



## Rector's Ramble

Acts 2.14a,36-41; Psalm 116.1-4,12-19; 1 Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35

*"Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road"*  
Luke 24:31

Dear Friends,

Please pray for Pat Stepney from St Peter's Parish, but who is loved by many across our parishes. Pat is in hospital at PRH with what looks like pneumonia. We pray for Pat and for her family and many friends.

As we journey together through April, I hope you are all having a blessed Eastertide, and by using the *'blessed'* I recognise that for many at the moment, it is not easy, health & relationships challenges and bereavement are very present across our communities. By using the word *blessed* my hope is that in the midst of life's tough times, and in the good times too, you will feel a closer connection to the Risen Christ.

We were blessed in another way last week at the St Mary's gardening day, with so many volunteers, and so much achieved. Thank you all.

This Saturday it's the St Peter's Gardening Day and we are looking forward to a good number from the parish and our awesome geocachers to give St P's a wonderful Spring makeover.

Pam & I will be blessed this coming week as we head to Anglesey for a much-needed holiday. Thank you to Paul & MaryJane Corver and the good folk of St Peter's for blessing us with this precious time of rest. With a clear sky and a fair wind (and perhaps a little courage!) we may even attempt Snowdon.

The season of Easter invites us to reflect not only on resurrection joy, but also on the way we journey with God. The writer John Ortberg once observed that *"hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our day."* It's a striking thought. We live in a world that rarely pauses—constant notifications, instant news, endless communication. Life can feel like a treadmill that never quite stops.

And yet, the longing for stillness is not new. Long before our digital age, the Desert Fathers withdrew into silence and solitude, recognising how easily the noise of life can drown out the voice of God. Today, even our faith can be shaped by urgency—Apps which enable quick prayers, instant access to worship, bite-sized spiritual insights., 24/7 prayer guides. These may be helpful tools, but they can never replace what lies of our journey with God. . .*Presence*.

This Sunday's Gospel is one of my favourite in the bible, because it reminds us that we are called to walk with God, rather than us expecting God to catch up with us The story of the road to Emmaus offers a different rhythm of spiritual life. Two disciples walk together, they "talk about all the things that had happened" weighed down by grief and confusion, trying to make sense of all that has happened. Into their sorrow, Jesus comes alongside them—not with immediate answers, not with correction, but with quiet companionship. He asks, "What are you discussing?" and listens. He gives them space to tell their story.

There is something profoundly comforting in this. Jesus does not rush them. He walks at their pace. He allows their understanding to unfold slowly. Even their inability to recognise him is not failure, but part of God's gentle timing.

I read a reflection this week which recognised that even grief is not protected from the noise of this current world. In times past, people entered a formal period of mourning, where they would withdraw from life and take time and space to lament, perhaps even wearing clothing that would mark that they were grieving.

Today, people can feel they are expected to 'move on' quickly from grief, while busyness for some (found in workaholicism, constant entertainment and social media distractions), can be a coping mechanism for many. Despite this, the age-old problem remains - grief rolls at its own pace, and it cannot be rushed.

When Jesus joins the two companions on the road to Emmaus, he walks at their pace and does not interrupt their grief. He 'draws near' and accompanies them on their way, but doesn't rush to tell them who he is, or correct their misconceptions. He asks of them, "What are you discussing with each other?" He wants to hear their story, before he shares his own. He holds space for conversation about the events that have occurred, and he gives them the time to tell it and to process. In the physical act of walking, step by step, he lets them dwell in the story that consumes them, and when they are further into their journey, when the time is right, he reveals the truth of who he is.

The world that the disciples inhabit is different from the world we know today. Long walks for anything other than pleasure are a rarity for many and the walking together gives them time and space to reflect and share. When Jesus approaches them, he is not quick to correct their misjudgement or shame them for their slowness. Their eyes, which are 'kept from recognising him', are not a reflection of their failure, but of God's perfect timing.

This story is held in juxtaposition with the story we will hear in Acts, where the Spirit is out-poured, and thousands as a result, are baptised. The road to Emmaus is a long, slow walk with just a couple of disciples. The revelation made by Jesus is not miraculous, it simply occurs in the ordinary - in the sharing of hospitality and breaking bread together.

This story is a reminder that God can reveal himself in the spectacular and public, but also in the slower and more personal, and not at the speed demanded by the world. Jesus does not hurry us into understanding, and he can meet us in the journey and walks with us at a pace we can bear. It shows us that it is ok for revelation to come slowly, in conversation, in companionship and in the breaking of the bread.

And as we continue on our journey of faith, we are reminded of the importance of our relationship with others, and that 'coming alongside' others is a model which Jesus models for us.

As Emmaus invites us to rediscover the 'slow God', perhaps it is an invitation for us to simply slow our steps enough to notice God's presence besides 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

## Services St Mary's – April 2026

<p><b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>  <b>Second Sunday after Easter</b></p>	<p><b>8am BCP* Holy Communion <i>St Peter's Chailey to join St Mary's</i></b>                  ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language  <b>10am Worship &amp; Praise Owls</b>                  ❖ A service for all with songs and activities</p>
<p><b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>  <b>Third Sunday after Easter</b></p>	<p><b>8am BCP* Holy Communion</b>                  ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language  <b>10am Holy Communion with Baptism</b>                  ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns which includes a Baptism</p>

## Services St Mary's – May 2026

<p><b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>  <b>Fourth after Easter</b></p>	<p><b>8am BCP Holy Communion – <i>St Peter's Chailey to join St Mary's</i></b>                  ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language  <b>10am Worship &amp; Praise</b>                  ❖ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements.  <b>5pm Evensong</b>                  ❖ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with choir and hymns</p>
<p><b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>Fifth after Easter</b></p>	<p><b>8am BCP* Holy Communion</b>                  ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language  <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                  ❖ A sung service with choir and hymns  <b>6pm Worship2</b>                  ❖ A reflective service with contemporary songs</p>
<p><b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>Ascension Day</b></p>	<p><b>7pm Ascension Service</b>                  ❖ A reflective service with hymns and readings celebrating the rise of Jesus into Heaven</p>
<p><b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>Fourth Sunday after Easter</b></p>	<p><b>8am BCP* Holy Communion</b>                  ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language  <b>10am Family Worship &amp; Praise with Owls Club</b>                  ❖ A service for all with songs and activities</p>
<p><b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>  <b>Sunday after Ascension</b>  <b>May Camp Weekend</b></p>	<p><b>No 8am BCP* Holy Communion at St Mary's or St Peter's</b>  <b>10am Service of the Word</b>                  ❖ A service with readings and hymns</p>
<p><b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>  <b>Trinity Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>8am BCP Holy Communion</b>                  ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language  <b>10am Churches Together at St Peter's Chailey</b>                  ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns</p>

\*DENOTES STANDARD YEAR C LECTIONARY READINGS

PRAYER MEETINGS FOR CHURCH SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY 9.15 BARN CENTRE

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

Francis Bailey, Cole Louise Blackman, Bernice Blundy, Karina Brown, Gabi Brunner, Beryl Campion-Smith, Jebby Dyson, 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.

## **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**



# Confirmation Service 8<sup>th</sup> June in St Mary's

## Who is confirmation for?

Quite simply, anyone who has been baptised and feels ready to take this step. The Church of England generally suggests that candidates should be around the age of 10 or older, and able to make the promises with understanding. But at any age, what matters most is a genuine sense that this is the right moment for you.

Preparation is an important part of the journey. Confirmation classes provide space to explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and reflect more deeply. They are open to anyone who is curious—even if you are not yet sure whether you want to be confirmed. There is no pressure, only invitation.

If you are wondering whether this might be for you, I encourage you to pray about it. Speak with others you trust—family members, friends, or fellow Christians. And please do come and **talk to me, or to Fr Martin**. We would be delighted to walk alongside you as you discern your next steps.

The Confirmation Service on 8th June will be a joyful celebration, shared with friends, family, and churches from across the Deanery.

There will be refreshments afterwards, and all are warmly invited to attend and support those taking this important step.

If you feel even a small nudge of interest, do not ignore it. This may be an invitation worth exploring.

## Confirmation Classes (in the Barn Centre):

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May :

- Age 10- 17s, 4 - 5pm
- Over 18's 5.15-6.30

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May:

- Ages 10-17, 4-5pm
- Over 18's 5.15-6.30

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May :

- Ages 10-17, 4-5:pm
- Over 18's 5.15-6.30

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June:

- Ages 10-17, 4-5:pm
- Over 18's 5.15-6.30

# Message from Christopher Hume:

St Mary's enjoyed a wonderful Spring Garden Day on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>.

An enthusiastic and hard-working 50+ all-age team worked hard to beautify and develop our Churchyard. Our garden beds are now pristine, our memorial gardens refurbished and major new work done on the bed bordering our south-east boundary.

We were delighted to welcome back several of the family teams who loyally support us each year.

It was an enjoyable day and achieved its objective of keeping a smile on everyone's face while making good progress on our Churchyard. We take very seriously our responsibility to keep our burial ground, and the heavily-use public footpath which runs through it, a beautiful and fitting resting place for those who have passed on.

Our day finished, as always with a fine barbecue lunch cooked by our enthusiastic Rector Rev Paul Mundy well supported by our splendid hospitality team who had kept us well fuelled with coffee and cake all morning. We enjoyed a convivial lunch with the odd beer and glass of wine and a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to the success of our day.

We'll go again at our Autumn Garden Day on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>. Coffee and cake from 9 o'clock, barbecue lunch from noon, put the date in your diary and come and join the fun!

As well as looking at the photo's on the following pages, do go over to our [Website Gallery](#) where you can see all of these and more, showcasing what happens at St Mary's through the years.

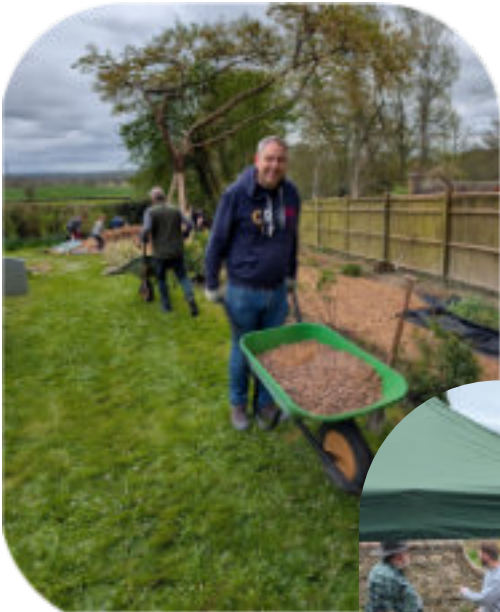


# Spring Garden Day

ALL photos are on our [website](#)







# ***Church Spring Clean*** ***25<sup>th</sup> April 9am -1pm***

We would really love your help in a spring clean - and if you could bring along any dusting or cleaning kit you would be happy to use, that would be great.

Dust masks, gloves and disposable aprons **will be provided** - along with some refreshments!

Sign up sheet at the back of St Mary's

See you there....

Tony Bailey - Sexton



# APCM MEETING!!

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** ..... followed by lunch, and as always we would be so grateful for any donations of salad and/or puddings.

A sign up sheet is at the back of St Mary's and if you can help it would be much appreciated. Thank you



## Ladies Supper

Hopes had been for another Ladies Supper in March - but the Barn Centre turned out to be a very popular Spring venue! I'm glad to say that we do have a date now and the men will be rallying in the Barn Centre kitchen to kindly cook for us on:

Friday 15th May – 7.00pm doors open for a 7.30 pm sit down.

Patsy Bailey will be our speaker, and she is going to give us some informative and light-hearted insights into the role of women in the Bible and how that compares with the role of women today.

A great evening with great food, a glass or two and a fabulous welcoming atmosphere – for just £7 (payable at the door, cash or card).

One thing the men aren't too hot on though is "pudding" so any offers to bring along a dessert would be welcome. Just let us know by mailing [churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church](mailto:churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church) and we promise to confirm back to you the week before to let you know if your kind offer is needed.



So, to book a seat (or more) please email [churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church](mailto:churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church) or put your name on the sign-up sheet that will be at the back of the church and please remember to include any dietary requirements – vegetarian, gluten free etc.

See you there!

Bev.

# Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you

*Romans 15:7*



## Could you be part of St Mary's Welcome Team?

The welcomer, or what is traditionally known as a “sideperson” is a vital part of God’s work at St Mary’s and we are looking for welcomers of all ages to form a team, so if you would like to be involved or if you have a son or daughter, granddaughter or grandson you would like to share the role with, please get in touch.

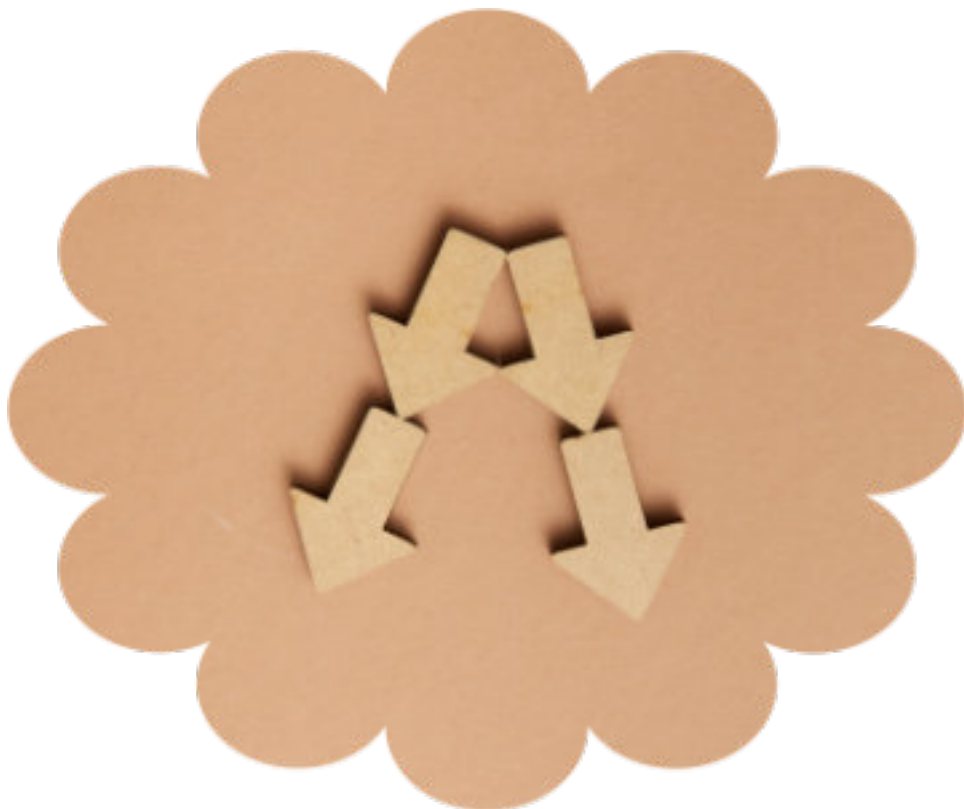
Sidespeople play a vital role in the church's daily operations, contributing to the overall success and enjoyment of worship services. Their contributions are often unnoticed, but they are integral to the church's mission and the congregation's experience and here’s an outline of what can be involved:

- Greeting the congregation
- Seating for the congregation
- Guiding the congregation to communion
- Taking the collection:
- Assisting the churchwardens:
- Emergency procedures:

We would love you to join the team and if you would like to know more from those who have been supporting St Mary’s in this, have a chat with Christopher or Tony or send a note in via [churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church](mailto:churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church)

# *Events and Regulars*

*at St Mary's  
and further afield....*



# **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!**

## **Events coming to St Mary's - rolling list**

- 15th April - NYC/NCT Get Hyped has started!
- 3rd May - Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) followed by lunch
- 15th May - Ladies Supper
- 17th May - Intergenerational Opera Evening
- 13th June - Vivace choir 4pm
- 19th June - Mens Supper
- 11th July - Bubbles and Broadway 7pm
- 19th July - Combined Churches Choral Evensong

Posters and information relating to the dates are either in the following pages, or will be added as the dates get closer.

# NYC/NCT Get Hyped

15<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Barn Centre

6<sup>th</sup> May onwards on the Rec

NYC and NCT groups together

Wednesdays 7 - 8.30pm

**7-8:30 NYC/NCT GET HYPED 7-8:30**

**TASKMASTER**  
15<sup>th</sup> April Task Master

£5 contribution  
22<sup>nd</sup> April Mug decorating

29<sup>th</sup> April Nerf war  
**NERF WARS**

6<sup>th</sup> May Combat Archery

13<sup>th</sup> May Colour party

3<sup>rd</sup> May Hunger games

10<sup>th</sup> June Car wash

17<sup>th</sup> June Water rounders

24<sup>th</sup> July new youth club evening

1<sup>st</sup> July **Splash!**

8<sup>th</sup> July **BARBECUE**  
BBQ the parents

## FLETCHING SINGERS' SPRING CONCERT

Fletching Church, TN22 3SR. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm

Fletching Singers will be celebrating spring with some joyful music by Vivaldi, Durante  
Tickets £15 on the door or £12.50 early bird until Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Available online  
at <https://www.fletchingsingers.co.uk> , from members, or [info@fletchingsingers.co.uk](mailto:info@fletchingsingers.co.uk)  
or 07802 855113



Poster beautifully designed by Madeleine Cockburn as part of the volunteering module for her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.

She will also be helping out on the day.

Well done Madeleine!!



# Opera Gala Evening

Join us for an unforgettable evening with performers from Glyndebourne Opera, English National Opera and the Royal Opera House

Four professional opera singers and their accompanist perform a variety of popular operatic repertoire at

Sunday 17th May 2026, 7.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Church Road, Newick, Lewes BN8 4JZ

Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Reservations advised.  
For ticket reservations call **Charlotte Wicks on 07966 621229** or email [intergenopera@gmail.com](mailto:intergenopera@gmail.com)  
Payment by cash or cheques on the night.

Proceeds are in aid of Dementia UK and Intergenerational Opera, a project which brings together primary school children with older people in the community through creative music making.


More details of Intergenerational opera can be found at  
[www.intergenerationalopera.com](http://www.intergenerationalopera.com)



St. Mary's Church Newick



*Bubbles and  
Broadway*



A fabulous evening  
of well-loved songs from  
the world of **Music Theatre**  
Bubbles & canapés pre-concert  
included in the ticket

**£18**

11<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm

# REGULARS AT ST MARY'S

**Children's Choir:** 1st Sunday of each month 10am - 11am Barn Centre

Email: [churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church](mailto:churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church)

Web: [stmarysnewicks.church/youthchoir](http://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](mailto: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 7.30am - 8.30am in the Barn Centre

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

Wednesday evenings during term-time. More information: [HERE](#)

NYC - Year 7 - 6 to 7.30pm  
NYT - Years 8-11 - 7.30 to 9pm

Email: [youth.newick@gmail.com](mailto:youth.newick@gmail.com)

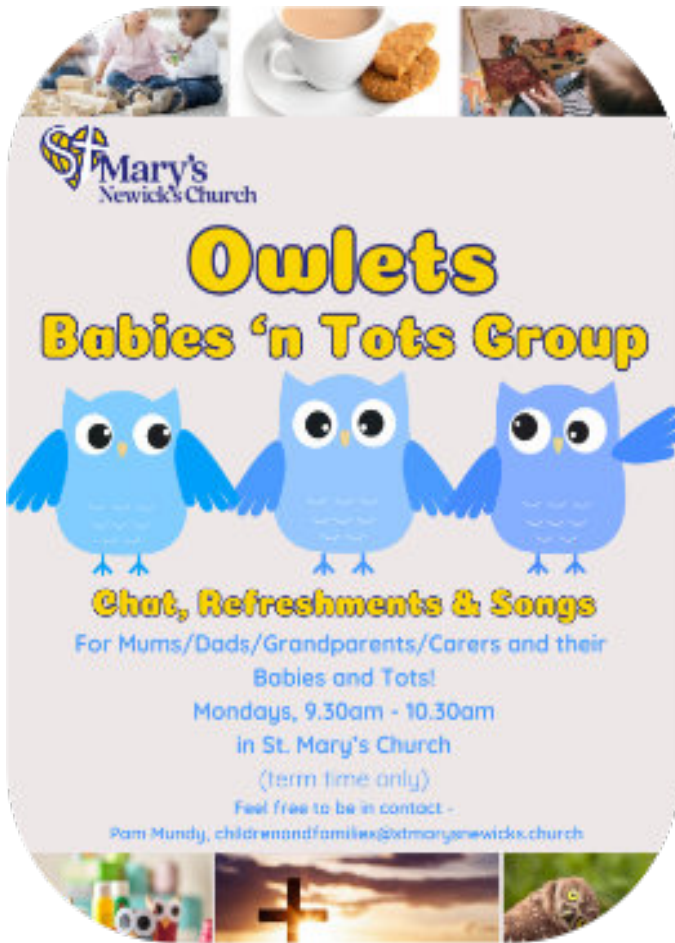
**Owlets Babies 'n Tots Group:** Chat, refreshments and songs for Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their Babies and Tots. Mondays 9.15-10.30am (term time only) in St Mary's Church. Feel free to contact Pam Mundy for more information [childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church](mailto:childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church)


**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](mailto:childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church)


Check the Owls Poster on Website, in Newsletters and up in the Church Porch for dates.

**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](mailto:childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church)

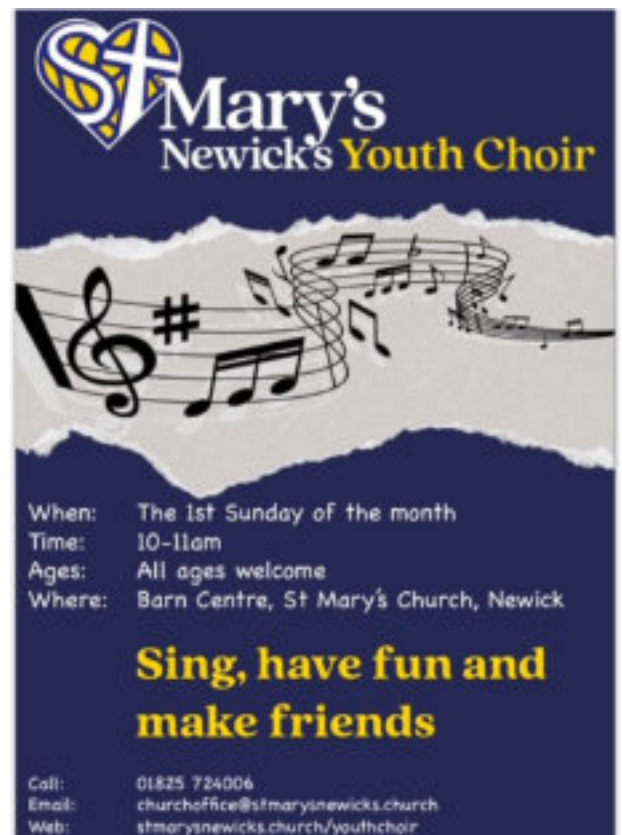




  
**Owls Club**




**Crafts, Bible Story, Fun!**  
**LEGO & Refreshments**

9.55am - 11.00am  
**Normally third Sunday of the month**  
 Feel free to be in contact -  
 Pam Mundy, [childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church)  
 Web: [stmarysnewicks.church/youthchoir](http://stmarysnewicks.church/youthchoir)

**NEWICK YOUTH CLUBS**  
**NYC & NCT**

Wednesday evenings  
 (Term Time)

The Barn Centre

6.00 - 7.30pm Year 7

7.30 - 9pm Year 8 Onwards

Full details, including the **Get Hyped**  
 Sessions April-July are on our

[WEBSITE](#)