



Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Abington
- the Church in the Park -
**Welcome to our March Newsletter
2022**

Rector's Pastoral Letter

A few days ago, I had the privilege of visiting our dear friend Olive Skinner. Many of you know dear Olive who was often seen with her scooter at Church on a Sunday morning. I visited her with Jenny Mercer who is one of our pastoral visitors. Jenny has been supporting Olive especially during the Pandemic. Although Olive has not been able to come to the church for a while due to health reasons, she was bright as the sunlight and was full of energy.

As the oldest member of the church (she will be 100 years old on the 17th of August), Olive saw the WWII and other trials of our modern history, including the Pandemic, which was, in a way, more challenging than the others. And now she is watching another war in Europe unfolding after all those years of painful lessons about the fragility of peace and how interdependent our lives are.

I asked her, how it all make her feel. Does it make her feel perhaps a bit sad or even depressed?



“I do sometimes get depressed” she said. “When things are getting tough, you cannot help but feeling a bit down especially as you get older. Sometimes I wonder, what is there to look forward to really? Sometimes you feel like giving up.”

“Yes, you do sometimes get depressed, mum. Don’t you?” says Tony, one of her sons. “But she does bounce back quickly” he adds.

“Oh yes I do!” Olive replies. “There are still so many things that I am thankful for. And things that I can aim for. Right now, I am aiming for my 100th. So I keep going. Maybe I will reach that. Maybe I won’t. But that doesn’t really matter. Oh! And I really enjoy reading the Parish Newsletter. I read every single article of every single newsletter. One more thing that I am so thankful for.”

It is so clear where she gets her strengths from even when she goes through those tough days. Her faith keeps her going and gives her renewed strength to find her aim. We prayed together and shared our thoughts on the story of Jesus calming the storm in Luke’s gospel. After sharing the holy communion, I asked her if she has a message for her church family in these times of turmoil.

“Keep going!” she immediately replies. “Things are bound to improve.”

I think we all know where her optimism is rooted. As we see the tragedy continuing in Ukraine and face challenges of our own, let us keep praying and keep going, trusting that God who gives us his peace that passes all understanding is holding us in his everlasting arms. Let us keep praying for peace and for all who suffer today.

And as we continue to pray for Ukraine, let us ask God to show us things that we can do no matter how small that might be to help those who are in need.

I have made a very brief list of practical things we can do to help. I am using the hyperlink for those who receive this electronically. You can simply click the hyperlink with the underline.

- The British Red Cross has launched an appeal to help the Ukrainian Red Cross to provide food, medicine, clothing, and shelter, as well as first aid training in bomb shelters and, in the last few days, 15,000 litres of drinking water to villages in eastern Ukraine. You can find more about this [here](#)

- The UNHCR refugee agency is funding emergency shelters, repairs for homes damaged by shelling, emergency cash assistance, psychological support, and warm clothing. More can be found [here](#)
- Unicef, the UN's children's charity, is helping to ensure families have clean water and food and that child health and protection services continue. More can be found [here](#)
- Save the Children is providing cash assistance, food and other support to refugees crossing into Romanian and Lithuania, as well as in Ukraine itself. More can be found [here](#)

For those who are looking at ways to donate items, this is what has been shared recently on the Facebook Page: Northamptonshire Help for Ukraine.

Hi, a little update from our side. We try to reply to all messages as soon as possible, but it's a lot and we also have to work in the field. We ask for your understanding. Our priority now is to pack the lorries in Rothwell and send them to Ukraine as soon as possible. We need to do this efficiently, so we are asking you to deliver donations to public collection points. Donations should be in cardboard boxes, sorted and labelled if possible. This will make our job much easier! We no longer have time to travel and collect parcels and we also want to limit the delivery of things to our private addresses.

Below is a list of public collection addresses, please try to get there, it will make our work much easier. This way we can focus only on transporting the collected donations from several points to the trucks.

You can also deliver directly to the lorry park in Rothwell but items must be packed in cardboard boxes, taped, secured, properly sorted and labelled! Thank you!

OFFICIAL COLLECTION POINTS

Corby:

- Alter Ego Atelier, George Street, NN17 1QE, Corby. Contact name: Alex.
- Worksafe Direct Ltd, 11 st. James Road, NN18 8AL, Corby. Contact name: Emma, Jan, Emily.

Kettering:

- The Shack Food Project, 10 Lower Street, NN16 8DH, Kettering. Contact name: Claire.

Wellingborough:

· *June Plum, 31-32 Cambridge Street, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 1DW.*

Contact name: Zoe. (Thursday 5pm-10pm; Friday 11am-10pm; Saturday 11am-10pm)

Rothwell:

· *The Manor House, Squires Hill, Rothwell NN14 6BQ; Contact name: Monica;*

Opening hours 9AM-5PM; Entrance through the Car Park!

If you have any enquires, you can contact them [here](#)

Finally, I would like to share with you the Pastoral Letter from our Archbishops on Unkraine which I read to you during the service last Sunday.

With every blessing

Jun



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

24 February 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid. (John 14.27)

Many of us will have troubled hearts as we watch with horror the attack by Russia on Ukraine. As we have already said, this attack is an act of evil,

imperilling as it does the relative peace and security that Europe has enjoyed for so long. The attack by one nation on a free, democratic country has rightly provoked outrage, sanctions and condemnation.

We lament with the people of Ukraine, and we pray for the innocent, the frightened and those who have lost loved ones, homes, and family. We continue to call for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces as well as wide-ranging efforts to ensure peace, stability and security.

These events remind us powerfully that peace is precious and it is fragile. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples at the Last Supper and he leaves them his peace. This is not a mere greeting, but rather something deep and abiding. This peace is something that only Jesus gives; for it is a gratuitous gift, a way of living, something to be received for the gift of peace is the gift of Jesus himself. That is why the Lord is able to offer reassurance to our hearts, why those who receive the gift of the peace of Jesus Christ at the deepest of levels should not be afraid.

Peace, therefore, is so much more than the absence of war. It is a gift, and it is also a decision, a gift that must be received. It is a choice we make that shapes the way we live well alongside each other. It characterises our relationship with God. It comes into being by seeking justice.

In these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might again turn to the Lord and receive God's gift of peace, work for God's justice, know God's reconciliation and love, and choose paths not of hatred or destruction, of violence or retribution, but God's way of justice, mercy and peace.

As Christians, our response to a crisis must always be rooted in prayer. And so we invite you to join with us in praying most earnestly for an outpouring of the Spirit of God, that the world may once again choose peace, strengthening those international bodies that enable us to work and live together as one humanity inhabiting one world.

We pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia too.

However and whenever you pray, pray that the world may choose peace, and be assured of our prayers for you.

With every blessing,



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury



The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York

Worship for this month

This month's Preachers

6th March, Lent 1: The Revd. Jun Kim

13th March, Lent 2: Alison Barnes

20th March, Lent 3: Liz Kelly

27th March, Mothering Sunday: Prester Coleman

This month's prayers and prayer topics

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace
and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those
who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit
of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion



to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Readings Readers and Intercessors for this month

6th March, Lent 1: **Reader:** Dianne Ward, **Intercessor:** Owen Warr

13th March, Lent 2: **Reader:** Alicia Menzies, **Intercessor:** Donald Loe

20th March, Lent 3: **Reader:** Jan Abel, **Intercessor:** Alison Barnes

27th March, Mothering Sunday: **Reader:** Olivia May, **Intercessor:** Matthew George

Churchyard

Could you help us look after our beautiful churchyard? We are looking for volunteers to help with weeding, planting, mowing and general tidying up.

Please contact gardening@abingtonchurch.org.uk if you are interested in joining our team to help care for our churchyard. Thank you

How we are managing COVID risk in Church

As a church we are looking forward to several changes change in our COVID arrangements from next Sunday 6th March as we move forward - learning to live with the continuing presence of the virus in the community

The local COVID rate has come down steeply since my last report about a month ago so that on 28th January the rate for Northampton was 1,750 cases per hundred thousand and now on 24th February it stands at 436 - below 500 cases per 100k threshold set by the PCC for relaxing measures. Nonetheless, many of us will know a number of people currently infected and feeling particularly rough and we need to keep them in our prayers - and as a community we need to think carefully about the effect on our most vulnerable members. However, as a result of the various measures we put in place and the discipline and cooperation of our members, we can be fairly confident that

over the last 2 years our church has not contributed to the spread of the virus. So, on behalf of the Rector, Churchwardens and the PCC, thank you.

What are our next steps? Firstly, the importance of continuing to respect each other's different needs - spoken and unspoken – that some people will wish to continue social distancing.

Secondly to ask us all if we have colds or fluey symptoms to stay away from church for that Sunday and until we are better and, while they are available, to use lateral flow tests.

The PCC also agreed that:

From next Sunday mask wearing will become a matter of choice. Do continue to wear a mask if you wish to but it will no longer be an expectation. The Celebrant at communion will, for the moment, continue to wear a mask. That is so everyone who wishes to can be confident when they are offered communion.

We will also remove the maximum number in church and the need to sit a metre apart. We just ask that we all respect the social distance of others.

Under Donald's Loe's guidance, we have been excellent in leaving church in an orderly way, but from 6th March, we can do this more informally. It's really good to sit and listen to Tim's organ outro and then to leave. But it's good to talk and catch up with everyone which I hope we can reintroduce.

There are further changes from Easter Sunday which we will set out in the April bulletin. Thank you to everyone for your support and co-operation. If you have any questions please talk with the Churchwardens, the Rector, or myself.

Bob, Lay-Chair of the PCC

Stepped removal of restrictions

Stage 1: First Sunday of Lent AND Case numbers below 500 per 100,000

1. Mask wearing is up to personal choice
2. Social distancing is no longer imposed
(But we respect those who wish to keep distance).
3. Congregation numbers Unrestricted
4. Taking Lateral Flow Test prior to Sunday is encouraged

Stage 2: Easter Sunday AND Case numbers below 500 per 100,000

At Stage 2 onwards, Liturgy returns to be normal. This will include reintroducing the Altar Party with Crucifer and Magister (Acolytes for high days only), Gospel Procession, Use of all 3 readings, Creed, Robed Choir and Celebration at the High Altar.

1. Normal length of service and full liturgy returns (The liturgy to be updated)
2. Hymn books and Service booklets
3. Welcomers reintroduced
4. Robed Choir (Choir Practice continues in the chancel)
5. Refreshments after the service to be discussed

Stage 3: to be discussed

1. Possibility of encouraging physical sharing of peace
2. Possibility of sharing one cup

Children and Youth Missioner's Update

Twelve children and fourteen adults met at the Rooms on Monday 14th February for a **'Valentine's' Activity Morning** – the theme of the event being Love! We enjoyed storytelling, games, crafts, singing and food! It was a very happy morning and God's love was very present. This is what Alicia said about the event – "I enjoyed having time with my friend decorating cookies, making key rings and finding our new facts about St Valentine. Did you know that he is the Patron Saint of beekeepers? At the end of the morning everyone shared a lovely lunch."

The Church Toddler Group, called 'Little Fishes' now meets at the Rooms on Monday mornings from 10 am to 11 am. We were delighted to welcome seven children and nine parents/grandparents to the first Tots morning on 21st February. Everyone really enjoyed the time shared together and the children were very happy playing with the toys, listening to the story and making lots of noise with the percussion instruments to 'Rejoice in the Lord always!' I am supported in this work by other members of the church who come to help provide the refreshments and to chat with the families. If you know of any families who have preschool children who might like to join us, do share my contact details, or invite them to come along on a Monday morning.

Junior Church goes from strength to strength! We have great fun and those attending are always very enthusiastic. Thank you to Alison, Gill, Nicola, Jilly and Esme for their wonderful support and care of the children. I am also delighted that **Alicia, Olivia and Rachel** are all undertaking **Holy Communion Preparation**, organised by myself. This involves six sessions over the next couple of months. The hope is that all three girls will be ready to take their first Communion on 15th



May when the Bishop of Peterborough visits us. Please would you pray for these children and their families as they prepare to take this important step on their Christian journey.

Over the next few months we look forward to a number of families having their children baptised. The children are given a gift and a balloon from the church and the family

are kept informed of future events at which they may like to join us.

A date for your diary - we are organising an **Activity Afternoon on Saturday 16th April, which will include an Easter Egg Hunt in the Churchyard.** This will take place at 3 pm and children of all ages are welcome to join us!

If you would like to take part in the Children's work please do speak to me. We always need volunteers, as the more help we have, the more we can do to develop the ministry to children, young people and their families. Thank you for your prayers.

Cathy Tinsley

07516979223 or children@abingtonchurch.org.uk

Lent Groups 2022

This Lent, we will focus on the prayer of all prayers, the Lord's Prayer, and what it might mean to us today. Please write your name on the sign up sheet in church. There are 4 groups which will last for 5 weeks.

Group 1: Mondays & Tuesday at 7.30 pm at Bob's

Group 2: Wednesdays at 2 pm at St Ragener's Chapel

Group 3: Thursday mornings at 11 am at Church (after the Eucharist)

Group 4: Friday evenings at 7.30 pm on Zoom

(Meeting ID: 815 8020 8528 and Passcode: 409450)

Zoom Prayers

The Thursday morning Zoom Prayers have ended because the weekly Eucharist in church at 10.00am on Thursdays will resume from 10th March. But this is not the end of Zoom Prayers! It has been such a valuable experience to share fellowship and to grow in our prayer support of each other, that we have decided to offer Compline on Zoom. This will be a weekly service at 7.00pm on Tuesdays, starting after Easter, and I hope that many of you will be able to join us for that. In case you don't know, Compline is a quiet, reflective service at the end of the day and does include an open prayer time, so we shall be able to continue to support one another as we have become used to over the last eighteen months. The first Zoom Compline will be on Tuesday 19th April at 7.00pm. The joining details remain the same.

Meeting I.D. 815 8020 8528

Passcode 409450

Please talk to Liz Kelly if you want to know more about this exciting new venture for Abington Church. Her contact details are: lizmk@outlook.com or telephone on 07745 604591.

News from the Pastoral Team

During the Pandemic the Pastoral Team has been supporting many parishioners through regular telephone calls and this is continuing for those who need it. Many thanks to Jenny, Sue, and Yvonne for their dedication over the last two years. Now that restrictions have been lifted members of the team

are also making 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. We offer a listening ear, someone to pray with, bereavement support, or a friendly visit.

We have been keeping in contact with Abington Park View Care Home, and we are looking forward to continuing our ministry there as Covid restrictions ease. Sadly, we were unable to visit in January or February, but we have agreed dates for monthly 'Songs of Praise' Services and for six Eucharist Services throughout 2022. This is an immensely valuable ministry and if you feel called to share in it, please do get in touch with Liz.

Together with several other members of the congregation, she continues to support the weekly Friday Eucharist service in St Ragener's Chapel for those who live independently at St Christopher's, and she visits residents in the Home when it is possible.

Thank you all for your prayers for the Pastoral Team and for the staff and residents of Abington Park View and St Christopher's Care Home.

Mothers' Union

Abington Church Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting took place on Monday 21st February at the Parish Rooms. Eleven members attended, plus one visitor and Revd. Jun. The previous AGM had been in 2020. It has obviously been a very challenging time due to the pandemic. However, everyone was thankful that we are now able to enjoy meeting together as the fellowship and support provided to each other is invaluable. The branch has 28 members.



A decision was made that the branch shall continue to be run by a committee; the members of this are now **Sue Harrison, Claire Tharby and Jenny Mercer**. Thanks were expressed to Cathy Tinsley who has now stepped down from the committee. Sue was appointed as the branch secretary and Jenny as the branch treasurer. We are indebted to Revd. Rachel Hetherington, and a MU member, that the meetings for the rest of 2022 will take place at St Christopher's Home, usually in St Ragener's Chapel. As the pandemic situation eases, our hope is that

members living in the Home, and other residents, may wish to join us for future meetings.

The next opportunity to meet is on **Friday 25th March** at St Ragener's Chapel for the Lady Day service. This is at 10.15 am and we will be joining other members of the St Christopher's independent community. Revd. Rachel will be leading the service and there will be refreshments afterwards. Do come along if you can.

The following day, on **Saturday 26th March**, Mothers' Union Diocesan Triennial Service takes place at Peterborough Cathedral at 2 pm to which all members are warmly invited.

Music @ Abington

I am delighted to attach a programme of musical recitals for 2022. Live music is making a comeback after being silenced by the Covid pandemic and we hope you will join us in rejoicing that we are able to perform live in church once again. We have a fuller and more varied programme than ever before in the twenty-year history of recitals here at Abington and the details of each concert in 2022 are below. I hope to see you during the year.

Tim Dolan, Director of Music

Friday 4th March 7.00pm (£7.50 on the door)

Vocalease are a group of 10 singers, all students of Alison Roddy, international opera star and leading singing teacher. They will present a programme of classical solos, duets and ensembles from oratorio and opera to madrigals. Tim Dolan will add a couple of organ solos to make a varied programme with something for everyone.

Sunday 22nd May 3.00pm (admission by donation)

Philip Bricher and John Wilson will be performing a recital of organ and piano music. This duo have performed here before and always bring a delightful range of music for organ, piano and both. If you are a pianist or organist expect to go away wanting to add at least one of their pieces to your own repertoire.

Sunday 12th June 3.00pm (admission by donation)

Animato Singers are a quartet of singers with several decades between them of entertaining audiences, including on BBC Radio Northampton. They will perform a mix of classical songs, duets and ensembles. On this occasion they

will be joined by Jayne Dalley-Hewer, soprano, making a welcome return to Abington.

Sunday 24th July 3.00pm (admission by donation)

The Nash String Quartet gave one of the last recitals before lock-down and we were delighted when they agreed to come back. Expect a high quality, varied and entertaining programme of music with a few surprises thrown in.

Sunday 21st August 3.00pm (admission by donation)

One of the brighter sides of the pandemic was that it prompted us to introduce different instruments to our services. We are incredibly lucky to have in our congregation talented oboist Amy Jones. Amy will be joined by friends and family playing oboe, saxophone, piano and possibly more!

Sunday 11th September 3.00pm (admission by donation)

Tony Edwards was the Director of Music who introduced recitals at Abington so in our 20th year we are delighted to welcome our old friend back to the organ bench.

Sunday 6th November 3.00pm (free admission)

The Watling Singers will join Abington church choir to give a liturgical performance of Haydn's Saint Nicolas Mass. These singers performed Faure's Requiem last year and will, once again, be accompanied by the Abington orchestra. This performance takes place within our annual service of memory for All Souls tide.

News from St Christopher's Home

News from St Christopher's is a little more positive this month, as some of the Covid restrictions have been lifted.

Visiting has resumed and residents are enjoying being back together in the dining room for their meals. In January new menus were introduced and on some days there is a now a theme, such as food that celebrates Chinese New Year and Burns Night. The Burns Night celebrations included a visit by a lovely gentleman who played the Bagpipes for us.

Last week residents also enjoyed a selection of Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

Our thoughts are turning towards planning some celebrations for the Queen Platinum Jubilee and to mark this occasion a 'Robinia' tree has been planted in the grounds.

Independent Living residents have recently enjoyed two trips to Northampton Museum in Guildhall Road. It is hoped that more trips out will be enjoyed in March when we visit a garden centre and the Zoo!

On a sad note Catherine Huckell died suddenly after a short illness. She lived at St Christopher's for 19 years and was a well-respected member of our community. May she rest in Peace.

Rachel (Associate Priest)

Standing Committee and PCC

Standing Committee

: Wed 16 March at 7.30 pm at Melissa's house

PCC

: Wed 30 March at 8 pm at the church rooms.

APCM

: Sunday 1 May at 11.15 am after the Parish Eucharist at Church
(Please send your Annual Reports to Melissa by 9 March)

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

Please click the title above to access the link.

How to get your contribution or event into the next Abington Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is emailed on the last Thursday of the month. Please send content to Matthew George abingtonbulletin@outlook.com by the 21st of the month for inclusion in the next edition. If you wish to have a printed

version delivered to you, please contact Bob Purser 785836. There will also be a small number of copies in church for visitors.

Ministry Team

The Revd. Byung-Jun Kim: Rector, rector@abingtonchurch.org.uk

The Revd. Rachel Hetherington: Associate Priest

Alison Barnes: Reader

Prester Coleman: Reader

Liz Kelly: Lay Pastoral Minister & Anna Chaplain

Cathy Tinsley: Children and Youth Missioner

Tim Dolan: Director of Music

Donald Loe and Jim Mercer: Churchwardens

Bob Purser: Lay Chair of the PCC

When you arrive for a service

A very warm welcome to St. Peter and St. Paul's, Abington.
We are a family church and children (however noisy) are particularly welcome at our service. We are delighted that you join us in worship.



If you use a hearing aid, please use the T setting



Are situated at the back-left hand side of the church and include a baby change



To make an offering, please complete the yellow envelope and we can reclaim Gift Aid. Alternatively you can give on-line through our website or give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme (talk to Damian Pickard or Bob Purser)



Our service is livestreamed. The Churchwardens can help you if you cannot see the screen or would prefer to be out of shot



[St Peter and St Paul Abington Church - Home | Facebook](#)

[St Peter and St Paul Abington Online - YouTube](#)



Please speak to our Churchwardens for any assistance during the service or for a Gluten free wafer

www.abingtonchurch.org.uk

If you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter from Abington Church please email bob.purser@abingtonchurch.org.uk

The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul “The Church in the Park”

Park Avenue South, Northampton

Charity no. 1131414