



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

25th January 2026. Third Sunday of Epiphany

In this edition:

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- Times of prayer gatherings for the next few weeks
- Resource of the week: Truth for Life - The Bible-Teaching Ministry of Alistair Begg
- Lunch with God and 321
- Prayer list
- Evensong at All Saints' Highweek- Sunday 25th January at 5 p.m.
- Poster for Christian Unity Service in January organised by CTNA
- Prayer letter from our mission partners Rachael and Bernie Muluuta
- THAT Foodbank items needed

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

Sometimes new years begin very slowly in terms of real news, and so newspaper editors are forced to fill their front pages with celebrity gossip, 'get yourself fit/thin/healthy' features or whatever nonsense they can come up with. I think it's fair to say that 2026 hasn't started like that! Not only has the UK political scene been rocked by various major news stories, but events in Iran and Greenland in particular have sent shockwaves around the world. And this is only two weeks into the new year! What on earth will the rest of the year hold for us, if this is how it starts? And how are we to cope with a world that seems chaotic and out of control?

I'm increasingly convinced that one of the reasons for the increase in mental health problems, particularly in young people, is the fact that events far away in the world are brought up close and personal by the constant buzzing from the social media and news updates in our pockets. Events that previous generations would have read about several days after the events are now seen in real time and in live-action video. Anyone with a compassionate heart cannot but feel moved by the suffering of the Iranian people (and so many others elsewhere!) along with feeling absolutely helpless to do anything about it.

What are we to do with those kinds of feelings?

Fortunately, we are not the first to feel like this. In fact, those feelings are expressed again and again in the book of Psalms. And so, if we're looking for a way to cope with an uncertain and dangerous world, it is to God's word that we must turn.

Psalm 2 is particularly helpful in this regard. It speaks about nations and peoples that plot in vain, and of the kings of the earth and rulers who band together against God and his anointed. Whenever we see a despotic regime oppressing its own people, killing indiscriminately, denying truth and justice, rewarding wickedness, seeking power at whatever cost, this is what is going on. But notice how God responds to these proud conspiracies: he laughs and scoffs at them, verse 4. He rebukes them and terrifies them, verse 5. He promises to bring those responsible to justice, verse 9, and he declares that whatever plans the nations might come up with, it is the Lord who will install his perfect king and bring about his ultimate victory, verses 6 and 8. In fact, the whole Psalm is a reminder that however chaotic the world looks, God is still in charge. It may look as if good will be defeated and that wickedness must have the victory,

Psalm 2 tells us not to fear. God has installed his king on Zion's mountain, and He will give to Jesus an inheritance of the nations. Such a victory has been assured by Jesus' victory over death and is described in glorious technicolour in the last few chapters of Revelation. So however chaotic, uncertain or worrying the world looks, don't give into fear. As you look ahead to 2026 and the years and decades to come, keep your eyes on Christ and be confident! Darkness has been defeated. The Light has won. And all those in Christ will one day share in the reality of that victory.

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.

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

On the Feast Day of the Conversion of Paul, we remember that an encounter with God transformed a persecutor of your people into your chosen instrument, who carried the gospel to many nations. Lord, thank you that you turn lives around, teach us through the words and actions of your apostle, Paul.

Residents in the following streets: Vale Road, Valley Path, Vetch Place, Vicary Close, Victory Close, Villiers Avenue, Wain Lane, Waltham Road and Waverley 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, Sandy Vaughan Edwards, Paul Hewson and any others who are unwell.

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 25th January.

Abbotsbury and St Paul's Churches: Ruth, chapter 2, verses 1 to 13 and Mark, chapter 12, verses 28 to 34

All Saints' Church: Isaiah, chapter 9, verses 1 to 4 and Matthew, chapter 4, verses 12 to 23.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Parish Prayer Gatherings: Our next **morning** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on Monday 26th January at St Paul's Church starting at 9:15 a.m. Our next **evening** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on Monday 2nd February at St Paul's Church starting at the **NEW TIME OF 7PM!!!** Do come and join us.

Resource of the Week. Truth For Life - The Bible-Teaching Ministry of Alistair Begg <https://www.truthforlife.org/>

Alistaire Begg is a Scottish minister living in the USA. For many years he was the senior pastor at Parkside Church, Cleveland, Ohio, and although he retired from his church role last autumn, his preaching and writing ministry continue to be a blessing to many people across the world.

This site (and associated mobile phone app) is an Aladdin's Cave of sermons, articles and helpful tools to help us grow in our faith. Judy and I read Alistair's daily devotions together, but the site holds a lot more to build us up and equip us for service. Why not take some time over a cup of tea to explore!



An invitation to a choral workshop and informal performance

Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace

Saturday 7th February 2026
2.00 pm

**Abbotsbury Church,
Waverly Road
Newton Abbot
TQ12 2ND**

Musical director: Matthew Cann

**Tickets £15 in advance from:
www.torbaysingers.org**

In the afternoon workshop, we'll rehearse selected movements from the work, culminating in an informal performance to which family and friends are warmly invited.

Programme:

1.30 pm: Registration opens
2.00 pm: Workshop rehearsals with breaks
5.15 pm: Refreshments (provided)
6.00 – 6.45 pm (approx) Informal performance

Booking:

Please book in advance, using the booking form on our website, indicating voice part and whether you need to hire a score.

Lunch with God. This week, and for the following 6 weeks, LUNCH WITH GOD at St Paul's Church will be one of the venues for our lunchtime 3-2-1 course. Accompanied by hot homemade soup, we'll watch one of the videos and have chance to discuss the questions it raises. See below for more details.

Discover Life According to Jesus: Our New Year course for those wanting to take a fresh look at Jesus is 3-2-1. See below: Watch the promo video: [321 Course Promo Video](#)



321: DISCOVER LIFE ACCORDING TO JESUS

Got questions about God, the world and you?

The 321 course invites you to see life the way Jesus does. Over the course, Glen Scrivener presents Jesus' vision for life through interactive videos that help us better understand God, the World and ourselves.

The course considers God's Three-ness, the world's two-ness and your one-ness. Each session begins with a thoughtful question followed by stunning storytelling and compelling commentary.

There are three ways to take the 321 Course:

A 4-week course looking at 2 videos per week starting on
Tuesday 20th January at 7:30pm

OR

Watch 1 video a week on Wednesday lunchtimes during Lunch with God. Videos will be shown at 12:30pm and 1:10pm.
Starting Wednesday 14th January.

Both of these will take place at St Paul's Church, Devon Square.

Alternatively, you can register + watch the whole series yourself.
Just visit www.321.speaklife.org.uk/course/321

To book a place or to find our more, email
office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk or call 01626 211346.

Organised by the Anglican Churches in Newton Abbot and Ogwell:
www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk



THAT Foodbank would be glad of donations of:

- Sugar
- Squash
- Tinned vegetables – carrots and sweetcorn
- Custard
- Tinned ham, pork and corned beef
- Jars of coffee
- Porridge oats – pots
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned fruit.

Gifts may be dropped off at THAT in Queensway, NatWest Bank, Tesco, or Cwtch Hub in Union Street.

PRAYER LIST: After this week the prayer list will be renewed to give us a fresh start for the new year. If you'd like your name or the name of a loved one added to the new list, please let me know.

One Body, One Spirit



NEWTON ABBOT CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

3 p.m. Sunday 25th January at Salvation Army

This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

And organised locally by the Christians Together in Newton Abbot group (CTNA)

“There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling” (Ephesians 4:4)

Rachael & Bernie Muluuta

January 2026



'Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.' Isaiah 1:27

Enjoying an autumnal walk

Happy New Year! We are delighted to share with you that we are expecting a baby girl in mid-May. So far, the pregnancy has been going well and despite the tiredness, Rachael managed to attend all the lectures and complete all the assignments for the first semester of her part-time master's. Bernie has been a wonderful help all round, especially making sure that Rachael is eating plenty of broccoli!

We have both greatly enjoyed our studies this semester. Together, we attended classes on the book of Isaiah, which has previously seemed like a daunting book to tackle. We've really appreciated getting a handle on how the whole book fits together and have been particularly struck by God's concern for righteousness and justice along with his great compassion for those living on the fringes of society. It's led to many fruitful discussions thinking through what this might look like in practice in a Ugandan setting.

Bernie has also studied the doctrine of God this semester and continued with third year Greek and second year Hebrew. He has improved in his knowledge to be able to translate more of 1 Peter and Hebrews from Greek into English and Rachael has benefitted from his learning during our morning devotions.

Rachael has completed a module on research methods ahead of getting going with her dissertation where she hopes to think through the understanding of the theology of the child in three Anglican churches in Kampala and how that might inform the training and equipping of Sunday school leaders. She hopes to do her field research in Uganda when they visit in August (with baby in tow!).

There are various admin tasks on the horizon which we would appreciate your prayers for. We need to apply for Bernie's UK visa extension (by the end of January) which is a time-consuming job but should be straightforward. Pray that process runs smoothly. Bernie would also like to apply to do a master's in theology next year and so will begin the application process for that in the coming months along with applying to various grants and trusts to cover the cost of fees and living expenses. He hopes to focus on the minor prophets (who are so rarely read and taught in Uganda) and think through how those books in particular might serve the church in Uganda. Before we came back to the UK, we were both advised by Ugandan colleagues to try to get our master's while we were in the UK as that will open up more teaching opportunities for us upon our return. Lastly, on the admin front, we have some AMIE (Anglican Mission in England) papers to read through before formally starting the discernment process which could lead to ordination.

For various reasons we were unable to visit Bernie's family in the States over Christmas, but we very much hope to visit next year, especially so that Bernie's mum can meet her newest granddaughter. Also, on a global front, please pray for Uganda. As I type, the internet has been turned off across the country. It is expected to stay that way for the next 5-7 days as elections take place on Thursday 15 January. There have been videos making the rounds on social media of hundreds of military personnel making their presence known across the country so as to intimidate voters. Pray for a peaceful election and for there to be no loss of life.

Please also pray for The Good Shepherd Primary School situated in a Kampala slum where Rachael used to teach. Just before Christmas, Gloria (one of Rachael's previous students who was full of life and character) passed away due to lack of funds for medical care. She had just sat the equivalent of her GCSEs. We wish we could have known about her situation before it was too late. Currently, the headmaster's wife, Razia, is unwell. Pray that she would get all the medical help she needs and would make a quick and full recovery.



Hosting friends from Uganda at Oak Hill

Amidst our studies, we have been overjoyed to host many people over the last semester: family, supporters, friends and even some people who used to be in the youth group Rachael led many years ago. Most recently, we hosted a group of nine (mostly) Ugandans whom we know from our time in Uganda but who are currently residing in the UK. It was such a joy to be together over four days of fun, laughter, fellowship and mutual encouragement. We treasure all these times together and look forward to more in the months to come.

We sometimes find it hard to take time off and to rest well (Rachael in particular). We were blessed by friends who loaned us their home for a week back in September which enabled us to enjoy a change of scenery, some coastal walks and sea swimming. Other friends are loaning us their home in the south of England for the last week of January before the second semester begins. Do pray for deep physical, mental and spiritual rest for us as we decompress from a busy but wonderful semester.

Finally, do continue to pray for our health. Rachael was especially unwell in the lead up to Christmas with a chest infection which led to out-of-control asthma which was quite scary at times. Thankfully, she is much better now.

We would not be able to do any of this without you. We are deeply grateful for your support of us in so many and various ways. Thank you! We love hearing from you and endeavour to pray regularly.

With much love,
Rachael and Bernie

Prayer points:

- Pray that we would both be able to start and finish assignments early as soon as the second semester begins in February.
- Pray that our little baby girl would be growing well and would love the Lord Jesus all the days of her life.
- Pray for us to prepare well for her arrival, to trust God with all the upcoming changes and to be equipped to be godly parents.
- Pray that the Lord would provide all that we need to purchase before May.
- Pray that we would be quick to see areas of life where we can execute justice and righteousness and that we would have a growing, active concern for those on the fringes of society both in the UK and in Uganda.
- Pray that we would set aside time for the various admin tasks ahead and that we would remember that these are all important jobs for the ministry that lies ahead.
- Pray for a peaceful election in Uganda and for life to be valued. Pray for Christians to speak up for truth and justice.
- Pray for Razia to make a full recovery and to get any medical help she may need.
- Pray for continued opportunities to host and visit family and friends.
- Pray for us to be able to raise the funds we need for the next academic year and for us to grow in our trust that it is the Lord who provides for all we need.
- Pray for deep rest during the last week of January and for continued health for us both.

Rachael and Bernie Muluuta training for ministry in Kampala, Uganda

5 Canon Mohan Close, London, N14 4PW | rachaelandbernie@gmail.com

R: +256 783356820 (WhatsApp), 07570202022 (calls) B: +256 782802320 (WhatsApp), 07808559896 (calls)

Crosslinks, 116-118 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JL | pletters@crosslinks.org | 14 Glencregagh Court, Belfast BT6 0PA | +44 (0)20 8691 6111

COMING EVENTS

Lunch with God. Free soup and hot drink. Bible teaching. Wednesdays at St Paul's Church. 12:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Parochial Church Council meeting 21st January at 7 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

Newton Abbot Christian Unity Service. 25th January at 3 p.m. at the Salvation Army in Union Street.

Evensong. 25th January at 5 p.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

Charity Coffee Morning. 31st January 10 a.m. at St Paul's Church in aid of Motor Neurone Disease.

Craft Club. 3rd and 17th February at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

Choral Workshop – The Armed Man - Mass for Peace. Abbotsbury Church, 7th February. See www.torbaysingers.org

Women's Breakfast. Saturday, 14th February at 9:30 a.m. at The Clock Tower Coffee Shop, Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot.

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

Joint Parish Communion. 29th March at 10:30 a.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

CHURCH SERVICES

25th 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.

All Saints' Church, **Evensong** at 5 p.m.

1st February

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

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

St Mary's Church, Wolborough, 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.

8th February

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.

ALL WEEK St Bartholomew's Church in Ogwell is normally open for private prayer during daylight hours.

FUNERALS AND INTERMENTS

Peter Whitehouse. 5th February at 10:30 a.m. Funeral at St Bartholomew's Church, Ogwell

Stephen Hurston. 5th February at 11:30 a.m. Funeral at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

Michael Taylor. 20th March at 10:30 a.m. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

June Davies. Funeral at St Mary's Church. Date to be arranged.

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** salawrence21@outlook.com 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** annachaplain@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

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Weekly Parish News by Email. **John Calderwood.** news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk
07760 226488

Other Communications Media (website and social media)
comms@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

IT Support it_support@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@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk