



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

14th December 2025. 3rd Sunday of Advent

In this edition:

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- Times of prayer gatherings for the next 2 weeks
- Podcast of the week: Why the Bible is trending now- and how we might join in!
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FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

We are now halfway through our Advent series on the Coming of the Son of Man, reflecting on some Old Testament passages that speak of the return of Jesus as he returns in glory, as judge, and as he comes to rule and bring new life. I wonder what you have made of them.

From my experience, the attitude of many Christians to the return of Jesus as the end of time is similar to the views of many Christians to the existence of Satan. Some obsess over it endlessly, as if it were the only topic of conversation possible, whilst others ignore it altogether, treating the doctrine as a rather embarrassing addition to Christian belief. But there is in the Nicene creed: **And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

If you are tempted to take one of those two positions, might I suggest a third way? To believe that the Day (capital D) is truly coming, and to think on it deeply and regularly, but not obsessively so.

Since Jesus himself speaks of the Day of his return, as do the Apostles and various Old Testament prophets, (which is why the topic made it into all the major creeds) it would difficult, if not impossible, to justify calling oneself a Christian whilst claiming that Jesus will

not return again as he claimed. To doubt his return is, after all, to doubt eternal life, to doubt the judgment that Jesus speaks of throughout his ministry and to believe that this life really is all there is. That is NOT Christian doctrine! So we cannot simply ignore the concept of a great and glorious return just because it is a hard subject to grasp.

But neither should we obsess over it. Some people spend their time thinking the time is NOW or at least just around the corner. They delve into the intricacies of John's prophecies in Revelation and those difficult passage in Daniel, Zechariah and other Old Testament prophets in an attempt to calculate the exact date and time of Christ's return. And they do this Despite that Jesus says that no one knows when he will come back, only the Father! Yes, Jesus gives general signs for us to watch out for (see Matthew 24). But to my mind some of these events – the wars and rumours of wars for example, could be interpreted to be events from almost any point of the last 2000 years. So I think that Jesus' point is to make sure that we, his people, are always ready. Ready for Jesus to return like a thief in the night (1 Thess 5:2, Matt 24:43). Ready for the glorious Bridegroom to come to collect his bride (the church) (Matt 25:1-13). Ready for the clouds to part and for the true King to be revealed (Acts 1).

Being ready doesn't mean standing on top of a hill with our eyes strained to the horizon, it means being ready to meet him because He is OUR Saviour, being busy about our Master's work, because serving him matters more than anything else. The middle road then is an active road, where our faith leads to faith in action, where our life and ambitions are shaped and determined by the certainty of Christ's return.

As followers of Jesus, our returning King, we **are** called to live in the light of eternity, letting the thought of eternal life in Christ's glorious Kingdom inspire us to witnessing and good works, encourage us to turn daily from sin and to call others to repent. The reality of a final judgment should make us wary of falling back into old sins and most reluctant to seek out new ones. But it should also make us brave, generous, kind, and courageous, because we know that this life is NOT all there is, and that any sacrifice we might be called to make in this life will be more than paid back in the next where what God has prepared for those who love him will be beyond our imaginations.

The next 2 Sundays will, I hope, help us see the glory of that return. May we be encouraged and inspired by what these passages teach us, so that we are ready to greet our Lord and Saviour when He comes in glory!

Grace and peace,

Dave

Please pray for:

Our Church, our parish, benefice and diocese, our Rector Dave Brown, Team Vicars Gareth Regan and Fr. Matthew Cashmore, Curate Jon Bealey, 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.

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

For the churches of the Three Wells Mission Community, their clergy Michael Wilkie, LLM Ian Firth, and for all who live and worship in Kingskerswell with Coffinswell, and Abbotskerswell. For pupils, teachers and staff at Kingskerswell CofE School.

Residents in the following streets: St. Marys Road, St. Michaels Road, St. Pauls Road, Station Road, Steppes Meadow, Stoneleigh Close, Summerland Cottages, Sunny Close and Sunnybank.

The sick and suffering including: Joey Hilton, Noah Maynard, Cherie Glover, Sheila Fletcher, John and Joyce Sutherland, Jackie, Joshua, Anna Crocker, Barbara-Ann, David, Julie, Sally Fulcher, Marie Graham, Martyn, Eve Taylor, David Littlewood, Max, Sarah, Ruth and Ted Parkhouse, Peter Robinson and others who are unwell in their own homes, residential and nursing homes, and in hospital.

Ben, Sarah and family as they care for Noah.

The families and friends of the recently deceased.

Green Pastures. Please also remember homeless people and those in housing need in your prayers and please click on these links to see a way you can help.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/848828841233487> and <https://www.greenpastures.co.uk/>

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

Readings for 14th December

Matthew Chapter 11, verses 1 to 11, and Micah Chapter 4, verses 1 to 8

NEWS AND NOTICES

Parish Prayer Gatherings:

Our next **morning Parish Prayer Gathering** will be on **Monday 15th December** at St Paul's Church **starting at 9:15am**. This will be our last prayer gathering this year.

Podcast of the Week: Why the Bible is trending now - and how we might join in! Glen Scrivenor is joined by Andy Ollerton, creator of The Bible Course and author of a new book on the Bible's hardest questions. They discuss the growing interest in the Bible shown in a huge rise in Bible sales and how we can spread the word about God's Word! It's a really encouraging watch- which you can do here: [The Bible is Trending: Here's How To Respond \(with Dr Andrew Ollerton\)](#)

THAT Foodbank would be grateful for donations of:

- UHT Milk
- Tinned vegetables – for example carrots and sweetcorn.
- Sugar
- Biscuits
- Jars of coffee
- Porridge oats
- Tinned ham, pork or corned beef
- Custard
- Tinned fish
- Toilet rolls

8 Queensway House, Queensway, Newton Abbot. TQ12 4BA.

Tel: 01626 437310, email: office@thatfoodbank.com Website: www.thatfoodbank.com

Lunch with God at St Paul's Church on Wednesday 17th December between 12:15 and 1:45 p.m. We will have a **Lunch with God Christmas Special** focusing on Jesus - the Incarnate God. Why not bring someone along!!

Flyers are in our churches.

The Christmas Journey 2025 - The Biggest So Far!

Across the first week of December, around 220 children aged 6 and 7 from 9 different schools across the town and deanery descended on Abbotsbury Church for 90 minutes of fun and exploration of the Christmas Story. The children heard the story together, then in 4 groups met the shepherds, the wisemen, Anna and Simeon in the temple who all told them how they had met the infant Jesus. [in case you're wondering- the fourth group decorated crowns to remind them that Jesus was a special baby born to be King!] Once they had visited all 4 stations, the children met Mary and Joseph and their real-live baby who were just about to flee to Egypt! It was a fantastic week, and the feedback has been better than ever. The pictures below will give you a flavour, but why not come and join the team in 2026 and find out why the schools and the fabulous team members keep coming back!





The Parish Christmas Fayre

took place last weekend and St Paul's hall was filled with stalls and games, books, bric-a-brac, Christmas crafts and plenty to eat and drink. Thanks to everyone who helped and to everyone who came along! A fantastic £618 was raised to support the work of the Rowcroft Hospice.



Christmas Services. See the next page. Get these dates in your diary now and work out who you can invite. Let's spread the Word and get inviting!!

JOY Christmas



Christmas Services in the parish of Newton Abbot + Ogwell

Do come along - No need to book!



Sunday 14 December

Usual morning services at All Saints Highweek, Abbotsbury & St Paul's

6:00pm Carols by Candlelight - West Ogwell Church

6:30pm Carols by Candlelight - All Saints Highweek

Saturday 20 December

4pm Contemporary Carols - Abbotsbury Church



Sunday 21 December

Usual morning services at St Bartholomew's Ogwell, St Mary's & St Paul's

9:30am Nativity - Abbotsbury Church

4:30pm Carols by Candlelight - St Mary's Wolborough

6:30pm Carols by Candlelight - St Bartholomew's Ogwell

Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24 December

4pm Christingle Service - St Bartholomew's Ogwell

4pm Christingle Service - St Paul's Devon Square

11pm Carols + Communion - St Bartholomew's Ogwell

11pm Carols + Communion - St Paul's Devon Square



Christmas Day: Thursday 25 December

8:30am Said Holy Communion - St Mary's Wolborough

9:30am Christmas Day Family Communion - Abbotsbury Church
(more contemporary)

10:30am Christmas Day Family Communion - All Saints Highweek
(more traditional)



Sunday 28 December

Usual morning services at All Saints, Abbotsbury & St Paul's
NB no midweek services Wednesday 24 and 31 December

www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk





Discover Life According to Jesus: Our New Year course for those wanting to take a fresh look at Jesus is 3-2-1. See below: Watch the promo video: [321 Course Promo Video](#)

321: DISCOVER LIFE ACCORDING TO JESUS

Got questions about God, the world and you?

The 321 course invites you to see life the way Jesus does. Over the course, Glen Scrivener presents Jesus' vision for life through interactive videos that help us better understand God, the World and ourselves.

The course considers God's Three-ness, the world's two-ness and your one-ness. Each session begins with a thoughtful question followed by stunning storytelling and compelling commentary.

There are three ways to take the 321 Course:

A 4-week course looking at 2 videos per week starting on
Tuesday 20th January at 7:30pm

OR

Watch 1 video a week on Wednesday lunchtimes during **Lunch with God**. Videos will be shown at 12:30pm and 1:10pm.
Starting Wednesday 14th January.

Both of these will take place at St Paul's Church, Devon Square.

Alternatively, you can register + watch the whole series yourself.
Just visit www.321.speaklife.org.uk/course/321

To book a place or to find out more, email
office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk or call **01626 211346**.

Organised by the Anglican Churches in Newton Abbot and Ogwell:
www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

CIRCLE DANCE CHRISTMAS

End the Christmas season dancing to traditional carols

****Simple steps * All dances taught * You won't need a partner* You will know the tunes****

Thursday 8th January

6.30-8pm

Newton Abbot Parish Hall

St Paul's Church

Devon Square

****Hot drinks and mince pies** Parking available** No charge - donations for THAT foodbank****

COMING EVENTS

Lunch with God. Free soup and hot drink. Bible teaching. Wednesdays at St Paul's Church. 12:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Women's Breakfast. Saturday, 13th December at 9:30 a.m. at The Clock Tower Coffee Shop, Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot.

Carols by Candlelight. Sunday 14th December. 6 p.m. at **West Ogwell** Church.

Carols by Candlelight. Sunday 14th December. 6:30 p.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

Traditional Choral Evensong. 14th December at 6 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Abbotskerswell.

Grace Will Lead Me Home on Monday 15th December at 8 p.m. at the Auditorium, Exeter Phoenix. To book and for more information see <https://exeterphoenix.org.uk/events/grace-will-lead-me-home/>

Craft Club. 16th December at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

Monthly Youth Group for ages 11 to 17. 19th December 7:30 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

Contemporary Carols, Saturday 20th December at 4 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

Nativity Service, Sunday 21st December at 9:30 a.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

Carols by Candlelight. Sunday 21st December at 4:30 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

Carols by Candlelight. Sunday 21st December at 6:30 p.m. at St Bartholemew's Church, Ogwell.

Christingle Services on Wednesday 24th December at 4 p.m. at both St Bartholemew's Church, Ogwell and St Paul's Church, Devon Square.

Carols and Communion on Wednesday 24th December at 11 p.m. at both St Bartholemew's Church, Ogwell and St Paul's Church, Devon Square.

Said Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 8 a.m. at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

Christmas Day Family Communion at Abbotsbury Church at 9:30 a.m. (more contemporary) and All Saints' Church, Highweek (more traditional) at 10:30 a.m.

Circle Dance Christmas at St Paul's on 8th January at 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast. Saturday 17th January, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café.

Environment Film Festival. Saturday 17 January 2026, 12:30 p.m. to 5p.m. at Exeter Cathedral. [Click here](#) to book.

CHURCH SERVICES

14th December

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.

West Ogwell Church, Carols by Candlelight at 6 p.m. (Bring a torch)

All Saints Church, Carols by Candlelight at 6:30 p.m.

21st December

Abbotsbury Church, Nativity Service at 9:30 a.m.

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

St Mary's Church, Wolborough, 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.

St Mary's Church, Wolborough, Carols by Candlelight at 4:30 p.m.

St Bartholemew's Church, Carols by Candlelight at 6:30 p.m.

28th December

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.

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.

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

Curate: Rev Jonathan Bealey curate@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk 07886567732

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: vacant

St Mary's **Sharon Lawrence** salawrence21@outlook.com 07794 108166

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

St Bartholomew's **Stella Llewellyn** stellallewellyn@icloud.com 01626 906814
and **Gwyn Hughes.** gywnhughes@icloud.com 01626 365028

Anna Chaplains: Mei Lan Machin. d.m.machin2013@gmail.com 07926 991578
and **Kim Martin** annachaplain@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

Organists:

Steve Cox 079 686 21511 or 01626 854228 stephen.cox54@talktalk.net

Clive Sawers 07967 148794 clivesawers@aol.com

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

IT Support it_support@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. The office is normally open Monday to Thursday, 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

THAT Foodbank. 8 Queensway House, Queensway, Newton Abbot. TQ12 4BA. Tel: 01626 437310, email: office@thatfoodbank.com Website: www.thatfoodbank.com

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@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk