



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

9th November 2025. 3rd Sunday before Advent

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends,

It's Guy Fawkes or Bonfire Night tonight. Growing up that meant family fireworks in the back garden, or an occasional trip to a larger fireworks display. In those days fireworks were everywhere, and the TV carried advert after advert so that everyone knew that they should follow the Fireworks Code. They were wise words of course, trustworthy sayings that should be learnt and remembered and followed.

The New Testament give 5 such 'trustworthy sayings,' and over the next few columns we'll take a brief look at each one. We find the first one in 1 Timothy 1v15.

*Here is a **trustworthy saying** that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.*

It might sound as if St Paul was encouraging every Christian to think themselves as the worst of sinners, but I don't think that is the case. The second part of this saying is specific to Paul, who did feel that because of his earlier attempts to crush the church by arresting, persecuting and even colluding in the killing of Christians, that his sins were worse than anyone else. After all, they had been committed against the church, the very body of Christ on earth, so Paul was under no illusion about their seriousness. But in the verse after this one, Paul goes on to say that the mercy shown to him was, in some way, an object lesson for everyone else who would hear of Jesus and feel unworthy to accept his mercy. It's as if Paul is saying: '*If God can forgive me – then he can forgive anyone!*'

For those of us who carry around great guilt over things we have said or done or not done, such a saying is wonderfully encouraging. For the repentant sinner, the grace of God has no boundaries, no sins it cannot reach, no guilt it cannot assuage. It extends to all those who recognise the sinfulness of their hearts and lives and turn to Christ as Saviour, however bad they may have been. This was something that the former slave trader turned hymn writer and preacher, John Newton knew well. As he approached the end of his life, he used to say this: "*Although my memory is fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour.*"

And that, of course, is why Jesus came. Yes, he came to show us God in his incarnation. Yes, he came to proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven was close at hand and to teach us how to live in God's world. Yes, he also lived a perfect life to give us an example to follow.

But all of these aims sit under the number one reason Jesus came to Earth: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**

So, whilst we may not feel as if we are the worst of sinners as Paul did, we must not, if we want to benefit from Christ's saving work, seek to minimise our guilt or our need of a saviour. Jesus didn't die to save all those really bad people who needed saving, and to give some tips to those who were already doing pretty well all by themselves. No! We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. There is no health in any of us because none are righteous, and even our righteous acts are like filthy rags compared to God's holiness. None of us can save ourselves. Yet praise God, for in His mercy he sent us a saviour who can save us and who came to save us, even though it cost Him his life.

So, let's not fall into the trap of the lead character in the film Evan Almighty and start each day reciting a mantra of self-congratulation to make us feel good about ourselves. (His was: "I'm successful, I'm powerful, I'm handsome, I'm happy!") Instead, let us rejoice that although our sins are as scarlet, God can wash them white as snow. That way we can be honest with ourselves about our failings, but we need never be crushed by them. Aware of our sins, but never afraid to bring them to God. And humble enough to point others in the direction of the saviour who has already saved us.

*Here is a **trustworthy saying** that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.*

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 Church in the Province of the West Indies.

On Remembrance Sunday, as communities come together to remember all those who have lost their lives as a result of war, pray that our church would be a light to those who gather, reflecting your love, and pointing them to you and your way of peace.

Residents in the following streets: Randolph Court, Rectory Road, Redstart Close, Reynell Avenue, Reynell Road, Ridgeway Close, Ridgeway Road, Ringslade Close and Ringslade Road.

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 9th November

Habakkuk Chapter 2: Verses 15 to 20

Mark Chapter 11: Verses 1 to 11.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Lunch with God starts today. Details below...

Do come along. If you can, invite a friend.

LUNCH WITH GOD

Honest and engaging talks from the Bible about Jesus and what it means to follow Him.

With free tea and coffee, and a bowl of hot soup.

(or bring your own lunch)

Wednesday lunchtimes from 12:15-1:45

At St Paul's Church Hall, Devon Square, Newton Abbot

Starting Wednesday 5th November

www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk



Sundays can be busy. I know that. I'm a Vicar!

So often questions about God and Jesus and the meaning of life can get pushed aside. Only, often we never get round to thinking about them because life takes over and Sundays are well, just busy!

So let me invite you to spend a few minutes in the middle of the week thinking about those things that we never get around to.

From the start of November, St Paul's Church will be running

LUNCH WITH GOD.

A series of lunchtime meetings where you can enjoy some soup and have a cup of tea or coffee, and listen to a short talk about Jesus.

There will also be opportunities to ask questions if you'd like to.

Because lunchtimes vary, the talks will happen twice, about 12:40 and 1:10.

We'll provide some refreshments—or you can bring your own.

We'll have free Bibles on hand for you to use and take away.

So don't put those questions off any longer.

Come and join me for lunch with God and get to know Jesus.

Wednesday lunchtimes from 12:15-1:45 starting 5th November.

St Paul's Church Hall, Devon Square, Newton Abbot. TQ 12 2HN

Team Rector: Rev Dave Brown

Parking available. Good wheelchair access. www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk



If you'd be willing to help meet, greet and serve, or even to make soup on occasions do let Dave know.

The Christmas Journey 2025

If you have signed up to be part of the team this year, you should already have received an email with details of the draft rota. Please contact Judy if you haven't received one or if there are any issues with the days you have been allotted. **Judy** on 335862 or email Mrsvicar16@gmail.com.

Also: If you are on the team- or you'd still like to be - the **Team Briefing** will take place on **Sunday 16th November at 3pm at Abbotsbury Church.** Please make every effort to come. The meeting should only take 1 hour.

Nursing Home Residents Come to Church!

Over the course of a month, our clergy and Anna Chaplains now visit 9 different residential homes across the parish, taking services, and spending time talking to and praying with residents. Such visits are always appreciated, but last week the tables were turned, and the residents came to us!



On the initiative of Kim Martin, one of our two Anna Chaplains, various homes arranged to bring some of their residents down to St Paul's for our midweek communion service. Community transport minibuses were a huge blessing, being equipped with lifts to get people in and out. In all around 30 residents and carers came along, so pews were moved to make space for wheelchairs and walking frames. To make it more of an occasion, we sang some hymns, and when the service was over, both visitors and regulars enjoyed a wonderful lunch of home-made soup, hot puddings and tea or coffee.



Feedback from the day was incredibly positive, not just from the residents who came along, but from their carers and the regular congregation. There was a wonderful joy in the church, and such was the impact, that one of the carers came back on Sunday! It was quite a task putting it all together, so thanks to Kim and the whole team for such a great effort. We're hoping to have another service next spring. Why not come along and join us?

Parish Prayer Gatherings:

Our next **evening Parish Prayer Gathering** will be **on Monday 10th November from 7:45pm-9pm** at St Paul's Church. Do come and join us.

Our next **morning Parish Prayer Gathering** will be on **Monday 17th November at St Paul's Church, starting at 9:15am.**

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse.



It's a hands-on way for you to bless children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, personal care items, school supplies and fun gifts. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world.

Through this project Samaritan's Purse partners with local churches worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations. See <https://occ.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

We are very excited that St Paul's Church, Devon Square will be a Church Collection Centre for shoeboxes for this area during National Collection week November 10-17th 2025. People from across the local area will bring their filled shoeboxes to the Church and a small band of volunteers will pack these into bigger boxes ready for collection by the National team. St Paul's Church will be open at the following times to receive shoeboxes:

Monday 10th Nov 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Wednesday 12th Nov 9 to 9.45 a.m.

Saturday 15th Nov 9 to 11 a.m.

Sunday 16th Nov 9 to 10.30 a.m.

You may also bring your box to a Sunday church service before 16th November.

If you are unable to fill a shoebox this year, you can donate directly to Samaritan's Purse at <https://occ.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>, as all funds will greatly help!

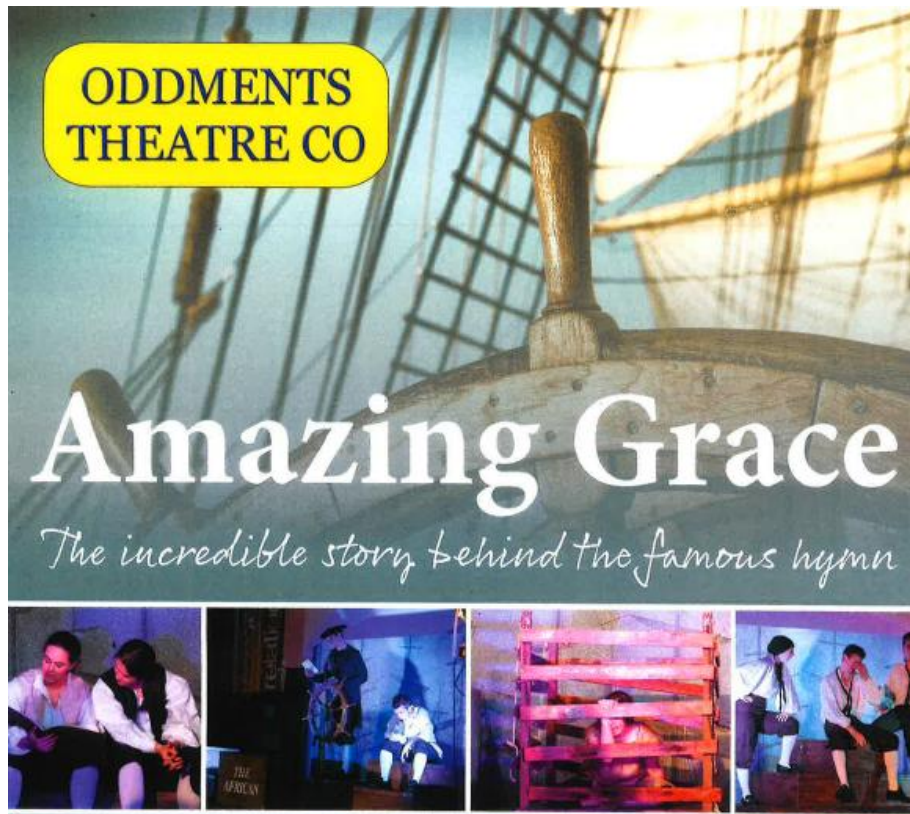
Many thanks,
Ian Tresidder

The Christmas Fayre at St Paul's Church will be on 6th December. There will be **no coffee morning at St Paul's** in November.

Podcast of the Week:

Last week I listened to a 40-minute or so interview with singer-songwriter Matt Redmond, that you can find here or wherever you listen to your podcasts. In it he talks about his life, his very difficult childhood and the way that his faith in Jesus brought meaning and joy even in the midst of suffering. If you like his music- he wrote 10,000 reasons amongst many others, or you share some of those experiences, take a listen to this and be encouraged.

[Beauty for Ashes – Conversations – No. 1 – Matt Redman – Sadness and Songs – TheWeeFlea.com](#)



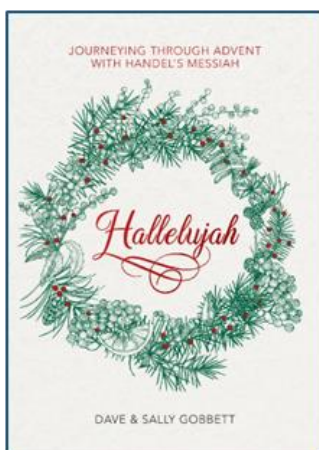
**ODDMENTS
THEATRE CO**

Amazing Grace

The incredible story behind the famous hymn

The Avenue Church
Saturday 29th November at 3:00 pm
 For tickets please contact Sarah 07709424558
 or Kay at the Church Office (*before 21st Nov*)
office@theavenuechurch.co.uk 01626 360400
 Refreshments available Donations appreciated
All Welcome
 Suggested age guidance 12 - 102 years.

2025 Advent Book



Our **£1** Advent devotional for 2025 takes us through the words (and if you'd like, the music) of the Messiah- Handel's great masterpiece. Each day has a short reflection on some of the words from scripture that Handel uses in his music, along with the details of the part of the Messiah where the words are sung.

Whether you like Handel's music or not, the focus on various scriptures that point to Christ's first and second comings will encourage your heart and get you ready for a truly joyful celebration this Christmas.

Copies will be in church from this weekend. Just take one and slip £1 into the offering plate. It's the best bargain this Christmas!

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

Join us for an uplifting talk exploring a Christian response to the UK migration crisis—discover hope, compassion, and practical ways we can welcome, support, and journey alongside those seeking refuge

St Paul's Church Hall

Wednesday 26th November at 7:30pm.

Our speaker, Scott Bradridge, is a Christian outreach worker with internationals who has been working in an Exeter hotel housing asylum seekers over the past 2 years.

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

St Paul's Church. Devon Square.
Newton Abbot. TQ12 2HN



www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk





CAP Teignbridge

CAP Teignbridge - offering a lifeline to those with unmanageable debt in the Teignbridge area



Up until Dec 2nd this year Aviva Community Fund will match pound for pound all donations to Cap Teignbridge

To donate please go to:

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/cap-teignbridge-debt-centre>

Grace Will Lead Me Home at the Auditorium, Exeter Phoenix, on Monday 15th November at 8 p.m.

A moving and impactful retelling in narrative and specially commissioned folk songs of the lives of 2 men who found faith in their hour of need. The history of John Newton (author of the hymn Amazing Grace) and a freed slave whose lives paralleled each as they used their experiences, faith and skills to campaign for the abolition of slavery.

The show is inspired by one of 2024's most critically-acclaimed folk albums, *Grace Will Lead Me Home*, which featured in Mojo's and The Morning Star's Top Ten.

To book and for more information see <https://exeterphoenix.org.uk/events/grace-will-lead-me-home/>

Environment Film Festival (from the Diocesan Newsletter – Roots and Shoots) on *Saturday 17 January 2026, 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Exeter Cathedral.*

You are invited to the Environment Film Festival, hosted by the Diocese of Exeter and Exeter Cathedral for the opportunity to watch 'Six Inches of Soil' and 'Wilding'.

Six Inches of Soil tells the inspiring story of young British farmers standing up against the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food - to heal the soil, our health and provide for local communities.

Wilding tells the story of a young couple that bets on nature. Ripping down the fences, they set the land back to the wild and entrust its recovery to a motley mix of animals both tame and wild. It is the beginning of a grand experiment that will become one of the most significant rewilding experiments in Europe.

Each film will be followed by a panel of experts in their area who will share how the films are relevant to our faith, and there will be an opportunity for questions.

Tickets cost £5. [Click here](#) to book your place.

COMING EVENTS

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, Abbotskerswell.

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

Grace Will Lead Me Home on Monday 15th November at 8 p.m. at the Auditorium, Exeter Phoenix. To book and for more information see <https://exeterphoenix.org.uk/events/grace-will-lead-me-home/>

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

Who is my Neighbour. 26th November at 7:30 p.m. (refreshments from 7 p.m.) at St Paul's Church. Talk on the Christian response to immigration.

Charity Coffee Morning. St Bartholomew's Church, Ogwell on 28th November at 10:30 a.m.

Monthly Youth Group for ages 11 to 17. 28th November, 7:30 p.m. at The Avenue Church and 19th December at Abbotsbury Church.

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.

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.

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

Christmas Fayre. St Paul's Church on 6th December, at 10 a.m. in aid of Rowcroft Hospice.

Dog Carol Service. 6th December at 12 noon by the clock tower.

Environment Film Festival. Saturday 17 January 2026, 12:30 p.m. to 5p.m. at Exeter Cathedral. [Click here](#) to book.

CHURCH SERVICES

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.

16th November

Abbotsbury Church, All Age Service 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.

23rd November

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.

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

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.

FUNERALS AND INTERMENTS

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 Website: 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