



# Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

## WEEKLY NEWS

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.** *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

In this edition:

- Notes from the Rector on dealing with unanswered prayer.
- The Prayer Course running throughout Lent
- Forthcoming Parish Prayer Gatherings
- Our joint services on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March
- Songs of the week - all about waiting for God.
- Lunch with God, and Lent Lunches with CTNA
- Holy Week timetable and the Easter Fun Day
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### FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

All of you who have had children or grandchildren will know the scene. A child sees something in a shop that they would like and so they ask for it- perhaps even with a 'please'. But when the answer is 'no!' all restraint is thrown off! The 'please can I have' becomes I **Want** or even I **NEED**. Feet are stamped. Eyes are screwed shut and the wailing begins. It doesn't really matter what the item is, how much it costs or how inappropriate the item - *I have a Lightning McQueen hot water bottle demanded on one of the hottest days of the year seared onto my memory* - what matters is that desire has been denied.

If we believe that God can and does answer prayers (and we certainly should!) unanswered prayer can sometimes elicit the same kind of response from Christians. We may not stamp our feet and scream, but that when an important (to us) request is answered with a no or not yet, we can often feel shaken, upset, hurt and perhaps even rejected by God.

So, what can we do about those feelings?

Perhaps the first thing to do is to pray about them. Bringing them to God and asking 'why' questions is never wrong. The Psalmists do that many times. Praying that prayer with our Bibles open may be of particular value, because as we pray God can speak to us and

remind us of any number of important truths that can soothe our troubled minds. The Psalm on Sunday (Psalm 13) spoke of several: God's constant love; his past salvation and blessings, his praiseworthiness and trustworthiness in the days ahead. Praise for what we have and worship for who God is a great antidote to dissatisfaction with our present circumstances.

Various passages of scripture will also point us to the fact that God often uses times of hardship and suffering for His good purposes in a way that will only be revealed much later. Think of Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt and how God used that for the saving of many lives. (Genesis 50:20) Think of the persecution in the early church that disrupted things in Jerusalem but led to churches being planted all over Israel and Samaria and further afield, as those escaping persecution shared the gospel wherever they went (See Acts 8 and following). Or think of Jesus' death on the cross. Was there ever a scene which suggested that evil had won more than that? And yet, it was through the cross that all people everywhere can now find forgiveness, adoption and eternal life! As the hymn puts it 'God moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform.'

The Bible will also point us to the end of the story, when all our prayers for peace and health and joy and satisfaction will one day be answered with a resounding YES in Christ. Life is not and will not be a bed of roses now. In this world we will have trouble. But the future for the Christian is glorious and perfect. That means we can be patient and endure whatever God, in his providential kindness, allows to come our way, because we know that we can never lose our most precious possessions (our eternal hope in Jesus and all other benefits of His passion), the struggles and pains we suffer will not last, and that the best is yet to come. Or, as someone explained it: The end for the Christian is perfect and glorious; and if things aren't perfect and glorious, then we haven't reached the end!

When God says no or not yet, or when it seems as if He isn't listening at all, let us not lose hope or get angry. Let us resolve to keep praying and ask that God would either help us to trust his goodness and plans, as Jesus did the Garden of Gethsemane, or that he would keep us hopeful and faithful in prayer until God either answers our prayers or He changes our hearts to pray for something else.

Grace and peace,

*Dave*

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### **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 Korea**

**On World Water Day**, we pray for the billions of people without access to safe water due to the water and sanitation crisis. In our desire to love our global neighbours, convict and compel us to rethink how we use water, and how we can support those in need.

**Residents in the following streets:** Bearnas Lane, Beaumont Road, Beech Tree Lane, Beechwood Avenue, Belgrave Road, Berkshire Close, Belvedere Road.

**The sick and suffering** including: Sheila Fletcher, 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, John and Joyce Sutherland and their family, and any others who are unwell.

**Ben**, Sarah and family as they care for Noah.

The families and friends of the recently deceased.

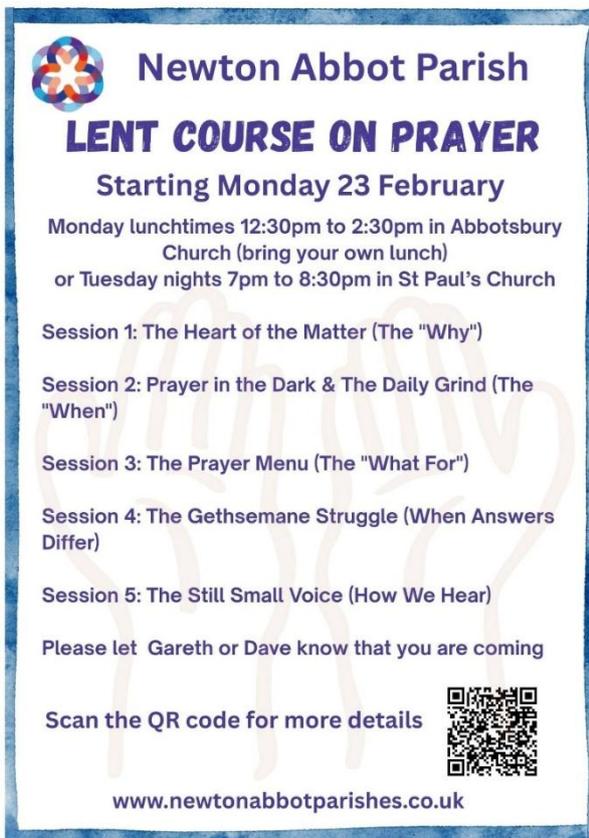
Please email [prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk](mailto:prayer@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk) to let us know about anyone needing our prayers.

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**Readings for 22<sup>nd</sup> March.** Hebrews Chapter 4, verses 6 to16, and Psalm 130

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## Lent Focus on Prayer - and our Lent Course



The poster for the Newton Abbot Parish Lent Course on Prayer features a blue border and a background illustration of hands. At the top left is a logo with a cross and four figures. 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)

The final session in the lent course will be on the coming Monday at Abbotsbury Church at 12:30 p.m. and Tuesday at St Paul's at 7 p.m.. *(You might want to bring some lunch with you to the Monday course!)*

This session is about listening to God.

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!

## Parish Prayer Gatherings

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.

Our next **evening** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March** at St Paul's Church starting at 7 p.m. Do come and join us.

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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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**Lent Lunches** by Christians Together in Newton Abbot continue at St. Joseph's Church on Wednesdays: 18th and 25th March, starting at 12 noon.

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



## Joint Services Coming up on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

This is the Sunday when the clocks spring forward!!

**Joint Parish Service at All Saints Highweek at 10:30 a.m.**

**Benefice Evensong at St Bartholomew's Ogwell at 5 p.m.**

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## Songs of the Week - All on the theme of waiting for God

[I Will Wait for You \(Psalm 130\) \(Official Lyric Video\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty](#)

[We have sung our songs of victory \(How Long?\) - Lyrics](#)

[Be Still My Soul - live with lyrics - 1080p](#)

[Great is thy faithfulness](#)

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## Notes from the PCC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.

Our meeting on Monday was slightly unusual in that all those attending the parish prayer gathering joined us for opening worship. They then went to the vicars' lounge to pray for the needs of the church, parish and the world.

Along with all the usual reports this meeting featured a guest speaker. Kim Martin, one of our Anna Chaplains, gave us an insight into her role and how the work has snowballed from services in two residential homes to nine or ten throughout the parish. Anna Chaplaincy was formed about 12 years ago and its aim is to provide spiritual support to older people in care home, hospitals, hospices and their own homes. Kim explained how she provides accessible worship for residents including those with dementia and is also involved in end-of-life care. Working under the supervision of Dave and Gareth, Kim is being trained to take Holy Communion and lead funeral services. There are 21 care homes in total in the parish so there is plenty of work for more Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends (who mainly work one to one with the elderly).

If you know someone who could benefit from Anna Chaplaincy or are interested in joining the work, then please speak to Kim, or one of the clergy.

On a serious note: we received a disturbing report from our safeguarding team that there are still people in various roles across the Parish who have yet to complete DBS checks and safeguarding training. This is a matter of concern for us all and the safeguarding team will be contacting those people yet again. If this is you – then please bless this hardworking team by doing what you need to do NOW.

This was our last meeting before the Annual Parish meeting, and soon churches will need to elect/re-elect wardens, PCC members and Deanery Synod reps. Please prayerfully consider if you could fulfil any of these roles if asked, and how you might best support those who are elected to serve the churches.

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## Newton Abbot Deanery Synod Report – 10<sup>th</sup> March.

The Newton Abbot Deanery Synod meets three times a year and there is usually a main speaker.

At the March meeting, Chloe Axford, the Director of Communications and Engagement, came to speak on the topic of 'Pray Grow Serve 2035', which is the Bishop of Exeter's vision for the next ten years in Devon and is based on Jesus' great commission to "go and make disciples".

There are five strategic priorities:

**Missional Leadership** – In a world where the Christian faith cannot be assumed, our Christian leaders need support and resourcing. Hence there is to be a focus on providing training opportunities for clergy and Licenced Lay Ministers (LLM), using up to date material.

**Missional DNA** – encouraging churches to be outward looking into their communities with resources to equip Christian communities to be missional in their worship, outreach and communications.

**Vocations** – to establish a vocational culture for lay and ordained through several leadership pathways. Partnering with organisations offering specialist training on various topics.

**Children, Young People and Families** – Reaching the children and young people with the gospel is vital. Training and developing children and youth workers through various courses. This was a key part of the bid for funding from the central church. (see below)

**Mixed Ecology** – In order to reach the wider community, we need to provide different ways of doing and being church for which training and webinars are being offered.

All this will cost money, and the Diocese has been awarded an initial grant of £10m from the Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMiB). This includes a bold reshaping of the Church in Plymouth for mission to revitalise the Church in Devon's largest urban area.

More information can be found on the Diocese of Exeter website, [www.exeter.anglican.org/pray-grow-serve-2035](http://www.exeter.anglican.org/pray-grow-serve-2035)

The Bishop of Exeter's prayer for Pray Grow Serve 2035 is:

God of Mission  
Who alone brings growth to your Church  
Send your Holy Spirit to help your Church here in Devon:  
To grow deeper in faith and prayer  
To grow new disciples  
To grow leaders  
To grow younger and  
To grow in joyful service  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



## Choice Words Bookshop

### STAFF VACANCY

Part-Time Sales Assistant 3 days per



week

An exciting opportunity to **serve God on the High Street** at **Choice Words**, the award winning independent Christian bookshop in Newton Abbot.

**The ideal applicant will be:**

- Friendly and welcoming with strong communication skills
- Passionate about great customer service
- Well organised, reliable and a team player
- Comfortable using computers

**Full training will be provided.**

**Please apply by email:** [roy@choicewords.co.uk](mailto:roy@choicewords.co.uk)

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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



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



COME ALONG TO OUR

# EASTER FUN DAY

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL  
10:30AM - 3:30PM

- EASTER EGG HUNT
- EASTER CRAFTS
- REFRESHMENTS

**FREE EVENT!**

**LEGO DISPLAY**  
BY BRICK TO THE PAST

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH**  
DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT, TQ12 2HN  
[WWW.NEWTONABBOTPARISHES.CO.UK](http://WWW.NEWTONABBOTPARISHES.CO.UK)

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

**Middle East Crisis Appeal.** *(From the Diocesan newsletter, Roots and Shoots)* Conflict in the Middle East is escalating, pushing an already fragile region into a deeper humanitarian crisis. In Lebanon, violence is forcing tens of thousands of people from their homes. In Gaza, closed border crossings are stopping food and medicine from reaching people in need.

Tearfund, a Christian charity, is working with local churches and partners across the Middle East by providing urgent health care, emergency funding to hospitals, distributing food and essentials, and providing shelter and assistance. If you would like to donate to Tearfund's Middle East Crisis Appeal, [click here](#).

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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 final sessions are on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

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

**Highweek WI Spring Fair.** 21<sup>st</sup> March 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Highweek Village Hall.

**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)

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

**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.

**Parish Evensong.** 29<sup>th</sup> March at 5 p.m. at St Bartholemew's Church, Ogwell

**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.** 4<sup>th</sup> April 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

**Women's Breakfast.** Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April at 9:30 a.m. at **Leisure Lounge Café**, AKA Winners in Kingsteignton, near the racecourse.

**Craft Club.** 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

**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

### 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 (*clocks go forward*)

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

St Luke's Church, Mass at 11:15 a.m.

St Bartholemew's Church, Evensong at 5 p.m.

## 5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day

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, Holy Communion 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 Bartholemew's Church in Ogwell is normally open for private prayer during daylight hours.

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## FUNERALS AND INTERMENTS

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.

Christopher Tomas Young. 18<sup>th</sup> April at 11 a.m. Funeral at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

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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 Bartholemew'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)