



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

26th October 2025.

FROM OUR TEAM VICAR

Dear Friends,

Keeping Our Streak with God

I've been learning German on Duolingo for a while now, in fact, I've somehow managed to keep a streak going for over 1,500 days. Every day, without fail, I open the app, do a short exercise, and watch my little green owl cheer me on. I'd love to say my German is fluent (it isn't!), but what's really impressed me is how a small daily habit has become such a natural part of my life.

Recently, a school I'm connected with as a trustee tried something similar. They encouraged pupils to build up a "streak" of good attendance, celebrating their consistency with a special fun day at the end of term. The idea was simple: daily faithfulness adds up, and small, steady choices shape who we become.

It got me thinking, what if we approached our walk with God in a similar way? What if we cultivated a streak of meeting with Him in prayer, in Scripture, and in worship? Not as a challenge to earn a badge, but as a joyful rhythm that keeps our hearts open to His presence.

We often imagine that spiritual growth comes in great leaps a dramatic experience, a powerful sermon, a big "God moment." And sometimes it does. But more often, it's the quiet, daily turning towards God that changes us most deeply. Reading a few verses each morning, whispering a prayer on the school run, pausing to thank God at the end of the day these little acts build up like beads on a string, forming a life of devotion.

Lamentations reminds us that God's mercies are "new every morning" (3:23). Each new day is an invitation to meet Him afresh. The truth is, God is always close but when we form habits of daily prayer and worship, we start to notice His nearness more readily. Our hearts become tuned to His presence, just as a musician grows attuned to the subtle notes of their instrument.

Of course, streaks get broken. We forget. Life gets busy. But thankfully, God's grace doesn't reset when we do. There's no divine leaderboard to climb, no owl tapping its foot.

Each day we come back to Him, He welcomes us again like the father running to greet the prodigal son.

So perhaps this week, we could each begin a new kind of streak. Not one that depends on pressure or guilt, but one built on desire and delight. Read a Psalm each morning. Take a quiet moment before work to pray for someone in need. Sing a song of praise as you cook dinner.

And as we do, we might find that God feels closer not because He's moved, but because we have. "Remain in me," says Jesus, "as I also remain in you." (John 15:4)

That's the best kind of streak there is.

Blessings,

Gareth

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 Church in Wales

In our link with Bayeux-Lisieux, we pray for new priests and their parishes, and for seminarians. We also pray for the parishes, their clergy and people in the area of Douves la Delivrande.

Residents in the following streets: Plantation Close, Pollyblank Road, Pomeroy Road, Poplar Close, Poppy Close, Pound Place, Powderham Close, Powderham Road and Powderham Terrace.

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, Sarah, Ruth and Ted Parkhouse 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 26th October

Habakkuk Chapter 2: Verses 1 to 5

Mark Chapter 10: Verses 32 to 45.

NEWS AND NOTICES

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 1st 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. Do get involved!



Monthly Youth Group. This group is for ages 11 to 17. It normally meets on the last Friday of each month from 7:30 to 9 p.m. However, to avoid Halloween, this month's meeting at St Paul's Church Hall is on 24th October.

Future meetings are on 28th November at The Avenue Church and 19th December at Abbotsbury Church.

Contact Rob Palmer at Robert.Palmer@stantec.com

A Simple Act of Kindness: Why Volunteering as a Prison Visitor Matters (From the Diocesan Newsletter, Roots and Shoots)

At HMP Channings Wood, near Newton Abbot, there are men serving sentences who have no contact with the outside world. For some, there are no family members, no friends, and no one to visit them. One such prisoner, a 60-year-old man, shared in a letter how transformative it was to be introduced to the prison chaplaincy's visitor programme.

For a time, he received weekly visits; 45 minutes of simple conversation, connection, and kindness. But as the number of volunteer visitors declined, so did the frequency and length of those visits. Now, he receives just one 30-minute visit every two weeks. And he's not alone. Many others in the prison are waiting and hoping for someone to talk to, someone who can offer a moment of humanity in an otherwise isolating environment.

Prison visitors don't need to have special qualifications. What's needed is compassion, a willingness to listen, and a little time to spare. For security reasons, volunteers undergo vetting, security training and shadow experienced visitors until they feel ready to 'go it alone'. Volunteers are part of a caring network that understands the importance of human connection. For those inside, these visits are more than just a chat; they help ease stress

and anxiety. They offer hope and remind prisoners that they are still seen, still valued and still part of the wider community.

If you feel you could regularly spare some time to sit and talk with someone who has no one else, your kindness could make a profound difference.

To learn more or to volunteer, please contact Kerry Sherwin from the National Association of Prison Visitors: kerry.caldock@btinternet.com

Coffee Mornings

St Bartholemew's Church on 24th October 10:30 a.m. at Ogwell in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. **Please wear pink.**

St Paul's Church on 25th October at 10 a.m. in aid of Christmas Journey, our Parish project to introduce young children to the real Christmas story. Please come along if you can.

Prayer Gatherings

on Mondays at St Paul's Church.

Our next **evening** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on Monday 27th October from 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Our next **morning** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on Monday 3rd November from 9:15 a.m.

Then 10th November at 7:45 p.m.

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). The Parish's bank makes significant charges for depositing cash, so, if you normally give in cash, it would be very helpful if you could switch to donating through the PGS. If you pay UK income tax, the PGS, enables you to take part in the Gift Aid scheme, which gives the Parish an extra 20% on your donations.

If you wish to set up regular donations through PGS using a paper form, please contact the Parish Office with your details. Alternatively, you could sign up on-line through www.parishgiving.org.uk or go in to the office and fill in the form electronically.

Other options are: giving by using the card machine available in some of our churches, or setting up a standing order from your bank, payable to Newton Abbot PCC, account number 62909168, sort code 30-84-67.

Prostate Cancer Research.

I'm going to be walking 60 miles (not all in one go) during November for Prostate Cancer Research. I'm so grateful that my cancer is non-aggressive and I'm not having to undergo any treatment, but I feel for men who have a more severe cancer.



Maybe you can help me support research to improve the lives of men who may be affected in future. If you wish to make a donation, please click on this link: https://www.facebook.com/donate/808264605523448/?fundraiser_source=whatsapp_share or contact me at johncalderwood8@gmail.com . I have a sponsorship form if you wish to give in cash. Thank you. John Calderwood.

COMING EVENTS

Charity Coffee Morning. St Bartholomew's Church, Ogwell on 24th October at 10:30 a.m. in aid of Breast Cancer Awareness. Please wear pink.

Monthly Youth Group for ages 11 to 17. 24th October, 7:30 to 9 p.m. at St Paul's Church, 28th November at The Avenue Church and 19th December at Abbotsbury Church.

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

Craft Club. 4th and 18th November at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

Lunch with God. Bible teaching. 5th November and each Wednesday thereafter at St Paul's Church Hall. 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. Free soup and hot drink.

Women's Breakfast. Saturday, 8th November at 9:30 a.m. at The Clock Tower Coffee Shop, Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot.

Traditional Choral Evensong. 9th November at 6 p.m. at St Mary's Church, Abbotswell.

Men's Breakfast. Saturday 15th November, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café.

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

Evensong at St Luke's Church, Milber - Sunday 30th November at 5:30 p.m.

Murder Mystery - Tragedy at the Village Tea Party – with supper. Denbury Village Hall TQ12 6DS, 29th November at 7 p.m. £25. To book contact imwdayey@gmail.com or phone 07767 771590. Profits to Denbury Church.

The Christmas Journey. Week beginning 1st December. Volunteers needed, please see forms in church or contact Judy directly by email at mrsvicar16@gmail.com .

CHURCH SERVICES

26th October

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.

2nd November

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.

9th November

Abbotsbury Church, Service of the Word at 9:30 a.m.

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

St Bartholomew's Church, **Remembrance Service** at 9:30 a.m.

St Mary's Church, **Remembrance Service** at 10:50 a.m.

St Paul's Church, Holy Communion 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

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

30th November (5th 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.

27th October at 7:45 p.m.

3rd November at 9:15 a.m.

10th November at 7:45 p.m.

FUNERALS AND INTERMENTS

Helen Roach 28th October, 11:30 a.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek. Funeral.

Beulah Colwill 15th November at 12 noon at All Saints' Church, Highweek. Interment of Ashes.

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

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** 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** kimbo58@gmail.com

Organists:

Steve Cox 079 686 21511 or 01626 854228 stephen.cox54@talktalk.net

Clive Sawers 07967 148794 clivesawers@aol.com

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. 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 Web: 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