



## **WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING**

### **Fun in the Park**

A small group of people representing the CiA went along to this annual event on Saturday 1 June 2019. It was a lovely sunny day, with lots going on – from food stands to bouncy castles to entertainment on the central stage to small community stalls. The Abbey Meadows were overflowing with people and families.



The CiA stand was busy from start to finish with various children's crafts, face painting and biscuit decorating, as well as offering free refreshments and a place to sit and have a chat. Our message was 'sharing the love', in caring for each other and the world.



Thanks to Sarah and Jay, the face painters; Jane and her ladies from St Michael's for the biscuit decorating; Claire and Liz for helping with refreshments and setting up; Julie, Heather and Kirsty for their help with crafts and setting up/clearing up; Ray and Ellie for providing the gazebos and other equipment; Eluned and co. at St Nics for providing chairs and hot water.

It was a really great day. Thanks to everyone who took part in making it such a success.

## **WHAT'S NEW**

### **CiA Lent lectures 2020**

Book your diaries for the following dates in March 2020 – 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 March – at 8 pm when Revd Dr Charles Miller will lead the CiA Lent lectures at St Helen's Church, South Aisle. The theme for these lectures will be:

*Pilgrimage to Vence: Henri Matisse's 'Chapel of the Rosary' and the transformation of Christian art in the 20th century*

These lectures have been specifically arranged for the CiA Lent lectures. They are open to everyone and we hope all the churches in Abingdon will support these lectures next year and arrange their own Lent celebrations on alternative dates.

Further information to follow.

## **News from TrinityLearning**

We're delighted to announce that TrinityLearning is now a registered charity, number 1182742. We will still be operating from our office in The Conduit Centre, 01235 520282, but are hoping to expand our work, thanks to grants from several church denominations.

**Our new Board of Trustees urgently needs someone with experience in Business, Education or the Charity sector, to become our Chair.** Please pass this on to anyone you know who has the right skill-set and may be interested.

**Thinking Books:** TrinityLearning's new mentoring scheme for primary schools gives children the means to put worries in context and develop coping strategies, as they talk things over with an impartial listener. Volunteer mentors will go into schools for one afternoon each week, meet children 1:1. and use carefully selected books to start conversations about feelings and relationships.

The project starts in September with bespoke mentor training from Relate, and TrinityLearning is now recruiting volunteers from Abingdon churches.

Please help us by:

- ❖ praying for TrinityLearning, that we might find the right people to support the children
- ❖ contacting Nicola at [nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:nic.trinitylearning@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping out with this project
- ❖ passing this information on to friends who have the right skill-set.

Volunteers should be over 18, have some experience of working with children and hold, or be willing to undertake, DBS clearance.

## **WHAT'S COMING UP**

### **Back to 35**

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, at Abingdon Baptist Church. Forthcoming meetings are as follows:

- 20 June 2019 – Oxfordshire Association for the Blind - Mark Upton
- 4 July 2019 – Social event - Brenda Lennie
- 18 July 2019 – Cream tea and quiz

For further information, contact David Lovegrove at [dandmlovegrove@btinternet.com](mailto:dandmlovegrove@btinternet.com).

### **Home for Good**

Come and have tea with us, on Sunday 23 June 2019, 4 - 6 pm, in the hall at Christ Church, Northcourt Rd, and hear Krish Kandiah speak, ask questions and find out more about how our churches can get involved in fostering and adoption. Please stay for the evening service from 6.30 pm. Everyone welcome! RSVP if possible, for catering purposes, to [jillward99@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jillward99@yahoo.co.uk) or [tiabeamy@googlemail.com](mailto:tiabeamy@googlemail.com).

### **The Great Get Together**

The third of these annual events, The Great Get Together is taking place on Sunday 23 June 2019, 12 – 3 pm, at St Ethelwolds (30 East St Helen Street, OX14 5EB), providing an opportunity for the whole town to get together to celebrate mutual respect, kindness and community cohesion. It consists of a bring-and-share picnic and live music. Limited seating available. Please bring a picnic blanket for the garden. In the event of wet weather, we will be in the house. All welcome.

### **Silent reflections**

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

- ❖ 25 June
- ❖ 30 July

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](mailto:susan.sheppy@btinternet.com).

### **Avoiding the scams**

Internet and telephone fraud is increasingly common and increasingly convincing. To help us avoid the scams, All Saints Methodist Church has organised an advice session on 25 June 2019 at 2 pm. The speaker, NatWest's Community Banker from Aylesbury, comes very highly recommended and her talk will suit all levels of Internet proficiency. The event is free and open to all - come along and bring anyone you feel might benefit.

### **Summer concert for Christian Aid**

Everyone is invited to a summer concert at Trinity Church on Thursday 27 June 2019, 7 pm, given by Carswell Primary School Choir, Abingdon Ladies Choirs and Abingdon Gospel Choir. A varied programme of music will be performed by the choirs who have offered their services free of charge. All proceeds will be given to Christian Aid to support their work with some of the poorest people in the world. Tickets will be available through Church reps, from Cliff Marshall (01235 530480) or on the door.

### **Kennington & District United Church Choirs concert**

The Kennington & District United Church Choirs is putting on a concert of 'Songs from the Shows' on Saturday 29 June 2019 at 7.30 pm at Abingdon Baptist Church, Ock Street, Abingdon. Entrance is free, with all donations going towards the Abingdon Baptist Church Development Fund and The Abingdon Bridge (TAB). Do come along for what will be a wonderful evening of music.

### **Wantage Academy Brass concert**

This concert will take place at St Michael's Church, Park Road, Abingdon, on Saturday 29 June 2019 at 7 pm, raising funds for The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) and TARIRO - Hope for Youth in Zimbabwe. The concert will feature a guest appearance by the newly formed Oxfordshire Youth Brass. Tickets available from Mostly Books in Stert Street or on the door: £7; concessions, £6; under-16s, free.

### **The Abingdon Progressive Christianity Network Group**

The next meeting will be on:

❖ Tuesday 2 July 2019, 7.30 pm, in the Church Room, St Michael's Church, Park Road

All welcome. The topic for this meeting, following a PCN Britain meeting of the same title, will be 'Religion and atheism – beyond the divide'. For more information, contact Cliff Marshall at [cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk](mailto:cliff.marshall@pcnbritain.org.uk) or 01235 530480.

### **South Abingdon Play & Activity Day**

The fifth annual South Abingdon Play & Activity Day will take place on Saturday 13 July 2019, 11 - 3 pm, at Southern Town Park, Lambrick Way. Entrance and activities are FREE to ensure inclusion for ALL, the aim being to bring communities together through play. Abingdon Vineyard Church and Abingdon Community Church will be taking the lead on this event but anyone interested in getting involved in this great event, please contact Debra Mcknight, CiA Administrator.

### **Christian Aid open garden tea party**

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a tea party in the beautiful garden of St Ethelwold's House, 30 East St Helen Street on Sunday 4 August 2019. Please come along between 2.30 and 4.00 pm to help the Christian Aid task group of the Church in Abingdon mark the end of its fundraising year in a relaxing way. Please invite your friends to join us in the garden. For more information, contact Cliff Marshall on 01235 530480.

### **Charity golf day in aid of TAB**

Join a team of 4 (£20 for members and £35 for guests) at Drayton Park Golf Club on Friday 23 August 2019, or just come along to help on the day:

7.30: Coffee, pastries and registration

9.00: Start time

2.00: Lunch and prize presentations

For further information, please contact Laurie King on 01235 532202.

### **CiA Annual Bereavement Service**

Every year, the Church in Abingdon, in collaboration with local funeral directors, organises a service for those who have lost loved ones, especially during the past year, to provide comfort and hope in the midst of their loss. This special service provides the bereaved with a space to remember lost loved ones, light a candle in their remembrance and join in fellowship with others who have been bereaved. This year, the bereavement service is on Sunday 17 November 2019 at 3 pm at Abingdon Baptist Church. All welcome.

### **Church Twinning – forthcoming events**

- ❖ Argentan in Normandy has invited people from our churches to visit them for their Heritage Weekend on 12–16 September 2019. Family hosts will be provided, or hotels.
- ❖ In 2020, the famous Oberammergau Passion Play takes place in Bavaria. Schongau, twinned with Abingdon, has invited 12 Christians to stay for a long weekend from Thurs 9 to Mon 13 July. We will attend the Passion Play on Friday 10 July. This visit is now fully booked but there is a reserve list.

For any event, please contact your own church rep, or Eileen on [epkbontempelli@gmail.com](mailto:epkbontempelli@gmail.com) or 01235 526331.

## **Community group meetings**

### **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 every first Monday morning of the month 9 - 10 am in The Barn at Christchurch, Northcourt Road and every first Monday evening of the month 7 – 8 pm in The Barn at Christ Church. For more information, contact Sarah Turner on 01235 521433.

### **Nourishment in Christ – St Nicolas' Church**

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.

### **Cake and Conversation**

Are you new (or newish) to Abingdon? Is English not your first language? If you would like to practise English with an informal, friendly group of people on Wednesday mornings (in term time) just come along to the drop-in session from 9.30 to 11 am at St Edmund's Parish Centre, OX14 2EA (entrance in Oxford Road). For further information, contact Angela Waterhouse on 01235 532296 or Anne Dodd on 01235 525997 or email [abingdoncakenadconversation@gmail.com](mailto:abingdoncakenadconversation@gmail.com). Otherwise, just come along. There is always cake and a warm welcome!

### **Abingdon gospel choir and music group**

Do you like gospel music? Singers of all standards are welcome. Come along and see (and sing) for yourself. Every Thursday from 8 to 9.30 pm at Trinity Church, Conduit Road. Musical director Heidi Cottrell. Further information from Alan Joinson (01235 521247 or [alanj@phonecoop.coop](mailto:alanj@phonecoop.coop)).

### **Moving into Stillness: Taizé circle dancing and stillness**

This will be held on the first Thursday of the month 9.45 – 10.45 am at St Michael's Church, before the regular circle dancing session. Elizabeth Mitchell is 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](mailto: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](mailto:marywilliamsox14@gmail.com).

### **The Fellowship**

This group meets on Thursday afternoons from 2.30 to 3.30 pm in the Church Hall at All Saints Methodist Church, Appleford Drive. It is open to everybody but is currently attended by mainly elderly people. The meeting includes a short time for devotions – hymn, prayer, Bible reading - followed by a speaker, on a range of topics, and concludes with a cup of tea and a biscuit. The venue caters for people with limited mobility or those in wheelchairs, and there is ample car parking. There is no cost but we do take a free-will collection. The autumn sessions will run from 19 September to 12 December 2019 Inclusive. For more details, contact Marion or Paul Williams on 01235 524654.

### **Games evenings**

There will be a board game evening at Christ Church Abingdon, Fridays, 7.30 pm in the Lounge: 1, 15 March; 5 April 2019. Everyone welcome. For further information, please contact [terryoneill2@hotmail.com](mailto:terryoneill2@hotmail.com).

### **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](mailto:Abingdonmoreincommon@gmail.com)) and Host Abingdon (<http://hostabingdon.org/>). It takes place on the second Saturday, 10-12noon, at St Ethelwolds House.

### **Bold Walking**

The Bold Walking Group is an ecumenical group of walkers and lunchers who explore the Oxfordshire countryside on the last Wednesday of each month (except December). Walks usually start around 10 am, with a walk of 4-5 miles before a pub lunch, and a walk of 1-2 miles after lunch finishing about 3.30 pm. For further information, please contact Roger and Sue Cox at [boldwalkers@allsaintsabingdon.org.uk](mailto:boldwalkers@allsaintsabingdon.org.uk) or find details of the walks at [www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk/regular-activities/bold-walking-group](http://www.allsaintsabingdon.org.uk/regular-activities/bold-walking-group).

### **Dementia-friendly cafes**

The first step of a small steering group working towards making Abingdon a dementia-friendly community has been to work with two local cafes to arrange specific times when people with dementia/mild cognitive impairment and their carers can come in and be welcomed with a friendly face:

35 Ock Street: every Friday, 10.30 – 11.30 am

Barns Café, Northcourt Road: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 2.30 – 3.30 pm

For more information, contact 01235 559120 or email [dementiafriendlyabingdon@gmail.com](mailto:dementiafriendlyabingdon@gmail.com), or go to [www.healthyabingdon.org.uk](http://www.healthyabingdon.org.uk).

## **Volunteering Opportunities**

### **Abingdon Emergency Foodbank: *Supporting local people in crisis***

The Abingdon Emergency Foodbank, launched in 2009 by Christ Church Abingdon in cooperation with other local churches, provides for those who are going through a period of crisis and who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. People are referred by local agencies or care professionals who hold special vouchers. All food is donated by the local community and all staff are volunteers. The food package provided gives enough food to feed the household a good nutritional balanced diet for 3 days, tailor-made to avoid allergies/dislikes. The Foodbank based at Christ Church is open Tuesdays and Fridays, and at Preston Road Community Centre on Wednesdays. As well as food, there is a warm welcome, a cuppa, a listening ear and confidentiality. To get in touch, contact the church office on 01235 539172 or email [foodbank@cca.uk.net](mailto:foodbank@cca.uk.net).

### **Abingdon Street Pastors**

Abingdon Street Pastors are out on the streets of Abingdon every Saturday night to provide practical support as well as a friendly ear to those who are having a difficult time and just want someone to talk to. They work in close collaboration with the local police and town council. For more information on how to get involved with Abingdon Street Pastors, either as a street pastor or a prayer pastor, or to make a donation, contact [abingdon@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:abingdon@streetpastors.org.uk).

### **Abingdon Volunteer Drivers Centre (ADVC)**

The ADVC has, for many years, been providing a service to the community by offering lifts to hospitals and other medical establishments to those who would otherwise struggle to get there. Passengers are charged only enough to cover the cost of petrol and administration, which is usually much cheaper than using a taxi. Even though the ADVC is not a specifically Christian service, many of the drivers are members of churches in Abingdon, and the office resides in 35 Ock Street. A few years ago there were about 28 volunteer drivers, but the number has now dropped to 15 which means that some requests for lifts have had to be declined, and we would like to recruit some new drivers. Most drivers do no more than a couple of drives per week, and need only accept drives at times when they do not have another commitment. Petrol costs are reimbursed, so the only expenditure is your time. It is a valuable ministry for those who are retired and may have a little time on their hands and want to serve. For further information, please call the ADVC office on 01235 522438 between 9.30 and 12.30 Monday to Friday, or call into 35 Ock Street (First Floor).

### **ARCh (Assisted Reading for Children)**

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](http://www.archoxfordshire.org.uk) or telephone **01869 320380**.

### **Sanctuary Hosting – can you help?**

Sanctuary hosting is a small charity that supports homeless refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants across the Thames Valley who cannot return to their own country for any reason other than economic by finding 'hosts' (who offer a rent-free spare room) and matching them with 'guests' (who are in need of somewhere to stay on a temporary basis, while they find their feet and move towards independence). Hosts have no involvement with a *guest's asylum or immigration situation. Both guest and host will be supported by a support worker to help with any difficulties. If you're interested in finding out more about being a host or support worker, please get in touch at [info@sanctuaryhosting.org](mailto:info@sanctuaryhosting.org).*

### **TrinityLearning**

TrinityLearning exists to improve the quality of life in local schools. It asks nothing from the schools, offering its services as a sign of Christian compassion. Volunteers: listen to young people read; sing with a group of students with special needs; play board games at lunch times; help with simple art and craft activities; potter in the garden with small groups of children; help with swimming/riding for disabled students; mentor children with emotional difficulties; help with special events. If you could spare a few hours to help these young people, would like to know or make a donation, please contact TrinityLearning on 01235 520282 or at [trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylearning@gmail.com).

The Kingfisher School on Radley Road meets the needs of pupils aged 2-19 years who have severe learning difficulties. Sensory experiences are very important to these young people, so hearing and participating in singing is something from which they really benefit. A small group from TrinityLearning has been going into the school to sing to, and with, the children for many months, to the great enjoyment of pupils, staff and volunteers alike, but they would like a few more members to boost their volume. They go into the school on Tuesdays from 10.15 am to 11.45 am during term time and sing songs of all types, although mostly simple ones like *The wheels on the bus...* with much repetition. A great singing voice is not required - but useful. All that is required is a desire to sing to, and with, a very noisy and enthusiastic group of teachers, carers and students - an experience you will never forget!

If you are interested, please contact Rosemary Perrow at [trinitylearning@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylearning@gmail.com).

### **The Archway Foundation**

The Archway Foundation has been working in Abingdon for ten years seeking to help those affected by loneliness and social isolation. There are social groups as well as a befriending service for those who are unable to get out. An

evening social group takes place at 35 Ock Street on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 7.30 to 9 pm, while an afternoon group 'Tea and chat' meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays from 2 to 3.30 pm at 35 Ock Street cafe. There are also volunteering opportunities for befriending, driving and helping at social events. For more information, please contact head office on 01865 790552 or at [office@archwayfoundation.org.uk](mailto:office@archwayfoundation.org.uk), or visit their website at [www.archwayfoundation.org.uk](http://www.archwayfoundation.org.uk).

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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 ([dhmcknight@aol.com](mailto:dhmcknight@aol.com)). The deadline for publication is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month previous to publication. For more information about the Church in Abingdon, go to [www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk](http://www.church-in-abingdon.org.uk).