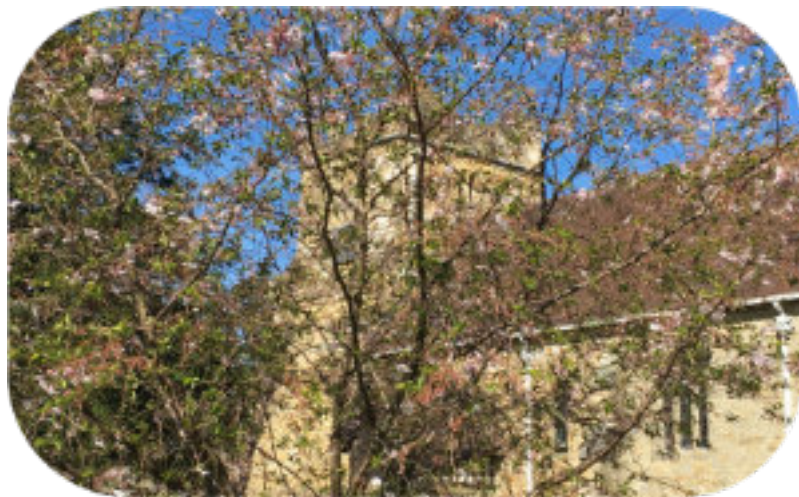


NEWSLETTER



The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

Rectors Ramble

Acts 1.1-11 Psalm 47: Ephesians 1.15- end Luke 24. 44-end.

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all those who have been praying for our youth work, we are in continuing discussions with the Diocesan Youth Team to explore possible grants from the Church of England towards us employing a full time Children's, Families and Youth Pastor, and I'm pleased to say that discussions are going well.

Please pray for Dan & Zoe getting married at St Peter's this Saturday, and I'm looking forward to seeing those who are coming to the Ladies supper at St Mary's tonight.

Sunday Morning at St Mary's is Owls Club and Wendy Piccinini from the Leprosy Mission will be speaking on her visit to the leprosy colonies of Odisha.

Confirmation Classes continue this Sunday, all those who are interested in confirmation are most welcome. 4pm for our young people and 5:15pm for over 18's, at the Barn Centre.

Please could both choirs put 8th June in their diaries and if anyone could donate cake or quiche, please contact Rebecca Hume.

Please could I put out a plea for Cake for May Camp 22nd May 25th May, with over 32 young people coming, the more cake we have the better the chances of survival will be!!

To be collected by me or dropped off at the Rectory 36a Allington Road on Thursday 21st May. Please label cake boxes so I can make sure they get back to you.

Thank you to those happy few who joined us at St Mary's for our Ascension Service on Thursday evening, and for those who couldn't make it from St Mary's and St Peter's worshipping communities, we missed sharing the joy with you.

Since being ordained, I have always held a worship service on Ascension Day, but I have struggled — often in vain — to encourage people to show up. Because Ascension Day is 40 days after Easter Day, it ALWAYS falls on a Thursday, making it even harder to get people to turn up, which if I'm honest is a tremendous shame.

Ascension is an exceedingly momentous and meaningful day — and something undeniably worth honouring. The Feast of Ascension appears in writings by Eusebius from the 4th Century, claiming Emperor Constantine discovered the location of Christ's ascension and worshipped there. It is mentioned in Saint Augustine's sermons and the writings of other Church Fathers in the 5th Century, stating that observance originated in the Apostolic period. Officially, Ascension is still one of the principal feasts of the Church year.

However, in practice, we often overlook Ascension, and not only because it occurs on a Thursday! The deeper reason we ignore Ascension is that we don't understand its purpose.

We know the what, but not the why. In so many churches Jesus' birth, death and resurrection are the big events to celebrate, but not His ascension!

I suppose not being recognised by a public holiday is a contributing factor. But then the Day of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit ten days later isn't afforded a public holiday either,
but - still gets more attention.

Could another reason be that while Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost are about what Jesus did FOR US, the emphasis of His ascension is more on what we're to do FOR HIM?

Before He leaves planet Earth, Jesus tells His disciples the Holy Spirit is going to take His place and give them the power needed to carry out His commission. With the authority invested in His name and the power that will be in them through His Spirit, Jesus' disciples are to continue His ministry, proclaiming, demonstrating, and advancing the gospel of God's kingdom throughout the world.

2,000 years on . . . how well has the Church been doing with her Lord's command?
Ahhh . . . maybe that's the true reason we tend to downplay the significance of Ascension Day?!

If that makes us feel a bit uncomfortable, that's okay. just imagine how those first apostles would have felt, Jesus is here, then He's gone, then He's here then He's gone again. The disciples must have wondered what was going on.

Over the last three years they had come to know Jesus not only as the Son of God, but as a friend and companion. Someone who was always there for them and loved them whatever they did, good or bad. When they got things wrong, Jesus didn't love them any the less; when they got things right, Jesus did not appear to love them any the more. It was absolutely unconditional love. And then all of this was shattered when He was taken away to be brutally crucified. Their world fell apart. And then He was back. A new Jesus, one who couldn't be destroyed. And He stayed with them for a while. And then He was gone again and somehow the disciples didn't get the feeling they'd see Him again in person this time, at least not on earth.

But you see if we miss the Ascension, we miss one of the greatest moments in scripture, because we miss their transformation from uncertain apprentices to apologetic advocates.

***“While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.
And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
and they were continually in the temple blessing God”***

Luke 24:51-53

They returned (transformed) with great joy, and continually giving thanks to God. At last, the apostles finally understood, it had finally dawned on them. They were to be Him on earth, His hands, His feet, His eyes, His mouth, His very presence, just as we are to be today.

You see, the key to appreciating Ascension Day is to see how, when Jesus ascends, he accomplishes both HIS GLORY and OUR GOOD.

The Ascension signals that Jesus' earthly work is finished. His redemptive work is done, now his intercessory work begins. As Oswald Chambers once wrote, *"At His Ascension, our Lord entered heaven, and He keeps the door open for humanity to enter."* The significance of the Ascension is that it is the moment Jesus's role as our mediator began in its fullness. Though we see him pray to God on mankind's behalf during his time on Earth, the ascension marks the moment he was placed at God's right hand to intercede for us until the moment of his return.

In other words, Jesus is now invested with the highest possible authority, and he uses his authority to pray for you and me, On Ascension Day we are reminded to be receptive to the power of God already at work already, the power of the Holy Spirit, and be ready to be Christ's agents, to herald in the Kingdom of God in word and deed, now that has to be worth celebrating.

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

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.

Services St Mary's – May 2026

<p>Sunday 3rd May Fourth after Easter</p>	<p>8am BCP Holy Communion – St Peter's Chailey to join St Mary's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language <p>10am Worship & Praise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements. <p>5pm Evensong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with choir and hymns
<p>Sunday 10th May Fifth after Easter</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language <p>10am Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A sung service with choir and hymns <p>6pm Worship2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A reflective service with contemporary songs
<p>Thursday 14th May Ascension Day</p>	<p>7pm Ascension Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A reflective service with hymns and readings celebrating the rise of Jesus into Heaven
<p>Sunday 17th May Sunday after Ascension</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language <p>10am Family Worship & Praise with Owls Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A service for all with songs and activities
<p>Sunday 24th May Pentecost May Camp Weekend</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion - St Peter's Chailey to join St Mary's</p> <p>10am Service of the Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A service with readings and hymns
<p>Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday</p>	<p>8am BCP Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language <p>10am Churches Together at St Peter's Chailey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns

*DENOTES STANDARD YEAR C LECTIONARY READINGS

PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.15 BARN CENTRE

DATE FOR THE DIARY
CONFIRMATION SERVICE WITH BISHOP WILL
ST MARY'S MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2026 - 7.30PM

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, 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.

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**



A message from the Diocese of Chichester:

“Consultation on the next Bishop of Chichester”

Bishop Martin retires at the end of May, and as a diocesan family we are beginning the search for his successor. Have your say in the appointment at [tinyurl.com/next-bishop](https://www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/) It will take only a few minutes to complete, and it is open until May 26th. We welcome responses from everyone.

Find out more about the process for appointing our next bishop at www.chichester.org.

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/>

The new Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) prospectus for 2026/27

is now live on the diocesan website and along with the well-established courses, they are pleased to be offering two new electives: Children's Ministry and Leading Intercessions.

All information has been fully updated, with 12 electives and 17 courses running in total. You'll find everything on the webpage, [Authorised Lay Ministry - Diocese of Chichester](#) with all application forms conveniently located at the bottom.

The electives available are:

- Catechists
- Chaplaincy
- Children's Ministry
- Care for Creation & Eco Church
- Leading Intercessions
- Mission Enabler
- Pastoral Ministry
- Preaching
- Rural Ministry
- Traditional Music in Worship
- Worship & Liturgy
- Youth & Children

Events and Regulars at St Mary's and further afield....



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!

Events coming to St Mary's - rolling list

- 15th April - NYC/NCT Get Hyped has started and runs until July!
- 15th May - Ladies Supper
- 17th May - Intergenerational Opera Evening
- 13th June - Vivace choir 4pm
- 19th June - Mens Supper
- 11th July - Bubbles and Broadway 7pm
- 19th July - Combined Churches Choral Evensong
- 10th October - Autumn Garden Day
- 11th - 13th December Christmas Tree Festival

Posters and information relating to the dates are either in the following pages, or will be added as the dates get closer.

New events will be added through the year too so keep watching!

NYC/NCT Get Hyped

On the Rec

NYC and NCT groups together

Wednesdays 7 - 8.30pm

 7-8:30	NYC/NCT GET HYPED	7-8:30 	
 15th April Task Master	£5 contribution  22nd April Mug decorating	29th April Nerf war 	
6th May Combat Archery 	13th May Colour party 	3rd May Hunger games 	10th June Car wash 
17th June Water rounders 	24th July new youth club evening 	1st July Splash! 	8th July BBQ the parents 



Poster beautifully designed by Madeleine Cockburn as part of the volunteering module for her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.

She will also be helping out on the day.

Well done Madeleine!!

East Sussex Concert Band

presents music from



conducted by Jonathan Bailey

Saturday 16th May @ 7pm

Newick Village Hall, Western Road, Newick BN8 4LY

Licensed bar (wine, beer & soft drinks)
tea, coffee, cakes and ice creams
available from 6.30pm

Tickets: £8, under 12s £1

Available at: www.trybooking.com/uk/106898
Scan the QR code or email newickvillagehall@gmail.com
(Tickets will also be available on the door)

Supporting live & local music, entertainment and their venue



East Sussex
Concert Band



Opera Gala Evening

Join us for an unforgettable evening with performers from Glyndebourne Opera, English National Opera and the Royal Opera House

Four professional opera singers and their accompanist perform a variety of popular operatic repertoire at

Sunday 17th May 2026, 7.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Church Road, Newick, Lewes BN8 4JZ

Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Reservations advised.
For ticket reservations call **Charlotte Wicks** on **07966 621229** or email intergenopera@gmail.com
Payment by cash or cheques on the night.

Proceeds are in aid of Dementia UK and Intergenerational Opera, a project which brings together primary school children with older people in the community through creative music making.


More details of Intergenerational opera can be found at
www.intergenerationalopera.com



St. Mary's Church Newick



*Bubbles and
Broadway*



A fabulous evening
of well-loved songs from
the world of **Music Theatre**
Bubbles & canapés pre-concert
included in the ticket

£18

11th July at 7pm

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 7.30am - 8.30am in the Barn Centre

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

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

NYC - Year 7 - 6 to 7.30pm
NYT - Years 8-11 - 7.30 to 9pm

Email: youth.newick@gmail.com

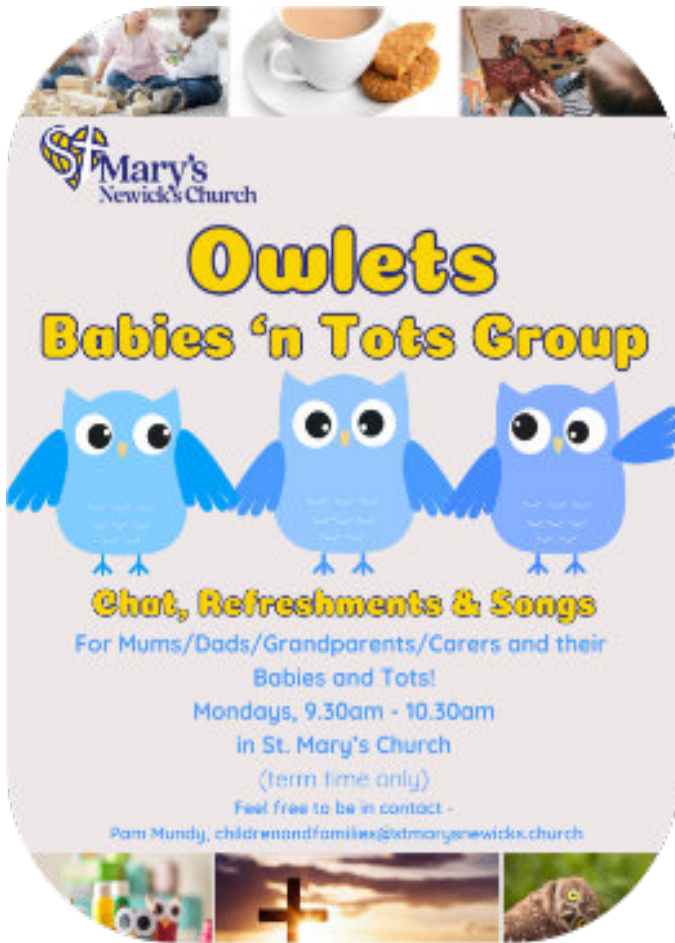
Owlets Babies 'n Tots Group: Chat, refreshments and songs for Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their Babies and Tots. Mondays 9.15-10.30am (term time only) in St Mary's Church. Feel free to contact Pam Mundy for more information childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church


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

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


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

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





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



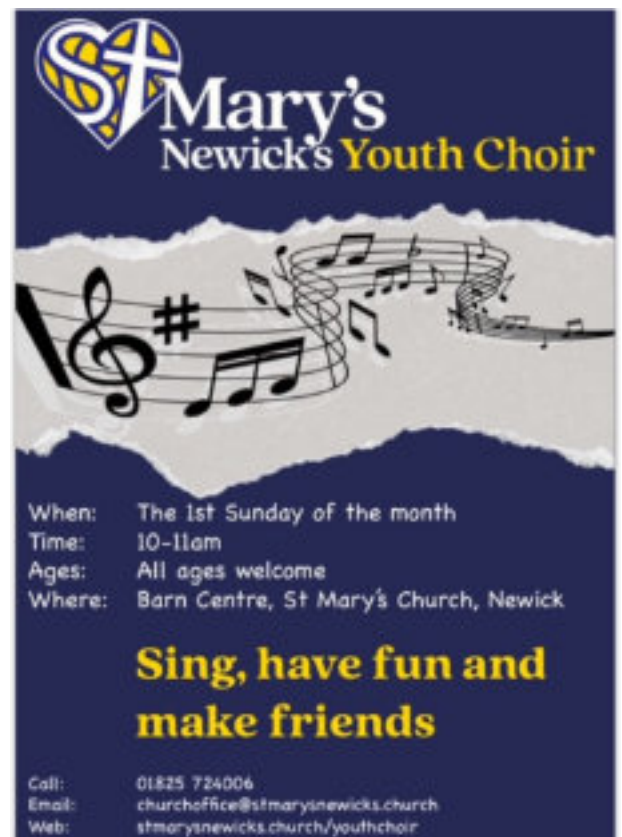



Owls Club




Crafts, Bible Story, Fun!
LEGO & Refreshments

9.55am - 11.00am
 Normally third Sunday of the month
 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

6.00 - 7.30pm Year 7

7.30 - 9pm Year 8 Onwards

Full details, including the **Get Hyped**
 Sessions April-July are on our

[WEBSITE](#)