



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

2nd August 2026

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FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends

Most of us, I suspect, have our favourite Bible passages. One of mine is Revelation 21 where the Apostle John sees a glorious vision of the new creation. I've preached on it at numerous funerals and I read it at my mother's. It's a passage full of hope and joy as all that blights our world and damages our lives is removed and replaced by the fullness and glory of God.

But there's a phrase in the first verse of that chapter that used to really bother me. It's this: *and there was no longer any sea*. If you've read my previous two columns, you'll understand why it bothers me. I love the sea! I'm in awe of its size and beauty and power. I love looking at it, swimming in it and walking beside it. And so, the thought that there will be no sea in the new creation comes as rather a disappointment.

Or it would do, if I believed the phrase was meant to be taken literally.

But as with much of the book of Revelation, the Apostle John is using image that his readers would understand to help them sense of all he sees. And what he sees is a renewed world where chaos and destruction and fear are gone for good, and so he uses the image of the sea because in the Jewish mind, the sea encompassed all of those things.

The first mention of the seas in the Bible comes a little obliquely in Genesis 1: *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*. The sea here is shrouded with mystery. God has

yet to call creation forth and bring perfect order to the world, so the waters are dark, wild and foreboding.

The next time we hear of the sea is in the account of Noah, where the waters rise to flood the earth. Then we come to the story of the Exodus where the Israelites are saved as God brings the waters of the Red Sea crashing down on the Egyptian army, washing them away. The Psalms use this story again and again, and rejoice in God's power over the waters, but they also use the image of a raging sea to speak of judgment, of a power too great for them, and of an image of something to be feared because it is out of their control.

How much like our world that is! How like much of our lives! Life can be peaceful one minute, raging like a winter sea the next. Compared to such great, powerful and unpredictable forces, we can often feel carried along and swept away by events that come crashing down on us like the waves that washed away the Teignmouth railway line.

In the Jewish mind, therefore, the sea was a place of chaos and judgment and was to be feared and avoided. No wonder John used that analogy to describe God's new creation where all that fear and chaos would be gone for good.

That's one of the reasons the disciples were fearful of Jesus when he calmed the storm. Here in the boat with them was one who could only be God himself, for only God can control the raging seas and calm storms. He did it on the lake, and one day, when Jesus comes again as King, He will calm all storms for good.

I'm confident that there will be seas and oceans in the new creation, as there will be cities and rivers too. But those waters will no longer be something to be avoided, for in the Kingdom of Christ the King, there is nothing to fear. So the next time you see a raging sea, rejoice that we worship a God who has power over all storms; physical ones and metaphorical ones. And praise Him that one day all such storms will be over forever. 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 Uganda

The churches of the Axe Valley Mission Community, their clergy Leisa Potter, Nicky Davies, Cate Edmonds, LLMs Su Clark, Ann Gray, Anna Venables, and for all who live and worship in Uplyme, Membury, Combpyne with Rousdon, Chardstock St Andrew, Axmouth, and Axminster.

Residents in the following streets: Kiln Orchard, King Street, Kings Cottages, Kingskerswell Road, Kingsteignton Road, Knowles Hill Road, Laburnum Road, Landrace Close and Langford Bridge.

The sick and suffering including: Sheila F, Sally F, Marie G, Martyn, Eve T, David L, Ted P, Cherie G, Ryan H, Orla P, John and Joyce S and their family, Anna C, Peter W, Karen H, Adam B, Ann J and any others who are unwell.

Ben, Sarah and family as they care for Noah.

The families and friends of the recently deceased.

Please let us know about anyone needing our prayers.

Readings for 2nd August

Matthew, chapter 14, verses 13 to 21, and Psalm 17, verses 1 to 15

Parish Prayer Gatherings

No Prayer gatherings in August. They resume on 7th September at St Paul's Church starting at 9:15 a.m.

Please do keep praying for the work of the church and for God's blessing and intervention in His world. You can do that on your own, or with some friends, or join with others at the new morning prayer service at Highweek each Thursday morning at 9 a.m.

Podcast of the Week - A deep dive into Luke's Gospel...

We're not preaching through Luke's Gospel at the moment, but I still found this podcast stimulating and Darryll Bock, a New Testament scholar and Luke-Acts expert answers dozens of questions about the gospel on the Pastor's Heart podcast.

You can watch it here: [Darryl Bock answers EVERY question on Luke's Gospel](#) or find it wherever you get your podcasts.

Afternoon Tea at the Rectory for the congregations of **All Saints' Highweek, St Bart's Ogwell and St Mary's Wolborough**. There's another chance to come on Friday 14th August from 3 p.m.

Please [RSVP](#) if you would like to come.

Evensong at West Ogwell Church.

The redundant Church at West Ogwell resounded with songs and Psalms of praise last Sunday night as we held our annual Evensong, this time with live music. (Who'd have thought the St Paul's Keyboard would run on 6AA batteries!)

The photos below, taken by Mark Portwood will give you a flavour of the event and the refreshments afterwards!



After School Tea and Toast... The Next Step

Thank you to all those who expressed an interest in being part of a weekly after school drop-in for secondary aged pupils. We've now got enough people interested to gather and discuss the idea further

If you have expressed an interest *OR you wish you had*, please come to Abbotsbury Church on **Wednesday 5th August at 7 p.m.**

Buy a Bible for a School Leaver



The end of term services may have come and gone, but it isn't too late to sponsor one of the Bibles we presented to each of the Year 6 children leaving All Saint's Marsh and Wolborough Church of England Primary Schools. They cost £13 each, meaning the cost is over £600.

If you'd like to sponsor one or more Bibles this year, please make your donation in an envelope marked School Bibles and place it in the offering.

Alternatively, if you use the tap and pay machines at church, make your donation £13:00 and we will see what the gift is for. Thank you.

A Month of Hospitality

At our meeting earlier this week, the PCC agreed to support September being a Month of Hospitality! Each church community will be looking for a way to eat together, but we are also hoping that as many of us as possible will invite someone from our church community into our homes during that time. It doesn't need to be grand. It could be for a coffee, a sandwich, or beans on toast. The food doesn't matter. The welcome does. So, let's all seek to grow in the gift of hospitality during September. Invite cards will be available soon for you to use...

COMING EVENTS

Lunch with God. Wednesdays at Golden Lion Square 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. Bible teaching.

Youth Group for ages 11 to 17 at The Avenue Church on 25th September, 7.30 to 9 p.m.

Special Women's Breakfast. Summer with the Holy Spirit. 1st August at 8:30 a.m. at the Rectory. Book with Judy by email at mrsvicar16@gmail.com or telephone 01626 335862.

Craft Club. 4th and 18th August at 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

Women's Breakfast. Saturday, 8th August at 9:30 a.m. at Leisure Lounge Café.

Afternoon Tea at the Rectory for the congregations of: All Saints' Highweek, St Bart's Ogwell and St Mary's Wolborough. 14th August, 3 p.m. To book your place email rector@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk or phone 01626 335862.

Men's Breakfast. Saturday 15th August, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café.

Charity Coffee Morning. 29th August from 10 a.m. in the Hall at St Paul's Church in aid of Devon Freewheelers.

Joint Parish Communion Service. 30th August 10:30 a.m. at St Bartholomew's Church, Ogwell.

Evensong. 30th August. 6 p.m. at St Bartholomew's Church, Ogwell.

Parochial Church Council. 23rd September at 7 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

CHURCH SERVICES

2nd August

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.

9th August

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.

16th August

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.

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.

EVERY THURSDAY 9 a.m. Morning Prayer (Common Worship) followed by refreshments at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

ALL WEEK St Bartholomew's Church in Ogwell is normally open for private prayer during daylight hours.

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:

Abbotsbury: **Pauline Giddings** abbotsburywarden@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

All Saints': **Paul Cannock** allsaintswarden@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

St Mary's **Sharon Lawrence** salawrence21@outlook.com 07794 108166 St.

Paul's **Lorna Tresidder** stpaulswarden@newtonabbotparishes.co.uk

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

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