



Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Abington
- the Church in the Park -
**Welcome to our February Newsletter
2022**



Photo by Sarah May

Rector's Pastoral Letter

Greetings and Happy New Year to you all once again. As I write this first pastoral letter of the year 2022, I would like to share with you a photograph which was taken by our friend, Sarah. It is the one above. She took this beautiful photo during her visit to Norfolk in November last year. In it, you can see the footsteps on the sand with the sunlight shining upon them. It might remind you the following, well known poem.

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most,
You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you
and will never leave you, never, ever,
during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."

Looking back the year 2021 which was full of challenges and trials and looking at the new year that has already begun which will bring new challenges and trials, could it be that the Lord is whispering the same words to us? Let us take a moment in prayer and look at that one set of footprints again and that sunlight shining on the sand in Sarah's photo.

Can I remember those times when I felt that I just cannot walk any further or I am walking alone? How did I make it through? Can I remember the people or the things who helped me or carried me? Take a moment and give thanks for them.

Lord Jesus, I know you never ever leave me. When I am down, it was you who carried me. You are always with me.

The Lord stand beside you as your protective shade.
The sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon at night.
The Lord keeps you from all harm
and watches over your life.
The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go,
both now and forever.

Psalm 121.5-8 (NLT)

Worship for this month

This month's Preachers

30th January, Candlemas: The Revd. Jun Kim

6th February, 4 before Lent: The Revd. Rachel Hetherington

13th February, 3 before Lent: Prester Coleman

20th February, 2 before Lent: Alison Barnes

27th February, 1 before Lent: Liz Kelly

This month's prayers and prayer topics

Praying for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:1-2 NIV)



During 2022, there will be year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world, as communities come together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign. On 6th February, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

As we approach the anniversary of her accession on Sunday February 6th we are encouraged to pray for our Queen, giving thanks for her life of witness and service and use the blessing from Numbers 6 v 24-26 as Her Majesty begins this Platinum Jubilee year.

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

Readings Readers and Intercessors for this month

6th February, 4 before Lent: **Reader:** Damien Pickard, **Intercessor:** Liz Kelly
13th February, 3 before Lent: **Reader:** Jenny Mercer, **Intercessor:** Alan Sutton
20th February, 2 before Lent: **Reader:** Donald Loe, **Intercessor:** Pam Norman
27th February, 1 before Lent: **Reader:** Owen Warr, **Intercessor:** Prester Coleman

COVID 19 Measures - looking forward to Lent

At its meeting on 26th January the PCC reviewed the current COVID 19 situation and looked forward to when we can begin to reduce some of the measures that we have in place at our Sunday worship, noting that the Government was reducing its measures from 27th January.

There were a range of views expressed from those who felt the proposals are over-cautious, to those who are concerned that the pandemic is far from over and urging continuing caution. (It was perhaps more than a coincidence that the New Testament reading at Morning Prayer on Thursday morning was Romans 14 where Paul counselled the Roman church against arguing over matters of dispute - it's well worth reading in full!)

When planning for the PCC, it had been hoped that the Omicron variant whose infection rate had peaked early in January in Northampton would have continued its steep decline, but this has not happened and our local rate is still high - about 50% above the national average.

Nonetheless we hope that the level of infection will decline during February so that we can further relax some of the COVID 19 measures we have taken. We had some discussion about when that might be and concluded that this should be when the Northampton rate reduced to 500 infections per 100,000 people (that is 1 in 200 people) and we hope that this will coincide with the beginning

of Lent at the start of March so that if the rate falls below 500 we can take three measures:

- Mask wearing becomes a matter of personal choice rather than a requirement
- Social distancing is no longer required but we will continue to respect other's personal space.
- We will not longer set a maximum number for those in church.

Many church members regularly use lateral flow tests and we do encourage church members to use them prior to coming to church.

Looking further forward – we hope to be able to reintroduce a full liturgy with robed choir and refreshments after the service from Easter Sunday. We also discussed the issues around the safe re-introduction of the cup and discussions are taking place at national level and Rev Jun will follow developments and report back to the PCC.

Bob Purser (Lay vice-chair of PCC)

Children and Youth Missioner's Update

Junior Church has continued to meet on Sunday mornings throughout the Christmas season and it is lovely that the children are so enthusiastic. Numbers attending range from a few to as many as ten. However all are welcomed and



we have lots of fun sharing, learning and playing together. If any families would like to bring their children to Junior Church, just come along to church any Sunday. We meet in the vestry during the 10 am Eucharist service.

Christmas Activities - We were delighted that so many families attended the various events that we held during the Christmas season. **The Christingle event** at the Parish Rooms attracted 50 adults and children and great fun was had making Christingles, after which we came together to enjoy a time of informal worship. It is always very special to see the Christingles lit and the awe and wonder on the faces of the children (and adults!). If anyone would like to donate to The Children's Society (the organisation who provides all the

resources for this event) Cathy will be very happy to receive your gift. We held a **Toddler Party** just before Christmas and, although only two families attended, it was lovely to welcome them and to enjoy a craft activity and then to enjoy a dramatized Nativity story. Then on Christmas Eve we held our **Crib service** outside in the churchyard. About 100 adults and children attended which was just fantastic! Despite some drizzle which did become more intense, the weather did not dampen the joy and participation in hearing again the Christmas story. Thank you to everyone who took part in any way. Special thanks go to all the adults and children who were characters in the story. Moving the service outside proved to be a real success and hopefully we can repeat such events in the future.



The Churchyard Art and Christmas Activity - Thank you to Celia and Susie for making such an attractive and interactive Nativity scene in the churchyard. Lots of people have enjoyed the display and families have taken part in the Adventure Trail, discovering the special message hidden on the lambs. I hope I

am not spoiling any fun but for those of you who have not had an opportunity to do the trail, the message is 'God loves you.'

New for 2022

Activity Morning at the Rooms – this will take place on **Monday 14th February (half term) from 10 am to 12.30 pm** and children of all ages are welcome to join us. The theme of the event will be 'Love' (well it is Valentine's Day!) and we will be learning about **God's Love for Us and His Creation**. Please do let me know if you would like to join us for this event. Parents/carers of the preschool children are welcome to stay for the morning.

Finally we are delighted to be restarting our **Toddler Group on Monday 21st February**. This group will meet **weekly at the Rooms from 10 am to 11 am**. If you know of any families with preschool children who might be interested in joining this group, please do encourage them to get in touch. They can contact me on children@abingtonchurch.org.uk for more information.

Cathy Tinsley (Children and Youth Missioner, 07516979223)

Thursday Prayer Group and Thursday Eucharist during Lent

The Thursday Prayer group will continue to meet on Zoom in February. And from March, the Weekly Thursday Eucharist will resume at 10 am at the church. This will begin from Thursday the 3rd of March onwards every week.

Zoom Prayer Group has been a lifeline to many of us when we were going through the most difficult times during the Pandemic. We thank God for Liz for leading this and enabling us to continue to gather and pray together. And we don't want to lose it. We are looking at options to continue this ministry and we hope to share the details with you in the future.

Lent Groups 2022

This year, the theme for our Lent groups will be "the Lord's Prayer". Over the last two years and through the Prayer Ribbons tied on to the railings of the churchyard, we were reminded of the significance and power of prayer. We hope that we may go even deeper into the heart of prayers by looking into the prayer of all prayers, the Lord's Prayer. We are very grateful to Prester who is

developing the course for us who also co-developed the last year's theme "God and the Pandemic".

There will be 4 groups offered for you to choose.

Group 1 is led by Bob Purser, our lay vice-chair. He will lead the group at this home on the evenings of either Mondays and Tuesdays.

Group 2 is led by Revd. Rachel Hetherington, our Associate Priest. She will lead the group at St. Ragenar's chapel on Wednesday afternoons.

Group 3 is led by Revd. Jun, Prester and Liz on Thursday mornings after the weekly Eucharist at church.

Group 4 will be Zoom Group and this will be led by Liz Kelly, our Lay Pastoral Minister on Friday evenings.

We will soon advertise more details with a sign-up sheet available at the back of the church. If you have any questions then please either contact Liz at lizmk@outlook.com or the Rector at prayandwork@gmail.com.

News from the Pastoral Team

During the Pandemic the Pastoral Team has been supporting many parishioners through regular telephone calls and this is continuing for those who need it. Now that restrictions have been lifted members of the team are also making 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.

We continue our ministry to Abington Park View Care Home, and we held our first Eucharist service there on Wednesday 24 November. Revd Jun was supported by Liz Kelly and Jackie Harris, and we were joined by seven residents for the service in the Garden Room and communion was then taken to four residents in their rooms. It was a very moving experience. Next, we held a most successful Carol Service on 15 December. The lounge was packed full, and everyone enjoyed hearing the traditional bible readings and singing familiar carols. Members of the team were touched by the cards that had been made by the residents for us and for the gifts of biscuits.

Our first visit of the new year should have been on 27 January, and we were going to think about the letters that St Paul had written and the encouragement they gave us in our Christian lives. However, the service was cancelled because of a covid infection in the Home. We hope to be back soon and our thanks to Lisa, the Wellbeing Coordinator, who always makes us so welcome, organising the room, and providing the refreshments afterwards. If you feel called to share in this ministry, please do get in touch with Liz.

Liz continues to support the weekly Friday service in St Ragener's Chapel for those who live independently at St Christopher's, and she visits residents in the Home when it is possible.

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 Home. Don't forget, you are always welcome to join the Zoom Prayers at 10.00am each Thursday and to come to the Morning Prayer Service held in church on the last Thursday each month. If you're not certain what this involves, please get in touch with Liz Kelly.

Mothers' Union

During 2021 members of Abington Church MU managed to meet face to face on five occasions and enjoyed the fellowship, support and fun that these gatherings provided. What we have all learnt during the course of the pandemic is that, for most of us, we need each other and that being able to meet is hugely important. However, for those still not able to join us in person, we have provided newsletters to try and keep members up to date with what has been happening both locally, in the diocese and more generally in Mothers' Union.

We are sad that our Diocesan President, Mrs Jill Cannings, is stepping down after three years in this important position. She has been an inspirational leader during these difficult times and she will be missed. However our new Diocesan President, Mrs Helen Lynett, has lots of MU experience and we look forward to supporting her in the years to come.

Our next meeting is the AGM on Monday 21st February at 2 pm at the Rooms. We are looking for someone to either take over the leadership of the branch, or to work with Sue Harrison and Claire Tharby as they continue to lead the branch on a committee basis. We also need someone to take on the position as branch treasurer. Now you may be thinking 'I don't know anything about Mothers'

Union?’ However if you would like to be part of an organisation that values faith, friendship, fun and fundraising, then why not look up Mothers’ Union on the website www.mothersunion.org and also speak to Sue, Claire or Cathy, or indeed any of the members, to find out what being a member at Abington MU means. Do consider becoming a member! This coming year we are delighted that Revd. Rachel Hetherington, our Associate Priest, has agreed to put on some MU events at St Christopher’s. 2022 is the 111th year of Abington Church Mothers’ Union. The organisation is needed today as much as it has ever been. So please do consider supporting the branch.

Cathy Tinsley

Member of the MU Caretaker Committee

Christmas Charity Collection

During the Christmas season, we decided to give all our church collection to the two charities: The Leprosy Mission and West Northamptonshire Afghanistan Relief Fund. Thanks to your generosity, the total collection was the following.

Cash	£745.97
Online	£90.00
Gift Aid env on £476	£95.20
Total	£931.17 or £465.58 to each charity

If you wish, you can still make your contribution to this. Please speak to Damian, our Treasurer. Thank you once again for your generosity.

Music Recital

There will be a recital in church on Friday 4th March at 7.30pm. It will be a programme of classical music – a selection of solos, duets and small ensemble songs from across Europe, accompanied by Tim Dolan, who will contribute a couple of organ pieces too.

The singers are all students with local and professional singer and opera star Alison Roddy. At a time when live music is still getting itself back on its feet it promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

All are welcome. Entrance is £7.50 payable at the door. Normal Abington church Covid precautions will apply. All the performers will have tested for Covid on the day.

APCM Reports and APCM

Please send all APCM reports to Melissa, our PCC Secretary at m.tallack@btinternet.com **by Wednesday the 9th of March.**

APCM will take place on Sunday the 1st of May following the Sunday service.

Churchyard Volunteers needed

Could you help us look after our beautiful churchyard? We are looking for volunteers to help with weeding, planting, mowing and general tidying up.

Please contact gardening@abingtonchurch.org.uk if you are interested in joining our team to help care for our churchyard. Thank you

Livestreaming Operators needed

We need a couple more people who can operate the laptop to help with the service and livestreaming on Sundays. We are very grateful to Matthew and Liam who are doing a fantastic job with this. If we could have a couple more people on board then we can be much more secure in our position to continue this very precious work and mission for those not only in church but all those who are out there, tuning in and worshipping together with us week by week. Full training will be provided.

If you are interested in contributing to this new and exciting way of enabling others to worship, then please do talk to our Rector and send any questions to him at prayandwork@gmail.com.

Monthly 8.15 am service on Sunday

From March, on every first Sunday of the month, there will be 8.15 am service. This service will be much more reflective style of service with holy communion.

Standing Committee and PCC

The next Standing Committee meetings is on
Wednesday 16 March 7.30 pm at the church rooms

The next PCC meeting is on
Wednesday 30th March 8.00 pm at the church rooms

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

Please click the title above to access the link.

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

The Parish Newsletter is emailed on the last Thursday of the month.
Please send content to Matthew George
abingtonbulletin@outlook.com by the 21st of the month for inclusion in the next edition. 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

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

The Revd. Rachel Hetherington: Associate Priest

Alison Barnes: Reader

Prester Coleman: Reader

Liz Kelly: Lay Pastoral Minister & Anna Chaplain

Cathy Tinsley: Children and Youth Missioner

Tim Dolan: Director of Music

Donald Loe and Jim Mercer: Churchwardens

When you arrive for a service

A very warm welcome to St. Peter and St. Paul's, Abington. We are a family church and children (however noisy) are particularly welcome at our service. We are delighted that you join us in worship.



If you use a hearing aid, please use the T setting



Are situated at the back-left hand side of the church and include a baby change



To make an offering, please complete the yellow envelope and we can reclaim Gift Aid. Alternatively you can give on-line through our website or give regularly through the Parish Giving Scheme (talk to Damian Pickard or Bob Purser)



Our service is livestreamed. The Churchwardens can help you if you cannot see the screen or would prefer to be out of shot



[St Peter and St Paul Abington Church - Home | Facebook](#)

[St Peter and St Paul Abington Online - YouTube](#)



Please speak to our Churchwardens for any assistance during the service or for a Gluten free wafer

www.abingtonchurch.org.uk

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

The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul “The Church in the Park”

Park Avenue South, Northampton

Charity no. 1131414