



Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Abington
- the Church in the Park -
**Welcome to our November Newsletter
2024**

Rector's Pastoral Letter

There are now more than 1024 butterflies in the church. You can see how the pulpit is beautifully covered with the stream of butterflies coming down from above. Every single one of them is different and unique. Every single one of them carefully woven together by Susie and installed by Simon.

We are journeying together as we continue to learn about the Kingdom through our sermon series and study groups.

When we look at everything Jesus did and said on this earth, we can find that there was one single pattern. He went one by one. He stopped for the one. He healed the one. When you look at his teachings, you will notice that he almost always taught about the one: one lost sheep, one lost coin, one lost son, one mustard seed, one sower, one farmer. Jesus' life and teaching were all about searching for the one, stopping for the one and caring for the one.

It just makes me wonder why. Because logistically, it would be much easier to heal a whole neighbourhood at a time or one town at a time rather than one person.



But that's not how Jesus worked. God has a different approach. Let's look at Jesus himself. God's plan to save the entire world was to send a little one baby. Can you imagine? If I were God, I would have thought about sending an army of angels or a team of superheroes. What about a complete playbook, 10-year plan or 1,000 pages of strategy documents?

No. God's plan for the change and restoration of the whole world was to send one single baby into one single family. That's it. There was no briefcase full cash hidden away. There was no playbook for Mary and Joseph. Just one baby, one person.

I wonder if there is something in there that reveals to us about the nature of God and how he works. The principle of the Kingdom that's behind the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son is that the Kingdom works with one at a time.

When we think about sufferings of this world, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the suffering and its complexity. And they tend to blend everything and everyone into this one big issue such as war, poverty, mental health or crisis in health service.

Jesus, instead of swinging a magic wand or flicking of a finger, simply points to us and says this. 'There is a person there. She's got a name. He's got a face. You may not solve the world's hunger. But I am asking you to feed this child. You may not solve the epidemic of loneliness but I am asking you to hold this person's hand.'

The model of God's kingdom: the one matters to God. Caring about the one matters to God. That's how God works in the world. And that's how God invites us in.

A few months ago, we marked the first anniversary of the Coronation. Since I came to England I grew to understand more and more about what it means to live in a Kingdom which I didn't understand before as I was born in a republic. When I watched the Coronation, I felt I had a glimpse of what the Kingdom of God is about.

It was so moving to see how everybody worked so hard together to just honour one person. How everyone stood behind one person to help that person to fulfil his calling from God.

That's the Kingdom model. If we can honour just one person at a time the same way everyone honoured the King with our care and love, with dignity and prayers; if everyone in this world treat one another that way, one person at a time, then this world can become the Kingdom of Heaven.

Last summer, we spent 6 weeks for our Under the Oak exercise, praying and discerning where God is leading us to be. The treasures we gained from that was not a brilliant plan or some clever idea although there were plenty of them.

It was the people who were the real gems. It was the depth of our conversation about mission and evangelism that were the treasures. That doesn't always happen in churches, mind you. Some churches struggle to even talk about mission. And the fact that there were 25-40 people every week talking about how we can reach out with the gospel was so encouraging.

From those conversations we identified 4 key words that might give us a clue about where God is leading us to be as we stand at the beginning of the next 800 years.

These keywords are FEEDING, COMMUNITY, INDIVIDUALS' GIFTS AND SPACE.

You can write down your responses to those keywords, using the cards provided in the church if you wish. It doesn't have to be something grand. One matters to God. One line of encouragement, one line of prayer, one idea, one offering.

If only one keyword can open up and grow from them, it will be more than enough. If nothing comes to a fruition, that's okay too. I am sure God will open a new door for us through that process.

The point is this. If we can touch one soul, one person, one child in the name of Christ, then that would be worth the world. Taking part in the change of one person's life is the same as taking part in the change of the whole world. Changing one life, touching one soul can change the world. That's how the Kingdom works.

And remember, that one person doesn't need to be a stranger. It could be a person right next to you, your spouse, your child, your friend or it could be yourself.

God searches for the one. One matters to God. Kingdom works one at a time. If we can reach out to just one person, if we can bring one person to Christ through a prayer, a word of kindness, then the Kingdom has already begun.

With love in Christ

Jun

Upcoming Events to celebrate 800 Years

- **Special Talks with Afternoon tea Part 3(Parish Rooms)**

: History of Abington and its Rectors by Jane Evans: Sat 16 Nov, 3 pm

*Those are proper afternoon tea. Entry by donation but we do need you to sign-up to know the number to cater. Thank you!

- **Celebration Concert (Church): Christmas Music from the Messiah**

Sunday, 1 December, 4 pm (Please note the time)

Preachers of this month

3 Nov, All-Age, Sermon Series 8: Revd. Jun

10 Nov, Remembrance: Revd. Jun

17 Nov: Haydon Spenceley, DDO

24 Nov: Revd. Jenny Parkin

Readers and Intercessors for this month

3 Nov, All Saints' (All-Age): Readers: Junior Church

Intercessor: Junior Church

10 Nov, Remembrance: Readers: Susie & Simon McKay

Intercessor: N/A

17 Nov: Readers: Eric May & Jenny Mercer

Intercessor: Bob Purser

24 Nov: Readers:

Intercessor:

Harvest Donation: Thank you from Foodbank

Thank you to everyone at Abington Church and at St Christopher's for your wonderful Harvest donations.

As always, people in many different circumstances, are facing challenging times and we are only able to help them through the generous donations we receive from many different sources; local churches and schools, Northampton Rotary Club, our local councillors and many other individuals and groups, including the residents of the Old School House in the parish.

Donations, at any time, can always be left in the crate in the Welcomer's corner. From the 'Under the Oak' sessions, 'Feeding' can be both physical and spiritual. Certainly, your Harvest gifts enable us to physically support those in need in our communities.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Malc and Jill Ward

New Readers and Intercessors' Rota

The new rota for readers and intercessors will run from the 3rd Sunday of November. If anyone would like to be added to the list of people who read the lessons and/or lead the intercessions please let Alison Barnes know (01604 460069, alison.barnes41@ntlworld.com or speak to her after the service.) Everyone currently on the list will be rolled forward. Thank you.

Commemoration of All Souls': Sun 3 Nov, 4 pm

This is a service where we remember before God all those whom we love but see no longer. We will light the candles and offer them on the Altar as a sign of our prayers and love for them. It is also a reminder for us that all of them are held in the loving arms of God. There is a sheet for you to write down the names of your loved ones to be remembered during the service. Please note that the service starts at 4 pm.



Children and Young People Update

Our Harvest Festival on 6th October was a lovely occasion and it was great to welcome lots of people both to the service and to the lunch afterwards at the Rooms. Thank you to everyone who brought food for the Food Bank. Families from 'Little Fishes', the Church Baby and



Toddler Group, and the Nursery at the Rooms also contributed to this collection. Thank you also to all the children and young people who took part in the service. I am very thankful that they usually say 'Yes' when I ask them to do something in the service!

As I write this, we are looking forward to our next 'Forest Church' which will take place on Thursday 31st October at 3 pm. Everyone is very welcome to join us for this occasion, especially young families. The theme is 'Remembering', and we are offering something a bit different on the day when many people will be 'celebrating' Halloween. During our afternoon together, we will be decorating the churchyard with battery operated tea lights. If you can visit the church later in the evening, or on subsequent evenings, the church yard will be lit up

The baptism of Eloise and Evie took place at the end of September. They are the twin daughters of Laura. It was a lovely occasion. I thought you would like to see this photo of Revd. Tracy with the girls. We always like to give the children baptism gifts and the girls had just opening their presents!

Finally we are looking forward to the baptism of Grace on 3rd November. She is the daughter of Hannah and Ollie, who were married here at Abington Church a couple of years ago. I am sure it will be a very happy celebration.

Cathy Tinsley Children and Youth Missioner, 07516979223 and children@abingtonchurch.org.uk

Abington Pastoral Team

News from Abington Park View Care Home

We held our annual Harvest Service on 2nd October. This year we thought about how farming provides the food we need, and we enjoyed reminiscing about growing up on a farm before the era of extreme mechanisation that we have today. The Bible also reminds farmers not to reap right to the edge of the field but to leave some of the crops for the poor to glean.



We sang our favourite harvest hymns including 'We plough the fields and scatter' and 'Come ye thankful people come.'

Then on 16th October, Sandra, assisted by Jackie and Kate, led a service about 'Love' and the residents joined in making music with instruments as well as voices. Hymns included 'What a friend we have in Jesus' and 'Thine be the glory.'

Messy Vintage is on 30th October and there will be some photographs of what we did next month.

To find more about ways to support our elderly and local care homes, please contact Liz Kelly, Lay Pastoral Minister and Anna Chaplain. Her contact details are lizmk@outlook.com and telephone 01604 636947 or 07745 604591.



News from St Christopher's

A six-week Bible study course called 'Church and Kingdom' started at the beginning of October. This is run by Liz Kelly the Anna Chaplain, and has proved to be very popular with the residents, with more than twenty people attending every week.

Another new event this month, was 'Scones of Praise'. One of the residents - Maureen Marriott - and Rev. Rachel got together and selected some Harvest hymns for everyone to enjoy. Maureen played the piano and we gathered in the main lounge to sing some of the old favourites. Rev. Rachel had put together a quiz about hymns past and present, and there was tough competition for the chocolate prizes! We enjoyed very tasty scones at the end – some the Devon way, and some according to Cornwall. 😊

Harvest Supper was another big success for October. It was the Harvest Festival in the morning and in the evening we all gathered together in the

Chapel for a meal and to give thanks for the harvest. Rev. Jun shared the food with us and we had a very special evening of fellowship together.



Afternoon Tea at Abington

A big thank you to all those who made the last two afternoon tea events possible. Thank you also for your generosity and donations. Your donations will be passed on to the Open Doors UK and a charity for Ethiopian Christians. Please do sign up for the next and last Afternoon Tea with Jane Evans who will tell us about the history of Abington!



Abington Antiques Fair: Sat 2 Nov, 10 am – 3pm, Church Rooms

Abington Antiques,
Vintage & Collectors Fair
Saturday 2nd November 2024
10am— 3pm
Abington Church Rooms,
Park Avenue North,
Books, Coins, Stamps,
Old Bottles, Jewellery, Collectables, etc
Enquiries: 01604 622497

Prayer Requests

Each week at church we pray for people in need and also for schools, colleges and universities attended by our young people, as well as places of employment, where members of the church family work.

If you would like to make a prayer request, please see Cathy Tinsley, who is responsible for compiling these requests, or email her on cathytinsley18@gmail.com

[Draft Minutes from the last PCC Meeting](#)

Please click the title above to access the link.

Zoom Compline

This is a weekly service at 7.00pm on Tuesdays. In case you don't know, Compline is a quiet, reflective service at the end of the day and includes an open prayer time, so we are able to continue to support one another. The joining details are: Meeting I.D. 815 8020 8528. Passcode 409450 Please talk to Liz Kelly if you want to know more about this and to receive a weekly invitation by email, which enables one-click joining. Her contact details are: lizmk@outlook.com or telephone on 07745 604591.

Parish Newsletter Contribution

Please send your stories and photos to Revd. Jun, rector@abingtonchurch.org.uk by 23rd of each month.
