

11th April 2025

Rectors Ramblings

Psalm 118:19-24, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 19:28-40

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who came and supported the quiz at St Peter's last Friday and wonderful evening and £1800 raised and to those who helped at St Peter's Gardening Day on Saturday, an incredible job and even an old path to the Bell Tower was discovered and re-shingled. Then on Thursday a celebration supper for St P's Lunch Club team celebrating 10 years of monthly lunch clubs serving the community and fostering Godly hospitality.

Please pray for the APCM at St Peter's this Sunday following our Palm Sunday service.

Last Sunday saw our APCM at St Mary's which was well represented and a super lunch gathering afterwards. Huge thanks to our PCC, Churchwardens, Finance Team, and most of all our congregation for supporting God's mission in Newick for another year.

St Mary's Gardening Day is this Saturday 12th April from 9am and there is lots to do so please come and support if you are able.

It is with great sadness that, last Saturday we learnt of the sudden and unexpected death of our beloved Ann Maxwell. Please can you hold, Clive, Jane, Andy, Chris, and all Ann's family in our prayers.

On Monday 14th at 2:30 at St Mary's there will be a memorial Service for Jean Starling, please hold Dick and the family in our prayers.

This is always an incredibly special time across our churches as we walk together the journey of the passion. Please do join us for Stainer's Crucifixion at St Mary's on Tuesday, the beautiful and powerful Service of Shadows at St Peter's on Thursday and our AT the Cross services at St Mary's in the morning and St Peter's in the afternoon on Good Friday.

Then on Saturday is the School and Pre-school Easter Trail at St Mary's and our Easter Day Services are advertised on the Holy Week Timetable below.

So many choices and decisions lay ahead of us.

"Decisions we take in the coming days and weeks, will be guided only by our national interest." as quoted from Sir Kier Starmer the UK prime minister in early April, in relation to US tax import increases.

On hearing these words I could not help be taken straight into Holy Week and how the decisions made by many of the groups and cultures around Jesus, were also claiming that their actions during those days and week leading up to the death of Jesus, were in the best interest of the people and the nation.

How do you feel you would have reacted if you had witnessed the Messiah arriving in Jerusalem in such a way? What is it you would have expected from such a leader?

In our passage this Sunday we encounter Jesus, our King of Kings, riding into Jerusalem on a humble colt, which is a great contrast against the backdrop of the US President's ideas and plans to increase money and wealth, and therefore power and status.

Jesus' ideas and plans are only for the increase in wealth and strength of the Kingdom of God, not for the things of this world.

During the run for the presidency in 2016, and again in 2024, President Trump was not the obvious choice for so many. And for many in the UK Sir Keir Starmer may not have been their obvious choice of leader either. I wonder how many people who voted for these leaders are not experiencing what they had expected? World leaders can often make decisions that are not obvious; and often the leaders themselves cannot be obvious choices, for good and bad reasons.

But what can we take away from this?

Our leader and King of Kings made decisions that weren't the obvious ones because he is mightier than any other leader, or human to walk the Earth. Because of that, we too are called to be set apart from the culture and the world around us - not setting our hearts on money, or fame or status, which seems like an obvious route for success today, but instead to be humble, selfless, loving, and full of grace.

CS Lewis famously said: *"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."*

This week as we reflect on the world leaders and influencers around us, the predictability of their actions, and the worthiness of those actions. Then lift your eyes to our leader Jesus, who does the impossible, not the obvious.

I'm going to leave you this week with a sonnet for Palm Sunday by Malcolm Guite

*Now to the gate of my Jerusalem,
The seething holy city of my heart,
The saviour comes. But will I welcome him?
Oh crowds of easy feelings make a start;
They raise their hands, get caught up in the singing,
And think the battle won. Too soon they'll find
The challenge, the reversal he is bringing
Changes their tune. I know what lies behind
The surface flourish that so quickly fades;
Self-interest, and fearful guarded-ness,
The hardness of the heart, its barricades,
And at the core, the dreadful emptiness
Of a perverted temple. Jesus come
Break my resistance and make me your home.*

May you walk gently into Holy Week seeking God's presence with you for the journey.

Paul xx

Hymns St Mary's

All Glory Laud and Honour (SOF 1157) - I will Sing the Wondrous Story (SOF 278)
Ride on Ride on in Majesty (SOF 485) - We have a Gospel to proclaim (SOF 1583)

13 APRIL - 20 APRIL
HOLY WEEK
ST MARY'S - NEWICKS' CHURCH

Palm Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

6pm Worship2

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Tuesday 15th

6.30pm Stainers Crucifixion

(A meditation on the sacred passion
of the Holy Redeemer)

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Maundy Thursday

Service of the Shadows 7pm

St Peter's Chailey

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Good Friday

At the Cross service 11am

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Easter Saturday

Newick PTA and Pre School Easter Trail 10am

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Easter Sunday

5.15am Sunrise Service

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

SERVICES – APRIL 2025

<p>Sunday 6th April Fifth Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher : TBA 10am Holy Communion Isaiah 43.16-21 - Philippians 3.4b-14 – John 12.1-8 Preacher: Rev Paul 6pm Evensong Leader: Reader Geoff Clinton</p>
<p>Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday Sunday next before Easter</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan 10am Holy Communion Psalm 118:19-24 - Philippians 2:5-11 - Luke 19 :28-40 Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan 6pm Worship2 Leader: Mandy Stockwell</p>
<p>Tuesday 15th April</p>	<p>6.30pm Stainers Crucifixion A meditation on the sacred passion of the Holy Redeemer</p>
<p>Thursday 17th April Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>7pm Service of the Shadows Exodus 12:1-4,11-14 - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17,31b-35 Lead: Rev Paul Mundy Preacher: Fr M Morgan <u>At St Peter's Chailey</u></p>
<p>Good Friday 18th April</p>	<p>11am At the Cross A Contemplative time of song and scripture as we reflect on the Passion of Jesus Christ</p>
<p>Easter Day 20th April</p>	<p>05:15am Sunrise Service Preacher: Rev Paul 8am BCP* Holy Communion Leader: Fr M Morgan Preacher: Reader Geoff Clinton 10am Easter Day Communion Baptism & Owls Club Preacher: Rev Paul</p>
<p>Sunday 27th April The first Sunday after Easter</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan 10am Morning Worship Acts 5.27-32 – Revelation 1.4-8 – John 20.19-end Preacher: Reader Jeremy Burdett</p>
<p>Alpha Course 7-9pm Lent Course 7-9pm</p>	<p>3rd April and 10th April 7th April</p>

*DENOTES STANDARD YEAR C LECTIONARY READINGS

PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.30 BARN CENTRE



As always, please remember those on our prayer list:

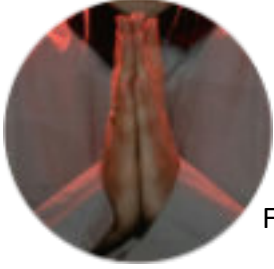
Andrew Allen, Francis Bailey, Cole Louise Blackman, Bernice Blundy, Beryl Champion-Smith, Harri Gande, John and Elizabeth Gould, Rubie Geer, Juliette Lucas, Helen Lloyd, Spike MacGuire, Christina McCann, Shirley Mansfield, Derek Marshall, George Morrison, Patricia Moss, Ann Parker, Adrian, Andrea and Amber Parris, Gemma Peacock, June and Ron Perou, Christine Ripley, Rubie, 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



Prayer Group

We have a small but active and vibrant Prayer Group meeting in the Barn Centre on 1st and 3rd Mondays for an hour at 2pm. We pray for our Church, our services, our village, our congregation members in need and for the issues of the day. Audrey Ford, our PCC Prayer Warrior, is our leader.

Not all of our members speak – we are glad to have members who come to join the prayers but prefer to let others lead. They are welcome and important in adding power to our prayer.

We generally start by reading a psalm together as a worshipful start to our meeting. Last week one of our members read to us their start of day prayer – a prayer they pray each morning. This prayer has grown and developed over time as life and the spirit of our Lord has moved the member concerned. The prayer will continue to develop. I was moved by it and thought I'd like to share it with a wider audience. Here it is:-

A Morning Prayer

ABBA, Father - Thank you!

Thank you for giving me life this day.

*Thank you for breath in my lungs, the beat of my heart, the blood in my veins,
strength in my muscles, sight in my eyes, hearing in my ears.*

Thank you.

*Thank you for food in my belly, the roof over my head, the wages in my wallet,
the clothes on my back, and the shoes on my feet.*

Thank you.

*Thank you for the fresh morning air and the rising of the sun, the gentle rain that causes rivers to flow,
the wind that blows, the leaves that rustle, tallest mountain to tiniest flower,
the birds in the air, the fish in the sea, the moon that helps keep darkness at bay,*

Thank you.

*Thank you for my wife and kids, for the family that surrounds, for brothers in Christ and colleagues at
work, for friends and enemies, good times and bad.*

Thank you.

Your Amazing Grace found me, Lost without hope.

Your love picked me up, Your light showed me the way, Your word gives me courage.

Thank you.

A Sinner I am, forgiveness not deserved.

But through pain and torture, nails and a tree,

You forgave.

*Father, Jesus, thank you. **Amen***

Come and join us!

Christopher Hume

Our Churchyard. Garden Day Saturday 12th April

Our Churchyard is off to a good start this year. The daffodils we planted at our Garden Day in October last year are doing well. The planting on the South Wall of the Church down from the entrance porch has brought some welcome early Spring colour. The crocuses that Jenny Smerdon donated and planted several years ago are still doing well on the other side of the porch. And the rhododendrons and azaleas kindly donated by the Sclater family some years ago and planted by our front wall between the Barn Centre and the Church are going from strength to strength.

The new Churchyard is looking particularly attractive this Spring. The daffodil planting which Gill Godsmark masterminded several years ago in front of the long bottom hedge are now a welcome annual feature. And last year's extra daffodil planting in the garden beds and by the wall to the left of the Lych Gate has been successful. The Garden beds are looking better than ever and are a tribute to the dedicated work done at Garden Days, and increasingly now by the volunteers who care for between in.



The more we improve the Churchyard the more care families seem to take with floral tributes to the resting places of their loved ones. It is rather wonderful. It has never looked better, well worth a look particularly on a sunny day.

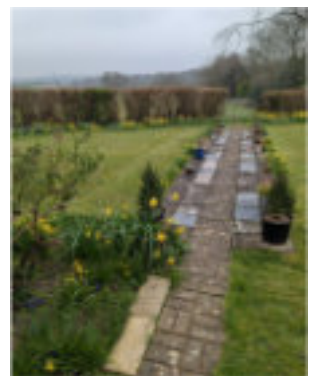
Paul Tilstone and Adam Martin who do the mowing and hedge work continue to do a splendid job for us. Paul has just mowed the area in front of the Church which we let grow wild each year to encourage diversity of flora and fauna. It has been noticeable in the four years we have been doing this that each year is quite different – the seasons dictate which plants will thrive. We had a rather splendid show of ox-eye daisies three years ago – I hope they will have a good year in 2025.



Our first Garden Day for the year will be on Saturday April 12th. Coffee and tea and soft drinks for children will be served from 9 o'clock and through the morning together with an awesome collection of cakes and goodies provided by our tireless and wonderful hospitality team. We shall serve a light barbecue lunch from 12.00 o'clock with a mystery chef this year – for security reasons I can't print his name here, but he will be wearing a dog collar.

Everyone is welcome. You don't have to work – this is a congregational fun day and we are always glad to see those who drop in for a cuppa or lunch, the more the merrier. We love having children around. Last October was the best yet, there seemed to be children everywhere enjoying themselves in and out of the Church and in the Churchyard. Excellent!

A lot of good and important work does get done. This year we shall be preparing and planting up our garden beds as we always do. We need to plant more rosemary to keep the chef/Rector supplied for the increasing number (hooray!) of baptisms we are welcoming to St Mary's. There is some tree and shrub clearing to be done. We shall need to clear and clean our brick paths. And this year we shall be working to refurbish our war graves to honour those who served and sacrificed for our freedoms.



St Mary's has a wonderful flower team; and the church looks stunning throughout the year, but as with everything; there needs to be enough creative hands in the team to ensure it keeps looking as wonderful as it does.

If you love flowers and blooms **and would like to be part of this smashing team**, speak to Gill Godsmark on a Sunday, or Rev Paul or - drop a note to the Church Office and we will pass on your contact details. You can mail us at churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church



MAY CAMP will be held at Plumpton Racecourse again over the bank holiday weekend **23/25th May**.

Volunteers to make cakes for at least 38 children, would be hugely appreciated.

Helpers at May Camp across the weekend also needed and a DBS check will be necessary for this.

If you can help with either/both, please, mail: churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church with your pledge.

Thank you.

Message from Christopher Hume

St Mary's is looking for a new Treasurer

Our established Treasurer team is looking for a new leader. I find that combining the roles of Churchwarden and Treasurer means I can not do either job as I would like.

I also feel that a Treasurer should have more ability and experience in the accounting aspect of the role than I can bring to bear. Our experienced team will continue, and I shall contribute, but I will not be standing for the role of Treasurer at the forthcoming APCM on 13th April.

If you feel able to serve St Mary's and our Lord as Treasurer, please call me on 07770 771653 or contact our Rector, Rev Paul Mundy - revpaul@stmarysnewicks.church

Appeal for our Rector Paul's Pilgrimage

Our Rector Rev Paul Mundy will be on sabbatical leave for three months after Easter. The core part of his sabbatical will be a one-month solo walking pilgrimage on an ancient Celtic holy route across Scotland.

This will be a major event in Paul's spiritual life. A wonderful way to exploit the opportunity his sabbatical offers. I expect it to be hugely beneficial for Paul, and through him for St Mary's and St Peter's.

Paul will be walking alone, camping as he goes and carrying all his gear. The gear will have to be specialist and lightweight.

The overall cost of Paul's pilgrimage is expected to be some £5000. The PCCs of St Mary's and St Peter's have each agreed to run an appeal to raise £2500 each to fund this. The PCC's have each agreed to underwrite any shortfall in their appeals for £2500. Any surplus over £2500 raised at St Mary's will go to finance our Youth Work.

I, and our PCC wholeheartedly support Paul's plan.

The following two pages give details of how Paul discerned God's will for his pilgrimage, and of the route he will be following. Please read what Paul has written – I find it inspirational.

If you would like to support our appeal to raise £2500 to fund Paul's pilgrimage, you can contribute by either: -

**BACS to our bank account: Newick PCC - Sort Code 09-01-54 - Account No 90773281
Reference to quote - PILGRIM**

In cash to me at one of our Sunday services **or** By card at one of our Sunday services – please give me the last 4 digits of the card you use and the time you make the donation, and I'll make sure it goes to the appeal.

Please note all donations will be eligible for gift aid if you have a gift aid form with us.

Christopher Hume

Inspiration for Rev Paul Mundy

Pilgrimage

I had originally planned to spend my sabbatical on a 30-day silent retreat in Loyola Spain following the exercises of Saint Ignatius. But God clearly had other plans. I had a nagging doubt - why explore overseas travel, when there are still things to learn here. My prior encounters with Irish /Celtic tradition kept nudging me to explore what God might be calling me to do with this time.

Then the Lenten course across our churches on the gift of pilgrimage solidified the sense of calling that God wanted me to look at a pilgrimage closer to home. Then an Easter gift of the book by Michael Mitton "Restoring the Woven Cord" sealed it. In particular, the chapter on Saint Aiden as the Venerable Bede wrote of Aiden "whether in town or country he always travelled on foot and whatever people he met on his walks with the high or low he stopped and spoke with them strengthened their faith and inspired them by word and deed to live a good life."

Finally last May Pam and I visited Lindisfarne and whilst there I read the story of Aiden leaving Iona to walk to Bamburgh and establish a new mission to bring the Good News to the people of England, and God said "Right! Off you go!". So inspired by Psalm 25 : "Show me your ways O Lord teach me your paths" I will be undertaking a Pilgrimage, following in the footsteps of St Aiden by solo walking from Iona to Lindisfarne, some 320 miles over three weeks.

I looked at various ways of attempting the pilgrimage and was slightly staggered by the costs. So I then looked at walking it solo and camping where I can. The cost includes £2300 for Ultralight Hiking Equipment. At the end of the pilgrimage, I shall make the more expensive items GPS, Backpack, tent, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, cooking utensils etc available to our team running DofE. I will be carrying everything I need for the journey, except food which I intend to purchase along the route. The costs also include a 5 nights retreat on Iona before starting the walk and a few days retreat/ decompression on Holy Island at the end of the Pilgrimage, before taking the train home.

Paul

Program for Rev Paul Mundy

Pilgrimage

Train from Haywards Heath to Oban

Ferry to Mull & Iona

5 day retreat in Iona

St Conans Way (6 - 8 nights / 78 miles)

Iona to Pennyghael 17.4 miles -(may split in two)

Pennyghael to Craignure 20.5 miles (may spilt in two)

Craignure to taynuilt 12.7 miles

Taynuilt to Dalmally 16 miles

Spend a day and night at Craig Lodge House of Prayer

Dalmally to Bridge of Orchy 11.6 miles

Possible Extension to Fort William extra 36miles so I can complete the whole of the West Highland
Way extra 2-3nights

West Highland Way (4 nights /60 miles or 6 nights 96 miles)

Bridge of Orchy to Crianlarich 14 miles

Crianlarich to Inversnaid 14.2 miles

Inversnaid to Balmaha 15.4 miles

Balmaha to Strathblane 17 Miles

John Muir Way (3 nights/ 41 miles)

Strathblane to Falkirk 18 miles

Falkirk to Linlithgow 12 miles

Linlithgow to Kirknewton 11 miles

Cross Borders Drove Road (3-4 nights 57 miles)

Kirknewton to West Linton 12.1 miles

West Linton to Innerleithen 24.6 miles (may split in two)

Innerleithen to Melrose 19.8 miles Spend a day in Melrose Abbey

St Cuthberts Way (5 nights/62.5 miles)

Melrose Abbey to Harestanes 15 miles

Harestanes to Yetholm 17.5 miles

Yetholm to Wooler 12 miles

St Cuthberts Cave

Wooler to Fenwick 12 miles

Fenwick to Lindisfarne 6 miles

3 days on Holy Island

Berwick-upon-Tweed to Haywards Heath (train)



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

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

- Wednesday 22nd January 10am - 1pm
- Wednesday 19th February 10am - 1pm
- Wednesday 19th March 10am - 1pm
- **Wednesday 16th April 10am - 1pm**
- 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

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

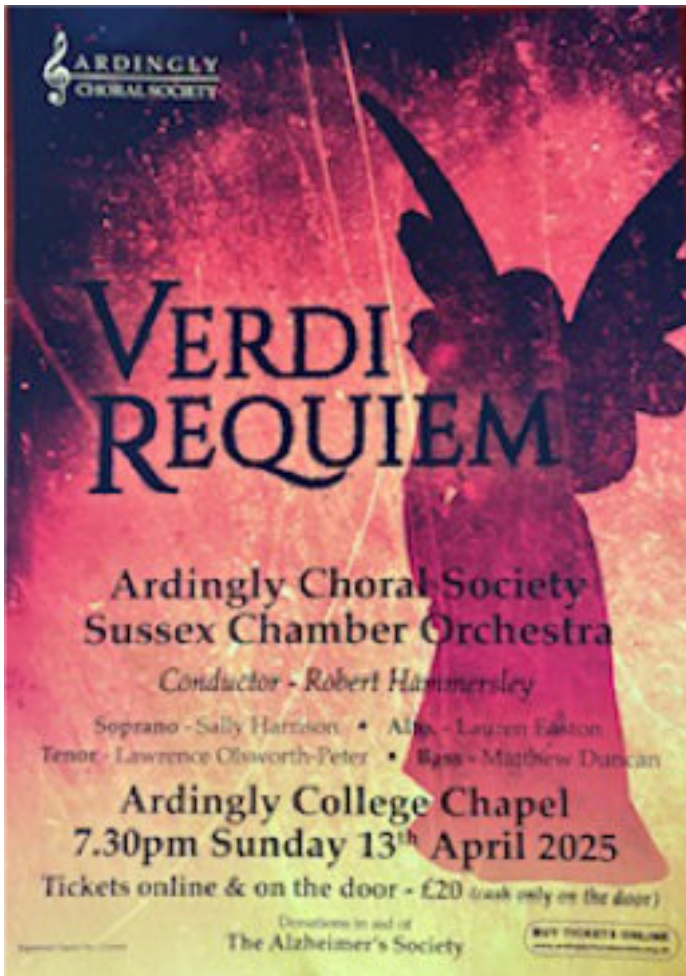
Email: childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church

- Sunday 19th January 9.55am - 11am
- Sunday 16th February 9.55am - 11am
- Sunday 23rd March 9.55am - 11am
- Sunday 20th April 9.55am - 11am
- 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: Every Sunday 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



STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

**A MEDITATION ON THE SACRED PASSION
OF THE HOLY REDEEMER**

TUESDAY 15TH APRIL

6.30 PM

ST MARY'S NEWICK



NEWICK SCHOOL PTFA


 **St Mary's**
Newick's Church



EASTER EGG HUNT & CRAFT MORNING

Saturday 19 April

10am - 12pm

The Barn Centre, St. Mary's Church, Newick

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

£5 PER CHILD

**Tickets available
here:**





RSCM VOICE FOR LIFE SESSIONS

WITH ST MARY'S YOUTH CHOIR

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH 4-5PM AT
ST MARY'S BARN CENTRE
STARTS 20TH MARCH 2025

COST - £5

IF COST IS AN ISSUE WE CAN
HELP!

COME AND SING,
HAVE FUN, MAKE
FRIENDS!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION AT
CHURCHOFFICE@STMARYSNEWICKS.CHURCH



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



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.