

NEWSLETTER



The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

Rector's Ramble

Genesis 12.1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Dear Friends,

It is with deep sadness that on Sunday 22nd February we were informed of the death of our beloved John Sclater CVO.

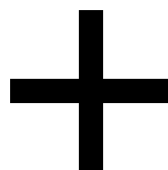
John has been a good friend to St Mary's throughout his life, following in the tradition of the Sclater Family who have been a central part of our worshipping community for over 200 years.

Speaking personally, John has been a dear friend to me and my family since we came to St Mary's, as I know he has for so many of you in the communities of Newick, Chailey and Barcombe. He will be hugely missed.

Please would you hold Catherine, James, Susannah, Saskia, Freya and all John's family and especially those closest to him on the Sutton Hall Estate in your love and your prayers at this difficult time.

It is our understanding that, a Service to celebrate John's life will be held at St Mary's and we will notify you of the details in due course

*Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon him.
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
And rise in Glory.
Amen.*



Services this week are as follows and we look forward to seeing you at one or more of them this Sunday:

- 8am BCP Holy Communion St Mary's (Churches Together)
- 9am St Peter's Congregation Holy Communion followed by Breakfast at The Five Bells
- 10am St Mary's Worship & Praise
- 5pm St Marys Choral Evensong

It's been interesting for me in school this week as we continue our Core Value this term of 'Truthfulness', the themes we are exploring are honesty; truth; taking responsibility; learning from our mistakes. And we are interweaving this with our Lenten Journey and the story of Easter. I have to say it's a very searching and powerful journey.

This week our society is asking police and politicians alike to ask searching questions with regards to the Epstein scandal and expects them to find truth. Yet, we seem less sanguine when we ask SEND experts to consider questions exploring ways to improve our society's future.

The DfE says it will: *"Provide £1.6 bn over three years across every early years setting, school and post-16 setting, equating to thousands of pounds extra every year on top of existing core SEND funding, to run targeted and small group interventions at the earliest signs of children having additional needs."*

Speaking with Teachers this week, it's recognised that whilst increased early support for SEND is very welcome, years, and years of underfunding and diminished external services mean that this new funding is barely a drop in the bucket of the investment necessary to drive real improvement in schools.

£1.6bn over three years may sound like a lot of money, but it equates to just a few thousand pounds per setting. It is absolutely ridiculous to suggest that SEND provision can be adequately overhauled with this low level of funding, or that the associated workloads for teachers could be in any way offset by throwing a bit of money in their general direction.

We owe it to our young people and to the future generations to invest in a system where all can be and will be provided for.

As politicians, the media and the public start to scrutinise the multiple documents in the Epstein files, what are their motivations?

Whilst there are serious legal and moral questions to be asked, is there also a touch of scandalmongering in some of it? Is it odd that there seems to be acceptance of the virtuous motivation of those charged with uncovering wrongdoing, but suspicion of diligent, questioning research into ways of improving, for example, SEND in schools?

We seem to assume that the difficult and even painful process of finding answers to pressing social questions and putting them into action could - and should - be managed risk-free. Downsides loom large, and gains seem overplayed.

In our Gospel this Sunday, Jesus encourages Nicodemus to explore the truth as he tries to bring together his scholarship and his experience. What can this tell us about the relationship between diligent study and lived experience, not only in our faith journeys, but as we seek to live Godly lives?

Jesus came, *“For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice” (John 18:37)*, to restore us to be the people God created us to be. To be ourselves, fully living in the truth and love of God, fully sharing that love and truth with other people.

It’s not about doing wonderful things or preaching amazing sermons. It’s actually just about sitting with God and letting God shape us. We don’t know what the rest of Nicodemus’ story is. This is the only part of that encounter that we have. If we read the Genesis reading this week, we would have heard the call of Abram by God. Abram responded. Actually, Abram sometimes made some very bad moves in that response, taking him and his wife to some ‘wrong places’ before finding the place where God had called them to be. But Abram did respond, and tried to listen, even when he got it wrong.

So, what might the story of Nicodemus and Jesus be saying to us this Lent...

Sometimes, we are like Nicodemus. We need to listen to the truths inside us, and to be courageous enough to find someone to talk them through, with the love of God held between us.

Like Nicodemus, we need to step aside from the voices that sound just like ours, to listen, and to bring our questions before God and seek God’s truth and justice for those who most in need are, not judging others but seeking salvation for all.

And sometimes we are called to sit in the seat of Jesus – to listen to someone with genuine questions. We’re not called to browbeat or demand a particular answer from them, but to open our hearts to the God who loves us so much that he sent his Son that we might have a whole and lasting life.

And we need to look at Jesus’ model for mission. Jesus is not afraid to speak truth into social injustices, but most often it was in the one-to-one encounters with other people that these changes begin.

If they’d had coffee or tea in Jesus’ time, there would have been a cup there, or a beer or wine.

Let’s not be so busy ‘doing’ stuff for God that we fail to notice when we simply need to open our hearts to our neighbour and allow God’s love to flow between us.

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 1st March

Be thou my Vision
 Holy Forever
 King of Kings
 Blessed assurance
 O Church of Christ Invincible

Services St Mary's – March 2026	
Sunday 1st March Second Sunday in Lent	8am BCP⁹ 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 BCP⁹ 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 BCP⁹ 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 BCP⁹ 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 BCP⁹ Holy Communion: ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Holy Communion: ❖ A sung service with choir and hymns
Lent Course 7-9pm <i>Let the Redeemed tell their Story Psalm 107</i> 2nd March - 9 th March - 16 th March - 23 rd March	
*DENOTES STANDARD YEAR A LECTIONARY READINGS PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.30 BARN CENTRE	

The Parishes of Saint Mary, Newick
and St Peter, Chailey

Lent Course 2026
at
St Mary's Newick's Church

Let the Redeemed tell their story "

Psalm 107

Monday February 23rd
Monday March 2nd
Monday March 9th
Monday March 16th
Monday March 23rd

7.00 pm Coffee and Pudding
7.30 pm Reflection

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 to truly become the Alleluia people.

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.

Signs that Spring is arriving soon....



Whisper of Spring

A silver mist lifts from the ground,
buds breathe in the warming air;
soft rain stitches earth to sky,
and every branch begins to dare.

Anon



All photo's courtesy of Rebecca Hume

Citizens Advice Drop In



Citizens Advice offer a monthly Drop-in advice session at the Community Centre in Newick.

The next session will be held in Newick Community Centre on Tuesday 10th March 12.00-3.00pm. Please note that the monthly sessions held at St Peter's Church, Chailey will be at an alternative venue in The Reading Room, Chailey Green BN8 4DA on 6th March 10.00am-1.00pm.

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.

It is a great opportunity to get easy access to advice locally without having to travel long distances for appointments.

Local transport can be provided by Newick Good Neighbours Service from Chailey, Newick and Fletching. Please ring 07933096033

A 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 Moult

"Exhilarating musicianship"
— JAMES HARRISON

"an astounding organist."
— THE TIMES

*"brilliant technique...
a world-renowned
reputation..."*
— THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

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

Reading MCC Registered Charity no. 1100221

St Peter & St James Hospice



St Peter & St James Hospice
Hospice 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
(Sussex)

Dance, Fitness and Fun

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 7am - 8am in the Barn Centre

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

Wednesday evenings during term-time:

- Juniors: 11-15 years - 6pm
- Seniors: 16-18 years - 7.30pm

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 9.30-10.30am (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