



St Peter  
& St Paul  
ABINGTON

**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
OF THE  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**INCUMBENT:**

The Revd Jun Kim  
The Rectory  
15 Honeysuckle Way, Northampton NN3 3QE

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST PETER & ST PAUL,  
ABINGTON, NORTHAMPTON**

Charity Registration Number: 1131414

**BANK:**

Lloyds TSB, George Row, Northampton  
Natwest, The Drapery, Northampton

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

Mr Keith Loader  
149 Park Avenue North  
Northampton  
NN3 2HY

## St Peter & St Paul Abington – Annual Report 2021

### Background

Abington PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, The Revd Jun Kim in promoting the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, the pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Church, the Parish Rooms in Ashburnham Road and a curate's house at 21 Lime Avenue. The incumbent is chaplain of, and has pastoral responsibility for, St Christopher's Home within the Parish.

### Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC:

*Incumbent:* The Revd Jun Kim

*Readers:* Mrs Alison Barnes  
Mr Prester Coleman

*Lay Pastoral Ministers:* Mrs Elizabeth Kelly

*Wardens:* Mr Jim Mercer  
Mr Donald Loe

*Treasurer:* Mr Damian Pickard

*Secretary:* Mrs Melissa Tallack

Mr Bob Purser (Co Chair)  
Mrs Esme Cushing (Safeguarding Officer)  
Mr Peter Aiers  
Mrs Cathy Tinsley  
Mr Douglas Rutherford  
Mrs Elizabeth Loe  
Mr Andrew Munns  
Mr Paul Tharby  
Miss Dianne Ward  
Mrs Susannah McKay  
Mr Emmanuel Agudosy  
Mrs Susan Harrison

# **ABINGTON ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday 1st May 2022**

**To be held in Church after morning service**

The meeting consists of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners, to which all parishioners are welcome and eligible to vote, and the Annual Church Meeting, at which all are welcome but only those on the Electoral Roll of the Parish are eligible to vote.

## **AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS**

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021
2. Apologies for absence
3. Election of Churchwardens  
(Nominations must be received in writing before the meeting)
4. To receive both the Fabric and Churchwardens' report

## **AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021
2. Apologies for absence
3. Rectors Report and Opening Remarks
4. Electoral Roll
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Appointment of Independent Examiners
7. Election of Deanery Synod members
8. Changes in Church Representation Rules
9. Election of members to serve on the PCC
10. Reports – included with this agenda – please read before attending – the reports will not be given at the meeting, but questions about them will be received
11. Question Time

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**  
**Held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**  
**11.30am in Church**

**Present:**

Fr Jun Kim (joint chair), Bob Purser (joint chair), Dianne Ward, Donald Loe, Tim Dolan, Marguerite Huggett, Jane Evans, Liz Kelly, Esme Cushing, Jim Mercer, Jenny Mercer, Andrew Munns, Damian Pickard, Alan Sutton, Douglas Rutherford, Paul Tharby, Malcolm Ward, Ellen Tilsley, John Cumberpatch, Elizabeth Loe, Prester Coleman, Elizabeth Coleman, Jill Ward, Judy Maloney, John Langley, Jill Pickard, Claire Tharby, Matthew George, Cathy Tinsley, Chris Waters, Jane Waters, Pam Andrews, Catherine Huckall, Pam Cummings, Frances Warr, Owen Warr, Sandra Lewis, Jackie Harris, Sue Harrison, Jill Clarke, Mollie Sketchley, Jill Draper, Gill Hood, Pat Going, Sandra Coley, Emmanuel Agudosy, Setla Agudosy, Victoria Agudosy, Elizabeth Townsend, Alison Barnes, Rhiannon George, Hilary Hodge, Lawrence Hodge, Colin Hood, Melissa Tallack (minutes)

**Apologies:** Kate Murdoch

**1 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Proposed as accepted by Dianne Ward, seconded by Paul Tharby and unanimously approved by all present.

**2 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**3 ELECTION OF CHURCH WARDENS**

Two written nominations were received:

Jim Mercer – proposed by Donald Loe, seconded by Elizabeth Loe

Donald Loe – proposed by Matthew George, seconded by Andrew Munns

Both were elected as Churchwardens for the Parish and we wish them every prayer and blessing for their coming year in office. No other nominations were received.

**4 FABRIC AND CHURCHWARDENS REPORT**

Both reports have been adopted by the PCC.

Thanks were expressed to Dianne and Donald for all their work during the past year. Dianne in turn thanked the congregation for all their help and support during her extended time as Churchwarden. There were no questions.

*Next Annual Meeting of Parishioners – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 after 10 o'clock service.*

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**  
**Held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**  
**11.40 am in Church**

**Present:**

Bob Purser (chair), Rev Jun Kim, Dianne Ward, Donald Loe, Tim Dolan, Marguerite Huggett, Jane Evans, Liz Kelly, Esme Cushing, Jim Mercer, Jenny Mercer, Andrew Munns, Damian Pickard, Alan Sutton, Douglas Rutherford, Paul Tharby, Malcolm Ward, Ellen Tilsley, John Cumberpatch, Elizabeth Loe, Prester Coleman, Elizabeth Coleman, Jill Ward, Judy Maloney, John Langley, Jill Pickard, Claire Tharby, Matthew George, Cathy Tinsley, Chris Waters, Jane Waters, Pam Andrews, Catherine Huckall, Pam Cummings, Frances Warr, Owen Warr, Sandra Lewis, Jackie Harris, Sue Harrison, Jill Clarke, Mollie Sketchley, Jill Draper, Gill Hood, Pat Going, Sandra Coley, Emmanuel Agudoso, Setla Agudoso, Victoria Agudoso, Elizabeth Townsend, Alison Barnes, Rhiannon George, Hilary Hodge, Lawrence Hodge, Colin Hood, Melissa Tallack (minutes)

**Apologies:** Kate Murdoch

**1 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes were proposed as accepted by Bob Purser, seconded by Dianne Ward, and unanimously approved by all present.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Kate Murdoch

**3 RECTORS REPORT AND OPENING REMARKS**

Jun shared some figures from the past year regarding our online reach. We began livestreaming from March 2019 and it has now been 14 months since we started. During that time, we have had 12,800 views on YouTube and 41,000 on Facebook, which totals 53,858 views of 5,700 hours of content.

Jun reflected back to the time he first joined St Peter and St Paul and held his first APCM a week after arriving. At that meeting he recommended we all focus on what we are called to do – the fundamental elements of Christian faith, such as prayer and loving one another. At that time, we all had no idea of what was going to happen just a year later but in hindsight, it felt providential to focus on these things as preparation for the pandemic.

We have faced many challenges together during the past year and firstly we thank God for the fact that we survived, that we are alive and in this place together by the Grace of God. We give thanks to God for His graciousness. Thank you to everyone for making themselves available to God through these most challenging times, for making faithfulness and the goodness of God visible through all our work, acts of generosity and kindness. We made God's love visible, we made a difference and saved souls.

What has been made clear through this most challenging time is that we are God's plan 'A' to rescue and redeem this world. God has no plan 'B' because he doesn't need to. He has put all His power and grace into us to rescue this world. If you forgive, they are forgiven, if you bless, they are blessed. If you give healing and comfort, they will receive healing and comfort.

We have all lost friends or family and we may struggle to make sense of it all. What we are called to do though is to make meaning out of all of this. We have been travelling together through this period of prayer, worship and service and we have remained faithful for the last 2 years. God has a plan for us to spread His love and His light. So let us continue to do what we are doing with thankful hearts.

Thank you for being the light of Christ, the body of Christ and for being the Church.

Thank you to all the Lay Ministers, the Standing Committee, the PCC and the Committee chairs and members.

Thank you for being in Christ and God bless you all.

#### **4 ELECTORAL ROLL**

Dianne Ward reported that there were 136 individuals on the electoral roll. 61 were resident in the Parish and 75 non-resident.

#### **5 TREASURERS REPORT**

Damian Pickard took the meeting through the highlights of the accounts.

For the first time we closed out the year with an overall surplus of around £7,000 but before we get too excited £6,200 of this was from a legacy and so in reality we just about broke even.

The income was down by about £10,000 but the expenses were also down by about £20,000. Planned giving has held up remarkably well and actually rose by £7-8,000. Our Parish Giving is now substantially more than our Parish Share.

Shortfalls in income were less rooms income (by about £5-6,000) and fundraising income (by about the same amount).

Expenditure was saved through having no Parish Administrator, no expenses on the rooms, a lower cost of maintenance on the church building and less on utilities.

We therefore find ourselves in a relatively healthy position. Thanks to good tenants, we have a solid income coming in from the curatage. We give thanks to the Ekins Trust for continuing to provide a grant even though the children's activities have been somewhat diminished.

The balance sheet shows that we have £40,000 in funds and £40,000 in cash, of which £25,000 is restricted funds to support youth work.

Damian concluded by extending a big thank you to Susie McKay for all her hard work preparing the accounts.

A question was asked as to how much the Parish Share was and whether it would increase and Damian confirmed that yes, it would increase over time and is currently around £76,000 per annum.

The accounts were approved by all present.

## **6 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Damian recommended Keith Loader continue as the independent examiner. Dianne Ward proposed this and Rhiannon George seconded it. The proposal was unanimously approved by all present.

## **7 ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNOD MEMBERS**

Four nominations were received:

Liz Kelly – proposed by Dianne Ward, seconded by Donald Loe  
Damian Pickard – proposed by Jill Pickard, seconded by Peter Aiers  
Bob Purser – proposed by Donald Loe, seconded by Elizabeth Loe  
Peter Aiers – proposed by Damian Pickard, seconded by Dianne Ward

The candidates were proposed as elected by Paul Tharby, seconded by Prester Coleman and approved by all present.

## **8 CHANGES IN CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES**

- APCM can be held from 1 Jan to 31 May (previously it was until 30 April)
- APCM no longer appoints sidesman (it is now done by the PCC)
- Deanery Synod Reps terms who are elected from 2020 are limited 2 consecutive terms
- Lay majority in the PCC is mandatory
- There is no more minimum numbers required for the PCC
- Joint council is possible within the same benefice

### **Abington can have**

12 lay representatives in the PCC  
4 Deanery Synod Reps

Initially Jun was considering reducing the numbers on the PCC but there were so many people willing to serve and come forward that it was decided that the best solution was to not make any changes and keep the status quo.

## **9 ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE PCC**

Nine PCC nominations were received:

Andrew Munns – proposed by Douglas Rutherford, seconded by Elizabeth Loe  
Dianne Ward – proposed by Douglas Rutherford, seconded by Damian Pickard  
Elizabeth Loe – proposed by Dianne Ward, seconded by Bob Purser  
Douglas Rutherford – proposed by Dianne Ward, seconded by Donald Loe  
Susie McKay – proposed by Simon McKay, seconded by Bob Purser  
Cathy Tinsley – proposed by Donald Loe, seconded by Liz Kelly  
Emmanuel Agudoso – proposed by Bob Purser, seconded by Donald Loe  
Paul Tharby – proposed by Melissa Tallack, seconded by Liz Kelly  
Sue Harrison – proposed by Jill Clarke, seconded by Cathy Tinsley

The candidates were proposed as elected by Hilary Hodge, seconded by Damian Pickard and approved by all present. All individuals will serve on the PCC for a period of three years.

Jun expressed a big thank you to Alan Sutton, Malcolm Ward, Ashley Ashiru, John Wishart who all came to the end of their three term on the PCC this year.

## **10      REPORTS**

All reports were reviewed and proposed for approval by Matthew George, seconded by Alison Barnes and unanimously approved by all present.

## **11      QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

Dianne extended a big thank you to Jun for carrying us through this difficult year and all those present expressed their gratitude via a round of applause.

The date for the next APCM would be decided at the PCC.

The meeting closed with The Lords Prayer and The grace at 12:02.

*Next APCM meeting – Sunday 1st May 2022 after 10 o'clock service.*



# ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2021

1. Churchwarden's Report
2. Lay Pastoral Report
3. Deanery Synod Report
4. Buildings, Health and Safety Report
5. Choir Report
6. Stewardship Report
7. Children and Young Families Report
8. Tower Captain Report
9. Mothers' Union Report
10. Fundraising Report
11. Guides Report
12. Brownies Report
13. Safeguarding Report

---

## **1. CHURCHWARDENS REPORT**

As you may know in March 2021, we celebrated two years of the ministry of our Rector the Rev Byung Jun Kim and his family in our midst and very thankful we are.

During 2021 the Covid 19 pandemic has continued to have a very mixed impact on our Parish life. On the one hand we have not always been able to meet to worship normally at all and then with no live music, restricted numbers, spacing, face masks, sanitising, and additional ventilation, even when it was cold. But, on the other hand, we have been streaming services via YouTube and Facebook all over the world and bringing the Good News to many new contacts and to people who would not have normally come to or known about our church. In early 2021 communion services were streamed from the Rectory. Bishop Donald preached to us via Zoom in January. Also, people watch these services at different times in the week. When the weather permitted, we held outdoor services, these were a success for those who took part and as an outreach as people would stop and watch from the path outside and we were meeting safely outdoors. We only had to battle with the traffic noise from time to time. Inside we were careful to act in a safe way following the pandemic guidelines. Encouraging letters were sent by the Bishop and our own newsletter has been published of late.

Ash Wednesday was a special service online during the 3<sup>rd</sup> National lockdown. There were 50 devices online and 250 subsequent viewings. Towards the end of February, we had the Lockdown Lift Stage 1 where weddings could take place in church with six people! Softening of restrictions was planned in stages right through to June.

In March parishes were permitted to suspend Public Worship. Clergy pay was frozen. The Bishop was thrilled by the way the Diocese had responded to the difficulties. On 7<sup>th</sup> March the Sunday service was streamed from church. The Bishop wrote to say there were signs of hope but to keep our guard up. On 12 March the rate of Covid cases was 100 per 100,000 the lowest since October 2020 showing how effective the lockdown was.

We were back in church for Palm Sunday with a short act of remembrance on the one-year anniversary of the pandemic. At the service on Holy Saturday the church bell was tolled 12 times for each month of the pandemic. There was no blessing of Holy Oils in the cathedral on Maundy Thursday. Our service was online so no foot washing. On Good Friday we were in church but no veneration of the cross. The Easter Vigil was held at St Ragener's Chapel. On Easter Day we were in church and online. The Easter Trail was enjoyed by many. Services restarted in St Ragener's.

Thankfully, we had no direct cases of Covid because of our meeting as a congregation. Sadly, some of our friends have passed away in the meantime.

April 9<sup>th</sup> saw the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh which was marked in church on 15<sup>th</sup> April by a tribute to him and a short act of remembrance. Bells were rung to mark his death.

Late April saw schools, shops and care homes opening, and a lot of people vaccinated.

In June our Parish picnic on 26<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to Government restrictions.

Liz Kelly was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain on 27<sup>th</sup> June and the Ribbons of Prayer were launched.

Thanks to Bob Purser for hosting the after Church coffee zoom during the lockdown.

We had some splendid artwork created by Celia, Derek, Stephanie, and Mary for our patronal festival with doves descending from the gable above the east window depicting the Holy Spirit.

19<sup>th</sup> August saw the Licensing of the Reverend Rachel Hetherington by Bishop John as Assistant Priest of Abington. This was carried out via Zoom. This is a great blessing for our church.

Outdoor services were held on 18<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> September, these were enjoyable and a great act of witness.

Around the end of July there were 840 prayer ribbons on the church railings, this was a very uplifting response to this initiative.

On 11 September the Ride and Stride Day was supported by our church and thanks go to the volunteers who sat to welcome people who travelled from church to church raising money for the NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST.

September 1<sup>st</sup> saw the publication of our E monthly newsletter. The 15<sup>th</sup> of September saw the PCC meet in person rather than on Zoom.

Harvest Festival was held inside due to poor weather.

The end of October saw a different format in church for the All Souls service which included a choir and orchestra to compliment the memories of our loved ones.

Covid cases in Northampton were 600 per 100,000 which was one third above the National average.

20 boxes were sent for Operation Shoe Box.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> Remembrance was particularly poignant as we remembered in a Memorial Service Lt Cdr John Eyton-Jones from our Parish who was lost in 1982 in the Falklands War. Some of the veterans led by Paul Mackay marched in a sponsored walk to raise funds for the veterans and concluded on that day with a service led by Rev Jun. They were joined by Lt Cdr John Eyton-Jones'

sister and brother. Remembrance Sunday in November once again was graced by artwork by Celia and Derek.

After a difficult year we were blessed with services in church for Christmas and good congregations returning for all our services.

As you would expect in a Church like ours a lot of work has been done in and outside the lock down periods pastorally. Many telephone calls have been made, Zoom coffee mornings after church were held, shopping has been done for those who have not been able to get out, Pastoral letters have been printed and distributed and front garden conversations have been enjoyed with passers-by. Sadly, due to government restrictions lay people have not been able to go into St Christopher's to meet with the staff and residents during the lock downs. Thankfully towards the end of 2021 it is not so strict.

We continued to support the St Albans Foodbank with a special effort at Harvest Time.

We must not underestimate the time, skill, and genuine effort it takes to put on a streamed service inside and outside. Many have helped in this task, but we must mention Peter Aiers, Matthew George, Andrew Munns and Liam whose efforts with our truly knowledgeable Rector to put out the service on air. In addition, we are grateful to those of us who do the lifting without which there would not be a service.

The services have been graced with music and we thank our Choir master and the choir for their dedication and consummate skill in co-ordinating the individual recordings and of course leading our worship in church.

We have organised improvements to our Audio-Visual system to enable us to continue streaming our services in the future whilst welcoming back the congregation. Additional screens have been installed in the Chancel.

The services have been topped and tailed with notices, different people doing the intros and outros with music, photography, and art. All this adds to the whole experience for which we are grateful. The on-line service has brought creativity from different people within the Parish, thanks to you all.

One of the great blessings of Jun's ministry has been the strengthening of our connections with St Christopher's Home. We know this has been a blessing to the staff and residents through a difficult period. We look forward to more of this. We have started services in St Ragener's again and services are held in the Home itself until restrictions are lifted in the Home. This work has been greatly assisted by the employment of Rev Rachel Hethrington as Independent Living and Pastoral co-ordinator at St Christopher's Home.

During the pandemic, the church's prayer life has continued to be underpinned by the Thursday morning Zoom prayer group. People have joined visually and audibly, and it has been a real focus for the prayers of the parish and for instruction from Liz Kelly for which we are grateful. Liz has also co-ordinated the pastoral visitors who do vital work in our Parish. Our thanks go to them. We have not been able to open the church for visitors in the week during the pandemic except for organised events.

As you would have seen there has been a huge effort by the congregation to maintain the church rooms and the church and its surroundings. Our churchyard is immaculate, and we receive many messages to this effect. We thank Janet Winn and Jackie Harris particularly for their tireless efforts and for Gordon Stringer and others who help with the mowing and other tasks. Many people come and sit in the churchyard for the peace and tranquillity. Sadly, Janet and John Winn have now moved

to be near their daughter and family in Somerset. On 12<sup>th</sup> December during the service Janet received our thanks and a framed photograph of the church yard as a memory of all that she did in the church yard. We wish them happiness in their new home.

The church has been graced by artwork that announces our Christian festivals by Celia and Derek Irwin. We thank them for this, it is symbolic, beautiful and it brings people to the church.

The Rotary Club of Northampton again planted over 1000 purple crocuses around the churchyard to commemorate World Polio Day on 24<sup>th</sup> October. The purple crocus is the symbol of the End Polio Campaign. Unfortunately, the squirrels seem to have eaten most of them.

Sadly, the Robinia tree to the west of the church tower is diseased and will need to be taken down.

We have referred to the Rev Jun's efforts earlier and we must applaud our Rector for his work in our midst and in the Diocese and nationally with the Archbishop's Council and now an advisor on the National Selection Process. We have been blessed that he brought Simona and Emmanuel with him and now Elijah is in our midst and walking those early steps. The young family is a joy to us, and we thank God for them.

Rev Jun's work in the spiritual life of the church has been dedicated, inspiring and skilful. He has co-ordinated a team that has brought children into the church environment despite the pandemic, and we thank all those have been working with the children especially Cathy Tinsley and the team of Junior Church helpers. As from November Cathy was appointed as our Children and Youth Missioner and her work continues to bear fruit.

The church children's trails have been open to all and have been enjoyed by the public coming into the churchyard. Thank you to Susie McKay for organising these. We have missed seeing the children and their families in church as often as we used to, and it is good to see them returning as the lockdown has eased.

Rev Jun has been supported by our Associate Vicar Rachel Hethrington and by a team of preachers, including our Readers Alison and Prester and our Pastoral Minister and Anna Chaplain Liz Kelly. We have enjoyed the variety of delivery and the knowledge that has flowed through to us. Prester was licensed as a Reader here on 17.1.21.

The work of the PCC and the Standing Committee has continued throughout this difficult time. We thank all the officers and PCC with their committees for their dedication throughout the pandemic.

We must not forget those who have been keeping the church clean throughout, we add our thanks to them.

**Donald Loe**

**Jim Mercer**

16<sup>th</sup> March April 2022



## 2. LAY PASTORAL REPORT

The last twelve months have continued to be affected by Covid, but pastoral work has continued throughout. The members of the Pastoral Visiting Team, Janet Winn, Jenny Mercer, Sue Southgate and Yvonne Quelch, have been faithful in their support of the vulnerable and the housebound through telephone calls, cards, prayers, flowers and visits when the lockdown restrictions were lifted. I would like to pay tribute to them for their thoughtfulness and commitment in these difficult times. And a particular thank you to Janet for all that she has done, formally and informally over many years, and we send her our good wishes now that she has moved away from Northampton to be close to family. We shall miss her cheerfulness and home baking.

The Thursday morning Zoom Prayer Service continued throughout 2021 and we were able to meet in person in church for Morning Prayer on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 25<sup>th</sup> November and 23<sup>rd</sup> December. It has been humbling to be part of the deepening fellowship and growth in confidence in our shared prayer life that these weekly meetings have created, and I know that this mutual support has been greatly appreciated by all those who attended regularly.

We were finally able to return to Abington Park View Care Home in September and after the usual Songs of Praise service, Revd Jun went through the house to bless each resident and member of staff. This has become an annual event but had not been possible during 2020 because of the pandemic. Thank you to the team of Jackie Harris, Kate Murdoch, and Nicola Shaw for their support at the monthly services.

I was also able to resume taking Home Communion to two of our housebound parishioners from May, which gives great spiritual support to those who can feel very isolated.

On 27<sup>th</sup> June I was privileged to be commissioned as an Anna Chaplain during the Patronal Festival. This is a ministry to older people under the auspices of the Bible Reading Fellowship. I attended a six-week online training course in September/October, which was extremely helpful and stimulating and I have also joined two training days on Messy Vintage and Care Home Ministry, together with two network gatherings, where Anna Chaplains from all over the UK meet on Zoom to share prayers, to share news and to support each other.

As part of my ministry as an Anna Chaplain, from 23<sup>rd</sup> July I have been taking part in the weekly Friday Eucharist at St Ragener's Chapel and getting to know the independent living residents at St Christopher's, in addition to visiting residents in the Care Home, when the pandemic restrictions allowed.

In conclusion, although we were all confined to home for part of last year pastoral support has continued and as life begins to return to something approaching normality, the challenge will be to take what we have learnt from our experiences and move forward with confidence.

**Liz Kelly**

6<sup>th</sup> March 2022

---

### **3. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

#### **Report from Representatives to the Greater Northampton Deanery Synod, 2021**

With a newly elected Deanery Synod and the induction of Rev'd Oliver Coss as Rural Dean, 2021 was a year of change. Synod met on four occasions.

A continuing concern was supporting parishes to meet their parish share. Out of 26 benefices in the Deanery only 7 were able to pay their parish share in full. A further 4 parishes have paid 75% or more and 6 have paid 50% or more. Synod has continued to consider the Deanery Plan and its implications as vacancies and opportunities for parish re-organisation occur.

Synod also held meetings on the role of Christian communities in supporting mental health and well-being in the post Covid era.

Rev'd Chris Tremththanmore reviewed how churches had changed in response to the COVID pandemic and particularly the opportunities and challenges presented by on-line worship

Canon Tim Alban-Jones introduced Synod to the report 'Living in Love and Faith' which explores the challenges faced by the Church of England on gender, sexuality and marriage. He identified the pastoral principles which underpin it and the resources available to support parishes in discussing this area of the churches ministry.

Deanery Synod representatives: Rev Jun Kim, Liz Kelly, Damian Pickard, Bob Purser.

#### **Bob Purser**

---

### **4. BUILDINGS, HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT**

Covering the period February 2021 – January 2022

Equipment for delivering the church services to the internet has been installed. This includes 2 pan/tilt/zoom cameras, a video switching unit to change between the 2 cameras, a digital audio mixer with remote control, and a special microphone to pick up the voices of the choir. Two extra display screens have been installed in the choir to enable those in the choir to see what is being projected onto the main screen. The total cost of this work was around £7,000.

A faculty from the diocese was obtained for the new installations. A desk has been set up at the back of the gallery for the "technical operator" to use during the service.

A formal fire-risk assessment of the church has been completed. The assessment involved the identification of fire hazards, the identification of people at risk, and the reduction of hazards, where possible.

Following the relaxation of the government restrictions associated with the pandemic which allowed places of worship to re-open, an assessment of infection risks was carried out. Following on from the assessment, various infection-control measures were introduced. A sealed window in the sanctuary was re-opened as part of efforts to ventilate the church during services.

The up-lighters mounted on the balcony are ineffective and attempts to repair them have been unsuccessful. They will need to be replaced.

### Church Rooms

Some of the outside-wall-panels have deteriorated and were letting in water. Seven of these panels, each about 2m wide, have been replaced with modern UPVC units fitted with double-glazing. The cost of this work was about £7,000. The double doors facing Park Avenue North were badly worn and these have also been replaced. Some other wooden parts (including fascia panels) on the outside of the Rooms have been re-furbished and re-painted.

An investigation of a possible improvement to the roof insulation in order to reduce heating costs has concluded that it is too expensive to fit extra blown-in fibre above the ceilings.

A review of the future of the Rooms, including a forecast of maintenance costs, was carried out at the request of the PCC.

The nursery has restarted after the last lock-down and so we are again benefiting from a rental income. There was a break-in in September which caused some damage. Money was stolen from the nursery.

### Churchyard

The large Robinia tree near the tower is diseased and will need to be cut down. It is planned to plant a replacement tree nearby.

### 21 Lime Ave

We have a long-standing tenant for this house. Various minor repairs have been needed. The chimney was damaged in a gale and repairs were covered by the diocesan insurance policy.

The committee met 5 times in 2020.

**Andrew Munns**

24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

---

## 5. CHOIR REPORT

### Music Report

The year 2021 was a difficult year for musicians as, indeed, it was for so many people.

We started the year with the reintroduction of lockdown but by then we had a well established method of contributing to the online services. This involved choir members singing their parts at home (while listening to a recorded accompaniment) and recording them and then the resulting recordings being mixed by the Director of Music into an ensemble. We reached the height of complexity with our Easter Sunday anthem which was SS Wesley's famous "Blessed be the God and Father" reputedly first performed one Easter Day at Hereford Cathedral, when 'only Trebles and a single Bass voice' were available, the bass singer being the Dean's butler! With the use of a fair amount of technology, we felt we achieved quite a fine result!

Since the church reopened for worship, we have continued to provide an anthem and lead hymns for each service, the choir being unrobed due to the Covid risks associated with gathering in the enclosed space of the vestry. The year culminated with the carol service and we were delighted to be able to present this live this year to a church full to the available limits and broadcast live online.

We managed to stage three musical events as part of our annual summer recital series. In August we had a song recital "Songs of the Sea" and we were delighted to be able to accompany the music with photographs taken by Sarah May. In September I gave an organ recital and in October we gave a performance, with orchestra, of Faure's requiem as part of our annual All Souls-tide service. Many musicians gave their services free to support these recitals and I am grateful to them all. The number of people attending proved to us that the slow return to live music making was welcome and much needed. At the time of writing, a programme of recitals for 2022 is being constructed and it promises to be one of our fullest years yet.

During the first lockdown we created the opportunity for our talented pool of instrumentalists to contribute to our services by providing instrumental accompaniments to hymns and worship songs and music to close the service (I hate the word outro!)

As always, I wish to record a great debt of gratitude to the choir and instrumentalists for all their hard work both online and live during the year. It is hard and demoralising when you are used to performing together to have to spend a year singing or playing only to yourself and recordings of other people.

People continue to take the trouble to say that they have appreciated the musical contributions to our worship and these words of encouragement are very much appreciated.

**Tim Dolan**

Director of Music

February 2022



---

## 6. STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The pandemic, resulted in the Sub-committee meeting just once in 2021 following the full campaign in 2019.

The PGS system is now well established. With the Diocesan Scheme ending in March 2022 alternative arrangements are being arranged for those remaining with existing Diocesan Standing Orders.

Contactless and website-based giving has been established through Give a Little and this has provided the opportunity for additional giving during the pandemic from those joining for on-line worship.

At the end of 2021:

- There are 89 individuals and families pledged to giving.
- 78 members are registered with the Parish Giving Scheme, 6 members continue with envelopes and 5 remain with Standing Orders to the Diocese.
- 32 members agreeing to inflation-proof their giving through PGS.
- The total pledged giving for 2021, including Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Orders and envelopes was £86,976.
- There is much to give thanks for in the commitment of members of the church and members are thanked for their continuing commitment to the work of the church during what has been financially another very challenging year.

### Members of the Stewardship Sub-committee

The Rector, Alison Barnes, Damian Pickard, Dorothy Bonsall, Bob Purser who is Stewardship Recorder.

#### Aims of The Stewardship Sub-committee

- Regular teaching on Christian giving
- Following the Church of England guidelines of giving to God 10% of our income of which half should be for the local church.
- Establishing a standing Stewardship sub-committee who will:
  - Providing regular reports to the PCC and congregation on our level of giving
  - Ensuring all members of the church understand and have the opportunity to join the Christian Giving Scheme
  - Thanking members of the Christian Giving Scheme annually
- Exploring how to promote giving by legacy

**Bob Purser**

---

## 7. CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES REPORT

Members: - Malcolm Ward (Chair) , Rev'd Jun Kim, Cathy Tinsley, Susie McKay and Esme Cushing.

Like every other aspect of life during 2021, the work of the Committee has been undertaken in line with the restrictions and lockdowns necessary due to the Covid pandemic.

However, it is very pleasing to be able to report that a great number of events involving the younger members of the Church's family have been able to take place.

The work of the Committee in the earlier part of the year was directed to the appointment of a Children's and Youth Missioner's Role. Many problems, delays and frustrations were met but we were delighted in the Autumn when Cathy was formally appointed to this role.

The most significant development during the year has been the reintroduction of Junior Church on Sunday mornings. These sessions have been taking place every Sunday since May 2021. They are held in the vestry or outside in the Churchyard when the weather permits. We are grateful to Ali Canfield, Esme Cushing, Jilly Draper, Gill Hood and Nicola Shaw for helping Cathy with this important ministry.

Several one-off events have also been held in the Churchyard: - An Easter Egg Hunt, An All Hallows Eve event and The Crib Service on Christmas Eve. All have been extremely well attended.

Several trails have also been arranged in the Churchyard which have been enjoyed not only by the children from the Church but also by many visitors to Abington Park. These include an Easter Trail, a Pumpkin Trail, a Panda Trail, and the Christmas Sheep Trail incorporating the wonderful Churchyard Art features.

A couple events have also taken place in the Parish Rooms: - a Messy Church event in August and the Christingle event in early December. Both were very well supported.

The Prayer Ribbons have continued to be very popular and to date over 3000 ribbons have been attached to the Church railings.

The Church's Facebook page has been used to share our ministry with families and children and to promote events and services. This has led to new contacts.

Unfortunately, the Parish Picnic planned for June had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions and whilst it had been hoped to restart the Toddler Group in January 2022, those plans have been put on hold due to the latest wave of Covid infections. However, we were able to hold a Toddler's Party in the Parish Rooms just before Christmas.

Contact has been maintained with three local schools, Abington Vale Primary, Bridgewater Primary and St Peters C of E School. Assemblies have been held and it is hoped to be able to engage more in the future.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their support and efforts during 2021 and all the other volunteers, without whose help and support, we wouldn't have been able to deliver all the above events.

**Malcolm Ward**

Chair of the Children and Young Person's Committee,  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

---

**8. TOWER CAPTAIN REPORT**

Since March 2021 we have rang prior to most church services all be it only 2 or sometimes 3 bells.

Covid rules have remained fairly strict at Abington Church, ie social distancing, wearing of masks, fresh air and hand sanitising. So we have tried to maintain these whilst ringing the bells.

Since July 2021 we were 'allowed' to ring more bells. I could say Covid was the reason why we are still ringing only 2 or 3 bells, but the simple reason is we lack bell ringers. Our team consists of me (Clare Dean), Cathy Tinsley, Damian Pickard and Gill Hood. The latter 2 are very infrequent, but we have now on a fairly regular basis, Shirley Jones. So we can make a joyful sound every Sunday.

Jun has asked us to ring the bells at several weddings during the year, which is fantastic and we have enjoyed these wonderful occasions, especially Amelia and Grants wedding in October 2021. I recruited members from the Northampton group and Ray and Barbara Starmer returned to make up a full team of 6 (Barbara was the ex-tower captain)

Since August The Northampton Branch Ringing Hub have held practices (once a month) at Abington, which I really enjoy and it is where I have learnt most of my bell ringing skills. On average 15 – 20 people come along to these meetings and as much as possible I encourage people to follow the Covid rules and I give the church a clean afterwards (the area we use). During December and January these practices were put on hold, but have since resumed, which we are thankful for.

In November a fairly thorough look over all the bells was carried out by Giles Wilson (Ringing Master Northampton Branch) and me to check for any problems that were occurring or were in the pipe line and needed attention. Thankfully there were no major issues that needed addressing. Next check will be carried out in 6 months time. Despite our recent bell check, we are still waiting for our well overdue visit from Taylor & Co to carry out their Belfry Maintenance Service. The last one carried out was in November 2018 (as far as I know). This is supposed to be an annual service.

To complete this report, all I have to say is that we are looking for new recruits. This could be complete beginners or old timers. Bell ringing is a truly magnificent skill to learn and it is a wonderful hobby to have.

**Clare Dean**

Tower Captain

---

## **9. MOTHERS' UNION REPORT**

The Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting is an opportunity to remember, reflect and give thanks for all that has been done, shared and enjoyed as Mothers' Union at Abington Church. In fact it is two years since our last AGM due to the pandemic. Little did we know when we met in February 2020 that we would not meet in person for another seventeen months!

One of the most important aspects of being a member of Mothers' Union is the support and fellowship that is shared between us, and I know many of our members have particularly appreciated the Christian love and care of their MU friends during the long pandemic months and also at other challenging times.

We have tried to keep everyone informed about what has been happening in Mothers' Union, both locally and further afield. We have produced newsletters that have been either emailed or delivered to our members. Margaret Frost has phoned members on their birthdays, for which we are very grateful, and doorstep chats have been made to members during the past twelve months.

Our first face to face meeting took place in July last year followed by meetings in September, November and December. Some of our members have felt unable to return to these meetings because of concerns about the coronavirus or a change in their personal circumstances. Both Margaret Pickard and Jean Lloyd moved into St Christopher's Home last year and have not been able to join us at our meetings.

Sadly in February 2021 Linda Edwards died. Linda had been a Mothers' Union members for many years. She was cared for devotedly by Jackie and is missed by her family and friends. And we were sad to hear of the death of Frances Warr, who had hoped to become a Mothers' Union member. Frances was given a MU badge just before she died.

During 2021 Jenny Mercer asked to become a Mothers' Union member which was very good news! She and Alison Canfield have yet to be enrolled so this is something that we look forward to in church in the months to come. We are also grateful that Revd. Rachel Hetherington has agreed to transfer her MU membership to the Abington Church Branch.

So we now have 28 members.

At the September meeting last year we organised a Bring and Buy Stall and this raised an amazing £110 which was sent to the Diocese to support the important work of Mothers' Union worldwide.

A programme of meetings and services have been planned for 2022 and these will take place at St Christopher's Home (generally in St Ragener's chapel there). We are indebted to

Revd. Rachel for agreeing to lead many of these events. It is hoped that as the Home opens up, MU members from St Christopher's and indeed anyone else who is interested, will be able to join us.

**Sue Harrison, Claire Tharby and Cathy Tinsley**

Members of the MU Caretaker Committee.

---

## **10. FUNDRAISING REPORT**

It has been yet another quiet year for fundraising due to the pandemic. The inability to plan events throughout the year due to the fluid nature of the restrictions meant that we were unable to run our usual events such as the much-loved summer fete, parish BBQ and quiz night. We are fortunate that the running expenses of the church also decreased over the same period so the impact of a loss of fundraising income was not as severe as it could have been.

The year did end on a positive note as we saw a welcome return of the regular antiques fair, (special thanks to Julian and Rachel Menzies for leading and running these events) and we are hopeful that 2022 will see a return of more regular fundraising events, including the summer fete, the date for which has been set for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022. We pray for good weather and no return of restrictions!

I would like to thank the ongoing support of everyone who helps with our fundraising events, either by volunteering or simply attending and giving and a special thanks this year goes to Dianne Ward, Alison Canfield and Lizzie Loe for helping out with the refreshments at the antiques fair towards the end of the year.

We, as always, are on the lookout for more members to come and join the fundraising committee or to lead or help on specific events. Many hands make light work after all! Please contact me or Lizzie Loe if you are interested in helping in any capacity.

**Melissa Tallack**

---

## **11. GUIDES REPORT**

Abington Guides met virtually from March 2020 (twice a week during the first lockdown and summer holidays '20) in order to keep in contact with the girls and help to combat feelings of isolation and loneliness. It was also beneficial for the leaders to keep in contact with one another.

We covered a variety of different topics and worked towards a number of badges; attempted fun quizzes and scavenger hunts; had fun with origami; practised mindfulness and meditation; escaped from Escape rooms; and even held a virtual promise ceremony - a very special evening for us all.

We arranged themed programme evenings where we looked at biodiversity in our gardens; conducted experiments on dirty water to see which filtration method gave the cleanest water; looked up at the stars and tried to identify different constellations and planets;

commemorated VE Day with a virtual street party and held a sombre Remembrance evening; and had a naval training officer introduce us to Polynesian navigation, a technique used in the film, Moana.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February we celebrated Thinking Day and presented the guides with all the badges they had earned throughout 2020.

We also held a virtual campfire, singing some of our favourite songs; enjoyed 'cooking with Jilly D' baking some delicious foods including, cheese straws, sausage rolls and gingerbread. We even had a go at making our own pizzas with everyone choosing their favourite toppings.

After the 2021 May half term, we began outdoor face-to-face meetings, mainly in Abingtons churchyard. We completed a number of Unit Meeting Activities (UMAs), from making bird feeders to Tai Chi, organised a 'dark evening' and had a go at telling silhouette stories.

Loving any opportunity to visit Jubilee, we went in the summer to play water games and in the autumn to light fires, sing songs and make s'mores!

From November, Abington returned to the guide rooms, ensuring girls wore masks, kept socially distanced and used sanitiser, whilst playing games and having fun - including a dark evening with glow stick bowling, slow shutter speed photography and glow-in-the-dark noughts and crosses! We again spent time working towards skill builders and UMAs, with a few girls earning their bronze awards! If we can encourage our girls to complete interest badges, we will be able to present more bronze, a couple of silver and one gold award!

Although we only have 9 girls, they are committed, keen and enthusiastic about Girlguiding, so we will continue to offer as many opportunities as possible. We've booked a weekend camp at Jubilee camp and intend to join Swiss Bliss '23; we're going to decorate and plant pots to take to St. Christophers; learn Basic sign language; have a go at bell-boating; and work towards the First Aid skills builder!

After 103 years, through WWII and the Covid 19 Pandemic, Abington Guides is still going, providing a girl only safe space for girls to discover and grow.

**Alison, Jill, Debs, Beaney, Paige, Evelyn and Hollie**

*Abington Guides Leadership team*

---

## **12. BROWNIES REPORT**

I am pleased to report that Abington Brownies are still thriving, even after not being able to meet due to the pandemic. Girlguiding provided zoom accounts for any units, which enabled us to keep meeting for longer than the set 40 minutes online. We met most weeks, and managed to play games, (scavenger hunts were a favourite) and cover the Brownie programme. It was quite challenging though to think of different ways to adapt and keep the girls engaged for an hour or so every week. We were so pleased when we were able to return to the rooms for our meetings, and we thank the Church for enabling us to do this.

Our numbers did drop for a while due to girls reaching 10 years, and other activities and clubs resuming, and we are so pleased that we are now back up to 24 girls, who come regularly (apart from when isolating!) We have continued with the programme, giving out bronze, silver, and gold awards.

We were given the go-ahead to start residential and we took Abington and St Gregory's Brownies away to MacQueen House, at Twywell in December. It was so good to be able to offer this to the girls who gained so much from this experience. We hope to repeat this again later in the year.

**Leanne, Hannah, Jackie, Sandy, and Lucy**

Abington Brownies

---

### **13. SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

Firstly I would like to thank you every volunteer at church for their cooperation and assistance in this vitally important area of church life.

We continue to make further progress in ensuring our Safeguarding practice is in line with the advice given by Peterborough Diocese, continuing to use the Parish Dashboard system to audit how we are performing. This generates a clear 'traffic light' action plan. The results from these regular audits are reported regularly at the Safeguarding agenda item at PCC.

I continue to act as Lead Recruiter and undertake Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for people holding key roles working with children and vulnerable adults in the church. We currently have 18 volunteers with up to date DBS checks. No safeguarding concerns were raised in 2021.

In the coming year effort will be concentrated on:

- Reviewing and adopting our Safeguarding Policy and Procedure in May 2022 and making it available on the website and a copy within church;
- Completing DBS checks for all members of PCC and ensuring that the relevant training has been undertaken;
- Following Safer Recruitment practices including working on job descriptions and person specifications for all roles within the parish;
- Carrying out and recording risk assessments as appropriate when planning activities which involve children and vulnerable adults; and
- Continuing to work with the Diocese Safeguarding team

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns regarding safeguarding. Thank you.

**Esme Cushing**

Parish and Safeguarding Officer March 2022.