St Mary's Newick's Church

27th November 2026

NEWSLETTER



SEE
POSTERS
INSIDE FOR
DETAILS OF ALL
EVENTS AND SERVICES
COMING THROUGH
ADVENT

AND

REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR TEAM IN FOR THE CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT!!

7PM FRIDAY 11TH ! !



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

“I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you,
and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing”
Genesis Chapter 12

Isaiah 64:1–9 · 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 · Mark 13:24–37

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

This weekend marks the beginning of Advent and the start of the churches New Year. It’s an incredible season, our diaries are empty, the world falls quiet, and everything pauses in this holy season of watching and waiting . . . Yeah, right!

It's Advent, here we go . . . welcome to the silly season!

Our celebrations begin on **Saturday** with the **St Peter's Craft Fair from 11am to 2pm**, followed by the **Christmas Tree lighting at the Five Bells at 5.30pm**. On Sunday we light the first of our Advent candles, and at St Marys we have Sandra Gee’s baptism and later in the day St Mary's hosts our **Advent Carol Service**. Tuesday evening at 6pm we light the Christmas Tree on the Green at Newick. Do come to as much as you can and bring a friend.

In between all this I must try to remember never to write "Xmas". In past years it has prompted zealous Christians to send me three-page letters telling me I am unworthy and have sold the real meaning of Christmas to Beelzebub.

Of course, "X" is the Greek letter *chi*, which together with "P", the Greek letter *rho*, forms the first two letters of *Christos*, Christ. Together they make the chi-rho, one of the most ancient Christian symbols. Constantine had it painted on his soldiers' shields in the fourth century as a sign of conquest, which is not something Jesus would have had in mind. The Church has used X as shorthand for Christ for centuries, especially since the invention of the printing press, and Webster's dictionary notes that "Xmas" was in common use by the middle of the sixteenth century.

So, it is not part of a secular plot to wipe Jesus out of the picture, and we could all be a lot less defensive about the season. We Xians are not the only people who keep a winter festival at this time of year; in fact, we borrowed the date from pagan celebrations around the winter solstice. Many people will come to church this Christmas because they sense something special is going on. We must take care not to put them off by being too precious and too holy.

If we really want to keep Christ in Christmas, the way to do it is to be doing the kinds of things Jesus spent his time doing: looking after the poor, the lonely and the sick. He was a truly holy man who never bragged about what he did and would never have wanted his name up in lights, however we chose to spell it. Perhaps that X can remind us of the cross, and of the life he gave for others. And a kiss (X) at the end of a card is a fine way of showing our love for him, by sharing his love with the people around us.

Advent Sunday begins not with tinsel but with a cry. Isaiah's people have come home from exile to find Jerusalem in ruins, and they feel that God has gone quiet. *"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down" (Isaiah 64:1)*. They do not pretend everything is fine. They admit their own failings, and yet they still pray: *you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter.*

That honest prayer belongs to many people this winter. The food bank charity Trussell has warned that its food banks are heading into their busiest season with critically low levels of donations, perhaps this year you could get together with family or neighbours and produce a “Reverse Advent Calendar” (see below). Last Christmas Age UK estimated that around 1.5 million older people would eat their Christmas dinner alone.

Isaiah's prayer reminds us that God is still at the wheel, still shaping, and that very often the hands he works through are ours. An extra tin in the food bank box, a phone call to someone on their own, an extra place laid at the table: these are small ways of letting heaven break through.

With several members of our churches requiring emergency hospital treatment this past few weeks, I was struck by the news where senior hospital doctors in England were set to strike for two days, with hospitals moving to what is called *"Christmas Day Cover"*: emergencies only, routine work paused. There are sincere and caring people on every side of that dispute, and I simply ask that we hold in our prayers the patients who are waiting, the staff under pressure, and those trying to find a way through.

But the phrase stopped me in my tracks. We use "Christmas Day" as shorthand for the day the world runs on a skeleton crew, unable to achieve what would be possible on any other day!

Yet the first Christmas was exactly the opposite. God did not send minimum cover. He came in person, fully present, into a borrowed stable among ordinary people., filled it with love, hope, peace and joy. Advent gets us ready to receive a God who never does anything by halves.

In the chaos of life our scripture reminds us that Corinth was a busy, noisy, commercial port city, full of division and distraction, rather like a high street in December. Yet Paul begins his letter not with a telling-off but with thanksgiving: the church there is *not lacking in any spiritual gift* as it waits for the Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed (1 Corinthians 1:7). Christian waiting is not sitting idle with our arms folded. We already have what we need to do the work God gives us, and Paul promises that God will keep us strong to the end, because God is faithful.

And as we open Mark's Gospel this new year moves from dramatic pictures of a darkened sun and falling stars to something homely: a fig tree coming into leaf, and a householder who goes away, leaving each servant with their own work and telling the doorkeeper to stay awake. Three times Jesus says it: *keep awake*. The point is not to guess the date of his return but to avoid sleepwalking through life. The master might come in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow or at dawn; in other words, at any hour, including the busiest and most ordinary ones.

At Advent we remember that our Lord Jesus will come again, and we prepare to welcome him. We also remind ourselves that Christ has already come and is present with us now. In the rush of modern life it is all too easy to become so preoccupied with the hurry of each day that we lose our spiritual awareness. Advent is a good time to resolve to wake up our spiritual sight and become conscious again of God's presence, in church, at the craft fair, under the Christmas lights at the Five Bells, and in the faces of those who need us.

Wake up and watch, for it is in the darkest night that the light shines most brightly. I’ll finish with a little Advent prayer I read this week:

Come down, God.
Come among us.
Put things right.
Heal what is broken.
Bring Justice where there is injustice.
Bring Peace where there is conflict.
Bring Hope where people have almost stopped hoping
Let Love rule in our hearts, always.
Amen

With every blessing for a holy and happy Advent and blessed New Year. 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



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, Rosie Hallett, Summer Kilgour, Juliette Lucas, Spike MacGuire, Christina McCann, Shirley Mansfield, Derek Marshall, George Morrison, Patricia Moss, Adrian, Andrea and Amber Parris, Gemma Peacock, June 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



SERVICES NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday 1st November All Saints Day	**8am BCP* Holy Communion & Churches Together at St Mary's** ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer **10am Holy Communion & Baptism** ❖ A service of worship and praise with celebration of a Baptism **5pm Evensong** ❖ Following the BCP Evening Prayer with Plain chant, sung psalms and hymns
Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday Third Sunday before Advent	**8am BCP* Holy Communion** ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer **10:30am Remembrance Sunday** ❖ A solemn service dedicated to honouring British and Commonwealth service members who died in the two World Wars and later conflicts. **6pm - There is no Worship 2**
Sunday 15th November Second Sunday before Advent	**8am BCP* Holy Communion** ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer **10am Morning Worship & Owls Club** ❖ Service of worship and praise with Kids Club
Sunday 22nd November Christ the King Sunday next before advent	**8am BCP* Holy Communion Churches Together at St Mary's** ❖ 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
Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday	**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 **5pm Advent Carols** ❖ Advent carols are hymns and songs that prepare hearts for the coming of Christ, blending themes of hope, anticipation, and celebration.
***DENOTES STANDARD YEAR A LECTIONARY READINGS** **PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.30 BARN CENTRE**	

SERVICES DECEMBER 2026

Sunday 6th **Advent 2**	**8am BCP* Holy Communion** ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer **10am Morning Worship** ❖ A service of worship and praise with celebration of a Baptism **5pm Evensong** ❖ Following the BCP Evening Prayer with Plain chant, sung psalms and hymns
Friday 11th to Sunday 13th December - St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival ❖ 3pm Saturday 12th – Andy Rees Festive Singalong	
Sunday 13th **Advent 3**	**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 – Worship 2** ❖ Joyful and Spirit Filled service of modern worship
Sunday 20th **Advent 4**	**8am BCP* Holy Communion** ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer **10am Morning Worship, Praise & Owls Club** ❖ Service of worship and praise with Kids Club **5pm Carols by Candlelight** ❖ Nine Lessons and Carols all by Candlelight
Thursday 24th **Christmas Eve**	**4pm – Nativity** ❖ Crib Service with a final Blessing from Rector **11pm Midnight Mass** ❖ Late night Service celebrating the birth of Christ
Friday 25th **Christmas Day**	**8am BCP* Holy Communion** ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer **10am Family Service with Holy Communion** ❖ A Family Service with Choir & Congregational hymns, including Parish Communion
Sunday 27th **Christmas 1**	**8am BCP* Holy Communion** ❖ Reflective spoken service of Holy Communion following the King James Book of Common Prayer **10am Service of the Word** ❖ A service with Readings and Hymns
***DENOTES STANDARD YEAR A LECTIONARY READINGS** **PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.30 BARN CENTRE**	

Calling all Helpers



Our annual Tree Festival is fast approaching and as well as the Rectors BBQ on Saturday- which is now tradition!, there is the wonderful church cafe that lets people sit and enjoy a cuppa and a slice of something nice, whilst enjoying the trees.

As always, we **need YOU** to make it happen though and would be so grateful to anyone who could donate a cake or some cookies, or some other little treats ***to serve as refreshments*** available in the cafe over the weekend. If you are able to provide something, please can you let us know either by emailing churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church or by filling in the donation sheet which will be at the back of St Mary's. We will need to know ingredients in case of nut allergies, gluten intolerence etc.

We also ***need people to serve at the cafe***, which will be open Friday and Saturday 10-6 and then, Sunday afternoon 12-4.

There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the Church for this or you can email churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church letting us know what days and times you can help- please do think about giving up a little bit of time to support us and ***help us raise as much as we can for St Mary's together with St Peter's and St James***

The Fletching Singers present - 'Twas the Night before Advent

Fletching Church, TN22 3SR. Saturday 28th November 2026 at 7.30pm

The Fletching Singers invite you to join us on 28th November for our autumn concert, 'Twas the Night before Advent . Alongside Charpentier's beautiful Messe de Minuit, for which the choir will be joined by a small ensemble of instruments, the programme will include a lovely mixture of music old and new, sacred and secular. We will take you from the beauty of night time into the wonderful period of expectancy and waiting that leads to Christmas. Directed by Ansy Boothroyd.

Tickets £15 on the door or £12.50 early bird until Tuesday 24th November. Available online at https://www.fletchingsingers.co.uk , from members, or info@fletchingsingers.co.uk, or 07802 855113

Retiring collection for St Peter & St James Hospice

ADVENT AT St Mary's Newick's Church

29th November - Advent Carols 5pm

DECEMBER

10th - Youth Choir Christmas Concert (at Sx Barn) 5.30pm

11th - 13th Christmas Tree Festival

11th - Curry & Quiz Night 7pm

12th - Craft Workshop 10am-2pm

12th - BBQ Lunch 11am-2pm

12th - Andy's Annual Singalong 3pm

19th - East Sussex Concert Band 7.30pm

20th - Lessons and Carols by Candlelight 5pm

23rd - Pub Carols (time to be confirmed)

Christmas Eve -

Crib Service 4pm

Midnight Mass 11pm

Christmas Day -

BCP Communion 8am

Family Service and Communion 10am

Posters and flyers can be seen in this Newsletter, on our WEBSITE and on our Facebook Page.



If you would like to support our Grand Raffle - with prizes including £100 cash, a £100 John Lewis voucher, a glamping weekend, a 3-course meal at The Griffin, and luxury hampers - you can buy tickets here using this link or - scan the QR code below.

https://newick-school-ptfa.sumupstore.com/product/grand-christmas-raffle-2026-purchase-tickets-online

Thursday 10th December 2026 -

5:30pm -

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Sussex Christmas Barn

invites you to join the Youth Choir from St Mary's Church Newick, for a selection of festive songs and a free glass of Mulled Wine.

The shop will be open for Christmas Tree & Decoration sales until 6:30pm



Gipps Barn, Spithurst Road, Barcombe,

BN8 5EH - 01273 401021

St Mary's Newick's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

11th - 13th December

10am - 6pm Friday & Saturday
12pm - 4pm Sunday



Saturday

11am - 2pm

BBQ
Christmas Craft Workshop
Patsy's Emporium
Tombola

3pm

Singalong with
Andy Rees

Daily

Church Cafe
Hamper Raffle

Fundraising for:

St Mary's Church
and
St Peter & St James
Hospice

St Mary's Newick's Church

Christmas
Quiz& Curry

Friday 11th December
7pm for 7.30pm

Join Us At Our Fun Fundraiser
In aid of St Mary's Church

Teams Of Four
£15 per head

Food
Curry, rice & poppadoms

Drinks
Paybar available



Email to Book
churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church

St Mary's Newick's Church

Christmas Craft Workshop

Sharing The Love This Christmas

To family • To neighbours • To the community



Saturday 12th December

Anytime from 11am until 2pm

In St Mary's Church

All are welcome



East Sussex Concert Band

conducted by Jonathan Bailey

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 19th December 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Newick BN8 4JZ

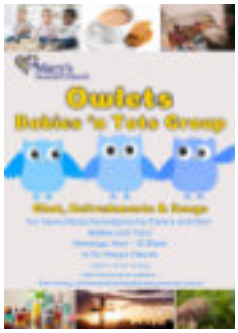
Tickets: £8, under 12s free
www.trybooking.com/uk/126235
scan the QR code or
eastsussexconcertband@hotmail.com

East Sussex Concert Band

Supporting *Live Music &*
St Mary's Church, Newick

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 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.



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: 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