



# The Abingtons and Hildersham News



[www.theabingtons.org.uk](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk)

May 2024



*Photo by Leonard Mead*

**Abington residents, human and canine, wished a happy retirement to Patsy, our ever-cheerful Post Lady (see p. 7)**

Village information (continued on page 19)

	<b>Address</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Contributions for the News to:</b>		
Sally Simmons (Editor)	news@theabingtons.org.uk	
<b>Village website</b>	<b>www.theabingtons.org.uk</b>	
<b>Churches</b>		
Church of England Revd Iain McColl Revd Ben Brady	Balsham Rectory mccoll.iain@gmail.com revdbenbrady@btinternet.com	890 693 344 920
Roman Catholic Canon John Minh (Sawston) Revd Fr Philip John (Ch. Hinton)	john.minh@yahoo.com sphparishcambridge@gmail.com	832 397 211 235
St Edmund's Orthodox Church Rev Andrew Phillips	14 High St. Little Abington	07745298266
<b>Parish Councils</b>		
<b>Great Abington</b>		
Tony Orgee (Chairman)	8 Bourn Bridge Road	891 464
Mak Makwana	Gtabingtonstores@gmail.com	
Jill Carter	25 Meadow Walk	892 718
Stephen McDonnell	stephen@mcdonnell.uk.com	
Risa Nagasaki	risa_nagasaki@outlook.com	
Louise Patten	87 High Street	892 053
Jane Bowen	8a Chalky Road	893 182
Paula Harper (Parish Clerk)	17 Lewis Crescent harper802@btinternet.com	892 000
<b>Little Abington</b>		
<b>www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk</b>		
Sheila Bolden (Chairman)	Cllr.sbolden@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
Matthew Appleton	Cllr.mappleton@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
Risa Nagasaki	Cllr.rnagasaki@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
Richard Smith	Cllr.rsmith@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
Viia Valge-Archer	Cllr.vvalge-archer@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
Suzanne Pattinson	Cllr.spattinson@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
Jessica Ashbridge (Parish Clerk)	Clerk@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk	
<b>Hildersham</b>		
<b>www.hildersham.org.uk/parish.htm</b>		
Mark Logan (Chairman)	Marklogan386@gmail.com	891 897
David Mercer	manorfarm@globalnet.co.uk	
Rob Clay	robclay03@gmail.com	07801191933
Darren Long	dgl@yahoo.com	890 969
Billie Chapman	billie.chapman@tiscali.co.uk	
Paula Harper (Parish Clerk)	harper802@btinternet.com	892 000
<b>SCDC and CCC Councillors</b>		
<b>For the Abingtons and Hildersham</b>		
Henry Batchelor(CCC)	Henrybatchelor89@gmail.com	892 111
John Batchelor(SCDC)	1 The Maltings, Linton	892 111

**Don't forget: Police Numbers 999 for emergencies, otherwise 101.**

**The May 2024 issue of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* is printed by E & E Plumridge Ltd. of Linton. Printing costs have been met by BioMed Realty, joint owners of Granta Park.**

## From the Editor

Every time I put the *The Abingtons and Hildersham Village News* together I am struck by how much is going on in our villages, not least the regular weekly and monthly meetings of clubs and groups that, with a very few exceptions, take place all year round. This month there are four pages of announcements and reports (pages 10–13). If you would like to let people know more about your club or group and the activities and events you organise – and perhaps attract more members – please think about sending an item (with a photo if possible) to [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk).

This month there is both good and not so good news. Not so good is the damage that was done by intruders to both the churches in Great and Little Abington in April, the sort of event that triggers anxiety, sadness and anger among residents. But even here good news can be found in the response from people in the villages, churchgoers and otherwise, who have raised in excess of £4,000 to go towards repairs, particularly the specialist work that will be needed for the Millennium Window in St Mary's Little Abington (see pages 4 and 9). Meanwhile, an unqualified happy occasion was the Love Abington Spring Hub on 13 April that celebrated the retirement of Patsy Randall from her long career in the postal service (see pages 7 and 17). Thank you for the many photos of the event that were sent in – I'm sorry that I couldn't include far more.

There is one significant deadline this month – Thursday 16 May for orders for domestic heating oil, organised once again by Ian Richardson (see page 8). Thanks to Ian for undertaking this and enabling so many to benefit from the savings on a bulk order.

Sally Simmons

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All items for the June 2024 edition of *The Abingtons and Hildersham News* should be sent to the editor no later than Wednesday 15 May 2024 at [news@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:news@theabingtons.org.uk).

## From the Seven Churches

It has been a privilege to serve you as a curate for the 18 months I have been here. There have been moments of joy that I have been able to share with people and when life has felt that little bit cruel, to be there with people as they shed tears. Ministry is a privilege, and it has been all mine for the taking, which I give thanks to God for.

Through the fullness of time, I have come to understand that these villages are more than just villages, they are communities. In the difficult times especially, they come together, pull together to help people out – what an amazing thing.

In the Bible, in Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Chapter 19, he tells the congregation that he's going to send Timothy to them to give them encouragement and support. Timothy played his part in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Paul said that Timothy "proved himself", in other words he was authentic. Timothy was genuine; he was a tried and tested Christian; he was the real thing. I hope and pray that during my time here, I have been the real thing, authentic in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

The time has come for me to move on and be a Vicar of a church in Hertfordshire, which I look forward to. All that I have learnt here in my ministry will come with me and be built upon in the years to come. Some may say that rural ministry is far from the high life but I disagree and I am thankful that this has been my life. And with a note of hope and a strong "amen" I thank God that I am able to begin again in the next step of my ministry.

This isn't about closing a book on my time here as curate but to end a chapter, not to say a final goodbye but rather farewell just for now. So, on that note, I say a heartfelt thank you, and with all my heart God bless you. "For all that has been, thank you, for all that will be, yes!"

Revd Ben Brady

## News from the Pews

Last month's News from the Pews focused on thanking everyone who helps to run our churches in various ways. This thanks now extends to the wider community who have so generously given money to repair our churches following the damage due to mindless vandalism. Almost all the money will be used to repair the beautiful Millennium window in Little Abington church. It is heartwarming to be reminded how much our community cares about its churches. This community also extends to Granta Park, which held a cake stall for our two churches. We offer sincere thanks to the people who work at the Park for organising and attending this event and a special thank you to the Apiary staff for making the cakes (see page 18). **Please note that our churches will remain open during daylight hours.** There is never any cash left in the churches, nor anything of significant value.

The PCC Annual General Meeting took place on 24 April. If you were unable to attend the meeting and would be willing and interested to join the PCC, please contact Revd Iain McColl or Graham Ross (churchwarden).

### **Open Gardens Saturday 22 June – save the date!**

Several lovely gardens will open in June in aid of the village churches. However, we need more gardens in Little Abington. Please contact Mary Miles (891 083) or Marilyn Broadhurst (893 214) if you are interested in taking part. Programmes will be on sale in May.

### **Remembering Elsie Nunn**

Elsie's daughter-in-law Janet writes: Elsie Nunn has sadly died at the age of 99 years, 11 months and 19 days. I and her extended family would like to thank all those who attended her funeral and sent us cards and messages of support. Elsie spent the majority of her life here in Abington, attending the village school and starting her working life in domestic service. During the Second World War she worked at Spicers in Sawston and married Graham at the end of the war in 1945. She had Brian and left work to bring him up, after which she spent 19 years working in the canteen at TWI, where many people will remember her. Graham died in 1998. Elsie enjoyed the Forget Me Not (Tuesday) Club and the monthly village lunches. She had a wonderful memory and anyone wanting to know what went on in the village in the past used to go to her. She was not happy when she had to leave her home but was glad when people from the village visited her. She will be much missed by all who knew her.

## Hildersham Church News

### Children's Church Council

We began our April meeting armed with mallets ready to position the posts for our illustrated information boards for the churchyard. These will tell visitors where to look for our bird and insect homes and the areas we keep for wild flowers.

Our evening was one of much discussion as usual with lots of planning for future events, most importantly the Spring Tea Party. The children were keen to arrange events for the party so we do hope you will come and join us and share the things they have planned.

We are also asking readers to donate their old (preferably brightly coloured) ties as we plan to make some Father's Day bunting. If you do have unworn ties in your wardrobe, please leave them in the box at the back of Hildersham Church.

### Spring Tea Party and Church Open Day, Saturday 18 May, 2.30–4.30pm

Have you seen our beautiful wall paintings? Would you like to know more about them? Then do come along to learn more with a short talk from Keith Day. Do you know the mystery of the unknown grave? We will answer that question too. Try some brass rubbing on our brasses, which are many hundreds of years old. Younger visitors can race around the churchyard on a scavenger hunt and receive a medal on completion or, if they are feeling creative, make their own. Local cards and homemade jams will be on sale and of course there will be lots of homemade cake to enjoy with your tea while you sit with your village friends.

### Creative Church!



10.00am–10.45am at Abington Institute, 19 May 2024

What is your deepest desire? Come on a treasure hunt with Hannah Threlfall and Rosemary Mead – storytelling, crafts, songs and food.

*No charge.* For all ages – families, friends and community.

### Christian Aid Week 12–18 May

During Christian Aid Week, gift envelopes will be delivered to all households. This year all are invited to support the work of Christian Aid to help the people of Burundi push back against the inhumanity of poverty and to build a better future. One way of doing this is to provide community-based training so that families can build reliable and diverse incomes that bring them food security, better health, safer homes, increased resilience and hope. Thank you for your support.

### PTFA

#### Summer Fayre, Friday 14 June

Preparations for the Summer Fayre are well under way and we look forward to inviting you to the big event. We will be collecting items for raffle prizes soon, so if you would like to donate anything, your contributions would be much appreciated. We are also looking for volunteers to help with running stalls, setting up and clearing away after the event. If you could spare half an hour of your time to man a stall or help out it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact one of the PTFA members during school drop-off or collection, or email one of our joint chairs (Kirsty Badcock or Katie Manion) at [ptfa@greatabington.school](mailto:ptfa@greatabington.school).

#### School lottery

Our lottery is open to all in the village. Tickets are £1 each and the draw takes place weekly on Saturday evenings. Each week there is a £25k jackpot up for grabs as well as a guaranteed cash prize for one lucky winner within our community. Forty per cent of the value of our ticket sales goes directly to the school, so it's a win-win for all! Take part today by copying this link into your browser, <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/great-abington-primary-school>, or if you're not online, call 01865 582 828.

Joanna Chapman

## Ukrainian Community in Abington

There are nine Ukrainians living with six host households in Abington. However, there is still a great need for hosts to support new requests from Ukraine and anyone interested in hosting should contact South Cambs Homes for Ukraine: text ROOM to 88802. Information is also available from HFULiasion@cambs.gov.uk, tel. 01954 713411 and South Cambs District Council (scambs.gov.uk – search Spare Rooms for People from Ukraine).

Anyone in the Abingtons and Hildersham who is interested in hosting or would like further information can contact the following local hosts for an informal conversation:

Nick and Julia Rumble, 07732 647 752 and njcambs@gmail.com

Marilyn Broadhurst, 07855 182 726 and broadhurstmarilyn@gmail.com

Jane Furlow, 07745 046 921 and jane.furlow@gmail.com

Specifically, there is a need for hosts for a young woman and a mother and two sons who are in danger in their current locations in Ukraine. A mother and son also need independent accommodation in the Sawston/Abington area.

Moving on to create a new home means there is a need for household items and thanks are due to the Abington and Hildersham villagers who have been so supportive. Some Ukrainians who are moving on are challenged by the UK choice of suppliers, especially among the many utility companies, because in Ukraine there is one supplier for utilities. Advice and support from neighbours would be helpful. Associated with moving on, there is a need for employment to pay the costs of running an independent household. If anyone knows of any job opportunities that would suit Ukrainians please contact me.

Based on the Love Abington model, some WhatsApp groups have been created that facilitate support for the Ukrainian communities and hosts in 11 villages around Abington.

Seasonal clothing can be donated at the Ukrainian Clothing Hub in Sawston Free Church on Fridays between 4.00pm and 6.00pm.

The Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies are providing support both in Ukraine and Europe. If anyone would like to donate to the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal or offer any kind of support please contact me.

Anton King tel. 891 514

### Balsham Singers Spring Concert

Directed by John Clenaghan and accompanied by Ralph Woodward

Holy Trinity Church, Balsham, Saturday 18 May 2024 at 7.30pm

Music by Fauré, Bruckner and Stanford and medleys from *West Side Story* and *The Little Shop of Horrors*.

Adults £12, under-16s £1, to include refreshments. Charity raffle.

Tickets available online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/balshamsingers) or from Balsham and Abington Post Offices



## The Abington Lunch

Thursday 23 May 2024

Fruit juice

Pasta bake

Seasonal vegetables

Sticky toffee pudding

Tea or coffee



Please book your meal on 07817 517 871. Leave your name and telephone number with your message before noon on **Tuesday 21 May**. Don't forget to tell us if you need a special diet. Doors open at **12.45pm**. Note that the lunch is open to **ALL** Abington and Hildersham residents. Guests only by special arrangement. **Only £5. Next lunch: Thursday 27 June 2024.**

## Love Abington Spring Hub



On a beautiful spring afternoon in April, the village community joined together with Patsy Randall and her family to celebrate her retirement as the village 'postie' after 36 years. It was a joyous occasion with plenty of tea and cake to enjoy. Hazel Webb baked a personal commemorative cake for our renowned postie (see cover photo).

Patsy was far more than a postwoman. She always had time to talk with people and greeted everyone with a smile. Tony Orgee, chair of Great Abington Parish Council, and Sheila Bolden, chair of Little Abington Parish Council, presented Patsy with two notebooks containing messages of gratitude, a beautiful, engraved wooden plate crafted by Glyn Hall and a John Lewis token, thanks to the generosity of the village community. David Simmons arranged a slide show from the Abington dog community. Patsy was presented with a poster of photographs and stories from her canine friends who miss her daily presence on the streets where they live. Many people in the village donated flowers, which were transformed into a number of beautiful arrangements by Freda Orgee.

Following the presentation, Patsy thanked everyone for their kindness and generosity and expressed her delight to have been the postie for such a wonderful community. Thank you to everyone who supported this happy occasion.

Rosemary Mead

*Turn to page 17, Delivered with Love, to read Patsy's thanks for her special day.*



*Photo: Leonard Mead*

## **WI Plant and Cake Stall Saturday 11 May, 9.30-11.00am outside Abington Village Institute**

Abington Women's Institute  
is selling locally grown plants  
and homemade cakes and produce.

Come and buy quality plants for your garden and delicious home bakes  
at bargain prices.

# District and County Councillors' Reports April 2024

*Editor's note: please see the online version of the News for complete live links to Council websites.*

## **Zero Carbon Communities Grant**

The popular Zero Carbon Communities grant from South Cambs District Council is now open again <https://southcambsweb.azurewebsites.net/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant>. Community groups, as well as Parish Councils, can apply for funding for green and sustainable energy projects. The deadline for applications is 2 June, so don't hang around.

## **Rural Prosperity Fund**

This is a new fund from central government, facilitated by the District Council, that is aimed to support local businesses in rural communities. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>. It's worth taking a look at if you are looking for funding for a project or you're a local business looking to expand and progress. Applications opened on 8 April and when the money is gone, it's gone!

## **Local Elections**

There is only one local election this year, for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire. This doesn't get a huge amount of media coverage but is nevertheless an important role, so please do take the time to research the candidates and, if you can, vote.

At some point this year there will also be a general election, with much more media coverage!

## **Solar Farm Proposal**

Kingsway Solar, the company proposing the new solar farm between the A11 and West Wrating/Balsham, has now given an informal presentation to local residents. The plans lacked some of the detail that people wanted to see at this stage but, as the applicants said at the meeting, the plans could change before a formal planning application is submitted. Other than the information that was presented at the meeting in March, there is still nothing tangible to link you to, other than West Wrating Parish Council's own write up of the event at [https://westwrating.org.uk/parish\\_council-planning-applications/solar-farm/](https://westwrating.org.uk/parish_council-planning-applications/solar-farm/).

## **Civil Parking Enforcement**

The County Council now has traffic wardens patrolling South Cambridgeshire. They have a list of problem areas in each of our villages, supplied by Henry with support from your Parish Councils, but if anyone feels that there are specific areas where illegal parking really is an issue, do let him know directly.

## **Cambridge 2040/2050**

In the Spring Statement we heard that the government is pressing ahead with its plans to make Cambridge an economic development hub for the science and tech sector. The catch to attract companies to move to our area is to build about 150,000 houses around Cambridge to make this proposal more sustainable. The current idea is to set up a development corporation to manage this, of which, currently, local authorities won't be a part. SCDC, Cambridge City and the County Council are still fighting "to stay at the table", if this does progress.

## **Contact details**

District Council – John Batchelor – [johndbatchelor23@gmail.com](mailto:johndbatchelor23@gmail.com)

District and County Council – Henry Batchelor – [henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)

## **Community Oil Order**

Ian Richardson will take orders for domestic heating oil up to the end of Thursday 16 May. The order will be placed on Friday 17 May, with expected delivery by the end of the month. Please provide Ian with the quantity of oil you require, your name, address, postcode and telephone number. Please email [abingtonoil@icloud.com](mailto:abingtonoil@icloud.com) or phone 07592 731 591.



# Church Vandalism



In his contribution to the popular bedside book, *Abington 2000 AD – Celebrating the Millennium*, the churchwarden Patrick Daunt concluded: “For the Millennium we are ... hoping to raise enough money for a commemorative stained glass window.”

Thanks to the huge efforts of Patrick and the parishioners this hope was realised and in due course our wonderful Millennium Window, designed and created by the late Gerald Paxton of Burford, was installed. And for nigh on a quarter of a century we have all been privileged to be able to enjoy a beautiful work of art. If you have not already done so I recommend that you take time to visit Little Abington Church – it is always open – to see for yourself. Just as Cambridge

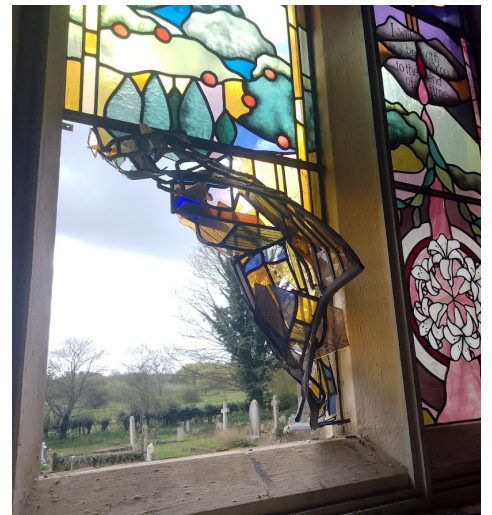
residents can become blasé about the marvellous architecture of the city, so we as an Abington congregation can become too familiar with Millennium Window, but you have only to meet a visitor to the church and to hear their reaction to be reminded of how lucky we are to have it. The design is striking and the south-facing window acts like a magic lantern slide, so that when the sun shines a shimmering kaleidoscope of colours is thrown onto the far wall of the church – and occasionally onto the grey hair of the congregation.

Sadly, as most of you will know, the window was recently severely damaged during a clumsy overnight break-in. Two other plain windows in the church were broken first but since the holes made were too small to allow entry, the robber switched his attention to an easier option. The external Perspex sheeting that protects the stained glass against bird strike, or perhaps a vandal's stone, is not proof against determined assault. With the Perspex gone, one of the nine panels of the window was then entirely destroyed as the robber pushed his way through. Once inside he broke into the charity box – the target of his assault – but since this is emptied regularly and never has very much in it, it is doubtful he got anything. Much damage for little or no reward.

Our aim now is to restore the window to its former glory. We have contacted several stained-glass studios and are in the process of choosing one to do the work. We have all the original glass and the lead from the damaged panel but most of it will not be usable – it will, however, provide a guide and a match for the replacement glass. This will not be done quickly, of course, since it is more like restoring a damaged painting than replacing a pane of glass.

As you can read on page 4, Great Abington church has also been subject to a recent attempted robbery, though fortunately the damage was relatively slight. This has all been a great shock to us but there has been one gleam of light. At Miles Craven's suggestion we launched a Just Giving appeal and the response has been absolutely overwhelming, not merely because of the amount raised – about £4,000 – but because of people's reaction to the two incidents. We have also benefited from a generous donation from the Sports & Social Club, which raised £160, and from a Bake Sale held at The Apiary on Granta Park, which brought in nearly £300. These incidents have been seen as an assault not just on church property but on part of our community and it is gratifying to be reminded that the churches are still viewed as being part of the community. Remember that they are indeed your churches and that you are always welcome to visit both Little and Great Abington churches at any time.

We will keep you informed of how the repairs are going but in the meantime our heartfelt thanks to all of you who donated so generously to the appeal. Graham Ross, churchwarden



## Diary for May 2024

Date	Venue: Abington Institute unless stated	Time	Page	
Wed	1	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	2	Walking Group	9.50am	13
		Junior Darts – Social Club	5.00pm	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	3	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Mon	6	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
Tue	7	Physio Pilates	9.00am	11
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Jeremiah's Café Spring Tea	2.30pm	16
		Reading Group – see page 11 for venue	7.30pm	11
Wed	8	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	11
Thu	9	Junior Darts – Social Club	5.00pm	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
		Little Abington Parish Council	7.00pm	15
Fri	10	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
Sat	11	WI Plant & Cake Sale	9.30am	7
		Darts League Final – Social Club	7.30pm	13
Mon	13	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	10.00am	11
		Physio Pilates	1.15pm	11
Tue	14	Mobile Library, Hildersham	9.40am	16
		Art Group	10.00am	19
		Tuesday Club	2.00pm	12
Wed	15	Yoga course and drop-in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12
Thu	16	Community Oil Order – deadline		12
		Craft Group	1.30pm	13
		Junior Darts – Social Club	5.00pm	13
		Granta Vale Harmony	7.30pm	12
Fri	17	Low-impact Aerobics	9.30am	11
		Pilates	10.30am	11
		Film Nights (doors open 7.00pm)	7.30pm	12
Sat	18	Walking Group	9.50am	13
		Hildersham Spring Tea Party and Church Open Day – Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham	2.30pm	5
		Birthday Party and Singer – Social Club	8.00pm	13
		Balsham Singers Spring Concert – Holy Trinity Church, Balsham	7.30pm	6
Sun	19	Creative Church	10.00am	5
Mon	20	Baby & Toddler Group – Pre-school building	9.30am	12
		Social Cycling – meet at 1 Bourn Bridge Road	10.00am	12
Tue	21	Art Group	9.30am	19
		Gardening Club outing	1.30pm	12
Wed	22	Yoga – course and drop-in	9.30am	11
		Line Dancing	1.00pm	12

Thu	23	<b>Abington Lunch (doors open)</b> <b>Junior Darts – Social Club</b> <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	12.45pm 5.00pm 7.30pm	6 13 12
Fri	24	<b>Low-impact Aerobics</b> <b>Pilates</b>	9.30am 10.30am	11 11
Mon	27	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group – Pre-school building</b> <b>Physio Pilates</b>	9.30am 1.15pm	12 11
Tue	28	<b>Mobile Library, the Abingtons</b> <b>Art Group</b> <b>Tuesday Club</b> <b>Scrabble Club</b>	9.40am 10.00am 2.00pm 7.00pm	16 19 12 11
Wed	29	<b>Yoga – course and drop-in</b> <b>Line Dancing</b>	9.30am 1.00pm	11 12
Thu	30	<b>Social Club Junior Darts</b> <b>Granta Vale Harmony</b>	5.00pm 7.30pm	13 12
Fri	31	<b>Low-impact Aerobics</b> <b>Pilates</b>	9.30am 10.30am	11 11

For details of contacts for all the clubs and events listed in the Diary, please see the inside back cover of the *News*, or the pages on which the relevant articles appear.

**Institute bookings:** contact by email: [institute@theabingtons.org.uk](mailto:institute@theabingtons.org.uk).

**Jeremiah’s Café: Opening times in May 2024**

Thursday lunchtime 11.30am–1.30pm (2, 9, 16, 30; **Lunch 23 – see page 8 for menu**)

Friday morning 8.45am–11.00am (3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

Saturday mornings 10.00am–12 noon (4, 11, 18, 25)

**Contacts for Café:** [helenstchowe@btinternet.com](mailto:helenstchowe@btinternet.com) and [helen.rogers.uk@gmail.com](mailto:helen.rogers.uk@gmail.com)

**Wheelie bin dates for May 2024 (Abingtons and Hildersham)**

Wed 1	Wed 8	Wed 15	Wed 22	Wed 29
Green/Blue	Black	Green/Blue	Black	Green/Blue

**Yoga – Wednesdays, 9.30am**

Contact Joan 890 629 or email [joangraham72@gmail.com](mailto:joangraham72@gmail.com) if you would like to drop in.

**Pilates for Beginners**

A new course starting on **Tuesday 4 June** at 7.00pm in the Village Institute. All equipment provided.

Contact Liz Kirk on 07903 079853 to book your place (£9 per session, bookable by the month).

**Aerobics and Pilates –Fridays, (Aerobics, 9.30am; Pilates, 10.30am & 11:45am.**

Aerobics, toning and stretching, exercises to raise your heart rate and tone your body, fun and friendly. Pilates will help to alleviate back pain, improve core strength, posture and flexibility.

Aerobics is pay as you go; Pilates please book for five weeks.

Contact Disa Bennett on 07798 754 029 or [www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.com](http://www.zumbaandpilatescambridge.com).

**Physio-led Face to Face Pilates – Mondays, 1.15–3.20pm**

Beginners 5-week course, 1.15–2.15 (max. 6 participants; £70 non-refundable). Intermediate 5-

week course, 2.20–3.20 (max. 10 participants; £70 non-refundable). Christiana Heinz

[cambridgepilates@outlook.com](mailto:cambridgepilates@outlook.com).

### **Line Dancing – Wednesdays, 1pm–2.30pm (term time)**

Qualified line dance instructor, Lisa Mason, now runs drop-in classes suitable for all ages and welcomes beginners to intermediate level. Bring a drink and suitable shoes. Contact [lisa.lmsd@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.lmsd@gmail.com) or tel. 07958 788 292.

### **Scrabble Club**

The next meeting of the Scrabble group will be on Tuesday 28 May at 7.00pm in the Institute. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and new members are very welcome. Sheena Fraser

### **Social Cycling**

Unfortunately, we had to postpone our April ride due to rain, hail and high winds, but on 22 April five riders covered 22 miles through Hinxton, Duxford, Chrishall Grange, Elmdon and Ickleton. Beautiful country, plus a corn bunting and lesser whitethroat serenade. The next foray will be Monday 20 May at 10.00am leaving from 1 Bourn Bridge Road. Let's hope for some warmer weather.

Gaynor Farrant

### **Abington Gardening Club**

There is no meeting in May but there is a visit to Madingley Hall Gardens on Tuesday 21 May. Please call me if you would like to come or for more information or a copy of the visit programme.

Kay Harman, Secretary, tel. 891 730 email: [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com)

### **Granta Vale Harmony**

Granta Vale Harmony is a mixed *a capella* singing group. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Abington Institute, and anyone is welcome to join in. Contact Peter Lester, tel. 07884 932 215 or email [haverhi11@talktalk.net](mailto:haverhi11@talktalk.net).

### **Abington Pre-School Baby and Toddler Group**

This Group is open **every Monday** morning (term time only) 9.30–11.30am, in the Abington Annexe building at the bottom of the Primary School playground. No need to book in advance. £2 per family, light snack and drinks provided. Please bring a water bottle for your child, a cup with a lid for parent beverages and a child between 0–4 years old. Tel. 894 246 (Abington Annexe Office) or email [abingtonannexoffice@gmail.com](mailto:abingtonannexoffice@gmail.com) for more information.

### **The Tuesday Club**

Our first meeting this month will be at 2.00pm on 14 May when we will have a visiting speaker, Adrian Tindall, to give a talk entitled "A Handsome Little Town – A virtual tour of Bury St Edmunds". On 28 May, at 2.00pm, Joan Nevin will run through some chair exercises that will help keep us fit. We look forward to meeting old and new members. A first visit will be free. Contact me for any further details of our friendly group. Jenny Milns (tel. 89252)

### **Reading Group**

14 May	<i>House of Doors</i> Tan Twan Eng	Anna Heron
11 June	<i>The Island of Missing Trees</i> Elif Shafak	Sue Batty
9 July	<i>The Funny Thing about Norman Foreman</i> Julietta Henderson	Sylvia Gilmour

We will meet at 7.30pm at Anna's to discuss *House of Doors*. Please confirm attendance to Anna and copy me in.

Valerie Hefford

## Abington Craft Group

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16 May. Bring your own project. Based on the success of our recent workshop, we are planning another for November, date and project to be confirmed. For further information, please contact Glynis Brookman tel. 07970 614 194 or email [glynis.brookman@btinternet.com](mailto:glynis.brookman@btinternet.com).

## Film Nights

FILM NIGHTS at the Abington Institute: 17 May, 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm). This will be our final screening of the season but we will be back in September. For more information please visit <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/> where you can subscribe to Film Night updates.

## Social Club

Our fundraiser for the church raised £310 in total, so a big thank you to all who attended and supported the event. We have several events planned for May. Every Thursday, 5.00–8.00pm is Junior Darts Night. The Darts League Final takes place at 7.30pm on 11 May and on 18 May, 8.00–11.00pm, we have a soul to rock & roll singer, Dave Albion, for a joint birthday party. All welcome.

## Abington Walking Group



Our last walks were to Chrishall and Sturmer. Your May walks will be on Thursday 2 and Saturday 18 May. If you would like to know in advance where we will be walking, please join our WhatsApp group. The walks, which are normally about five miles, start from the Institute at 10.00am by shared transport to the walk venue.

We do try and walk all year. Please contact us for a list of all the rest of the walk dates for 2024. Look forward to seeing you. For further information please contact: Robin Harman [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com), Genevieve Dalton [gdalton365@gmail.com](mailto:gdalton365@gmail.com).

## Abington & Hildersham Women's Institute

Our April talk title did not prepare us for an extraordinary evening's entertainment with Iestyn Edwards. He entered as his alter ego Madame Galina, the Prima Ballerina, wearing a blonde wig and hairnet, a frock of many doilies (tutu), a coat of many colours, white tights and wellies (to prevent bites from camel spiders) and began to tell us about his experiences as an entertainer to Marines in Iraq. He hated the heat, the tents, the gym and having to wear a helmet and body armour. His role was to boost the soldiers' morale after flak attacks, when communications went down and there was no Internet. He had us in stitches with his stories, performed ballet dance and pirouettes while we sang "Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do" and accompanied himself on the keyboard singing the moving Ivor Novello song "Fly home, little heart" with a wonderful baritone voice.

Dental Health Matters was voted nationally as the Resolution to be debated at the NFWI AGM in June – see WI Life magazine for more information.

On Saturday 11 May, 9.30–11.00am, we are holding a Plant and Cake Stall outside the Village Institute. Please bring contributions you have baked, preserved or potted up. Bring a friend, too! On Monday 20 May the WI Group meeting is at 7.30pm at West Wickham Village Hall: "A History of Cambridge in Maps" by Dr Seppe Cassetari. There will be light refreshments. Marilyn Broadhurst

## Abington Bowls Club



The 2024 season is upon us. The trouble is, so is the weather. Bowling greens are delicate and injudicious treatment early on can have season-lasting effects. The ground is so soft after all this year's rain that it is difficult for our greenkeeper, Roy Mallows, to get it ready for the new season without denting it. Bowling greens can suffer from the runs – shallow trenches that hold the bowls on a false line – which can be made

by green-keeping equipment when the ground is soft. So we have arranged for our five early season games to be played away, so the green will have more time to harden up before our first home game on 21 May. We play in three team competitions, the Cambridge and District League (Div 3) and the Business House League (Open Div 2) & BHL (Men). The season kicks off with a BHL match at Fulbourn on 2 May. The opening C&D game is on 17 May at Little Shelford. There will be regular updates on the Abington Village Community Facebook page. Come and watch us whenever you see activity at the green. And if you want to join in, we are open to everyone. Ability or the lack thereof is no bar. We take anyone. Please contact Graham Ross on 0785 252 8693 to find out more.

# Great Abington Parish Council – An Active Council

## Linton Greenway Update from Greater Cambridge Partnership

**Newmarket Road to Granta Park** The target date to commence the works on the next stage of the project is early July to coincide with the Perse summer holiday period. Currently there are two delivery options being considered. Either working during peak hours (9.30am–3.30pm), using temporary traffic lights, or a 24/7 road closure. The road closure option would reduce the duration of the works programme and so is the favoured option being discussed. Access to the Perse, local businesses and homes will be maintained throughout, regardless of the delivery option utilised.

**Granta Park to Hildersham (Pampisford Road)** A mini competition under the ESPO framework (an agreement between the public sector organisation, ESPO, and external suppliers that can be used to procure goods and services) is being organised to appoint a consultant to undertake the preliminary and detailed design for this section of the Linton Greenway. It is expected that following the competition the consultant will be appointed by the end of July to undertake this task.

## No Mow May

The Parish Council is responsible for mowing the verges around the village having taken over the contract from CCC, as the Council felt it could be more proactive in monitoring and requesting additional cuts to keep everyone safe. As in previous years the Council is taking part in the No Mow May campaign to support bees, butterflies and wildlife (and us). However, if during this period you become aware of any verges that pose a danger please contact the clerk who will arrange for them to be cut: email [harper802@btinternet.com](mailto:harper802@btinternet.com).

## Planning

Please attend a planning meeting if you would like to make a comment that we can consider in our debate before agreeing on the Parish Council's recommendation to SCDC. If you have views on a planning application, you should also make your comment on the South Cambs website (link below) as this will ensure that the planners take your views into consideration in their decision-making. For more information on the applications, use the reference given at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/view-or-comment-on-a-planning-application/>.

## Planning Applications

24/00775/FUL: 55 North Road – Demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of replacement dwelling including the temporary setting of a caravan and formation of a new access and front boundary wall.

### Great Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Village Institute

**Tony Orgee (Chairman) [tonyorgee@gmail.com](mailto:tonyorgee@gmail.com)**

**Planning Committees:** These are arranged as required when applications are received. See Parish Council notice board for dates or contact the Parish Clerk.

**Next Parish Council meeting:** Monday 20 May. The Great Abington Annual Parish Meeting will start at 6.30pm, followed by the Annual Great Abington Parish Council meeting. There will be opportunities at the start and close of the meeting for members of the public to speak to the council about matters of concern. Notices, agendas and minutes are posted on the Parish Council notice board located at the entrance to Magna Close and on the Parish Council's website. <http://greatabingtonparishcouncil.org> or available from the Parish Clerk. Paula Harper (Clerk): [harper802@btinternet.com](mailto:harper802@btinternet.com) (892 000).

# Little Abington Parish Council

## Annual Parish Meeting

Our APM will be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 9 May in the Institute. All residents of the village are invited to attend to hear reports on the Council's activities over the past year. This year the Council has invited a guest speaker, Martin Meehan, Senior Project Manager of Greater Cambridge Partnership, who will be speaking on the Newmarket Road section of the Linton Greenway, Babraham Park & Ride and other projects, which will be of interest to many residents. The Little Abington Parish Council Annual Meeting will follow on from the APM.

## LAPC website photos

Some of you may have noticed that our website has not been opening but Jessica, our Parish Clerk, has been involved in developing a new site. She needs more photos of the village – events, buildings, wildlife, flooding – so please send your photos as .jpg files to Jessica at the email address in the box below. The new website is now up and running: <http://www.littleabington-pc.gov.uk>

## Former Cambridge International School site

We are regularly in touch with The Perse School, the owners of the site, and they are undecided on how they will use and develop it. They report that demolition of the buildings would adversely affect the planning consents in place when they purchased the site, so in the meantime they are keeping it as secure as possible.

## Meeting on Monday 25 March

Henry and John Batchelor, our District and County Councillors, reported (not for the first time) on the proposal to build 150,000 houses in Cambridge to support the technology and life sciences sector. This has hit some stumbling blocks – the lack of water with no concrete plans to improve this before 2030, and South Cambridgeshire's Green Belt, which can't be developed. The plans remain on the table and South Cambs District Council, Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council are "fighting to stay at the table". See the Councillors' report on page 8.

## Planning approval

23/04019/HFUL: 33 Church Lane – Single-storey extension to front, single-storey extension to side, single-storey infill extension to rear, repairs to house and associated outbuildings including infill extension. Approved.

### Little Abington Parish Council Meetings

Held in Abington Institute at 7.30pm

Next Meeting: Thursday 9 May 2024 (after APM)

If you would like to participate in a meeting please contact the Clerk. The meeting agendas and papers are on the noticeboard on Church Lane and published on the website: [www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/](http://www.littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk/).

Sheila Bolden 07754659929/Cllr.sbalden@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk  
(Chair)

Jessica Ashbridge Clerk@littleabingtonparishcouncil.org.uk  
(Clerk)

# SPRING TEA



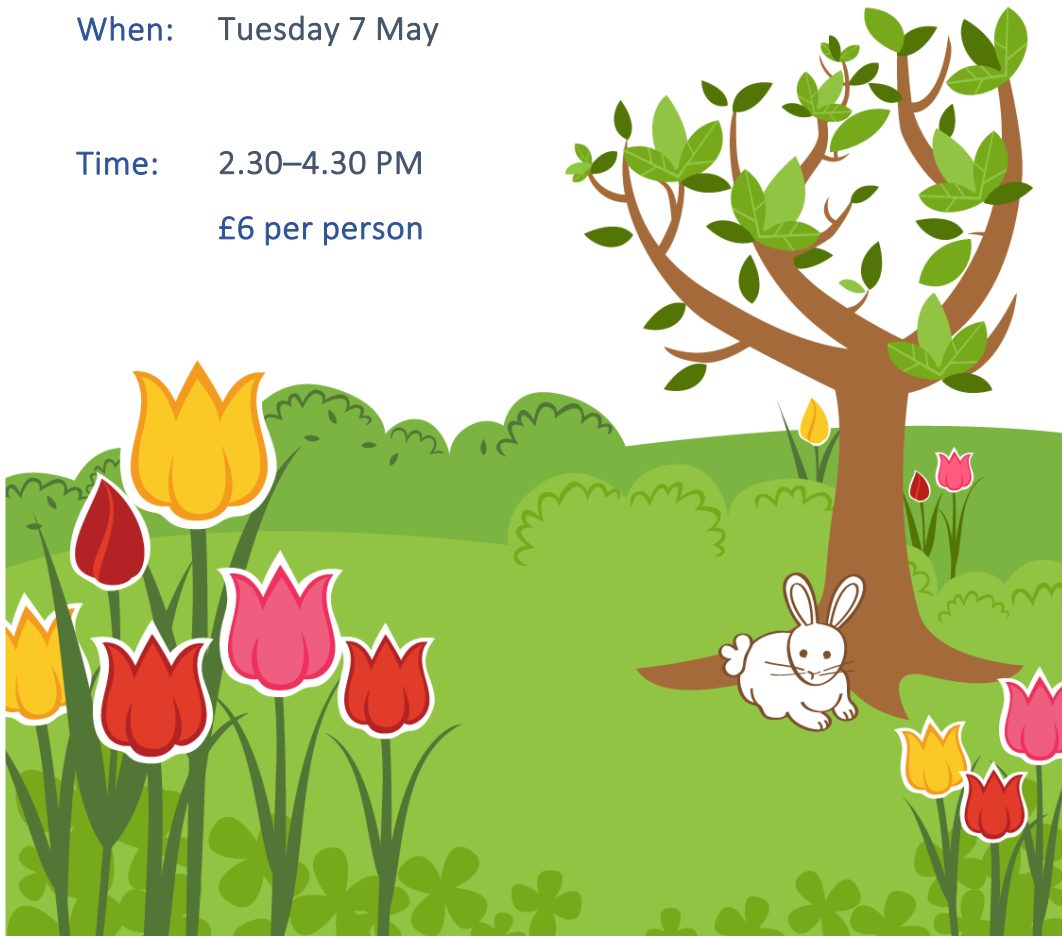
Where: Jeremiah's Café



When: Tuesday 7 May

Time: 2.30–4.30 PM

£6 per person



## Mobile Library

The mobile library comes to Hildersham on the second Tuesday and to the Abingtons on the fourth Tuesday of every month and stops at the following places:

Hildersham, High Street 9.40–10.20  
**Next date: Tuesday 14 May**

West Field, Little Abington 9.40–10.20  
The Shop, Great Abington 10.30–11.00  
Magna Close, Great Abington 11.05–11.30  
Granta Park, Great Abington 12.00–1.15  
**Next date: Tuesday 28 May**



## Granta Medical Practices

If you are waiting for surgery, treatment or a clinical opinion from your local hospital there is a useful website called **My Planned Care**: <https://www.myplannedcare.nhs.uk/>

My Planned Care gives you advice and support while you wait and helps you to prepare for your hospital consultation, treatment or surgery. This includes giving you information about waiting times at your hospital and other supporting and local services while you wait.

The website is updated weekly and can be viewed by anyone. This means you, your family and/or your carer as well as your NHS team can all see the latest information.

Your hospital team will be in touch with you as soon as they can. However, if you are looking for an update in the meantime, please check My Planned Care before contacting your hospital or GP.  
Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

## Calling all Baby Boomers born in 1944

I am doing a bit of research and would appreciate you contacting me if you are interested.

Gaynor Farrant 892 871 or [gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com](mailto:gaynorfarrant198@btinternet.com).

## Potholes

The Highway Authority and the County Council must maintain all highways assigned to them “at a suitable standard for their status and use”. If you go to the County Council’s website (<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>) you can follow links to a page about potholes and the criteria for identifying and repairing them. Alternatively, you can call the County Council on 0845 045 5212.

A pothole is defined as “deeper than 40mm and wider than 75mm in any direction”. Schedules for repairing them vary depending on the size of the fault and the description of the road (e.g. major or minor). Potholes marked with yellow paint will be fixed within 21 days. Those marked with white paint will take up to 13 weeks to be repaired.

You can report potholes using the Highways Reporting Tool and reports will be assessed within 10 working days. However, before reporting a pothole consult the Reporting Tool map to check whether it has already been reported.  
Anton King

## Delivered with Love



**When I first joined the Royal Mail, delivering mail on the bike to the Abingtons and Hildersham, it never occurred to me that I would still be doing the job all these years later.**

**It just shows that the weather doesn’t make a ha’pence of difference if your customers and their four-legged friends are so welcoming and friendly.**

**Therefore, on the Saturday in April organised by Love Abington, when everyone came to say goodbye, I felt a bit of a fraud. An afternoon with so many lovely messages, gifts and kind words, including many from my dog friends.**

**I have loved every minute of my time as a postie.**

**So a big, big THANK YOU for making me feel so very special.**

**Thank you, everyone x.**

**Patsy Post**

*Photo: Anton King*

## May Church Services

(other than the Abingtons and Hildersham)

DATE	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm
5 May	United Communion <i>Balsham</i>		
12 May	Communion <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wickham</i>	Morning Worship <i>Balsham</i>	Evening Prayer <i>West Wrating</i>
19 May	Communion <i>West Wrating</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i> <i>West Wickham</i> Creative Church <i>Abington</i> <i>Institute</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	
26 May	Communion <i>West Wickham</i> Morning Worship <i>Weston Colville</i>	Communion <i>Balsham</i>	

## Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church

135 High Street, Sawston CB22 3HJ, [www.ololsawston.org.uk](http://www.ololsawston.org.uk)

Monday–Friday	9.30am Holy Mass
Saturday	9.30am Holy Mass
Sunday	8.45am Holy Mass 11.15am Holy Mass




### **The Abingtons and Hildersham News on the website**

To see the *News* before a printed copy is available, and to see the photographs in colour, go to [www.theabingtons.org.uk/news](http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/news) and follow the link to the pdf for the month you want.

## Village Organisations

Name	Contact	Phone Number
Abington Institute – Chairman	Bernie Talbot	892 647
Abington Institute – Bookings	Fiona Snell institute@theabingtons.org.uk	
Abington and Hildersham WI	Marianne Perry	893 956
Abington Allotment Assoc. (AALGA)	Bernie Talbot	892 647
Abington Craft Group	Glynis Brookman	07970 614 194
Abington Gardening Club	Kay Harman	891 730
Abington History Group	Barry Brooks Abingtonhistorygroup@gmail.com	
The Abington Group (Ladies)	Freda Orgee	891 464
Tuesday Club	Jennifer Milns	890 252
Helping Hands	Helen Pimblett	891 746
Art Group	Amanda Hutchings	893 538
Abington Film Nights	John Rivers johnrivers@gmail.com	
Italian	Rachel Haining	892 004
Naturewatch	David Farrant	892 871
Reading Group	Valerie Hefford	890 544
Scrabble Club	Sheena Fraser	893 336
Abington Walking Group	Robin Harman Genevieve Dalton gdalton365@gmail.com	891 730
<b>Sport and Youth activities</b>		
Low Impact Aerobics/Pilates	Disa Bennett	07798 754 029
Physio Pilates	Christina Heinz cambridgepilates@outlook.com	
Yoga	Joan Graham	890 629
Table Tennis	Raj Sangha	07803 786 905
Abington Social Cycling	Gaynor Farrant	07817 517 871
Dynamic Dance Theatre School	Esme Watts	07719 816 548
Abington Cricket Club	David Pimblett	891 746
Abington United Football Club	To be confirmed	
Abington Aztecs (Football)	Malcolm Peters	07860 863 723
Abington Bowls Club	Graham Ross	891 564
Recreation Ground	Richard Smith richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk	
Abington Social Club	Christine Hammond Rick Stock Mark Donovan	891 777 07768 707 567 07956 358 379
Abington School PTFA (Co-Chairs)	Kirsty Badcock Katie Mannion	07920 484 182 07933 104 855
Abington Out-of-School (GAPS)	Louise Woolcott	894 246
Abington Pre-school	Angela Lindsay	894 246
Baby and Toddler Group	Office	894 246
Abington Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	Ruth Beach	894 461
Linton Netball Club	Angela Bridgeman	07729 879 300

## Church Services for May 2024

DATE	<i>Gt. Abington</i> 	<i>Lt. Abington</i> 	<i>Hildersham</i> 	Readings
5 May	<b>11.00am United Service at Balsham</b>			Acts 10.44-end John 15.9-17
12 May	11.00am Communion		11.00am Communion	Acts 1.15-17, 21- end John 17.6-19
19 May	10.00am–10.45am Creative Church at the Abington Village Institute		6.00pm Evening Prayer	Acts 2.1-21 John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15
26 May		11.00am Communion	11.00am Café Church	Isaiah 6.1-8 John 3.1-17

### Church Flower Rota

	<i>Gt. Abington</i>	<i>Lt. Abington</i>	<i>Hildersham</i>
5 May	Lizzie Menzies	Mrs Snell and Mrs Hayden-Smith	Mrs E Moore
12 May	Lizzie Menzies	Mrs Snell and Mrs Hayden-Smith	Mrs Gray
19 May	Annette Thomson and Anne Hall	Mrs Franklin and Mrs Broadhurst	Mrs Gray
26 May	Annette Thomson and Patsy Randall	Mrs Franklin and Mrs Broadhurst	Mrs Huntsman

### Churchwardens

<i>Great and Little Abington</i>	Graham Ross	41 Church Lane, Little Abington	891564
<i>Hildersham</i>	Keith Day	Fourwinds, Linton Road, Hildersham	891527

### Assistant Churchwardens

<i>Great Abington</i>	Anne Hall	12 Magna Close, Great Abington	892275
	Patsy Randall	77 High Street, Great Abington	07765 345 714
<i>Little Abington</i>	Mary Miles	36 Church Lane, Little Abington	891083
	Marilyn Broadhurst	34 West Field, Little Abington	893214