



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

12th January 2025. 1st Sunday of Epiphany

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends,

I've just finished my first book of the year. (That's no huge achievement, it only had 80 pages and was very large print!) The book is called *The Preacherman of Dartmouth* and tells the story of the life of John Flavel. Flavel was born in 1628 and lived through some very difficult times. He lost his parents to the great plague, had 3 wives die, including 1 in childbirth, and as a dissenting minister who would not submit to the new rules on using only the Book of Common Prayer in public worship, he endured years of threat, home imprisonment and saw many of his friends and congregation fined, imprisoned or killed. It's a stirring story of courage under real pressure and persecution.

The world and culture we live in is not nearly as threatening. But what will keep us going as individuals and as a fellowship of believers if we find that 2025 becomes a year when the LORD allows a time of testing to come upon us? I think St Paul, who knew more than most about suffering for the sake of the gospel, had at least part of the answer when he spoke about the marks of a true Christian being faith, hope and love. They were all present in Flavel's life too. So over the next 3 weeks we'll take a brief look at each one from the context of standing firm no matter how difficult 2025 might be.

A STRONG FAITH.

Many people treat their Christian faith in the same way that they treat their car: as something helpful that they know works and wouldn't be without – but which they really don't know much about beyond the basics. Is that true for us, I wonder?

In some respects, a simple faith is all we need. The wonder of the gospel is that it is simple enough for a child to understand, yet deep enough to satisfy the greatest of minds. But why should we be satisfied with just a simple faith and a basic understanding? If the gospel message is a message of such power to save the worst of sinners, of such grace to reach to all who accept it, and of such resilience to remain unchanged through the ages, should we not seek to understand all that God has done for us? The gospel is light and hope and peace; it frees and cleanses, changes and equips. If we do not grasp what the gospel CAN do, how can we receive all that God has for us?

And we are not just talking about doctrine or academic theology here are we? Our faith is not in a set of propositions – but in a person - in fact three persons! In the only wise God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our faith is not just a set of propositions to be believed, but in a God we are invited to know, to worship and obey. This is where the analogy of faith

being like a car really comes off the road! For our faith is not a thing that we drive, but in a Father who loves us; a Son who died and rose again for us; and in the Holy Spirit who lives within us.

So the question isn't how much do we know about God, but how well do we know Him? How close is our friendship? How intimate our fellowship? How easily do we drift into prayer because we want his help and guidance? How quickly do we slip into praise because we know that all our good gifts flow from the hand of the God who knows us and loves us? How often do we bury our heads in his arms and pour out our sorrows and cares to him? These questions will tell us something of the strength of our faith. And if our answers are not what we would like them to be, the answer is to draw near to God, because when we do that, he promises to draw near to us. In times of testing – whatever they may be- there is no greater comfort than knowing that the God who holds the world in his hands is also holding us.

It was deep and personal faith that allowed John Flavel and St Paul to continue their writing and preaching and ministry when the risks – and the costs - were so great. It is a faith like this that will allow us to stand firm and stay faithful no matter what 2025 may bring to us.

Songs for the week: [Faithful one - Robin Mark](#) and [Pat Barrett - Build My Life \(feat. Chris Tomlin\) \(Live\)](#)

Grace and peace,

Dave

Readings for 12th January:

1st Epistle to Timothy, Chapter 4, verses 11 to 16

Mark, Chapter 7, verses 24 to 37

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 of the Province of West Africa

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.

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

Residents of Ogwell including: Ogwell Road, Larksmead Close, Ogwell End Drive, Abbotsridge Drive, Margaret Close, Buttercombe Close, Saddleback Close, Landrace Close, Scratton Path, Garners Lane and Garners Close.


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 The next EVENING PRAYER GATHERING will be on Monday 13th January at 7:45 p.m. The next MORNING PRAYER GATHERING will be on Monday 20th January from 9:15 a.m.-10 a.m. Both will be at St Paul's.

PCC Meeting: Wednesday 29th January at 7 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church. Please pray for the PCC as they meet.

FUNERALS and INTERMENTS

Christine Marlow 13th January at 1:00 p.m. at St Paul's Church followed by committal at Kingsteignton Cemetery.

Mary Calderwood. Interment of Ashes. 25th May at 11:30 a.m. at All Saints' Church.

COMING EVENTS

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

Men's Breakfast. Saturday 18th January, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café.

Craft Club. 21st January, 4th and 18th February, 4th and 18th March at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

26th 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 Bartholemew's Church in Ogwell is open during daylight hours for private prayer.

PRAYER GATHERINGS at St Paul's Church.

13th January at 7:45 p.m.

20th January at 9:15 a.m.

27th January at 7:45 p.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@slsj.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