WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

Uniting in Prayer for Abingdon

Thursday 8 October 2026, 7.30 pm
Abingdon Baptist Church



The meeting was led by Revd Keith Dunnett of Christ Church. About 70-80 people from all the churches in Abingdon attended, as well as the Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Andrew Skinner. Refreshments were available before the meeting started.

The meeting was divided into various sections with each section led by a member of the clergy and with prayer for a specific section of the community:

Pastor Ellie Ball of Abingdon Vineyard Church and Pastor Michael Daw of the RCCG Lighthouse led the first prayer section of the evening: praying for children and youth. After a brief introduction to various outreach activities for children and young people, the congregation were invited to get into small groups to prayer for these projects

Section 2 - Sharing faith and growth - was led by Pastor Andy O'Connell of Hope Church (formerly Abingdon Community Church). After a short introduction, prayers were said by two members of his congregation, Dorothy Baldwin of Abingdon Street Pastors and Phil Adams.

Section 3 - Praying for the town - was led by Father Jamie McGrath of Our Lady and St Edmund Church. The congregation were invited to join in with prayers for various sections of the community – civic officers, emergency services, public servants and for guidance in the decisions they face; for peace among our communities and protection by civic institutions; for all in the community to contribute positively to it.

Revd Keith Dunnett led the business section of the meeting – the CiA AGM. He started by summarising the changes in the operation and vision of the CiA that were agreed by the GB in September 2025, followed by a rundown of the CiA united activities in 2026 and those proposed for 2027.

Linda King, The CiA Treasurer, gave a financial update and presented the budget for 2027, which was unanimously accepted. The last grants from the community fund have been paid out as this is the last year

of the CiA Community Fund scheme. The onus is now with churches to direct the money they paid into the Community Fund to those community activities they support within their churches.

The final section of the meeting - Praying for churches across Abingdon - was led by Revd David Masters of the Peachcroft Christian Centre. These were of a prayer and response nature, all on screen, with space for private prayer, followed by everyone joining in with the Lord's Prayer.
The meeting finished with a hymn and Grace.

Each church had been asked to submit both a request for prayer and an item for thanksgiving. These were all brought together in a handout so that people could take them back to their individual churches for prayer and thanksgiving.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Cafe@35

Do come along to our cafe in 35 Ock Street: we are open from 10.30 am to 2 pm Monday to Thursday, serving cakes, teacakes and toast with light lunches, freshly made, from 12 noon until 1.30 pm. On Fridays and Saturdays, we are open from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm serving cakes and snacks including bacon baps. All welcome.

Cafe@35 has vacancies for those wishing to volunteer in catering, washing up or listening. If you would like to volunteer in the café, we would love to hear from you. Full training is given. Please phone 35 Ock Street on 01235 530080 or email admin@35ockst.org.uk or call in the cafe during open hours to receive an application form.

Abingdon Compassionate Cafe

The Abingdon Compassionate Café takes place monthly 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 with others in similar circumstances, or simply to spend some time in a welcoming, inclusive, peaceful space, along with cake, tea, coffee or soft drinks in the beautiful garden room and gardens of St Ethelwold's House, East St Helen Street. For more information, please contact Fiona on fiona@fionamaccelebrant.co.uk.

New 'Estate Coffee Hub'

ALL SAINTS METHODIST CHURCH
Appleford Drive, Abingdon OX14 2AQ
APPLEFORD DRIVE
"ESTATE COFFEE HUB"

All Saints Methodist Church are launching their new 'Estate Coffee Hub' on Mondays. All welcome to join us for coffee and a chat on the following dates from 10.30 am to 12 noon:

Mondays: 2 November, 7 December

Fridays: 13 November, 11 December

Back to 35

Abingdon Baptist Church welcomes over 50s to our sessions on the first and third Thursdays of the month. We have a variety of talks and interest groups. The doors open at 10 am for tea, coffee and homemade cake. Our sessions are from 10.30 to 11.30 am. Admission £1. All welcome.

- 5 November - *My Vision* with Pip Dingle
- 19 November – *Archway* with Vicki
- 3 December - Quiz and mince pies

The Music Hour



Abingdon Baptist Church invites 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. The church is open from 12 noon. You are welcome to buy your lunch in the cafe or bring a packed lunch. Open to all. Free admission.

- 9 November - Paul Harrington entertains on the piano and organ. Donations to Archway.
- 14 December - Pam and Linda bring a selection of Christmas music. Donations to Carousel.

If you are a musician and would like to give an hour freely to entertain us, please contact Pam Pratt on pampratt@btinternet.com. As a thank you, you will get a free lunch in Cafe@35.

People's Emergency Briefing film

All welcome to come to Christ Church, Northcourt Road, on Thursday 19 November 2026 for a screening of the 'People's Emergency Briefing' - a 50-minute film that presents an evidence-based overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain - and what the science says about risks and responses. It brings together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature to address these issues, hosted by Chris Packham.

The film will start at 7.35 pm but you are welcome to arrive from 7.20 pm for refreshments. After the film, there will be the opportunity to discuss what actions we can take as individuals and local communities.

Due to its sensitive nature, the film is not suitable for those under-16s.

Please book a place here: https://cca.churchsuite.com/events/jztj9eep.

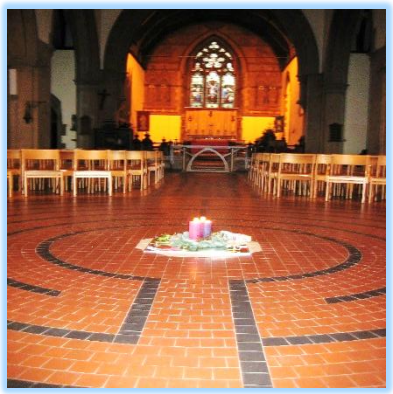
Christmas market

St Helen's Church will be hosting a Christmas market on 28 November 2026 from 10 am to 3 pm. There will be lots to buy including home baking and produce, jewellery, books, pre-loved/new gifts, accessories, a raffle and much more. Refreshments of bacon butties, drinks and cakes will be served all day. There will also be a chance to go up to the belfry and join in handbell ringing.

Christmas concert – A tender shoot

An informal Christmas concert for all ages in aid of The Abingdon Bridge will take place on Sunday 29 November 2026, 2 pm, at St Michael and All Angels Church (Abingdon, OX14 1DS). Hear and sing beautiful music by Abingdon Chorale (Director: Tim Robson) then join us for festive refreshments. Tickets £10 (£2.50 for under-16s) from www.ticketsource.com/theabingdon-bridge.

Advent Labyrinth Walks



St Michael and All Angels Church (OX14 1DS) will be open on Tuesday 1, 8 and 15 December between 11 am and noon. There will be 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. A short prayer will be said at the beginning and end of each session, but feel free to come and go as you please. Parking permits are available for use in Park Road.

Christmas Fayre

Join in the fun at Abingdon Baptist Church from 10 am to 12.30 pm on Saturday 5 December 2026 with gifts for Christmas, cakes and second-hand books for sale. There will be crafts for children and a chance to dress as Nativity characters for a unique photograph. The cafe will be open with cakes and bacon baps. A free drink with a voucher will be available.

Church in Abingdon Christmas Carol singing
Come along and join us as we celebrate the Christmas story by singing Carols in Abingdon Market Place on Saturday 12 December 2026, 10 am – 12 noon. We welcome musicians to come and join us.

'Heavenly Realms' - a play by the Lamps Collective
This performance will take place on 12 December 2026, 2 pm, at St Helen's Church. It is set in a home for Old Angel Pensioners and offers 'festive fun for all ages from 8 to 800'. Tickets are £15 with accompanied under-16s free and are available from the Bookstore, Ticketsource or on the door.

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'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.

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. We are open when Cafe@35 is open: Monday - Thursday 10.30 am - 2pm and Friday - Saturday 10.30 am - 12.30 pm.

To see our current needs, just download the BanktheFood 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. 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 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.

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.

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.