

NEWSLETTER



REMEMBER!!
ST MARY'S APCM THIS SUNDAY

The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

Rectors Ramble

1 Peter 2.2-10; Psalm 31.1-5,15-16; Acts 7.55-60; John 14.1-1

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact will do greater works than these”.

John 14:12

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all those who have been asking, we had a wonderful time in Anglesey and were truly blessed by the weather and the generous accommodation.

We've arrived home to a busy time, a joy filled baptism for baby Mina at St Mary's on Sunday, then lots of planning for pastoral services coming up in the next few weeks, an application for a Diocesan Grant towards a Children's, Families and Youth Pastor and preparations for the APCM this week at St Mary's and next Week St Peter's.

Please be holding all our churchwardens and both our PCCs in your prayers, as we give thanks for all that God has done and is doing across both our parishes.

For the uninitiated, the APCM, actually consist of three meetings. The first is to elect the churchwardens. Contrary to popular belief, the churchwarden can be anybody from the parish as long as they are “actual communicants, baptised and over 21”, and is the only person who has the authority to evict people from church (although it should only be done if they are disrupting holy worship).

Also contrary to popular belief, a churchwarden doesn't serve for life. There are horror stories of Churchwardens who have only relinquished (or been relieved of) their posts when they have taken up residency with our Lord at the eternal banquet.

There is actually a very specific term of office, and in addition they have to be re-elected on an annual basis. The election of churchwardens is the sole business of the first meeting, and anyone who lives in the parish can vote, whether they come to church or not. This is the 'Vestry Meeting'.

The second meeting is the main one – the actual APCM.

At this meeting other members of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) are elected. The amount of PCC members depends on the size of the parish. These are the people who meet several times a year to discuss the business side of the church: repairs and maintenance of church and grounds and any other buildings the church has responsibility for; expenditure, planning the church fundraising events, ensuring that the church complies with current Diocesan guidelines including our Safeguarding responsibilities. But not the music in church as under Canon B20 the final responsibility in choosing of chants, hymns, anthems and other settings of modern worship, decisions in these matters' rests with the minister. Which is why I am eternally grateful for the support of our most excellent Jonathan Fenton Vince, and Andy Rees for their wisdom, guidance and inspiration.

It may sound dull, and you may be wondering where Jesus fits in, but this infrastructure enables all the 'fun' things to happen – the mission and worship.

Appointments are made at this meeting also: representatives of the local deanery chapter, auditor, sidesmen (and women). Accounts are scrutinised, and reports are heard. Most exciting of which is the report on goods and ornaments of the church – which is basically a stock check to make sure nothing has surreptitiously been removed from the building and sold on!

The third meeting is the inaugural PCC meeting of the year, during which coffee is drunk (occasionally something stronger) and more 'offices' are filled: treasurer, secretary, vice chair....

Could we function without all this hullabaloo, well yes, a church can still function, just not very well. St Paul describes it best when he speaks of the church as a body. Every part of the body is vital and has an important role to play. Without it, the body limps along rather than dances.

The same with the church: everybody has a role to play. Sadly, in many churches, the APCM which should really be a celebration of the life of the church, often feels as if it is something to be dreaded.

There may be a contentious issue to be discussed alongside the business: seating can often boil the blood, in otherwise peaceful churchgoers.

Usually, the most stressful part of both the meeting and the lead up to it, is trying to find people willing to stand for election and fill the appointments.

According to St Paul we all have different gifts and abilities given to us by God to be used in his service and in supporting others in the life of the church. It should be as simple as matching the person and their gift with the task ahead.

The trouble is, willingness is also a key element, and there aren't many people willing enough to take on the responsibilities, but these responsibilities are part of all of our faith journey's, and despite the horror stories of other APCM's I have been truly blessed by the love and support of both our parishes of St Mary's & St Peter's and I look forward to celebrating all that God is doing over the next two weeks. But there is always more to do.

Our Gospel reading this week finishes with the words of Christ to His disciples *'I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'*

If Jesus will do anything we ask in His name, what would you be prepared to do for Jesus and His Church?

Jesus' last words here, remind us that He and the Father are one, and in Him we too have a place in that relationship, which is eternal and will never end. The disciples were confused by this, but the response of Jesus is wonderfully simple: believe in God! believe also in me.

Trust in God - Sometimes we can over complicate the word of God and our Christian life. Sometimes we too don't quite understand what's happening or what is going on around us and our response becomes like that of the disciples - we're confused. God's answer is the same to us. Believe in God and trust in Him.

We are to trust in Him and believe in Him, because Jesus then makes the extraordinary claim that we will do greater things than He has.

Equipped with the power of the Spirit to speak His word and do His will far beyond Galilee, Judea and the entire Roman world. *'I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'* This is not a blank cheque for our every whim and fancy, but a promise about help for the mission so that the Father may be glorified.

Please try your best come and attend our APCM's they are for you and for the Glory of God, and there will be a wonderful lunch to celebrate following the APCM.

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

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.

Onward and Upward! - Looking forward to our APCM this Sunday.



Our APCM is well timed this year. We are coming out of a joyous and successful Easter season at St Mary's and look forward to Ascension and Pentecost later in May and we have a lot to celebrate!

- Our services continue to develop and grow, and our Youth work continues to build. We are sending a record number of young people to May Camp and our newest initiative, Owlets gets a bunch of enthusiastic parents and grandparents with their little ones into the Church on Monday mornings – the Church is alive with the sound of Toddlers – I'd love to hear Julie Andrews sing that one – well done Pam, Mandy and all your helpers.
- We have more active House Groups/Weekly Meetings than ever.
- Mens' Group and Prayer Group continue to build.
- The social side of the Church continues to develop – Sunday mornings start with 8 o'clock service and continue straight on with session one of church hospitality running seamlessly into the 10 O'clock service – the Church is alive with the sound of socialising, another one for Julie Andrews – and carries on after service for a long time. I open the door after the services but these days it's a long time before anyone leaves.
- Our Pastoral Care continues unabated, our monthly lunches stretch the limits of the Barn Centre and are brilliantly catered for by our teams of providers, Hub on Fridays, Dancing for Fun and Fitness, the list goes on.
- Our Churchyard looks brilliant and I am still grinning with pleasure at the memory of our wonderful Garden Day a couple of weeks ago.
- Ladies Suppers took off last year, well done Bev and are continuing this year, as are Mens' Suppers.
- We have a full program of concerts, Inter-generational Opera and so on running right up to Christmas. You will probably take me to task for what I've left out - I'm sure to have missed something.....

At the same time, we face some daunting challenges:

- Our paths – we are working towards a solution; we'll get there but it isn't easy and is taking too long.
- Fabric: Barn Centre redevelopment, some further reordering of our Church. Pew cushions. Maintaining our ancient building – you wouldn't believe the hassle we've gone through to get our gutters and down-pipes program going, but the scaffolding is up and the repainting and refurbishing is in progress.
- We are extremely keen to employ a full-time Youth Worker to keep building our Youth Work – a major financial challenge. Looks like my life as a Churchwarden going forward will be dominated by fundraising.

St Mary's is a broad Church. What we see in Church on Sundays is just part of the iceberg. We are a whole range of communities. We have a loyal and hardworking Garden Day community whom we don't see every Sunday, but they are a very real part of our church family. They include a good number of families whose children contribute brilliantly to our work and the day itself. The lunch club groups, the active life of our Choir – no stopping them, all the Youth Groups, the Dancing For Fitness and Hub and on it goes. How many more can you think of? The Ministry of Cake and the hospitality team come immediately to mind, but there are more.

This year at the APCM we shall try to give everyone a chance to comment or question section by section as we come to each area of activity. But time is short, and it is difficult to cover everything with the detail it deserves. Also, not everyone wants to ask a question or raise a concern in public so if you have something you would like to say, here are two ways that may help you:

- **Email me:** mcmhume@outlook.com
- **Call me** on 07770 771653. I'll be happy to keep anything you say confidential or anonymous if you so request.
- **Come and see me** - I'll be in the Barn Centre from 10 O'clock on the morning of Saturday 2nd May. I'll have coffee and biscuits available – I'll brew the coffee, but you'll be relieved to know I won't be baking the biscuits.

Please take up one of these opportunities to speak up. Let's get everything out in the open where we can deal with it. I know there are some gripes out there – please give us a chance to recognise and address them.

A recent press article asked, "Has the Church of England got a death wish". Not at St Mary's! St Mary's is alive and pressing forward in the service of our Lord. Powered by the Grace of our good Lord and fuelled by love and prayer we must and shall continue to live and work for the glory of God in Newick.

Christopher Hume



NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Parish of Newick

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in

St Mary's Newick's Church

on the 3rd day of May 2026

For election of parochial representatives of the laity as follows -

- 1 To the Deanery Synod 4 representatives.
To the Parochial Church Council 3 representatives.
- 2 For the appointment of the Independent Examiner.
- 3 For the consideration of:
 - (a) a report on the numbers entered on the new Roll;
 - (b) an Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;
 - (c) the financial statements of the council for the year ending on the 31st December preceding the meeting;
 - (d) the annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church;
 - (e) a report of the proceedings of the deanery synod; and
 - (f) other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

In this Notice, 'parish' means an ecclesiastical parish.

Signed

Minister of the parish



NOTICE OF A MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Parish of Newick

A meeting for the election of churchwardens will be held in

St Mary's Church

On 3rd day of May 2026 at 11.30 am during the APCM

This meeting may be attended by:

1. All persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish and
2. All persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence

Signed  Minister

Dated 15/04/2026

In this Notice "parish" means an ecclesiastical parish.

As always our APCM is followed by lunch, and 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.

Services St Mary's – May 2026

<p>Sunday 3rd May Fourth after Easter</p>	<p>8am BCP Holy Communion – St Peter's Chailey to join St Mary's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language <p>10am Worship & Praise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements. <p>5pm Evensong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with choir and hymns
<p>Sunday 10th May Fifth after Easter</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language <p>10am Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A sung service with choir and hymns <p>6pm Worship2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A reflective service with contemporary songs
<p>Thursday 14th May Ascension Day</p>	<p>7pm Ascension Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A reflective service with hymns and readings celebrating the rise of Jesus into Heaven
<p>Sunday 17th May Fourth Sunday after Easter</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language <p>10am Family Worship & Praise with Owls Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A service for all with songs and activities
<p>Sunday 24th May Sunday after Ascension May Camp Weekend</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion - St Peter's Chailey to join St Mary's</p> <p>10am Service of the Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A service with readings and hymns
<p>Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday</p>	<p>8am BCP Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language <p>10am Churches Together at St Peter's Chailey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns

*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 8th 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 3rd May : Ages 10-17 - 4 - 5pm Over 18's - 5.15-6.30	Sunday 17th May : Ages 10-17 - 4-5:pm Over 18's - 5.15-6.30
Sunday 10th May: Ages 10-17 - 4-5pm Over 18's - 5.15-6.30	Sunday 7th June: Ages 10-17 - 4-5:pm Over 18's - 5.15-6.30

A message from the Diocese of Chichester:

“Consultation on the next Bishop of Chichester”

Bishop Martin retires at the end of May, and as a diocesan family we are beginning the search for his successor. Have your say in the appointment at [tinyurl.com/next-bishop](https://www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/) It will take only a few minutes to complete, and it is open until May 26th. We welcome responses from everyone.

Find out more about the process for appointing our next bishop at www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/>

Ladies Supper

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 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 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.

We are still looking for Welcomers!

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

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

6th May onwards on the Rec
NYC and NCT groups together
Wednesdays 7 - 8.30pm



NYC/NCT GET HYPED 7-8:30

TASKMASTER
15th April Task Master

£5 contribution
22nd April Mug decorating

29th April Nerf war
NERF WARS

6th May Combat Archery

13th May Colour party

3rd May Hunger games

10th June Car wash

17th June Water rounders

24th July new youth club evening

1st July **Splash!**

8th July **BARBECUE**
BBQ the parents



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!!

East Sussex Concert Band

presents music from



conducted by Jonathan Bailey

Saturday 16th May @ 7pm

Newick Village Hall, Western Road, Newick BN8 4LY

Licensed bar (wine, beer & soft drinks)
tea, coffee, cakes and ice creams
available from 6.30pm

Tickets: £8, under 12s £1

Available at: www.trybooking.com/uk/106898
Scan the QR code or email newickvillagehall@gmail.com
(Tickets will also be available on the door)

Supporting live & local music, entertainment and their venue



East Sussex
Concert Band



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
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



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

11th July at 7pm

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 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

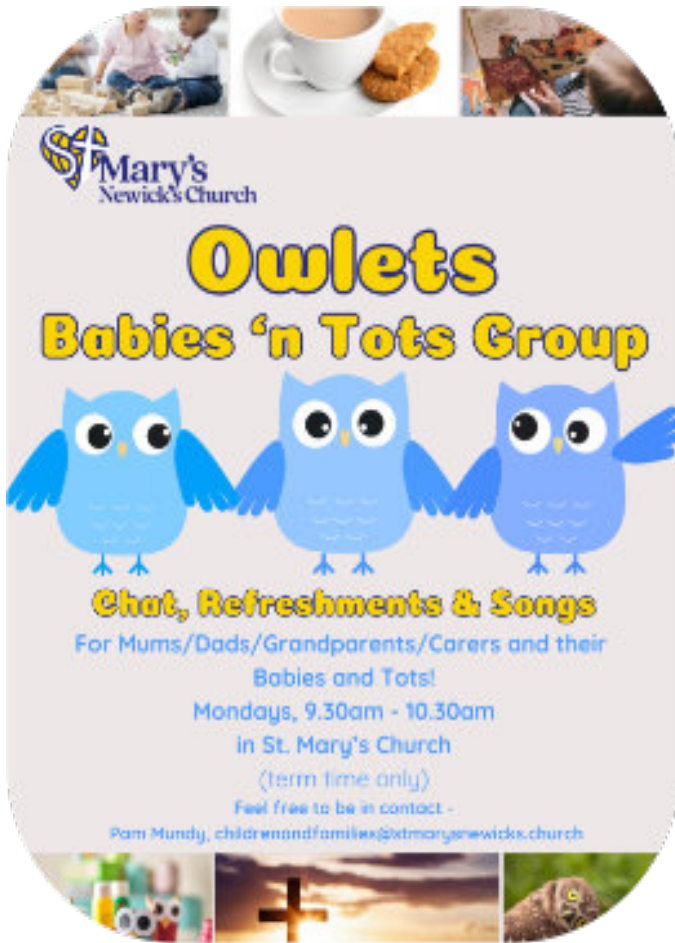
Owlets Babies 'n Tots Group: Chat, refreshments and songs for Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their Babies and Tots. Mondays 9.15-10.30am (term time only) in St Mary's Church. Feel free to contact Pam Mundy for more information childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church


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

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



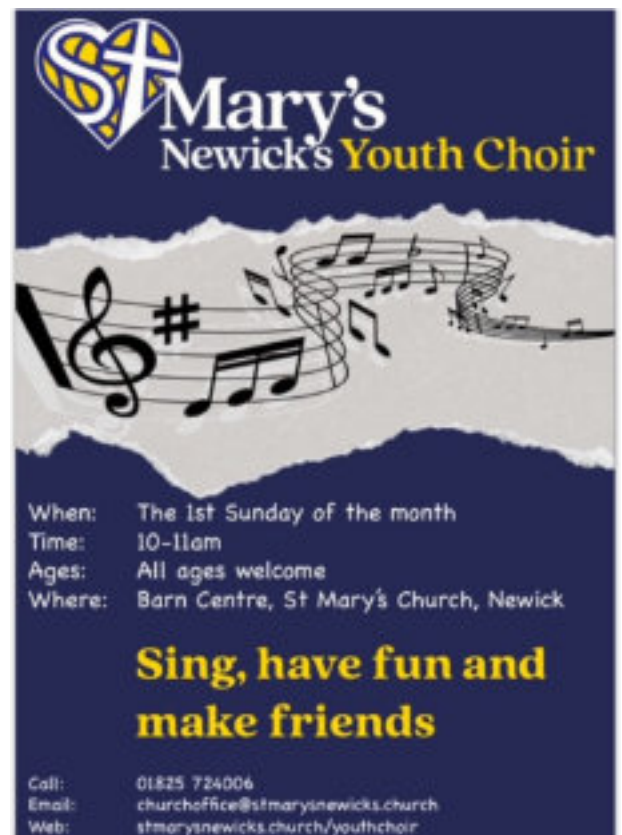



Owls Club




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




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

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](#)