

Prayer Diary- March 2017

“Likewise the spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” Romans 8.26

Please pray for...

1st repentance on this Ash Wednesday
2nd the North Devon District Hospital
3rd the Women's World Day of Prayer
4th the elderly and isolated
5th Ollie, Emma, Diane, and this afternoon's service of baptism and confirmation
6th couples planning to marry this summer
7th the plans for a new heating system at Bishops Tawton
8th those who seek to protect and safeguard the vulnerable
9th Children's Hospice South West
10th our Bishops, Robert, Nick and Sarah
11th the Disabled Christian Fellowship
12th local charity shops, the volunteers and the causes they serve
13th those who struggle to find employment
14th local councillors and the difficult decisions that they have to make

15th all who help with Cake Club
16th today's Dementia Friends session
17th courage to share the Good News of faith
18th Andy and all our local clergy
19th the homeless people we see on the streets of Barnstaple
20th those living in countries where they are not free to worship
21st safety on our roads
22nd those who struggle with addiction
23rd the North Devon Hospice
24th our weekend away together at Lee Abbey this summer
25th all who grieve and mourn
26th Mothering Sunday
27th the families that come together to enjoy Mini Music
28th this evening's Pints of View at the Chichester Arms
29th the Devon Air Ambulance
30th our PCCs and Churchwardens
31st our local schools at the end of another term

You can find details of our daily Bible readings for this month at www.wordlive.org/Session/Classic

St John the Baptist Churches, Newport and Bishops Tawton



Parish Bulletin – March 2017

Last month the Archbishop of Canterbury did the rounds of the TV and radio studios to talk about his book, *Dethroning Mammon*. Following the Gospels towards Easter it questions many attitudes that are current in today's society, especially concerning money and materialism. At the same time it encourages us to use Lent as a time when we can learn to trust in the abundance and grace of God.

One phrase that I've returned to several times since reading the book is 'what we consider to be valuable is tied to those things we can measure', and at our Annual Parochial Council Meetings this month we'll do the necessary business of looking at our accounts and the number of people attending our services. Good or bad those figures will never tell the real story of our churches and the communities we seek to serve. We cannot measure love, or empathy, or even the value of a phone call just to say 'how are you?' But those are the things that we are called to do. The fact that we cannot measure their worth does not make them worthless: it makes them priceless.

If you have any news or information for next month's Parish Bulletin then please send it to bishops.tawton@johnthebaptist.org.uk, or you can ring Dave Lewis on 01271 312904.

www.johnthebaptist.org.uk



Do Lent generously: join 100,000+ people on a 40 day mission to impact their community. Launches 01.03.17. Sign up at www.40acts.org.uk

Baptisms and Confirmations

At Newport on Sunday 5th of March, Emma, Ollie and Diane will take the next step along their journey of faith. We'll be joined by Bishop Sarah for the service of Baptism and Confirmation, and everyone is very welcome to come and join in what promises to be a very special and joyous occasion. The service starts at 4pm.

APCMs

The Annual Parochial Council Meetings are being held this month. These meetings are open to everyone on the parish roll, do please attend if you can. It's an important opportunity to find out what our churches have been doing over the last twelve months and set our priorities for the year ahead.

Bishops Tawton's APCM is after the service on Sunday the 12th when we shall also be having a bring and share lunch. Newport's is after the 9.30 service the following Sunday, which is March 19th.

Dementia Friends

Dementia Friends is a campaign started by the Alzheimer's Society to help people learn more about dementia.

A Dementia Friends Session is being held this month to help us understand what we can do to support all those who live with the condition, both in and outside of church.

It's at Newport on Thursday, 16th March at 7.15 for 7.30pm, please put your name on one of the sign-up sheets in church if you would like to attend.

Sunday Services in March

Sunday 5th 8am Holy Communion at **Newport**

9.30am All Age Praise at **Newport**

11am Joint Service of Holy Communion at **Bishops Tawton**

4pm Baptism and Confirmation with Bishop Sarah at **Newport**

Sunday 12th 9.30am Holy Communion with crèche and Sunday School at **Newport**

11am Morning Prayer at **Bishops Tawton**, followed by Bring and Share Lunch and APCM

7.30pm Worship and Prayer at **Newport**

Sunday 19th 8am Holy Communion at **Newport**

9.30am Family Praise at **Newport** with Sunday School and crèche, followed by APCM

11am Holy Communion at **Bishops Tawton**

6.30pm Evening Praise with Breaking of Bread at **Newport**

Sunday 26th 9.30am Holy Communion at **Newport** with Early Bird Family Service in the Hall

11am Morning Praise at **Bishops Tawton**

5th Sunday 10.30am Joint Service of Holy Communion at

Every **Thursday** 9am Prayer Time at **Newport** followed by Breaking of Bread at 9.30am

March Events

Every **Monday** 2pm Mini Music at Newport

Every **Wednesday** 10am Cake Club at Newport

Every **Wednesday** 10am Club for adults with disabilities in Newport Hall

Monday 6th and **Monday 20th** 12.30pm Bible Lunch at Newport Hall

Thursday 9th 2pm Friendship Circle at Newport

Saturday 11th 9.30am Prayer Breakfast at Bishops Tawton

Saturday 11th 2.30pm Disabled Christian Fellowship at Newport Hall

Thursday 16th 7.30pm Dementia Friends Session at Newport

Saturday 18th 8am Men's Prayer Breakfast at Newport

Tuesday 28th 8pm Pints of View at the Chichester Arms