



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

1st March 2026. *Second Sunday of Lent*

In this edition:

- Notes from the Rector on the importance of prayer- for Jesus and the church!
- A reminder of the Prayer Course running throughout Lent
- Resource of the week: a great series to help us know what to pray
- Times of our Parish Prayer Gatherings for the next few weeks
- Lunch with God, and Lent Lunches with CTNA
- A reminder of a church family funeral
- Advance notice of our Holy Week timetable
- Updated Prayer list
- Good Friday Walk of Witness – a new approach

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

It's hard to underestimate the importance of eating and drinking. We might take them for granted. We might forget to think about them. Our intake of both might be poorly balanced but without them we eventually shrivel and die. And if our intake is far too small, we grow weak and sleepy and lack the ability to function properly.

The same is true for **PRAYER**. Without any prayer the Christian shrivels and dies. Without regular, deep and nourishing prayer, the Christian is left weak and enfeebled, barely spiritually alive and unable to serve God nor the church in any meaningful way.

I don't know how you feel about that comparison, but my guess is that whilst we all know deep down whether we are eating and drinking in ways that truly support a healthy lifestyle, most of us give little or no thought to the health of our prayer lives. And I suspect that if we are honest, the lack of thought is because we already know the answer- that our prayer lives are weak and erratic at best, and feeble at worst. We may have a set time to pray each day, but it will be for little more than a few minutes. And although we may be in the habit of shooting up 'arrow prayers' from time to time, the thought of coming along to a church prayer meeting fills us with fear. Prayer is often not part of our lives in any meaningful or life sustaining way.

For most Christians, an honest self-assessment of our prayer lives won't be happy reading. We know it should be better. We know our spiritual lives would be far stronger if it were, and yet we aren't motivated to do much about it. Does that sound familiar? If so, you're in good company. I am all too well aware of the poverty of my own prayer life and I long for it to be better and deeper and more effective. As I said on Sunday, I want my daily times of prayer to be a delight that draws me closer to God. Something that I do not want to miss!

We see the importance of having set times of prayer in the life of Jesus. We might imagine that being the eternal Son of God gave Jesus such a deep connection to the Father that prayer was unnecessary, and yet as well as the daily pattern of prayer common to Jews at the time, Jesus regularly took time away to pray. This sometimes confused his disciples who thought that Jesus should be all about the work (see Mark 1:25-37), but for Jesus, prayer was a priority. He longed for those times alone with his Father and he needed those times.

Jesus had 40 days of prayer and fasting before his work began (See Matthew 4). He spent a night in prayer before he chose the 12 (Luke 6:12ff), He took time in the Garden of Gethsemane to prepare for the events of Good Friday (Mark 14:32ff) and in between we are told by Luke that '*Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.*' (Luke 5:16)

The early church followed suit. It was born in prayer in the days following Jesus' ascension to Heaven (see Acts 1:14ff) and it had a pattern of gathering with food, fellowship and worship that always involved prayer. (See Acts 2:42) Somehow over the centuries, especially in countries where following Jesus is easy and free of persecution, prayer has become something that many Christians leave to the 'professional Christians' and fail to prioritise. If the Church in the UK is to recover, then our generation must find its way back to living lives marked and infused by prayer- both personal and corporate.

Our series on prayer on Sundays and the Lent course are designed to help us move towards that goal, as are the books listed below.

God is always listening. Are we ready to talk?

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 Nippon Sei Ko Kai

For the churches of the Dunkeswell Mission Community, their clergy Nigel Candelent, Jane Penn, LLM Sara Bevan, and for all who live and worship in Uppottery, Sheldon, Plymtree, Luppitt, Dunkeswell, Broadhembury.

Residents in the following streets: Aller Brake Road, Aller Park Road, Applegarth Avenue, Applegarth Close, Ash Way, Ashburton Road, Ashmill Court, Aspen Drive and Audley Rise.

The sick and suffering including: Sheila Fletcher, Joyce Sutherland, Sally Fulcher, Marie Graham, Martyn, Eve Taylor, David Littlewood, Ruth and Ted Parkhouse, Sandy Vaughan Edwards, Ted Demery, Cherie Glover, Ryan Holland, Orla Pyne, and any others who are unwell.

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.

Readings for 22nd February.

First epistle to the Thessalonians, Chapter 5, verses 12 to 18,
Psalm 88

NEWS AND NOTICES

Lunch With God and 321: After today, LUNCH WITH GOD at St Paul's will now pause for March to allow us to join with Christians from across the town at the Lent Lunches hosted at St Joseph's Church. These run from 12 noon to 13:30, with proceeds going to support MSF and Embrace the Middle East.

Lunch with God will restart on Wednesday 1st April with a Holy Week special focussed on the cross of Christ.

Parish Prayer Gatherings:

Our next **evening Parish Prayer Gathering** will be on **Monday 2nd March** at St Paul's Church **starting at 7 p.m.** Do come and join us.

Our next **morning Parish Prayer Gathering** will be on **Monday 9th March** at St Paul's Church **starting at 9:15 a.m.**

Church Family Funerals. The funeral of **Paul Hewson** will be at St Mary's Wolborough on Monday 2nd March at 10:30am.

Please remember Paul's family and friends in your prayers over the coming days, along with the families of those recently deceased.

Prayer List: If you'd like your name or the name of a loved one added to the new list, please let us know by email to prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

Lent Focus on Prayer - and our Lent Course



Newton Abbot Parish

LENT COURSE ON PRAYER

Starting Monday 23 February

Monday lunchtimes 12:30pm to 2:30pm in Abbotsbury Church (bring your own lunch)
or Tuesday nights 7pm to 8:30pm in St Paul's Church

Session 1: The Heart of the Matter (The "Why")

Session 2: Prayer in the Dark & The Daily Grind (The "When")

Session 3: The Prayer Menu (The "What For")

Session 4: The Gethsemane Struggle (When Answers Differ)

Session 5: The Still Small Voice (How We Hear)

Please let Gareth or Dave know that you are coming

Scan the QR code for more details



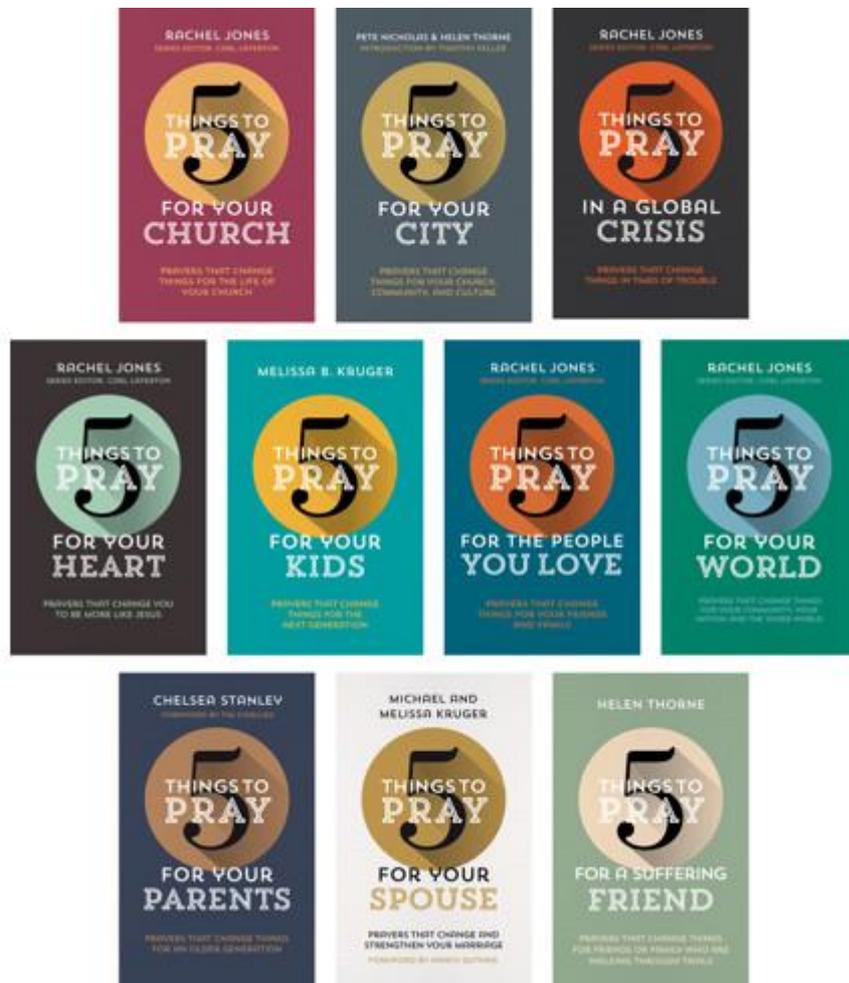
www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

To complement the Sunday teaching on Prayer, we will also be holding a 5-week Lent course on Prayer. The sessions will be held twice each week: on **Monday afternoons from 12:30pm to 2pm at Abbotsbury Church**, and on **Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8:30pm at St Paul's**. *(You might want to bring some lunch with you to the Monday course!)*

The aim of the short course is to put some practical flesh on to the Sunday sermons, allowing us to learn HOW to pray but hearing and doing. Each session will involve some teaching, discussion and a time to put what we have learned into prayer.

Do come along!

Resource of the Week. Here are the last of the featured books on prayer. They can be bought from <https://uk.10ofthose.com/partners/nab> (where our churches get a small commission), through **Choice Words** and other bookstores too. Wherever you choose to buy them from, why not take the time this Lent to learn more about PRAYER. They come from a series entitled '**5 Things to Pray for...**' Written by various authors, each page starts with a short piece of scripture before suggesting 5 things to pray about on that particular theme. I've found these books helpful, and I know many others have as well. If you struggle to think WHAT to pray, these little books will be a great help!



Looking Ahead to Holy Week.

Wednesday 1 st April	10:00	Holy Communion at St Paul's
	12:15 -13:45	Lunch with God at St Paul's
Maundy Thursday	17:30	Meal + reflections at Abbotsbury
	19:30	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Good Friday	10:00	CTNA Walk of Witness starts
	14:00	An Hour at the Cross at All Saints Highweek
	14:00	All-age reflections at Abbotsbury
Saturday 4 th April	10:30-15:30	Easter Fun Day at St Paul's

Easter Day - There will be the (outdoor weather permitting) Sunrise Service at All Saints (time to be confirmed) and Easter Communion services at the usual times in our other 4 churches (St Bartholemew's and Abbotsbury at 9:30, and St Paul's and St Mary's at 11:00).

Good Friday Walk of Witness 2026

This year the Walk of Witness will be somewhat different. Rather than the readings and hymns we've had in past years it will look more like a mini-passion play with the story acted out. There will still be some hymns, but the hope is that the dramatic presentation of the events of that first Easter will draw in many more people to watch and listen and, God-willing, want to know more. It is also shorter... not least because we miss out an initial service in church and start by gathering in Bearness School playground around 9:45am.

With just over 5 weeks to go, we need to find our actors. Might that be you? If so, you will need to have a great outdoor voice, able to project well and speak clearly and at a good pace. Ideally, you will need to learn your lines off by heart too.

We're looking for the following roles to be filled- with the main speaking roles in bold

Scene 1: Jesus' Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane

James, Jesus, Judas and 2 disciples and 2 silent soldiers

Scene 2: Outside The High Priest's House- Peter's Denials

Peter, Servant Girl, man by fire calling out from the crowd

Scene 3: Pontius Pilate Palace- The Trial Of Jesus

Pilate, Jesus, Crowd, 2 silent soldiers

Scene 4: At The Foot of an Empty Cross- Post Jesus' Crucifixion

Mary Magdalene, 2 silent soldiers, Jesus and two other voices shout out from the crowd

We might also need a few more disciples in costumes as extras.

If you'd like to know more, do please get in touch with me (Dave) asap and I'll send you a script. You'll also need to be available for a gathering/chat/audition at St Paul's Church on the afternoon of **Sunday 8th March, from 3:30pm**. That will give us just under 4 weeks until the Walk to get things right... The scenes are short, so that should be enough.

In the meantime, please PRAY... for the right people, good weather, and for many to come and watch and listen and discover the glorious mercy and love of Jesus.

Lent Lunches by Christians Together in Newton Abbot will be at St. Joseph's Church on Wednesdays: 25th February, 4th March, 11th March, 19th March and 25th March, starting at 12 noon.

Bread - Cheese - Apple – Drink - Fellowship - Prayer - Support for Gaza and Ukraine



SCAN FOR TICKETS



10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

A DECADE OF SONG AND COMMUNITY

RAFFLE | BAR | DISCO AFTERWARDS

MARCH 27TH 2026 | 7:30PM

DOORS OPENING 6:45PM

AT KEVICC ARIEL THEATRE

ASHBURTON RD, TOTNES, TQ9 5JX

TICKETS £10 / £5 CHILDREN

USE CODE "DISCOUNT20" FOR EARLY-BIRD OFFER - 20% OFF ALL
TICKETS UNTIL 22ND FEBRUARY

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETSOURCE:

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.COM/UNITY-IN-SOUND-COMMUNITY-CHOIR

ALL PROFITS TO BE SHARED BETWEEN DEVON AIR AMBULANCE
AND ROWCROFT HOSPICE

Howard Goodall

Eternal Light

A REQUIEM

and 'The Lord is my Shepherd'

Join Choir 86 in their 40th Anniversary Year,
accompanied by renowned organist **Wyn Turner**
and keyboard player **Jean Baldey**.



Thursday 26th March - 19:30hrs at St Joseph's RC
Church, 96 Queen St, Newton Abbot TQ12 2ET *and*
Saturday 28th March - 19:30hrs at St Mary's Parish
Church, Church End Road, Kingskerswell TQ12 5LD

Tickets available at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/choir86

Advance Ticket Price:
Adults £8.00
Concessions £7.00

On the Door Price:
Adults £11.00
Concessions £10.00

We are proud to be supporting Kerswella Care



contact@choir86.co.uk



THAT Foodbank

If you're able to donate to us this week, these are the things that we're currently short of

 Tinned ham/pork/ corned beef	 Sugar
 Custard	 Tinned fruit
 Cooking sauces	 Bottles of squash
 Jars of coffee	 Pot noodles/instant noodles
 Tinned sweetcorn	 Tinned fish

If you can't donate to us this week, please share our post with others. Thank you!

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. These will be **suspended from 4th March and resume on 1st April**, to enable you to attend the Lent lunches at St Joseph's Church.

Youth Group for ages 11-17 at The Avenue Church 27th February, 7.30 to 9 p.m.

Lent course on Prayer. Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church (bring your own lunch) or Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at St Paul's Church. The last sessions are on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th March.

Charity Coffee Morning. 28th February in aid of Anna Chaplains in the Hall at St Paul's Church. Coffee Mornings at St Bartholomew's Church have been suspended for the time being.

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

Lent Lunches will be held on each Wednesday 25th February to 25th March at 12 noon in the St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Hall (off St Paul's Road or up the path beside front of Church in Queen Street).

Women's Breakfast. Saturday, 14th March at 9:30 a.m. at The Clock Tower Coffee Shop, Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot.

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

Visions of Peace Concert. Saturday 21st March at 7 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church. Sung by Torbay Singers. Tickets from www.torbaysingers.org

Joint Parish Communion. 29th March at 10:30 a.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

CHURCH SERVICES

1st March

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

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

St Mary's Church, Wolborough, Matins (BCP) at 11 a.m.

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

St Luke's Church, Mass at 11:15 a.m.

8th March

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

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

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

St Luke's Church, Mass at 11:15 a.m.

15th March (Mothering Sunday)

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

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

St Mary's Church, Wolborough, Holy Communion (BCP) at 11 a.m.

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

St Luke's Church, Mass at 11:15 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.

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

FUNERALS AND INTERMENTS

Paul Hewson. 2nd March at 10:30 a.m. at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

Michael Taylor. 20th March at 10:30 a.m. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

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.** gwynhughes@icloud.com 01626 365028

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

and **Kim Martin** annachaplain@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

Organist: Steve Cox 079 686 21511 or 01626 854228 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

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 day's issue.

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

John Calderwood news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk