



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

1st June 2025. Sunday after Ascension

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

The most emotional goodbye I've ever known was my last night at Teacher Training College in Lincoln. We'd been given our degree certificates in the Cathedral and enjoyed our valedictory ball. But somewhere towards midnight the DJ decided to play 'Everybody Hurts' by Rem and I crumpled into a blubbing mess. The knowledge that I'd never again see many of the people with whom I'd spent the last 4 years hit me like a sledgehammer. Saying goodbye was so very, very hard.

After his emotional reinstatement on the beach, Peter, and the other disciples, were about to face a painful goodbye. After 40 days of resurrection appearances, teaching, joy and fellowship, it was time for Jesus to leave this world and return to his Father. Ascension Day was coming.

Of all the Christian festivals I suspect Ascension Day gets the least attention. Perhaps next year we will have a special service to mark Jesus' return to Heaven, but this year we'll make do with the lectionary readings on Sunday which will take us back to that day. For that reason, I won't say anything about the position to which Jesus ascended and what he is doing now. We'll reflect on both of those on Sunday. But I do want to reflect for a moment on the pain of that goodbye, especially for Peter, and how he was able to cope with it.

What a journey Peter had been on! From that day by the lake when Jesus called Peter to follow him (Luke 5), Peter had been in the inner circle. That hadn't stopped Peter making a fool of himself again and again (Mark 8), but despite his fears and failures (see the last 2 weeks!) Peter loved Jesus with every part of his being. But now Jesus was going away, and in this life at least, Peter would never see Jesus again.

So how did Peter (and the others) cope?

Firstly, they knew it was only **temporary**. Jesus himself said that he was going to prepare a place for them and that he would come back to take them to be with him forever. (John 14) The angels on the mountain top had told them the same thing after the ascension. The separation was only temporary and that gave Peter (and us) great hope for the future.

Secondly, the separation was **necessary**. Jesus had told them that during the Last Supper. He needed to go away so that the comforter, the Holy Spirit, could come. Now, Jesus can be with all his followers, by His Spirit, all at the same time, wherever they are! The separation equipped the church for what came next.

Finally, the separation was **preparatory**. The ascension of Jesus led directly to Pentecost and the explosion of Christian witness. We'll think more about that in the next 2 weeks, but with Jesus now ascended, the stage was set for God to pour out his Holy Spirit on all believers, equipping them with the power and strength to take the gospel out to the world. The separation passed the baton from Jesus to his disciples... and to us.

Goodbyes are often painful and it's not wrong to weep as we move on and leave people and places behind. But by God's grace those partings and endings are usually new beginnings that, filled with the hope of what is still to come, can propel us out into the world, following God's call wherever that leads.

I'm sure it was an emotional goodbye for Peter, but by God's grace it was temporary, necessary and preparatory. For Peter's greatest task was only just beginning. Perhaps yours is too!

Dave

Readings for 1st June:

Ephesians Chapter 1, verses 15 to the end.

Luke 24, verses 44 to the end.

Please pray for:

Our Church, our parish, benefice and diocese, our Rector Dave Brown, Team Vicars Gareth Regan and Fr. Matthew Cashmore, and all others who carry out their own form of ministry.

Our King, His Majesty King Charles III, members of the Royal Family and our government.

The Anglican Church of Korea

During Volunteers Week, thank God for all the volunteers in our churches across Devon, and pray that we would all be inspired to serve others.

Residents in the following Streets: Courtenay Gardens, Courtenay Park, Courtenay Park Road, Courtenay Road, Courtenay Road, Highwood Close, Courtenay Street, Courtlands Road, Cowslip Crescent and Cranesbill Way.

The sick and suffering including: 9-month-old Joey Hilton, Noah Maynard, Cherie Glover, Sheila Fletcher, John and Joyce Sutherland, Jackie, Joshua, Anna Crocker, Barbara-Ann, David, Julie, Marion Fishman, Marie Graham, Martyn, Joyce Lander, Eve Taylor, David Hayes, David Littlewood and others who are unwell in residential and nursing homes, their own homes, and in hospital. *

Ben, Sarah and family as they care for Noah.

The families and friends of the recently deceased.

* **Please email** prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk to let us know about anyone needing our prayers.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Parish Prayer Gatherings: Our next Parish Prayer Gathering will be in the evening on Monday 2nd June from 7:45pm-9pm at All Saints Highweek. The next morning prayer gathering will be on Monday 9th June at St Paul's Church, starting at 9:15am. Do come and join us!

Church Weekend at Home with Rev Dr Paul Gardner. Details and booking forms are now available in all of our churches. Please consider coming along for the whole weekend, but even if you're only coming to the joint service and lunch on the Sunday, we need to know how many people are likely to be coming along.

Pentecost Prayer Walk Around the 6 Churches of the Benefice.

On Saturday 7th June, the day before Pentecost - we'll be walking around all of the 6 churches in our benefice, pausing to pray in each one and at key points along the way. We'll be starting at **St Luke's at 10am** (*note the change of time*) then walking to St Paul's, St Mary's, St Bart's, All Saints and ending at Abbotsbury around lunchtime. The timetable will come out nearer the time but do get the date in your diary now. And if you can't make the whole trip- that's fine! Just come and join us where you can.

Lunch with God: Starting on Friday 6th June we'll be starting a weekly town centre outreach. The aim is to give short (5-10 minute) Bible talks every 20 minutes from 12:30pm to 1:30pm, with opportunities for those listening to ask questions and take a Bible or a gospel away to find out more. We'll be setting up in the area at Golden Lion Square.

I'd like... **everyone** to pray for people to gather and engage and for God's Spirit to do God's work through God's Word. I'd also love a few volunteers to come along - some to create a crowd and a couple of others to be handing out leaflets to passers-by in the main pedestrian precinct.

If things go well, we'll move into St Paul's Hall for the winter season, where we can offer free tea and coffee and a warm space for folks to enjoy their own lunch whilst feeding on God's Word.

Works Starting at All Saints Highweek. The works to improve the toilet and catering facilities at All Saints will begin on 8th June. They are expected to be finished by early September. The work area inside the church will be fenced off and church members are asked not to visit the church Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. However, although there will be some disruption during this time, Sunday services and evening bell ringing sessions will be able to take place as normal. Although the current toilet will be out of action for this period, a Portaloo will be available outside the church.

COMING EVENTS

Charity Coffee Morning at St Bartholemew's Church, on 30th May at 10 a.m. in aid of Cancer Research.

Charity Coffee Morning at St Paul's Church on 31st May, at 10 a.m. in aid of Teignbridge Talking Newspapers.

Craft Club. 3rd and 17th June at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

PCC Meeting. 4th June, 7 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

Pentecost Prayer Walk 7th June. Starting at St Luke's Church at **10 a.m.**

Summer with the Father. 7th June, 5th July and 9th August, 8:30 to 10 a.m. for women at 5 Coach Place. **Now fully booked.** For waiting list contact Judy on 01626 335862 or email mrsvicar16@gmail.com .

Denbury Folk Concert. 8th June at 2 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Denbury. Contact rachel-belringer@gmail.com or phone 07751804007.

Traditional Choral Evensong. 8th June at 6 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Abbotskerswell.

Women's Breakfast. **Saturday**, 14th June at 9:30 a.m. at The Country Table, Bank Street, Newton Abbot.

Mission Shed Social Justice. Saturday 14 June, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Abbotsbury Church. For details and to book [Click here](#)

Men's Breakfast. Saturday 21st June, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café.

Parish Weekend at Home. 27th to 29th June. Details and booking forms available in our churches.

Induction as Deacon. Jon Bealey is to be inducted on 29th June during the 10:30 a.m. Parish service at St Paul's Church.

Parish Lunch on 29th June at St Paul's Church. Details and booking arrangements in the Parish Weekend at Home leaflet.

Evensong on 6th July at 5:30 p.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

1st June

Abbotsbury Church, Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

St Bartholomew's Church, Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

St Mary's Church, Matins at 11 a.m.

St Paul's Church, Service of the Word at 11 a.m.

St Luke's Church, Mass at 11 a.m.

8th June

Abbotsbury Church, Service of the Word at 9:30 a.m.

All Saints' Church, Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

St Paul's Church, Holy Communion at 11 a.m.

St Luke's Church, Mass at 11 a.m.

15th June

Abbotsbury Church, All Age Service at 9:30 a.m.

St Bartholomew's Church, Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

St Mary's Church, Holy Communion at 11 a.m.

St Paul's Church, Service of the Word at 11 a.m.

St Luke's Church, Mass at 11 a.m.

If you are not able to attend in person, you can watch services at Abbotsbury Church and St Paul's Church through [YouTube](#).

The links are available at <https://newtonabbotparishes.co.uk/noticeboard/news/>

EVERY WEDNESDAY 10 a.m. Holy Communion at St Paul's Church, Devon Square

and 10 a.m. Said Mass at St Luke's Church, Milber.

EVERY FRIDAY 10 a.m. Said Mass at St Luke's Church, Milber.

ALL WEEK St Bartholomew's Church in Ogwell is normally open for private prayer during daylight hours.

OTHER SERVICES

Evensongs at 5:30 p.m.		5 th Sunday services at 10:30 a.m.	
6 th July	All Saints Highweek	29 th June	St Paul's
31 st August	West Ogwell	31 st August	St Bart's
30 th November	St Luke's Milber	30 th November	All Saints Highweek

PRAYER GATHERINGS

2nd June, 7:45 p.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

9th June, 9:15 a.m. at St Paul's Church.

16th June, 7:45 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

FUNERALS, MEMORIALS and INTERMENTS

David Fox, Interment of ashes on 30th May at 11:00 a.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

Deanna Fox. Funeral Service on 7th June at 11:00 a.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

PARISH CONTACTS

Team Rector: Rev Dave Brown. Day off Thursday

rector@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk 01626 335862

Team Vicar and Vicar of St Luke's, Milber: Fr. Matthew Cashmore. Day off Monday

father@slsj.co.uk 07555 924862

Team Vicar: Rev Gareth Regan: Day Off: Friday.

gareth@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

01626 201237

Licensed Lay Minister:

Keith Butler: puffin@blueyonder.co.uk

07980 457919

Lay minister for St Luke's, Graham Whittle

family@hotmail.co.uk

Churchwardens:

All Saints': **Michael Gillibrand**

Abbotsbury: **Douglas Machin** d.m.machin2016@gmail.com

St Mary's **Sharon Lawrence** 07794 108166

St. Paul's **Lorna Tresidder** lornatresidder@icloud.com

St Bartholomew's **Stella Llewellyn** stellallewellyn@icloud.com 01626 906814 and

Gwyn Hughes. gwynhughes@icloud.com 01626 365028

Anna Chaplains: Mei Lan Machin. d.m.machin2013@gmail.com 07926 991578

Kim Martin kimbo58@gmail.com

Organists: Clive Sawers 07967 148794 clivesawers@aol.com

Steve Cox 079 686 21511 stephen.cox54@talktalk.net

Parochial Church Council Secretary: Barbara Garrick 07910 207358

barbara_garrick@yahoo.com

Safeguarding Lead: Rob Palmer 07792 081776 treb0r@hotmail.com

Weekly Parish News by Email. **John Calderwood.** news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk
07760 226488

Other Communications Media (website and social media)

comms@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

Prayer List Please let us know about anyone in need of prayers. Their name will be kept on the list for a month. Please email prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

Parish website: www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

Parish Office at St Paul's Church, Devon Square. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Phone 01626 211346 or email office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk.

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Newton Abbot Town Council. 01626 201120 www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

Shopmobility, Ring & Ride, Community cars – 01626 335775

Teignbridge Council – 01626 361101, www.teignbridge.gov.uk

Footnote. Thank you very much to those of you who have sent me contributions. Relevant photos are very welcome.

I aim to circulate each weekly issue on Wednesday to give notice of the coming weekend's events and perhaps report what happened last weekend.

Please let me have any news of past events, notice of future activities or any other information that may be interesting or useful for our Church members, by Tuesday for the next issue.

If you know of anyone who does not receive this weekly email, but wishes to do so, please ask them to email me or contact the office.

John Calderwood news@newtonbbotparishes.co.uk