

NEWSLETTER



16th January 2026

The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

Please visit our website stmarysnewicks.church for more information on the various organisations and events and regular activities available to you.

Rectors Ramble

Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42

He said to them, 'Come and see.'

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah'. John 1:39-41

Dear Friends,

Some people can be amazingly generous.

Earlier this month, near my brother in law's farm I saw a sign by the gate. It read, 'Christmas turkeys and geese – bed and breakfast.' They must have been the most pampered animals in existence!



Writing to the church at Corinth, Paul reminds them of the generosity of God. '*You have been enriched in every way*', he says. Through their faith in Christ, they have every spiritual gift they need. This theme, of wealth and generosity, echoes through our Gospel. John's awareness of who Jesus is, is not kept to himself; it is shared with his disciples. Jesus responds to John's disciples' query with an invitation to take the first steps that will lead to their journey with him. Andrew picks up the thread; he shares his new discovery with his brother, Peter.

In reading this Sunday's Scriptures, I was reminded of the difference between giving out of our abundance vs. giving sacrificially out of what *little* we might have at some point in our lives. Or perhaps sacrificing something we might have liked to enjoy for ourselves — a purchase, a meal at a restaurant, a holiday, new car — in order to bless the work of God.

I was challenged to ask, "When have I ever given so much that it hurt?" The men in our readings this Sunday gave much. Yes, they gave time. I get that. I do that. Yes, they gave up the ways of the world for the ways of God. I get that, also. What I was struggling with was that the prophets and disciples gave sacrificially. They interrupted their lives to follow Jesus. When have I ever given to the point that my life had to be interrupted? When have I given financially to the point that I could not do or have something I wanted; let alone, something I needed? When have I given financially to the point that I had to shut off some of the comforts of my incredibly comfortable life?

God is doing some amazing things across our Churches and our communities, but are we equipped and prepared for the challenges and sacrifices we are being called to make to share the Good News with those we will encounter on the way.

Are we, and is our churches, sacrificial in our giving? Not just of money, though financial resources will be vital to grow our churches, but also of our time, our skills, our energy and our volunteering? And in particular, how do we use the imperatives we heard in today's Gospel to encourage those around us to 'Look! Come and see!'

This Sunday, I hope you will come and see us at St Mary's for our 10am Churches Together Service, where we will also have Owls club, so please invite any young families you know to Come and See.

Being January, I've been looking back over the past year's photos and inevitably photos from prior to that pop up too. Some of our happiest memories were made on family holidays by the sea in Northern Brittany at Pam's parents' house in Loguivy-de-la mer.

Hours would be spent on the beach, and inevitably there would be moments when the kids ran off, only to sprint back moments later, breathless and wide-eyed, shouting, "*Come and see!*" What followed was usually an invitation to peer into a rock pool, marvel at crabs, oysters, mussels, dabs or—occasionally—be confronted with something slimy, strange, or downright disgusting. What mattered wasn't so much what they had found, but the sense of wonder, excitement, and joy that compelled them to share it. They *had* to show us.



I'm struck by how similar that sense of wonder feels to the words and actions of John the Baptist and Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, in this Sunday's Gospel reading. Both have encountered something extraordinary in Jesus, and both are driven to invite others to discover it for themselves.

The reading begins with John the Baptist pointing to Jesus and declaring, "*Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*" John is referring to Jesus' baptism—although the event itself is not described in John's Gospel—and he sums up what he has witnessed by testifying that Jesus is "*the Chosen One.*" John doesn't merely describe what he has seen; he explains its meaning. He recognises the significance of Jesus and boldly names it.

By calling Jesus the Lamb of God, John is likely drawing on several Old Testament images, but the Passover Lamb seems particularly important. In Exodus 12, the Passover lamb was killed, and its blood used to protect Israelite households from death during the final plague in Egypt. Through the blood of the lamb, the Israelites were delivered from death and ultimately freed from slavery. Each year, the celebration of Passover reminded God's people of this great act of deliverance.

Later in John's Gospel, Jesus' death is deliberately placed at the very time when the Passover lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple. John's declaration is therefore deeply prophetic. He is anticipating that Jesus, the Chosen One, will bring deliverance—not merely from political oppression, but from the deeper slavery of sin. And crucially, John proclaims, this deliverance is for the whole world.

Having encountered Jesus afresh, John cannot keep this revelation to himself. The next day he again points to Jesus and exclaims, "*Look, here is the Lamb of God.*" Two of John's disciples hear him and decide to follow Jesus to find out more. At first, curiosity may be all that motivates them. But Jesus turns to them and offers a simple invitation: "*Come and see.*"

On the surface, this sounds like an invitation to visit where Jesus is staying. Yet something far more profound happens. One of those disciples, Andrew, is so deeply affected by the encounter that he immediately goes to find his brother Simon Peter and tells him, "*We have found the Messiah.*" For Jewish people, the Messiah was God's promised deliverer—the long-awaited king who would rescue Israel. Andrew has become convinced that Jesus truly is the one John proclaimed, and he cannot help but invite his brother to come and meet him.

I wonder whether we still share that same sense of wonder, excitement, and joy. The joy of discovering that God has sent his Son to deliver us from sin and death and to invite us into new life.

And I wonder whether we still feel that same passion to invite others to “*come and see*” Jesus for themselves.

When I was training for ministry, I had a placement in a church in Eastbourne on the edge of a large housing estate. Each Sunday morning there was a row of older women, mostly pensioners. Over time, that row kept growing until when I re-visited the Church there were nearly twice as many as when I arrived. Their secret was beautifully simple. All were widows, and whenever a friend or neighbour was bereaved, they would say, “*Why don’t you come to church with us on Sunday? We’ve found it helpful.*” They were simply inviting others to come and see.

More recently, something equally remarkable has been happening. Many churches—including our own—are seeing people, particularly young people, wanting to find out more about Jesus.

In some cases, they aren’t even waiting to be invited; they are turning up at church on their own, curious and searching. This movement has been called the *Quiet Revival*, and it is very real. At our church, young people have come wanting to study the Bible, ask serious questions, and explore what it means to follow Jesus today. They are now inviting others to come and see what they have discovered.

It seems many people are simply waiting for the invitation.

- The challenge is this: when people do come, are we ready?
- Are we prepared to welcome them, share the good news clearly, and walk alongside them as they explore faith?

If someone walked into our church this Sunday wanting to see what Jesus is all about, would you be ready?

Perhaps now is the time to renew our own sense of wonder—and, like John the Baptist and Andrew, to invite others with joy and confidence: “**Come and see.**”

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 x

HYMNS THIS SUNDAY:

Be thou my vision (2)

I the lord of sea and sky (830)

Will you come and follow me (1120)

Behold the lamb (1724)

In Christ alone (1346)

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.

Churches Together

This Sunday at St Mary's

10am

Family Communion and

Owls

SERVICES - ST MARY'S NEWICKS CHURCH

JANUARY 2026

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday 4th Jan - Epiphany

8am BCP* Holy Communion

Preacher: Ian Reekie

10am Holy Communion

Preacher: Rev Paul

Readings:

Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

5pm Evensong

Leader: Geoff

Preacher: ALM Patsy Bailey

Sunday 1st Feb - 4th Sunday of Epiphany *Septuagesima*

8am BCP* Holy Communion

Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy

10am Holy Communion

Preacher: Rev Paul

Readings:

1 Kings 17:8-16, 1 Corinthians 1:18-end, John 2:1-11

5pm Evensong

Preacher: Reader Jeremy

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 Worship2

Leader: Mandy Stockwell

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 Worship2

Leader: Mandy Stockwell

Sunday 18th Jan - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

8am BCP* Holy Communion

Preacher: Reader Jeremy Burdett

10am Churches Together @ St Mary's

Family Communion & Owls

Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy

Readings:

Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

Sunday 15th Feb - Sunday Next Before Lent *Quinquagesima*

8am BCP* Holy Communion

Preacher: Fr Martin

10am Churches Together @ St Mary's

Family Communion & Owls

Preacher: Fr Martin

Readings:

Exodus 24:12-end, 2 Peter 1:16-end, Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday 18th Feb - Ash Wednesday

7pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

Rev Paul Mundy & Fr Martin Morgan

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: ALM Patsy Bailey

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

*Denotes standard Year A Lectionary Readings

**Lent Course commences on Monday 23rd February
7pm St Mary's Newick**

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

Tea at Three: Third Thursday of the month at 3pm in the Barn Centre. For more information contact Patsy on 01825 722590





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Chat, Refreshments & Songs
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Mondays, 9.30am - 10.30am
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Feel free to be in contact -
Pam Mundy, childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church





Owls Club

**Crafts, Bible Story, Fun!
LEGO & Refreshments**
9.55am - 11.00am
Next dates 18th January and 15th February
Feel free to be in contact -
Pam Mundy, childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church



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

