



NEWSLETTER



The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

Please visit our website stmarysnewicks.church for more information on the various organisations and events and regular activities available to you.

Rectors Ramble

Malachi 3:1-5, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40

Dear Friends,

Forty days ago, we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, this coming Sunday, we mark the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, more affectionately known as Candlemas. This beautiful festival draws the Christmas season to its close, and perhaps for that reason alone, I much prefer a “Fasting February” to a Dry — or even Damp — January!!

This Sunday we will be taking Christ’s light into the world in a different way as our St Peter’s family gather together at The Five Bells for a 9am Holy Communion Service followed by breakfast. All are welcome, and please try to arrive 8:45 to order your breakfast which will be ready shortly after our service finishes. I’m going for the Full English with extra black pudding.

Our 8am & 10am Services are at St Mary’s as usual.



Candlemas takes its name from the Gospel account in Luke 2:22–40, when the elderly Simeon took the infant Jesus into his arms and recognised him as “a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel.” From this moment grew the church’s custom of blessing candles on this day, symbolising Christ as the Light of the World. A central candle would be lit and brought to the altar, representing the Christ-light, while the congregation’s candles would also be blessed. Through these outward signs, worshippers were reminded of the inner light of Christ, “who enlightens everyone who comes into the world.”

This feast is rich in meaning. It marks both an ending and a beginning: the close of the Christmas season and the quiet turning of our gaze towards the coming days of Lent and the passion of Christ. On this day, Jesus is presented in the Temple, offered to God and revealed to his people. Mary undergoes ritual purification, reminding us that we too continually come before God seeking cleansing and renewal. Simeon and Anna, in their great age, recognise the Messiah and sing of his glory, bearing witness to God’s faithfulness across generations.

In their encounter with the Christ child, we glimpse both joy and judgement: joy at God’s coming among us, and a solemn recognition that his presence searches and challenges our hearts. Simeon’s words, the Nunc Dimittis, echo through the centuries:

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”

In one of his poems, the French Jesuit priest and philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin invites us to “trust in the slow work of God.” Simeon and Anna embody this patient faith. For years, perhaps decades, they waited, prayed, and contemplated. Their lives were steeped in attentiveness to God’s presence. It was this steady, faithful waiting that enabled them to recognise the extraordinary in the ordinary — the Messiah revealed not in power or spectacle, but in the vulnerability of a baby.

How often we reverse this pattern, rushing into action before we have paused for reflection. Yet contemplation is not passive. It is through prayerful stillness that our vision is sharpened and our hearts become receptive. Simeon and Anna could easily have overlooked Mary and Joseph among the countless

families who visited the Temple. They had seen many children presented before. But this time, something stirred within them. God spoke, and they listened.

Their story reminds us that God often comes to us in unexpected ways. We may expect grand signs or dramatic interventions, yet frequently God meets us quietly, subtly, and gently. If we do not slow down, we risk missing these moments of grace. But when we cultivate a habit of contemplation — of attentive waiting — we become more open to recognising God's presence in our daily lives.

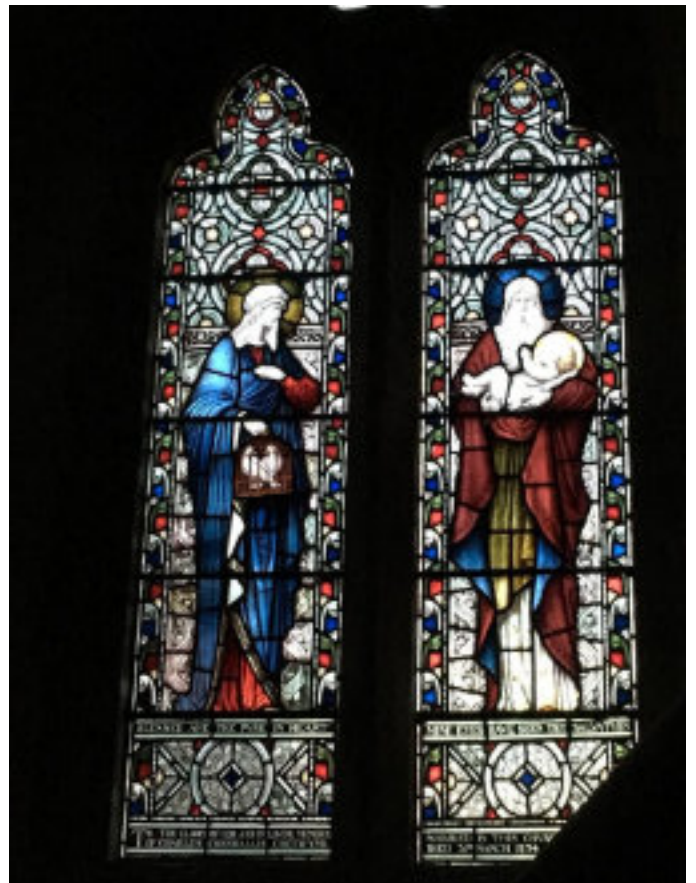
There is also something profoundly hopeful in the way Simeon and Anna respond. They are not resistant to change, nor do they cling to the past. Instead, they embrace the new work God is doing. In their openness, we see what becomes possible when the old welcomes the new — when tradition and hope walk hand in hand. Their faith is not nostalgic but forward-looking, rooted in trust that God's promises are still unfolding.

No matter our age or stage of life, Candlemas invites us to adopt this posture of openness. When we pause, reflect, and listen, we may find ourselves unexpectedly surprised by God — prompted towards new beginnings, fresh insights, or deeper faith. In a world that prizes speed and certainty, this feast gently calls us back to patience, humility, and wonder.

As we reflect on Candlemas this week, I leave you with a poem by Malcolm Guite, whose words beautifully capture the quiet holiness of this moment and its enduring light:

Candlemas

They came, as called, according to the Law.
Though they were poor and had to keep things
simple,
They moved in grace, in quietness, in awe,
For God was coming with them to His temple.
Amidst the outer court's commercial bustle
They'd waited hours, enduring shouts and shoves,
Buyers and sellers, sensing one more hustle,
Had made a killing on the two young doves.
They come at last with us to Candlemas
And keep the day the prophecies came true
We glimpse with them, amidst our busyness,
The peace that Simeon and Anna knew.
For Candlemas still keeps His kindled light,
Against the dark our Saviour's face is bright



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, and may the light of Christ, kindled anew at Candlemas, continue to shine in our hearts, guiding us through the seasons ahead,

Paul xx

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.

SERVICES - ST MARY'S NEWICKS CHURCH	
JANUARY 2026	FEBRUARY 2026
Sunday 4th Jan - Epiphany 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Ian Reekie 10am Holy Communion Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12 5pm Evensong Leader: Reader Geoff Clinton Preacher: ALM Patsy Bailey	Sunday 1st Feb - 4th Sunday of Epiphany Septuagesima 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy 10am Holy Communion Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy Readings: 1 Kings 17:8-16, 1 Corinthians 1:18-end, John 2:1-11 5pm Evensong Preacher: Reader Jeremy Burdett
Sunday 11th Jan - 1st Sunday after Epiphany 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan 10am Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17 6pm Worship 2 Leader: Mandy Stockwell	Sunday 8th Feb - 2nd Sunday before Lent Sexagesima 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan 10am Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:3, Romans 8:18-25, Matthew 6:25-end 6pm Worship 2 Leader: Mandy Stockwell
Sunday 18th Jan - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy 10am Churches Together @ St Mary's Family Communion & Owls Preacher: Reader Jeremy Burdett Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42	Sunday 15th Feb - Sunday Next Before Lent Quinquagesima 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan 10am Churches Together @ St Mary's Family Communion & Owls Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan Readings: Exodus 24:12-end, 2 Peter 1:16-end, Matthew 17:1-9
	Wednesday 18th Feb - Ash Wednesday 7pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion Rev Paul Mundy & Fr Martin Morgan
Sunday 25th Jan - 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Ian Reekie 10am Family Communion Leader: Rev Paul Mundy Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Acts 9:1-22, Matthew 19:27-30 Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy 5pm Healing Service with Communion Preacher: ALM Patsy Bailey	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
*Denotes standard Year A Lectionary Readings	
Lent Course commences on Monday 23rd February 7pm St Mary's Newick	

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

Pope John Paul 2 wrote

“We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery — the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. ‘We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!’ We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the ‘fundamental duty of love of neighbour, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy.

The Lent Course this year will endeavour to think through what it means to live as the Alleluia people. What effect should this have on us as we journey loving God, our neighbour and ourselves?

Each Monday in Lent will begin in the traditional way by sharing desserts at 7.00pm following on with our meditations at 7.30pm.

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