



# Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

## WEEKLY NEWS

5<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

### FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends,

In the last of this series of articles about why we can trust the Bible, we're going to focus on how we can know that the Bible hasn't been changed and edited over time.

That's actually a claim that Islam makes as it seeks to discredit the New Testament's account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. But it's also something I've heard atheists and even some churchgoers speak of as if it were a fact! So how do we know that the good news of Jesus as we have it recorded for us in the New Testament is actually what the first authors wrote? After all, the Bibles we have in our churches are a new translation done in the last 20 years. And even if we read the King James Bible, it's still not written in its original language and only dates to just over 400 years old?

The first thing we need to note is that Bibles are translated from the oldest complete manuscripts. This is a rigorous process with many checks and balances, so that those who read say, an English translation, can be confident that every care has been taken to translate the original Hebrew or Greek language as carefully as possible. Click here for more information on this: [What are the differences between Bible versions and translations?](#)

But what about the original manuscripts that are used? How trustworthy are they?

When it comes to the examination of ancient written sources, there are three key questions which need to be addressed. What is the date of the writing? What earlier sources are employed in the writing? And how well preserved are the manuscript copies of the writing and how many are there? On all three questions the New Testament scores incredibly well.

**The date of the writing:** I touched on this last week, but just to remind you, the commonly accepted dates for the gospels are in the 60s for Mark, the 70s and 80s for Luke and Matthew, and the 90s for the gospel of John. That means that within 40 years of Jesus' death we have at least one full biography, with another two following ten years later. Compared to other ancient and well-regarded sources such as the biography of Alexander, or the Annals written by a roman historian called Tacitus, this is amazingly near to the

events. Even non-Christian sources which mention Jesus are far closer to the events than other well-respected books about other historical figures.

**What earlier sources are employed in the writing?** It seems clear from the beginning of Luke's gospel, that in drawing up an account of the life of Jesus, Luke used earlier written accounts alongside his own interviews. Biblical scholars have various names for these unknown manuscripts, because all of them are now lost to us. However, the fact that there are even earlier written records of the things Jesus did and said is astonishing and takes us even closer to the time of Jesus. Comparing Luke's Gospel to the earlier Gospel of Mark, we can see how Luke has acted to conserve earlier portions of writing, rather than adapt them. This should give us great confidence in how the gospel writers went about their task.

The last question is the clincher: **How well preserved are the manuscript copies of the writing and how many are there?** A table might be useful here:

	<b>Date of original document</b>	<b>Date of oldest surviving copy</b>	<b>Time between the two</b>	<b>Number of ancient copies in existence today</b>
<b>Thucydides' history of the Peloponnesian war</b>	c. 431-400 BC	AD 900 plus a few late 1 <sup>st</sup> century fragments	1,300 years	73
<b>Caesar's Gallic War</b>	c. 58-50 BC	AD 825	875 years	10
<b>Tacitus' Histories and Annals</b>	c. AD 98-108	c. AD 850	750 years	2
<b>The New Testament</b>	AD 40-100	AD 350	310 years	<b>14,000!!!</b> Approx. 5,000 Greek, 8,000 Latin and 1,000 others

What's more, this number for the New Testament does not take into account the huge number of fragments and partial copies of the New Testament that exist, some of which are almost complete in themselves and date to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. Many of these are held in the British Museum.

This vast number of manuscripts across different the languages means that any differences between the various copies, more likely errors in the hand-copying of the texts, stand out. This makes the original text clear and means that we can be very sure indeed that the text of the New Testament has not been altered over time. And in the very rare cases where there are words or sections where there is a doubt, (like the Mark 16: 9-20) our church Bibles make a note of that for us to see.

So apart from the language in which we read the texts, the Bibles we have in our pews and homes haven't changed over the years. The clarity and age of the texts along with the care of the translators means that we can trust the Bible to tell us the truth of Jesus. That

leaves two questions: Will we believe what the scriptures tell us? And how will we respond to it? Peter's response to Jesus in John 6: 68 gives us the best response: **"Lord to who else shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!"** May we be those who read and believe the gospel and find for ourselves the true and eternal life Jesus offers.

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.

**Peace in Ukraine and Israel.**

**The Anglican Church of Tanzania**

**For the churches of the Modbury Mission Community,**

**Residents in the following streets:** Norman Close, Northernhay, Oak Lawn, Oak Park Road, Oak Place, Oak Place, Dudley Gardens, Oak Tree Drive, Oakland Road and Ogwell End Drive.

**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, Sally Fulcher, Marie Graham, Martyn, Eve Taylor, David Littlewood, Max and Sarah, 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.

**The prison staff being made redundant** following budget cuts, those who remain faced with reduced resources, and the prisoners affected by cuts including education and rehabilitation programmes.

**Please email** [prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) to let us know about anyone needing our prayers.

## **Readings for 5<sup>th</sup> October**

John, Chapter 11: Verses 17 to 27

Isaiah chapter 35

## NEWS AND NOTICES

**Harvest Festival Services:** Our Harvest Festival Services will be taking place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October (apart from Highweek which will be the week after). Please think about purchasing 1 or 2 extra items over the coming weeks and bring them along to church on Harvest Sunday. All the produce will be donated to THAT Foodbank in Newton Abbot. They are currently very short of...

UHT Milk	Squash	Cooking sauces	Small Jars of coffee
Tinned fruit	Tinned tomatoes	Jam	Small boxes of tea bags
Tinned veg (including potatoes)		Tinned rice pudding and custard	

But all tins and packet foods will be most welcome.



*Newton Abbot Parishes Announce*

# *A Harvest Supper + Quiz Night*

*St Paul's Hall  
Saturday 4th October  
From 6:30pm-9pm*

*Main course provided.  
Bring drinks + puddings to share!*

*TICKETS £5 EACH. All profits will be donated to THAT Foodbank.*

**THERE ARE STILL A FEW FINAL TICKETS ON SALE FROM THE OFFICE - SPACES VERY LIMITED!**

## The Christmas Journey 2025



Our interactive presentation of the Christmas story to 6/7 years olds in primary schools across the Parish will take place during the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> December. Already 5 schools and 150+ children have signed up, so now we need a team! We need about 25 volunteers each session and are likely to have 6 sessions across the week (9:30-12noon or 1-2:45) as well as needing people to help set up and take down. Sign-up sheets will be available at our churches soon or contact Judy direct via email at [mrsvicar16@gmail.com](mailto:mrsvicar16@gmail.com). Do get involved!

## Precis of the PCC meeting: A message from the PCC

- **Thank you!** We are pleased to tell you that thanks to your increased giving we are holding our own financially. The income from rental of the parish hall is better than expected too.
- **Thank you!** To our treasurer and finance team for all their hard work
- **Thank you!** to everyone who has completed their mandatory safeguarding training and DBS check. It's so important that everyone feels safe in our churches.
- **Thank you!** To our safeguarding team for everything they do. Please encourage them by completing any training you need to do as soon as you can.
- **Thank you!** To faithful members of our churches who in past years have left legacies to the parish. These gifts are enabling work in all our churches to make them clean, warm, watertight and welcoming for the next generations of believers.
- **Thank you!** To our churchwardens for the hours of work they put in and the responsibilities they carry. If you worship at Abbotsbury and you want to join their number, please speak to Gareth.
- **Christmas!** Join in with the Christmas Journey! Sign-up sheets will be in churches soon.
- **Christmas!** Our programme of Christmas services was approved. Keep your eyes open for details and dates nearer the time!
- **Congratulations!** Clare Lillington, our treasurer, is now a member of General Synod. Please pray for her in this exciting new role.
- **Hello!** We hope to welcome Rachael Muluuta as our new mission partner and perhaps meet her in person before too long. See page 6 for more details.
- **Deanery Synod ahoy!** There is a chance to join the Deanery Synod for one evening only to hear Bishop Mike talk about his priorities for the diocese (7<sup>th</sup> October at the Wickham Hall in Bovey Tracey). You could also become a Deanery Synod rep as we have one vacancy. Talk to Gareth if you are interested.

## Prayer Gatherings.

Our next **morning** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October from 9:15 a.m. at St Paul's Church.

Our next **evening** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

## Reflection of my time as an Anna Chaplain by Kim Martin

My commissioning took place in March 2025 at St Paul's Church, Newton Abbot and what a gift it has been.

I initially assisted my Rector in taking services in three of our care homes but since branching out on my own we now have capacity to cover ten of our care homes.

This has been a great privilege and Jesus has blessed me in so many ways. I have taken members of my congregation to assist me when taking services and even though they have asked to come again I've yet to persuade any of them to journey alongside me as an Anna Chaplain or Anna Friend, but it is early days!

Initially I felt really guilty because I believed I was getting more from my visits than my residents. My services range from 3 participants to 19 participants and even though every home has a range of challenges to a new Anna Chaplain, I have thrived on the variation. I take services every fortnight with a reading, short talk, prayers and at least four hymns which they sing with gusto.

The hardest part of my ministry, and the part I hadn't even thought about when I took on this role, was the residents that I would be walking alongside that were 'end of life'. It has been a real privilege to minister to the men and women that I have shared the gospel with, or chatted to, and to meet family members, as we have shared stories of their lives prior to them dying. I have also had the benefit of attending funerals of several of the residents which have been services of thanksgiving and joy for their long lives.

Earlier this year I attended several summer fetes was asked to open and bless a newly decorated quiet room and have often taken Tilly, the collie, up to meet the residents, which brings a smile to their faces as the photos show.



My project in October is to bring some of the residents down from the homes I work in, to our church, to join in Holy Communion with our Wednesday morning congregation. This is going to be followed by a light lunch of soup and sandwiches, crumble and cakes, tea and coffee in our church hall. This will give the residents a chance to participate in a church service on a larger scale than what they have been use to in their home, and to be able to socialise with other like-minded people.

This hopefully gives you all a flavour of what carrying out my Anna chaplaincy role is for me. It's varied, at times sad, most of the time joyful, and I still buzz with enthusiasm.

## **Our New Mission Partner: Rachael Muluuta.**

From January 2026, we will have 3 mission partners: Barnabas Aid, Christians Against Poverty Teignbridge, and **Rachael Muluuta**.

**Rachael works with Word of Life Uganda to help young people grow in their love and knowledge of God and live as Christ's disciples.**



Rachael supports churches across Uganda by providing Bible teaching, training and discipleship for women, children, youth and their leaders. She also runs small group Bible studies, reads the Bible with people one-to-one and teaches at various events. Rachael delights in Jesus, loves spending time with people and having adventures in her trusty (or should that be temperamental!) Land Rover.

Rachael married Bernie in April 2020, and they are both currently studying at Oak Hill Theological College, London, prior to returning to Uganda fulltime in 2027.

To sign up for her prayer letters click here: [Rachael Muluuta – Crosslinks](#)



**Got questions about life, faith, meaning and Christianity?**

With engaging videos, lively discussions and an opportunity to ask any question,

**The Identity Course** could be a great place to start!


The 7-session course starts on **Wednesday 1st October**

Sessions run from 7:30pm to about 9pm

The course will take place at **Abbotsbury Church, Waverley Road**  
Newton Abbot. TQ12 2ND

For more information or to book a place on this **FREE** course call us on **01626 211346** or email [office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

For more details on the course see [www.identitycourse.com](http://www.identitycourse.com)



Organised by the Anglican Churches in Newton Abbot and Ogwell: [www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](http://www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

Our new curate, Rev Jon Bealey will be leading this course... contact him for more details...

## COMING EVENTS

**God, the Bible and Everything (in 60 minutes)!** Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 7 p.m. at the Church of St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas of Canterbury, East Street. Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9EP. Tickets and details from:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/god-the-bible-and-everything-in-60-minutes-tickets-1499291574459](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/god-the-bible-and-everything-in-60-minutes-tickets-1499291574459)

**Harvest Supper and Quiz.** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 6:30 p.m. at St Paul's Church Hall. Tickets from the Parish Office.

**Craft Club.** 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

**Women's Breakfast.** Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> October at 9:30 a.m. at The Clock Tower Coffee Shop, Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot.

**Traditional Choral Evensong.** 12<sup>th</sup> October at 6 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Abbotsockerswell.

**Evensong Choir Practice.** 16<sup>th</sup> October, 7 p.m. at St John's Church, Bovey Tracey.

**Men's Breakfast.** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café.

**Charity Coffee Morning.** St Paul's Church on 25<sup>th</sup> October, at 10 a.m. in aid of Christmas Journey.

**Charity Coffee Morning.** St Bartholomew's Church, Ogwell on 31<sup>st</sup> October at 10:30 a.m.

**Joint Parish Service** for the fifth Sunday of the month on 30<sup>th</sup> November at 10:30 a.m. at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

**Evensong at St Luke's Church, Milber** - Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 5:30 p.m.

**Murder Mystery** - Tragedy at the Village Tea Party – with supper. Denbury Village Hall TQ12 6DS, 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7 p.m. £25. To book contact [imwdayey@gmail.com](mailto:imwdayey@gmail.com) or phone 07767 771590. Profits to Denbury Church.

**The Christmas Journey.** Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> December. Volunteers needed, please see forms in church or contact Judy directly by email at [mrsvicar16@gmail.com](mailto:mrsvicar16@gmail.com).

## CHURCH SERVICES

### 5<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival

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.

### 12<sup>th</sup> October

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

All Saints Church, Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. **Harvest Festival.**

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

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

### 19<sup>th</sup> October

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

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

St Mary's Church, Holy Communion 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

**30<sup>th</sup> November** (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

Parish Communion, St. Mary's Church, Wolborough, at 10:30 a.m.

Evensong, St Luke's Church, Milber, at 5:30 p.m.

## PRAYER GATHERINGS at St Paul's Church.

6<sup>th</sup> October 9:15 a.m.

13<sup>th</sup> October 7:45 p.m.

20<sup>th</sup> October 9:15 a.m.

## PARISH CONTACTS

**Team Rector: Rev Dave Brown.** Day off Thursday

[rector@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:father@slsj.co.uk) 07555 924862

**Team Vicar: Rev Gareth Regan:** Day Off: Friday.

[gareth@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:gareth@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) 01626 201237

**Curate: Rev Jonathan Bealey** [curate@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:curate@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) 07886567732

**Licensed Lay Minister:**

**Keith Butler:** [puffin@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:puffin@blueyonder.co.uk) 07980 457919

**Lay minister for St Luke's, Graham Whittle** [family@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:lornatresidder@icloud.com)

St Bartholomew's **Stella Llewellyn** [stellallewellyn@icloud.com](mailto:stellallewellyn@icloud.com) 01626 906814  
and **Gwyn Hughes**. [gywynhughes@icloud.com](mailto:gywynhughes@icloud.com) 01626 365028

**Anna Chaplains:** **Mei Lan Machin**. [d.m.machin2013@gmail.com](mailto:d.m.machin2013@gmail.com) 07926 991578  
and **Kim Martin** [kimbo58@gmail.com](mailto:kimbo58@gmail.com)

## **Organists:**

**Steve Cox** 079 686 21511 or 01626 854228 [stephen.cox54@talktalk.net](mailto:stephen.cox54@talktalk.net)

**Clive Sawers** 07967 148794 [clivesawers@aol.com](mailto:clivesawers@aol.com)

**Parochial Church Council Secretary:** **Barbara Garrick** 07910 207358  
[barbara\\_garrick@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara_garrick@yahoo.com)

**Safeguarding Lead:** **Rob Palmer** 07792 081776 [treb0r@hotmail.com](mailto:treb0r@hotmail.com)

**Weekly Parish News** by Email. **John Calderwood**. [news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)  
07760 226488

**Other Communications Media** (website and social media)  
[comms@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

**Parish website:** [www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](http://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](mailto:office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk).

## **OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS**

**Newton Abbot Town Council.** 01626 201120 [www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)

**Shopmobility, Ring & Ride, Community cars** – 01626 335775

**Teignbridge Council** – 01626 361101, [www.teignbridge.gov.uk](http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk)

**THAT Foodbank.** 8 Queensway House, Queensway, Newton Abbot. TQ12 4BA. Tel: 01626 437310, email: [office@thatfoodbank.com](mailto:office@thatfoodbank.com) Web: [www.thatfoodbank.com](http://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 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](mailto:news@newtonbbotparishes.co.uk)