



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

15th February 2026. *Sunday before Lent, Quinquagesima*

In this edition:

- Notes from the Rector on the life of St Paul- and the glorious Hope he shared.
- Times of prayer gatherings for the next few weeks
- Details of our LENT teaching programme and our Lent course
- Resource of the week: [two](#) books to complement our Lent focus on PRAYER
- Lunch with God and 321
- Dates of two church family funerals
- Updated Prayer list
- THAT Foodbank needs
- A visit to York

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

Over the last 2 weeks we've looked at Paul's calling after a dramatic encounter with Jesus, and his lifelong calling, which he fulfilled despite regularly facing extreme persecution and opposition. Today we're taking a brief look at the reason behind his perseverance in that calling, namely the glorious hope he had in Christ, and that we can have too.

The best summary of Paul's many challenges comes in 2 Corinthians 11, when Paul, who is defending his apostleship to the rather fickle Corinthian church, writes this:

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

Reading that list does make one wonder why, and how, Paul kept going! There are enough crushing challenges here to floor a whole church, let alone one man! So how did Paul keep going? What was the hope that fuelled him and led him on?

Paul expressed that hope in a number of ways: On trial before the Sanhedrin in Acts 23:6 he said: '*I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.*' In his later trial before Felix in Acts 26:6, Paul spoke of the ancient origin of that hope. '*And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today.*' Later, in prison in Rome Paul expressed his hope this way in Romans 5: '*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*'

So, Paul's HOPE was based on God's ancient yet certain promises. It was linked to life after death- *the resurrection from the dead* – and it was the hope of seeing and even sharing in the glory of God. Such was Paul's confidence that God would fulfil this promise to all who repent and believe in Jesus, that he not only persevered under such extreme pressures, but he also prayed for the eyes of other believers to be opened fully to see and understand all that God's promises meant. So, for example, in his pastoral prayer in Ephesians 1 Paul writes this: '*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people and his incomparably great power for us who believe.*'

As Paul's eyes were opened to the wonder of all that God had planned and prepared for him (and all believers) so the things of earth became strangely dim, in the light of God's glory and grace. If Paul's ambitions were earth-bound, if he was seeking a comfortable life, a secure retirement, a healthy family, a peaceful existence, he would never have taken the gospel out across the empire, nor spent his time writing the letters that continue to shape and build our faith in Christ Jesus. Likewise, if our spiritual ambitions are narrow and comfortable, we will never be moved to risky obedience, active service and sacrificial giving, and our lives, and the life and growth of God's church will be the poorer for it.

So, what is your hope in Christ? How strong is it? In what ways does it show itself in your life and decisions? As we reflect on these things, may we, like Paul, be increasingly *joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer* (Romans 12:12), that the good news of the gospel might spread and grow and multiply in our day too!

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.

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean.

Our link Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf.

Residents in the following streets: Wolborough Close, Wolborough Gardens, Wolborough Gate, Wolborough Street, Wood View, Woodlands Gardens, Woodlands Road and Woodleigh Road.

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, Orla Pyne 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 15th February.

Abbotsbury and St Paul's Churches: Ruth Chapter 4, verses 1 to 22 and Mark Chapter 14, verses 1 to 11

St Bartholemew's and St Mary's Churches: Exodus Chapter 24, verses 12 to 18 and Matthew Chapter 17, verses 1 to 9

NEWS AND NOTICES

Parish Prayer Gatherings:

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

Our next **morning Parish Prayer Gathering** will be on **Monday 23rd February** at St Paul's Church **starting at 9:15 a.m.**

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
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	<i>What should we pray for?</i>	Philippians 4 4-9	Psalm 86
15 Mar	Drawing closer to God in Prayer	<i>What do we do when God's answer isn't what we were hoping for?</i>	Matt 26 36-46	Psalm 13
22 Mar	Drawing closer to God in Prayer	<i>How do we hear God in prayer?</i>	Hebrews 4 6-16	Psalm 130
29 Mar	Drawing closer to God in Prayer	<i>Living prayerfully 7 days a week</i>	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 at Abbotsbury Church from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (bring your own lunch)**, and on **Tuesday evenings at St Paul's Church from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

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.

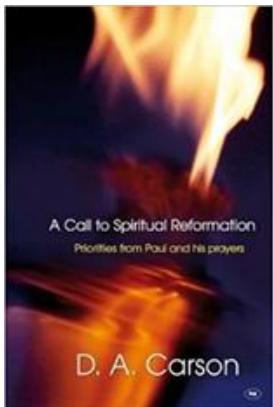
Session 4: The Gethsemane Struggle (When Answers Differ)

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)

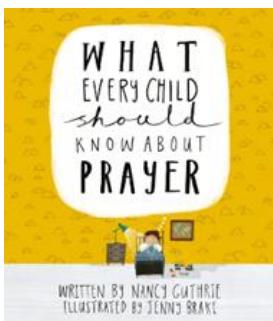
The Intention: True relationship involves listening as much as speaking. This session focuses on turning our prayer monologue into a dialogue by grounding our listening in the **Living Word of God (Hebrews 4:12)**. Through the ancient practice of *Lectio Divina* and intentional periods of silence, we 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), through **Choice Words** and other bookstores too. Wherever you choose to buy them from, why not take the time this Lent to learn more about PRAYER.



God doesn't demand hectic church programs and frenetic schedules: he only wants his people to know him more intimately,' says Don Carson. *'If we are to make any headway in reforming our praying, we need to begin by listening afresh to Scripture and seeking God's help in understanding how to apply Scripture to our lives, our homes and our churches.'*

In this book Carson works through several of the apostle Paul's prayers in such a way that we hear God speak to us today, and find strength and direction to improve our praying, both for God's glory and for our good.



Just as the disciples needed Jesus to teach them how to pray, so our children need us to teach them. This book will help!

Best-selling author Nancy Guthrie and much-loved illustrator Jenny Brake team up on this biblical theology of prayer for children. Nancy explains in child-friendly language what prayer is, how and why we should pray, and the things we can pray about. There is a Bible verse for each topic, and a prayer for children to make their own.

Lunch with God and 321: This week, and for the following 3 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.

Our evening 321 course has finished, but wonderfully, the materials are available online for you to take the course on your own, or even take it with a friend! Simply register at www.321.speaklife.org.uk.course/321 and enjoy!

Church Family Funerals. The funeral of **Peter Robinson**, husband of Enid, will be at Highweek on Thursday 12th February at 10:30am
The funeral of **Paul Hewson** will be at St Mary's Wolborough on Monday 2nd March at 10:30am.
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.



A Visit to York. Roz Paisey has 2 pre-booked advance rail tickets with allocated seats for 2 Senior Railcard holders to York and back. Her plans have changed but tickets non-refundable.

If you would like to make use of them, please contact her for details 07715 949461

The booking involves travelling from Newton Abbot with GWR to Paddington, tube to Euston for LNER to York on Wednesday 11/03/26, and returning Saturday 14/03/26 direct with Cross Country trains.

Annual Senior Railcard for over 60's currently £35 (cheaper with Tesco vouchers) whole year of 1/3 off rail travel!



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, 7.30 to 9 p.m.

Lent course on Prayer. Five sessions running on Mondays and repeated on Tuesdays through Lent, starts Monday 23rd February at 12:30 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church (bring your own lunch) or Tuesday 24th February at 7 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

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

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 11:15 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 11:15 a.m.

1st March

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 (BCP) at 11 a.m.

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

St Luke's Church, Mass at 11:15 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 James Robinson. 12th February at 10:30 a.m. Funeral at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

Paul Hewson. 2nd March at 10:30 a.m. at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

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

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

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

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