



WHAT'S COMING UP

Christian Focus: Winter 2017 issue

This is now available on the CiA website. The contents include: The LIVESIMPLY initiative; 'Memorialization'; Anna Chaplaincy; Nasio update, Kenya; *The Magntude of Meekness: Christmas for Twelve Days*, a new book by Charles Miller; Feedback from the Church Twinning visit from Argentan in November 2017; Feedback from the first ever Festival of Preaching in Oxford, September 2017; A look at Christmas Saints; Feedback from a pilgrimage to Germany to celebrate the footsteps of Martin Luther; and a list of all Christmas services taking place in Abingdon churches.

The Beatitudes: A short course

This will be taking place at St Michael's Church on Saturday mornings 27 January, 10 and 24 February, and 10 March 2018 from 11 am to 12.30 pm. Speakers: John Barton, Emma Percy, Paul Sheppy and Phillip Tovey. Each session will conclude with a short form of Middy Prayer, led by Fr Paul.

Vespers by candlelight, Holocaust Memorial Day

An evening of choral music on Saturday 27 January 2018. 7.30 pm, St Michael's Church, performed by the Newman Singers, including Rachmaninov's Vespers, Allegri's Miserere, Tippett's Four Spirituals from 'A Child of Our Time', and some rousing Klezmer music. Tickets £10: available from The Bookstore Abingdon, on the door or online at www.abingdonpassionplay.org.uk.

Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames/TAB fundraising events

- ❖ 27 January 2018, 7.30 pm: an evening at the races at The Loose Cannon Brewery. Tickets £5 from Information Centre, Bridge Street, Abingdon.
- ❖ 3 February 2018, 7.30 pm: a 'Charity Concert' with The Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir and The Oxfordshire County Youth Choir at St Helen's Church. Tickets £10 from Information Centre, Bridge Street, Abingdon.

Silent reflections

St Michael and All Angels Church, Park Road, 7.30 - 9.00 pm, last Tuesday of the month (except December):

- ❖ 30 January 2018
- ❖ 27 February
- ❖ 20 March
- ❖ 24 April 24
- ❖ 29 May 29
- ❖ 26 June 26
- ❖ 31 July 31
- ❖ 28 August
- ❖ 25 September
- ❖ 30 October 30
- ❖ 27 November

Enjoy prayerful activities in the quiet of the sanctuary with the option of coming together to share your journey at the end of the session. All welcome. For more information, contact Sue Sheppy at susan.sheppy@btinternet.com.

Abingdon Passion Play 2019 – AGM

This will be taking place on Wednesday 31 January 2018, 7.30 pm, at The Peachcroft Christian Centre. The committee will give details of plans for the 2019 production.

Moving into stillness

Circle dancing to Taizé music on Thursday 1 February 2018, 9.45 – 10.45 am, St Michael's Church. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the teacher. Contact Sue Sheppy (susan.sheppy@btinternet.com) for more details, or just come along and see.

Back to 35, Abingdon Baptist Church Hall, Ock Street

These meetings, a joint venture between Age UK Oxfordshire and 35 Ock Street, provide an opportunity for conversation, activities, support and fellowship for the over-50s with tea and cake as well. They take place on the first and third Thursday mornings, 10.30 – 11.30 am. Forthcoming meetings are as follows:

- ❖ 1 Feb – Beetle Drive with Brenda Lennie
- ❖ 15 Feb – Seated exercise class with Elizabeth Glover
- ❖ 1 Mar – Your own CDs
- ❖ 15 March – Trading Standards with Julia Brain

For further information, please contact David Lovegrove on 01235 533373.

Christian Aid Christmas Appeal: Tesco 'bucket collection'

There will be a 'bucket collection' for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal outside Tesco Extra, Marcham Road, on Saturday 3 February 2018. All proceeds for this Christmas Appeal, which closes on 5 February, will be matched by the Government's UKAID department so it would be great to raise as much as possible. If you could spare an hour to take part in the collectors' rota, any time between 9 am and 5 pm, please contact Cliff Marshall (01235 530480 or candpmarshall@btinternet.com) or talk to your church's Christian Aid rep.

The Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network Group

The next meeting will be on:

- ❖ Tuesday 6 February 2018, 7.30 pm, in St Michael's Church Room, Park Road, OX14 1DU

All welcome. Continuing the group's look at insights for Christianity going forward, the topic for discussion will be 'Church and how it should work'. For more information, please contact Cliff Marshall at cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk or 01235 530480.

CiA AGM

This will be taking place on Thursday 8 February 2018, 7.45 pm, at the Salvation Army base in West St Helens Street. All welcome.

CiA Lent Lectures 2018

This year Revd Dr Paul Goodliff will be leading a series of lectures on spirituality and art entitled 'Let's Wait and See'. There will be a series of four lectures on the following Monday evenings: 19 and 26 Feb, 19 and 26 March, at Abingdon Baptist Church. Each week there will be a lecture and contemplative prayer. Further details to follow.

Women's World Day of Prayer 2018

This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Suriname and the subject is caring for God's very good creation – an extremely relevant topic now as sea levels are rising and fish are being poisoned either by chemicals in rivers or microbeads and plastic packaging in the sea. The services will take place at the Peachcroft Christian Centre on Friday 2 March 2018 at 1.30 pm and 7.30 pm. The services will last for an hour and will be followed by refreshments.

OHCT (Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust)

OHCT gives grants for repairs and practical enhancements to churches and chapels of all denominations and encourages wider interest in these treasured buildings. On Tuesday 6 March 2018, St Helen's Church is hosting a talk by Basil Eastwood on the work of the trust. Please contact St Helen's Parish Office (01235 520144 or administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk) if you wish to attend. There will be refreshments and a retiring collection for the work of OHCT.

The Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network Group: special speaker

The Abingdon PCN Group invites everyone to come and hear Revd Dave Tomlinson, Vicar of St Luke's Church, Holloway, North London, talk on the themes of his latest book 'Black Sheep and Prodigals: an Antidote to Black and White Religion' at 7.30 pm in Trinity Church, Conduit Rd, Abingdon, OX14 1NY on Friday 16 March 2018. Admission £5: tickets can be obtained in advance from Cliff Marshall (cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk or 01235 530480) or at the door.

Experience Easter 2018

In our ninth year, this will be open to schools on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 March 2018 - the first time that it's taken place in Holy Week. As usual, we'll be open by appointment to church groups in the evenings and to the public on Saturday 24 March. If you would like to help or book in a group, please contact Rosemary Perrow at trinitylearning@gmail.com. Details of this event, including a video, can be seen on TrinityLearning's website www.trinitylearning.org.uk.

CiA Procession of Witness/Good Friday service (1 April 2018)

The procession will leave Abingdon Library at 11.45 am, proceeding through the town centre to St Nics Church for a service at 12 noon led by Revd Mary Williamson.

Y-PRAY? Conference (sponsored by WWDP)

Prayer is an integral part of our Christian life, yet we often find prayer difficult. The Y-PRAY? Conference (4- 6 May 2018 at King's Park Centre, Northampton) invites women aged 20- 40 to be inspired, explore different ways of praying and discover links with women from around the world. The programme includes worship, Bible study and creative prayer, plus more light-hearted activities and an opportunity to discover what the Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) is all about. The cost is £120 or £105 if booked before 31 December 2017. See www.wwdp.org.uk/resources/ for more details.

The Abingdon WWDP branch is offering two bursaries of up to £60 each towards the booking cost for two women who attend a church in Abingdon. If you are interested, contact Julie Chantry (chantryjulie@googlemail.com or 01235 200240) or Elizabeth Dawson (e.m.dawson.15@outlook.com or 01235 526415) by 8 December 2017.

ARCh (Assisted Reading for Children): volunteers needed

ARCh is a local registered charity operating in Oxfordshire primary schools to help children who are struggling with reading. All it takes is one and a half hours twice a week during the school day as an ARCh volunteer in a primary school near you. **Full training is given and we provide ongoing support and reimburse travel expenses.** To find out more, visit www.archoxfordshire.org.uk or telephone **01869 320380**.



TrinityLearning: staff vacancy

TrinityLearning is looking for a part-time Project Manager (one day per week). This will be a six-month appointment initially, starting date to be agreed. Salary approx. £2500 pa.

TrinityLearning, an exciting initiative of Trinity Church, Abingdon, is now in its eighth year. The Church is committed to continuing and developing the work TrinityLearning has been undertaking. TrinityLearning's work benefits from many volunteers who come from ten other local churches. For further info, go to www.trinitylearning.org.uk.

The Project Manager will have a role in planning the future development of this successful community project with schools. As part of TrinityLearning, the Project Manager will:

- ❖ engage in market research, especially with school leaders
- ❖ prepare and submit fundraising applications
- ❖ take responsibility for drawing up a business plan
- ❖ take part in shaping the future of TrinityLearning.



An application form and job description are available from Trinity Church Office, Conduit Centre, Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DB (trinity.abingdon@gmail.com). Closing date: Friday 16 Feb 2018 with interviews w/c 19 Feb 2018.

Trinity Evergreen Club, Trinity Church, Conduit Road

Meetings have changed from the first Monday in the month to the third Monday at Trinity Church. Although mainly for senior people, it is open to anyone. Meetings start at 2 pm, with a varied programme and refreshments. Transport can usually be provided. For further information, contact Rita Gilbert on 01235 528837.

Meeting God in the silence

This group meets on the first Monday evening of the month in The Barn at Christ Church, Northcourt Road, 7.30 for 8 pm and every third Tuesday morning at Christ Church at 9.30 for 10 am. For more information, contact Sarah Turner on 01235 521433.

Fresh Vision

Fresh Vision is a discussion group for those who wish to explore ideas about Christianity in an open, liberal and non-dogmatic setting. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month 7.30 – 9 pm in the Garden Room at St Ethelwold's House, 30 East St Helen Street, Abingdon. Everyone is very welcome. For further information, contact Liz Domoney at freshvision2@outlook.com.

Cake & Conversation – St Edmunds Church

This friendly, informal session for anyone whose first language is not English takes place every Wednesday during term time from 9.30 to 11 am at St Edmund's Parish Centre (entrance in Oxford Road). For further information, please contact Angela Waterhouse (01235 532296) or Anne Dodd (01235 525997), otherwise just come along.

Nourishment in Christ – St Nicolas' Church - Update

This informal and reflective service will take place monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm. All welcome with refreshments from 7 pm.

Abingdon gospel choir and music group

Do you like gospel music and would you like to sing it? Then maybe our music group is for you – we have some 20 members and meet weekly on Thursdays at Trinity Church, Conduit Road, 8.00 - 9.30 pm. Singers of all standards are welcome. For further information, contact Ian Miles on 07788 715873 or at music@iangenuity.org.

Taizé circle dancing and stillness

This will generally be held on the first Thursday of the month 9.45 – 10.45 am at St Michel's Church, before the regular circle dancing session. Elizabeth Mitchell will be the 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.

Abingdon circle dance group

This group meets on Thursday mornings from 11 am to 12 noon at St Michael's Church, dancing traditional folk dances and modern steps in a circle, to a variety of music from around the world, some lively, some joyous and celebratory, and some more meditative. All dances are demonstrated and then broken down into smaller stages for teaching. No prior experience/partner needed. For more information, contact Mary on 01235 520608 or at marywilliamsox14@gmail.com. NB: no circle dancing on 24 March.

Abingdon 'Communi-tea' Drop-in

The Drop-in is a welcoming environment for all, and an opportunity to connect with others in the surrounding area with a brew. It is hosted by Abingdon MoreinCommon group (Abingdonmoreincommon@gmail.com) and Host Abingdon (<http://hostabingdon.org/>). It takes place on the second Saturday of the month at 10-12noon at St Ethelwolds House, 30 East St Helen St, Abingdon OX14 5EB.

The Archway Foundation

Since 2008, The Archway Foundation has been developing its service in Abingdon and surrounding areas by providing social evenings and other special events, a befriending service for those who are unable to get out, as well as offering volunteering opportunities through driving, befriending or helping at social events. Social evenings are held at Abingdon Baptist Church Hall from 7.30 to 9 pm on the 2nd and 4th Fridays. Daytime socials also take place. For more information, contact Joy Dadswell on 07718 769103 or at joy@archwayfoundation.org.uk.

Abingdon Emergency Foodbank (Christ Church)

Donations can be dropped at Christchurch, Northcourt Road, in the foyer in the collection tub (Mon-Fri 9 am – 4 pm), or if you shop at Abingdon Waitrose, there is a collection point near their exit. For further information, contact: Sarah Fry or Hilary Beale on 01235 539172 or at foodbank@cca.uk.net.

Abingdon Street Pastors

For more information on how to get involved with Abingdon Street Pastors, either as a street pastor or a prayer pastor, contact streetpastorsabingdon@gmail.com.

Christ's Hospital of Abingdon

Christ's Hospital is probably best known for running the 30 or so alms houses around the town. Recent changes to our Charity Commission Scheme mean that we are now able to accept residents from the age of 55 - many of our current alms house community still go out to work. The relatively modest weekly maintenance payment is covered by Housing Benefit for many of them. We can also help with hardship funding in cases of need; applications for grants should be made through a clergyman, social worker, health visitor or similar professional. Gillian or Christine in the office at 1 Old Station Yard (01235 526487 or clerk@christshospital.org) will be pleased to have an informal chat and tell you more.

CHRISTIAN FORUM COLUMN

Could you help by writing a one-off article (350 words) for the weekly Christian Forum column appearing in the *Abingdon Herald* newspaper or join our circle of writers that submit one article per year? Articles do not have to be original - they can have appeared in a church newsletter or similar – but need to have a Christian message. If you are interested or would like to know more, contact Debra Mcknight, the CiA Administrator, on 07896 860381.

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 Debra Mcknight (cia35abingdon@aol.co.uk). 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.