



Newsletter

27th September 2024

Rectors Ramblings

This Sunday is Churches Together with our 8am Service of BCP Holy Communion at St Peter's Chailey and 10am Churches Together Holy Communion at St Mary's Newick

Esther 7.1–6,9-10; 9.20-22; Psalm 124; James 5.13-20; Mark 9.38-50

Dear Friends,

This weekend a group of Dad's from Newick and Chailey are visiting the Normandy Beaches.

I've never been to the Beaches on an organised tour, and I know it will be challenging in places, where the incredible logistical achievements are countered by the huge loss of life on both sides.

For the thousands of Allied soldiers, they fought for a future freedom against a cruel and evil oppressor. As we look around our world today, I wonder what those who paid the ultimate sacrifice would say?

"Today in Kabul a female cat has more freedoms than a woman... A bird may sing in Kabul, but a girl may not..." This is how actress Meryl Streep raised issues of restrictions on women's rights and freedoms in Afghanistan at a UN-related event this week.

The UN's 2024 gender snapshot data shows that there is still a long way to go before global gender equality is achieved, despite its own 2030 goals.

Closer to home we have learned more about allegations against Mohamed Al Fayed, former owner of the prestigious London department store Harrods. It is alleged that he used his wealth and power to sexually abuse and silence women employed by him, with others around him colluding and helping to cover his tracks.

Throughout history women have often been abused, exploited, silenced or simply ignored because of their gender, but many have nevertheless managed to overcome obstacles to make their mark on the world.

The deadline for content is **10am on Thursdays** so if you have anything to include, please make sure it is with churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church in time. Anything that misses the deadline will be included the following week (unless it has a date restriction)

At the Tate Britain gallery in London, the exhibition “Now You See Us”, on until 13 October, showcases the work of a range of remarkable British women artists from 1520-1920.

And in cinemas, Kate Winslet’s film *Lee* tells the life story of female photojournalist and war photographer Lee Miller.

Our Old Testament this week is a break from our sermon series in Nehemiah and this week looks at ‘The book of Esther’ which tells the story of one woman who certainly did not fade into the shadows of history. The events of her life meant so much to the Jewish people that they have been remembered ever since in the Jewish feast of Purim, instituted by Mordecai in Esther 9.20-22.

While the lectionary highlights just a snapshot from the story, reading through the whole book really helps to set the context.

In the main part of this Sunday’s reading, Esther 7.1-6,9-10, we meet Queen Esther at a moment of strength and defiance. She has the king’s favour, and she uses it to take the chance to call out the genocidal plans of Haman and identify herself with her Jewish people, pleading with the king to rescue them all.

She is the right person, in the right time and place, with the right words to bring about the right result for God. But dial the clock back just a little before our reading and it might well have seemed to Esther that she was in the wrong: an exile in the wrong country (2.5-6); orphaned (2.7); a woman living in a kingdom where women’s freedoms have – like those in Kabul – been curtailed (1.10-21); pressed into (to modern eyes at least) sexual slavery, to be used and discarded at will by her master, the king (2.1-14).

Her cage may be better gilded, but her situation is not so dissimilar from that alleged by the women who have accused Al Fayed.

The king’s wealth and power keep her vulnerable, trapped and afraid (4.11,16), even after she attracts his eye and gains his favour.

Yet from this awful starting point, through Esther’s underlying loyalty to God and willingness to serve his people, God turns things upside down, “... from sorrow into gladness ...” (9.22), and brings about their salvation.

God can work even during the direst circumstances.

So let us not lose hope, whatever challenges we may face.

Lee Miller and Esther both won admiration and opportunity through their beauty. Miller’s beauty got her work as a model that led her to make the connections that helped kick-start her photography career.

From there she went on to become a war photographer for *British Vogue* during World War II. She was then in the right place at the right time to document the horrors of war and she did not run from the responsibility. Her photographs from the concentration camps at Dachau and Buchenwald made it harder for readers back home to deny the truth of what had been happening in the Holocaust.

Esther's beauty saw her taken – presumably forcibly – into the king's harem (Esther 2.8) and helped her to win favour, becoming queen. That brought her the rare opportunity – and responsibility – to intervene on behalf of her people in their time of need. "Perhaps," urges Mordecai, "you have come to royal dignity for such a time as this." (4.14)

We may not have Esther or Lee's gifts but all of us have our unique sense of self and life stories that will present us with unique opportunities to work for God.

The values of Esther's concealed faith may also have contributed to her winning the king's favour. There are hints that it was not just her beauty but also her humility and good character that impressed the king ("she asked for nothing except what ... the king's eunuch... advised" 2.15).

God's hand has been at work in who Esther is and in all the twisting, turning circumstances of her life that lead to the point in the story that we read today.

God is at work in us, too.

There is one final detail to notice in Esther's story. When Mordecai first asks Esther to speak up for her people, she is reluctant and scared of how the king may react to any approach (4.11). Mordecai encourages her but still Esther is not quite ready; instead, she asks for further support, that all the Jews in Susa fast for three days, with her and her maids, presumably to ask for God's help in her task (4.15-17).

Only after this does she go to the king (5.1).

We do not need to attempt God's work alone; we can ask him and his people to help us.

Please pray for Ron & June Perou and for Teresa Wenban as they prepare to receive the Order of St Richard on Saturday 5th October, giving thanks for their constant service to St Mary's & St Peter's and above all their unceasing faith and trust in God.

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 - Churches Together at St Mary's

1st Hymn 79 Dear Lord and Father

2nd Hymn 215 I heard the voice of Jesus say

3rd Hymn 42 Be thou my vision

4th Hymn 147 Great is thy Faithfulness

<p>Sunday 29th September</p> <p>Trinity 18</p> <p>5th Sunday St Mary's hosting Churches Together at 10am</p>	<p>8am – BCP Holy Communion at St Peter's Challey Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</p> <p>10am Churches Together Holy Communion Esther 7: 1-6,9,10;9.20-22 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50 Preacher : Fr Martin Morgan</p>
--	---

SERVICES - OCTOBER 2024	
<p>Sunday 6th October Trinity 19 Harvest Festival Service Followed by Harvest Lunch</p>	<p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* Preacher: Reader Ian Reekie</p> <p>10am Harvest Service Joel 2:21-27 1 Timothy 6:6-10 Matthew 6:25-33 Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</p> <p>6pm - Evensong Preacher: Reader Geoff Clinton</p>
<p>Sunday 13th October Trinity 20</p>	<p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</p> <p>10am – Holy Communion Nehemiah 8:1-18 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31 Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</p> <p>6pm – Worship 2 Leader: Mandy Stockwell</p>
<p>Sunday 20th October Trinity 21 Thanks Giving Service</p>	<p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* Preacher Rev Paul Mundy</p> <p>10am Family Communion & OWLS Club Nehemiah 9:1-36 Mark 10:35-45 Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</p> <p>4pm Thanksgiving Service Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</p>
<p>Sunday 27th October All Saints Day</p>	<p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* Preacher: Ian Reekie</p> <p>10am – Nehemiah 9:38, 10:28-39 Mark 10:46-52 Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</p>
<p>* Denotes standard Year B Lectionary Readings</p>	
<p>Prayer Meeting for Church Service Every Sunday 9.30 - 9.45 Barn Centre</p>	

As always, please remember those on our prayer list:

Francis Bailey, Cole Louise Blackman, Bernice Blundy, Margaret Butterfield,
Beryl Campion-Smith, Harri Gande, John and Elizabeth Gould, Rubie Geer,
Juliette Lucas, Helen Lloyd, Spike MacGuire, Christina McCann, Shirley Mansfield,
Derek Marshall, George Morrison, Patricia Moss, Adrian, Andrea and Amber Pariss,
Gemma Peacock, June and Ron Perou, Christine Ripley, Rubie (aged 11),
Cheryl Stewart, Martin Tardif, Marcus Thrower, Peter Todd,
Toni Warrilow, Sean Watson, Nasima Wright.



If you would like to receive prayers, or know someone who would,
please contact
Rev Paul Mundy on 01825 723186 or church.newick@gmail.com

*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*

**Prayers for Church
Barn Centre every Sunday 9.30-9.45**

**Prayer Group
Barn Centre every 1st and 3rd Monday 2pm**

A MESSAGE FROM CHRIS WAGSTAFF:

For the Kenyan youth charity concert last Saturday, God blessed us with good weather and with a wonderful bunch of interactive people. I'm so thankful that we raised more than half of what is needed for the new toilet. Most people joined in the singing and we had a joyful time. Thank you so much to all those who generously contributed.



A plea from Patsy....

Patsy now has the storage space she needs but don't forget - if you have anything you don't want or need any more and it could go on Patsy's **Christmas Stall** - let her know as she has room to take your unwanted items!!

shimmyandshake@yahoo.co.uk

Do you know where your nearest DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) is?

Would you know what to do in the event of needing one?



For everything you need to know about using a Defibrillator, exact locations and more - visit the [Newick Parish Council website](#) and in the meantime, here are the ones available within the Village itself as a quick reference guide:

- Village Hall, Western Road (adjacent to main entrance on car park)
- Newick Health Centre, High Street / Marbles Road (beside front door to surgery)
- Crown Public House (**NOTE the device is at the bar – opening hours only**)
- Pavilion on King George V Playing Field (beside front door)
- Tennis Club Blind Lane (beside front door)
- Newick School (beside front door)
- Newick Drive Shops (between Post Office & Store & Dress Shop)
- Church Barn Centre ('break glass box' key access on rear door - no code required)



You can also find more units via the British Heart Foundation's National Defibrillator Network (The Circuit) by looking up the website:

www.defibfinder.uk

Legacies

A LEGACY FOR
S MARY'S
CHURCH
NEWICK



Please consider making a lasting gift to S Mary's Church, Newick

YOUR WILL
YOUR WISHES
YOUR WAY

We shall all die in time, and leave behind us legacies of love and friendship, of family and friends and of the lives we've lived.

The Church of England has always encouraged people to make wills, and at S Mary's we encourage that too.

Making a will ensures that the assets in your Estate are distributed as you see fit. Many people will of course leave the bulk of their assets to their families, and favourite "good causes".

Please consider including S Mary's.

We struggle to meet our expenses year by year, and have always relied on legacies to support our service to the community.

The daunting costs of upkeep of our beautiful Grade 2* listed church must also be met.

Any element of our work in the community is youth work and pastoral outreach.

HOW DO I PUT A
LEGACY IN PLACE?

First, make sure you have a will in place that includes how you would like to distribute your assets using either your own solicitor or the service provided by the Church of England. (www.churchlegacy.org.uk)

Please contact Rev Paul Mundy or any member of our Treasurer's team if you would like assistance.

Please remember that S Mary's is a charity, so gifts to S Mary's are free of Inheritance Tax.

Many people find the idea of their assets continuing their work and witness for the Lord, long after they have died, a blessed and rewarding prospect.



Contact: Rev Paul Mundy
Telephone: 07700 00280
Email: church.newick@gnad.com
Web: www.newickchurch.org

For more information visit the

[St Mary's Church Website](#)



What's coming up this Autumn

For NYC and NCT visit the

[St Mary's Church Website](#)

No need to sign up. See you there !



Youth
ENCOUNTER

EVERY TUESDAY

4:30PM-5:30PM

**AN OPEN SPACE FOR FOOD, GAMES & CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT LIFE, FAITH AND PURPOSE**

The Barn Centre, Newick, BN8 4JZ

youth.newick@gmail.com

07453511181

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
ST MARY'S NEWICK &
ST PETER'S CHAILEY**



DROP-IN ADVICE SESSION



Lewes District Citizens Advice are now offering a Rural Outreach Service at Newick and Chailey.

High quality, impartial and professional advice, support and referrals given on a huge range of topics, including welfare benefits, housing issues, food and energy poverty, debt and much more.

FACE TO FACE DROP-IN SESSIONS
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

ST MARY'S CHURCH, NEWICK
TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER 10.30-1.30PM
ST PETER'S CHURCH, CHAILEY
FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER 10-1PM

See website below for more information + schedule.
You can also call our FREE Advice line on 0808 278 7892
or email info@lewesdistrictca.org.uk



www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk/rural-outreach

NEWICK AFTERNOON CLUB

Thursday 10th October,

2.30pm Barn Centre

SUSAN CONWAY - Speaks on Myanmar/Burma and how the Buddhist monks are preserving the culture of a country ruled by a brutal military regime engaged in civil war and ethnic cleansing.

Lady Conway gives this talk based on a brilliant lecture she gave this year to the Royal Geographical Society.

As we know from previous visits Lady Conway is a most engaging speaker with an intimate knowledge of the people of Southeast Asia.

Some people think this club is only for Newick members.

Please tell people there are no members, no need to book a place, just come.

Usually free, occasionally £1 to pay for the room.

Any questions to Paddy Cumbeledge 01825 722154

ST PETER'S, CHAILEY

Quiz night

Friday 18th October 2024
6.30 for 7pm start

Tickets £15 per head
Includes ploughmans and pudding
(bring your own drinks and glasses)

Prizes for winning team
Raffle

Make up a team with your friends
(tables of six) and join in the fun!

To book your table
(or if you would like to join a team)
contact

Teresa Wenban 01825 722586

Chris Peskett 01825 721431

Or contact the Parish Office
stpeterschurch12@hotmail.co.uk
01825 722286

St Peter's Church
(A275) BNS 4DA



Owls Club



**Crafts, Bible Story, Fun!
& Refreshments**

9.55am - 11.00am

Every 3rd Sunday

Next dates: 22 September, 20 October, 17 November

Feel free to be in contact -

Pam Mundy, childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church



Mars at Chichester Cathedral

Evening viewings, storytelling and concerts will be part of a stellar programme announced for Mars at Chichester Cathedral when Luke -+ acclaimed art installation arrives for the Autumn.

On display from Saturday 19th October to Sunday 10th November 2024 in the ancient Nave of the Cathedral, the immersive artwork measures seven metres in diameter and features detailed NASA imagery of the Martian surface.
Book now [here](#)



Date for the diaries don't forget 13th – 15th December

Is the annual Christmas Tree Festival weekend which includes the festive Market, and all in aid of St Mary's and St Peter & St James Hospice. There is also some musical entertainment promised to get us all into the festive spirit so, something for everyone and we look forward to seeing you there.



If you have any news you would like to share, any photos you would like to display or any stories about St Mary's, Newick or wider afield that you think the readers may enjoy please mail us

churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church