

Rectors Rambles

Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

*Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory.
Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near"
Luke 21:27*

Dear Friends,

Well, here we go . . . Happy New Year

The season of Advent brings with it all the joys and challenges for the season, how do we balance the expectant joy of Christmas, whilst holding onto the reflective season of Advent, watching, waiting, and waking up to what God is really calling us to do.

The start of Advent sees another busy weekend across our churches, as we hold Men's Supper at The Barn Centre on Friday, the fabulous Christmas Fair at St Peter's on Saturday Morning then Advent Services in both churches on Sunday, followed by Andy & Jo's Christmas Cracker at St Peter's at 5pm and Advent Carol service at St Mary's at 6pm, if you need even more joy then you can follow that on Tuesday evening at the Sussex Barn when St Mary's Youth Choir will be singing carols from 5pmpew!!!

And so, to our watching, waiting & waking.

The colour for Advent is purple which signifies that something serious is taking place Purple is the colour of saying sorry at Lent, it is the colour of mourning at a funeral, it is the colour of reflective watchfulness at Advent. This is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and it begins on Sunday nearest to 30th November, so the 1st of December this year.

The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' meaning coming. It is a penitential season but is no longer associated with the strictness of Lent. Nevertheless, Advent reminds us that the question is not whether Jesus will return to judge the earth, but when. There is much about Advent to enjoy, the Advent wreaths found in our churches where they have four candles to be lit each Sunday and one for Christmas Day. But in the midst of our church, we know that just as we prepare for Christmas, so we have to make ready to welcome Jesus in our lives. Are you ready for the coming of Jesus?

At Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, but it also reminds us of the coming of Christ again. As Christians we should all want Christ to come, yet we live all year round in Advent time, the period in which we are waiting and preparing for the return of Christ.

This means that Advent should be a time characterised by vigilance (Watching). We are living in the present but trying very hard to bring to the present the realities of the future (Waiting). Our lives should be characterised by the lifestyle of heaven, even though we are currently inhabitants of planet earth (Waking)

Editors Note: Content deadline is **10am on Thursday** so please make sure you send anything to the churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church in time. Anything received after 10am will be included the following week (unless a date restriction means it is too late). Thank you.

This week has seen some impactful 'waking' moments;

A ceasefire has been announced in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah forces

New measures have come into force to support victims of domestic abuse.

Revd Richard Coles has entered the jungle in Australia for "I'm a Celebrity" and made an immediate impact.

"What !!" I hear you cry, "the Rector is rambling about I'm a Celebrity" . . . But 'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out of Here' always takes up many column inches in our newspapers each year with gossip about the celebrities taking part and rumours of arguments and spats off-camera. We should be delighted, therefore, that a Christian has taken a place in the jungle and is modelling compassion, care and a down-to-Earth faith. Revd Richard Coles might not be to everyone's tastes, but he is speaking about his faith openly and in a way which his fellow celebrities have connected with. Perhaps his openness will create opportunities for us in the coming weeks to share with our colleagues and friends how Jesus has been with us through dark times? Possibly the green shoots in the jungle will lead to the opening of conversations about faith with people who have previously seemed closed off to talking about faith?

Let's be on the lookout for signs that God is at work in those we meet this week.

The war in the Holy Land has been absolutely devastating to so many and peace is still such a long way off. This week's ceasefire in Lebanon has been greeted with sheer relief by those who live there but optimism over the current long-term outlook for peace is in short supply.

As Christians, we have hope that Jesus is coming again, that God will bring his rule and reign to all of the Earth. While we wait for that, it is important to call out and celebrate any signs of peace, love and hope that we see. Some in the world around us are tempted to give up all hope and to say the Earth is doomed and God-forsaken. Our faith is that God is at work in the world and cares deeply about all who live there. As a result we praise God for any and all green shoots we see and pray for more - even (or especially) in the face of such pain and despair.

Domestic abuse has historically been something hidden, something that isn't talked about. The church has sometimes made it harder for those being abused to leave their situations by emphasising Christian concepts of forgiveness and transformation in relationships where one side used such ideas to keep their partner under their control. The change in the law this week is a first step towards a stated goal of halving violence against women and girls within a decade. There are legal changes happening but equally a need to educate and inform men and women about what has been happening and what still happens to far too many women.

This is a dark situation, a topic that we often avoid discussing in church, but Jesus treated women as equals when his culture considered them objects. The church should be at the forefront of campaigning for protection for those at risk of harm and can, at the least, celebrate those steps being taken which should lead to fewer women being hurt or killed.

It is difficult to know how to interpret the standards of Jesus for our society.

Advent tells us that as Christians we are to bring God's reign in our own lives in such a way that we are salt in this sorry society and bring about change which makes a real difference.

We must not become fatigued, we prepare inwardly and spiritually, but if that means anything it is demonstrated visibly in our changed lives. Somebody said, *"Nothing is more powerful than an individual acting out of conscience, thus helping to bring the collective conscience to life."*

This Advent we are challenged not to blame others, but instead to recognise that the change must come from us as we live the new lives of the Kingdom.

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 Newick

- 1st Hymn O come, O come Emmanuel (410)
2nd Hymn Hills of the North Rejoice (NEH7)
3rd Hymn Now the Green blade riseth (NEH115)
4th Hymn Lo He comes on Clouds descending (347)

Hymns St Peter's Chailey

- 1st Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel (410)
2nd Hymn God is working his purpose out (135)
3rd Hymn I cannot tell (205)
4th Hymn The Spirit lives to set us free (1555)

St Mary's Finances for 2025.

It costs St Mary's £4000 per week to keep the doors open and all our bills paid.

Yes, this year we expect our income to be a little over £200,000, and our expenditure a little under that figure.

We have carefully prepared a budget for 2025 based on existing expenditure patterns, and our plans for 2025. Here is our planned expenditure for 2025:-

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| • Diocese – Parish share etc | £72,000 |
| • Barn Centre | £11,000 |
| • Administration | £18,000 |
| • Operations | £79,000 |
| • Youthwork | £28,000 |
| • Projects and Contingency | £16,000 |

TOTAL £224,000.

The budgeted increase in expenditure is principally due to two major items – we are budgeting £15,000 for hiring a Children and Families worker to replace Ali Brown and maintain progress in our vital Youthwork. And for the first time this year we are budgeting £11,000 as a provision for contingencies/project work on necessary maintenance. We have had to provide for inflation, and for the impact of the budget on our personnel costs.

We are not running a Christmas Appeal this year. For the year ahead we want to raise our giving by 12% over 2024 levels to meet this budget – we need to increase our vital Youthwork, and provide for unforeseen contingencies and long-term maintenance issues in advance of the quinquennial inspection due in 2027 through our Projects and contingency provision.

We are restarting Friends of St Mary's in 2025 aiming to raise funds from the wider Newick Community for the maintenance of our historic Church, our Youthwork and our Pastoral Care. But our congregational giving remains as always the vital and urgent resource we so desperately need. We ask you please to review your giving to St Mary's for 2025, and if you can please be generous to our Church as we build for the future.

Message from Patsy Bailey:

I am still collecting would be grateful for any items to be sold at the Xmas Market on Saturday the 14th

I am hoping to raise a good amount for the Church as well as helping to recycle goods which helps the environment.

Thank you.



SERVICES – DECEMBER 2024

<p>Sunday 1st December</p> <p>Advent Sunday</p>	<p>8am - BCP Holy Communion*</p> <p><i>Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</i></p> <p>10am – Holy Communion</p> <p><i>Jeremiah 33:14-16 - 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 - Luke 21: 25-36</i></p> <p><i>Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</i></p> <p>6pm – Advent Carols</p>
<p>Sunday 8th December</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>8am - BCP Holy Communion*</p> <p><i>Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</i></p> <p>10am – Holy Communion</p> <p><i>Malachi 3:1-4 - Philippians 1:3-11 - Luke 3:1-6</i></p> <p><i>Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</i></p> <p>6pm – Worship 2</p> <p><i>Leader: Mandy Stockwell</i></p>
<p>Friday 13th –</p> <p>Sunday 15th</p>	<p>Christmas Tree Festival</p> <p>Festive Market 11-2 Saturday 14th</p> <p>Festive Singalong with Andy Rees 3.30 – 4.30 Saturday 14th</p>
<p>Sunday 15th</p> <p>December</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>8am - BCP Holy Communion*</p> <p><i>Preacher : Rev Paul Mundy</i></p> <p>10am – Family Communion</p> <p><i>Zephaniah 3:14-20 - Philippians 4:4-7</i></p> <p><i>Luke 3:7-18</i></p> <p><i>Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</i></p>
<p>Sunday 22nd</p> <p>December</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>8am - BCP Holy Communion*</p> <p><i>Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</i></p> <p>10am – Holy Communion</p> <p><i>Micah 5:2-5a - Hebrews 10:5-10 - Luke 1:39-45</i></p> <p><i>Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</i></p> <p>5pm Carols by Candlelight</p> <p>Service of 9 Lessons and Carols</p>
<p>Tuesday 24th</p> <p>December</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>4pm Nativity</p> <p>11pm Midnight Mass</p> <p><i>Isaiah 52:7-10 - Hebrews 1:1-12 - John 1:1-14</i></p>
<p>Wednesday 25th</p> <p>December</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>8am – BCP Christmas Day Holy Communion*</p> <p><i>Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</i></p> <p>10am – Christmas Day Holy Communion</p> <p><i>Isaiah 9:2-7 - Titus 2:11-14 - Luke 2: 1-20</i></p> <p><i>Preacher : Rev Paul Mundy</i></p>
<p>Sunday 29th</p> <p>December</p> <p>First Sunday of Christmas</p>	<p>8am – BCP Holy Communion*</p> <p><i>Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</i></p> <p>10am – Service of the Word</p> <p><i>1 Samuel 2:18-26 - Colossians 3:12-17 - Luke 2:41-52</i></p> <p><i>Preacher: Reader Jeremy Burdett</i></p>

*DENOTES STANDARD YEAR C LECTIONARY READINGS

PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.30 BARN CENTRE

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS



As always, please remember those on our prayer list:

Frances Bailey, Cole Louise Blackman, Bernice Blundy, Beryl Champion-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, Ann Parker, Adrian, Andrea and Amber Parris, 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.

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 am

Prayer Group

Barn Centre every 1st and 3rd Monday - 2pm

A night at the **Intergenerational Opera**



Coming up at a glance.....

(in addition to the normal Church Service timetable)

November

Men's Supper Friday 29th (7 for 7.30pm)

St Peter's Chailey Christmas Craft Market Saturday 30th (10 – 2)

Advent Concert (Fletching Church) Saturday 30th (7.30pm)



DECEMBER

Chailey Heritage Christmas Market 1st (11 – 3)

St Peter's Chailey Christmas Cracker Sunday 1st (5pm)

St Mary's Advent Carols Sunday 1st (6pm)

Children's Choir Tuesday 3rd Sussex Christmas Barn (5.30pm)

Newick Afternoon Club Thursday 12th Barn Centre (2.30pm)

Citizens Advice at St Peter's Friday 6th (10 – 1)

Newick Primary Christmas Fair Saturday 7th (11 – 2)

St Mary's Tree Festival Friday 13th – Sunday 15th including...

Festive Market (11 – 2) and Festive Singalong (3.30pm) on Saturday 14th

Bevern View Carols Outside the Royal Oak Barcombe 20th (4pm)

East Sussex Concert Band Saturday 21st December (7pm)

St Mary's Lessons and Carols Sunday 22nd (4pm)

St Mary's Nativity Service - Christmas Eve (4pm)

St Mary's Midnight Mass – Christmas Eve (11pm)

MEN'S SUPPER

Our final men's Supper for the year will be **TONIGHT!!**

7.00 for 7.30 in the Barn Centre.

Our speaker for the evening is JOHN VINE, an actor whom many of you will recognise. He does a lot of after dinner speaking and has earned a happy reputation for being both witty and interesting.

Join us!

Still time so please let Christopher Hume know if you'd like to come - numbers are helpful for catering. £6 at the door, all welcome. Telephone 07770 771653 or mcmhume@outlook.com.



SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

**Christmas Craft Market
St. Peter's Chailey 10am-2pm**

Entry £1.00. Stalls from local crafters and businesses.

Lots to see, Christmas gifts to purchase

Fletching Singers Advent Concert - 7.30pm

Fletching Parish Church

The Fletching Singers, together with harpist Anna Wynne, will perform Benjamin Britten's atmospheric A Ceremony of Carols as part of their advent concert.

Other music in the programme includes carols and motets by Bruckner, Stopford, Rutter and Howells and some favourite carols to be sung by all. Wine and soft drinks available

Tickets (includes mince pies) £12.50 prior to 25th

November at www.fletchingsingers.co.uk Or £15 on the night or from members, or call 07802 855113.



St Mary's
Advent Carols
1st December

It's that time of year again! Santa and his little elves are beavering away, Rudolf is getting into training and Jonathan is preparing a splendid Advent Carol Service for us. Lessons, Carols, a light show and a message followed by mulled wine and nibbles provided by our indefatigable hospitality team



What's not to like? It's a beautiful service, and a great and fitting start to Advent and busy Christmas Season.

our

Come and enjoy! 6pm at St Mary's, bring yourselves, a smile and happy anticipation of an enjoyable and inspiring evening.

Christopher Hume

**Chailey
Christmas
Cracker**
A celebration of
song

St Peter's
Church Chailey
Sunday 1st
December at
5:00pm
Tickets £15.
Children under
16 free! Ticket
includes a glass
of mulled wine
and nibbles.

With
Soprano Jo
Appleby
and Tenor
Andrew
Rees

Interval bar
serving wine and soft
drinks

Contact
jonathan.a.d.annis@btinternet.com
for tickets

Tuesday December 3rd at 17:30

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



DO NOT MISS

NADS December 2024 Production of

"The Diamond Necklace"

by

JULIET BAGNALL

A 1950s radio thriller in the style of the vintage Home Service "Paul Temple" series

Directed by DAVID READ

Charles and Louise Maudesley are horrified to find that Louise's friend Marjorie appears to be missing. Marjorie's husband George immediately falls under suspicion especially as he & his cousin appear to be involved with a dodgy nightclub owner, Alfredo Borsio and his mistress Dorothy. But when Scotland Yard are more interested in Borsio & his gang the Maudesleys feel they have no choice but to take matters into their own hands, very nearly costing them their lives.

Stagescripts Ltd.

4th - 7th December 2024
Tickets £10

NEWICK VILLAGE HALL

Curtain up 8.00 pm - Doors open 7.15 pm
Box Office : 01825 722359 or 722985
or Email : info@newickdrama.org
or at the door

NEWICK SCHOOL PTFA
PRESENT
Newick Primary School's
Christmas Fair
SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER
11AM - 2PM
CHRISTMAS MARKET
GRAND RAFFLE
SANTA'S GROTTO
TOMBOLAS, TOY & BOOK SALE, GAMES & CRAFTS
FESTIVE CAFE SERVING TURKEY BAPS, CAKES & REFRESHMENTS
MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES
PERFORMANCE BY THE SCHOOL CHOIR
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
SKILLS HAYWARDS HEALTH
savills

An illustration of three gingerbread houses decorated with icing and candy canes. One house has a gingerbread man on top. To the right is a small Christmas tree on a gingerbread base. The background is a light beige color with snowflakes and gold dots.

**ST MARY'S NEWICK
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
AND FESTIVE MARKET**



**TREES TO ENJOY FROM LOCAL
CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND
BUSINESSES
13TH - 15TH DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND GOODIES TO BUY
AND A CHRISTMAS SINGALONG
SATURDAY 14TH**

**East Sussex
Concert Band**
conducted by Jonathan Bailey

**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Saturday 21st December 7pm
St Mary's Church, Newick BN8 4JZ

Tickets: £7, under 12s free
www.trybooking.com/uk/71490
or scan the QR code
eastsussexconcertband@hotmail.com

   

Supporting Live Music &
St Mary's Church, Newick

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