

18th September 2026

Sunday Service Leaders

8am - Fr Martin

10am - Mandy Stockwell

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

Exodus 16:2-15, Philippians 1:21-30 and Matthew 20:1-16

*"On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.
And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations"
Revelation 22:2*

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who came out to support our services and community events this week. Our lunch clubs were back in full swing at both churches, Worship2 welcomed many new faces on Sunday night, and our youth club again welcomed over 80 young people from across our two parishes and surrounding villages, and it was a joy to hear our Bellringers practising together, the ancient call to worship sounding across the village, and wowzah they sounded good.

Earlier on Wednesday, Lisa Leaf from Compassion UK, our new mission partner at St Mary's and Newick School, led a brilliant Collective Worship, and she will be preaching at our 10am service on October 18th.

This week has also held its share of both grief and joy. St Peter's supported family and friends at the funeral of Mark Kitchener last Monday, and today St Mary's holds the funeral of our beloved Harry Stripp — we hold in our prayers, Eva, all the family and the community Harry was part of for so many years.

And on Saturday, St Mary's we celebrate the marriage of Saskia and Jean, praying for them as they begin their married life together. It is a reminder of what community and church do best: standing with one another through life's joys and its sorrows alike.

This week's readings, as they so often do, arrived right in step with the news on our doorstep. Switch on the radio and you'll hear a few stories running side by side that caught my eye — including one slightly stranger item explaining that Lewes Town Council has approved a motion granting several rights to trees, among them the right to life, to flourish, to be restored, and to complete their natural life cycles. Local tree surgeons, understandably, are now terrified that pruning a rogue branch could result in a manslaughter charge, while autumn leaf-raking is apparently being legally reclassified as a mass eviction event. Asked how this would be policed, one officer admitted they didn't have mulch to go on, though Special Branch would no doubt get to the root of the matter!!!

But two other stories have stayed with me longer. One is that the summer just gone has been confirmed as the hottest on record in the UK — a season of heatwaves, wildfires and water shortages, with forecasters now warning of an unsettled, storm-battered autumn to follow. The other is about food banks, still handling record demand, still seeing more people in work than ever needing a food parcel simply to get through the month, because wages and benefits haven't kept pace with the cost of living. Two very different headlines — but they meet at the same point: a world, and a people, under strain, wondering where the next help is coming from.

It's into exactly that kind of anxiety that God speaks in Exodus. The Israelites, newly freed from slavery, are in the wilderness and afraid — not of Pharaoh now, but of hunger. They grumble against Moses and Aaron, and who could blame them? Freedom is cold comfort on an empty stomach. Yet God doesn't scold them into silence. Instead, God meets their very real, very physical need — quail in the evening, manna in the morning, daily bread gathered fresh each day, never more than was needed. It's a story of provision, yes, but it's also a story about trust: about learning to receive what is given, rather than hoarding against an imagined future. When we hear this week of families choosing between heating and eating, or of communities pulling together yet again to stock a local food bank's shelves, we are hearing an old story

quietly repeating itself. The wilderness hasn't gone away — and neither has the God who sends bread into it, often through the hands of ordinary, generous people.

Paul, writing from prison in Philippians, is in his own kind of wilderness, yet his tone is extraordinary: "*For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.*" He doesn't pretend his suffering away — he weighs it honestly — but he refuses to let circumstance have the last word. Whatever happens to him, he says, let your life be worthy of the gospel, standing firm together, of one mind. In a season when British political life has felt like one long changing of the guard, and public trust in institutions feels thin on the ground, Paul's steadiness is a gift — not a call to stop caring about the world's chaos, but an invitation to root our identity somewhere deeper than the next news cycle. It is a quiet, patient kind of strength, the sort that doesn't need to shout to hold firm.

And then there's Matthew's parable of the workers in the vineyard, a story that never fails to needle something in us. Labourers hired at dawn and labourers hired at five o'clock all receive the same day's wage, and the early birds are furious. It isn't, on the face of it, fair. But the landowner's question lingers: "*Are you envious because I am generous?*" This parable sits uncomfortably close to our own debates about pay, work and worth, zero-hours contracts, the widening gap between wages and living costs, the dignity, or lack of it, afforded to those who cannot find full employment. God's economy, Jesus suggests, doesn't run on our careful ledgers of merit. It runs on grace that is, frankly, extravagant, and sometimes irritating to those of us who'd rather it were more measured. And perhaps that's the promise worth sitting with: that God's generosity is not rationed to match our sense of fairness, but given in full, again and again, to everyone who shows up.

All this arrives as we keep Creationtide, that season from 1 September to 4 October when the Church deliberately turns its attention to God as Creator and Sustainer of life, the same theme that will shape our Harvest services in the coming weeks. We give thanks for the gift of creation, and we renew our commitment to caring for it, at a moment when a record-breaking summer makes that commitment feel far from theoretical.

Rabbi Neal Gold, introducing Danny Siegel's book *Radiance*, writes of the Jewish mystical idea that the whole world is embedded with shards of divine light, often deeply hidden, and that our task, *tikkun olam*, is to seek out those hidden places, raise the light, and help restore the world to its proper wholeness. That is as good a description of Christian discipleship as I know. Repairing the fabric of a broken world — the physical environment and the people who inhabit it — will sometimes call for big campaigns and public advocacy. But far more often it will be the small things: the tin added to the food bank box, the neighbour checked on, the word of encouragement offered instead of the complaint withheld, the choice to use a little less and waste a little less. Each one a small act of trust that the God who sent manna into the wilderness is still, quietly and faithfully, at work.

So here is this week's wondering, for Newick and for Chailey alike: where, this week, might you uncover one shard of hidden light, in creation, or in another person — and help set it free?

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 ST MARY'S

- ❖ 148 – Guide me O thou great redeemer
- ❖ 1346 – In Christ Alone
- ❖ 1229 – Father hear the prayer we offer
- ❖ 892 – Lord for the years

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	



Services St Mary's – October 2026

Sunday 4th October Eighteenth day after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer 10am Harvest Service & Lunch ❖ All age Celebration Service for Harvest with traditional hymns and worship songs followed by a community lunch 6pm Evensong ❖ Following the BCP Evening Prayer with Plain chant, sung psalms and hymns
Sunday 11th October Nineteenth day after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer 10am Holy Communion ❖ Parish Communion Service with Choir & Congregational hymns involving the whole parish family 6pm Worship2 ❖ Joyful and Spirit Filled service of modern worship
Sunday 18th October Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer 10am Worship Praise & Owls ❖ Service of worship and praise with Kids Club – ○ This month with our guest speaker from Compassion UK 4pm Thanksgiving Service & Afternoon Tea ❖ A reflective service of Thanksgiving for all those who have lost a loved one recently, or who would welcome the opportunity to come together and remember a loved one, within the company of others
Sunday 25th October Last Sunday after Trinity Remember – clocks go back!	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer 10am Morning Worship ❖ Joyful celebration of Worship& Praise, God's Word and Prayer

*DENOTES 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, 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.

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. **Christopher.**

HARVEST LUNCH - SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER!

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR KIND SALAD AND PUDDING DONATIONS

AT THE BACK OF ST MARY'S THANK YOU

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.....AND DON'T FORGET -
THERE IS ALWAYS LOTS TO EAT IN THE
MORNING AND A LOVELY LUNCH AFTER ALL THE HARD
WORK.....**



**CAKE DONATIONS AS ALWAYS WILL BE GREATLY RECEIVED SO
PLEASE LET REBECCA KNOW IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP.**

THANK YOU

PLEAS FROM PATSY - BAGS AND CAKES.....

We need **plastic bags** to help distribute food around the village so if you have any carrier bags or bags for life that you would be happy to let us have - please can you put them

at the back of St Mary's
(under the long shelf where the foodbank boxes are).

Thank you.

Cakes, cakes glorious cakes!!

If any **cake makers** out there are able to provide some for the
Thanksgiving Service on October 18th, please can you
let Patsy know. Thank you

Christmas Trees

We already have a good number of Clubs, Societies and Small Businesses registered to have a tree in this year's festival but there is still a bit of space so if you are local and fit the bill, send an email to

churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church

and we can add you in.

Its a lovely weekend and as usual there will be entertainment, music and food so - make a note in your diary to pop along and support

St Mary's and St Peters & St James Hospice.

11th - 13th December



Free Electric Blanket and Heat Pad Testing 2026

Monday 19 th October		
Robertsbridge Village Hall	Station Road, TN32 5DG	10.00 - 12.00
Crowborough Fire Station:	Beacon Road, TN6 1AF	14.00 - 16.00
Tuesday 20 th October		
Hove Fire Station	English Close, BN3 7EE	10.00- 12.00
Seaford Fire Station	Cradle Hill, BN25 3JA	14.00 - 16.00
Wednesday 21 st October		
Bexhill Fire Station	Beeching Road, TN39 3LB	09.00- 12.00
Hastings, Bohemia Road Fire Station	Hastings TN34 1EX	14.00- 16.00
Thursday 22 nd October		
Eastbourne Fire Station	Whitley Road, BN22 8LA	10.00-12.00
Uckfield Fire Station	Bell Farm Rd, TN22 1BA	14.00 - 16.00

Bring your electric blanket and/or heat pad along for a **FREE** safety check at any of the above events. If you are unable to attend, please ask a friend or neighbour to bring your blanket for you.

**East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service working
with partners for your safety**

www.esfrs.org



Book your tickets now!!

ST MARY'S NEWICK AND ST PETER'S CHAILEY PRESENTS...

13-15 Feb
£75pp

the **BiG**
FEBRUARY
RETREAT



Worship-Talks-Games-Food

**Holcott Group Holiday Centre,
Hilders Lane, Edenbridge**

youth.newick@gmail.com

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