



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

8th March 2026. *Third 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 next week
- Resource of the week: a play-list of songs on the theme of prayer
- Times of our Parish Prayer Gatherings for the next few weeks
- Lunch with God, and Lent Lunches with CTNA
- Our Holy Week timetable
- The Walk of Witness this year - and how you can get involved.
- Free mini freezer!
- Updated Prayer list
- Coffee Morning result

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

There's a caricature figure who may come to mind when we think about a Church Prayer Gathering. It's of a rather stern elderly man, usually smart in dress, who, when he stands to pray suddenly changes his vocabulary to that of the King James Bible and who seems to lose all track of time as he does. His prayers are long and winding, encompassing multitudes of scripture passages and all kinds of topics and usually end with something about his own inadequacies at prayer and begging for God's help to pray prayers of a suitable length and holiness that they might be counted worthy. In previous churches I've come across a few people who fit this description, and whilst their prayers may well be lovely, they make everyone else feel terrible inadequate!

But the length, the breadth of vocabulary, the volume or the number of texts quoted means nothing when it comes to the integrity of our prayers. God, as the scriptures remind us, looks on the heart.

That's not to say that long, well-crafted prayers are wrong. Some of Paul's prayers are long and beautiful. Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 8 is almost a full chapter. Sometimes we have a lot to say and our Father does not have a time-limit on calls to the throne room in Heaven. It is to say that what counts is the heart, the honesty and integrity of the one

praying. That's why Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Both prayed - one loud and confident. One humble and quiet. But it was the tax collector's prayer of 'Lord have mercy on me a sinner' that was answered. The other was just for show.

That's why it's always good to begin our prayers by considering who it is we are praying to. *Our Father in Heaven...* and moving to worship or confession as we consider the awesome glory and majesty of God compared to our own sinfulness and weakness.

It's why we should pray from the heart however we are feeling. I don't know why we think we can deceive God; he knows the words we will speak before they reach our lips, he knows our feelings, our besetting sins, our real needs and desires. But sometimes – perhaps especially if we are praying with other people – we hide our real selves away. Let's not do that. The raw honesty of Job's prayers, of the Psalmists' cries for help, of Jesus' prayers in gethsemane and many of the prayers of the disciples show us that we can cry out to God in prayer and bring him our needs, our fears, our pains and everything else besides! I hope that message came through clearly on Sunday and on our prayer course.

Real prayer, then, must be honest prayer. We need to pray for what we need – not what we think we need. We need to pray as we are, not from a made-up position of where we think others imagine us to be. But we can do that knowing that our Father in Heaven already knows what we need, and that he stands ready to shower his blessings upon us.

So, no more praying to impress or praying to hide the truth. Let's be honest and open in our prayers and pray to God in the Spirit and in truth, for those are the kind of worshippers – and pray-ers – that the Father desires us to be.

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 Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

On International Women's Day, we give thanks for the women who bless our lives and communities. We pray for women around the world suffering because of prejudice, abuse, and hate. Where there is despair, we pray for hope. Help us build a world that celebrates and empowers women.

Residents in the following streets: Back Road, Bakers Hill, Bakers View, Balmoral Close, Bank Street, Barton Drive and Beacon Drive.

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.

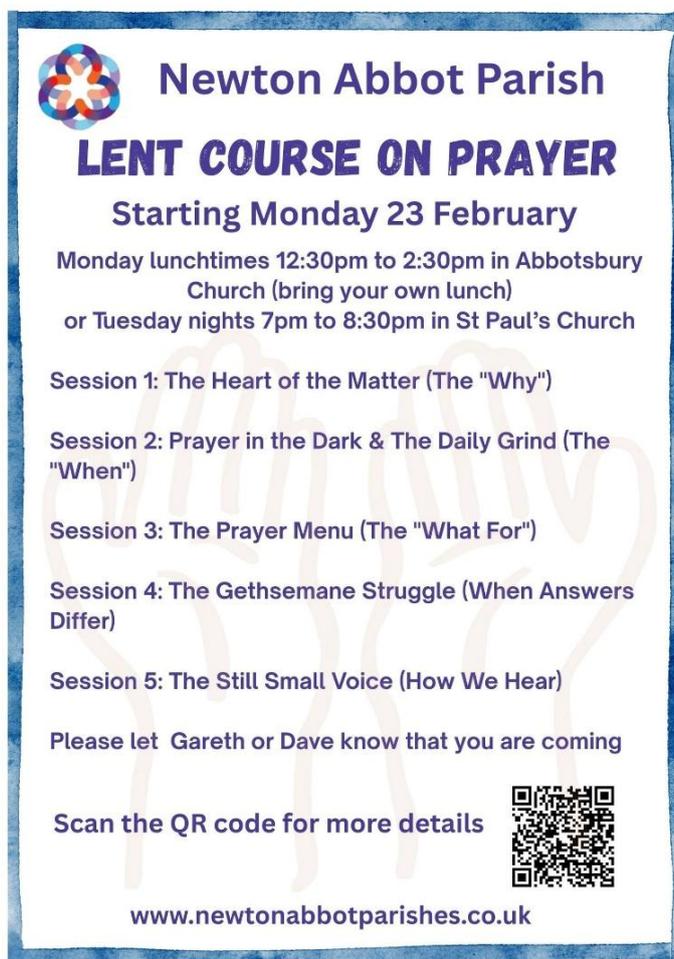
Please email prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk to let us know about anyone needing our prayers.

Readings for 8th March.

Philippians Chapter 4, verses 4 to 9
Psalm 86

NEWS AND NOTICES

Lent Focus on Prayer - and our Lent Course



The poster features a blue and white circular logo with a star-like pattern in the top left corner. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and regular fonts. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the poster area. The background of the poster has a faint, light-colored illustration of hands.

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

It's STILL not too late to come along to our Lent course on prayer which started last week. The sessions are held twice each week and complement the Sunday teaching on Prayer. They are being held 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!

Lunch with God has paused for March to allow us to join with Christians from across the town at the Lent Lunches hosted at St Joseph's. 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 **morning** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on **Monday 9th March** at St Paul's Church starting at 9:15 a.m.

Our next **evening** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on **Monday 16th March** at St Paul's Church starting at 7 p.m. Do come and join us.

Resource of the Week. A prayer play list...

Something different this week... a selection of 5 songs with a theme of prayer running through them... May they stir your hearts to pray!

A prayer of confession: [\(1\) Lord, Have Mercy • Prayers of the Saints Live - YouTube](#)

A prayer for God's Holy Spirit. [Holy Spirit Living Breath of God \(Official Lyric Video\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty](#)

Waiting in prayer: [I Will Wait for You \(Psalm 130\) \(Official Lyric Video\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty](#)

A prayer of commitment: [Take my life and let it be Brian Doerksen](#)

A prayer of blessing: [The Blessing // Virtual Choir \(Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes, Elevation Worship Cover\)](#)



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
A service for everyone!
Friday 6 March
I will give you rest, come

Nigeria 2026

 **CHRISTIANS TOGETHER**
IN NEWTON ABBOT

**2pm at St Joseph's Church,
Queen Street, Newton Abbot**

Organised by Christians Together in Newton Abbot

All Welcome!
Refreshments available in the hall after the service



NEWTON ABBOT PARISHES



Easter Events

Wednesday 1 April 10:00

10:00 Holy Communion at St Paul's Church

12.15-13.45 Lunch with God at St Paul's Church

Maundy Thursday 2 April

17:30 All-age Meal + Reflections at Abbotsbury

19:30 Holy Communion at St Mary's

Good Friday 3 April

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 April

10.30-15.30 Easter Fun Day at St Paul's

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at All Saints (time tbc)

Easter Communion Services

9.30 at Abbotsbury and St Bart's

11.00 at St Paul's and St Mary's



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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 continue at St. Joseph's Church on Wednesdays: 4th March, 11th March, 19th March and 25th March, starting at 12 noon. Bread - Cheese - Apple – Drink - Fellowship - Prayer - Support for Gaza and Ukraine.

The Coffee Morning at St Paul's last Saturday in aid of the work of Anna Chaplains raised £226.36.

Free (or for a donation) Mini Freezer



St Paul's has recently been given a new fridge freezer, which means that we no longer need the mini freezer. It is about 18 inches in height, width and depth and in good working order. If you'd like it- or know someone who might – please contact the church office.

COMING EVENTS

World Day of Prayer Service by Christians Together in Newton Abbot, on 6th March at 2 p.m. in St Joseph's Church.

Lent Lunches are on each Wednesday up 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).

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.

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

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

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

Youth Group for ages 11-17 at Abbotsbury Church 27th March, 7.30 to 9 p.m.

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

Charity Coffee Morning. 28th March from 10 a.m. in the Hall at St Paul's Church in aid of Animals in Distress.
Coffee Mornings at St Bartholomew's Church have been suspended for the time being.

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

8th March

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 11:15 a.m.

15th March (Mothering Sunday)

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, 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.

22nd March

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 11:15 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

Danny Broadway. 11th March at 11 a.m. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

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

Anita Bailey. 24th March at 12:30 p.m. Interment of Ashes at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

June Davies. 30th March at 1 p.m. Interment of Ashes 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@sjsj.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@newtonbbotparishes.co.uk