

NEWSLETTER



A moment of relaxation, a sharing of blessings?

Or mischief making and playful messing?

If you think of a caption that would fit the bill,

Mail the Church Office and publish we will.

The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

Rectors Ramble

Exodus 24.12-18; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
1 John 4:7-8*

**This Sunday is 10am Churches Together at St Mary's with Owls Club
And with both Choirs coming together it's going to be a proper mountain top experience Alleluia!!**

Dear Friends,

As I write this week's Ramble, I'm listening to the Album by Olivia Dean called The Art of Loving, and it kinda sums up what this weekend is all about as we come to this most loving of celebrations at Valentines Day How do we love? ... how do we love each other?

After the Super Bowl Halftime Show on Sunday many Christians from both sides of the pond, took to social media to share strong reactions to Bad Bunny's performance.

For some, the style, music, or cultural expression felt uncomfortable, and the backlash was loud and immediate. Moments like this invite an important question: How are Christians called to respond when culture challenges or confuses us?

It's okay to have personal boundaries. Not every form of music or performance will line up with our values. But our faith calls us to consider not only what we believe, but how we respond. Jesus never told us to agree with everyone; He told us to love everyone.

Bad Bunny's performance reflects a specific culture and identity. For many, it was an expression of creativity and heritage. When our first response is criticism or dismissal, we may miss an opportunity to listen, learn, and reflect Christ's love.

Jesus consistently chose compassion over condemnation. He met people where they were, not where others thought they should be. As His followers, we are called to engage with the world thoughtfully, not fearfully and with humility rather than outrage.

In a world where backlash spreads fast, choosing grace is countercultural. And sometimes, that's exactly what following Jesus looks like, so how do we love each other as God loves us? As Christ modelled that love that cost God his only son....

I hope this weekend you are able to find the time to reflect on just how loved you are by God, and how you might reflect that love out into our world.

I will be spending Saturday with my Valentine and 18 teenagers along with our Youth Worker Lee Buck at our NYC Youth Retreat looking at "Why do we Worship?" "What is prayer?" "Why do bad things happen to good people?" and "what does the Creation story mean to me?" "Self-Worth and Identity" and "How can I make the most of this retreat?"

Alongside this we will also be playing Task Master (that's me), Traitors, Nerf War, Spa Time, dodgeball, morning afternoon and late-night worship and creating famous landmarks from biscuits, cake, marshmallows and sweets!!!

Please be praying for our young people, that they may come to know the love of Jesus through our worship and our joy this weekend.

I'll be back in time for Wednesday which is our Ash Wednesday Service at St Mary's and we would love to see a full church as we come together at this start of Lent to reflect and repent together.

Next Monday 23rd Feb at St Mary's Fr Martin will start our Lent course reflecting over the coming weeks on how we "Let the Redeemed Tell their Story". 7pm for pudding we start at 7:30 and finish by 9pm

What does Lent mean to you? No biscuits? Giving up chocolate? Resisting cream cakes for a few weeks? Why give something up? Why do without? What is it for? What has it got to do with Lent anyway?

The word Lent comes from an Anglo-Saxon word: 'lencten', meaning 'spring'. In England we are in that time of year when in Saxon times people started to appreciate the lengthening daylight. This period has traditionally led up to baptism, a period of repentance and instruction. A time when those who had formerly worshipped pagan gods could make a very definite break with the past. Just as Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days, so Christians have used this time to embark on a period of spiritual exploration and hopefully growth.

You may decide to fast, pray a bit more, perhaps read a book or attend a special course at a local church. Whatever you do, may you find yourself closer to God over the coming weeks, so that when Easter arrives you are really ready to proclaim the risen Lord.

This Sunday, immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is sometimes known as Transfiguration Sunday, marks the end of the season of Epiphany and is therefore known as the Sunday next before Lent.

There is a lot of talk about light during Epiphany, beginning with the shining star that led the Wise Men to Jesus. Epiphany literally means 'to shine on' or 'give light to' and today's gospel reading about the Transfiguration is all about light shining, from people's faces, because they have encountered the mystery of God. Transfiguration is the culmination of the epiphany season, the grand finale, where Jesus is revealed to us as being one with God.

This biggest epiphany of all comes just before Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. There is a connection between this epiphany - the transfiguration - and what is to follow. The transfiguration is the prelude to the cross.

Indeed, the gospel reading marks the transition in Jesus' ministry, after which He 'turns His face towards Jerusalem' and Jesus' return trip down the mountain is the beginning of his fatal journey to Jerusalem.

We too have our mountain top experiences where the light shatters the darkness which can sometimes come in our lives. After them we come 'back down the mountain' changed and inspired, back out into the world to which we are called to reflect the light and glory we have encountered. Sometimes for us, these too can be times of transition and going in a different direction, other times they serve as encouragement and inspiration for the path we are already on.

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 Churches Together at St Mary's this Sunday:

Alleluia Sing to Jesus

At the name of Jesus

Meekness and Majesty

Glorious things of thee

SERVICES - ST MARY'S NEWICKS CHURCH	
JANUARY 2026	FEBRUARY 2026
<p>Sunday 4th Jan - Epiphany 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Ian Reekie 10am Holy Communion Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12 5pm Evensong Leader: Reader Geoff Clinton Preacher: ALM Patsy Bailey</p>	<p>Sunday 1st Feb - 4th Sunday of Epiphany Septuagesima 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy 10am Holy Communion Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy Readings: 1 Kings 17:8-16, 1 Corinthians 1:18-end, John 2:1-11 5pm Evensong Preacher: Reader Jeremy Burdett</p>
<p>Sunday 11th Jan - 1st Sunday after Epiphany 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan 10am Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17 6pm Worship 2 Leader: Mandy Stockwell</p>	<p>Sunday 8th Feb - 2nd Sunday before Lent Sexagesima 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan 10am Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:3, Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 6:25-end 6pm Worship 2 Leader: Mandy Stockwell</p>
<p>Sunday 18th Jan - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy 10am Churches Together @ St Mary's Family Communion & Owls Preacher: Reader Jeremy Burdett Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42</p>	<p>Sunday 15th Feb - Sunday Next Before Lent Quinquagesima 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan 10am Churches Together @ St Mary's Family Communion & Owls Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan Readings: Exodus 24:12-end, 2 Peter 1:16-end, Matthew 17:1-9</p>
	<p>Wednesday 18th Feb - Ash Wednesday 7pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion Rev Paul Mundy & Fr Martin Morgan</p>
<p>Sunday 25th Jan - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Ian Reekie 10am Family Communion Leader: Rev Paul Mundy Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Acts 9:1-22, Matthew 19:27-30 Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy 5pm Healing Service with Communion Preacher: ALM Patsy Bailey</p>	<p>Sunday 22nd Feb - 1st Sunday in Lent 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Ian Reekie 10am Family Communion Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy Readings: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11</p>
*Denotes standard Year A Lectionary Readings	
<p>Lent Course commences on Monday 23rd February 7pm St Mary's Newick</p>	

Services St Mary's – March 2026

Sunday 1st March <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	8am BCP^o Holy Communion: ♦ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Worship & Praise: ♦ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements. 5pm Evensong: ♦ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with choir and hymns
Sunday 8th March <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	8am BCP^o Holy Communion: ♦ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: ♦ A sung service with choir and hymns 6pm Worship2: ♦ A reflective service with contemporary songs
Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	8am BCP^o Holy Communion: ♦ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Family Worship & Owls: ♦ A service for all with songs and activities
Sunday 22nd March Passiontide <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	8am BCP^o Holy Communion: ♦ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: ♦ A sung service with choir and hymns
Sunday 29th March <i>Palm Sunday & start of Holy Week</i>	8am BCP^o Holy Communion: ♦ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: ♦ A sung service with choir and hymns
Lent Course 7-9pm <i>Let the Redeemed tell their Story Psalm 107</i> 2nd March - 9 th March - 16 th March - 23 rd March	
^oDENOTES STANDARD YEAR A LECTIONARY READINGS PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.30 BARN CENTRE	

Please remember those on our prayer list:

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

The Parishes of Saint Mary, Newick
and St Peter, Chailey

Lent Course 2026
at
St Mary's Newick's Church

“Let the Redeemed tell their story “

Psalm 107

Monday February 23rd
Monday March 2nd
Monday March 9th
Monday March 16th
Monday March 23rd

7.00 pm Coffee and Pudding
7.30 pm Reflection

We know when the early Christians met together they sang psalms and hymns, they read the scriptures and they broke bread.

They rejoiced in the belief that their sins had been washed away by the blood of Jesus and lived, as best they could, lives of righteousness.

They reflected the words of Isaiah when he wrote in Chapter 61 v 10 “he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.”

Christians sometimes live as if they have been clothed in sackcloth and ashes. The world needs more than ever to see us Christians fulfilling our vocation to be lights in this dark world.

Through the Lent Course this year we shall be called on to reaffirm our belief in our salvation and how we wear the robe of righteousness.

We shall think about how we acknowledge the truth,” all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3v23) yet at the same time bask in the forgiveness that restores us.

We shall ask what it means to say in our hearts’ “behold the servant of the Lord be it unto me according to your word” (Luke 1v38).

On one of our sessions we shall indeed sing hymns and psalms delight in the scriptures and break bread together. The climax hopefully will ask what it means to be the Alleluia people. What kind of people are those who are crazy enough to get up very early on Easter Day to welcome our Lord’s victory over sin and death.

Hopefully this will all help to deepen your faith and increase your love for God and neighbour. It will I hope to truly become the Alleluia people.

REGULARS AT ST MARY'S

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 with St Mary's Youth Choir - every third Thursday of the Month - 4pm - 5pm in the Barn Centre. £5. Email: churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church to register.

Citizens Advice: Now at the Community Centre

Lunch Club: Second Monday of the month in the Barn Centre 12.30pm.

To book your place call 01825 722186

Mens Meeting: Monday mornings 7am - 8am in the Barn Centre

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

Wednesday evenings during term-time:

- Juniors: 11-15 years - 6pm
- Seniors: 16-18 years - 7.30pm

More information: [HERE](#)

Email: youth.newick@gmail.com


Owlets Babies 'n Tots Group: Chat, refreshments and songs for Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their Babies and Tots. Mondays 9.30-10.30am (term time only) in St Mary's Church. Feel free to contact Pam Mundy for more information childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church

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

Next dates - check the Owls Poster on Website, in Newsletters and up in the Church Porch

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


Prayers for Church Services: Sundays 9.30-9.45am Barn Centre




St Mary's
Newick's Church

Owlets

Babies 'n Tots Group



Chat, Refreshments & Songs
For Mums/Dads/Grandparents/Carers and their
Babies and Tots!
Mondays, 9.30am - 10.30am
in St. Mary's Church
(term time only)
Feel free to be in contact -
Pam Mundy, childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church




St Mary's
Newick's Church


Owls Club



Crafts, Bible Story, Fun!
LEGO & Refreshments
9.55am - 11.00am
Next dates 15th February 15th March
Feel free to be in contact -
Pam Mundy, childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church



St Mary's
Newick's **Youth Choir**



When: The 1st Sunday of the month
Time: 10-11am
Ages: All ages welcome
Where: Barn Centre, St Mary's Church, Newick

**Sing, have fun and
make friends**

Call: 01825 724006
Email: churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church
Web: stmarysnewicks.church/youthchoir

NEWICK YOUTH CLUBS! NYC & NCT
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (TERM TIME)
The Barn Centre, Church Road, Newick

6.00 - 7.30PM Year 7

7.30 - 9.00pm Year 8 onwards

Go to our [WEBSITE](#) for full details