



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwel

WEEKLY NEWS

6th September 2026

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Dear Friends,



Welcome to Hospitality Month!

As I hope you'll all know now, September is our first **HOSPITALITY MONTH!** A month when we are all encouraged to adopt the Christian practice of hospitality towards our fellow believers.

Some of you already do this kind of thing regularly. You invite people for coffee (at home or in a café), you share meals together, and as you do, you find out about their lives, and you develop deeper friendships. Great! Keep going! In living like this you are acting in the great tradition of Christians across the ages going back to the early Church. This is what the Luke writes in Acts 2:46

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts....

Notice that the fellowship of believers was more than attending the same church/temple together. Church is vital and after church coffee times are great! But these times are short and over coffee there is a pressure to chat rather briefly with several people, rather than having deep conversations. (*I'm sure it isn't just me who feels that!*) But over a meal at home, or with just a couple of people and a pot of tea or coffee, time is no longer a factor. Conversations can be deeper, more honest and open, and the sense that God is in the midst of it all can grow along with our friendships.

So, as I've done over the last few weeks, let me encourage you to take part. There are lots of these cards around in our churches. Simply pick up a few, fill in the back, and hand them out.

Remember:

It doesn't need to be grand! Tea and biscuits are just as good as a gourmet meal. Offer what you can and perhaps to start with, keep it simple.

It doesn't need to be large. If you've not invited anyone to your home before, start with 1 or 2 people, perhaps those you know a little already.

It doesn't need to be long. Perhaps you're a little worried that people won't know when to leave! So why not add an end time on the invite. (*Come for coffee, 2-3 on Tuesday for example*)

But might I encourage you, if you feel able, to either start or end with a prayer. Perhaps by saying grace, if it's a meal. Or by saying The Grace, (2 Corinthians 13v14) at the end. And it would be great if you were able to spend a little time talking about matters of faith! The times we live in may not be as exciting as those of the early church where *'the Lord added to their number daily of those who were being saved'* (Acts 2: 47) but God is still the same. The gospel of Jesus is just as powerful today as it was then, and in some ways, the times we are living in are just as testing for those who follow Jesus. So how about using some of these questions to get those faith conversations started?

- What stood out from the service and sermon on Sunday?
- How do you find reading the Bible regularly? Have you got any tips for me?
- How did you become a Christian? What made you join the church here?
- What's hard in life (or great in life) right now?
- How can I pray for you over the coming weeks?

It was as the believers in the early church shared their lives, their faith and even their resources (See Acts 2: 44) that people saw there was something wonderful and different about the Christian faith, and the church grew as a result.

May hospitality month bring us closer together and closer to God, that those outside looking in may see God at work amongst us!

Grace and peace,

Dave

Team Rector

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 Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

The Anglican vocational training centres in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in Melanesia.

Residents in the following streets: Merrywood, Middle Budleigh Meadow, Mile End Road, Mill Close, Mill Lane, Milton Road, Moore Close, Moorland View and Moorlands Close.

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, Peter W, Karen H, Adam Bu, 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 6th September:

St Bartholomew's and St Mary's Churches: Matthew Chapter 18, verses 15 to 20 and Exodus Chapter 12, verses 1 to 14

Abbotsbury and St Paul's Churches: Matthew Chapter 18, verses 15 to 20 and 1 Corinthians Chapter 8, verses 1 to 13

Parish Prayer Gatherings restart at St Paul's Church on **Monday 7th September at 7 p.m.**, with the next gathering on Monday 14th starting at 9:15 a.m.

What can you expect if you come along? These times start with some words of scripture and sometimes a song that leads us into a time of praise and worship. Beginning by focussing our minds on God helps us remember the glory and power and authority of the One to whom we will then bring our prayers of intercession for the church, for our town and world and for one another.

Some people pray aloud frequently during these prayer times. Others bring a written prayer to read out. Others simply join in with the "Amen!" There is no pressure on anyone to pray aloud, but it is so good to pray together and hear the collective Amens.

If you want to grow in your own prayer and are keen to see God at work in our Parish, do come and join us.

Video of the Week - *I Pretended that God existed for 30 days- this is what happened.*

An interesting video conversation between Glen Scrivenor of SpeakLife and Brian Guan, a social media influencer who, after becoming dissatisfied with his selfish, materialistic

lifestyle, decided to see what would happen if he simply 'pretended that God existed' and did some basic Christian things like attending church, prayer, Bible reading, practicing thankfulness and acts of kindness. Watch the interview here and find out more.

[He Pretended to Believe for 30 Days... Then THIS Happened](#)



Study Course this September: Discipleship Explored.

Alternate Wednesday afternoons from 3pm to 4:30pm starting Wednesday 2nd September in the Vicar's lounge at St Paul's. Invite cards are also available now...

Discipleship Explored has been designed to help followers of Jesus discover the joy, unity, righteousness and love which are theirs in Christ.

This eight-session journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians will help believers young and old to discover the greatest love anyone could ever know, and how to live as disciples of Christ Jesus today. It features documentary-style films and inspiring real-life stories from around the world, Bible studies and weekly reading plans.

More details here: <https://www.christianityexplored.org/courses/discipleship-explored/>

St Paul's Refurbishment Project Update and Sponsored Walk

As you'll know, the PCC have been working on plans for a major refurbishment project for St Paul's for some time and faculty permission for these works was granted in the early summer. Sadly, the tenders received for the works were far in excess of our current finances, and so the PCC submitted reduced plans to the DAC for consideration. These are expected to be agreed at its meeting in early October with the project now estimated to be somewhere around £200,000.

Much of this money has been provided by a large legacy for St Paul's received last year, with the rest hopefully coming from external grants from various charities, internal fundraising and other parish-wide legacies.



So as part of an appeal for the congregation at St Paul's to play their part and raise something around £30,000 towards these costs, two of the St Paul's Congregation (pictured and both called James!) have offered to do a sponsored walk from St Paul's to Exeter Cathedral.



If you'd like to support them financially, you can do this by scanning the QR code here and choosing your amount to give. And if anyone would like to walk part or all of the way with them or meet them along the route with some refreshments or encouragement, James and James would be thrilled!



West Ogwell Open Afternoon

Friday 18th Sept 2-4pm

Discover this wonderful rural church
with volunteers on hand to tell you
more about the local history of this
special place.

There are lovely views from
the churchyard and a public
footpath across the fields.

Refreshments available

All Welcome

Park on the grass outside West Ogwell church with
overflow parking and toilets available at Gaia House
(please remain silent whilst in their grounds).

West Ogwell Church, West Ogwell, Newton Abbot,TQ12 6EW



Anna Crocker

the



After spending the last few years in various nursing homes in the parish and nearby, Anna Crocker, a life-long, faithful member of the church at Abbotsbury, and more recently St Paul's, sadly died two weeks ago.

Anna's funeral will be held at Abbotsbury Church on Friday 4th September at 10:30 a.m. and all who knew her are welcome to come along and give thanks for her life.

If you are coming to the service and would be happy to help serve tea and coffee afterwards, please contact Dave asap. Dave is also looking for someone to put together a pedestal of flowers for the church. If you have those skills, again do let Dave know.

COMING EVENTS

Summer Send-off. 5th September 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. St Paul's Church.

Ogwell Duck Race. 5th September 2 to 4 p.m. at Holbeam Mill.

Prayer Gathering. 7th September, 9:15 a.m. at St Paul's Church.

Women's Breakfast. 12th September, 9:30 a.m. at Leisure Lounge Café.

West Ogwell Church. Open Afternoon 18th September 2 to 4 p.m.

Craft Club. 15th September, 2 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

Men's Breakfast. Saturday 19th September, 9:00 a.m. at the Leisure Lounge Café.

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

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

Charity Coffee Morning. 26th September from 10 a.m. at St Bartholomew's Church in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Charity Coffee Morning. 26th September from 10 a.m. in the Hall at St Paul's Church in aid of Make a Wish

Evensong. 27th September, 5 p.m. at St Mary's Church Wolborough.

Joint Parish Communion Service. 29th November, 10:30 a.m. at St Paul's Church, Devon Square.

CHURCH SERVICES

6th September

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.

13th September

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.

20th September

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.

27th September

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.

St Mary's Church Wolborough, **Evensong at 5 p.m.**

Every Monday 7 p.m. Compline (night prayer) preceded by refreshments at 6:30 p.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. Holy Communion at St Paul's Church, Devon Square followed by refreshments **and** 10 a.m. Said Mass at St Luke's Church, Milber.

Every Thursday 9 a.m. Morning Prayer 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