



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

Thank you message from Tracy, Priest-in-charge of Wooton

We were delighted to join Tracy's licensing service as she was installed as Priest-in-Charge of Wooton. Tracy sent this message to you all.

Greetings from Wootton! Thank you so much to all who came to witness my licensing as Priest-In-Charge in Wootton. It was a wonderful service and I was delighted to see so many familiar faces. The community here have welcomed me warmly and Athena and I are settling in very well. Thank you again for all your generous love, support, messages and prayers.

*With very best wishes,
Tracy*



Message from Claudia and Gladys Higeros

You would remember Caludia and her mother, Gladys. Claudia moved back to Spain a few months ago. But we still pray for Gladys. Recently, we were delighted to hear back from her with a photograph of the church she worships. Here is her message to you all.

I wish you all a blessed Sunday and Worship today. I keep joining you in prayers today and we thank you all for your helpful and powerful prayers for my mum, Gladys. She is keeping well thanks to God, and thanks to you! God bless you all.

With love Claudia



Preachers for this month

2 Nov: Helen Halson

9 Nov: Jun Kim

16 Nov: Liz Kelly

23 Nov: Prester Coleman

30 Nov: Andrew Proud

Readers and Intercessors for this month

Date	Readers	Intercessor
2 Nov	Rhiannon and Matthew George	Prester Coleman
9 Nov	Alicia Menzies	Act of Remembrance
16 Nov	Please check the next upcoming rota	
23 Nov		
30 Nov		

Children and Youth Missioner's Update – November 2025

Many of you will remember that we welcomed friends from The Northampton Hope Centre to our Harvest Service in September. We heard the story of **'What Shape is a Home?'** This delightful story is all about what makes a home and it is beautifully illustrated. It would make a perfect Christmas present for a child. There are a few copies at the back of the church for purchase at the cost of £7.99. The money goes to the work of The Hope Centre. If you would like to buy one, please put your money in one of the envelopes, marked 'What Shape is a Home' and put it in the wall safe. Thank you.

'Little Fishes', our Church Baby and Toddler Group, is now meeting at church on the 1st Monday in the month. In October, when we started this initiative, we welcomed 15 children and their carers. We are next meeting on 3rd November and then 1st December, both at 10 am. If you know of any families who might like to join us, please do encourage them to come along. On the other Mondays in the month, we meet at the church rooms.

Abington Youth Church next meets at the Church Rooms on **Sunday 23rd November at 5 pm**. Please would you let Cathy know if you hope to join us? All children attending secondary school or college are very welcome.

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.



As I write this update, we are also preparing to sort out the **Christmas Shoebox gifts** and organising our **Family Light Party on Friday 31st October**. Do look out for the churchyard lit with lights! It always looks very special.

Cathy Tinsley, Children and Youth Missioner
Tel. 07516 979223 or children@abingtonchurch.org.uk

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2025

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this year's Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Whether you have wrapped a shoebox, donated gifts for the children, filled a box, or given some money towards the cost of sending the boxes abroad, your generosity is gratefully appreciated.



Alison, Katie, Rebecca, Amiah, Andrew and Cathy met at the end of October to fill 18 boxes with lovely gifts. These will be taken to The Entertainer Store in Northampton during November, from where they will continue their journey onwards. We will track one of our boxes so that, in the New Year, we will be able to let you know its destination!



It is not too late to support this wonderful outreach opportunity. The transportation cost for each box is £5, so if you are able to make a donation, we would be very grateful. Please see Cathy if you can help. Thank you.

News from Abington Park View

We enjoyed celebrating Harvest on 1st October with a Messy Vintage Service. We created beautiful baskets of fruit and veg as we thought about the answer to these questions: Do you remember harvest festivals in church or school? What used to happen and what did you enjoy about it? Did you used to grow fruit and vegetables. Do you have a favourite fruit or vegetable or salad item? What is it and why do you like it? Why should we thank God at harvest time?

The bible reading from Leviticus 23.9-11 explained the origin of our harvest festivals, *"The Lord spoke to Moses: Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you and you reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest. He shall raise the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may find acceptance; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall raise it."*

Then on 15th October, Jackie and Kate joined Mysha as the residents spent the afternoon singing their favourite hymns. It is wonderful just how much the words of well-loved hymns bring comfort, hope and peace when they are sung together with friends.

On 29th October Liz led a service of Home Communion which focused on the importance of the Bible in our lives as it reveals God's word to each one of us. As St Paul said in his letter to the Romans, *"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."* (Romans 15.4)

In November, we shall be at Abington park View Care Home on 12th and 26th November. If you would like to join us please contact Liz Kelly.



Roots down, Walls down

The Whole-Church Exercise to See, Listen and Grow Together



It was so encouraging to see so many of us gathering to respond to God's call to journey together to see, to listen, and to grow.

We had the fantastic first session on the theme "*Why this journey now?*" where we shared our own stories and reflected on how God has led us and helped us to a deeper understanding of his grace.

In the second session, we engaged openly and thoughtfully with the challenging verses in *Leviticus*, *1 Corinthians*, and *Romans* concerning sexual morality. We explored their contexts and discerned how we might interpret them through the voice of Jesus Christ. Then we prayerfully reflected together on Galatians 3.23-end and thought about the true meaning of freedom in Christ. We also discussed the insights of science as we listen to the talk from David and reflected on the wonder of God's creation.

Our journey continues, and already it is humbling to witness such openness, willingness, and grace within our community. We remain confident that we will grow into a deeper understanding of God's love and grace for all.

Change Report

Supporting Hope Centre

Boxes of Hope

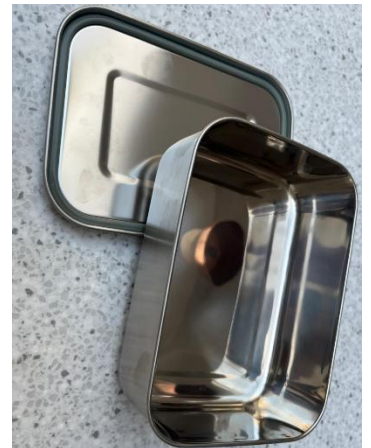
Would you like to make donations to Hope Centre? If so, you are welcome to join Boxes of Hope project by decorating your own cardboard box kit to use as a donation box. You can fill them with loose change and return them into the cardboard collection house that will be located near the font. Please speak to Melissa, our chair of community and outreach for further information.



Emergency Pack for a Homeless Female

If you would like to support Hope Centre by donating practical item, Emergency Pack might be something you can consider. This is designed to support homeless women with essential items for hygiene, comfort, and safety. It reflects a trauma-informed and person-centred approach. The list of items is displayed on the blue notice board. You can take a metal tin, fill them and bring them back to the collection house near the font.

- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Feminine hygiene products (pads, pantyliners, tampons – individually packed)
- Wipes (unscented, biodegradable preferred)
- Hand sanitiser (non-alcohol-based, travel-size)
- Deodorant (roll-on or stick, unscented)
- Mini shampoo & conditioner
- Soap or body wash bar
- Tissues
- Comb or small hairbrush
- 1x hair ties or headband
- 1x long-life snack (e.g. protein bar, cereal bar)
- 1x pack of nuts, raisins, or trail mix
- Tea bag / instant coffee sachet
- Plasters / small first aid items
- Condoms (respectfully included with explanation if relevant)
- Rape alarm
- Small notepad & pen
- Encouraging message (optional – e.g. “You matter. We’re here.”)



Date for diaries: Afternoon Tea, 8 Nov, 2-4 pm, Parish Rooms

Afternoon tea and talk on the people behind the names on the war memorial by Stephen Barnes. A sign up sheet are available on the desk in church.

Roots down, Walls down

Invitation to See, Listen and Grow together

Dear friends,

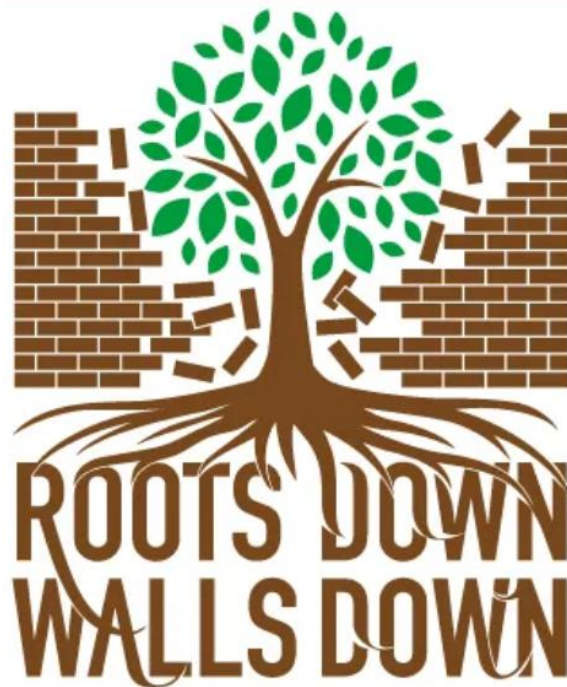
Life is such a gift, and this summer, I've been thrilled – awed, actually - by three magnificent BBC series: David Attenborough two series, 'Oceans' and 'Parenthood'; and Ella Al-Shamahi's series 'Human'. The cinematography has been stunning, as you'd expect. They each, so beautifully, capture the joy, the complexity, the struggles and sheer will to live that is all around us in God's creation. We just need to be shown how to see, it seems.

Ella Al-Shamahi's series made me feel so grateful to God for the beauty and diversity He's created among us as humans: skin tones, culture and languages, gifts and abilities, shapes and sizes, and sexuality. For us as Christians, all this beauty and diversity is a constant blessing – even if we do need to learn how to see it, sometimes.

I am writing now, to invite you to join us on a journey to do just that: to see with fresh eyes, to listen in anticipation that we'll hear something new, and to grow – grow in our understanding and in love and faithfulness, as we appreciate the diversity God has given us as His Church.

To give this journey direction, we have designed a short, four week course based very loosely on a major Church of England study called 'Living in Love and Faith.' Because those of us who came to last summer's 'Under the Oak' series found it such an enriching experience, we've used a similar model for this, too. We are calling it 'Roots down; Walls down' – root ourselves deep in Scripture and Tradition, to draw living water from Christ, the well of life; while pulling down the walls that keep people out or prevent people coming to Him. That, of course, is the essence of being a missional Church

I'm delighted that all the Study Groups have agreed to put their meetings on pause for a few weeks, so they can join us. We would love it if you would join us too, even if you have never been to a study group before, or experienced anything like this.



The course will run over four Wednesday evenings in the Parish Rooms, at 7:30pm and finishing by 9:00pm, on

- October 22nd, 'Why this journey now?'
- October 29th 'Scripture and Science'
- November 5th 'Being the Body of Christ'
- November 12th 'How shall we move on?'

I do hope you can join us for this important all-Church conversation.

With my prayers and best wishes, as ever

+Andrew Proud, Chair of Discipleship and Learning Committee

Standing Committee and PCC

The next Standing Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 19 Nov, Time TBC, Parish Office.

The PCC next meets on Wednesday 3 Dec, 7.45 pm, Church rooms.

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

Please click the title above to access the link.

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 and telephone 01604 636947 or 07745 604591. We offer a listening ear, someone to pray with, bereavement support, or a friendly visit.

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 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.
