



# **Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell**

## **WEEKLY NEWS**

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2025.** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

In this edition:

- Notes from the Rector on the example of Mary - a call to ponder on 'these things'
- A Christmas message from Dave and Judy
- Times of prayer gatherings for the next few weeks
- Videos of the week: Four great Christmas songs to enjoy
- Podcast of the week: Responding to the quiet revival conference
- THAT Foodbank needs
- Parish News next issue
- CAP thanks
- 321- our New Year course
- Details of our Christmas Services
- Circle Dance Christmas

### **FROM OUR RECTOR**

Dear Friends

With Christmas on the horizon with all the of carols and families and food and everything else filling our minds, it is very easy to get so caught up with the busyness and forget to take time to ponder anew what the Almighty has done. But my encouragement to you this year is to take the time, be it just a few snatched quiet minutes, to do just that.

Mary had plenty of busyness in her own life that first Christmas. She'd just had her first child, and those of you who have had children know how life-changing that is! On top of that, she was a long way away from her own family, staying as guest in the most humble of surroundings.

Of course, she and Joseph were not the only ones away from home. The census had meant that Bethlehem was full of weary travellers, annoyed at Roman interference and longing for the bureaucracy to do its stuff so they could head home and get on with their lives. But Mary's life had been turned upside down by something more than a Roman edict. The words of the angel's message, Elizabeth's greeting and Joseph's change of heart must all have been buzzing around her mind almost non-stop.

And then, a few hours after Jesus had entered the world, some shepherds turned up with a story of their own. First one angel had told them of Jesus' birth, and then a whole choir

of angels had sung a song of good news to all on whom God's favour rests. They blurted out their account with breathless excitement and then headed back to the hills full of joy. And then, in the midst of all this excitement, we have this wonderful verse. Luke 2:19 *But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

However busy your Christmas gets this year, it will not be as hectic as Mary's. So, if she could spend some time pondering the events of that first Christmas, then I'm sure we can too. It might be late at night or early in the morning; it might be over the washing up or whilst walking the dog. But whatever time you find, do take the time to ponder the events of that first Christmas and the world-changing arrival of the saviour, born in Bethlehem who is Christ the Lord.

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.

### **The Anglican Church of Burundi**

**For the churches of the Torridge (Coastal) Mission Community**, their clergy Jules Harris, Hilary Kemp, Ildiko Varadi-Luongo, LLMs Nigel Price, Jonathan Ellis, and for all who live and worship in Westward Ho!, Northam, Appledore, and Abbotsham.

**Residents in the following streets**: Sunny Hollow, Sutherland Close, Swanborough Road, Teign Road, Teigngrace Road, Templers Road, The Avenue, The Churchills and The Glen.

**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.

**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](mailto:prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) to let us know about anyone needing our prayers.

## Readings

**21<sup>st</sup> December:** Matthew, chapter 1, verses 18 to 25 and Ezekiel, chapter 37, verses 1 to 14

**25<sup>th</sup> December:** Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 2 to 7 and Luke, chapter 2, verses 1 to 20

**28<sup>th</sup> December:** Isaiah, chapter 63, verses 7 to 9 and Matthew, chapter 2, verses 13 to 23

**4<sup>th</sup> January:** Jeremiah, chapter 3, verses 7 to 14 and John, chapter 1, verses 1 to 18

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## NEWS AND NOTICES

### A Christmas Message from Dave and Judy.

Thank you so much for all your cards and Christmas wishes, as well as your support in prayer, words and actions over the last year. It's been a challenging 12 months in many ways as Judy has continued her cancer treatment, but God has been good and faithful to his promises and it's been a joy to serve Him amongst you, even in the midst of such challenges. Judy and I send you our love, and pray for God's richest blessings upon you, your families and God's church here in Newton Abbot and Ogwell over the coming year. May God continue to shed his magnificent light over our parish and grow his church to his praise and glory in 2026.



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### Parish Prayer Gatherings

Our next **morning Parish Prayer Gathering** will be on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January** at St Paul's Church **starting at 9:15am.** Our next **evening Parish Prayer Gathering** will be on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January** at St Paul's Church **starting at 7:45pm.** Do come and join us.

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**Videos of the Week:** Here are a few great Christmas songs to enjoy over the festive period!

[Glorious Light - Kristyn Getty, Margaret Becker, Joanne Hogg](#)

[O Come, All You Unfaithful | Sovereign Grace Music](#)

[Keith & Kristyn Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa - Sing We the Song of Emmanuel \(Official Lyric Video\)](#)

## **Podcast of the Week. Responding to the quiet revival**

Last month, a conference was held in All Soul's Langham Place in London to consider the evidence for what has been called 'the quiet revival' and how churches might respond to the spiritual awakening across the nation. In this podcast, Justin Brierly picks out some of the highlights from the talks and Q and A sessions. You can listen via the link here <https://megaphone.link/NSR5560363177> or search for '**the surprising rebirth of belief in God**' on Spotify, Apple podcasts or wherever you listen to your favourite podcasts. Incidentally, I've bought the full set of talks from the day, if you'd be interested in watching some of them together with others, do let me know.

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**Lunch with God** is at St Paul's Church will on **today-** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> where we will have a **Lunch with God Christmas Special** focusing on Jesus- the Incarnate God. Why not invite a friend or neighbour to come with you...

Lunch with God will then pause for Christmas and restart on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January when we'll be looking at the first of the 3-2-1 videos. See below!

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**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](mailto:office@thatfoodbank.com) Website: [www.thatfoodbank.com](http://www.thatfoodbank.com)

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**Parish News.** We will have a break over Christmas and New Year, so I aim to issue the next Parish News on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

If you have any news or notices to publish for that issue, please let me have them by Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Photos of Christmas events will be most welcome.

I wish you a joyful Christmas and blessings for 2026. John

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**Christians Against Poverty. A HUGE Thank You** to all who contributed to the fundraiser for CAP Teignbridge with the Aviva Community Fund.

In total **£12,011** was raised (which includes the matched funding from Aviva), which is an incredible result! This will enable CAP Teignbridge to continue to bring hope and freedom to families and individuals struggling with unmanageable debt.

May God bless you and your families with a peaceful and restful Christmas.

**Tim Wigley**

Debt Centre Manager | CAP Teignbridge | Christians Against Poverty.

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**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.321.speaklife.org.uk/course/321)

To book a place or to find out more, email  
[office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) or call 01626 211346.

Organised by the Anglican Churches in Newton Abbot and Ogwell:  
[www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](http://www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)



**Christmas Services.** 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](http://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\*\***

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**Beware Scam.** There is currently a new scam doing the rounds. You get a call from 'the National Grid' saying your meters need changing. The number they give you to contact them is 0126 956 3510. If you get such a call, please do not give the caller any information.

The National Grid are aware of this scam; they have nothing to do with meters.

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## COMING EVENTS

**Lunch with God.** Free soup and hot drink. Bible teaching. Wednesdays 16<sup>th</sup> December and 7<sup>th</sup> January at St Paul's Church. 12:15 to 1:45 p.m.

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

**Contemporary Carols**, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 4 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

**Nativity Service**, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 9:30 a.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

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

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

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

**Carols and Communion** on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 8:30 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 8<sup>th</sup> January at 6:30 p.m.

**Women's Breakfast.** Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> January at 9:30 a.m. at The Clock Tower Coffee Shop, Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot.

**Craft Club.** 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

**Men's Breakfast.** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Parochial Church Council** meeting 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

**Charity Coffee Morning.** 31<sup>st</sup> January 10 a.m. at St Paul's Church in aid of Motor Neurone Disease.

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## CHURCH SERVICES

### 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### 28<sup>th</sup> 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/>

### 4<sup>th</sup> January

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

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



St Mary's Church, Wolborough, 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.

### **11<sup>th</sup> January**

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.

**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.

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## **PARISH CONTACTS**

**Team Rector: Rev Dave Brown.** Day off Thursday

[rector@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:father@slsj.co.uk) 07555 924862

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

[gareth@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:gareth@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) 01626 201237

**Curate: Rev Jonathan Bealey** [curate@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:curate@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) 07886567732

**Licensed Lay Minister:**

**Keith Butler:** [puffin@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:puffin@blueyonder.co.uk) 07980 457919

**Lay minister for St Luke's, Graham Whittle** [family@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:family@hotmail.co.uk)

**Churchwardens:**

All Saints': **Michael Gillibrand**

Abbotsbury: vacant

St Mary's **Sharon Lawrence** [salawrence21@outlook.com](mailto:salawrence21@outlook.com) 07794 108166

St. Paul's **Lorna Tresidder** [lornatresidder@icloud.com](mailto:lornatresidder@icloud.com)

St Bartholomew's **Stella Llewellyn** [stellallewellyn@icloud.com](mailto:stellallewellyn@icloud.com) 01626 906814

and **Gwyn Hughes.** [gwynhughes@icloud.com](mailto:gwynhughes@icloud.com) 01626 365028

**Anna Chaplains: Mei Lan Machin.** [d.m.machin2013@gmail.com](mailto:d.m.machin2013@gmail.com) 07926 991578

and **Kim Martin** [annachaplain@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:annachaplain@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

**Organists:**

**Steve Cox** 079 686 21511 or 01626 854228 [stephen.cox54@talktalk.net](mailto:stephen.cox54@talktalk.net)

**Clive Sawers** 07967 148794 [clivesawers@aol.com](mailto:clivesawers@aol.com)

**Parochial Church Council Secretary: Barbara Garrick** 07910 207358  
[barbara\\_garrick@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara_garrick@yahoo.com)

**Safeguarding Lead: Rob Palmer** 07792 081776 [treb0r@hotmail.com](mailto:treb0r@hotmail.com)

**Weekly Parish News** by Email. **John Calderwood.** [news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)  
07760 226488

**Other Communications Media** (website and social media)  
[comms@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:comms@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

**IT Support** [it\\_support@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

**Parish website:** [www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](http://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](mailto:office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk).

## **OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS**

**Newton Abbot Town Council.** 01626 201120 [www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)

**Shopmobility, Ring & Ride, Community cars** – 01626 335775

**Teignbridge Council** – 01626 361101, [www.teignbridge.gov.uk](http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk)

**THAT Foodbank.** 8 Queensway House, Queensway, Newton Abbot. TQ12 4BA. Tel:  
01626 437310, email: [office@thatfoodbank.com](mailto:office@thatfoodbank.com) Website: [www.thatfoodbank.com](http://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](mailto:news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)