



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

22nd June 2025.

FROM DAVID WITCHELL on 50th Anniversary of his Ordination this June.

Dear friends in Newton Abbot and Ogwell,

Thank you to Dave for kindly inviting me to share some reflections fifty years after my ordination in Peterborough Cathedral at Petertide, June 1975. I still remember the bishop's advice to preach on the collect and to get myself a television set. Succinct advice indeed. I also remember advice from elsewhere that a house-going parson makes a church-going people.

Without doubt things have changed since the 1970s. There were more people in church in those days. Evensong was clearly dwindling however, never having recovered, it was said by some, after the hugely popular 'Forsythe Saga', televised on Sunday evenings the previous decade. Much of the radical theology of the 1960s was on the wane, but the teaching on marriage and human relationships was still quite clear. Donald Coggan was Archbishop of Canterbury, Harold Wilson was Prime Minister, and The Bay City Rollers were in full swing.

I served two curacies, the usual pattern then for the newly ordained, first in Northampton and then in Oakham in the smallest county of Rutland. In both parishes I enjoyed the company of fellow curates, when clergy were more plentiful, and since then I have always valued working with colleagues. My first incumbency was in the villages of Weedon and Everdon, in the Rugby-Daventry area where the BBC masts of the former Third Programme towered nearby, occasionally threatening to interfere with television reception. This was followed by a parish in the middle of Wellingborough, where standing outside the church we could savour the smell of the Weetabix factory several miles away if the wind was in our direction. It was there where most of my children grew up, and we were blessed to have two church schools which were an integral part of that parish's ministry. Finally, coming down to Paignton seemed like a great adventure as we moved two hundred miles from the very centre of the country to our parish on the coast with its bracing sea breezes.

My duties as rural dean opened up wider aspects of ministry to the clergy and parishes of different traditions and challenges, with participation in deanery planning. Music and children's work were valuable contacts with the Families Department of the Mothers Union for their festivals and fun days, and it was a privilege to serve for a while as their chaplain. Work on the diocesan board of education enabled me to appreciate the invaluable role of church schools, even though I myself had only taught for two years. Chaplaincies with the Air Training Corps were useful links with young people who may or may not have had any connection with the church.

Although my time in ministry had its good times and more challenging moments, I never suffered from boredom. The day-to-day pastoral ministry is so varied, with the privileges of being privy to

the many aspects of the human experience and condition. As we clergy are there to serve the people in their joys and sorrows and in-betweens, so the whole Body of Christ has its part to play in serving, caring and praying. There is, of course, the sacred task for the minister of preaching the Gospel, leading worship and celebrating the sacraments. The Gospel message never changes, even if we have to find new ways of doing things.

The church has had to adapt over the years. We are now in a climate which is less sympathetic to Christianity, and in some places anti-Christian. This upsets some, but I sense the majority of church people are just getting on with their belief and Christian action in their own way. People come to church for personal reasons of faith rather than accepted custom. More congregations and individuals are facing the challenges of our changing society. There are people from the pews who are gladly accepting positions of leadership and responsibility. Exciting and imaginative new ways of discipleship have emerged, with fresh expressions of faith. The green shoots are here.

'Launch out into the deep', says Jesus to the disciple Peter. Many centuries before we read of the challenge to Joshua, 'Be strong and of good courage'. Words indeed to encourage and inspire us today.

May the Lord bless you. It is always a joy to share your fellowship.

David

Please pray for:

Our Church, our parish, benefice and diocese, our Rector Dave Brown, Team Vicars Gareth Regan and Fr. Matthew Cashmore, Jon Bealey as he prepares to take up his role as Deacon, 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.

Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

Saint David's Church, Exeter, their clergy Mike Clark and Sarah Cumming, LLMs Ian Cartwright, David Blundell, Charlotte Townsend, and Bill Pattinson. Also, for Saint Michael and All Angels, their priest Nigel Mason and for all who live and worship in Saint Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, and Saint David. For pupils, teachers and staff at St David's Church of England Primary School.

Residents in the following Streets: Fairfield Terrace, Fallowfield Close, Fern Road, Fisher Road, Flete Avenue, Flete Close, Forches Cross Road, Forde Close and Forde Park.

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, Marion Fishman, Marie Graham, Martyn, Joyce Lander, Eve Taylor, David Hayes, David Littlewood, Sarah Bonote 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.

Readings for 22nd June:

John chapter 7, verses 45 to 52

1 Corinthians chapter 4, verses 1 to 21

NEWS AND NOTICES

Church Weekend at Home with Rev Dr Paul Gardner, on 27th to 29th June. A weekend of excellent Bible Teaching, great music, wonderful fellowship and a good dose of fun too! Weekends like this deepen our love of God and strengthen our fellowship, helping to build valuable links across our church divides. Please consider coming along for the whole weekend, but if you can only make 1 teaching session and the Sunday morning service, that would be great too.

Booking forms are available in all our churches and there is still time to book if you haven't done so already.

Parish Prayer Gatherings: Our next morning Parish Prayer Gathering will be on Monday 23rd June at St Paul's Church, starting at 9:15 a.m. Our next evening Parish Prayer Gathering will be on Monday 30th June from 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Bartholemew's. Do come and join us!

T.H.A.T. Foodbank ask if anyone could donate any of the following items.

Coffee
Sugar
Long life milk
Tinned carrots
Packets of rice
Ladies Deodorant
Shampoo
Washing up liquid
Toothbrushes

Thank you so much for helping us to provide food and essentials to those who need it.

Bernice (one of the volunteers). Phone 07906608523.

There should be a donation box in the church or speak to me or Roland.

Singers Wanted for BCP Evensong Choir

The Newton Abbot Parishes and St. John's, Bovey Tracey are uniting to build a new evensong choir. Our first rehearsal will be on the 19th June and the 3rd Thursday of every month thereafter at 7 p.m. in St. John's. We'll start with a very simple setting that we can then sing on the Sunday (6th July) and then start to practice simple Anthems and so forth. There's no commitment to be at rehearsal every month, or to attend every Evensong, this is just a light hearted and simple way of offering worship to God using the music and liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer. Be in touch with Fr. Matthew (father@sjsj.co.uk or phone 07555 924862) with any questions.

Party in the Park, on 12th July, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Courtenay Park. The Parish will have a stall. **Volunteers are needed** to run games and chat to passers-by about our churches and Christian faith. Contact Dave if you can help.

Spanish Evening, on 12th July at 7 p.m. at St Paul's Church. This is to support Johnny Pelgrum on his walking mission with Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade to share Jesus along the Camino de Santiago. Come to find out more, enjoy some Spanish food and bring a gift to support Johnny's trip.

COMING EVENTS

Evensong Choir Practice: 19th June, 7 p.m. at St John's Church, Bovey Tracey.

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

Charity Coffee Morning at St Bartholemew's Church, on 27th June at 10 a.m. **in aid of Animals in Distress.**

Parish Weekend at Home. 27th to 29th June.

Induction as Deacon. Jon Bealey is to be inducted on Saturday 28th June at Exeter Cathedral and introduced to our Parish in his new role on 29th June during the 10:30 a.m. Parish service at St Paul's Church. Contact Gareth about tickets for the induction at the Cathedral.

Joint Parish Service, 29th June at 10:30 at St Paul's Church.

Parish Lunch on 29th June at St Paul's Church. Booking required.

Craft Club. 1st July at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church

Charity Coffee Morning at St Paul's Church on **5th July**, at 10 a.m. **in aid of Torbay Hospital Special Care Baby Unit.**

Evensong on 6th July at 5:30 p.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

Summer with the Father. 5th July and 9th August, 8:30 to 10 a.m. for women at 5 Coach Place. **Now fully booked.** For waiting list contact Judy on 01626 335862 or email mrsvicar16@gmail.com .

Women's Breakfast. Saturday, 12th July at 9:30 a.m. at The Country Table, Bank Street, Newton Abbot.

Party in the Park. 12th July, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In Courtenay Park. Help needed with Parish stall. Contact Dave.

Spanish Evening. 12th July at 7 p.m. To support Johnny Pelgrum on his walking mission with Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade to share Jesus along the Camino de Santiago. Come to find out more, enjoy some Spanish food and bring a gift to support Johnny's trip.

Traditional Choral Evensong. 13th July at 6 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Abbotskerswell.

PCC Meeting on Tuesday 15th July at 7 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

22nd June

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.

29th June

St Paul's Church, Joint Parish Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

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

6th July

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

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

St Mary's Church, 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.

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/>

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.

OTHER SERVICES

Evensongs at 5:30 p.m.		5 th Sunday services at 10:30 a.m.	
6 th July	All Saints Highweek	29 th June	St Paul's
31 st August	West Ogwell	31 st August	St Bart's
30 th November	St Luke's Milber	30 th November	All Saints Highweek

PRAYER GATHERINGS

23rd June 9:15 a.m. at St Paul's Church.

30th June 7:45 p.m. at St Bartholomew's Church, Ogwell.

7th July 9:15 a.m. at St Paul's Church.

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: vacant

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

Kim Martin kimbo58@gmail.com

Organists: Clive Sawers 07967 148794 clivesawers@aol.com

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

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