

25th October 2024

Rectors Rambles

St Mary's: Nehemiah 9:38 ,10:28-36 , Mark 10:46-52

St Peter's: Nehemiah 9:38 ,10:28-36 , Mark 10:46-52

Dear Friends,

How do we even begin to experience God when all around us falls apart? The clocks will go back this weekend and we are at the turning of the year. As leaves fall and daylight hours get shorter, we have an opportunity to reflect on what we can learn from times of change, darkness and loss. Many people find this time of year depressing because of the reminders of emptiness and decay, yet in the barrenness there is rest and retreat, in the decay there is nourishment for the new life of spring. Beauty from ashes, hope from despair, as the hymn reminds us.

What spiritual practices can help us through season of transition? Perhaps using the <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/> Or by praying the Examen <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-examen/how-can-i-pray/>

The poet Mary Oliver wrote an intriguing poem called "The Uses of Sorrow". How do we respond to the gift of darkness?

*(In my sleep I dreamed this poem)
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" by Mary Oliver, from 'Thirst' 2007.*

God's ways can seem mysterious, confusing or even downright incomprehensible to us. The Psalms are full of cries of 'when?' and 'why?' and it is so true of our own lives that suffering - our own or that of others - can make us question God. **Why? Why? And Where are you God?**

It has been said that truth is the first casualty of war. How do we get to the truth of situations on the ground in the conflict in the Middle East? e.g. the Israeli strike near a hospital in Beirut last Monday.

Editors Note: Content deadline is **10am on Thursday** so please make sure you send anything to the churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church in time. Anything received after 10am will be included the following week (unless a date restriction means it is too late). Thank you.

Does knowing about the destruction in Gaza help us towards a deeper understanding of the humanitarian catastrophe that is unfolding in front of us day by day?

Civil war in Sudan continues to cause unprecedented suffering: we hear about it but do we see in a way that leads to understanding?

I was reading an article by Ava Vidal this week who reminded me that it is 40 years since we heard about the Ethiopian Famine during that Michael Buerk reported on which changed the world;

“It is 40 years since the “report that shook the world” – the Six O’Clock News bulletin about the famine in Ethiopia that triggered a humanitarian effort unlike any other.

By October 1984, drought and conflict in a remote part of northern Ethiopia had left millions on the brink of starvation. The BBC sent Michael Buerk to report on the emerging catastrophe. As Britain tucked into its tea, we witnessed the most appalling images of starving people – children with protruding ribcages, women trying to feed their babies from dry breasts, people simply too weak to swat away the flies landing on their faces.

Against this horrific footage of the dead and dying, Buerk intoned: “Dawn... and as the sun breaks through the piercing chill of night on the plain outside Korem, it lights up a biblical famine, now, in the 20th century...”

It was a landmark moment in TV journalism – and its impact on the viewing public was immediate.”

But how has it’s legacy impacted our own culture today?

When we hear the stories of the unfolding tragedy in the Middle East, what do we understand of the unprecedented crisis in the Sudan?

When we see the rockets exchanged between the warring tribes of Gaza, Israel and Lebanon what picture do we have in our minds of the starvation gripping the people of Sudan?

How do hearing and seeing combine to help us make sense of the world?

How much do we need to know about the impacts of global civil wars before we understand, change and act?

In all of this we must hold onto the truth that there is nothing that God cannot do, but that does not mean that God will give us the answers we seek or do what we want. And in the end, there is no answer but there **is** God’s presence when all else is absent, holding our struggles when our understanding runs out.

And in the mystery of God's presence we are asked to trust - whether or not there is a happy ending.

On Tuesday, a team of scientists announced their discovery that a giant meteorite strike played a significant part in the development of advanced life on earth over three billion years ago. By examining fragments of space rock from the impact site in South Africa, they believe that the meteorite created a 500km crater, sending out rocks and dust that formed a cloud around the earth and a huge tsunami to sweep the globe and turn the skies black. The huge amount of energy involved would have boiled the oceans and raised air temperatures by 100°C. The impact of all of this would have been to almost wipe out the simple single-cell life-forms that existed at the time.

It is tempting to assume that dust clouds, dark skies and boiling seas made for a devastating outcome, yet the team believes that this impact was actually the beginning of life as we know it. It churned up and distributed nutrients such as iron and phosphorus which were necessary for growth to develop, creating the conditions for life to flourish.

As creator of all things, God was present and working through all of this.

Many scientists see God at work when they make discoveries such as the meteorite strike announced this week. America's first female astronomer, Maria Mitchell, wrote "*Scientific investigations... will reveal new ways in which God works*" while Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, told CNN, "*God can be found in the cathedral or the laboratory. By investigating God's majestic creation, science can actually be a means of worship.*"

Others find God in art, music, nature, silence, community, activism and so many other ways.

What connects you most with God and helps you realise God's greatness?

Perhaps this week as we move from All Hallows into All Saints and our season of Remembrance you could find some time to take a moment to look back on one particularly good event and one particularly challenging event in your life.

Where was God in each of these?

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

Our annual **Memorial Service** was held on Sunday 20th October. It caters for all who have lost a loved one and who are grieving. This year it was a beautifully pitched service which was well appreciated by a substantial congregation.

Rev Paul Mundy lead the service and set the tone for the day. Patsy Bailey spoke movingly about loss and rebuilding using the analogy of the Japanese 'Kintsuki' in which broken plates are repaired with gold seams to emerge beautiful in their own right.

The Church looked beautiful with all the candles alight. Everyone was given the opportunity to light a memorial candle which many did. There is something remarkably soothing and fulfilling about lighting a candle in memory of someone no longer with us. The whole service was very successful in that respect.

The service was followed by a rather good – well, very good – afternoon tea. As always at St Mary's our hospitality team/Ministry of Cake gave us a splendid spread, as you can see. Our new tables worked very well (thanks Geoff) and the quietly convivial atmosphere was a fitting and appropriate finale to our service. A number of people have spoken to me commenting on how moving and helpful they found the afternoon. Well done to all who worked so well and sensitively to make it a success.



Christopher Hume

SERVICES - OCTOBER 2024

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| <p>Sunday 6th October Trinity 19 Harvest Festival Service Followed by Harvest Lunch</p> | <p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* Preacher: Reader Ian Reekie</p> <p>10am Harvest Service <i>Joel 2:21-27</i> <i>1 Timothy 6:6-10</i> <i>Matthew 6:25-33</i> Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</p> <p>6pm - Evensong Preacher: Reader Geoff Clinton</p> |
| <p>Sunday 13th October Trinity 20</p> | <p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</p> <p>10am – Holy Communion <i>Nehemiah 8:1-18</i> <i>Hebrews 4:12-16</i> <i>Mark 10:17-31</i> Preacher: Fr Martin Morgan</p> <p>6pm – Worship 2 Leader: Mandy Stockwell</p> |
| <p>Sunday 20th October Trinity 21 Thanks Giving Service</p> | <p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* Preacher Rev Paul Mundy</p> <p>10am Family Communion & OWLS Club <i>Nehemiah 9:1-36</i> <i>Mark 10:35-45</i> Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</p> <p>4pm Thanksgiving Service Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</p> |
| <p>Sunday 27th October All Saints Day</p> | <p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* Preacher: Ian Reekie</p> <p>10am – Nehemiah 9:38, 10:28-39 <i>Mark 10:46-52</i> Preacher: Rev Paul Mundy</p> |
| <p><i>* Denotes standard Year B Lectionary Readings</i></p> <p>Prayer Meeting for Church Service Every Sunday 9.30 - 9.45 Barn Centre</p> | |

SERVICES – NOVEMBER 2024

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| <p>Sunday 3rd November All Saints</p> | <p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* <i>Preacher: Rev Paul</i></p> <p>10am – Holy Communion Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34 <i>Preacher: Reader Jeremy Burdett</i></p> <p>6pm - Evensong <i>Preacher: Ian Reekie</i></p> |
| <p>Sunday 10th November Remembrance Sunday</p> | <p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* <i>Preacher: Rev Paul</i></p> <p><i>(10am at the Green to march to St Mary's)</i> 10.30am Remembrance Service Psalm 46 John 15; 9-17 <i>Preacher: Rev Paul</i></p> <p>5pm Remembrance Day Recital <i>Lead by Andy Rees</i></p> |
| <p>Monday 11th November Remembrance Day</p> | <p>10:45am Service at The Green</p> |
| <p>Sunday 17th November 2nd Before Advent</p> | <p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* <i>Preacher Rev Paul</i></p> <p>10am – Family communion with Owls Daniel 12:1-3 Hebrews 10:11-14,19-25 Mark 13:1-8 <i>Preacher: Rev Paul</i></p> |
| <p>Sunday 24th November Sunday next before Advent</p> | <p>8am - BCP Holy Communion* <i>Preacher: Rev Paul</i></p> <p>10am – Holy Baptism Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 Revelation 1:4-8 John 18:33-37 <i>Preacher: Rev Paul</i></p> |

** Denotes standard Year B Lectionary Readings*

**Prayer Meeting for Church Service Every Sunday
9.30 - 9.45am Barn Centre**

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS



As always, please remember those on our prayer list:

Frances 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, Adrian, Andrea and Amber Parris, Gemma Peacock, June and Ron Perou, Christine Ripley, Rubie (aged 11), Cheryl Stewart, Martin Tardif, Marcus Thrower, Peter Todd, 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

Prayers for Church

Barn Centre every Sunday 9.30 - 9.45 am

Prayer Group

Barn Centre every 1st and 3rd Monday - 2pm

Do you like ironing? - Are you keen on helping get ready for the wonderful Christmas Eve Nativity - complete with Camel - that is always such a joy at St Mary's?

If so please contact Patsy Bailey (email shimmyandshake@yahoo.co.uk) as there are so many outfits that need smartening up ready for the 24th and December is such a busy month it would be wonderful to have them ready well in advance.

COULD THIS BE FOR YOU?.....

We are looking for a cleaner for St. Mary's Church Barn for four hours a week in two sessions, starting 6th January. Timing is flexible. If you are interested please email Sue Balloch on sue.balloch@btinternet.com



WE ARE STILL KEEN TO FIND SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING OUR SERVICES AV AND SOUND SYSTEM ON A SUNDAY AND POTENTIALLY FOR OTHER SERVICES / EVENTS TOO

IF THAT COULD BE YOU - MAIL [REV PAUL](mailto:revpaul@stmarys.org) TO ARRANGE A CHAT

Legacies:

For more information please visit the [Church Website](#)

LEGACY FOR MARY'S CHURCH NEWICK



YOUR WILL YOUR WISHES YOUR WAY

We stand at the end of time, and have behind us legacies of love and friendship, of family and friends and of the love we've had.

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 all of a sudden have the bulk of their assets to their families, and become "good citizens".

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 II listed church must also be met.

Many elements of our work in the community, 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).

Please contact Rev Paul Morley 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.

Many people find the idea of their assets continuing their work and witness for the Lord, long after they have died, a blessed and rewarding prospect.



Contact Rev Paul Morley
Telephone: 01773 640 140
Email: church@newickparish.org
Web: newickchurch.org

Please consider making a lasting gift to Mary's Church, Newick



COMING UP THIS AUTUMN.....

AT A GLANCE.....

October

- Citizens Advice 29th

November

- Scott Matthews Concert in St Mary's 6th
- Remembrance Recital in St Mary's 10th
- Remembrance Service on the Green 11th
- Advent Quiet Day 16th (details to follow)
- Owls Sunday 17th
- Intergenerational Opera 23rd (details to follow)
- Citizens Advice 26th
- Mens Supper 29th (details to follow)
- St Peter's Chailey Christmas Craft Market 30th
- Advent Concert (Fletching Church) 30th

December

- St Mary's Tree Festival Friday 13th - Sunday 15th
 - Festive Market 14th December
 - Festive Singalong with Andy Rees 14th December
- East Sussex Concert Band 21st December (7pm)

citizens
advice

Lewes
District



DROP-IN ADVICE SESSION



Lewes District Citizens Advice are now offering a Rural Outreach Service at Newick and Chailey.

High quality, impartial and professional advice, support and referrals given on a huge range of topics, including **welfare benefits, housing issues, food and energy poverty, debt** and much more.

**FACE TO FACE DROP-IN SESSIONS
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH, NEWICK
TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 10.30-1.30PM
TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 10.30-1.30PM**

**ST PETER'S CHURCH, CHAILEY
FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 10-1PM**

See website below for more information + schedule.
You can also call our FREE Adviceline on 0808 278 7892
or email info@lewesdistrictca.org.uk



www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk/rural-outreach



Presents....

*Folk Singer Scott Matthews
performing live at St Mary's
Church Newick*

Wednesday 6th November

Doors open 7pm

Concert starts 7.45pm

Drinks available

*Tickets are £28.08 and can be
purchased from*

*Scott Matthews at St Mary's Church
Newick - Black Deer Live*

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

**Christmas Craft Market
St. Peter's Chailey 10am-2pm**

**Entry £1.00. Stalls from local crafters and businesses.
Lots to see, Christmas gifts to purchase**

Fletching Singers Advent Concert

7.30pm Fletching Parish Church

**The Fletching Singers, together with harpist Anna Wynne,
will perform Benjamin Britten's atmospheric A Ceremony of
Carols as part of their advent concert.**

**Other music in the programme includes carols and
motets by Bruckner, Stopford, Rutter and Howells and
some favourite carols to be sung by all.**

Wine and soft drinks available

**Tickets (includes mince pies) £12.50 prior to 25th
November at www.fletchingsingers.co.uk**

**Or £15 on the night or from members, or call 07802
855113.**

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 13th – 15th DECEMBER

ST MARY'S NEWICK



**TREES FROM LOCAL CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND
BUSINESSES TO ENJOY PLUS A FESTIVE MARKET
TO GET YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND EVEN A
LATE AFTERNOON SINGALONG TO GET INTO THE
FESTIVE MOOD.**

**EAST SUSSEX CONCERT BAND AT ST MARY'S
21ST DECEMBER - WATCH THIS SPACE!**

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

churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church