



Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Abington

- the Church in the Park -

Welcome to our February Newsletter 2026

Thank you for your generosity!

Over Advent and Christmas tide we led a fundraising campaign for two charities: Eve, the local charity that provides shelter for domestic abuse victims and Save the Children, the international charity that support children in need, particularly those in conflict zones. All the collections we received in worships and online were gathered together to support those charities.

We had a truly fantastic response to this campaign. People have been so generous. And we have seen an extra ordinary generosity from our congregation as well. Thank you so much for your generosity and love shown in this way. It really reminds us of the true spirit of Christmas and the reason why our God came into our world in baby Jesus.

Here is the table that shows how we raised this amount.

Christingle service £192.10

Lessons and carols £650.78

Bridgewater school concerts £45.00

Crib service £361.96

Midnight mass £402.10

Christmas day service £260.40

New Year's Day church opening £20.00

Sunday services in Dec / Jan £165.00

Website in December £90.00

Direct congregation donations £600.00

Wallsafe cash for Christmas charities £176.24

Total: £2,963.58

Gift Aid: £592.72

Christmas Charity collection total: £3,556.30

Rounded up

The Children's Society: £192.10	£200
Save the Children / Eve: £3,364.20	£3,400
(£1,700 per charity)	

In conclusion, our Christingle Service raised £200 for the Children's Society. Collections at services and events throughout December and early January raised £3,400 in total. This will be shared equally between Eve and Save the Children. Each charity will receive £1,700. Thank you once again for your generosity.



Letter from Childrens' Society

Dear Abington Church,

I want to extend my sincere thanks for your incredible support during this year's Christingle celebrations and for your amazing donation of £200.00. The money raised by everyone at St Peter & St Paul's Church Abington makes a significant difference in the lives of countless children facing abuse, exploitation or neglect. Together, we're bringing the warmth and light of Christingle to those who need it most. I understand that organising and fundraising for your Christingle may have been both challenging and rewarding, I hope you felt the joy and community spirit that this special event brings.

By hosting a Christingle service, you're sending a powerful message to children and young people across the country: they matter, and they are not alone. Last year alone, Christingle services raised just under £830,000 for The Children's Society. These donations enable us to open new services like 'Time for young people' in Newham. This hub will give young people in Newham a place where they can drop in and meet trained staff one-to-one, without

needing an appointment or a referral. They'll also be able to access group sessions, events, and a range of practical resources, as well as using the physical support space to relax and feel safe. None of this would be possible without the compassion of people like you.

We'd love to hear about your Christingle experience this year! If you have a moment, please do share your feedback with us at christingle.org/survey.

Once again, thank you for standing with young people, your support can be a beacon of hope and light during a young person's darkest time - so thank you.

Best wishes,

Charlotte

Senior Supporter Care Coordinator, The Childrens' Society

Thank you all who made our Christingle Service possible. in support of the Children's Society.

Invitation to Lent Groups 2026: A River through the Desert

With Lent only a matter of a few weeks away, I wanted to let you know about the exciting Lent course we shall be using this year. 'A River through the Desert' takes us to some of the key places on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and Crucifixion. Each session begins with a short video, filmed on location and narrated by Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College, in Jerusalem, who takes us into the desert, to the well where Jesus met the Samaritan woman, on to Mount Tabor where He was transfigured before his disciples, then to the Sea of Galilee, before heading out onto the open road, and ending up in the Garden of Gethsemane. There's an informative and thoughtful reflection following each film, with questions designed to help us go deeper. The idea is that by the time we get to Easter, we will have walked the way of the cross with Him.



**Reflections for Lent
from
St George's College
Jerusalem**

**A River
Through The Desert -
A Lenten Pilgrimage**



Each of our five Study Groups shall be following the course through Lent and we would love it if you joined too. Don't worry if you've never been to a study group - we're all very friendly, and we all know we still have more growing and maturing to do, as Christians.

There is a sign-up sheet at church, offering different days and times of day, we hope, to suit everyone. Once you've signed up, your host will be in touch and will help you feel welcome.

If you would like to join or find out more, please feel free to contact the groups leaders below.

Monday Evenings led by Bob Purser (purser.bob@btinternet.com)

Tuesday Afternoon at St. Christopher's led by Liz Kelly (lizmk@outlook.com)

Tuesday Evenings led by Prester Coleman (prestercoleman@outlook.com)

Wednesday Evenings led by Revd. Helen Halson (helen.halson@abingtonchurch.org.uk)

Thursday Mornings at around 11 am led by Sandra Francis (sandrafrancis394@gmail.com)

Saturday Afternoons 4 pm led by Revd. Helen Halson

With love and prayers to you all

+ Andrew Proud

Chair of Discipleship and Learning

Children and Youth Missioner's Update

For many families Christmas was a very happy time at Abington Church this year.

We were delighted to welcome 30 children with their families to the Christingle service in December. Thank you to Paul for playing the piano and to Richard and Melody for being in charge of the on screen information. As is now our custom, everyone is encouraged to make a Christingle, then we had a few activities before enjoying our worship



time together. Thank you to all our helpers who supported this service with such enthusiasm. We were also delighted to raise £200 for The Children's Society. Thank you to all of you who gave so generously.

On Christmas Eve the church was full with excited families as we enjoyed our Crib service. Susie and I had adapted the Church of England's Crib Service for 2025, based on the story of The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas. It was suggested that a puppet of an owl be used to help tell the story. We certainly did one better, as Simon McKay gamely offered to dress up as an owl! He certainly kept us all entertained!! Many of the children also dressed up as characters from the Christmas story, which was delightful to see. We were also very thankful to Liam who was in charge from the balcony! It was a wonderful afternoon of laughter and worship, a great start to our Christmas season.

Thanks also go to the Susie, Simon and Katie for organising the Christmas Trail in the church yard. The story was based on the story of Benjamin, a little mouse, and was creatively called a Christmouse Story! We hope that those of you who took part in the trail enjoyed it!

Junior Church, Abington Youth Church and Little Fishes have all recommenced and have exciting programmes for 2026. Please do see me if you are interested in volunteering for (or joining!) any of these groups!

Finally our next family event is a Pancake Party on Tuesday 17th February at the Rooms. This will take place from 3 pm to 4.30 pm and everyone is very welcome to join us for a time of fellowship and fun! It would be helpful if you could sign up on the sheet at the back of the church or let me know if you would like to come along. This is so that we have enough batter for our pancakes!!

Wishing everyone God's blessings and love.



Cathy Tinsley

Children and Youth Missioner

Tel. 07516 979223 or children@abingtonchurch.org.uk

Thank you from Hope Centre, Northampton

Dear St Peters & St Paul Abington,

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' for your generosity in donating essential items including toiletries and snacks to us recently from St Peters & St Paul Abington. 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: We have once again opened our night shelter from the January 2026 for initially the next 10 weeks 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*

Pancake Party: Shrove Tuesday, 17th February, Church Rooms, 3 pm – 4.30 pm

We are having a Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday, 17th February at the Church Rooms from 3 pm to 4.30 pm.

This event is for everyone and will be a time of fellowship and fun. There will be a few activities and games and, of course, pancakes! So whether you want to come along and join in the activities or just come along for a cup of tea and a pancake, all are very welcome.

To help with the organisation, please would you write your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church, or email Cathy if you hope to join us. Thank you

Cathy, cathy.tinsley@abingtonchurch.org.uk



News from St Christopher's – January 2026

Following a very busy December involving all sorts of activities, January has been quieter, and this has provided everyone with the opportunity to take a breath and think about the year ahead.

Although many residents choose to stay in the Home itself, weekly Communion Services in the Chapel underpin collective worship. The Sunday service from St Peter & St Paul's is streamed in the lounge, allowing people to be present in spirit, and residents really enjoy this time together. The Tuesday prayer group continues to be well-attended, and Rev Helen, the new rector, has joined Rev Peter Gompertz and Liz Kelly our Anna Chaplin, in leading this.

On a creative note, some of our residents like to knit, and we recently found a pattern for a group called 'Teddies for Tragedies'. People are asked to knit teddies for sending to war-torn areas of the world where children literally have



nothing, let alone any toys. The pattern is standard and whilst the teddies can be any colour, they must all be the same size and shape. We've just heard that twelve of our knitted teddies are on the way to Ukraine. Much love and best wishes were also packed in the box.

Preachers for this month

1 Feb: Candlemas, Liz Kelly

8 Feb: Prester Coleman

15 Feb: Helen Halson

18 Feb: Ash Wednesday, David Spiers

22 Feb: Jun Kim

Gladys Higeros R.I.P, R.I.G

It is with sadness I write to report to you that Gladys died recently.

Gladys and her daughter Claudia used to worship with us before they moved back to Spain. Gladys was a lovely lady, faithfully worshipping and greeting us in Spanish with a lovely smile.

Claudia is very grateful for all your prayers. She will let us know when the funeral date is confirmed in Spain so that we can remember her and her family in our prayers. May Gladys rest in peace and rise in glory.



(Claudia and Gladys at Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain)

News from Abington Park View

Our first visit of the new year was on 7 January when Revd Canon Jun joined us to celebrate Holy Communion. This took place in the small lounge, which made an intimate chapel. We thought about Epiphany and sang some favourite carols, including 'We Three Kings'. After the service Jun and Liz, accompanied by Mysha, went to see several residents in their own rooms and shared communion with them.



Our second visit of the month was for a Songs of Praise Service on 28 January. The theme was thankfulness for God's blessings. We talked about the blessing of our families and friends, about the wonders of nature, food and pets. We looked at and discussed a range of pictures showing all these things and we listened to some short readings from the Psalms. And we gave thanks to God for his greatest gift, the gift of his Son, Jesus. We sang hymns that glorified God including 'All People That On Earth Do Dwell' and 'Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine.' It was a joyful afternoon, and everyone enjoyed it, including four of the carers who were able to join us. Thanks to Mysha, Jackie and Jane, for their help.



Our next service is Messy Vintage on 11 February. This is an informal service based around a simple craft activity. If you would like to come and join the team for this, and experience it for yourself, please get in touch with Liz Kelly on 07745 604591

Standing Committee and PCC

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

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

APCM: 26 April

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.
