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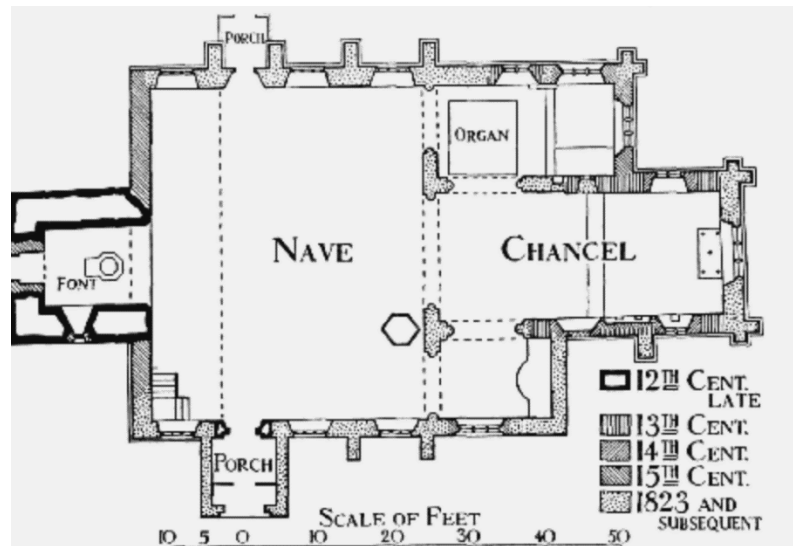
**Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Abington**  
**- the Church in the Park -**  
**Welcome to our May Newsletter 2024**

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## Rector's Pastoral Letter

As some of you might already know, this year of 2024 is rather a special year for Abington. It is the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first Rector of Abington. This gave me an opportunity to dig up some old documents and find interesting facts and stories about our history.

So here is a little bit of history for you. We think the church is probably older than 800 years. Probably around 900 years. The oldest part of the church building is the lower stage of the Tower and South doorway which approximately goes back to 1170s<sup>1</sup>. We can't know the exact



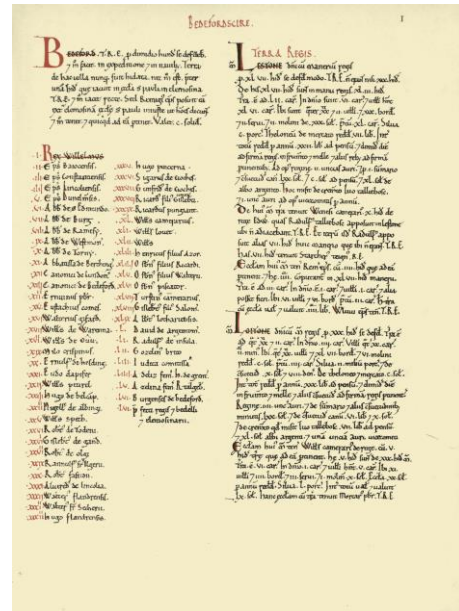
date because unfortunately the church doesn't appear in the Entry of Domesday Book although the name 'Abingtone' does appear in it.

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<sup>1</sup> [A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4](#). Originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1937. And

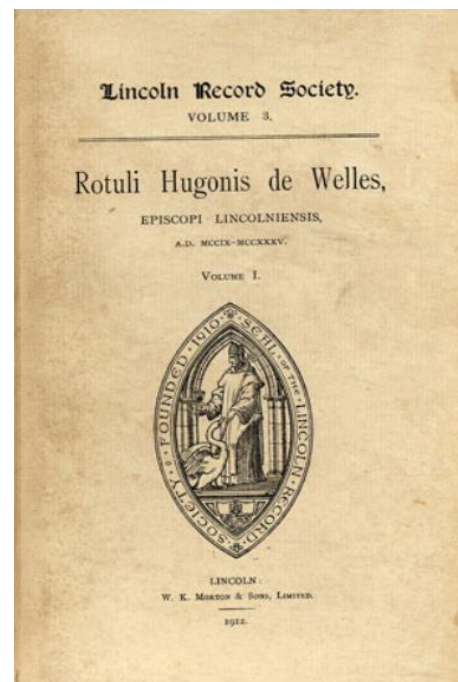
Illustrated Guide to Abington Manor and the Church by John D Langley, illustrated by the late Canon J G B Ashworth (Rector of Abington 1949-1958)

The top right picture is the original folios of Domesday Book, a complete survey of England written in AD 1086. It shows records of “Bedford, 0 households, Leighton, 126 households, Luton, 145 households”.<sup>2</sup>



However the earliest record that we can find about the church is when Peter de Irencestria (Peter of Irchester) was presented by Isabel de Lisors, Lady of the Manor and the widow of William, the great-grandson of Richard Engaine, a Norman Knight, by whom the estate of Abington had been held<sup>3</sup>.

Peter of Irchester was presented to the Bishop Hugh of Lincoln and this was recorded in the Rolls of Bishop Hugh of Lincoln (1209-1235)<sup>4</sup>. Apparently, this is the earliest known episcopal record. No other diocese is known to possess any earlier continuous series of Bishop’s registers, except those of the See of York which are said to commence in 1214.



After Peter, there followed 55 Rectors, including myself which gives me the privilege of being the 56th Rector of Abington.

More will come when we update and republish our booklet about the church’s history which currently Jane is working on and we look forward to the day when Jane can present this work to the congregation in the future. Prester is also doing further research on previous Rectors and we hope to organise a talk about this subject later this year.

Although it is the 800th anniversary since the first Rector of Abington, the message and the story of it is, perhaps, much larger than the story of Peter of Irchester. It is much larger than the stories of all 56 Rectors. It is a collective

<sup>2</sup> <https://opendomesday.org/book/bedfordshire/01/>

<sup>3</sup> [A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 4](#). Originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1937.

<sup>4</sup> Rotuli Hugonis de Welles, Episcopi Lincolnienensis, A.D. MCCIX-MCCXXXV

story of the people of Abington who kept their faith in Christ and passed it on to the next generation after generation for over 800 years. This story is part of even larger story that started 2,000 years ago when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. That story is part of another even greater story that started with the beginning of the Creation, the story of God.

The story of God and His people. That is the story that we all are part of. And God is not done with this story. His plan for Abington that began 800 years ago with Peter and Isabel is still ongoing. And look how far God has led us!

So what is his plan? Where is he calling us to be in the next chapter of his and our story? This will, hopefully, be revealed to us a bit more clearly through the sermon series that we are planning to mark this 800th anniversary. We will also explore this through the vision exercise: Under the Oak which will be led by Bishop Andrew. May I encourage you all to take part in this please?

Below, you will find the Programme of Events to which you all are warmly invited to. I look forward to sharing this significant occasion with you.

With love in Christ

Jun

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**Celebrating 800 Years  
of Constancy, Christian love & Care for Our Community  
Programme of Events**



Logo designed by Katie

- Sermon Series: Looking back with Gratitude, Looking forward with Hope

Hearing from old and new friends about their memories, hopes and prayers for Abington. All on Sundays at 10 am.

12 May: Chrys Tremththanmor

*:CMD Officer of Peterborough Diocese, former Associate Vicar*

19 May: Stephen Adams

*: former Rector*

26 May: Peter Aiers

*: Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral and the Master of the Charter House, London. former member of PCC*

2 June: Philip Ball

*: former Rector*

9 June: Chris Peck

*: former Curate*

16 June: Alison Barnes

*: current Reader, Alison is the longest member of the Ministry Team in Abington*

23 June: Jenny Parkin

*: former Rector of Wooton. Jenny was a member of the congregation when she was discerning her calling towards ordination.*

30 June: Jun

*: current Rector*

- Visioning Exercise: Under the Oak

*: 12 June, 26 June, 3 July, 17 July, 24 July, 31 July*

*All Wednesdays, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm*

This will be led by Bishop Andrew. We will discuss where we are and where God is calling us to be in the future. Everyone in the congregation is warmly invited to this exercise so that we can pray and discern our future together. Unless you come, we won't know what your hopes and visions are! So please pencil in those dates.

- Family Fun Afternoons with Bouncy Castles  
: Saturday 25 May, 2 pm, Churchyard



Come along and have fun in the Churchyard.

It's free for all and open for all. So do invite your friends and neighbours.

- Celebrating Musical Talents with the Georges and Hodges  
: Sunday 2 June, 3 pm

- **Celebration Service of Thanksgiving with Baptism**  
: Sun 30 June at 10 am.

Bishop Andrew will preside. We will say a prayer of thanksgiving as we mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It will be followed by full immersion baptisms in the churchyard as a witness to the community. Then there will a Celebration Lunch. All are warmly invited.

- 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary themed Fete  
: Sat 6 July. **All invited to come dressed up in historical dress!**

- Parish BBQ: Saturday 3 August, 4 pm

- Family Fun Afternoons with Lucia's Tiny Farm  
: Saturday 26 August, 2 pm, Churchyard

Come along and have fun in the churchyard with Lucia's tiny animals!



It's free for all and open for all. Please do invite your friends and neighbours.

- Songs and Hymns of 800 years  
: Sunday 1 September, 3 pm

- **Celebration Service of Renewal of Dedication with Confirmation and Commissioning of new Icon**

: Sunday 8 September, 10 am, All-Age Eucharist

Bishop Debbie Sellin, the Bishop of Peterborough will preside and preach for us. We will unveil the Icon to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary which will be commissioned and installed on the wall next to the font. There will be also confirmation and blessing of ribbons in the churchyard.

- Celebrating Musical Talents with the Mays and Jones  
Sunday 22 September, 3 pm

- Special Talk with Afternoon tea Part 1 (Parish Rooms)

Christians in the Middle East by Open Doors: Saturday 28 Sep, 3 pm

- Sermon Series: Healing and Wholeness from 22 Sep to 27 Oct  
: How God heals individuals and communities through his Church. How can we be an agent of God's healing as the church in the park?

- Special Talks with Afternoon tea Part 2(Parish Rooms)

Christians in Ethiopia by Bishop Andrew: Sat 12 Oct, 3 pm

Christians in Korea by Jun *OR* Talk on the History of Abington: Sat 16 Nov, 3 pm

- **Celebration Concert (Church): Christmas Music from the Messiah**  
**Sunday, 1 December, 4 pm (Please note the time)**

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## **This month's preachers**

**1<sup>st</sup> May, Joint Service at Park Avenue Methodist:** Revd. Jun

**12<sup>th</sup> May, All Age:** Canon Chrys T



**19<sup>th</sup> May, Pentecost:** Revd. Stephen Adams

**26<sup>th</sup> May, Trinity:** Peter Aiers OBE

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### **Readers and Intercessors for this month**

**1<sup>st</sup> May:** Joint Service at Park Avene Methodist Church

**12<sup>th</sup> May, All Age: Readers:** Junior Church

**Intercessor:** Junior Church

**19<sup>th</sup> May, Pentecost: Readers:** Ken Hunter & Hilary Hodge

**Intercessor:** Bob Purser

**26<sup>th</sup> May, Trinity: Readers:** John Langley & Liz Kelly

**Intercessor:** Alan Sutton

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### **Butterflies for 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Celebrating 800 Years:  
Butterfly Art Display**

We are creating a community art display to celebrate the uniqueness and vibrancy of our church and our community.

Our vision is to cover the front of the balcony with beautiful butterflies, but we need your help to do this. We are inviting everyone to decorate a butterfly to be displayed in church during our anniversary year.

How should you decorate your butterfly? It is entirely up to you! We want this to be a reflection of you and your personality, there are no rules!

Paper butterflies, in various sizes, will be available at the back of the church. Once completed, please return to the box in the Welcomers' Corner.

St Peter & St Paul  
ABINGTON

What better way to celebrate our 800 year anniversary, than by celebrating the diversity and vibrancy of our church and community with a display of beautiful butterflies, each one as unique as we are.

It's really appropriate that we are launching our project on Easter Sunday, the day we remember Jesus' marvellous resurrection and naturally think of rebirth, as butterflies are one of very few creatures that can completely transform into something completely different.

As we look at the intricate and beautiful designs of each butterfly we are reminded of the marvel of God's creation. The incredible transformation from caterpillar to butterfly is like our own spiritual journey. We leave our old selves behind as we are transformed through our faith in Christ, growing spiritually just as a butterfly leaves its cocoon and takes flight into the world.

Our vision is to cover the front of the balcony with a fabulous display of butterflies. That's where we need you!

We want everyone (and we do mean everyone) to take part in this project by creating a butterfly. There are some examples on the pillar at the back of the church to give you some ideas, but you can create and decorate your butterfly however you want. As a guide we suggest anything up to A5 size, (or about half an A4 piece of paper).

There are some paper butterflies in the box at the back of the church in different sizes and different colours for you to decorate. Please take one, or feel free to create your own. Please also take one for friends and family to take part too. Our linked primary schools are going to be creating butterflies as are little fishes, our messy vintage group, junior church and hopefully more groups as our project continues. Ultimately we hope to have a truly fabulous display representing our whole community.

Once completed, please place butterflies in the box in the Welcomers' corner. Then over the next few months we will start to build up the display on the front of the balcony. Hopefully by the time of our patronal festival at the end of June we will have over 800 butterflies. And if we manage to completely cover the balcony then you may start to see butterflies appearing in other places in the church...

One final point, we are hoping to have hundreds and hundreds of butterflies so please understand that we cannot return butterflies.

For further information or any questions, please speak to either Susie or Melissa. Thank you.



## **APCM**

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April after the 10am service. Please stay, or come along, if you are able.

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## **PCC Meeting**

Please note that the next PCC meeting is Wednesday 1 May at 7.45 pm

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## **Joint Service with Park Avenue Methodist Church**

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May we are having a joint service with our brothers and sisters at Park Avenue Methodist Church, **at 10.30am. (Please note the time)**

Although there will be no 10 am service at church, there will be a communion service at 8.15am for those who are unable to attend the joint service. The service at the Methodist Church will also be a communion service.

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## **Lent Collections: Thank You**

Thank you for your very generous response to our Lent collections to help others. In total, our Lent lunches and collections have raised a total of £1,250.

The money raised will be shared equally between our two nominated charities, the Chole Breakfast Club in Ethiopia and Christian Aid.

Thank you so much for your kindness.

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## **Holy Communion Preparation for Young People**

A number of children have expressed a desire to receive Holy Communion. Therefore I plan to provide some preparation in the coming weeks, on Sunday mornings, alongside our Junior Church sessions. If you know of any children who would be interested in this, please do speak to me.

Cathy Tinsley, Children and Youth Missioner

cathytinsley18@gmail.com or 07516 979223

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## 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](mailto:cathytinsley18@gmail.com)

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## News from the Pastoral Team

### News from Abington Park View Care Home

Liz, accompanied by Jackie and Pat, led an Easter Songs of Praise service on 3<sup>rd</sup> April. We thought about what we associate with Easter, including eggs, daffodils, lambs, spring flowers, and Easter bunnies. They have one thing in common - new life! And that is what the resurrection is all about. It turns grief into joy, sadness into happiness, darkness into light, sin into salvation, and death into life.



We also listened to the beautiful story from John's Gospel which tells us how Mary Magdalene met Jesus in the garden by the empty tomb, but she doesn't recognise him until he says her name.

Jesus offers us new life in him. He has conquered death and has brought in God's new Kingdom here on earth, as well as in heaven. We can hold onto this hope that just as Jesus went through suffering and death, and then was raised to new life, so have our loved ones who have gone before us. But also, when

the time is right, each one of us will hear Jesus speak our own name. He will call us and invite us to be with him in Heaven for ever.

We ended by singing that glorious Easter hymn, 'Thine be the glory', which the residents accompanied using a variety of percussion instruments, making a really joyful noise! We ended the afternoon sharing tea and cakes!

Then on 17<sup>th</sup> April, Jackie, Janice, Hilary, Kate, and Liz enjoyed

leading a Messy Vintage Service during which everyone decorated paper butterflies using a range of colours and stickers. These will be displayed with others in Abington Church as part of the 800 year celebrations. Here are some pictures showing the concentration and hard work that the residents put in to creating their individual butterflies.



Our next visit will be on 1<sup>st</sup> May for a Songs of Praise Service

\*The Pastoral Team continues to support parishioners through regular telephone calls, prayer, and pastoral visits. Home Communion is available too. If you, or anyone you know, would like someone from the pastoral team to get in touch, please contact Liz Kelly, Lay Pastoral Minister and Anna Chaplain. Her contact details are lizmk@outlook.com and telephone 01604 636947 or 07745 604591.

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## Reflections on Placements at Abington by Jan Jones (Reader Trainee)

I had the honour of spending 3 weeks at your church as part of my Readers training and was well welcomed and put to work! On loan, you could say, from Church on the Heath (Kings Heath, Northampton).

I had the pleasure of attending a Songs of Praise and a Messy Vintage at Abington View Care Home led by Liz Kelly. Worship, chatter and craft! Enjoyed greatly by all.

Thanks to John and Jan who welcomed Liz and I into their homes for Communion too. Much appreciated.



The Mothering Sunday talk was challenging for me but fun with the children helping me to tell the story of Hannah (mother of Samuel in the Bible). I

don't know whether it was myself or the children who got more confused at times with our smiley or sad faces! A lovely family-friendly service. Thanks too for the prayer from Jenny beforehand that settled my nerves.

A visit to Bridgewater Primary with Rev Tracy, was also a highlight. Wonderfully inquisitive children who asked questions from 'how old was Jesus when he died?' to 'Does God like cats best?'. All well answered by Tracy, who deserves a prize!

Leading the reflection at Thursday communion and speaking at St Christophers Care Home helped to grow my skills, to learn to speak up and to rely on God in abundance! It was a pleasure to be able to share with you all.

I experienced the wonderfully lively Junior Church with Cathy and greatly benefitted from a Lent Bible Study ably led by Andrew and Sandra.

I apologise if I have missed anything or anyone out! Thanks to Jun for trusting God and welcoming me to share briefly in the ministry of this church.

I met lots of wonderful people, young and older alike!

May God continue his work amongst you and bless you in your 800 years celebrations.

Jan Jones

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## **From the Director of Music**

We have four special musical contributions during our 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.

We are so lucky to have had many talented musicians contributing to the musical life at Abington over the years. So I have asked four families from our current congregation to provide two recitals during the year. At each you can

expect to be entertained with a wide range of beautiful music sung and played by our friends. Please note the dates in your diaries now:

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 3.00pm – The George and Hodge families

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 3.00pm – The Jones and May families

Then on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September (also 3.00pm) we will have a chance to sing our favourite songs and hymns of praise, helped down with refreshments. Please let me know any songs or hymns you would like included.

Finally, we will round off our musical year with a performance of the Christmas music from Handel's Messiah accompanied by a small orchestra. This will be on Advent Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> December) at 4.00pm (please note the time). If any of you would like to join the enlarged choir to sing this wonderful work, then please let me know. Some degree of singing experience will be needed!

Tim Dolan

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### **Curate's Reflection on the Second Year of Curacy**

My second year of curacy is now complete, and so it is with mixed feelings that I am now considered to be in my 'final year'. It seems strange that I was only priested last year as it seems so long ago, as so much has happened, and yet it feels like it was only yesterday! The day of ordination was so special, and it was wonderful to share it with so many from Abington, and I am thankful to you for your support and your prayers.

Since then, I have been busy presiding at the Eucharist, not only at St Peter & St Paul, but at St Christopher's, Abington Park View Care Home, and a couple of other churches in the area. I have also had the joy of baptising and marrying two couples during the year, and I am grateful to Revd. Jun for sharing ministry so generously with me.

My 'final' year will look towards polishing up the skills I have gained, and hopefully adding a few more, whilst prayerfully discerning what God might have planned for the future. It is thankfully far too soon to think about goodbyes, but I will be spending a little more time away from the Parish in the coming year; covering other church services and being on placement in various settings.

The more I see of other churches, the more I appreciate just what a special place Abington is, and I am thankful for every moment that I have here.

Revd. Tracy

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## Northampton Philharmonic Choir

Saturday 22 June, 6.30 pm  
St. Matthew's Church

The little Jazz Mass, Bob Chilcott  
Benedicite Andrew Carter  
Nene Sinfonia

Tickets: Adults £16.50, Under 16: £6

For further information:

<https://www.northamptonphilharmonicchoir.co.uk/>

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## NORTHAMPTON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR



### SPIRITS AND SOULS

The Little Jazz Mass Bob Chilcott  
Benedicite Andrew Carter  
Nene Sinfonia

The Choir of All Saints CEVA Primary School, Northampton  
Directed by Thomas Moore

Saturday, 22nd June 2024 @ 6.30pm  
St. Matthew's Church, Northampton, NN1 4 2Y

Tickets: Adults £16.50, Under 16s £6. Available via our website (no booking fee) or on the door  
[www.northamptonphilharmonicchoir.co.uk](http://www.northamptonphilharmonicchoir.co.uk)

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

Please click the title above to access the link.

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## 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](mailto:lizmk@outlook.com) or telephone on 07745 604591.

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