CiA News – October 2026

WHAT'S COMING UP

Uniting in Prayer for Abingdon

Thursday 8 October 2026, 7.30 pm

Abingdon Baptist Church

The Church in Abingdon invites you to an evening of worship, prayer and vision, as well as the CiA Annual General Meeting, at Abingdon Baptist Church on Thursday 8 October 2026, 7.30 pm.

Each church will be represented by two specially selected volunteers from their church as well as the CiA representatives and clergy. Each church will be asked to submit prayer requests that we can all join together to prayer for – whether for specific outreach work, their church as a whole, the community, the town or the people who hold major roles in our town. We also hope to invite dignatories from the local council, TVP and other organisations. All welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

Cafe@35

We are pleased to announce that our cafe in 35 Ock Street is serving food again. 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. Our volunteers are happy to welcome all.

Volunteering Opportunities: If you would like to volunteer in the café, we would love to hear from you.
Catering - preparing and serving food.
Catering assistants - helping with preparation and washing up.
Listeners - on hand to listen and talk.

Full training is given. Please phone 35 Ock Street on 01235 530080 or contact Linda King for an application form at linda.king52@talktalk.net or call in the cafe during open hours.

Thirtieth anniversary: Abingdon Baptist Church is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the opening of 35 Ock Street. It has been running as a cafe and offering rooms to book during that time. We will mark the occasion with a short service on Saturday 10 October 2026 at 3 pm followed by tea and cake. All who have played a part during the 30 years are invited.

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: 5 October, 2 November, 7 December

Fridays: 9 October, 13 November, 11 December

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.

Raising Faith

As Christian parents, grandparents and carers, we want our children to grow up knowing God and developing a mature faith that will last, but sometimes we feel ill-equipped or just too busy to do much more than get them to church on a Sunday.

Raising Faith is a series of six evening sessions, on Thursdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm, starting on 17 September 2026 at Peachcroft Christian Centre. It will explore a variety of ways to create strong and healthy

foundations of faith in our children, using the opportunities that come up in the everyday ups and downs of family life.

Find out more and book a place at https://www.peachcroftcc.org/community/parenting-course.

Empowerment & Prophetic Conference 2026

This promises to be a powerful and life-transforming conference (9 – 11 October 2026), featuring inspiring worship, sound biblical teaching, healing and deliverance, prophetic impartation, and divine empowerment for the next season of ministry.

We believe that through this special Christian gathering God will usher us into 'A New Wave of Glory'. Guest Minister: Pastor Poju Johnson (General Overseer, Ye are the light Evangelical Church Int).

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. You are welcome to buy your lunch in the cafe or bring a packed lunch. Open to all. Free admission.

- 12 October - Linda King on the piano. Donations to the Abingdon Food Bank.
- 9 November - Paul Harrington entertains. Donations to Archway.

If you are a musician and would like to give an hour freely to entertain us, please contact Pam Pratt on pampratt@btinternet.com.

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.

- 15 October - *A Talk by Town Crier* Laury Conn
- 5 November - *My Vision* with Pip Dingle

Black History Month

This event taking place on Saturday 17 October 2026, from 2.30 pm to 6 pm, at Trinity Church, Abingdon, will bring together civic leaders, community representatives and guests for:

- Inspiring speakers reflecting on Black History Month
- An in-conversation session with The Rt Hon, the Lord Boateng
- A short act of worship led by Dr Sonia Hicks, Chair of the Northampton Methodist District.

Church in Abingdon Christmas Carol singing

Book this date in your diary – Saturday 12 December 2026, 10 am – 12 noon. We welcome musicians to come and join us.

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.

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 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.