

Fr Martin's Murmurations

I am sitting in a beautiful garden in a very small village in Norfolk. The sky is blue and the bells from the Shrine Church are tolling out various hymn tunes. I am at Walsingham, otherwise known as England's Nazareth, and am leading a group of pilgrims in a weekend of prayer, meditation, worship and yes even fun. All aided and abetted by the odd glass of a gin rather wonderfully called 'Vision'! The group I am leading, forms a decent part of the three hundred or so people staying at the Shrine over the weekend. Among those I am with are three people whose stories are illuminating. But more of them later. Walsingham was once a famous European Shrine. In the Middle Ages no monarch would rule in our land without first having come to the village to pray and make penance. Henry V111 ordered its destruction and it lay in ruins over many centuries. In 1922 a young priest who had been a curate at Buxted, near us, was appointed Vicar of the village and he determined to restore the Shrine. It is based on the story that the daughter of the local manor house had a vision of Mary, mother of Jesus, and was asked to build a house that replicated the Holy House of the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The house was built, some say miraculously, and the place soon became a centre for prayer. Hence its adoption as England's Nazareth. Alfred Hope Patten indeed restored the Shrine and everyday prayers are said for the sick, for the dying and the bereaved. Many people come for healing and to drink water from the well which sprung up here. In fact, the present well is believed to be fed by water from the original spring formed over a thousand years ago. Prayers are said constantly for the conversion of our nation to Christ. My heart is there especially because at the tender age of six I was brought here by my parents and received holy communion for the first time. I have been every year since. I have prayed for you all whilst here as well as asking God to bless Rev. Paul's sabbatical.

Now back to the characters I mentioned above.. One of them is a wonderful, joy filled woman from the Midlands, but whose origin is the Emerald Isle. 'Mammy' as we call her, for she was born to be an example of motherhood, is by faith a Roman Catholic. However, she has a huge ecumenical heart. She is open to one and all and is one of the least prejudiced human beings I have ever met. To me 'Mammy' is a wonderful example of what a follower of Christ should be like. Sadly, she was very upset and cross during the pilgrimage. Whilst mourning the death of the Pope she much admired, she had been confronted by that AI produced image of the President of the United States Pope. Unbelievably posted by himself on his social media. I had never seen Mammy so upset and angry. Later I came across a Canadian pilgrim who was also very angry at the suggestion by the self - same POTUS that Canada should become a state of the USA. Politicians are meant to lead, they are meant to create environments in which people can flourish and fulfil their potential. They are not here to insult and belittle. We are witnessing a huge change in the supposed norms of this world and many regimes seem set on introducing policies which do not stand up to Christian scrutiny. It is not Christian to insult an individual's faith, nor to assume powers over nations they do not have. It is not Christian to treat people without dignity, by doing away with their rights. In deciding humanity was an appropriate way in which to live, God conferred on each human being a dignity and respect that is non-negotiable. As Christians we need to let the politicians know their place in the order of things. We have a precious Gospel to proclaim bringing good news to humankind and this must not be thwarted by the egos and psychological deficiencies of a few.

The second person I want to mention is a woman deacon called Pat, one of the chaplains at the Princess Royal Hospital. She is a wonderful pastor and if you have to be in the hospital it would be worth asking for her to come and see you. If you like you could ask Paul or myself to make the request on your behalf. The best recommendation I could make for Rev Pat would be to say she is a pastor who would easily fit in at St. Mary's or St Peter's and our ways of being 'Church'.

Another place of prayer where there have been alleged visions of the Mother of the Lord is in a town called Medjugorje in Bosnia. It is a place where many thousands go to pray and ask for healing. Some are sceptical about its authenticity. It is not yet recognised officially by the Roman Catholic Church. I have been one of the sceptics. But that may have to change. The third person I want to write about joined our group as someone I had met during my time in in Rottingdean. He sat with me at dinner one evening and began his story. He is a sensible, rational man with a senior post in his profession. About a year ago he was afflicted by a problem which meant he had to use a wheelchair all the time and believed this was to be his lot for life. He heard about the Bosnian Shrine and decided to see if he could make the journey to ask for healing. In the end he and his partner made the trip. He went on to describe to me the place. He told me how he had prayed to the Lord for healing and how within a few days he had donated his wheelchair for somebody else to use because he had no need of it! He could walk again. The miracle had happened. I think we sometimes underestimate the power of God in our world today. We tend to scoff at suggestions that God is calls people to particular places for particular things. We are sometimes embarrassed to tell of miracles that happen for fear of being thought bonkers. So, places like Walsingham, Lourdes, Medjugorje and Fatima in Portugal are places chosen by God as places where he can work his purpose out. I have no problem with accepting that. But then I also accept and believe that the same is true of St. Mary's, Newick and St. Peter's, Chailey and because of this I feel blessed every day.

Have a truly blessed week. Please remember Heather Allen and her family in your payers as they mourn the loss of her beloved son Andrew.

Fr.Martin

MAY CAMP will be held at Plumpton Racecourse again over the bank holiday weekend **23/25th May** and there can never be enough cake!

So if you can help please, mail:

churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church with your pledge.

Thank you.



SERVICES – MAY 2025

<p>Sunday 4th May Second Sunday after Easter</p>	<p>No 8am at Newick or Chailey 10am Holy Communion <i>Acts 9. 1-6 (7-20) – Revelation 5. 11-end – John 21. 1-19</i> Preacher: Rev Chris Lawrence 6pm Evensong Leader: Reader Jeremy Burdett Preacher: Ian Reekie</p>
<p>Sunday 11th May Third Sunday after Easter</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin 10am Service of the Word <i>Acts 9. 36-end – Revelation 7. 9-end – John 10. 22-30</i> Leader : Reader Jeremy Burdett Preacher: ALM Patsy Bailey 6pm Worship2 Leader: Mandy</p>
<p>Sunday 18th May Fourth Sunday after Easter</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion at Chailey Preacher: Fr Martin 10am Family Communion & Owls <i>Acts 11. 1-18 – Revelation 21. 1-6 – John 13. 31-35</i> Preacher: Fr Martin</p>
<p>Sunday 25th May Fifth Sunday after Easter May Camp Weekend</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin 10am Service of the Word <i>Acts 16. 9-15 – Revelation 21. 10, 22-22.5 – John 14. 23-29</i> Leader and Preacher: Reader Geoff Clinton</p>
<p>Thursday 29th May Ascension Day</p>	<p>7pm Ascension Service Preacher: Fr Martin</p>
<p>*DENOTES STANDARD YEAR C LECTIONARY READINGS</p> <p>PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.15 BARN CENTRE</p>	

As always, please remember those on our prayer list:

Andrew Allen, Francis Bailey, Cole Louise Blackman, Bernice Blundy, Beryl Champion-Smith, Harri Gande, Morris Gee, 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, Cheryl Stewart, Marcus Thrower, Toni Warrilow, Sean Watson, Nasima Wright.



In Memoriam – Sandy Durden

I met Jenny Durden in our Churchyard last week while she was tending the memorial stone of her late husband, Sandy Durden whose ashes are interred there.

Jenny told me that Sandy was a Lancaster pilot in WWII. In his logbook he recorded that he flew two missions to Holland on May 1st and May 3rd 1944 dropping food to the starving population in Holland.



An Avro Lancaster drops food over Holland during Operation Manna while flying only 150-200 metre high.

The Dutch suffered dreadfully under German occupation with terrible deprivation.

In this week of the 80th anniversary of VE day it is fitting to remember the service of Sandy and his fellow bomber crew. Over 55,000 members of Bomber Command lost their lives in the service of their country during WWII.

Christopher Hume

Beautiful VE Day arrangements by the wonderful St Mary's Flower Team



Men's Group - starts on Monday!

Four of us have decided to open a Men's Group on Monday mornings in the Barn Centre, starting at 7 am and finishing at 8am. We shall start on **Monday 12th May**.

We'll look to get to know each other better, share experiences, discuss issues of interest and pray as occasion moves us.

The four starters at this stage are myself, John Bean, Keith Roberston and Jonathan Campbell. Jonathan was a member of a successful group of this type for some years in LA and will share his experience with us.

Coffee will be served, so please just turn up if you're interested or call me if you'd like to discuss and explore.

Christopher Hume



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: Drop in sessions for free, confidential, impartial advice on topics including housing, benefits issues, cost of living, debt and much more:

- **Wednesday 21st May 10am - 1pm**
- Wednesday 18th June 10am - 1pm

Free advice: 0208 278 7893 Tues - Thurs 10am - 3pm or email

info@lewesdistrictca.org.uk

Lunch Club: Second Monday of the month in the Barn Centre at 12.30pm. to book Your place please ring 01825 722186

Mens Club: Monday mornings 7am - 9am in the Barn Centre

NYC & NCT: A fun club for the young people of the village. Where? The Barn Centre. When? Wednesday evenings during term-time. Time? 18.00 Juniors and 19.30 Seniors

- Juniors: 11-15 years
- Seniors: 16-18 years

More information: [HERE](#)

Email: youth.newick@gmail.com

Owls: Crafts, Bible story, fun and refreshments

Email: childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church

- Sunday 18th May 9.55am - 11am
- Sunday 15th June 9.55am - 11am

Prayer Group: Every 1st and 3rd Monday 2pm Barn Centre (unless otherwise notified)

Prayer Meetings for Church Services: Sundays 9.30-9.45am Barn Centre

Tea at Three: Third Thursday of the month at 3pm in the Barn Centre. For more information contact Patsy on 01825 722590



Intergenerational opera at Newick Primary school

Come and join us and sing your story!

We would love to welcome members of St Mary's Church, Newick community to participate in our 5 week Intergenerational opera project run on **Friday mornings, April 25th, May 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd - 10am -11.30am at Newick Primary School.**

Intergenerational Opera is a community interest company co-founded by professional opera singers and musicians from East Sussex.

We are an award winning project helping to inspire all ages to sing and learn together!

No musical skills are required, just a willingness to have fun and communicate with young people in your area.

The sessions are **free** of charge and Refreshments will be provided.

We look forward to welcoming you to **Newick Primary school, 63 Allington Road, Newick, BN8 4NB**

More details of our work can be found at
www.intergenerationalopera.com

ST MARY'S, NEWICK
invites you to an Owls family
Half Term fun morning

LEGO CLUB



Saturday, May 31st
9.30-11.30am

Snacks provided

THE BARN CENTRE

CHILDRENANDFAMILIES@STMARYSNEWICKS.CHURCH

Charity Quiz Night



SCAN HERE TO BUY
YOUR TICKETS

7.00pm Drinks - 7:30pm Start

£10 PER PERSON

TEAMS OF 8. DRINKS & RAFFLE

FREE DRINK ON ARRIVAL

FRIDAY

13th

JUNE

www.teambenhammond.co.uk

Raising Money for Team
Ben Hammond. Are you between
15 & 35 years old? Would
you like to know your heart is
HEALTHY? Help us raise money
for a free screening.

SUSSEX CHRISTMAS
BARN, GIPPS FARM
BARCOMBE, EAST
SUSSEX, BN8 5EH
TEL: 07811 178628



CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

It is now 20 years since we had the “Wedding Festival” in June 2005 when over £1,300 was raised to support children at risk in Bogotá.



So in Celebrating Marriage, there will be a small display at St Mary's.



Thursday 19th June 2.30 pm - 5.00 pm,

Friday 20th June 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

Saturday 21st June 10.00 am - 4.30 pm

This will obviously be less ambitious but we would like to support “Farms in Crisis”

If you were in Playgroup/Pre-School at that time, we have photos of you watching Allen Lucas ringing the bells.

You would now be in your twenties, come and see the difference!

Should you be able to contribute in any way, in time, displays or flowers please contact **Monica Todd** on **01825 722 660**.

Thank you





Ketches Garden Open Day

Newick Wine Estate tours

Saturday 21st June 10am-4pm
48 Church Road, Newick, BN84JZ



Teas and homemade cakes

Pimms tent from The Crown

**Vineyard tours must be booked in advance
via the St Peter and St James website
(stpjhospice.org)**

**Parking available on Newick Rugby ground
(access via Allington Road)**



Scan to book!

Kindly sponsored by





Two Trios

Summer CONCERT

SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST



2-3PM

£12-pay on door



featuring

*'The Cocktail Party' and the 'Harmonia
Trio'*

refreshments included

VENUE ST MARY'S CHURCH,
CHURCH ROAD NEWICK BN8 4J

for further information

contact: churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church

All proceeds to go to the Youth work of the Church



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

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

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 at:

churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church

The content deadline is 10am on Thursday

so please make sure you send anything to us in time. Anything received after 10am will be included the following week if appropriate.

Thank you.