



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

8th February 2026. *2nd Sunday before Lent, Sexagesima*

In this edition:

In this edition:

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FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

When I was around the age of 8 or 9, I started fishing. There was a small river running through our little town and my friend and I would wander down with our rods and fish for a while, hoping to catch something. We had the optimism of excited children, but that part of the river was not a hot spot for coarse anglers.

But then it happened. Running my float under a tree on the far bank I managed to catch a 1lb 3 ½ ounce roach. That may not mean much to you, but that's a good-sized roach! So much so that I won the local Angling Associations Roach Cup for that year! Dreams of being the world's best angler, uniquely gifted by God, drifted through my mind for a couple of years, but to be honest, I rarely caught anything of note after that!

My encounter with a trophy winning fish might not have led anywhere, but Paul's encounter on the road to Damascus was on a completely different scale! He had met with the risen Lord Jesus Christ in all his glory! He had encountered the majesty of the only begotten Son. He had been convicted of his sinfulness and wickedness, felt his shame and guilt in full measure and then received the magnificent grace and mercy of God to flood and cleanse his soul. As a result, his life had been turned around. He'd been given a new start. A new

hope and a new mission: to preach the good news of Jesus to whomsoever and wherever he could, whatever the cost might be.

He started in Damascus, the place where he'd come to arrest Christians, '*preaching in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.*' *Acts 9:20.* After being introduced to the disciples in Jerusalem, he spent time in Tarsus where, by all accounts, he studied harder, had another encounter with Christ, and got himself better equipped for the calling he had received. And when the opportunity came, Paul grabbed it with both hands!

The book of Acts from chapter 13 onwards is largely about Paul's church planting work and his missionary journeys to places that had yet to hear of Jesus. Wherever he went he looked for 'god-fearing' Jews or Gentiles, people who were open to the gospel and willing to listen and he spoke to them about Jesus. If people in one town refused to listen, he went somewhere else. He wasn't put off by their rejection. He expected it. After all, Jesus said it would be so. (see John 15:20)

Paul's great desire, his God-given mission was to see people saved from sin and death and hell through faith in Jesus, and receive forgiveness, adoption into God's family and live the new life God calls all believers to. Opposition didn't derail him. Persecution didn't stop him. Trials and tribulations, floggings, shipwrecks, death threats, even imprisonment was no bar to sharing the gospel. (see Acts 16!)

The gospel Paul preached is there on the pages of the New Testament, especially in the book of Romans. His desire is there too. His request for prayer at the end of the letter to the Ephesians sums up Paul's desire to fulfil the calling he had received: *Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.* Ephesians 6: 19-20.

If we have encountered Jesus in some way. If we have received him as our Saviour and LORD, God will have a mission for us too. It might not be as dramatic as the one Saul was given, but it will involve sacrifice and service, a life-change and a willingness to pass on the good news of Jesus whenever we get the chance.

If you don't know your calling, then ask God what it might be. If you've never had an encounter with Jesus, then open your Bible, start reading and pray for God to reveal himself to you. But beware; your life will not be the same again.

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.

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

For the churches of the Buckland Monachorum Mission Community.

Residents in the following streets: Wharf Road, Whitehill Close, Whitehill Road, Wildwoods Crescent, Willow Close, Willow Farm, Windsor Avenue and Windsor Close.

The sick and suffering including: Sheila Fletcher, Joyce Sutherland, Sally Fulcher, Marie Graham, Martyn, Eve Taylor, David Littlewood, Ruth and Ted Parkhouse, Sandy Vaughan Edwards, Ted Demery, Cherie Glover, Ryan Holland and any others who are unwell.

Ben, Sarah and family as they care for Noah.

The families and friends of the recently deceased including Peter Robinson and Paul Hewson.

Please email prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk to let us know about anyone needing our prayers.

Readings for 8th February.

Abbotsbury and St Paul's Churches: Ruth, chapter 3, verses 1 to 8
Mark, chapter 12, verses 38 to 44.

All Saints' Church: Genesis Chapter 1, verse 1 to Chapter, 2 verse 3.
Matthew Chapter 6, verses 25 to 34.

NEWS AND NOTICES

Parish Prayer Gatherings:

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

Our next **evening** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on **Monday 16th February** at St Paul's Church **starting at 7PM!!!** Do come and join us.

Lent Focus on Prayer- and our Lent Course

Lent begins on **Wednesday 18th February**, when we shall be having a special **Ash Wednesday Communion Service with the imposition of Ashes** at St Paul's starting at 10am.

From the following Sunday, our focus of our Sunday sermons will be on Prayer. See below for the topics and Bible readings.

22 Feb	Drawing closer to God in Prayer	Why do we pray?	Matt 6 5-15	Psalm 42
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1 Mar	Drawing closer to God in Prayer	When should we pray?	1 Thess 5 12-18	Psalm 88
8 Mar	Drawing closer to God in Prayer	What should we pray for?	Philippians 4 4-9	Psalm 86
15 Mar	Drawing closer to God in Prayer	What do we do when God's answer isn't what we were hoping for?	Matt 26 36-46	Psalm 13
22 Mar	Drawing closer to God in Prayer	How do we hear God in prayer?	Hebrews 4 6-16	Psalm 130
29 Mar	Drawing closer to God in Prayer	Living prayerfully 7 days a week	Ephesians 6 10-20	Psalm 145

To complement the Sunday teaching, we will also be holding a 5-week Lent course on Prayer. The sessions will be held twice each week: on **Monday afternoons from 12:30pm to 2:30pm (bring your own lunch)**, and on **Tuesday nights from 7pm to 8:30pm**. Both will be at St Paul's Church.

The aim of the short course is to put some practical flesh on to the Sunday sermons, allowing us to learn HOW to pray but hearing and doing. Each session will involve some teaching, discussion and a time to put what we have learned into prayer. Further details are below. To help us prepare, please let either Gareth or I know that you are coming.

Session 1: The Heart of the Matter (The "Why")

The Intention: We begin by stripping away the "performance" of prayer to rediscover our identity as children of God. This session aims to move prayer from a religious obligation to a relational conversation, grounded in the opening words of the Lord's Prayer

Session 2: Prayer in the Dark & The Daily Grind (The "When")

The Intention: This session tackles the reality that life is often either "ordinary" or "overwhelming." We use the raw, unresolved honesty of **Psalm 88** to learn that lament is not a sign of a lack of faith, but an act of trust that refuses to go silent in the dark.

Session 3: The Prayer Menu (The "What For")

The Intention: Many of us get stuck in a "shopping list" style of prayer, where our own needs dominate our time with God. Using the **ACTS** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) model, this session invites us into a more balanced, biblical vocabulary.

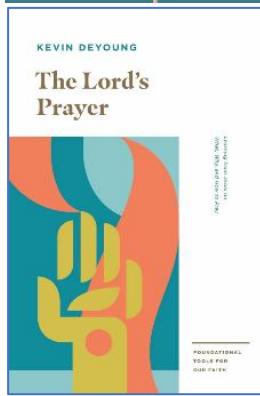
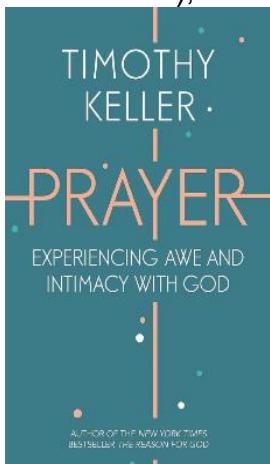
Session 4: The Gethsemane Struggle (When Answers Differ)

The Intention: This is perhaps the most pastorally sensitive week, focusing on the times when God's answer is "No" or "Wait." We look to **Jesus in Gethsemane** as our ultimate model for honest wrestling that ends in surrendered trust. The intention is to move from "demanding our way" to "trusting His way," acknowledging that surrender is an iterative, daily process.

Session 5: The Still Small Voice (How We Hear)

The Intention: True relationship involves listening as much as speaking. This session focuses on turning our prayer monologue into a dialogue by grounding our listening in the **Living Word of God (Hebrews 4:12)**. Through the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina* and intentional periods of silence, we train ourselves to hear the Shepherd's voice amidst the noise of the world.

Resource of the Week. Over the coming weeks I'll feature 2 books that will fit in well with our Lent focus on PRAYER. They are available to purchase at our online store through <https://uk.10ofthose.com/partners/nab> (where the churches get a percentage commission),



This is one of my go-to books on prayer. Deep, helpful, encouraging and wise, Tim Keller helps answer that cry "*Can't anyone teach me how to pray?*" with great theology and practical advice.

Keller begins by giving a theological underpinning of what prayer actually is – both conversation + encounter with a personal God – before describing how we can learn to pray and then deepen that prayer. Finally, he gives detailed, practical suggestions on how to make prayer a part of the reality of daily life.

I haven't read this book, but I can heartily recommend the author. When I'm looking to listen to another preacher, I often listen to him! Here's the blurb!

In *The Lord's Prayer*, Kevin DeYoung closely examines Christ's model for prayer, giving readers a deeper understanding of its content and meaning, and how it works in the lives of God's people. Walking through the Lord's Prayer word by word, DeYoung helps believers gain the conviction to develop a stronger prayer life and a sense of freedom to do so.

Lunch with God. This week, and for the following 4 weeks, LUNCH WITH GOD at St Paul's Church will continue to feature one of the 3-2-1 course videos. Accompanied by homemade soup, we'll watch one of the videos and have chance to discuss the questions it raises. Alternatively, you can take the course yourself by registering at www.321.speaklife.org.uk.course/321

Some Sad News:

Over the last two weeks, two of our church family have sadly died.

Peter Robinson, husband of Enid, both part of the congregation at All Saints Highweek, died on 12th January. His funeral will be at Highweek on Thursday 12th February at 10:30 a.m.

Paul Hewson, a member and former Church Warden of the church family at St Mary's Wolborough died earlier this week. The date for Paul's funeral is not yet known.

Please remember Peter and Paul's families and friends in your prayers over the coming days.

Prayer List: If you'd like your name or the name of a loved one added to the new list, please let us know. Please email prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk or contact the Parish Office.

Digital Ministry

Anyone interested in getting more involved with our digital ministry?

Would you like to help create some content for the website or Facebook, or keep us updated with what is happening in your corner of the parish?

The Digital Ministry Grow Course run by the diocese has just started, but you're not too late! 4 more sessions to go. Book here <https://bookwhen.com/exeterdiocese#focus=ev-s7p8i-20260202190000>

And there is a separate event but another great opportunity for you to discover more about digital ministry at Mission Shed 28 February in Plymouth. Why not book your free place and come along?

Book directly, but if you'd like to discuss our parish digital presence, contact Lynn Buckley at lynnbuckley.napc@yahoo.com

Digital Ministry GROW COURSE

The Digital Ministry Grow Course is aimed at anyone involved in church communications and tech, or anyone who would like to be. Over five weeks we will look at the theology of Digital Ministry and cover practical skills for good communications and engagement in church services, on social media, through church websites and in print too. The course will be delivered by the Diocese of Exeter Communications and Engagement team with contributions from guest experts.

2nd, 9th February, 2nd, 9th, 16th March 2026 | 7-8:15pm | Online

Book your free place: tinyurl.com/grow-digital-ministry-course

DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

DIGITAL MINISTRY
a Mission Shed gathering

MISSION SHED

WITH THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'S DIGITAL LABS TEAM AND EMMAUS GAMING

28TH FEBRUARY 2026 | 10:00-16:00
ST JUDE'S CHURCH, PLYMOUTH

Tools and techniques to help us confidently, creatively and authentically share the Good News and build community in today's digital landscape.

Workshops include:

- AI in ministry
- Church tech from scratch
- Mission through media
- Photography as a tool for mission
- Canva design
- Vlogging

BOOK YOUR PLACE: [TINYURL.COM/DIGITAL-MISSION-SHED](https://tinyurl.com/digital-mission-shed)

SCAN TO BOOK

DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

SPRING MARKET

28TH MARCH 2026

11AM-3PM

SECOND-HAND GOODS
CRAFTS + REFRESHMENTS

ABBOTS BURY CHURCH
WAVERLY ROAD, NEWTON ABBOT
TQ12 2ND

SUPPORTING HARRIET'S WORLD
SCOUT JAMBOREE
FUNDRAISING JOURNEY



to hire a stall email:
explorer.scout.harriet@gmail.com

THAT Foodbank

If you're able to donate anything to us at the moment, we'd be grateful for donations of any of these things. We know things are tough for lots of people at the moment, but any and all donations make a huge difference to our work in supporting residents across the Teignbridge District.

We have a number of collection points across Newton Abbot or you can drop them off directly to us at our shop in Buckland.

If you're not able to donate at the moment, please consider sharing this information as others may be able to donate. Thank you to everyone who supports us!

If you're able to donate to us this week, these are the things that we're currently short of:



Sugar



UHT milk

**Tinned vegetables
(carrots/sweetcorn)**



Custard

**Tinned ham/pork
corned beef**



Jars of coffee

Jam



Tinned spaghetti

Tinned potatoes



Tinned fruit

If you can't donate to us this week, please share our post with others. Thank you!

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.

Youth Group for ages 11-17 at The Avenue Church 27th February, from 7.30 to 9 p.m.

Charity Coffee Mornings. 28th February in aid of Anna Chaplains. Coffee Mornings at St Bartholomew's Church have been suspended for the time being.

Craft Club. 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

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.

15th 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, Holy Communion (BCP) 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.

22nd 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

Daniel Small. 4th February at 1 p.m. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.
Peter Whitehouse. 5th February at 10:30 a.m. Funeral at St Bartholomew's Church, Ogwell
Stephen Hurston. 7th February at 11:30 a.m. Funeral at All Saints' Church, Highweek.
Peter James Robinson. 12th February at 10:30 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

Organists:

Steve Cox 079 686 21511 or 01626 854228 stephen.cox54@talktalk.net
Clive Sawers 07967 148794 clivesawers@aol.com

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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

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.

John Calderwood news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk