



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

Rector's Pastoral Letter



*“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.
Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD. (Isaiah 2.3-5)*

Isaiah's this prophecy comes from around the 8th century BC. Back then, Israel was divided into two Kingdoms and all of them were under threat of destruction by Assyrians. I am struck by how this prophecy of Isaiah that was proclaimed nearly 3,000 years ago still feels so relevant to our modern days as we watch the violence and tragedy unfold in the Holy Land.

Many of us have been praying for Israel and Gaza. Many people are still held in hostages, are left without electricity, water or fuel. Thousands and thousands of people on both sides have lost their lives and lost their loved ones. All happening in the land where prophets proclaimed, where our God walked with his own feet when he came to this world two thousand years ago as Baby Jesus.

These lands and these peoples have a special place in the heart and purposes of God. But they are also some of the most politically contentious and militarily dangerous places on earth. Jerusalem, the holiest place on earth is torn by barriers and check points. Some may ask 'How could this be? How the lands that were touched by God can see so much suffering, violence and tragedy?' Perhaps that is exactly the reason why God chose to come to that place so that we can remember even in the most divided and suffering place on this earth, God is with us. Emmanuel: He is with us. He is with those families who are praying for their loved ones. He is with those innocent young children who are scared of rockets and air strikes. He is with those soldiers who are waiting to be deployed, who are someone's sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. He is with those aid workers who are in Gaza, providing lifelines and support for those who are trapped in Gaza. And God is with you as you pray for this hurting world, for healing and for peace.

Perhaps we can take a moment and pray here.

Prince of Peace, we cry out to you today for the people of Israel and Gaza, these very lands and these very people you know so well.

We pray with all our hearts for those grieving the sudden loss of loved ones, those who've been captured, and those whose homes have suddenly been destroyed.

We also pray for a miraculous de-escalation of this tragic conflict. Terrible things are being done, many hundreds have died, hospitals are overflowing, many are suddenly grieving. Violence is provoking violence but we pray for peace to prevail over rage and revenge. May those with a vested interest in escalating this crisis somehow be restrained.

We pray for active and effective peacemaking at an international political level. May the measured voices of diplomacy constrain violence on every side.

*Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are the merciful
for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers
for they will be called children of God. Amen.*

With love in Christ
Jun

This month's preachers

5th November, All Saints: Prester Coleman, Reader

All Souls: Rev'd Jun, Rector

12th November, Remembrance: Rev'd Tracy Pegram, Curate

19th November, 2 before Advent: Liz Kelly, Anna Chaplain & LPM

26th November, Christ the King: Rev'd Jun, Rector

Readers and Intercessors for this month

5th November, All Saints: Readers: Damian & Jill Pickard

Intercessor: Matthew George

12th November, Remembrance: Readers: tbc

Intercessor: tbc

19th November, 2 before Advent: Readers: Bob Purser & Douglas Rutherford

Intercessor: Rhiannon George

26th November, Christ the King: Readers: Shirralee Smith & Alan Sutton

Intercessor: Peter Gompertz

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.

Lighting Candles in the Churchyard for All Hallows Eve; Sunday 29th October

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

Quiz Night

The Parish quiz night will be held on Friday 17th November at 7pm in the Parish Rooms. Four to a team and the ticket price includes a hot meal. Tickets are on sale now from Damian Pickard and Melissa Tallack (m.tallack@btinternet.com).

A big thank you from Food Bank!

Thank you for the wonderful amount of food in packets and tins which we received today. A truly amazing amount and a huge variety of products! These will be such a help to us in providing food for those people who come to Food Bank on Fridays.

The "Use By" date will be written on each item to ensure that nothing goes out of date, nothing is wasted and they will help a lot of people who are finding living costs difficult just now. We try to have a conversation with each person coming in - sometimes the listening is as important as the food. We also signpost them to local agencies who may be able to help them. Thank you Abington Church - your generosity is enabling us to do this.

With best wishes - Jill and Malcolm Ward and the Food Bank Team,

St Albans Church and Broadmead Community Church, working together for Restore:Northampton Food Bank (hosted at St Albans).

Forest Church

The first Forest Church was held on Saturday 23rd October and was very well attended by people of all ages. We gathered in Abington Park and took a moment to soak up the sights and sounds of the nature that surrounded us, before heading off to search out treasure to collect in our buckets. Then, we took a closer look at the things we found and explored how each item was different and full of details.

We then brought our treasure into the church and collected it together before thanking God for all creation, for the details that make each thing different, and for the details that we have too – making us different to each other, each one of us being unique and precious to God and to one another.

A time of fellowship followed, with good conversation, drinks and, of course, cake!

We hope to meet again as Forest Church in the new year, reflecting upon the changes in seasons.



Children and Youth Missioner's Update

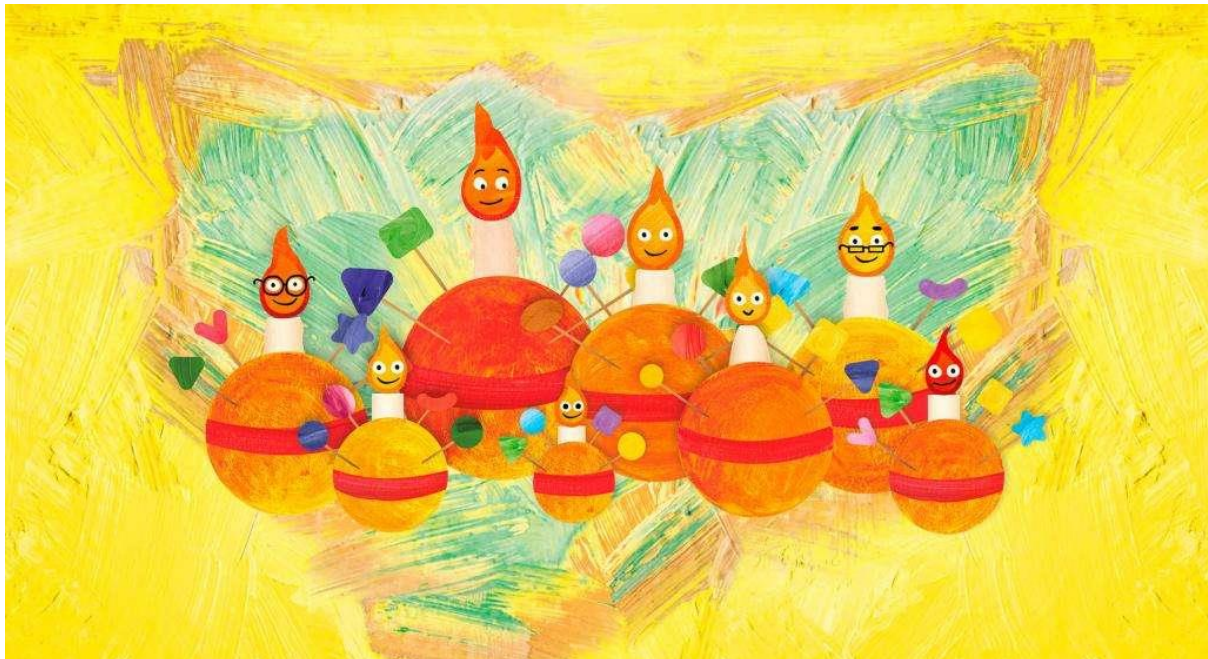


'We campaign tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. Driven by hope and working alongside young people and supporters, we will not rest until together, step-by-step, we've created a society built for all children.'

Members at Abington Church have supported The Children's Society for many years. Some of you have collecting boxes at home and this is the time of year when we are asked to collect the money and send it to the charity. If you have a collecting box, Cathy Tinsley would be very grateful to receive it during the month of November. If you would like her to collect it from your home, do let her know on 07516 979223. Or you can drop it off at Dorothy's home in St

Christopher's Walk. All donations for the charity will be gratefully received, whether you are a box holder or not.

Also – a future date for your diaries - **Our 'Make Your Own Christingle' will take place on Sunday 10th December at 3 pm in church.** There will be a collection at this service and the money will go towards the invaluable work of The Children's Society.



News from the Pastoral Team

The Harvest Messy Vintage Service on 4th October at Abington Park View Care Home was great fun as we all made scarecrow heads using lolly sticks, googly eyes and shredded paper hair! The hats were then decorated with flowers. Scarecrows in fields protect and look after crops because they frighten away birds. We thought about the many ways in which God has watched over us from childhood, even though we are often unaware of his presence. We listened to the parable of the growing seed from Mark's Gospel (Mark 4.26-29) and we talked about how growing seeds need nurturing, just as we do.

Here are some photos of what we made.



The team visited again on 18th October, and we celebrated St Luke's Day with a Songs of Praise Service. We learned about the life of St Luke, who was a companion of St Paul, and read from his Gospel. The hymns chosen all reflected God's healing love and included 'At Even Ere The Sun Had Set' and 'Through The Love Of God My Saviour.'

A big thank you to Sarah and her staff for always making us so welcome.

Funerals

The late Mrs. Sibil "Ricky" Coley: Tuesday 31st October at noon

The late Mrs. June Rowe: Friday 10th November at 11.30 am

Mothers' Union News

The funeral of Margaret Brain will take place on Wednesday 15th November at 2.15 pm at the Counties Crematorium. Margaret was an Abington Mothers' Union member for many years and her son, Nick, has extended an invitation to all her MU friends to join the family for the funeral.

The next MU gathering will be on Tuesday 5th December at St Ragener's Chapel at St Christopher's Home at 2.30 pm. All members and friends of MU are invited for a time of fellowship and festive fun.

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 features the Church of England logo on the left and the Diocese of Peterborough logo on the right. The central text is in blue and orange, providing details for the 'EXPLORE' event on Saturday 25th November 2023 at All Saints School, Kingsthorpe, NN2 7AJ. It lists various ministries such as Lay Ministry, Ordination, and Preaching, and includes an RSVP deadline of Monday 13th November.

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

'EXPLORE'
Saturday 25th November 2023
All Saints School, Kingsthorpe, NN2 7AJ

 The Diocese of Peterborough

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

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.

Christmas Services at St Peter & St Paul, Abington:

Sunday 10th December

Make Your Own Christingle 3pm at Church

Sunday 17th December

Carol Service 6pm

Christmas Eve – Sunday 24th December

Family Eucharist 10am

Crib Service 3pm

Midnight Service 11.30pm

Christmas Day

Family Eucharist 10am

Antiques Fair: Saturday 4th November, 10am-3pm, in the Parish Rooms on the corner of Park Avenue North and Ashburnham Road.

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

Please click the title above to access the link or speak to the PCC Secretary, Melissa Tallack.

Dates for your diary

1 Nov: APV Communion Service at 2.15 pm

1 Nov: Ministry Team Meeting at 7.30 pm

4 Nov: Antiques Fair, 10 am - 3pm

8 Nov: Standing Committee at 7.45 pm

15 Nov: Finance Committee at 9.30 am

17 Nov: Parish Quiz Night at 7 pm

22 Nov: Deanery Synod at 7.30 pm

29 Nov: PCC at 7.45 pm

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.

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 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.

www.abingtonchurch.org.uk

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