



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



Tree of Hope: Stories of Hope **From Melissa, Chair of Community and Outreach Committee**

September marks the last month of the Tree of Hope project and we will start to see the leaves begin to change colour to reflect the change in season and the drawing to a close of the project. It has been so wonderful and encouraging to see the tree come to life since we launched it at the end of March. It started with bare branches and now the branches are full of so many leaves containing so many messages of hope.



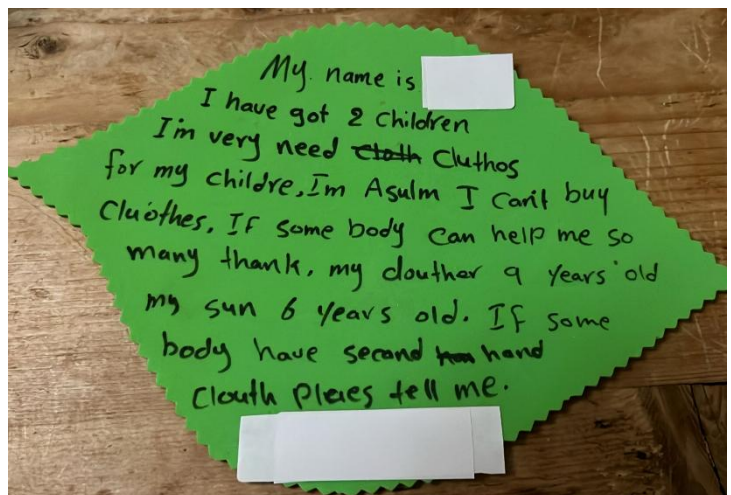
(The tree is full of leaves now)

Every leaf, like each person who wrote it, is individual and unique. People have expressed hope for themselves, their families, their friends, for people in need they don't know personally and also for the wider world.

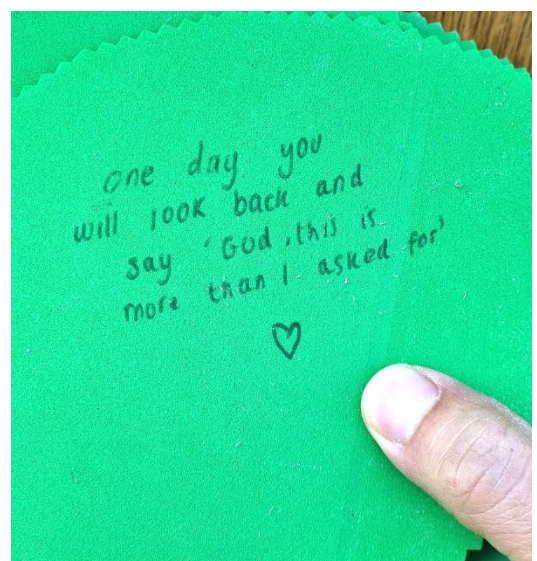
As you know, we have prayed over many of these messages throughout the period of the project and whilst we may not know the people who wrote the messages, God knows every single one and he hears their messages of hope and our prayers for them.

I would like to share one particular story which demonstrates how important this kind of outreach can be. Fairly early on in the project, we discovered a leaf that had been written by a mother in need.

It was a mother who was seeking asylum in the UK for herself and her two children. She was in desperate need of clothes for her children and wasn't in a position to buy any. We were able to share the information with the Foodbank team at St Albans and I am pleased to report that they swiftly moved into action to contact the mother and have been able to arrange for some clothes to be provided. Support with food has also been offered. Without this project, the mother and her two children would still have been in our midst, still in need and we wouldn't have known about it and been able to help. How wonderful then, that this project enabled her needs to connect directly with our mission to help those in need.



You have all been helping in other ways too, responding so generously to the Hope Centre appeal for sun cream, hats and bottles of water. I took our collection down to the Hope Centre last week and witnessed all the items be put to immediate use. We took the packs of bottled water to the canteen and there was barely a few seconds delay before they were all eagerly collected up by the Hope Centre service users. Similarly the sun cream and hats went into immediate use, being issued out to service users in need through the Hope Centre team. Three hats were placed in a walkway area and by the time we had walked back to the area after delivering the water, two of the three hats had already gone! It was so nice to witness your generosity and kindness translate into making a difference to so many people on that day.



Thank you for your continued and enthusiastic support for all our outreach projects, we couldn't do what we do without you.

The Tree of Hope project concludes at the Harvest Service on 5th October and we look forward to hearing again from the Hope Centre at that service.

Melissa

Preachers for this month

7 Sep: Helen Halson

14 Sep: Tracy Pegram

21 Sep: Jun Kim (Communion at Abington, 8.15 am)

Joint Service at Park Grove Methodist Church, 10.30 am)

28 Sep: Liz Kelly

Readers and Intercessors for this month

Date	Readers	Intercessor
7 Sep	Dianne Ward, Chris Waters	Jenny Parkin
14 Sep	Junior Church	Junior Church
21 Sep	Joint Service at Park Grove Methodist	
28 Sep	Owen Warr, Richard White	Bob Purser

Joint Service with Park Grove Methodist Church

Sunday, 21 September, 10.30 am

Please note we have a joint service with Park Grove Methodist Church at Park Grove Methodist Church building at 10.30 am.

There will be a Communion Service in Abington on the day at 8.15 am for those who would be unable to joint the 10.30 am service.

There will be NO 10 am service at Abington but we look forward to worshipping together with you and with our Methodist sisters and brothers at 10.30 am at their church building.



Children and Young People

Family Lunch during School Holiday

It was our privilege to welcome families and children to our first pilot Family Lunch during School Holiday. There were lots of happy faces, enjoying wonderful hot meal followed by very exciting activities! Thank you all who supported this very valuable outreach.



Family Fun Day

It was another very popular Family Fun Day. Children enjoyed bouncy castles and craft activities. Lots of people enjoyed also being inside the cool church building. Thank you all who supported this outreach project.



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.

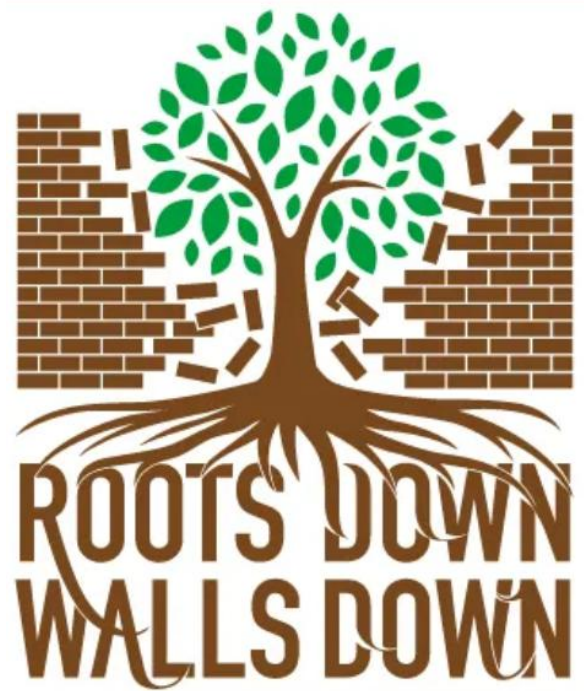
Ella Al-Shamahi's series made me feel so grateful to God for the beauty and diversity He's created among us as humans: skin tones, culture and languages, gifts and abilities, shapes and sizes, and sexuality. For us as Christians, all this beauty and diversity is a constant blessing – even if we do need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

+Andrew

Farewell to Revd. Tracy: Sun 14 September

Revd. Tracy's final service in Abington will be on Sunday the 14th of September at 10 am where she will preside and preach. Please join us as we thank her and celebrate her ministry with us over the last 3 years. She will be inducted as Vicar of Wooton on Monday 13th of October at St. George, the Martyr, Wooton. Please pray for Tracy as she takes up this new role.

Helen's First Service

It was lovely welcome Helen and James at her first service in Abington on Sunday the 13th of July, following her ordination as Deacon. She preached on following God's path with the word from Psalm 25 "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths." We celebrated their arrive with a cake baked by Hilary.



Discipleship Home Groups in Abington

We believe discipleship is not something that's reserved for only Lent or Advent but something we do and share all the time as we follow Christ day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment.

In Abington, we have several groups that meet regularly to pray together, read the Bible together and journey together in faith. Here are information about what each group is like, what they do together, when and where they meet. Might it be something that you would be interested joining in? If so, please do contact the group leader. They will be more than happy to guide you and assist you.

- **Monday Evening Group**

The Monday Group meets at 20 Church Way on the third Monday of the month. Since Easter we have continued to meet both as continuing fellowship - supporting each other in our journey in faith and taking a topic for each gathering. We have looked at depictions of Christ in art from around the world and shared a meal, talking about an object which has been important to our faith. In September (15th) we plan to look at film as an adjunct to our faith.

Please speak with Bob Purser at purser.bob@btinternet.com or Andrew Proud if you would like to join us.

- **Tuesday Evening Group**

The Tuesday home group has met at a variety of venues for study, prayer and fellowship. We aim to offer mutual support as we live out our faith and face life's challenges. Over the summer the group met monthly (excluding August), looking at some aspects of prayer. From 9th September we will resume meeting weekly. We plan a six-week series, venues TBC, looking at six key Bible characters: Adam (and Eve), Moses, Elijah, Mary the mother of Jesus, Jesus, the apostle Paul. There is an underlying theme of choosing and obeying.

The group is currently fully subscribed. Queries to Prester Coleman (07890515222.)

- **Wednesday Evening Group**

For many years we have been meeting every Autumn to study a part of the Bible, usually a book from the New or Old Testament, ranging from the letter of James to the Book of Job. We meet in people's homes and for the past two years we have been lucky to have a regular venue at the Pickards' house on 20 Ridgeway, Weston Favell, NN3 3AN. The start time is 7.30pm and we finish by 9pm. Free copies of the relevant study guide are provided. This autumn we are going to study the 'I Am' sayings of Jesus, using the book by Douglas Connelly, 'The I Am Sayings of Jesus Christ'. There are 8 sessions and we shall meet either side of the month when the

Rector plans to hold the course on 'Living in Love and Faith'. So our dates are as follows:

September 24th

October 1st , 8th , 15th

November 19th , 26th

December 10th , 17th

All members of the congregation are very welcome. To enrol please email by Sunday September 14 th : Jane Evans n.evans777@btinternet.com (tel. 633431) or inform Dianne Ward or Douglas Rutherford at the 10am service.

- Thursday Daytime Group

An open invitation for anyone wishing to join us.

We meet on the First Thursday every month In Church in the Lady Chapel at 11 a.m. until 12 noon. We open our time together with the same scripture shared in the 10 a.m. service

These are some of the topics we explore, Explore the Holy Spirit. Different styles of praying. What do all those lists of names mean in the Bible, We are going to look at the arts, paintings and poetry and the wealth of Spiritually and History connected to them. Bible readings and Characters in the bible. Listening and reflecting and sharing.

A few of our members views,

Jane, To belong and meet together provides a meaningful and loving connection with fellow Christian's who have become my friends, A real blessing.

Chris, I find the meeting very uplifting and it's great to hear from my fellow participants and their point of view from like-minded individuals. During these meetings they have also made my faith stronger and has improved my confidence in talking to people about my beliefs outside of the church environment.

Owen, I'm fascinated how my questions have been clarified. Life is more of an adventure now and so colourful.

Pete, finds it helpful to hear other people's opinions on topics each time we meet, and his own comments help them in their faith.

Cheryl + Steve, have really enjoyed the group, as we are still trying to understand more about the Bible, prayer and faith. We find each meeting enlightening.

Richard, Claire and Judy share with us in our small group meetings.

Our hearts are being enlarged for more of Jesus as fellow travellers together.

Feel free to contact Sandra if you would like to join. sandrafrancis394@gmail.com

- Bible Study Group at St Christopher's Care Home

The Bible Study group at St Christopher's meets at 2.00pm on Tuesday afternoons in the large lounge, during the Autumn term and in Lent. Recent topics studied include

the Psalms, The 'I am' sayings of Jesus, Church and Kingdom, and The Lord's Prayer. This time, we will be studying the book of Ruth. The dates are 16, 23, 30 September, 7, 21 and 28 October. The sessions are informal and include reflection, teaching, discussion, and prayer. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Liz Kelly for more information. lizmk@outlook.com

News from Abington Park View

The team has continued to visit Abington Park View every two weeks during the summer. As promised in the July Newsletter, here are some more images from the June Messy Vintage service on 25 June based on the words of Jesus, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture." (John 10.9)



We enjoyed reminiscing about holidays to the seaside in the Summer Songs of Praise service on 9 July, and we were delighted to welcome our new curate, Revd Helen, on her first visit. The afternoon ended with the rousing hymn, 'Will your anchor hold?'

Next, Bishop Andrew celebrated Holy Communion on 23 July. He reminded us of the Parable of the Sower and that we were the soil that received the Word of God. A total of twenty two residents, family members, carers and volunteers received communion.



The next Songs of Praise service was on the 6 August, the Feast of the Transfiguration. We learned that God often appears to humans in the form of a cloud on a mountain and we looked at several beautiful photographs showing mountains and thought about the wonderful view that you could see from the top. The word "transfigured" comes from the Greek word "metamorpho" meaning to transform or to change. It means to change into another form, like a chrysalis to a butterfly, or to change the outside to match the inside. In the case of the transfiguration of Jesus it meant his outward human appearance was changed so that it matched his inward reality. "Jesus took

Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white.” (Luke 9.28,29) Jesus' divine nature was veiled in human form, and the transfiguration was a glimpse of that glory. We ended with the hymns, ‘Christ whose glory fills the skies’ and ‘Shine, Jesus, Shine!’

The theme for the Messy Vintage on 20 August was ‘Messy Jobs.’ Jesus called people from many different occupations to be his twelve disciples. We know some were fishermen and one was a tax collector. We are also his disciples, and had different jobs during our lives. Each resident was given an outline figure and asked to dress it using a variety of media to represent either themselves or someone they knew. The results were amazing and here are some of them.

Many thanks to Helen, Jackie, Kate, Sandra and Stephanie who helped with the craft activity, and thanks as always to Mysha and all the staff who make us so welcome each time. If anyone else would like to join the team, please contact Liz Kelly.



News from St Christopher's

What a glorious summer we have had! We consider ourselves very fortunate to have enjoyed so many sunny days in the garden this year. VJ80 on the 15th August saw an Amber Health warning, which means it was too hot for residents to sit outside. We turned things around and ate our barbecue inside and listened to some excellent music courtesy of Terry Smith. Lollipop Ponies made a visit in August. Mabel and Lollipop walked round and enjoyed being stroked and petted. Lollipop was also doing an afternoon visit at a fete and was going to be a unicorn – hence the pink mane!



Road Closures on Sunday 14th of September, 9.30 am – 11.30 am

On Sunday 14th September, there will be a half marathon around Northampton, starting at 9.30 am at the town centre. Park Avenue South, Billing Road will be closed with exception of Rushmere Road for inbound traffic towards the church.

However, we were given assurance from the event director that if you arrive at around 9.30 am, then you will still be able to park next to church. Abington Park is at the two thirds of the course. The runners will start from market square, go all the way to six fields then race course before reach Abington Park).

Otherwise, you can park at the church rooms or Abington Park Crecent near St. Christopher's or Wellingborough Road. You may also park on the west side of the park near the Tesco Petrol Station or Christchurch Road by following diversions. We expect the roads should be open by the time we finish our service.

Abington Youth Church, Sun 28 September

We had a great fun at our last AYC. Please join our next AYC which will be on Sudnay 28 September, 5pm, Church Rooms. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible!



'On Saturday 31st May our Family Fun Afternoon took place at the church. We were delighted to welcome many families who thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality that was provided. The children had fun playing on the bouncy castle and everyone enjoyed holding the animals, courtesy of Lucia and her sons. Melissa provided lots of delicious refreshments which were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone! Thank you to all those who supported this event in any way. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage with our community and I have received lots of very positive comments from people who joined us for the afternoon. The next Family Fun Afternoon is on Monday 25th August. Please do come and support this event if you are able.

Standing Committee and PCC

The next Standing Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 10 Sep, 7.45 pm, Parish Office.

The PCC next meets on Wednesday 17 Sep, 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.
