

31st July 2026

Sunday Service Leaders

8am - Rev Paul

10am - Rev Paul

5pm - Geoff Clinton

NEWSLETTER



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

***Please remember to:** check out [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](#) all photo's*

Services St Mary's August 2026

Sunday 2nd August The Ninth Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Morning Worship and Praise ❖ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements 5pm Evensong ❖ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with choir and hymns
Sunday 9th August The Tenth Sunday After Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion ❖ A sung service with choir and hymns
Sunday 16th August Tenth Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Worship & Praise ❖ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements
Sunday 23rd August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Baptism ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns and Baptism
Sunday 30th August Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Churches Together Holy Communion at St Mary's Newick ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns
*DENOTES STANDARD YEAR C LECTIONARY READINGS PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.15 BARN CENTRE	

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



Rectors Ramble

Genesis 32.22-31; Psalm 17:1-7,15; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who came to the Service of Rededication at St Peter's last Sunday with Bishop Will. It was a wonderful celebration, expressing thanksgiving for what has been and so much hope for the future.

Then on Tuesday we celebrated the marriage of Lee Buck to Gemma Cosens, Lee has been our youth worker since 2018, and it's been such a joy watching Gemma and Lee grow together in faith and in love.

Please pray for our wedding couples this weekend Hansy & Conor at St Mary's and Sophia & Daniel at St Peter's, both on Saturday.

Please also hold the Fanthorpe family in your prayers after James' funeral on Thursday's saw St Peter's full to bursting as family and friends came to give thanks for James' life and to comfort each other in their grief.

Could I ask us all to hold in our prayers the families affected by the tragic death of a 46-year-old man at the Chailey Sports ground North Chailey on Saturday evening. Please too, pray for all those who were present at the time of the incident and the Emergency Services who attended the scene.

It is at times like these that the true value and presence of our churches is so keenly felt.

Speaking as your Priest, it really is such a blessing to be part of two churches with such an incredible heart for the pastoral care, vision for our future and for the stewardship of our churches and churchyards, placing God's love at the heart of our communities.

But we mustn't be complacent. I've recently been listening to a series on radio 4 over the last three weeks, with Rev Giles Fraser called "Church Going" reflecting on the famous poem by Phillip Larkin, and how it speaks into our own church culture today.

I've found it really challenging but also, I've learnt something along the way. I commend all who receive our newsletter to have a listen when you have moment, and I've added a copy of Larkin's "Church Going" at the bottom of our newsletter.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002yvrb>

Sometimes life can be unimaginably complicated, and sometimes our own characters make life more complicated than it needs to.

Christopher Nolan's film '*The Odyssey*' is breaking box office records in the cinema right now and sales of translations of Homer's epic poem have risen by around 70%.

For all the criticism from Classicists and purists regarding emotional depth, the Homeric values, the place of women and the quality of the language, there is something that is still compelling about the flawed hero's journey, the hardships he endures along the way, and the self-knowledge and suffering that the journey necessitates. Stephen Fry has argued that Odysseus in all his complexity, is a relatable hero for our times. And let's not forget Penelope's journey towards resilience and wisdom as she navigates through the challenges of her ten years wait for Odysseus to return.

The wounded hero is an archetype in literature and mythology, revealing lessons about the cost of gaining wisdom, about vulnerability that can lead to new strength and about the need to remain grounded, knowing the limits of our own power. Jacob wrestles in the dark with a shadow and is left with a wound. Having spent his life using trickery and deceit and often running away, his dislocated hip means that he can no longer run. After his encounter with God in the dark, he limps into the dawn of a new day, wounded but at the beginning of a new journey into reconciliation. His trauma is not erased but becomes a source of self-knowledge that enables the new chapter of his story to unfold. He is given a new name, Israel, meaning 'one who struggles with God' and this new name represents his transformation and his new understanding of God.

Sometimes life brings us up short.

We find ourselves facing hardships, trauma, fear or pain that seems to overwhelm us and for which we do not have the resources. Such times bring us face to face with ourselves and our own inadequacy and our need for God. It seems that such pain will limit our ability to be useful in serving God and others.

And yet...the bible is full of stories that happen on the other side of failure. Stories where an encounter with God in the midst of the pain leaves us, yes, limping, but also facing into a new day with hope.

Like Jacob, when we stop running, we are all at some point going to face God in the darkness. Indeed, some Christian traditions talk about the 'dark night of the soul' that nevertheless can lead to a new beginning or deeper knowledge of self and of our calling.

The poet Mary Oliver writes:

Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness. It took me years to understand that this, too, was a gift. (The Uses of Sorrow from Thirst Beacon Press 2007)

Sometimes integrating painful experiences is big work and it takes time, other people who can accompany us because they have been there before us (*wise guides or Spiritual Companions*) and patient work with God who is the ultimate restorer of hope, the God whom we find in bread that is broken to make us whole.

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

- ❖ **1627 - With a prayer you fed the hungry**
- ❖ **1715 - Everyone needs compassion**
- ❖ **1293 - Hungry I come to you**
- ❖ **WLV - Gratitude**

Church Going by Philip Larkin (1954)

*Once I am sure there's nothing going on
I step inside, letting the door thud shut.
Another church: matting, seats, and stone,
And little books; sprawlings of flowers, cut
For Sunday, brownish now; some brass and stuff
Up at the holy end; the small, neat organ;
And a tense, musty, unignorable silence,
Brewed God knows how long. Hatless, I take off
My cycle-clips in awkward reverence,

Move forward, run my hand around the font.
From where I stand, the roof looks almost new –
Cleaned, or restored? Someone would know; I don't.
Mounting the lectern, I peruse a few
Hectoring large-scale verses and pronounce
'Here endeth' much more loudly than I'd meant.
The echoes snigger briefly. Back at the door
I sign the book, donate an Irish sixpence,
Reflect the place was not worth stopping for.

Yet stop I did: in fact, I often do,
And always end much at a loss like this,
Wondering what to look for; wondering, too,
When churches fall completely out of use
What we shall turn them into, if we shall keep
A few cathedrals chronically on show,
Their parchment, plate and pyx in locked cases,
And let the rest rent-free to rain and sheep.
Shall we avoid them as unlucky places?

Or, after dark, will dubious women come
To make their children touch a particular stone;
Pick simples for a cancer; or on some
Advised night see walking a dead one?
Power of some sort or other will go on
In games, in riddles, seemingly at random;
But superstition, like belief, must die,
And what remains when disbelief has gone?
Grass, weedy pavement, brambles, buttress, sky,*

*A shape less recognisable each week,
 A purpose more obscure. I wonder who
 Will be the last, the very last, to seek
 This place for what it was; one of the crew
 That tap and jot and know what rood-lofts were?
 Some ruin-bibber, randy for antique,
 Or Christmas-addict, counting on a whiff
 Of gown-and-bands and organ-pipes and myrrh?
 Or will he be my representative,
 Bored, uninformed, knowing the ghostly silt
 Dispersed, yet tending to this cross of ground
 Through suburb scrub because it held unspilt
 So long and equably what since is found
 Only in separation – marriage, and birth,
 And death, and thoughts of these – for which was built
 This special shell? For, though I've no idea
 What this accoutred frowsty barn is worth,
 It pleases me to stand in silence here;
 A serious house on serious earth it is,
 In whose blent air all our compulsions meet,
 Are recognised, and robed as destinies.
 And that much never can be obsolete,
 Since someone will forever be surprising
 A hunger in himself to be more serious,
 And gravitating with it to this ground,
 Which, he once heard, was proper to grow wise in,
 If only that so many dead lie round.*

Philip Larkin



Philip Larkin

- Philip Larkin (1922–1985) was an English poet, novelist, and librarian known for his deeply reflective and often melancholic poetry.
- He wrote about ordinary life, exploring themes of isolation, mortality, and the decline of traditional values.
- His poetry is marked by a conversational tone.

Events **at** St Mary's

- 25th September - Men's Supper
- 10th October - Autumn Garden Day
- 6th November - Ladies Supper
- 20th November - Men's Supper
- 11th - 13th December Christmas Tree Festival
- 12th December - Andy Rees annual Singalong!
- 19th December - East Sussex Concert Band

Posters and information relating to the dates are either in this weekly Newsletter, or will be added as the dates get closer.

New events will be added through the year too, as well as any events being advertised outside of St Mary's so

Keep checking!!.....

CITIZENS ADVICE DATES - NEWICK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tuesday 14th July, Tuesday 11th August, Tuesday 8th September
Tuesday 13th October, Tuesday 10th November,
Tuesday 8th December



♥ Nightingales ♥
RESIDENTIAL HOME

SUMMER FAIR!



SATURDAY

22ND AUGUST 2026



TIME: 11AM - 4PM



STALLS



**BBQ &
SWEET
TREATS**



**TOMBOLA
& RAFFLE**



**PUNCH
AND
JUDY**



**LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT**

*please come
and join us*

**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**

REGULARS AT ST MARY'S

Babies, Tots, Toddlers and Teens



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 - every third Thursday of the Month - 4pm - 5pm in the Barn Centre. £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



Owlets Babies 'n Tots Group: Chat, refreshments and songs for Mums, Dads,



Grandparents, Carers and their Babies and Tots. Mondays 9.15-10.30am (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.



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