

17<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Rectors Ramble

*Genesis 16:1-16, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-23*

Dear friends,

This Sunday we are really excited to welcome Wendy Piccinini back to St Mary's for the 10 o'clock service. Wendy will be speaking to us about the work of the Leprosy Mission, and how our support is making a real difference.

Huge thank you to Fr Martin for inviting Rev Martin Poole to give one of our Lent reflections on his latest book "Church beyond Walls", let hope this has sown some seeds for both our church communities to examine what it means to be creative spaces for God.

Again, huge thanks to all who are supporting the Wagstaff family for Ian's funeral, which will be an incredible honouring and testimony to a truly wonderful man.

This Sunday marks the start of Passiontide and I'm going to share with you a poem by the Anne Ridler OBE (1912-2001). She moved in literature throughout her life; she was the daughter of writers, with more in the extended family, and joined Faber and Faber's poetry department while in her early twenties. She edited many collections and anthologies while at Faber and Faber, and worked closely with the company's Poetry Editor, T S Eliot. He features as a character in several of the introductions she makes to her poems. Just before her death, she was made an OBE for services to literature. As with many of the poets I follow, her expressions of faith are not unquestioning, taking as influences the inquisitive ways of the Metaphysical poets, of Traherne, of Charles Williams, and – of course – of Eliot.

I first heard this poem during Holy Week at Jesus College Cambridge some 12 years ago, and it has been with me as a favourite reflection in this season ever since.

I selfish and forsaken do still long for you  
 God for whom I was born and should have died:  
 Like lovers over miles and miles of sea  
 I lean my heart toward my comfort uselessly.  
 Did man or God weep out this sundering tide?  
 Cut off each sense, withdraw to the inmost secret place:  
 This God absconds from every promised land.  
 To shrink like a mollusc and to find no grace  
 This is the lot his lovers face.  
 And yet the worst is, not to seek you; yet the worst  
 Is not to know our lack of you. O, Love,  
 By what cords will you draw us? As at first  
 The cords of a man? Not splendour but the penal flesh Taken for love, that moves us most.  
 Who breaks his tryst in a passionate ritual  
 May burn in a dry tree, a cold poem,  
 In the weak limbs of a child, so instant and perpetual,  
 In the stranger's face of a father dying,  
 Tender still but all the while departing.  
 Here he is endured, here he is adored.  
 And anywhere. Yet it is a long pursuit,  
 Carrying the junk and treasure of an ancient creed,  
 To a love who keeps faith by seeming mute  
 And deaf, and dead indeed.

***Anne Ridler (1912–2001) \****

Remember our Lent Course is every Thursday from 7pm, please do join us on the journey, whether it be the whole journey or but just a day, your presence, your prayer, and your words would be most welcome.

Hope to see some of you for the Men's Supper on Friday and thank you to Christopher for inviting Lt Col Geoffrey Vasey-Holt as our speaker and to the amazing hospitality team for keeping us well fed and refreshed.

Have a blessed St Patrick's Day:

May your days be many and your troubles be few.  
 May all God's blessings descend upon you.  
 May peace be within you, may your heart be strong.  
 May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.  
 May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us.  
 May the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us.  
 May thy Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore. Amen

Paul xx

Hymns for this Sunday:

530 the God of Abraham praise

82 El -Shaddai

390 Meekness & Majesty

62 Christ Triumphant

**Please remember those on our prayer list:**

Daphne Awcock, Francis Bailey, Cole Louise Blackman, Bernice Blundy,  
Beryl Campion-Smith, Harri Gande, John and Elizabeth Gould, Rubie Geer,  
Juliette Lucas, Helen Lloyd, Spike MacGuire, Christina McCann, Shirley Mansfield,  
Derek Marshall, Adrian, Andrea and Amber Pariss, Gemma Peacock, Christine Ripley,  
Rubie (aged 11), Cheryl Stewart, Martin Tardif, Marcus Thrower, Danielle Tora,  
Toni Warrilow, Sean Watson, Arthur Wood, Nasima Wright.



If you would like to receive prayers, or know someone who would,  
**please contact**  
**Rev Paul Mundy on 01825 723186 or [church.newick@gmail.com](mailto:church.newick@gmail.com)**

**Katie Barnwell asks for the following prayers please:**

**\*Pray** for wisdom, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit at every stage of the translation work;  
for good health and perseverance for all the translators.

**\*Pray too for the use of the translated Scriptures**, both printed copies and oral recordings,  
that this will result in changed lives and much blessing.

**\*Pray for Nigeria as a whole**, that the newly elected president and other leaders will act to  
stop the violent attacks and conflicts that are happening, promoting justice, peace and proper  
distribution of resources for the whole country.

***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***

## *Services - March 2024*

<b>Sunday 3rd March</b> Third Sunday in Lent	8am - BCP Holy Communion* - <i>Preacher: Rev'd Paul Mundy</i> 10am - Morning Worship & Baptism Service - <i>Preacher: Rev'd Paul Mundy</i> <i>Exodus 20:1-17---1 Corinthians 1:18-25---John 2 :13-22</i> 6pm - Evensong - <i>Preacher: Reader Geoff Clinton</i>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7pm - Lent Course - <i>Fr Martin Morgan</i>
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b> Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday	8am - BCP Holy Communion* - <i>Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</i> 10am - Holy Communion - <i>Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</i> <i>1 Samuel 1:20-28 --- Colossians 3:12-17 --- Luke 2:33-35</i> 6pm - Worship 2 - <i>Leader: Mandy Stockwell</i>
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	7pm - Lent Course - <i>Rev Martin Poole</i> – Church Beyond Walls : Creative Church in Public Spaces
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b> Fifth Sunday in Lent	8am - BCP Holy Communion* - <i>Preacher: Rev'd Paul Mundy</i> 10am - Family Communion & Owls - <i>Preacher: Rev'd Paul Mundy</i> <i>Jeremiah 31:31-34 --- Hebrews 5:5-10 --- John 12:20-33</i>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	7pm - Lent Course - <i>Fr Martin Morgan</i>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b> Palm Sunday Start of Holy Week	8am - BCP Holy Communion* - <i>Preacher: Rev'd Paul Mundy</i> 10am - Holy Baptism - <i>Preacher: Rev'd Paul Mundy</i> <i>Psalms 118: 1-2, 19-end --- Mark 11 :1-11</i>
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	6pm - The Cross of Christ - Music and Reflections for Holy Week
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b> Maundy Thursday	7pm - Holy Communion and Service of Shadows <i>Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</i> <b>*** At St Peters Chailey ***</b>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b> Good Friday	11am – Service at the Cross A Contemplative time of song and scripture as we reflect on the Passion of Jesus Christ
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b> Easter Day	05.45am – Sunrise Service - <i>Rev'd Paul Mundy</i> 8am – BCP Holy Communion - <i>Preacher Rev'd Paul Mundy</i> 10am – Holy Communion - <i>Preacher Rev'd Paul Mundy</i> <i>Isaiah 25:6-9 --- Acts 10:34-43 --- Mark 16:1-8</i>

\* Denotes standard Year B Lectionary Readings  
 Prayer Meeting for Church Service Every Sunday  
 9.30 - 9.45 Barn Centre

## **Parish Dates for your diary!!**

(Outside the regular Sunday Services)

Men's Supper - Barn Centre Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Lent Course - St Mary's (7pm Pudding 7.30 start) 21st March  
The Cross of Christ - St Mary's Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 6pm  
Service of the Shadows - **St Peters Chailey** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 7pm  
Service at the Cross - St Mary's Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March (Good Friday) 11am  
Sunrise Service - St Mary's Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March (Easter Day) 05.45am  
Gardening Day - St Mary's Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April - starts with coffee and cake from 9am

### **REGULARS**

Friday Hub - Community Centre 10-12  
Prayers for Church - Barn Centre every Sunday 9.30-9.45  
Prayer Group - Barn Centre 2pm (fortnightly)  
St Mary's Youth Choir - Barn Centre every first Sunday of the Month 10am  
Owls Club - Barn Centre every third Sunday of the Month 10am

### **PLACEHOLDER IN YOUR DIARY**

Wendy Piccinini from the Leprosy Mission attending our 10am Service on 17th March  
Uckfield Deanery Confirmation Service - Sunday 30th June 5pm St Mary's  
**Confirmation Class dates to follow - names to Paul please**

## **Easter Lily Donations**

As Easter is approaching later this month, envelopes will be placed in the church for anyone wishing to donate in memory of a loved one.

Announcements will be made at the church services concerning completed envelopes.

There is a box at the back of the church for anyone wishing to donate separately

Gill Godsmark  
Tricia Greenfield



## Message from Christopher Hume

Our guest at our next **MENS SUPPER ON FRIDAY 15 MARCH** will be Lt Col Geoffrey Vesey-Holt, who served with the Royal Tank Regiment.

His topic will be "**Normandy, Myth and Legend**".

Geoffrey is a military historian of note, and a truly excellent speaker. I was privileged to hear him talk on the Battle of Waterloo at Afternoon Club. Masterful, entertaining and most enjoyable.

Please join us! 7.00 for 7.30 in the Barn Centre on Friday 15 March, a fine supper with wine to match, entry £6 on the door, cash or card accepted.

Please call Christopher Hume on 07770 7716653 or 7724378 or email [mcmhume@outlook.com](mailto:mcmhume@outlook.com) to let us know you are coming for catering purposes.

**Ian Wagstaff**

**Funeral - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 12 o'clock**

**No flowers please – but any Spring Bulbs would be lovely  
and will be planted around the Churchyard later.**

*St Mary's, Newick's Church and  
St. Peter's, Chailey Parish Church*

*LENT COURSE THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH*

*Sadly our last one...*

*7.00pm "Pudding Time in St Mary's"  
7.30pm Start.*





**Music and Readings for Holy Week**

**The Cross of Christ**

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

**Tuesday March 26th – 6pm**

**All Welcome**

## **Saints Alive!**

Following my article in last weeks newsletter about St Florian the patron saint of firefighters, at last Sunday's service several people said they found it really interesting to read, which is great.

That evening I sat down to dinner and while flicking through Facebook saw a recruitment video for South Wales Fire and Rescue featuring a female firefighter called Florian! Really? Bizarrely this is actually her surname, she is FF Suzy Florian who graduated as a wholetime firefighter in 2020.

She was also awarded the Silver Axe which is given to the most outstanding firefighter on the training course. So you see Saint Florian really is still alive today!



## **Tony Bailey**

### **Newick Village Hall Management Committee (NVHMC)**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the above is at 7.30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March and will be held in the Lower Committee Room there.

This is an opportunity for anyone involved in a club or society to participate in the election of the Management Committee, and raise any issues that are of concern to their club/society.

Following a vote, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for St Mary's are delighted to be re-appointing our Sexton Tony Bailey as our Representative this year.



## ***Hymn Sing-a-Long at Nightingales***

Every month a group of us visit Nightingales to sing hymns and have a prayer, and although the weather was wet and grey the sun shone in the lounge at Nightingales at 2p.m. on Tuesday.

The residents and staff joined us for lots of lively and beautiful hymns, this is such a joyous way to worship.

Some residents remember the hymns from school days and it brings back memories of hymns sung at wedding ceremonies etc. It really is such fun and what better way to spend an afternoon could there be?

Chris always brings the music he plays alive with each hymn and the lovely singing and enthusiasm from all makes for a memorable afternoon.



I was the the last to leave today and as I was going through the front door a staff member called out loudly "Everyone loves having all you Guys here" which was so encouraging to hear - my prayer is that the staff as well as residents will feel the joy and want to know more about our faith and Church.

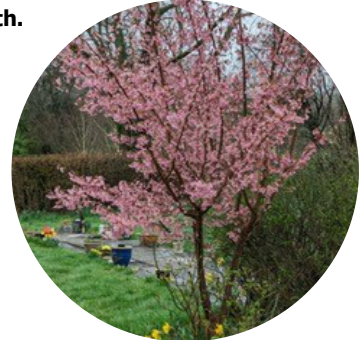
If you would like to join let me know us do contact me. We hope to arrange another visit before Easter.

**Patsy**

# Coming up in April .....

**Our next Garden Day is on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>.**  
and starts with coffee and cake from 9.00 a.m.

Come and help us if you can and just come and encourage if you prefer. But come! Coffee and cake will be served all morning, and a light barbecue lunch will be served from midday. Everyone is welcome.



**Christopher Hume**

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## **FLETCHING SINGERS SPRING CONCERT**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm**

**St Margaret the Queen Church, Buxted Park, Buxted TN22 4AY**

The Fletching Singers hold their spring concert. Themed "Dawn to Dusk" it features **Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré)** and **The Fauré Requiem** plus other works. Soloists Kathryn Jenkin (soprano), Phillip Conway-Brown (baritone), Andrew Wilson (organ & piano), directed by Ansy Boothroyd.

Advance tickets £12.50 at [www.fletchingsingers.co.uk](http://www.fletchingsingers.co.uk) , from members, or call 07802 855113. Tickets £15 on the door.



# **DINNER & QUIZ NIGHT**

**Fundraiser for NASA trip  
Saturday 27th April 2024**

**Proceeds to be used to help Eden get to  
NASA, Texas, USA!**

**Email [vward21@outlook.com](mailto:vward21@outlook.com) for tickets**

**Tables of 6 preferred (can mix groups)**

**7pm - 10pm  
Newick Primary  
School  
Allington Road,  
Newick**

**Three-course dinner,  
homemade soup, chili  
con carne (veg option  
available), and  
cheesecake/homemade  
sweet treats**

**£20pp**

**Bar serving Prosecco,  
Beer & soft drinks**

**Raffle**



# Legacies

The Church of England has always encouraged people to make wills, and at St Mary's we encourage that too. Making a will ensures that the assets in your Estate are distributed as you see fit. Many people will of course leave the bulk of their assets to their families, and favourite "good causes".

Please consider including St Mary's. We struggle to meet our expenses year by year, and have always relied on legacies to support our service to the community. The daunting costs of upkeep of our beautiful Grade 2 listed church must also be met. A key element of our work in the community is youth work and pastoral outreach.

## How Do I Put a Legacy In Place?

First, make sure you have a will in place that includes how you would like to distribute your assets using either your own solicitor or the service provided by the Church of England. ([www.churchlegacy.org.uk](http://www.churchlegacy.org.uk))

Please contact Rev Paul Mundy or any member of our Treasurer's team if you would like assistance. Please remember that St Mary's is a charity, so gifts to St Mary's are free of Inheritance Tax.

If you would like to make a gift to our church in memoriam, please come and discuss this with us too.

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