

11th September 2026

Sunday Service Leaders

8am - Fr Martin

10am - Fr Martin

NEWSLETTER



The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

Anything received after 10am will be included the following week, if appropriate. Thank you

Weekly Newsletter contents:

- Rectors Ramble/alternative
- Monthly Services
- Prayers
- General articles, requests and photo's
- Rolling diary of events
- Posters and Event adverts (St Mary's & beyond)
- Regulars: Babies, Tots, Toddlers and Teens
- Regulars: Adults

Checkout [St Mary's Website](#) which gives you everything you need to know about the Church and what is happening there and in the Barn Centre and - includes a [gallery](#) of all photo's

Rector's Ramble

"Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions" Romans 14:1

Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14.1-12; Matthew 18.21-35

Dear Friends,

As we pause today – the 11th of September, to reflect on the 25 years that have passed since the tragic events of 9:11, we are reminded of our world's deep need for healing and of Jesus' radical call in Matthew's Gospel to meet brokenness with the challenging, transformative power of forgiveness. As we look back at the past, we ask ourselves what we can do to shape the future, where radicalisation, nationalism and fundamentalism are wiped away in place of love and forgiveness.

And there has been much else to hold in heart and prayer this week. Huge congratulations to everyone involved in last Saturday's Newick Horticultural Show, by all accounts another wonderful success and a real credit to the community spirit that holds our villages together.

On Sunday we had the joy of celebrating Fr Martin's 80th birthday - many happy returns! as we give thanks for all Martin & Sylvia continue to give to our church family. Congratulations too for Jackie & Jeremy's 50th Wedding Anniversary and a wonderful celebration of Isla's Baptism.

On Monday we gathered for Rev'd Joy Gray's funeral, a beautiful and moving service that gave real thanks for a life so richly lived in faith and service; our thoughts remain with all who loved her, and especially those who were unable to attend the service.

And what a lift it was to see over 75 young people back at Youth Club on Wednesday, a wonderful sign of life and energy in our parish, and a much brighter perspective of our young people than so much of what we read in the papers and on social media.

Looking ahead, we wish every success to all taking part in this Saturday's Chailey Horticultural Show, may the sun shine and the mangelwurzel's grow large.

As I was reading this week's Bible readings, it really challenged me, as I thought just how much unforgiveness we witness in the world today.

This week's Old Testament passage (Exodus 14:19–31) is a celebration of the freedom achieved by God leading Moses' Israelite people out from the slavery of oppression. Yay! It's a mighty, miraculous witness of God's power. Make no mistake, this was great news... for some. But it was at the expense of wiping out a huge army of Egyptian soldiers, chariot drivers and horses. This part does not sit well with me.

I know the Egyptians treated the Israelites appallingly, and I know they were given ten chances (the plagues) to reconsider and change their ways, but I struggle to celebrate one people's freedom without mourning the loss of another. It is a story that has been repeated throughout history to justify the victory of one people over another — God believed to go with one side, but not the other. When the power of God is celebrated in this way, and an act of mass destruction is justified alongside it, I'm sure I can't be alone in feeling a moral dilemma.

So, when Peter asked Jesus that awkward question about how many times, he should forgive a brother or sister (Matthew 18:21–35), Peter suggests seven chances of forgiveness. Depending on which translation

you read, Jesus answers with 77 times, or 70 x 7 — the implication being that our capacity for forgiveness should be limitless, my spirits soar. Jesus backs this up with a story about a wildly disproportionate act of forgiveness, and its absence. Yet even Jesus concludes the parable with a warning of what God will do to those who ultimately fail to take the path of forgiveness.

Paul, in his letter to the church in Rome (Romans 14:1–12), firmly supports and grounds in the law Jesus' approach to forgiveness. Paul urges that it is not up to us to judge or despise our brothers and sisters — judgement belongs in God's hands alone.

In the sad face of recent intolerant protests which we've seen reported in the news from Dover & Portsmouth, it's been heartening to hear reports reaching me from this year's Greenbelt Festival, where several of my fellow clergy and their parishioners and youth groups spent the Bank Holiday weekend.

Amidst the more gentle protests about the state of our intolerant and unforgiving world at present — from Jordan Stephens (of Rizzle Kicks) offering thoughtful reflections on the negative effects of the manosphere and hyper-masculinity, to four visiting artists of faith from the USA sharing what it's like trying to live a creative, generous life in Trump's America, to a panel discussion on how we talk about Christian Nationalism in the UK from a multi-faith perspective — those who attended came home describing a particular sense of enlightenment, saying they felt pure joy at the feelings of tolerance and acceptance rising from the festival itself. A wonderfully diverse group of people finding acceptance in the arms of an audience gathered in God's name.

Even hearing this second-hand, I found myself asking the same question they brought home with them: why can't the Church be more like this?

Why can't the world?

If people aren't hurting others by the path they've chosen, why can't they simply be free to be who they feel led to be, without being protested at or hounded by the narrow-minded, the judgemental, the pharisaical and the ignorant?

I think there is hope to be found in these stories of forgiveness and tolerance in the world today. I'm sure Jesus' answer to Peter's question stands as true now as it did then.

We will always mourn those lost to the seas of hatred, but God has given every one of us the outrageously abundant ability to forgive our brother or sister from the heart and let it all go.

Have a good week, be joyful, keep the faith and keep doing the little things that make a difference to those you love and those in need.

Paul xx

Hymns for St Mary's

- ❖ 466 - Praise my Soul the King of heaven
- ❖ 79 - Dear Lord and Father
- ❖ 381 - Make me a channel of your Peace
- ❖ NEH - 461 There's a wideness in God's Mercy During Communion
- ❖ 321 - Lead Us Heavenly Father Lead Us

Services St Mary's September 2026

Sunday 6th September The 14 th Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Baptism ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns and Baptism 5pm Evensong ❖ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with choir and hymns
Sunday 13th September The 15 th Sunday After Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion and Owls Club ❖ A sung service with choir and hymns 6pm Worship2 ❖ A reflective service with contemporary songs
Sunday 20th September The 16 th Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion – St Peter's to join St Mary's ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Worship & Praise ❖ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements
Saturday 26th September Order of St Richard Awards	Please pray for Josh Stockwell from St Mary's and Anthony Meadows from St Peter's as they receive the Order of St Richard at Chichester Cathedral
Sunday 27th September The 17 th Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion – St Peter's to join St Mary's ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns
*DENOTES STANDARD YEAR C LECTIONARY READINGS PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.15 BARN CENTRE	



Please remember those on our prayer list:

Francis Bailey, Cole Louise Blackman, Bernice Blundy, Karina Brown,
Gabi Brunner, Beryl Campion-Smith, Steve Carter, Jebby Dyson, Harri
Gande, Morris Gee, John and Elizabeth Gould, Rubie Geer,
Summer Kilgour, Juliette Lucas, Spike MacGuire, Christina McCann,
Shirley Mansfield, Derek Marshall, George Morrison, Patricia Moss,
Adrian, Andrea and Amber Parris, Gemma Peacock,
June and Ron Perou, Christine Ripley, Rubie, Yvette Smith,
Cheryl Stewart, Marcus Thrower,
Toni Warrilow, Sean Watson, Nasima Wright.

Our Prayer for Growth

God of Mission

**Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit**

**To give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.**

**Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen**



MEN'S SUPPER RETURNS!

SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER
7.00 FOR 7.30 IN THE Barn Centre.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Jonathan Sharpe, the principal of Newick Wine Estate. Jonathan, Charlotte and their team have created a beautiful vineyard just a few hundred yards from St Mary's. It's a sight to behold – a real eye opener. The wine is rather good, too. I'd always rather looked down on rose, more fool me, but I'm a convert to theirs - a pinot noir/pinot meunier blend which they produce and sell – excellent IMHO and I've been back for more. It's a serious wine. You can taste the rose and their white (Bacchus) at the Crown.



Please call or email me (07770 771653 mcmhume@outlook.com) or catch me at St Mary's to book a place – we need to know numbers for catering. We're limited on space, so book in early please. Cost £7, payable at the door on the night.



HARVEST LUNCH - SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER!
***SIGN UP SHEETS FOR KIND SALAD AND PUDDING DONATIONS WILL
BE COMING TO THE BACK OF ST MARY'S SOON!***

DATE FOR THE DIARIES!!
SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER IS GARDEN DAY!
***LOTS TO DO TO GET THE CHURCHYARD
AUTUMN READY***
AND THE MORE THE MERRIER SO...
***MAKE SURE TO KEEP THE MORNING FREE
AND COME ALONG***



Walking St Mary's paths - 50 years apart

You may remember back in the summer I talked about the wonderful visit to St Mary's we had from Mike and Michelle Marchant, all the way from Canada.

Mike has been busily looking into his roots so to speak and found some photos which he sent to me and I think although not too clear at all, are worth sharing. After all, it's not often you can have pictorial evidence of walking the same path some 50 years apart but Mike does!



Here's an extract of an update he sent me:

"I recently started going through a collection of very old family photograph albums—some dating back around 100 years—and came across several photographs from the trip my Dad and I made to England in 1978, when I was 16.

Dad was the person who first brought me to Newick and told me that this was where our Martin family came from. At the time I found it interesting, but of course I had no idea that nearly fifty years later I would return to St Mary's and become so absorbed in discovering the family history.

One of the stones appears to say Frank Martin, although the old photograph is difficult to read. I don't yet know who Frank was or whether he belongs to our particular Martin line.



The other photo shows a headstone impossible to read.....

Well, our wonderful local Historian Tony Turk has come up trumps again and having sent him Mike's email he has been able to give us the answers and put the pieces of the jigsaw together. Even for the Headstone that is almost impossible to read. Thank you Tony - I know Mike will be absolutely thrilled...

And for anyone who would like to learn more about this fascinating trans-atlantic history journey so far (it builds as we go along), I have included Tony's findings on the next page. Enjoy!

Sara

Frank Martin - 1899 - 1963

He was a keen Newick cricketer, was secretary and treasurer of Newick Cricket Club for a while (certainly in 1946) and a member of the Newick branch of the British Legion. He may have worked at the Mid-Sussex Dairy at Sheffield Park station. He was living at the Cricketfield estate in 1950. The Sussex Express newspaper 29th November 1963 refers to his death.

His grave in Newick churchyard is close to the boundary wall stile where the footpath leads to Blind Lane. It is a kerb with no headstone or foot-stone but just a simple, small, inscribed slab lying flat within the kerbed area. His wife Daisy Maud Martin died 25 years later in 1988 and was also buried there in the same grave. The inscription says 'In Loving Memory of Frank Martin 1899-1963' and 'Daisy Maud Martin 1896-1988'. Around the kerb is inscribed a dedication to their son Leading Airman George Harry Martin who was killed in the Second World War on active service in 1944. I understand he was drowned.

The photo of this grave slab has what I assume was the original inscription to just Frank, and that slab was presumably replaced with what is there now, referring to Frank and his wife. I could add that yesterday I removed a two-inch thick layer of turf which, for many years, had been covering the inscribed, well-preserved slab.

The other photo of a grave headstone near the south wall of the church is that of Richard Fuller (died 1888) and his wife Sarah (died 1871).



The wording is much clearer in "real life"

Events **at** St Mary's

- 25th September - Men's Supper
- 10th October - Autumn Garden Day
- 6th November - Ladies Supper
- 20th November - Men's Supper
- 11th - 13th December Christmas Tree Festival
- 12th December - Andy Rees annual Singalong!
- 19th December - East Sussex Concert Band

Posters and information relating to the dates are either in this weekly Newsletter, or will be added as the dates get closer.

New events will be added through the year too, as well as any events being advertised outside of St Mary's so

Keep checking!!.....

CITIZENS ADVICE DATES - NEWICK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tuesday 14th July, Tuesday 11th August, Tuesday 8th September
Tuesday 13th October, Tuesday 10th November,
Tuesday 8th December

REGULARS AT ST MARY'S

Babies, Tots, Toddlers and Teens



Owlets Babies 'n Tots Group: Chat, refreshments and songs for Mums, Dads,

Grandparents, Carers and their Babies and Tots. Mondays 9.00-10.30am (term time only) in St Mary's Church. Feel free to contact Pam Mundy for more information on childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church



Owls: CraHs, Bible Story, Fun LEGO and Refreshments - usually third Sundays 9.55am - 11am, Feel free to contact Pam Mundy for more information on childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church

Check the Owls Poster on Website, in Newsletters and up in the Church Porch for dates.



Children's Choir: 1st Sunday of each month 10am - 11am Barn Centre

Email: churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church

Web: stmarysnewicks.church/youthchoir

RSCM Voice for Life Sessions - follows the Children's Choir session on 1st Sunday of each month 11am-12pm £5. Email churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church to register.



NYC & NCT: Fun clubs for the young people of the village. Barn Centre.

Wednesday evenings during term-time. More information on: [HERE](#)

Email: youth.newick@gmail.com



REGULARS AT ST MARY'S

Adults:

Afternoon Club:

Usually second Thursday of the month. 2.30pm in the Barn Centre.
For detail contact Paddy Cumberledge on 01825 722154 or
Malcolm Smith on 01825 722705

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Citizens Advice:

Now at the Community Centre - details can be found in the Porch
of St Mary's or at the Community Centre.

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Lunch Club:

Second Monday of the month in the Barn Centre 12.30pm.
To book your place call 01825 722186

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Mens Meeting:

Monday mornings 7.30am - 8.30am in the Barn Centre

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Prayer Group:

1st and 3rd Monday 2pm Barn Centre
(unless otherwise notified)

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Prayers for Church Services:

Sundays 9.30-9.45am Barn Centre