturday 15 August 2026 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm Abingdon Baptist Church is holding a morning of free activities for all ages. There will be a Bouncy Castle for under 7s and soft play, Beat the Goalie, Hook a Boat, Table Tennis, Giant Jenga and Connect Four and much more. Tea, coffee and squash are available and a piece of homemade cake for just £1. The JAM band will be playing throughout the morning. Sorry no parking on site as the activities will be in the car park area. Come and join the fun.

Alpha course

Christ Church are excited to be hosting an Alpha course in the Autumn. Sessions will be on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm launching on 16 September 2026. It is a good opportunity for those outside church to explore and discuss the Christian faith, in a relaxed setting. Please invite and pray for the course. Free booking can be found on the Christ Church Abingdon website.

United Prayer event, organised by CiA - Thursday 8 October 2026, 7.30 pm, Abingdon Baptist Church

Put this date in your diary. A chance for people from all the churches to come together to share what is going on in their churches and to prayer for the town and all the outreach work. Further details to follow. All welcome.

Ecumenical course: Holy Ground to train for spiritual direction

This course is designed for those, whether lay or ordained, who would like to explore accompanying others on their spiritual journey. Holy Ground offers both theoretical, experiential and prayerful learning, and formation in the practice of spiritual direction. The programme includes 22 online evening sessions and 3 in-person days from October 2026 to May 2027. For more details about the course, look on our website www.spidirnetwork.org.uk or for quick access use this link www.spidirnetwork.org.uk/holy-ground. Or contact the local rep Sue Sheppy (susan.sheppy@btinternet.com).

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

[The Abingdon Compassionate Café](#) is now a fully constituted community group and will be restarting on Saturday 5 September 2026 and will be running on the first Saturday every month from 2 pm to 4 pm until June 2027. There is no café in July and August.

Abingdon Compassionate Cafe ☺



Do you need someone to talk to? Join us!

**on the First Saturday of the month
from 2 pm to 4 pm.**

**Cake, Kindness and Compassion –
a safe haven, to just be!**

a supportive gathering to talk about grief, difficult diagnoses, or caring for a loved one with Dementia or nearing the end of life.

Providing a comforting space for conversation, along with cake, tea, coffee, or soft drinks in the beautiful garden room, and the gardens of St Ethelwold's House.

No agenda or advice, just space for you to chat with others in similar circumstances, or to simply spend some time in a welcoming, inclusive, peaceful space.

At St Ethelwold's House, Abingdon, OX14 5EB
Contact Fiona at email fiona@fionamaccebrant.co.uk

in partnership with Maggie's, Oxford, Sobell House, Dementia Friendly Abingdon, Helen and Douglas House, Seesaw, Oxford Samaritans, and The Abingdon Library.

No Café in July/ August

Abingdon's International Welcome – Fridays, 1 – 2.30 pm (term time), The Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road, OX14 1PL

International Welcome is a free and friendly language class for people of all nationalities who want to improve their English. Those who attend are helped by a qualified English teacher and local English-speaking volunteers. It is a collaborative partnership of Host Abingdon (a support group for refugees and asylum seekers) and Christ Church, along with other local groups and organisations. The sessions offer friendship, refreshments, local information and support. For further information, visit the International Welcome web page at hostabingdon.org/english-class or contact iw@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.

The Community Hub

The Community Hub, formerly Cafe@35, is now closed for August and will reopen on Wednesday 2 September 2026 at 10.30 am.

To function as a café, we are seeking volunteers for:

- Catering - preparing light meals and drinks.
- Catering assistants - washing up and helping with food preparation.
- Pastoral listeners - a friendly ear to all.

All jobs could be monthly, fortnightly, weekly or more, the choice is yours. Training will be given. To find out more, please contact Deputy Manager, Linda King, on linda.king52@talktalk.net. Come and join the team.

Abingdon Baptist Church is seeking a Manager to work with our Deputy Manager in running the cafe in 35 Ock Street from September. The person needs to be part of a worshipping congregation that is part of the Church in Abingdon. The aim is to create within it an environment where all from our community will find a warm Christian welcome. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the Church Secretary, Christine Hutt, at secretary@abingdonbaptist.org.uk. A Job Description and Person Specification is available and the deadline for submissions is Friday 7 August 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, as well as Easter cards. 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.

Foodbank



The summer holidays are here: a tough time for families that rely on free school meals. 'My kids are eating me out of house and home', is a frequent comment. So we are as usual offering topup food parcels to such families and increasing the amount of food we give to families who are referred to us.

To see our current needs, just download the [BanktheFood](https://bankthefood.org.uk) app, but we always need tinned meat, squash, UHT milk, custard and rice pudding, tinned fruit and surface spray. To learn more about the Foodbank, how we work and how to support us, go to <https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/> or follow us on Facebook.

You can now support us at no cost to you by joining [easyfundraising](https://easyfundraising.com). Every time you shop online or even in some supermarkets, the retailer can give us a small donation.

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.

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.

Stepping Stones Bereavement Group

A new cohort of this group started on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 10.30 am in The Barn, Christ Church, Northcourt Road. This group is for people who have been bereaved in the past 12 months or so, all ages, all faiths or none. It will meet for nine sessions on the second Tuesday of each month. **The group will take a break in August.** The leaders are all volunteers - not counsellors - but all bring different experiences. If people would like to attend, or would like further info, please contact Sue Quantick (Sue.quantick@cca.uk.net) so she can plan ahead.

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.

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.

NB: There will be no dancing in August.

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

Abingdon Baptist Church www.abingdonbaptist.org.uk#

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

Hope Church Abingdon (formerly Abingdon Community Church) www.hopechurchabingdon.org.

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.