

NEWSLETTER



The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

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Rector's Ramble

Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

Dear Friends,

[Women's World Day of Prayer this Friday 6th March will be at St Mary's Newick 2pm](#)

I hope you are feeling the benefit of some brighter days, even if our world events are desperately trying to push us back towards the darkness.

It felt rather appropriate to be reflecting on this Sunday's psalm:

"O that today you would listen to His voice; 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, on that day at Massah in the wilderness, when your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my works'.

I thought this week it would be a good idea to start my Ramble with a prayer:

***God of mercy, look with compassion on all who are affected by the present conflict.
Grant insight to hardened hearts, comfort to the fearful, protection to those in danger,
and hope to those who are despairing, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

Our services this Sunday are:

- Churches together 8am Holy Communion St Mary's Newick
- 10am Holy Communion & Baptism St Mary's Newick
- 6pm Worship 2 St Mary's Newick
- 10am Holy Communion St Martin's Chapel Chailey Heritage

This coming weekend marks the third Sunday in Lent, and we continue the Lectionary Gospel journey to Jerusalem with a story that only occurs in the pattern of readings once every three years on this day: year A, Lent 3.

It is one of my favourite stories but as I try to follow the Lectionary most of the time, I must resist preaching on it every Lent. It's a corker of an encounter.

Last week we met Nicodemus: male, Jewish, and a religious authority. He is the insider who had an inheritance in the promises of God through Moses and the Law. Had to understand that God's love wasn't limited in the way he believed.

This week the Samaritan woman is everything Nicodemus wasn't. She is, well, a woman, a Samaritan, with an interesting history of previous relationships so a complete outsider. That probably explains why she came to draw water at noon, the worst time of day for that tiring task but the time when you are least likely to encounter others.

There was a solidarity in coming with others to collect water at the start of the day: protection, conversation and community. But while this woman lived in a community,

she wasn't fully a part of it. Whatever the rift was, she came to collect water at the least sensible time of the day and without the companionship of other women. Why she is an outsider even within her own people isn't fully spelled out but there are hints about her morality.

This takes place in enemy territory, at Jacob's well. For years the Jews would not consider the Samaritans as another nation: they were just alien people.

At the time of Jesus, the land of Palestine was under Roman rule. Between Galilee in the north and Judea and Jerusalem in the south lay Samaria — a region avoided by many faithful Jews. For centuries there had been deep hostility between Jews and Samaritans. They disagreed about where God should be worshipped: the Jewish people centred their worship on the Temple in Jerusalem, while Samaritans worshipped on their own sacred mountain.

The division ran so deep that many Jews would take a longer route rather than travel through Samaria. Avoidance was easier than encounter.

Two well-known Gospel stories sit within this history of enmity. One is the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37), told by Jesus in response to a legal expert's question. The other is the account set for this Sunday: Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:5–42). Despite earlier instructions to the disciples not to enter Samaritan towns (Matthew 10:5), and despite rejection in a Samaritan village (Luke 9:52f), Jesus chooses to travel through Samaria. He stops at a well near Sychar and speaks with an unnamed woman — crossing boundaries of ethnicity, religion and gender in one simple yet profound conversation.

Small Samaritan communities still exist today in Israel and Palestine. Whatever tensions remain, the hostility of the first century pales into insignificance compared with the violent conflicts of our own century. Yet the courage required to step into a place of division has not changed. To place oneself within conflict — rather than avoiding it — remains a brave and costly choice.

As I write this week, Christian responses in Britain and across the world to the renewed conflict involving Iran have been varied. In moments like this, words calling for peace deserve careful attention, and I found these words from Pope Leo XIV more than helpful:

“Stability and peace are not built with mutual threats, nor with weapons, which sow destruction, pain, and death, but only through a reasonable, authentic, and responsible dialogue... Faced with the possibility of a tragedy of enormous proportions, I address to the parties involved a heartfelt appeal to assume the moral responsibility to stop the spiral of violence before it becomes an irreparable abyss... May diplomacy recover its role and may the good of peoples be promoted, peoples who long for peaceful coexistence founded on justice. And let us continue to pray for peace.”

Whether in international crises or in personal relationships, the question beneath conflict is often one of identity.

The theme running through this week's readings might be framed as a simple but searching question: *Who are you?*

It is not a question we ask ourselves every day. Yet at certain points in life, it presses in on us — particularly in youth, as we work out who we are in relation to friends, family and society. In an age of social media, where we are constantly exposed to other people's lives, opinions and curated identities, the question becomes even more complex.

- Who am I when I feel secure?
- Who am I when I feel threatened?
- Who are we, as communities or nations, when we believe we are under attack?

The Samaritan woman at the well faces that very question. In her encounter with Jesus, she is seen and known — her history, her disappointments, her questions. Yet she is not condemned.

Instead, she is offered “living water”: a gift of grace, renewal and life in the midst of her ordinary routine of drawing water.

Her question becomes:

- *Who am I in response to this man?*
- Is he a prophet? Could he be the Messiah?
- And what does that mean for me?

Spending time with Jesus — meeting him in Scripture, prayer and sacrament — gently but persistently asks us similar questions. Who is this Jesus? And who am I becoming in response to him?

Will we accept the living water he offers — the life of the Spirit flowing within us — or will we carry on unchanged?

Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at a well during a routine task. He meets us in our routines too.

The invitation is not dramatic or distant. It comes in the midst of daily life: in workplaces, school, homes, conversations, and even in the places we might rather avoid.

On this Third Sunday in Lent, perhaps we might pause and ask ourselves honestly:

- Who am I?
- And who am I becoming as I encounter Christ?

The offer of living water still stands.

How will we respond today?

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 for St Mary's - Sunday 8th March

Guide me O thou great Redeemer (148)

Love Divine (377)

How great thou art (425)

Praise my Soul (466)

Glorious things of thee are spoken 127

Services St Mary's – March 2026

Sunday 1st March Second Sunday in Lent	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. 5pm Evensong: ❖ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with choir and hymns
Sunday 8th March Third Sunday in Lent	8am BCP* Holy Communion: ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: ❖ A sung service with choir and hymns 6pm Worship2: ❖ A reflective service with contemporary songs
Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday Fourth Sunday in Lent	8am BCP* Holy Communion: ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Family Worship & Owls: ❖ A service for all with songs and activities
Sunday 22nd March Passiontide Fifth Sunday in Lent	8am BCP* Holy Communion: ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: ❖ A sung service with choir and hymns
Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday & start of Holy Week	8am BCP* Holy Communion: ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: ❖ A sung service with choir and hymns

Lent Course 7-9pm

Let the Redeemed tell their Story Psalm 107

2nd March - 9th March - 16th March - 23rd March

***DENOTES STANDARD YEAR A LECTIONARY READINGS**

PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.30 BARN CENTRE

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.

Lent Course Week Three - Monday 9th March

7.00pm for Pudding and 7.30pm start

We know when the early Christians met together they sang psalms and hymns, they read the scriptures and they broke bread. They rejoiced in the belief that their sins had been washed away by the blood of Jesus and lived, as best they could, lives of righteousness. They reflected the words of Isaiah when he wrote in Chapter 61 v 10 "he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness." Christians sometimes live as if they have been clothed in sackcloth and ashes. The world needs more than ever to see us Christians fulfilling our vocation to be lights in this dark world. Through the Lent Course this year we shall be called on to reaffirm our belief in our salvation and how we wear the robe of righteousness. We shall think about how we acknowledge the truth," all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3v23) yet at the same time bask in the forgiveness that restores us. We shall ask what it means to say in our hearts' "behold the servant of the Lord be it unto me according to your word" (Luke 1v38). On one of our sessions we shall indeed sing hymns and psalms delight in the scriptures and break bread together. The climax hopefully will ask what it means to be the Alleluia people. What kind of people are those who are crazy enough to get up very early on Easter Day to welcome our Lord's victory over sin and death. Hopefully this will all help to deepen your faith and increase your love for God and neighbour. It will I hope help us to truly become the Alleluia people.

Easter Lily Donations -

Traditionally members of the congregation have made donations to the Easter Lilies / Flowers in memory of loved ones, if you would like to contribute to these this can be done by any of the following options:

Option 1

By putting your donation in one of the envelopes marked East Lilies Donation,

these can be found on all of the pews and in the appropriately labelled box at the back

of the church, these can either be placed in the box provided for collection or handed to

Christopher Hume or posted through his letterbox at:

Marbles

7 High Street,

Newick

BN8 4LG

Option 2

Using BACS to donate:

Account: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Newick

Sort code 09-01-54

Account number 90773281

Please put Easter Lilies as your reference.

Option 3

Using the card reader at the back of the church. Christopher will there on Sunday's to man it.

If donating by BACS or Card you can write the **name(s) you want remembered on the list at the back of the church.**

Gill



Mens Supper

Our Men's Supper scheduled for Friday March 20th has been postponed due to events in the Church on that day.

Our next Men's Supper will be on Friday 19th June.

St Peter & St James Hospice



St Peter & St James Hospice
Respite care in the heart of Sussex

FUNDRAISING EVENT

Yeehaw!

Grab ya Boots & Hat's and join us
for a night of line dancing!

No experience needed - No partner required!

Friday 20th March '26

8pm - 10pm

(Doors open 7.30pm)

Newick Village Hall
1 Western Road
Newick, Sussex BN8 4LE

LICENSED BAR & RAFFLE

in association with

Tickets £10 each

Message Jenny on 07801 437755

Dance Central
Dance! Drink! Fun!

H Very English Organ

Gala Concert

To celebrate the restoration of Fletching's 1880 pipe organ

Friday 20th March, 7.30 pm
Fletching Parish Church

Daniel Moulton
"Exhilarating musicianship"
"an outstanding organist"
"brilliant technique... a world-renowned reputation"

Tickets £15 (Students £5)
Book at www.fletchingorgan.org

110021

NIGHTINGALES

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

EASTER FAIR

SATURDAY

28TH MARCH 2026

TIME: 2 - 4PM

COME AND JOIN
US FOR A

WONDERFUL

AFTERNOON!

CAKES



POPCORN



EASTER EGG HUNT



TOMBOLA



MUSIC



STALLS • GAMES • MUSIC • FUN!

ADDRESS:

38 WESTERN ROAD, NEWICK, BN8 4LF

Newick School PTFA

Children can follow the Easter Egg Trail with a prize at the end! before heading into the Barn Centre for some creative Easter crafts. It's always such a lovely, relaxed morning and a great way to celebrate the Easter holidays with friends.

Tickets are £5.50 per child and must be purchased in advance.

Book here: <https://pta.events/easter-trail-2026>



NEWICK SCHOOL PTFA

Newick Pre-School

Easter Egg Trail & Craft Morning

SATURDAY 4 APRIL | 10AM - MIDDAY

THE BARN CENTRE
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NEWICK

£5.50 per child

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY PLEASE

Please arrive between 10am - 11am for an Easter Egg trail around the Churchyard, followed by crafts and a cake & refreshment sale in The Barn Centre.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW:



St Mary's
Newick's Church

The poster features a central wreath of colorful flowers and a blue rabbit. In the background, there are several decorated Easter eggs in orange, blue, and purple. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the event title in large, bold letters. The QR code is positioned to the right of the ticket information, and the church logo is at the bottom right.

Uckfield Model Railway Club Open Day 2026

The Club's Open Day will be held on 11th April from 10:00 am to 4:00pm at The Luxford Centre, Library Way, Uckfield, TN22 1AR. Admission is £2 to include a free cup of tea or coffee (other refreshments will also be available), under 16s are free. The Centre is a 10-minute walk from Uckfield railway or bus station and there is free car parking in the public car park adjacent to the Centre.

On display will be the Club's layouts Arnold Layne (O), Framnock Bay (OO) and Stoney Bottom (N) plus part of the P4 layout, Chart Sutton, which is currently under construction. Other layouts include College Halt (OO), Upton Church (N) and Atterbury Road (OO). Also on display will be entries in the Club's annual modelling competition of layouts or dioramas based on the PECO Rail 200 baseboard.



A&N Models will have models for sale and there is also a members' Bring & Buy stand. There will be several demonstrations showing various aspects of railway modelling including 3D printing. Bentley Miniature Railway will also be showing what they have to offer.

FLETCHING SINGERS' SPRING CONCERT

Fletching Church, TN22 3SR. Saturday 25th April 2026 at 7.30pm

Fletching Singers will be celebrating spring with some joyful music by Vivaldi, Durante and Pergolesi. Vivaldi's *Gloria* is a work often performed and much loved by singers and audiences alike, full, as it is, of both dancing rhythms and soulful melodies.

Durante's *Magnificat* was, until recently, thought to be by Pergolesi and is similarly filled with a lovely energy. The lesser-known *Laudate Pueri*, by Pergolesi, is for soprano soloist with choir and we are looking forward to performing this with soprano Helen Groves, formerly a member of The Sixteen. We are joined by keyboard, baroque cello and theorbo for what is sure to be a delightful evening.

Directed by Ansy Boothroyd.

Tickets £15 on the door or £12.50 early bird until Tuesday 21st April. Available online at <https://www.fletchingsingers.co.uk>, from members, or info@fletchingsingers.co.uk or 07802 855113

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 7.30am - 8.30am in the Barn Centre

NYC & NCT: Fun clubs for the young people of the village. Barn Centre.

Wednesday evenings during term-time:

- NYC - Year 7 - 6 to 7.30pm
- NYT - Years 8-11 - 7.30 to 9pm

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

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



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



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