



# Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

## WEEKLY NEWS

**15<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*



In this edition:

- Notes from the Rector on the importance of prayer- for Jesus and the church!
- Prayer Course running throughout Lent
- Times of our Parish Prayer Gatherings for the next two weeks
- Lunch with God, and Lent Lunches with CTNA
- Holy Week timetable and a flyer for the Easter Fun Day
- Details of the Walk of Witness this year- and how you can get involved.
- **FREE** mini freezer
- Updated Prayer list

## FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

Last Sunday, and on our Lent Prayer Course this week, we looked at the **WHAT** of prayer- what sorts of prayers should we be bringing to God? Once again, we found the Lord's Prayer to be a wonderful resource and pattern for us, showing us that prayer should include:

- ✓ Prayers of worship, thankfulness and praise for who God is and all He has done and given.
- ✓ Prayers for God's Kingdom to come and His will to be done in us, in the church + in the world.
- ✓ Prayers for God to meet our needs and the needs of others - remembering that spiritual needs are just, if not more, important to pray about.
- ✓ Prayers for God's forgiveness, and prayers for His help to forgive others the hurt and harm they have caused us.
- ✓ Prayers to be protected from evil and that we might resist temptation.

If you were do a stock check of the amount of time you spent on these 5 areas of prayer, what would come out on top? Which elements would be left out almost entirely? What that stock-check tells us may well be quite revealing as to the true state of our hearts...

If there is no worship, praise and thanksgiving in our prayers, are we seeing God simply as a divine vending machine? Have we forgotten just how great and holy He is? Something is badly wrong if this is the case!

If we are not concerned for God's will to be done, we need to check our values! We are not the centre and culmination of history, God is!

If we never bring our needs – or the needs of others - to God, we need to assess whether we know God at all. Do we know him as OUR father? Are we confident of His love? Are we trusting in his mighty power? Or has our God become far too small?

If we never pray for forgiveness, then might I suggest that we are not being honest with ourselves! And if we never have to ask God to help us forgive others, either we are blessed with remarkable friends and family... or we are holding on to grudges, and our hearts may well be hard and unyielding.

And if we are not concerned about temptation nor attacks from the evil one (on us or our loved ones) what is behind this? Might we have begun to excuse sin? Are we unrealistic about our ability to stand firm? We are at our most vulnerable when our confidence rests in us, and not in the power and protection of God.

One final thing to consider: if our prayers for ourselves and for others are mostly earth bound, physical and practical, (*think, health, wealth, and happiness*) is this because we have become too worldly to be much spiritual good? In his letters to various churches, St Paul's prayers are almost entirely for their spiritual health and growth in faith, godliness and courage. You can find some of them here:

- ✓ Ephesians 1: 15-21
- ✓ Philippians 1: 9-11 (see also chapter 5:4-9)
- ✓ Colossians 1: 9-13
- ✓ 2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12 (See also 1 Thessalonians 5:16-25)

Those kinds of prayers are a challenge to me, perhaps they might be so to you as well. Why not take the time this week to read some of them and ask that God would guide your prayers to fit the pattern that Jesus and the Apostles gave us. Our prayer lives, and our whole lives, not to mention the life and witness of our churches, would be far better for it!

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 Anglican Church of Kenya**

**On Mothering Sunday**, we give thanks for our mothers and their love for us. We pray for those who find Mothering Sunday difficult due to loss, estrangement, or inability to have children.

**Residents in the following streets:** Bearness Lane, Beaumont Road, Beech Tree Lane, Beechwood Avenue, Belgrave Road, Berkshire Close, Belvedere 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, Ian Tresidder, Olive Leicester 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](mailto:prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) to let us know about anyone needing our prayers.

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**Readings for 15<sup>th</sup> March.** Matthew chapter 26, verses 36 to 46 and Psalm 13

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## **Parish Prayer Gatherings**

Our next **evening** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March** 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 23<sup>rd</sup> March** at St Paul's Church starting at 9:15 a.m.

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**Lunch with God** has paused for March to allow us to join with Christians from across the town at the Lent Lunches hosted at St Joseph's. These run from 12 noon to 13:30, with proceeds going to support MSF and Embrace the Middle East.

***Lunch with God will restart on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April with a Holy Week special focussed on the cross of Christ.***

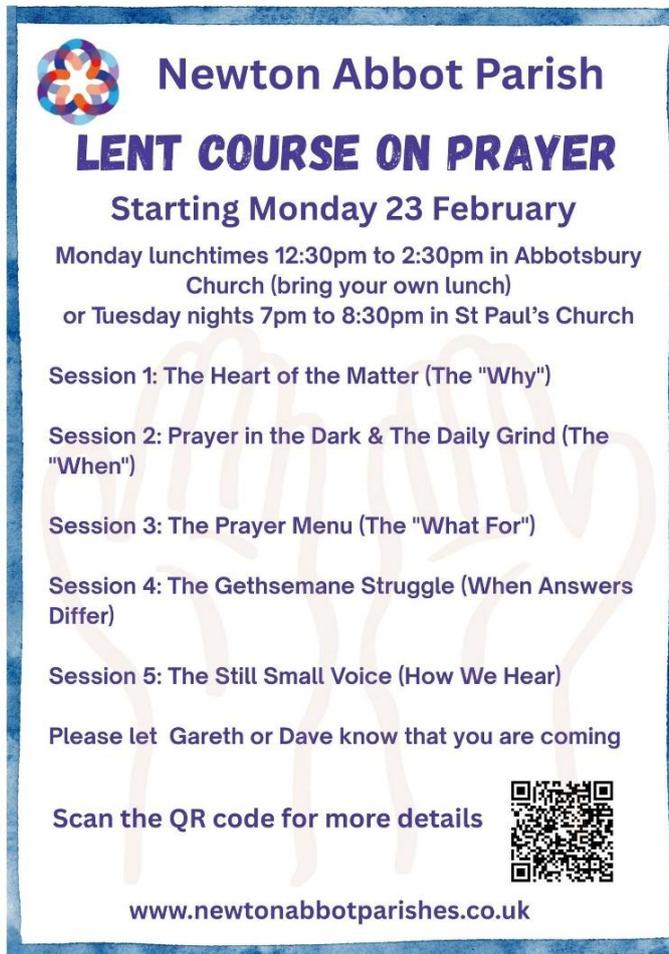
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**Abbotsbury Women's Breakfast. CHANGE OF VENUE** by popular request.

Saturday, 14th March at 9:30 a.m. at Leisure Lounge Café AKA Winners in Kingsteignton, near the racecourse. If you need a lift, please let us know in the chat group.

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## Lent Focus on Prayer - and our Lent Course



The poster features a blue border and a central graphic of two hands holding a heart. The text is as follows:

 **Newton Abbot Parish**  
**LENT COURSE ON PRAYER**  
Starting Monday 23 February  
Monday lunchtimes 12:30pm to 2:30pm in Abbotsbury Church (bring your own lunch)  
or Tuesday nights 7pm to 8:30pm in St Paul's Church

Session 1: The Heart of the Matter (The "Why")  
Session 2: Prayer in the Dark & The Daily Grind (The "When")  
Session 3: The Prayer Menu (The "What For")  
Session 4: The Gethsemane Struggle (When Answers Differ)  
Session 5: The Still Small Voice (How We Hear)

Please let Gareth or Dave know that you are coming

Scan the QR code for more details 

[www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](http://www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

It's STILL not too late to come along to our Lent course on prayer. The sessions are held twice each week and complement the Sunday teaching on Prayer on **Monday afternoons from 12:30pm to 2pm at Abbotsbury Church**, and on **Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8:30pm at St Paul's**. *(You might want to bring some lunch with you to the Monday course!)*

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. Do come along!

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## In Memory of Celia Batorijs

Celia worshipped at St Paul's and was a member of the congregation for many years. She was also a founder member of their Craft Group helping raise funds for different charitable organisations. Celia was a very talented and trained textile artist and produced many pieces of her art over the years.

Her son Stephan has put together a collection of her work and these will be exhibited at **The Birdwood House in Totnes High Street** (by the Market Place) during the dates below. I know many of you will remember her and I hope you will be able to come along and enjoy the exhibition.

**'My Life in Textiles'**

**Celia Batorijs – a retrospective**  
**Sunday 22nd - Saturday 29th March 2026**  
**(Private view – 2-5pm Sunday 22nd)**  
**Open every day 10am - 5pm - Closing at 4pm Saturday**

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**NEWTON ABBOT PARISHES**



# *Easter Events*

## **Wednesday 1 April 10:00**

10:00 Holy Communion at St Paul's Church  
12.15-13.45 Lunch with God at St Paul's Church

## **Maundy Thursday 2 April**

17:30 All-age Meal + Reflections at Abbotsbury  
19:30 Holy Communion at St Mary's

## **Good Friday 3 April**

10.00 CTNA Walk of Witness starts  
14.00 An Hour at the Cross at All Saints Highweek  
14.00 All-age reflections at Abbotsbury

## **Saturday 4 April**

10.30-15.30 Easter Fun Day at St Paul's

## **Easter Sunday**

Sunrise Service at All Saints (time tbc)  
Easter Communion Services  
9.30 at Abbotsbury and St Bart's  
11.00 at St Paul's and St Mary's



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**Lent Lunches** by Christians Together in Newton Abbot continue at St. Joseph's Church on Wednesdays: 11th March, 19th March and 25th March, starting at 12 noon.

Bread - Cheese - Apple – Drink - Fellowship - Prayer - Support for Gaza and Ukraine through MSF (Médecins Sans Frontieres).



I'll see you there!

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## Good Friday Walk of Witness 2026

This year the Walk of Witness will be somewhat different. Rather than the readings and hymns we've had in past years it will look more like a mini-passion play with the story acted out. There will still be some hymns, but the hope is that the dramatic presentation of the events of that first Easter will draw in many more people to watch and listen and, God-willing, want to know more. It is also shorter... not least because we miss out an initial service in church and start by gathering in Bearnas School playground around 9:45am.

With just over 5 weeks to go, we need to find our actors. Might that be you? If so, you will need to have a great outdoor voice, able to project well and speak clearly and at a good pace. Ideally, you will need to learn your lines off by heart too.

We're looking for the following roles to be filled - with the main speaking roles in bold

### **Scene 1: Jesus' Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane**

**James, Jesus, Judas** and 2 disciples and 2 silent soldiers

### **Scene 2: Outside The High Priest's House - Peter's Denials**

**Peter, Servant Girl**, man by fire calling out from the crowd

### **Scene 3: Pontius Pilate Palace- The Trial of Jesus**

**Pilate, Jesus**, Crowd, 2 silent soldiers

### **Scene 4: At The Foot of an Empty Cross - Post Jesus' Crucifixion**

**Mary Magdalene**, 2 silent soldiers, Jesus and two other voices shout out from the crowd

We might also need a few more disciples in costumes as extras.

If you'd like to know more, do please get in touch with me (Dave) asap and I'll send you a script. You'll also need to be available for a gathering/chat/audition at St Paul's Church on the afternoon of **Sunday 8th March, from 3:30pm**. That will give us just under 4 weeks until the Walk to get things right... The scenes are short, so that should be enough.

In the meantime, please PRAY... for the right people, good weather, and for many to come and watch and listen and discover the glorious mercy and love of Jesus.

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**If you can help as a volunteer with this for an hour or two, please let Dave know!**

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### **Free (or for a Donation) – Mini Freezer**

St Paul's has recently been gifted a new fridge freezer, which means that we no longer need the mini freezer. It is about 18 inches in height, width and depth and in good working order.

If you'd like it- or know someone who might – please contact the church office.





# Open Morning

10am-12.30pm  
Tuesday 14 April 2026  
St Paul's Church Hall, Devon Square TQ12 2HN

**Come along for a chat with some of our Group Leaders - get a taste of what Teign u3a can offer you!**

*Teign u3a is for anyone no longer in full time employment. We provide a wide range of opportunities every month for members to share learning and enjoy educational, creative and leisure activities in a friendly and supportive environment.*

Follow us on Facebook  
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Visit our website  
[www.teignu3a.org.uk](http://www.teignu3a.org.uk)



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Charity No: 1091466

**Why not bring a friend?**

03/26

The Teign U3A has over 500 members and around 70 groups involved in a wide range of activities.

I'm in ten of the groups. I find it a wonderful way to make friends while being involved in fun and interesting activities with like-minded people.

I find U3A membership provides me with opportunities to bring joy and support to other people. For me, that's part of my Christian calling.

I commend it to you.

John

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## COMING EVENTS

**Lent Lunches** are on each Wednesday up to 25<sup>th</sup> March, at 12 noon in the St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Hall (off St Paul's Road or up the path beside front of Church in Queen Street).

**Lent course on Prayer.** Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church (bring your own lunch) or Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at St Paul's Church. The last sessions are on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Women's Breakfast.** Saturday, 14th March at 9:30 a.m. at **Leisure Lounge Café**, AKA Winners in Kingsteignton, near the racecourse.

**Craft Club.** 17<sup>th</sup> March at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

**Men's Breakfast.** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café.

**Youth Group** for ages 11 to 17 at Abbotsbury Church on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 to 9 p.m.

**Visions of Peace Concert.** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church. Sung by Torbay Singers. Tickets and details from [www.torbaysingers.org](http://www.torbaysingers.org)

**Charity Coffee Morning.** 28<sup>th</sup> March from 10 a.m. in the Hall at St Paul's Church in aid of Animals in Distress.

**Joint Parish Communion.** 29<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30 a.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

**Lunch with God.** These **resume on 1<sup>st</sup> April.** Wednesdays at St Paul's Church. 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. Free soup and hot drink. Bible teaching.

**Easter Fun Day** 14<sup>th</sup> April 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in St Paul's Church Hall.

**U3A Open Morning** 14<sup>th</sup> April 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in St Paul's Church Hall.

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## CHURCH SERVICES

### 15<sup>th</sup> March (Mothering Sunday)

Abbotsbury Church, All Age Service 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.

### 22<sup>nd</sup> March

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.

### 29<sup>th</sup> March (Palm Sunday)

All Saints' Church, Highweek, Holy Communion at 10:30 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.

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## FUNERALS AND INTERMENTS

Danny Broadway. 11<sup>th</sup> March at 11 a.m. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

Jennifer Le Pine-Williams 17<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30 a.m. at St Bartholemew's Church, Ogwell.

Michael Taylor. 20<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30 a.m. Interment of Ashes at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

Anita Bailey. 24<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30 p.m. Interment of Ashes at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

June Davies. 30<sup>th</sup> March at 1 p.m. Interment of Ashes at St Mary's Church, Wolborough.

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## PARISH CONTACTS

**Team Rector: Rev Dave Brown.** Day off Thursday  
[rector@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:father@slsj.co.uk) 07555 924862

**Team Vicar: Rev Gareth Regan:** Day Off: Friday.  
[gareth@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:gareth@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) 01626 201237

**Curate: Rev Jonathan Bealey** [curate@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:curate@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) 07886567732

### Licensed Lay Minister:

**Keith Butler:** [puffin@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:puffin@blueyonder.co.uk) 07980 457919  
**Lay minister for St Luke's, Graham Whittle** [family@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:family@hotmail.co.uk)

### Churchwardens:

All Saints': vacant

Abbotsbury: vacant

St Mary's **Sharon Lawrence** [salawrence21@outlook.com](mailto:salawrence21@outlook.com) 07794 108166

St. Paul's **Lorna Tresidder** [lornatresidder@icloud.com](mailto:lornatresidder@icloud.com)

St Bartholomew's **Stella Llewellyn** [stellallewellyn@icloud.com](mailto:stellallewellyn@icloud.com) 01626 906814

and **Gwyn Hughes.** [gwynhughes@icloud.com](mailto:gwynhughes@icloud.com) 01626 365028

**Anna Chaplains: Mei Lan Machin.** [d.m.machin2013@gmail.com](mailto:d.m.machin2013@gmail.com) 07926 991578  
and **Kim Martin** [annachaplain@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:annachaplain@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

**Organist: Steve Cox** 079 686 21511 or 01626 854228 [stephen.cox54@talktalk.net](mailto:stephen.cox54@talktalk.net)

**Parochial Church Council Secretary: Barbara Garrick** 07910 207358  
[barbara\\_garrick@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara_garrick@yahoo.com)

**Safeguarding Lead: Rob Palmer** 07792 081776 [treb0r@hotmail.com](mailto:treb0r@hotmail.com)

**Weekly Parish News** by Email. **John Calderwood.** [news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)  
07760 226488

**Other Communications Media** (website and social media)  
[comms@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:comms@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

**IT Support** [it\\_support@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

**Parish website:** [www.newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](http://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](mailto:office@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)

## **OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS**

**Newton Abbot Town Council.** 01626 201120 [www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk](http://www.newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk)

**Shopmobility, Ring & Ride, Community cars** – 01626 335775

**Teignbridge Council** – 01626 361101, [www.teignbridge.gov.uk](http://www.teignbridge.gov.uk)

**THAT Foodbank.** 8 Queensway House, Queensway, Newton Abbot. TQ12 4BA. Tel:  
01626 437310, email: [office@thatfoodbank.com](mailto:office@thatfoodbank.com) Website: [www.thatfoodbank.com](http://www.thatfoodbank.com)

**Footnote.** Thank you very much to those of you who have sent me contributions for our weekly news. 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 day's 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](mailto:news@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk)