



Parish of Newton Abbot and Ogwell

WEEKLY NEWS

13th September 2026 – Education Sunday

In this edition:

- Notes from the Rector – ***Welcome to Hospitality Month***
- **Parish Prayer Gatherings** in September
- **Link of the Week:** *thinking about what and why we sing...*
- **Discipleship Explored-** *it's not too late to start!*
- **Photos from the Ogwell Duck Race and the Fun Day at St Paul's last Saturday**
- **St Paul's building update and sponsored walk.**
- **Women of the Parish! Save the date!**
- **Two NEW courses starting this autumn!**
- **Historic Churches open day**

FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends,



Welcome to Hospitality Month!

Last week I wrote a little about our September hospitality month! I hope that you've taken the opportunity of inviting people into your home, or at least into a mutually agreed coffee shop for some time together!

There's plenty of time, and plenty of cards left, if you haven't!

But of course, the gift of hospitality should also operate in our churches. Largely, I think we do a reasonable job at welcoming people who come along to one of our services for the first time. But, as in most things in life, I think we could do even better.

So, both as a reminder and an encouragement, here are five tips we might all take to heart to make sure we truly are a welcoming and hospitable church family.

Look for people you don't know and make a beeline for them. It's very easy to come to church and always make a beeline for people we know and like, sit next to them and spend our time during post-service coffee chatting with them. I understand that tendency. I have it myself. But there may well be people in our congregation who, for whatever

reason, don't really know anyone. And if we all only speak and spend time with our friends, who will welcome them? Who will draw them into the fellowship of faith? Who will make them feel at home and point them to Jesus?

So instead of always making a beeline for people we know and like, let's make a beeline for people we don't know, especially those who have come along for the first time.

Names are important, use them, remember them and look out for the same people again. I'm sure you will know how lovely it is to be called by your name, especially by someone you're not sure would even recognize you. Learning people's names isn't always easy. They often flit through my mind like a eel in the hands of a fisherman, but if we can learn someone's name, use it a few times in that conversation, perhaps even write it down, we have a much better chance of remembering them and calling them by their name the next time we see them. That's a wonderful way to make someone feel at home.

Talk to new people- then introduce them to someone else. I'm sure there is evidence to back this up, but I'm certain that the more people we know within any community, the more at home we feel there. So we can help people feel at home in our churches if, when we have got to know them a little ourselves, we introduce them to someone else. That way, by the time they leave they will have spoken to at least two different people.

The question is, who would be best to introduce them to? See the next point.

Sit somewhere different on a regular basis. This tip is more about preparation than anything else. Most of us have a spot in our church where we prefer to sit. Perhaps we like the view, the distance from the front, or the people who sit in that area of church. But by sitting in the same place week after week, we end up cutting ourselves off from those who always sit somewhere else. And unless we know the people who sit in different places, how will we know whether they are just the right person that the visitor today would love to meet? So be brave, and over the next few weeks, sit somewhere else and see what happens.

Remember our aim isn't simply to grow our only congregation (although that is always nice!) Our aim is to point people to Jesus and so grow God's Church.

All of us would love to see our own worshipping communities growing, and our churches packed and thriving. (That's my hope and prayer for all 6 of the churches in our benefice!) However, it may be that the person who walks through our door would find another one of our churches far more beneficial for where they are in their spiritual life. So, let's try not to be possessive about people who come through the door. They will never belong to us. Our hope is that they will belong to Christ. And if, when we chat with them, it seems that they might fit somewhere else in our parish, let's be confident enough to point them in that direction. Each of our churches should have some colour-printed leaflets that speak about each of our 6 churches and us as a benefice. Make sure you know where they are, and be ready to use them.

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 Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

Our Diocesan network of Church of England schools and academies, as well as the children and families, and youth workers in our churches engaging with schools, and school staff.

Residents in the following streets: Mount Pleasant Road, Nelson Place, Netley Road, Nettle Close, Neville Road, Newfoundland Way, Newtake Rise and Noelle Drive.

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 B, Ann Jones 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 13th September:

All Saints' Church: Matthew Chapter 18, verses 21 to 35 and

Exodus Chapter 14, verses 5 to 31

Abbotsbury and St Paul's: Matthew Chapter 18, verses 21 to 35 and

1 Corinthians Chapter 9, verses 1 to 23

Parish Prayer Gatherings

Our Parish Prayer Gatherings will be at St Paul's on **Monday 14th starting at 7 p.m.** Our next morning prayer gathering as a Parish will be on **Monday 21st September at 9:15.a.m.** **These will both be at St Paul's, Devon Square.** Why not pop along and pray with others?

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. So, 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 - *Thinking about what and why we sing*

Why do we sing in Church? Does it make any difference what or how we sing? In one of the talks from the SING! Conference last year, (link below) Alistair Begg talks briefly through these questions and more and encourages us to Sing!

[Alistair Begg: Faith That Finishes Strong – Live from Sing!](#)

Study Course this September: Discipleship Explored.

Alternate Wednesday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with session 2 on Wednesday 16th September in the Vicar's lounge at St Paul's.

12 people were there for the start of the course. If you missed week 1 but would like to join. Search on the website below for our course and you'll be able to catch up.

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 last month, 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!

Women of the Parish! Save the Date!!

An exciting evening for the women of the parish and their friends is being arranged for the evening of Friday 20th November. More details later but do save the date now!

Ogwell Duck Race

A lovely afternoon out at Holbeam Mill last Saturday.

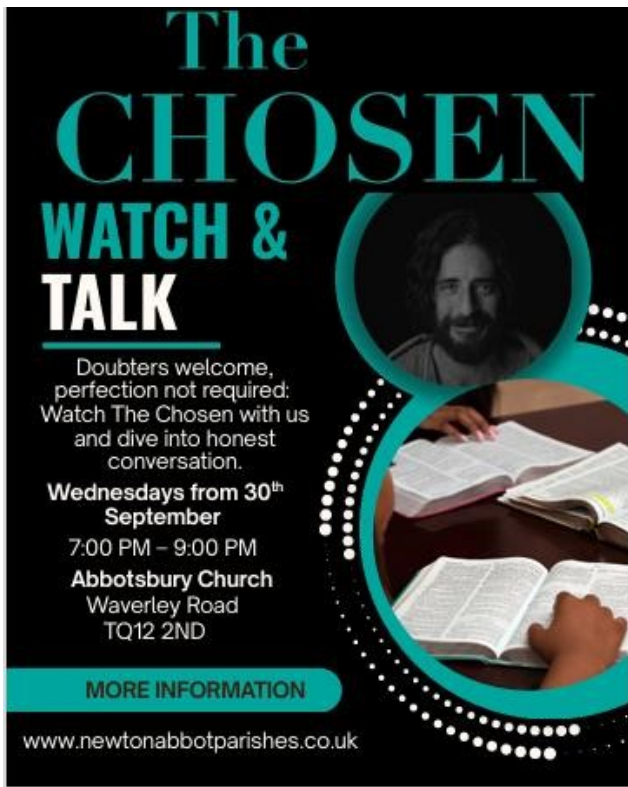
There was a fete in the grounds, and children enjoyed paddling in the river.



Two Courses Starting This Autumn

Flyers are now available for the two new courses we are running this autumn. Both give us great opportunities to invite people along to discover more about the Christian faith.

Look out for these flyers and get thinking and praying about who you could invite to come with you.



See Genesis through the lens of Jesus

The Bible presents itself as the true story of everything. And it points to one person - Jesus.

You're invited to discover life as it's meant to be. Through the Bible is your guide into the world's bestselling book.

In 4 sessions you'll meet the main character, and see life through new eyes. No matter your past experience with the Bible, step into the book of Genesis, and see it through the lens of Jesus.

Through video teaching and group discussions, the Christian and the curious sit down together to reframe perspectives on God, the world and you. We'd love you to join us.

Starts: Tuesday 6th October 2026
 Time: 7:30pm to 9:30pm
 Location: St Paul's Church, Devon Square
 There's plenty of parking available! 

Summer Send-off

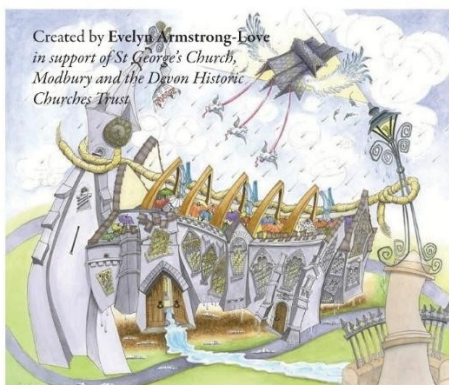
We had a great day on Saturday at St Paul's Funday where we welcomed our community for games, crafts, bouncy castle and cakes and of course a yummy BBQ.

Thanks to all who helped.

Can't wait until next year!
 Catherine Pegrum



SAVING OUR CHURCHES



DEVON
HISTORIC
CHURCHES

Saturday
12th September

Our churches will be open to support
this event as follows

St Mary's 10am-1pm
with refreshments

Abbotsbury 2-4pm
photos - stories - history - talk

St Paul's 10am-1pm
documents and photos

St Bartholomew's
open as usual in daylight hours

www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk

If you can't attend please donate



In aid of the

DEVON HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk

Charity Registration Number 1189807

COMING EVENTS

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

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

Study Course - Discipleship Explored. Session 2, 16th September 3 p.m. in the Vicar's lounge 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. 25th 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

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

The Chosen – Watch and talk on four Wednesdays starting on 30th September at 7 p.m. at Abbotsbury Church.

Genesis through the lens of Jesus course starts 6th October, 7:30 p.m. at St Paul's Church.

Parish Women's evening. 20th November. Details to come.

CHURCH SERVICES

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 Bartholomew's Church, Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. **Harvest Festival**

St Mary's Church, Wolborough, Holy Communion (BCP) at 11 a.m. **Harvest Festival 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. **Harvest Festival 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) with tea or coffee from 6:30 p.m. at All Saints' Church, Highweek.

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 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