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**Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Abington**  
**- the Church in the Park -**  
**Welcome to our December Newsletter 2025**

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## **Thank you from Northampton Hope Centre**

We would like to say a huge 'thank you to the congregation for your generosity in supporting our essential box and donating so many things for the homeless, as we go into the cold months these products will make such a difference. It's heart-warming that you thought of Hope and chose us as a charity that you wanted to benefit from your generosity. We are so fortunate to get support from people like you.

At the Hope centre we don't only offer crisis support but we also offer support to enable individuals to rebuild and lead fulfilling lives. To give you an idea of the sort of impact your donation will have, here's some insights into the work your support will enable:

- **Daily Support:** Our homeless centre serves on average between 50-60 people every day, providing essentials like hot meals, showers, laundry facilities, haircuts, access to opening bank accounts, health services and many more support agencies. We continue to work with and get support from DWP, mental health charities, drug & alcohol misuse charities and WNC housing. It costs us approximately £1,000 a day to maintain all aspects of this vital provision
- **Who we help:** 95% of the people we see are male and are all ages, homelessness affects people from all walks of life. The biggest reasons for people becoming homeless is relationship breakdown and losing their house or rental through mortgage arrears or eviction



▪ Winter night shelter: Once again we will be providing a night shelter to enable some of our guests to sleep at night. We are hoping to cover the coldest Winter months and know that this will mean we save lives this Winter.

Your support will make a real difference to people in desperate need, helping us to continue to offer these crucial services. Thank you once again for your kindness and support.

Yours Sincerely

Christopher Potter  
Community and Corporate Engagement Lead  
Northampton Hope Centre

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## Thank you for your support for Christmas Shoeboxes

The 24 Christmas Shoeboxes are on their way. Hopefully in the New Year we will find out where they went!! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this outreach opportunity, including the Guides. Thank you everyone. There will be some very happy children this Christmas.



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## Preachers for this month

**7 Dec:** Jun Kim  
**14 Dec:** Liz Kelly  
**21 Dec:** Alison Barnes

**28 Dec:** Andrew Proud

**4 Jan:** Helen Halson

**11 Jan:** Prester Coleman

**18 Jan:** Alison Barnes

**25 Jan:** Jun Kim

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## Readers and Intercessors for this month

Date	Readers	Intercessor
<b>7 Dec</b>	Donald Loe, Stephen Lewis	Liz Kelly
<b>14 Dec</b>	Susannah McKay, Simon McKay	Donald Loe
<b>21 Dec</b>	Andrew Munns, Alicia Menzies	Bob Purser
<b>28 Dec</b>	Jill Pickard, Damian Pickard	Prester Coleman
<b>4 Jan</b>	Bob Purser Jane Pinches	Matthew George
<b>11 Jan</b>	Douglas Rutherford Shirralee Smith	Rhiannon George
<b>18 Jan</b>	Richard Wardropper Alan Sutton	Hilary Hodge
<b>25 Jan</b>	Chris Waters Dianne Ward	Liz Kelly

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## Make your own Christingle Service

**The Christingle service** will be on Sunday 7th December at 3 pm in church. We will be making our own Christingles, followed by a short time of worship when we remember the important work of **The Children's Society**. Making Christingles is a fun activity for everyone so please do invite family, friends and neighbours who might like to join us for this occasion. It is also the time when we encourage supporters of The Children's Society to give generously to this charity. We no longer use home boxes for collections, but if you would like to donate, please put your gift in an envelope marked 'The Children's Society' and put it in the wall safe (or bring it to the Christingle service). Your generosity is appreciated.



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## Harvest Charity Collection: Christian Aid

This year's Harvest, we raised fund for Christian Aid. In total across cash and card donations we have collected £227. We rounded this up to £250. Thank you for your generosity.

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## Harvest Donations for St Albans Foodbank

For the last few years, we have been very grateful at St Albans to receive the Harvest Gifts from the congregation at Abington and from the residents at St Christophers.

We are very thankful again to have received them this year.

Many people are experiencing very challenging times due to the high energy prices and rising food costs.

We are always very grateful for all the individual donations received and for the ongoing support from Northampton Rotary Club and our local councillors .

Please continue to support the Foodbank whenever possible. The need is always there.

A crate is located in the Sidespersons corner for any donations, which Jim Mercer kindly brings to St Albans.

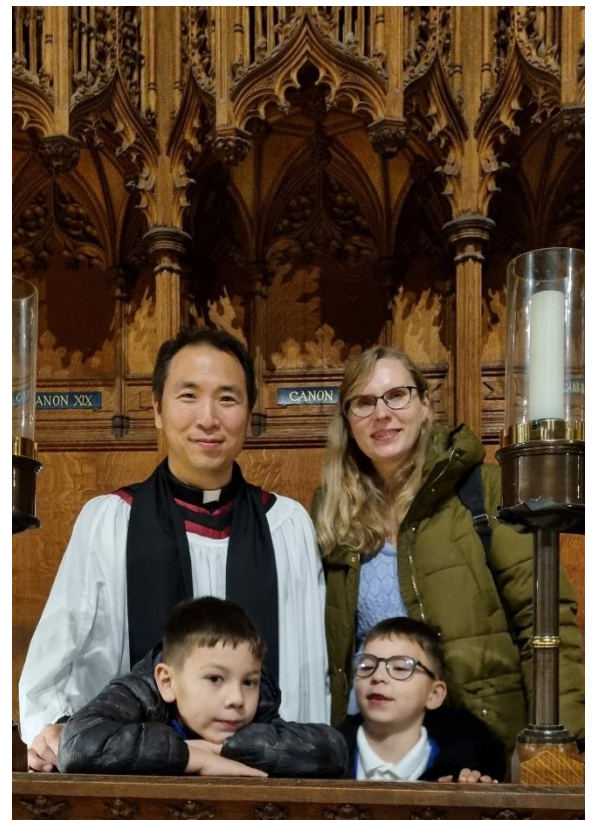
Thank you all for your support.

Malc and Jill Ward

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## Thank you from Jun

Thank you for your support and prayers today on my installation as an Honorary Canon of Peterborough Cathedral.



## Advent and Christmas Charity: Save the Children and Eve



This Advent and Christmas we support Save the Children and Eve. One of the Save the Children's key appeal this Advent is for the children in war zones. Eve is a Christian Charity that support domestic abuse victims.

Save the Children is an international charity that helped 47 million children who needed medicine, good food and education. There are over 600,000 supporters alongside families, nurses, teachers and aid workers. They also help children in poverty in the UK with housing, education while there are 4.5 million children in poverty in the UK. One of their priorities this year has been supporting children and families in war zones.


If you wish to give to these charities then please use the yellow envelope and write "Christmas Charity." Alternatively you can use to give via online through our website.

Prayer for all children who are in war zones.

Heavenly Father, protect the children of the world. Take them under your wing, shielding them from conflict, disaster and those who would try to hurt them. Send your Holy Spirit to comfort children who experience trauma because of the violence. Raise up helpers, Father, who are willing to stand in the gap for children in need. Thank you for your willingness to heal those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

St Peter and St Paul Abington "the church in the park" invites you to join

# A Christmouse adventure




Hello! My name's Benjamin and I've got an amazing story to tell you! I've come so very far from my little home in Nazareth and so much has happened, I almost don't know where to start! Come and meet my new friends and we'll tell you everything!

Follow the numbered signs along the path in front of the church to hear all about my big adventure

My story starts on the sign just inside the churchyard gate on Park Avenue South.

Open to everyone and free to enjoy until 4<sup>th</sup> January





St Peter and St Paul Abington "the church in the park"

# You're invited to share the **JOY** of Christmas with us at Abington

## **A Christmose Adventure Nativity Trail**

*A self guided trail around the Churchyard to hear about the adventures  
of a little mouse from Nazareth  
Open all day until 4th January*

**Make your own Christingle Service 3pm Sunday 7th December**

**Lessons and Carols Service 6pm Sunday 21st December.**

*Followed by mince pies and refreshments*

**Crib Service 3pm Wednesday 24th December**

**Midnight Service 11.30pm Wednesday 24th December**

**Christmas Morning Family Eucharist 10am Christmas Day**

**All our services and activities are open to everyone and  
free to enjoy. We look forward to welcoming you.**

**For more information, or to  
contact us, please see details  
on our website**

**[www.abingtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.abingtonchurch.org.uk)**



St Peter and St Paul Abington "the church in the park" invites you to our

# Crib Service

3pm Christmas Eve  
The Church in the Park

Something wonderful is about to happen in an old, empty barn. A very special baby is going to be born. But the grumpy owl who lives there just wants to be left alone. Can anything change his mind, or will he miss out on the amazing joy of the first Christmas? Come to our crib service to find out.



Everyone is invited  
to come dressed as your  
favourite nativity  
character and join in  
the story.



Please join us for our other Christmas activities and services. For more details, please see our website  
[www.abingtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.abingtonchurch.org.uk)





## News from Abington Park View

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November, Revd Helen, Liz, and Jackie led a service of Remembrance for the residents. We shared memories of family members who had lived through during WW2. Some of us spoke about fathers who had been in the armed forces and others remembered family members who had been in reserved occupations. These included menfolk who had worked down the coalmines and women who served in the Land Army on farms. Others had mothers who worked in munition factories or who drove ambulances. We thought about Air Raid Wardens and members of the Home Guard. The common factor for all those we remembered was that they were ordinary people doing extraordinary jobs!



Our second visit of the month was on 26<sup>th</sup> November when we held our annual service to remember the residents who had died during the last year. This was a moving and uplifting service during which a candle was lit as each person's name was read out.



We hope it has given the staff and residents a proper chance to say goodbye. As Christians, the Resurrection of Jesus gives us hope that we will meet our loved ones again, and in the meantime, we believe they are safe with him.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December we shall be holding a Messy Vintage Service on the theme of Advent and we shall be making simple Advent Wreaths similar to this one. If you would like to come and help, please contact Liz Kelly.

Our final visit of the year will be for the Carol Service on 17<sup>th</sup> December.



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## Owen Warr R.I.P, R.I.G

It is with sadness I write to report to you that Owen died this morning.

I am very grateful to Sandra, one of our Anna Chaplains, Revd Jenny and all others, who looked after him, visited him and brought communion for him since he was hospitalised.



We were a bit surprised as Owen was chatty and seemed stable this Sunday. Indeed, he remained cheerful and hopeful even to the last moment.

We give thanks to God for him, for his powerful voice that blessed us on many occasions at church, for his passion for theatre and for the many other gifts that he so generously shared with us. But most of all, we give thanks for his faith in Christ that he shared with us in Abington and his commitment to following him. Right until his hospitalisation, he took part in Thursday bible study groups and in discipleship groups. In those groups, his contribution was always much appreciated.

Details to follow in terms of arranging his funeral. Please remember him in your private prayers.

May Owen rest in peace and rise in glory.

With warmest wishes

Jun (Rector)

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### **Organ Concert: Saturday 10 Jan, 2pm, Church**

Northampton and Peterborough Organists' Association return to Abington Church for their Epiphany and New Year Concert on Saturday 10th January, 2pm. All welcome to come and enjoy their annual extravaganza of music and words to help us over the January doldrums.

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### **Sanctuary: A Service for Peace, Healing and Solace at the End of the Year ,Friday 19 December, 7.30 pm**

How do you feel as you look back over the year 2025? We would like to offer you a space where you can sit quietly and reflect with Christ on the significant moments and times of this year: the challenges and the achievements, the difficulties and the celebrations, the sorrows and the joys. With candles, music, prayer and holy oil, we invite you to discover the traces of grace, mercy, love, joy and light in all these moments. In what can be a very hectic time, this might be the space you need. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet.



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## **Standing Committee and PCC**

SC: 28 Jan, 22 Apr, 24 June, 16 Sep, 18 Nov. All in 2026

PCC: 11 Feb, 6 May, 8 July, 30 Sep, 25 Nov. All in 2026

APCM: 26 April

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

Please click the title above to access the link.

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## **Pastoral Support**

We aim to support parishioners through telephone calls, texts, prayer, and pastoral visits. Home Communion is available if you are unable to get to church because of illness. If you, or anyone you know, would like someone to get in touch, please contact Liz Kelly, Lay Pastoral Minister and Anna Chaplain. Her contact details are [lizmk@outlook.com](mailto:lizmk@outlook.com) and telephone 01604 636947 or 07745 604591. We offer a listening ear, someone to pray with, bereavement support, or a friendly visit.

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## **Zoom Compline**

This is a weekly service at 7.00pm on Tuesdays. The joining details are: Meeting I.D. 815 8020 8528. Passcode 409450 Please talk to Liz Kelly if you want to know more about, contact [lizmk@outlook.com](mailto:lizmk@outlook.com) or telephone on 07745 604591.

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## **Parish Newsletter Contribution**

Please send your stories and photos to Revd. Jun, [rector@abingtonchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@abingtonchurch.org.uk) by 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month.

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