



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

Abington at large in Korea

Those first impressions on landing somewhere new are precious. For me, on this my first visit to Korea, I was struck most by the tree-covered mountains, everywhere; the ingenious use of the space between the mountains, where cities, industrial zones and farmed landscapes sat; the fact everything looked so new and clean; the confident buildings and the generous road systems; the delicious, colourful and healthy food; the strong work ethic and, of course how different the spoken and written language are.

I was there for two weeks, having just taken over chairing the formal link between our Diocese, the Diocese of Peterborough, and the Diocese of Seoul. I was also there to see if we could formalise the relationships +Donald and +John had begun to build with the two other Dioceses of the Province – Daejeon [in the centre of the country] and Busan [on the south coast].

Just as the mountains were replanted with trees after the decimation of the Korean war, covering the once bare slopes beneath, so everything you notice as a new visitor covers a history of suffering. In just a hundred years, Korea suffered both a cruel Japanese occupation and a major civil war. In that short time, South Korea grew from a being a poor, rural economy, to become one of the most successful economies in the Far East today.



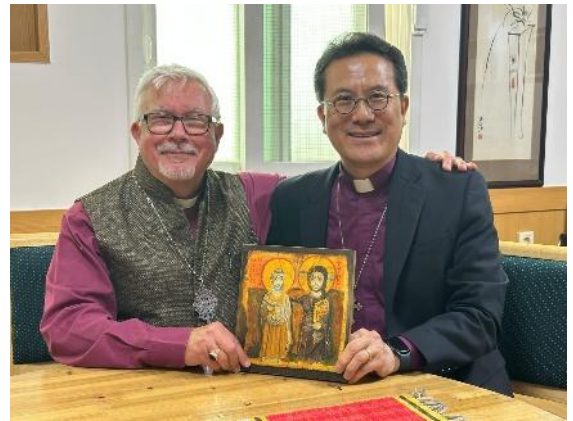
The visit was full of things I hadn't expected to find. From the second day there, I was struck by the realisation that this must be how it feels to discover family you didn't know you had.

The Anglican Church in Korea was established and settled by English missionaries, sent out by USPG, the same mission Janice and I went out to Ethiopia with in 2002. Unlike some missions, who saw their task as civilising those they came across with the values of home, USPG missionaries were more interested in seeing how the faith they brought with them could be clothed in the cultural 'clothing' of their hosts.

It was deeply moving, for me, to tread the wooden floors of some of the churches they built, using the materials and shapes of traditional Korean architecture. Just like Orthodox Ethiopia, here in Korea you take your shoes off before entering one of these churches, just as you do when you enter someone's home. To see the faces of my fellow-bishops, my USPG forebears, looking out at me from black and white photos on the walls of these churches, felt like pure gift – remembering that I am a missionary bishop, too.

There were meetings every day, and visits, with all sorts of different people. Bishops, senior Diocesan clergy; senior staff and ordinands at the Anglican University in Seoul; the Mothers' Union; the managers of Church run, government funded social projects and, of course, those delightful moments between meetings when everyone's relaxed and the air is filled with laughter – of delight and mutual recognition.

From very early on, the Anglican Church in Korea felt called to make a difference in society. Over the years, the government has placed a huge degree of trust in the Church to run social programmes on its behalf: a stunning and well-resourced service in Seoul to care for the homeless; residential homes run by professionals, caring for children who are orphaned



or have been abused at home, rehabilitation centres and centres offering life-long care to those with learning disabilities (top left). I was lucky enough to spend quality time with a number of them.



We got to do some sight-seeing, too. We visited both of the beautiful Palaces in Seoul; we walked around a beautifully reconstructed rural village on a hot Sunday afternoon; we visited city shopping centres reached by gliding the Metro (photo in the middle); and we were incredibly lucky to be able to visit the observation tower in the DMZ (top right) – to look out across the narrow straight, into North Korea.



We ate a lot of delicious food, we drank Soju and fermented rice wine, and [again] we laughed a lot. Friendships were made and I think these links stand a real chance of inspiring and refreshing faith in us all, both there and here.

They say it is often when you visit somewhere new that you see your own culture in a new light. What struck me was that Anglicans here and in Korea might be planted in different soils, yet the faith we share is tangible, visible.

As the Church here seeks to make sense of having so many beautiful, ancient buildings, the Church there is still building. A new office on prime land in beautiful Busan; a stunning, three year old Cathedral in the heart of the City of Daejeon (bottom). And just as the Church of England seeks to innovate new approaches to and styles of worship, to interest and hold the young, the curious and the hurting; there, where everything is changing so fast, all the time, they hold tight to the liturgies they inherited from us over a hundred years ago.



I came away feeling that there is potential here for this to enrich us all. There is so much we can learn from each other.

The Diocese of Busan, new to this partnership and a tiny Diocese, in terms of the number of churches and clergy, want to take things slowly – get to know each other, first, through quarterly Zoom meetings, and wait to see what emerges.

The Diocese of Daejeon (top), much larger and better resourced, would like to link with us through the Mothers' Union – virtual meetings ahead of face-to-face ones, and around the themes of caring for our young people and praying for the needs of this broken, hurting and divided world.

The link with the Diocese of Seoul, now well established, also wants to focus on young people, with a view to going away 'on mission' together – volunteering in a country where there is real poverty. Through my contacts in Ethiopia, that should not be difficult to arrange, and we are hoping to start meeting together, by Zoom, soon.

The Sungkonghoe [Anglican] University in Seoul is keen for us to explore three things: cross-cultural Bible study for ordinands and newly ordained clergy; the possibility of a retreat for ordinands; and a joint multi-disciplinary seminar on AI and its impact on our understanding of what it means to be human.

The finale of our visit was the centenary of Seoul Cathedral – a grand concert on the Saturday night premiering a new composition by Korea's most famous living composer, followed by beautiful services the next day.

I have come back feeling both inspired and encouraged – not least because it looks as if it might be possible for us to step-stone from this, on to a further link, with Korea as firm partners, with another part of the Anglican Communion. Watch this space.

+Andrew Proud



Music at 'The Church in the Park' 2026

Sunday 14th June at 3.00pm

The Hardingstone Players

**A light-hearted afternoon of
songs from the shows
and other classics**

**Donation to church funds
welcome if you are able**

In June there are two lovely musical events featuring talented members of our congregation.

At Abington on Sunday June 14th at 3.00pm, a performance by the Hardingstone Players of songs from the shows and other classics. Our own Goerge and Hodge families have long been members of this group and it promises to be an entertaining afternoon with these singers.

At Christ Church on Sunday 28th June, also at 3.00pm, a harp and sting ensemble recital by Elizabeth Groves (daughter of Amy Jones) and her friends from Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT). The acoustics at Christ Church are especially lovely for stringed instruments and this will be a wonderful opportunity to hear really high quality playing from these young performers before they head off to further their musical education.

Both these recitals are free, with donations if you feel able to church funds.

Tim Dolan, Director of Music

Children and Youth Mission Update

Abington Youth Church

On Saturday 23rd May a group of young people from the church enjoyed an evening of Crazy Golf and Food at Rushden Lakes.

The young people who were baptised on Easter Sunday - James, Emily, Jacob and Jack - were joined by Victoria, Billie, Liam, and Alicia.

We were also delighted that Jack's sister, Amber, as well two young people from Junior Church, Isla and Clarissa, joined us. It was a lovely opportunity to have some fun together and to get to know each other more.

Thank you to Stephen Lewis who also joined in with the golf, along with myself! Revd. Helen, Penny and Sally decided to opt out and enjoy a chat and a coffee!!

It is always important to strengthen Christian fellowship and we are very thankful for all those who were able to accept this invitation. A few of our young people were away, as it was half term, but hopefully they will be able to join us when we repeat such an event.



Family Fun Afternoon

Saturday 30th May, we have our first family fun afternoon at church from 2 pm to 4 pm. Everyone is invited to come along for some lovely refreshments and fellowship. There will be an opportunity to hold animals together with outdoor activities including bouncy castles. This event is free so please do invite friends and families. If you would like to help please do let me know.

Cathy Tinsley

Tel 07516979223

children@abingtonchurch.org.uk

St Peter and St Paul Abington "the church in the park" invites you to join their...



FAMILY FUN AFTERNOON

in the churchyard and church

Saturday 30th May
From 2 pm to 4 pm
including Lucia's Tiny Farm



Bouncy castle
for the children

Open to
everyone
and free to
enjoy!

Tea, coffee,
squash and
cake
available



For more information, or to contact us,
please see details on our website

www.abingtonchurch.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you.



News from Abington Park View

The Songs of Praise Service on 6 May was devoted to animals of all kinds: wild animals, farm animals, working animals, and pets. We listened to readings from chapter 1 of Genesis about God creating the animals, and from John's Gospel, where Jesus is described as the Good Shepherd. We also heard about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday.

We reminisced about pets we'd had and marvelled at how clever Guide Dogs are as we looked at photos of them in training. We enjoyed stroking the soft toy animals and the star of the show was Flossie, a lovely little dog that joined in the service. Here is a photo of her (top). And here are some of the other animals we talked about (bottom).



Our second visit of the month was on 20 May when Liz brought home communion to those who wished to receive it. We celebrated Pentecost a few days early and heard the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit from the Acts of the Apostles. All of the hymns we sang were on the same theme and included, 'Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost' and 'Breathe on me breath of God.'



New Sermon Series: Finding Faith in Facing Giants: Sun 14 June – 26 July

We are pleased to announce our new upcoming sermon series: Finding Faith in Facing Giants. Life sometimes can feel quite challenging. We live in a world that is more worrying and anxiety inducing. Scary giants are not just out there but within us as well. What does our faith tell us about facing our own giants? Please do join us as we explore ways to grow together to live our life, choosing faith over fear. The series starts on Sunday the 14th of June and finishes on 26th of July.

Finding Faith in Facing Giants

*Discovering the promise and hope
of God in times of challenges*

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP & REFLECTION • ALL ARE WELCOME

SERMON SERIES SCHEDULE

- 14 JUNE** **When you face your giants**
by Canon Jun
- 21 JUNE** **Faith over Fear**
by Canon Jun
- 28 JUNE** **Patronal Festival**
Celebration Service
- 5 JULY** **No one is forgotten**
by Liz Kelly (Anna Chaplain)
- 12 JULY** **Children and Mental Health**
by Revd. Helen (Curate)
- 19 JULY** **Do not be anxious**
by Dr. David Smart (Action for Happiness)
- 26 JULY** **The final gift**
by Revd. Jenny Parkin

Ordination of Helen: Saturday 27th of June, 4 pm

Please remember Helen as she prepares to be ordained as Priest at Peterborough Cathedral on Saturday the 27th of June. Her first Eucharist as Priest will be on Sunday the 28th of June where we will mark our Patronal Festival. More details to follow.

Parish Quiz: Fri 12 June, 7 pm start

The annual parish quiz this year will be held in the parish rooms on Friday 12th June (6.30pm for 7pm start).

Ticket price is £10 and includes a two course meal.

Teams of four with prize available for the winning team.

Don't worry if you are not part of a team, there will be teams to join on the night! A sign up sheet is available at the back of the church.

Summer Fete – Saturday 4th July 2-4pm

Donations required

The fete crates are now in the porch ready for your donations of the following items:

Raffle prizes

Tombola prizes

Bottles of wine (red or white) for the bottle stall

Second hand toys, books, hand jewellery items in good condition

Bric a brac and nearly new items - please no electrical items or knives

Please give generously and make this year's fete the best ever!

Please put your name on the sign-up sheet if you can help in any way. Thank you!

Lent Charities

During Lent, across the collections, card readers and Lent lunch we raised the total of £1,353.70 for our two Lent Charities, Christian Aid and Baby Basics.

Once gift aid is added and the amount is rounded up, we have a total of £1,650 - enabling us to donate £825 to each charity. These amounts have been paid out this week. Thank you so much for your generosity!

The Church Rooms Car Park

Many of you know that the Church Rooms are located on the corner of Park Avenue North and Ashburnham Road. We are fortunate that there is a sizable car park attached to the Rooms.

It has been suggested that white parking lines are painted in the car park creating 14 parking bays and one disabled bay. Certainly, this would be very advantageous when the car park is busy, for example on Mondays when 'Little Fishes' meet and for other church events at the Rooms.

A quote for this work has been obtained for £760 plus VAT.

The work has not been included in this year's church budget. Therefore, it has been suggested that we might ask if individuals and families would like to contribute to this scheme. If 14 people/families donated £60 each, the cost of the work would be almost covered!

If this is something that you would like to support, donations would be gratefully received. Payments can be paid online (please let us know if you wish to pay this way) or by cash in the pre-labelled envelopes at the back of the church. Either give your donation to Cathy Tinsley or put it in the wall safe in church.



Thank you so much for any support you can give.

Preachers for this month

7th June – Trinity – Revd Helen Halson

14th June – Sermon Series runs until 26th of July

Standing Committee and PCC

SC: 24 June, 16 Sep, 18 Nov.

PCC: 8 July, 30 Sep, 25 Nov.

[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 Canon Jun, rector@abingtonchurch.org.uk by 23rd of each month.
