



Parish of St Peter & St Paul, Abington
- the Church in the Park -
Welcome to our April Newsletter 2026

Rector's Easter Greeting

Dear friends,

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

As we gather to celebrate Easter, we proclaim again the heart of our faith: that Christ has conquered death and opened for us the way to new life.

This is not only a story we remember, but a truth we are invited to live. The risen Christ meets us where we are, in our joys and in our struggles, and calls us into a life shaped by hope, renewal, and love. In him, no sorrow has the final word, and no brokenness is beyond redemption.

Throughout this Eastertide, may we continue to walk in the light of the resurrection. May our hearts be renewed with joy, and our communities filled with the peace of Christ. As we share in this good news, may we become witnesses to the hope that we have received.

With love in Christ

Jun



The Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Letter

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (John 12:24).

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

At Easter, the Church proclaims the truth at the very heart of our faith: Christ has conquered death, and through him, new life has begun. The resurrection of Jesus is not only an event remembered; it is a living reality that shapes our hope, our witness, and our shared calling as Christians. It gives us confidence – deep, unshakeable confidence – in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This hope is not abstract. We proclaim it in a world marked by deep suffering and conflict. We think of those living amid war and violence – across the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan, and in so many other places of conflict – and of the churches of the Holy Land, bearing faithful witness under immense strain. We remember all who are displaced, oppressed, or forgotten, and we renew our calling as Christians to stand with the marginalised and to serve those most in need.

In such a world, the mystery of Easter speaks with particular depth. Writing from prison, Dietrich Bonhoeffer reflected that “only a suffering God can help.” These words give us pause. They remind us that in Jesus Christ, God does not stand distant from human pain, but enters into it, bears it, and transforms it. The cross stands firm while the world changes. Empires rise and fall, cultures shift, and societies transform, yet the love of God revealed in Christ crucified and risen remains constant.

The cross and the empty tomb together tell us that suffering and death do not have the final word. Suffering and pain are penultimate; ultimate is the loving embrace of God in glory. Easter proclaims that even in the darkest places, God is at work bringing life.

At Lambeth Palace, the signs of spring offer a quiet echo of this mystery. The gardens are beginning to blossom again – what seemed dormant is now filled with colour and promise. In the courtyard, the magnolia has put on a breathtaking display, its blossoms both radiant and fleeting, a reminder of beauty held in time. Even the magnolia I recently planted has begun to flourish, a small but hopeful sign of life taking root. Yet the deeper truth to which all this points is found in the words of Jesus: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies... it bears much fruit.” The pattern of death and new life lies at the heart of the Gospel.

Easter invites each of us to entrust ourselves anew to this mystery. What in our lives, our churches, and our relationships must be surrendered so that God may bring renewal? The resurrection assures us that no act of faithful surrender is ever wasted. In the Christian East, the icon of the resurrection expresses this hope with profound beauty. Christ stands upon the broken gates of Hades, reaching down to raise Adam and Eve, and with them the whole human family. It is a vision not only of victory, but of joy: humanity lifted into the life of the triune God.

This is a hope we share across our churches. For those engaged in the work of Christian unity, the resurrection is our common foundation and calling. Our divisions, though real, do not define the final reality of the Church. The risen Christ continues to draw us to himself

and to one another, and in him we find both the courage and the confidence to walk together.

Often, this work unfolds quietly – in prayer, in friendship, in hospitality, in shared witness. Yet these small and faithful acts are seeds of a greater harvest, signs of the deeper unity we already share in Christ.

Easter calls us to live from this hope: to trust in the victory of Christ, to stand alongside those who suffer, and to bear witness with renewed confidence to the Gospel. In a wounded world, we are called to be people of resurrection – people who live not in fear, but in hope; not in despair, but in the promise of new life.

As we celebrate this holy season, may the joy of Easter renew our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our commitment to one another in Christ. And may we walk together, with confidence and hope, toward that ultimate fulfilment, when all things are made new and all creation is gathered into the loving embrace of God.

Yours in the peace of the Risen Christ,

The Most Reverend Dame Sarah Mullally

Archbishop of Canterbury

Congratulations!

It was an absolute joy and privilege to share with James, Emily, Penny, Jack and Jacob the moments of their baptism. Watching them being baptised was so moving and inspirational! Thank you so much for sharing your baptism with us. Thank you also for praying for them and supporting them. Photos will be shared at the next Newsletter.

Hands of Healing: A new Churchyard Art Project

We were delighted to commission our new churchyard art project: Hands of Healing.

This artwork, 'Hands of Healing', has been created by the artist Bob Keal, with the support of his generous donors.

The artwork invites a moment to pause and reflect, offering a sense of hope and the possibility of freedom for those who may feel held back or weighed down in life.

Christian faith tells us that God is always with us, including in our suffering. The Gospel of Jesus proclaims the release of the captives and the oppressed. Jesus said, "I came to give life – life in its fullness."

Action for Happiness offers 10 keys as practical actions anyone can use to explore ways to develop habits supporting happier and kinder lives.

God has given us the keys to our happiness, but when we struggle find those keys within ourselves, we can help and be a key for one another through listening, support, kindness, love and prayers.



Did you know that Abington Museum was one of the first places in England where mental health patients were not chained but were instead encouraged to engage with nature including walking? This was the work of Thomas Prichard who is buried in the Churchyard.

The Hands of Healing art installation, complete with unlocked chains, makes a wonderful connection from what started here centuries ago to what is still happening today.

We invite you to take a key and walk around the churchyard lawn to explore the Action for Happiness 10 Keys to Happier Living, along with some relevant bible readings

Whilst you are on the trail you have the opportunity to reflect on your own happiness, or someone who you know, and the action you, or they, can take to unlock greater happiness and “live life to the full” (John 10:10).

As you walk take a moment to notice what key resonates with you and at the end of the trail, we invite you to pause at the “Hands of Healing” sculpture. You can write your action upon your key and tie it to the sculpture mesh. We also invite you to lift your prayers to God.

You may wish to write a first name or initials onto the key (please no full names).

There are also prayer cards, available if you would like us to pray for you, anyone or anything on your happiness journey. You can also use these cards to share your story to inspire others, or let us know the actions you are going to take.

The Joint Statement: The PCC and Rector of St. Peter and St. Paul, Abington on Living in Love and Faith and Prayers of Love and Faith

We journeyed together over October and November 2025, discerning where God might be leading us in relation to the mission of the Church. We saw that our God is a God of journey, through which he invites his people to a deeper understanding of his love. We studied and discussed Scripture and science together and listened to how God's word challenges us and inspires us to grow in grace. We reflected on what it means to be the Church, the Body of Christ, in a world that is becoming increasingly polarised.

After much prayerful discernment, we, the PCC of St. Peter and St. Paul, Abington, and the Rector of Abington have come to a unanimous conclusion that God is calling us to welcome everyone of every age, class, nationality, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and background, who come seeking his blessing, guidance, comfort and forgiveness.

The blessings that we share in the Church are signs of God's mercy and grace, and not rewards for our moral perfection. When we bless someone or something, we ask for God's mercy and grace to be revealed to us through them and in them. Blessings in the Christian faith, therefore, are not a badge of honour or superiority. They are, rather, a unique way of expressing our faith in God, whose body was broken on the cross by hatred and fear, and who yet showed us that hatred and fear have not overcome love by rising again from the dead. This is what makes Christian blessing an expression of our trust that God, who overcame the power of death and hatred through his cross and resurrection, can and will make his love, forgiveness and grace known among us, despite the brokenness, fragility and complexity of our lives.

It is in this firm belief and trust in God that we make our position known publicly in regards to Living in Love and Faith and Prayers of Love and Faith. We have therefore decided to become a church that offers Prayers of Love and Faith to all who seek God's blessing and grace in their lives.

The PCC and the Rector of Abington

11th of February, 2026

Good Friday Walk of Witness



It was a joy to join with our sisters and brothers in Christ in Abington area to share our witness to the cross of Christ on Good Friday. More than 150 people gathered in the churchyard and worshipped together with a worship band. After then, everyone enjoyed fellowship with Hot Cross buns.



Thank you so much to those who made this wonderful occasion possible.

Children and Youth Ministry at Abington Church

The information in the chart below was presented to the PCC in February and shows encouraging data in regards to our work with children and young people here at Abington Church. I am so grateful for all the dedicated volunteers who support me in providing such commitment to all our young people. We are thankful to God that he blesses us with the care of all the families and young people, both in the church and the community, with whom we have contact.

We look forward to growing this ministry further and are excited about what the next few years will bring!! Here are a few recent photos taken at Junior Church, Little Fishes and Abington Youth Church.

Cathy Tinsley, Children and Youth Missioner.

Activity	Children attending in 2023	Children attending in 2024	Children attending in 2025
Junior Church <i>Number of children attending in the month of June</i>	23	31	41
Little Fishes <i>Number of children attending in the month of June</i>	77	85	95
Abington Youth Church <i>Commenced in November 2024</i>		9 at November meeting	3 at November meeting
Christingle Service	30	22	28
Crib Service	Approx. 50 children 180 in total	60 children 210 in total	45 children 176 in total
Christmas Day 10 am service	8	7	12
Easter Sunday 10 am service	14	8	12

News from Abington Park View

Liz, ably assisted by Jackie and Jane, led a service of Evening Prayer on Wednesday 11th March which was attended by sixteen residents and three family members. The theme was God's goodness and faithfulness to us. We read Psalm 36. 5-10 which talks about God's steadfast love. Verse 7 says: 'How precious is your steadfast love, O God. All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.'

The Old Testament reading was a passage from Genesis, in which God establishes a covenant with Noah, and his sons, that he will never again destroy the whole earth with a flood. He gives us the rainbow as a sign of this promise.

The New Testament reading was John 8. 12-20 where Jesus tells us that he is the Light of the World. We looked at Holman Hunt's famous painting of this and thought about what it meant for each of us to walk in the light of Christ.

We sang five hymns, including 'O Love that wilt not let me go' and 'I heard the voice of Jesus say.'

Then on 25th March, Revd Canon Jun, celebrated Holy Communion for the Feast of the Annunciation. We heard the story of how the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary with a message from God inviting her to be the mother of Jesus. She trusted God and took a great step into the unknown when she said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Luke 1.38.

The residents enjoyed singing several hymns during the service, including 'Just as I am' and 'Love Divine.'



Preachers for this month

5 Apr: Easter Day, Canon Jun Kim

12 Apr: Revd. Helen Halson

19 Apr: Bishop Andrew Proud

26 Apr: Revd. Jenny Parkin

3 May: Prester Coleman

Link with the Province of South Korea

The Diocese of Peterborough to which we belong, has a link with the province of South Korea. Bishop Andrew and Canon Jun visit Korea from 23 April until 4 May, visiting all 3 dioceses of Korea in Seouh, Daejon and Busan. Please remember them in your prayers as they share the fellowship in Christ with them on behalf of the Diocese.

Joining Parish Directory

Parish Directory is a way of keeping those who wish to parish receive news or to be contacted by the church can be kept in communication. We are now updating our Parish Directory. There is a sheet for you in the church to indicate your preferences near the entrance. Please consider joining the directory. It has a restricted circulation and owners

are asked not to share the data with anyone else. If you have any questions, please do contact Damian at dpickard@virginmedia.com.

Concert: Handel's Messiah

On Sunday April 19th at 4.00pm at Christ Church we are pleased to present a performance of the Easter music from Handel's Messiah.

The combined choirs of Abington Church, Christ Church and friends will be accompanied by the Abington String Ensemble and organ. The solos will be performed by four superb singers, students of local opera star Alison Roddy.

The performance will feature solos and choruses from Part Two, which is the dramatic heart of the work. It tells of Christ's passion, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. We shall end with the gloriously optimistic 'Hallelujah!'.

It is a combined Abington/Christ Church event with Christ Church chosen as the venue for the space available for performers and audience, together with its superb acoustic, probably the best in Northampton.

We hope that people will support the work put in by the performers to what is offered not as a concert but a part of this year's Easter worship. Everyone is invited. A donation towards Christ Church music fund is welcomed, but only if you feel able.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Sunday, April 26, after Parish Eucharist

Our APCM will take place on Sunday, 26 April after the Parish Eucharist. At the APCM, we elect the wardens and PCC members while we look back and give thanks to God for everything that he has done in, through and with us in the last year. Please do stay on to join us at the APCM. If you are responsible for your annual reports, then please do send them to Melissa, our PCC Secretary by Thursday 16 April. Thank you.

Electoral Roll revision for the APCM

Electoral Roll is a way of confirming that you are part of Abington Church Community. It also enables you to have your say in the Parish matters. If you haven't joined Electoral Roll then please speak to Douglas Rutherford, Electoral Roll Officer so that he can give you an application form. Please check if your details are update to date. The form is placed near the entrance next to Parish Directory form

Abington Library - Home Library Service

Did you know that Abington Library runs a Home Library Service?

Library books are delivered monthly by volunteers to anyone in the Abington area who can't get to the library to choose their own books.

Do you know anyone who would like to have books delivered to their home?

Please contact the library to find out more. Call in or contact the library

- email abingtoncml@gmail.com

Standing Committee and PCC

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

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

APCM: 26 April

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

Please click the title above to access the link.

Pastoral Support

We aim to support parishioners through telephone calls, texts, prayer, and pastoral visits. Home Communion is available if you are unable to get to church because of illness. If you, or anyone you know, would like someone to get in touch, please contact Liz Kelly, Lay Pastoral Minister and Anna Chaplain. Her contact details are lizmk@outlook.com and telephone 01604 636947 or 07745 604591. We offer a listening ear, someone to pray with, bereavement support, or a friendly visit.

Zoom Compline

This is a weekly service at 7.00pm on Tuesdays. The joining details are: Meeting I.D. 815 8020 8528. Passcode 409450 Please talk to Liz Kelly if you want to know more about, contact lizmk@outlook.com or telephone on 07745 604591.

Parish Newsletter Contribution

Please send your stories and photos to Revd. Jun, rector@abingtonchurch.org.uk by 23rd of each month.
