



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

5th January 2025. Second Sunday of Christmas

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Let me start by wishing you all a very happy New Year, and that God's richest blessings might rest on you and our church family throughout 2025!

What will the year hold for us, I wonder? At this time of year, commentators, columnists and talking heads will be making their predictions for the coming year in their own specialist fields. Some of them will prove reasonably accurate, others spectacularly wrong. But whilst we should be humble when making plans and predictions for the year ahead (see James 4:13-16) – we can't live without making any plans at all.

So, putting aside all the uncertainty in the world, the church and our own human frailties, what are our hopes and ambitions for the next 12 months?

As a Parish, my hope is that the growth we have seen in the last 12 months continues; that we manage to reach more people with the good news of Jesus and see many more come to a saving faith. The two **Hope Explored** courses starting in January are a part of that strategy, and there will be more courses in the year to allow people to explore the Christian faith. But we also need to grow our outreach to those who won't come into church. So I hope we'll also be more regular in holding our stall in the town centre, and that we'll get more equipped to be ready to give a reason for the hope we have to our friends and neighbours.

I hope this year will see us all grow in the knowledge and love of God so that we walk more in his holy ways. That isn't a quick change but something that happens through the regular disciplines of worship, prayer and Bible reading. There are still sheets in our churches for Year 2 of our Bible reading plan: why not commit to taking part in that programme? The lending library will continue to make its way around our churches: why not commit to reading 1 good Christian book every 3 months? In church, our Sunday teaching programme will focus on Mark's Gospel, the books of Isaiah and 1 Corinthians, with a summer series in the Psalms. Our Lent series will look how we can walk with God in the midst of suffering. Can you commit yourself to attending more frequently so you don't miss out?

God-willing, 2025 will see the completion of the planned improvement and repair work at St Barts, All Saint's and St Paul's – although the latter may be quite a few months in the coming. We'll be looking at projects at St Mary's and Abbotsbury too. The move of the nursery away from St Paul's this spring will bring new challenges (not least financially) but also new opportunities to work with other organisations and to have the space and time to run new

courses and programmes to build God's Church. One of those organisations will be Teignbridge Christians Against Poverty, who are our latest mission partner.

A number of you have asked about a curate to replace Ben. Sadly, a full-time curate won't be on the cards for 2025 (although 2026 is a possibility), but God-willing, Jon Bealey will finish his training in the summer and be ordained amongst us as a non-stipendiary minister. It will be great to have him on the team.

From time to time there will be special events: another **church weekend at home** is in the early planning stages. There will be **lunches and social events** to help us get to know each other better, and special outreach events at Easter and Christmas to draw people in to hear the gospel. Alongside that, life in our benefice will continue in its current form: 6 Churches – 5 styles – 1 message: *That God so loved the world that he sent his One and Only Son, so that all who believe in him, may not perish, but have eternal life.*

So how might you play a greater part in helping to build God's kingdom in our parish over the coming year? Can you commit to be more faithful in prayer? In reading the scriptures? In looking for opportunities to speak about Jesus and invite people to church? In serving in new ways? Except in times of revival, God's Kingdom usually grows slowly and steadily, in unspectacular ways. But wouldn't it be wonderful if in 12 months' time we can look back at another year of steady growth in number and commitment and knowledge and love and give God the glory for all that he has done amongst us! God's plan is to grow his church. So let us head into 2025 secure in the gospel of Jesus, seeking to live for his glory, and praying for God to continue how work amongst us

Songs for the week: [Here We Stand // Emu Music](#)

Grace and peace,

Dave

Readings for 5th January:

1st Epistle to Timothy, Chapter 4, verses 7 to 10

Mark, Chapter 7, verses 1 to 23

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.

The Church in Wales

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

Residents of Ogwell, including: Bunting Close, Meadow View, Meadow Halt, Abbotswood, Margaret Road, Westwood Road, Tamworth Close, Gascon Close, Webber Close, Tor Gardens, and Rectory Road.


The sick and suffering including: Judy Brown, Noah Maynard, Cherie Glover, Sheila Fletcher, Coral Bewsher, John and Joyce Sutherland, Hannah, Jackie, Joshua, Jayne Harrison-Roberts, Anna Crocker 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



HOPE | EXPLORED

Hope Explored is an informal and relaxed 3-week course, looking at the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. We believe that in Jesus we find **real hope** and a joyful expectation for the **future**, based on true events in the **past**, which changes everything about our **present**.

It's for anyone who wants to find hope, peace and purpose in life.

It's run by ordinary Christian people local to you and is completely free.

You don't need to know anything about the Bible, you won't be asked to pray or sing.

You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen.

Whoever you are, whatever you're thinking, **Hope Explored** is a place for you to discover the hope of a future that is better than you could ever imagine. **Why not come and find out more?**

We're starting 2 separate courses in January, both at **St Paul's Church**, Devon Square, in the centre of Newton Abbot.

Tuesday evenings from 7:30pm to 9pm
on 21st + 28th January and 11th February.

Friday mornings from 11:30am to 1pm
on 24th + 31st January and 7th February.

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

Visit <https://hope.explo.red> to find out more.

Prayer Gatherings will begin again on Monday 6th January 2025 at 9:15 a.m.

Used postage stamps. Please collect up the used postage stamps from your Christmas cards and packages, and let Mel have them in the Parish office at St Paul's Church or bring them to a church service. They will be used to help the charity RNLI.

FUNERAL

Christine Marlow 13th January at 1:00 p.m.

COMING EVENTS

Craft Club. 7th January at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

Women's Breakfast. Saturday, 11th January at 9:30 a.m. at The Country Table, Bank Street, Newton Abbot.

Men's Breakfast. Saturday 19th January, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café.

Christian Unity Service. The Avenue Church, on 26th January.

Parochial Church Council Meeting. 29th January at 7 p.m.

Coffee Morning at St Bartholemew's Church, 31st January from 10 a.m.

Charity Coffee Morning 25th January from 10 a.m. at St Paul's Church

2025 Lenten Lunches. Every Wednesday at 12 noon from 12th March to 9th April 2025 at The Avenue Church.

Donizetti's opera 'Anne Boleyn' at Abbotsbury Church on Saturday 29 March 2025 performed by Red Earth Opera. See redearthopera@gmail.com

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

5th January

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

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

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

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

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

12th 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.

19th January

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

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

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

St Mary'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 open during daylight hours for private prayer.

PRAYER GATHERINGS at St Paul's Church.

6th January at 9:15 a.m.

13th January at 7:45 p.m.

20th January at 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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
01626 361952

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