



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

17th May 2026 Sunday after Ascension

In this edition:

- Message from the Rector – summary of thoughts shared at the APCM
- Parish Prayer Gatherings for the next few weeks
- Election results from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
- Pentecost Prayer Walk on Saturday 23rd May.
- Living Stones a useful day at Abbotsbury Church organised by the Diocese.
- Video of the week: a wonderful sermon series on Philippians
- Our new Town Mayor
- Services for the 5th Sunday of May.

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

Yesterday we held our annual Parochial Church Meeting, received reports from across our 5 churches and elected people to serve in a variety of roles. You can find the results of those elections below.

As Rector, it's been my habit here and in my previous parish to reflect briefly on the past year and to thank people for their service. It also gives me an opportunity to share some thoughts about our priorities for the coming year. What follows is the latter part of my address. Can I encourage you to read it, to pray about it, and, as you are able, to be actively involved in helping our church to ingrain a missional DNA in all that we do.

I'll write some columns across the year on the parable I mention at the end, but for now, here are my thoughts. It's a little longer than usual, but please stick with it!

Last year I spoke about our finances, making the most of new opportunities for mission, and growing in prayer. Those are still issues, and in some ways, they fit underneath the heading I want to suggest as our main priority for the coming year at least. It's this: ***Becoming a Parish with a Missional DNA.***

That's not a heading that Gareth and I have come up with... it's straight from the 5 key priorities the Diocese of Exeter has adopted for the next 10 years. You can see the others on the screen now:

First, **missional leadership**: equipping and resourcing the ordained and lay leaders of our Christian communities as best as we can to develop disciples and make new disciples. Second, developing a “**missional DNA**” across our Christian communities, encouraging outward-looking, invitational churches, hospitable to outsiders and engaged with their wider communities. Third, cultivating an intentional **vocational culture** so that we are not asking whether God is calling me/us, but “To what is God calling me/us now?” Fourth, **children and young people** being placed at the heart of our life, mission and ministry. And fifth, a **mixed ecology**: understanding that we need different ways of doing and being Church. Alongside time-honoured Church we need all sorts of Christian communities which can engage with the 95% of our population who are as yet unengaged.

It's the second priority Gareth and I want our PCC and our 5 worshipping communities to focus on this coming year. What might that look like?

1: Making sure that ‘making new disciples’ is considered in every decision we make.

For example: in discussing changes or repairs to our buildings, making sure we consider how it will help or hinder our desire to see more people come to church, and, more importantly, come to know Jesus.

It might also mean that when planning new events or services or reviewing our service patterns, we ensure we consider not just our existing and established congregations, but how any changes might attract others. Oh - we still need to be varied and to maintain a wide range of worship styles. That won't change. But how might that range be extended? Where are the gaps? Where should our limited resources and energies go? So, when finances are tight, we need to be prioritising those parts of our ministry that seek to reach the lost both here and around the world. There's the need for extra giving. Because the more we receive, the more we can use.

2: Making sure we are ready to welcome new people in.

This is largely a mindset thing. Recognising that we are God's ambassadors and envoys who should be ready to meet and greet and welcome anyone new who comes along in the name of Christ. That might mean a conversation over coffee. Or sitting next to them during the service so they don't feel like a fish out of water. It might mean following them up with a phone call, arranging a time to chat some more, or pointing them to someone else. It might also mean showing them our Parish flyer so they can see the varied choice of church on offer. There's a challenge. But are we only hoping to grow our own church, or to grow God's Kingdom?

3: Making inviting people a very normal thing to do.

When was the last time you invited someone who doesn't usually come to church to come along? Numerous recent studies have suggested that 1 in 4 people or thereabouts would say yes to such an invitation if someone asked them. So why don't we? Perhaps we are nervous about what to say? Or worried we might offend them. Perhaps we still have doubts about what we believe. We can certainly do a better job in preparing ourselves to share our faith, and we will do that over the year. But perhaps we also need to look for or even create good opportunities to give that invitation. Christmas and Easter are 2 of those times. But lots of churches have special guest services where the refreshments are extra special and where the music and talk are tailored for those not normally in church. Over the coming year we'll be organising some special events to which it will be easy to invite neighbours and friends, but when those events come, we've got to be brave and invite

people along. The more we do it, the easier it those invitations become - and the more people who will say yes!

4: Making prayer for people to come to faith a regular part of our worship, and our corporate and private prayer times.

Many of our corporate intercessions on Sundays ignore our God-given mission to see people come to faith in Jesus. That's not surprising - there are so many other things to pray for - but it is a weakness and it's easy to change. So, intercessors, please take note! Our prayer times on Mondays usually include a section praying for courses and events, but we can be more focussed in those times. But what about us as individuals? Do we regularly pray for unbelieving friends, family members and colleagues to become followers of Jesus? If not, why is that? What's stopping us? We'll be looking at ways to help us do that this year. Because the more we are praying for God to move in that way, the more he will be able to use us to be the means by which those prayers are answered.

Reaching people with the good news of Jesus and seeing them come to faith isn't easy or automatic. Jesus' parable of the sower shows us that with 75% of the seeds sown failing to produce a lasting crop. But let's not be discouraged when our efforts come to naught, because the seed that falls on the good soil produces such a crop that would delight even the best gardener.

Let's hold that parable close to us this year and pray that God would give us the willingness and boldness to sow the seeds of the gospel as liberally as possible, that God, by his Holy Spirit, might bring glory to his name by giving the growth we are praying for.

So, as I close, let me invite you to come and pray for our town and our mission on the Saturday before Pentecost. Details are on the pew sheet this Sunday and in the newsletter. Let's begin this next year as we want to go on - by embedding the desire to make new disciples in every part of our life together. And may God answer our prayers in miraculous ways as a result.

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 Papua New Guinea

For the churches of the Raleigh Mission Community and for those supporting the church during its vacancy, and for all who live and worship in Otterton, East Budleigh with Bicton, and Budleigh Salterton

Residents in the following streets: Courtenay Gardens, Courtenay Park, Courtenay Park Road, Courtenay Road, Courtenay Road, Highwood Close, Courtenay Street, Courtlands Road, Cowslip Crescent and Cranesbill Way.

The sick and suffering in our parishes and any others who are unwell.

The families and friends of the recently deceased.

Please let us know about anyone needing our prayers..

Readings for 17th May

John Chapter 17, Verses 1 to 11

1st Letter of Peter Chapter 4, verses 1 to 11

Parish Prayer Gatherings

Our next **morning** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on **Monday 18th May** at St Paul's Church starting at 9:15 a.m.

No prayer gathering on 25th May – bank holiday

Our next **evening** Parish Prayer Gathering will be on **Monday 1st June** at St Paul's Church starting at 7 p.m. Do come and join us.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Elections

Elected Churchwardens are:

Abbotsbury Church: Pauline Giddings

All Saints Church: Paul Cannock

St Bartholomew's Church: Stella Llewellyn and Gwyn Hughes

St Mary's Church: Sharon Lawrence St Paul's Church: Lorna

Tresidder.

For PCC Members there were 4 vacancies.

Morice Kennedy came to the end of her term representing St Paul's Church, and was reelected.

Brian Harding came to the end of his term representing All Saints' Church and was replaced by John Calderwood

There are still two vacancies for St Mary's Church. Volunteers are welcome to apply for adoption as PCC members.

Deanery Synod Representatives are: Lynn Buckley, Ian Tresidder and Rachel French

Following the APCM, the new PCC met and agreed that Karen Hooker be appointed PCC Secretary.

Pentecost Prayer Walk - Saturday 23rd May.

Please come and join us as we pray for God to pour out His Holy Spirit across our town. You can join in the event in 3 ways- starting at point 1 or point 2 or point 3 below!

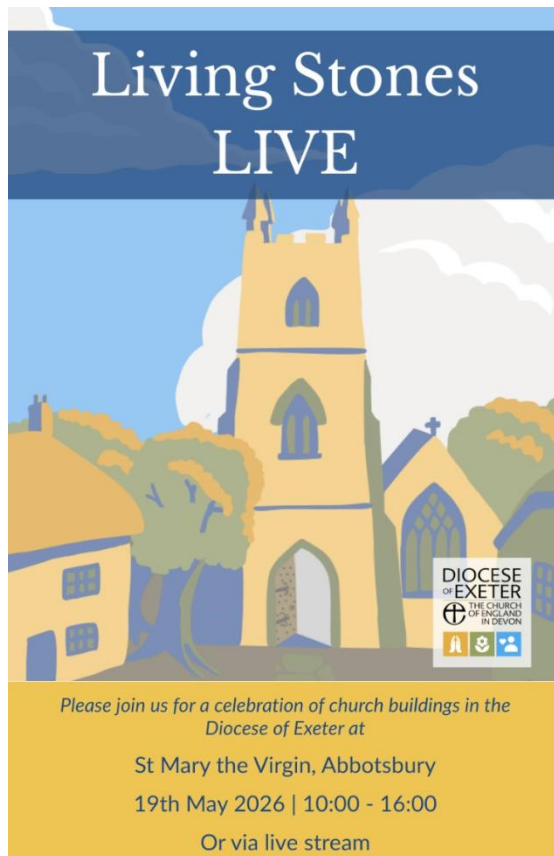
- 1: Start at the church where you usually worship and pray for growth in numbers, love, maturity + mission.
- 2: Walk to the town centre and join the prep-planned circular route, praying at some/all of the places listed.
- 3: Be in Golden Lion Square at 12noon to pray and sing together. We aim to finish by 1pm

Proper maps for the town centre red-dotted route with suggestions of places to stop and pray (like the one) below will be available in each church on Sunday and from the Parish Office. Why not get a few friends together from your church, work out the best time to start the walk and join in. *(My guess is that an hour for the town centre part of the walk will be about right, but take as long as you need!)*



Fifth Sunday of May. As usual when there is a 5th Sunday in the month, we hold combined services for the whole Parish. On 31st May we will have the joint morning service at Abbotsbury Church at 10:30 a.m.

Also on 31st May, we will be joining forces with Milber Parish for Evensong at 5 p.m. at St Luke's Church.



Anyone who cares about making good use of our churches will be welcome to attend.

Talks include

- Sharing what's special about your church
- Engaging with your community • Making the most of your church building
- Managing a project

Speakers include

- Douglas Young, creator of the [Devon Churchland](#) website
- Aileen Peirce, Head of Interpretation & Design at [Historic Royal Palaces](#)
- Camilla Finlay, Director at Clews Architects Ltd
- Rosie Austin, Rural Churches Officer at the Diocese of Exeter [Devon Communities Together](#)

Lunch and refreshments provided

Booking for in person and online attendance is via <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/church-buildings/living-stones-live> This free to attend event is organised by the Church Buildings Team at the Diocese of Exeter, with funding from the Church Commissioners Buildings for Mission programme

Miss Sara Ashton
Executive Assistant, Governance Team

The Old Deanery Main: 01392 272686
The Cloisters Direct 01392 294931
Exeter Mob: 07399 937730
EX1 1HS Email: sara.ashton@exeter.anglican.org

Videos of the Week

During the week after Easter Judy and I, plus a few others from the Parish, attended the Rising Lights Conference at Torquay. Some of the talks are now available to watch free of charge, including the excellent series that we enjoyed for our morning Bible Readings. They are all on the book of Philippians and were given by Paul Mallard, a recently retired free-church minister from the Midlands. Paul is a truly gifted speaker, and his talks will touch your hearts and minds and encourage you to live for Jesus.

You can find all the video here: [Rising Lights 2026 - Bible ministry and talks - FIEC](#)

Newton Abbot Mayor.

Louise Cooke, a member of our congregation, has been installed as the new Mayor of Newton Abbot, and Kim Martin, our Anna Chaplain is supporting her as the Mayor's Chaplain.



COMING EVENTS

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

Craft Club. 19th May at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

Pentecostal Prayer Walk. 23rd May. Details are available in our churches.

Charity Coffee Mornings. 30th May from 10 a.m. in the Hall at St Paul's Church in aid of Alzheimer's Research, and 29th May at St Bartholomew's Church.

Women's Breakfast. Saturday, 13th June at 9:30 a.m. at Leisure Lounge Café.

Parochial Church Council. 24th June at 7 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

Men's Breakfast. Saturday 20th June, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café. **Youth Group** for ages 11 to 17 at The Avenue Church on 26th June, 7.30 to 9 p.m. No meeting in May.

CHURCH SERVICES

17th May

Abbotsbury Church, All Age Service at 9:30 a.m.

St Bartholomew'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.

24th May

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.

31st May

Abbotsbury Church, Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

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

St Luke's Church, Evensong at 5 p.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

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

Churchwardens:

All Saints': **Paul Cannock**

Abbotsbury: **Pauline Giddings**

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 Chaplain: Kim Martin annachaplain@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

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

Parochial Church Council Secretary: Karen Hooker.

pccsecretary@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk 07999 891029

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 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