

NEWSLETTER



The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

Rector's Ramble

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love,
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
Psalm 51*

8am BCP: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 4:1-11

Main Service: Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your prayers and love we had a fabulous Spirit filled Youth Retreat last weekend with plenty of worship, lots of prayer, a few challenges along the way, some very late nights and a weekend full of God's joy. We look forward to announcing a date for our Deanery Confirmation Service at St Mary's in June and pray that some of our young people will answer the call ignited at May Camp last year and our Retreat.

We look forward to welcoming you all to one of our services this Sunday.

St Mary's 8am Churches Together BCP Holy Communion & 10am Family Communion.

St Peter's 10am Holy Communion Service we will be worshipping in the beautiful St Martin's Chapel at Chailey Heritage.

We also look to welcoming you all to our Lent Course starting at St Mary's at 7pm Monday Evening, with pudding and course will start at 7:30pm.

Could I ask all those attending St Mary's if they could please use the car park or Church Road for the foreseeable future, instead of parking on Church Lane.

We have had several instances recently where our neighbours have been unable to leave their driveways because of cars blocking their homes during our services. Also, with the challenging weather the gullies on each side of the lane and pavement have been eroded and are currently unsafe. Could I also remind you that it is not appropriate to park on the shingle before the car park as this does not belong to the church but is access only to the carpark over our neighbour's property.

Cars parked opposite St Mary's at the bottom of Church Farm Cottage Steps should only be used for those staying at Church Cottage.

We will be putting cones out this week and would be grateful if you didn't move them.

Thank you for your grace, co-operation and understanding.

On Ash Wednesday we gathered for a service in which we smeared ashes on our forehead to remind us of our mortality.

As this is done, we hear recited God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, "*for dust you are, and to dust you will return.*" This sombre truth stands in stark contrast to the archetypal lie that Satan told Eve in Genesis 3:4, and the denial that flourishes down to our own day: "surely you will not die!"

Ours is a culture which is death denying and the ashes of Lent signify an outrageously counter-cultural act of humility. Lent is the most brutally realistic liturgical season of the year — it's a time when we tell the truth about ourselves, our brokenness, our mortality, and nevertheless trust in God's redemptive love.

That is why Lent is not and shouldn't be depressing. Confessing our sins, marking ourselves with ashes and reminding each other that we are all going to die might not chime with those folks who are indulging in various potions, therapies, and anything else they can find to stave off ageing, but neither is it depressing.

It is realistic and truthful and refuses to indulge in pretence. We acknowledge that without God we have no answer to the world's problems and humankind is not progressing towards Utopia, we are as sinful as we ever were, and death is a definite fact not a possible danger.

Lent is a time when we are honest enough to associate ourselves with the fact that what is wrong with the world comes from what is wrong inside each one of us and that no matter how good any one of us is we all share in what is making the world less than the place God intended it to be. At Lent Christians all over the world remind each other of the truth of our own mortality and inability to change ourselves and the world and our dependence need for God.

We are dust and to dust we shall return, but this it is not a threat which God holds over us, it is not God getting us back, it is not a threat rather it is a promise if we are willing to hear it.

It means that God was present when we entered this world and God will be present with us when we leave this world.

We each come from God and to God we shall return. When the words 'earth to earth, ashes to ashes and dust to dust' are read over us at our funeral, they are followed by the words 'we do this in the sure and certain hope of everlasting life!'

Our lesson from Matthew's Gospel this Sunday reminds us of the temptations which Jesus endured in his ministry. Lent is often viewed negatively as a time of don'ts. No eating, drinking, or merriment. But Lent is supposed to be a time of hope. Jesus confronted temptation and was able to say 'no' to wrong actions, just as in Gethsemane he said 'yes' when called upon to do God's will.

So now we know there is hope for us!

It is possible to resist temptation. It is possible to resist the pressures of our culture and society and to be free.

It is possible to turn away from consumerism, materialism, violence, racism, discrimination, bigotry, and all kinds of social and personal sin.

Jesus' forty days in the desert and his encounter with the evil one is a sign of hope for us all. Jesus was aware of the insidious temptations to be a slave to bread, power, or prestige. But instead, he chooses a commitment to a non-violent compassionate love rather than domination over others.

So Lent is not a time for punishing ourselves for being human as God created us, wonderfully and beautifully made in God's image. Lent is a time when Christians can avoid the pretence and draw strength for daily living from God's promises.

May our Lenten observance lead us to a deeper awareness of the world in which we live and its cultural challenge. So may we better prepared to wrestle with the important issues of our world and avoid the temptations to conform to things which are incompatible with our faith in Jesus.

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



A sample menu of activities from each day of the Youth Retreat last weekend:

Hymns for Sunday - St Mary's Newick

Forty Days And Forty Nights
You Lead us through the wilderness
When the Music Fades
Before the throne of God
Jesus Lover of my soul
Sweet Sacrament Divine
God is working his purpose out

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

Services St Mary's – March 2026

Sunday 1st March Second Sunday in Lent	8am BCP* Holy Communion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Worship & Praise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements. 5pm Evensong: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with choir and hymns
Sunday 8th March Third Sunday in Lent	8am BCP* Holy Communion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A sung service with choir and hymns 6pm Worship2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A reflective service with contemporary songs
Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday Fourth Sunday in Lent	8am BCP* Holy Communion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Family Worship & Owls: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A service for all with songs and activities
Sunday 22nd March Passiontide Fifth Sunday in Lent	8am BCP* Holy Communion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A sung service with choir and hymns
Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday & start of Holy Week	8am BCP* Holy Communion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 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	
*DENOTES STANDARD YEAR A LECTIONARY READINGS PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.30 BARN CENTRE	

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.

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.

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