



Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Abington
- the Church in the Park -
**Welcome to our October Newsletter
2023**

Sharing the harvest

The first Sunday of October will be our celebration of harvest. In years of old, when much of this area relied upon agriculture, harvest was an opportunity for the community to come together, take a well-earned day off, and reflect. The fruits of the harvest would be brought into churches across the country, sheaves of wheat, potatoes, beans, all manner of produce would be brought along providing a feast for the eyes before being part of a feast shared out amongst those gathered together.

Over time, as agriculture gave way to other industrial pursuits, the shape of the harvest festival changed. The fresh produce, historically farmed within the local area, becomes the produce of countries far away. Fresh produce becomes replaced by tinned food, and today there is a vast array of long-life products that are contained in a variety of, often plastic, packages.

There is a lament to be found these changes; that our connection to the land, the seasons, and even the ability to grow our own food, is in decline. Knowledge about where our food comes from is stored in the very back of our minds and we have to make a conscious effort to seek out food grown in our own country, let alone our own area.

But, despite the changes to the types of food presented at the harvest festival, there is one thing that remains steadfast: gratitude. With each tin, packet, or even fresh item brought into the church there is gratitude that not only do we have this food, but we have it to share. And there is gratitude from those who receive the food donated. The very existence of Foodbanks is a sad reality of our time, but the fact that there are people who care, who give their

time and food to those in need in a sign of hope. We remain a people who know what love looks like, thanks to the love we receive from God who loved us first, and we want to love our neighbours, just as our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to.

Revd. Tracy, Curate

For the last few years, we have been very grateful at St Alban's to receive the Harvest Gifts from the congregation of Abington. We are very thankful again to be able to receive them this year.

The last year has been very challenging for many people due to the high energy costs and rising food prices. At the Food Bank we have experienced challenges from opposing sides – an increase in the numbers of people coming to the Food Bank and a decline in donations being received. We are always very grateful to all the individual donations received and ongoing support from Northampton Rotary Club, our local councillors, West Northants Council and Northampton Partnership Homes.

Please continue to support the Food Bank whenever possible, A crate is located in the Sidesman's corner for any donations, which Jim Mercer kindly brings to the Food Bank.

Our best wishes for a Happy and Blessed Harvest Time and for all your support.

Malc and Jill Ward

Our harvest charities

Throughout October we will be supporting the work of the Foodbank by collecting items of food for distribution to those in need. Foodbank have provided us with a handy shopping list of the items they need.

You can pick up extra copies of the shopping list in church. Please place all donations in the box in the porch.



In addition to supporting the Foodbank, financial donations in October will be given to support USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel). Their work encourages deeper fellowship across the Anglican Communion, rethinking mission, energising churches and championing justice. USPG has a global reach and works with churches to make an impact in their local area, providing a rapid response to emergency situations and supporting local causes. Their harvest 2023 campaign seeks to increase awareness of child labour in Sri Lanka's tea plantations and to raise funds to improve access to education for those children, unlocking new possibilities for their future.

Giving is easy; all cash on our collection plates and receipts given through our contactless card reader in October will go to USPG. Please remember to use a yellow envelope if you are giving cash and can claim gift aid.

This month's preachers

1st October, Harvest: Revd. Jun Kim, Rector
8th October, Trinity 18: Prester Coleman, Reader
15th October, Trinity 19: Liz Kelly, Anna Chaplain & LPM
22nd October, Trinity 20: Revd. Tracy Pegram, Curate
29th October, Bible Sunday: Alison Barnes, Reader

Readers and Intercessors for this month

1st October, Harvest: Readers: Tbc
Intercessor: Tbc
8th October, Trinity 18: Readers: Simon & Susie McKay
Intercessor: Bob Purser
15th October, Trinity 19: Readers: Jenny Mercer & Eric May
Intercessor: Alan Sutton
22nd October, Trinity 20: Readers: Alicia Menzies & Andrew Munns
Intercessor: Alison Barnes
29th October, Bible Sunday: Readers: John Murphy & Jenny Parkin
Intercessor: Prester Coleman

Children and Youth Missioner's Update

Saturday 21st October at 3 pm – Packing of the Christmas Shoeboxes at the Church Rooms. Children and adults are very welcome to join us for this activity. Tea, drinks and biscuits will be provided! Thank you to everyone who has already brought completed shoeboxes or gifts to the church for this really valuable outreach opportunity. We are hoping to make about 20 boxes, so do keep the gifts coming in! There are 2 plastic boxes in the church porch where you can leave your contributions.

Thursday 26th October – We are organising a trip to Tenpin, Northampton, for an afternoon of bowling and food. This event is for the secondary school children in the church. We plan to meet at 3 pm. If you would like to join us or know of any young person who we could invite, do have a word with Revd. Tracy or myself.

Sunday 29th October – The Junior Church will be decorating the churchyard with candles ahead of All Hallows' Eve on 31st October.

Monday 30th October – There will be a Light Party at the Rooms at 10 am for the Little Fishes children.

If you would like to help with either Junior Church or Little Fishes, do have a word with me. More volunteers are always welcome!

Cathy Tinsley Children and Youth Missioner (children@abingtonchurch.org.uk)

[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.

News from the Pastoral Team

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

News from Abington Park View

On 6th September, Revd Tracy, accompanied by Liz and Jackie, celebrated a service of Holy Communion, which was attended by twelve residents and one family member. Three residents also received the host in their rooms afterwards.



The Harvest Songs of Praise was postponed from 20th to 27th September. We all enjoyed singing our favourite harvest hymns, including 'We plough the fields and scatter'.

September has been a month of change as Misha decided it was the right time to move on. Liz attended the farewell lunch on 4th September, which was a bitter-sweet occasion, but one which celebrated Misha's dedication and loving care for the residents and staff over the last twelve years. We wish her the very best for the future and look forward to continuing to work closely with the new owners.

We also said goodbye to Lisa, the Wellbeing Co-ordinator, who wholeheartedly supported all the services that Abington Church provided. We shall miss her and wish her well in her new job.

Forest Church: Monday 23rd October, 2pm-3pm, Abington Church

Join us as we take time to marvel at God's creation and give thanks for our place within it. This is a new service, open to all ages, which will start in Abington Park just beyond our South Gate and will finish inside the church with refreshments available. Come dressed for the weather!

All Souls' Service: Sunday 5th November, 4pm, Abington Church

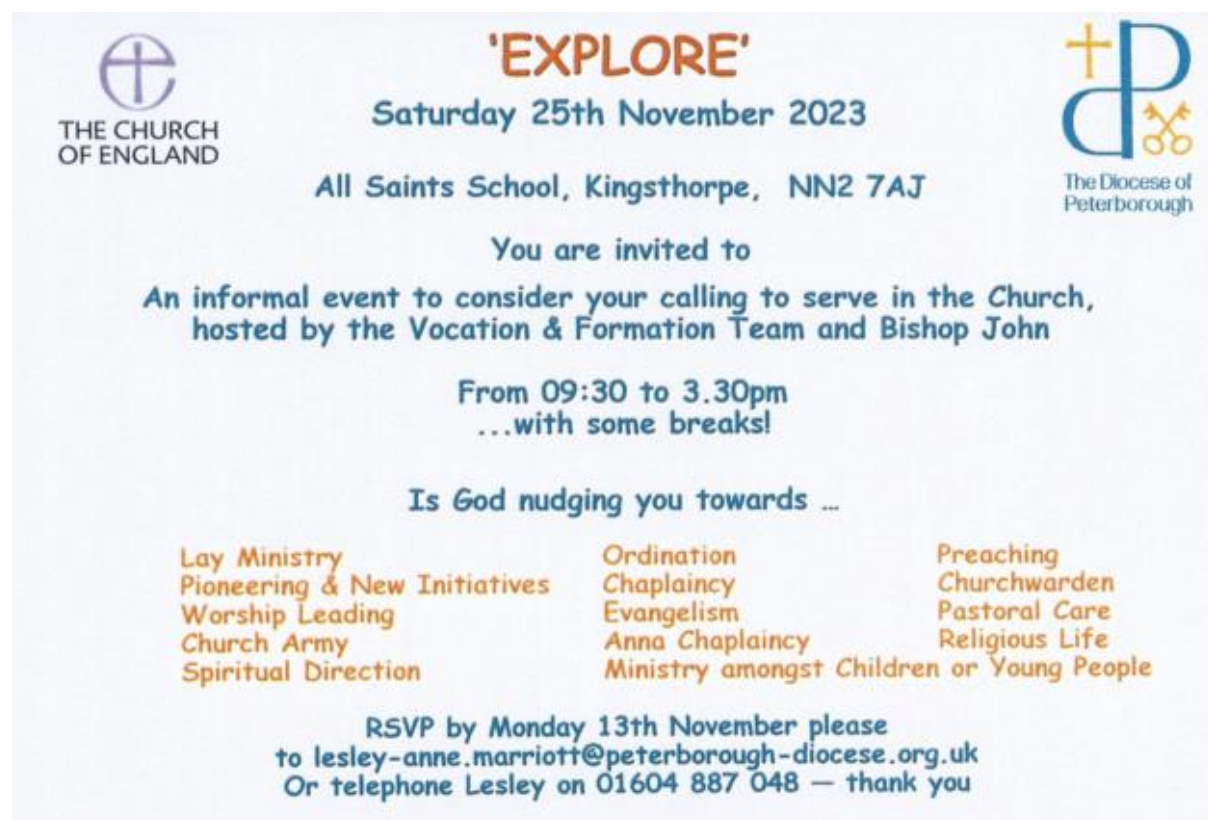
We take a moment to remember those we love but see no longer during our All Souls' service. If you would like the name of a loved one to be read aloud during the service, please contact Liz Kelly. Liz can be emailed on lizmkh@outlook.com.

Remembrance Service: Sunday 12th November, 10am, Abington Church



Our Service of Remembrance will be held on Sunday 12th November at 10am and look forward to welcoming our friends from St Christopher's War Memorial Care Home as we remember the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilians in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

Is God nudging you?

Have you ever wondered if there is something God is calling you to do? The Diocese's Explore day is an informal opportunity to find out more about the varied ministries in the Church of England.



The poster is for an 'EXPLORE' event. It features the Church of England logo on the left and the Diocese of Peterborough logo on the right. The text is centered and uses a mix of blue and orange colors. It lists various ministries and provides contact information for RSVP.

 **'EXPLORE'** 
Saturday 25th November 2023
All Saints School, Kingsthorpe, NN2 7AJ
You are invited to
An informal event to consider your calling to serve in the Church,
hosted by the Vocation & Formation Team and Bishop John
From 09:30 to 3.30pm
...with some breaks!
Is God nudging you towards ...

Lay Ministry	Ordination	Preaching
Pioneering & New Initiatives	Chaplaincy	Churchwarden
Worship Leading	Evangelism	Pastoral Care
Church Army	Anna Chaplaincy	Religious Life
Spiritual Direction	Ministry amongst Children or Young People	

RSVP by Monday 13th November please
to lesley-anne.marriott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk
Or telephone Lesley on 01604 887 048 — thank you

Antiques Fair

The next Antiques Fair will take place on Saturday 7th October between 10am - 3pm at the Church Rooms. Books, coins, stamps, collectables, jewellery and lots more! Refreshments available.

Music Recital

The combined choirs of Abington Church and the Watling Singers will be performing a recital on Sunday 8th October at 3pm in Church.

Along with Soprano soloist Izy Somerfield, organist William Thallon and the Abington Orchestra, they will perform Haydn's Little Organ Mass, Handel's Organ Concerto Op. 4 no. 5 and Vivaldi's Magnificat. Entry is free but a donation to Church Funds is always welcome.

Deanery Confirmation Service: Sunday 26th November, 3pm, Christ Church

If you have been baptised but are yet to be confirmed, we would like to encourage you to consider confirmation at the upcoming Deanery Confirmation Service. If you would like to explore this speak to Revd. Jun.

Ride and Stride Event

Thank you to everyone who supported the Northamptonshire Historic Churches 'Ride and Stride' Event in September. We raised £646, which is a wonderful amount! The most we have ever raised! Well done to everyone who took part and to all who gave so generously.

Christmas Services at St Peter & St Paul, Abington:

Sunday 17th December

Carol Service	6pm (not 7.30pm as previously advertised!)
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Christmas Eve – Sunday 24th December

Family Eucharist	10am
Crib Service	3pm
Midnight Service	11.30pm

Christmas Day

Family Eucharist	10am
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Other dates for your diary:

Antiques Fair: Saturday 7th October, 10am-3pm, in the Parish Rooms on the corner of Park Avenue North and Ashburnham Road.

Music Recital: Sunday 8th October, 3pm, St Peter & St Paul's Church. Music from Haydn and Vivaldi, performed by Izy Sommerfield, William Thallon, the Abington Church Choir, The Watling Singers, and accompanied by The Abington Orchestra. Entrance by donation to church funds.

Saturday Night Live at Park Avenue presents Paul Field: Saturday 28th October, 7pm, Park Avenue Methodist Church: Christian chart-topping singer songwriter, as seen on BBC 'Songs of Praise' Paul Field comes to Northampton. Tickets available from Mike White, The Manna House, 73 Giles Street, 01604 633304 or Alan Brett, Park Avenue Methodist Church, 01604 714265. Tickets by donation; suggested amount Adult £10, Concessions £8, Family £25.

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

Please send content to Matthew George, **not** to his personal email address, but to abingtonbulletin@outlook.com by the 21st of the month for guaranteed inclusion in the next edition. If you send it after the 21st, it may not be included. 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

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

Curate: The Revd. Tracy Pegram curate@abingtonchurch.org.uk

Readers: Alison Barnes, Prester Coleman

Lay Pastoral Minister & Anna Chaplain: Liz Kelly

Children and Youth Missioner: Cathy Tinsley

Director of Music: Tim Dolan

Churchwardens: Donald Loe and Jim Mercer

Lay Chair of the PCC: Bob Purser

www.abingtonchurch.org.uk

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