

NEWSLETTER



Love and Prayers to **everyone** going to
Maycamp this weekend
E N J O Y !!!

The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

Rector's Ramble

Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.24-34,35b; 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13; John 20.19-23

Dear Friends,

Can't believe that 33 years ago today (22nd May) Pam and I said "I do" at St Mary's Church Old Town Eastbourne. Who would have thought that 33 years later, we'd be celebrating by entertaining 33 kids along with 417 other young people in the middle of a racecourse at the foot of the South Downs, I certainly know how to show her a good time!!! 😊 😊

Thank you to all those who have dropped cakes off at The Rectory, for our May Camp weekend, and its still not too late, if you would like to offer a little treat to keep us going. I will be coming back on Sunday morning to St Mary's for our Churches Together 8am Pentecost Holy Communion.



Please could we have donations from both churches of Cake or Savouries for our Confirmation Service on the 8th June and please hold our candidates in your prayers. There is a reminder further on in this Newsletter.

Also, I've had a few of you ask if you can support May Camp Financially and the answer is yes please! The weekend always cost's us more than we can ask from our young people and we have several young people coming on bursaries, so if you are able to support please do so either through the St Mary's Giving Page or through our envelopes at St Peter's & St Mary's and just write May Camp on the envelope and don't forget Gift Aid, it really helps.

Apart from Josh and myself cooking for 450 young people on Friday night, Josh will be running workshops on 'capturing God in creation' as a photography workshop, one of our wonderful Chloe from NYC will be one of the worship welcomers on stage and I'll be running a seminar titled "God knows me by name: Who am I in this world?", so please be holding us all in your prayers.

There is something wonderfully honest about children's questions. They have a way of cutting through all our careful explanations and getting straight to the heart of the matter. Recently, a junior school pupil asked, "Why did Jesus have to start a new religion?"

It is a remarkable question because it touches on something central to the Christian faith. Jesus did not come simply to create another exclusive club or a faith for one nation alone. Again and again in the Bible we see that God's love is always reaching outward. The risen Christ tells his disciples, "*You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"

The good news was never meant for a select few. It was always intended for everyone.

At the Ascension, Jesus commissions his followers to proclaim “*repentance and forgiveness of sins... to all nations.*” And this Sunday on Pentecost Peter declares that “*everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*” In John’s Gospel Jesus prays to the Father, saying that he has been given authority “over all people” so that eternal life may be offered to all. The message is clear: the Gospel is gloriously inclusive.

That feels particularly important in the world we are living in today.

Across society we see growing divisions and anxieties. There has been a worrying rise in antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred, sadly cloaked by the weaponization of our Christian faith as a Nationalist and Far-Right agenda, political debate often becoming harsh and angry.

Around the world nations speak more about protecting themselves than caring for others. Immigration, conflict, trade, and national identity dominate headlines and frequently leave people fearful or suspicious of one another.

At times it can feel as though society is encouraging us to retreat into tribes — to care only for those who look like us, think like us, vote like us, or belong to our own group.

Yet the Christian Gospel consistently points in the opposite direction.

From the very beginning Christianity sought to break down barriers. St Paul worked tirelessly to unite Jewish and Gentile believers, reminding them that “*God shows no partiality.* (Rom 1:10-11)” Peter proclaimed at Pentecost that God would “*pour out my Spirit on all flesh.* Acts 2:17.” The Church grew because it welcomed people from every background, language, and nation.

When we look at our world today, we cannot ignore the suffering of others. We see war in Ukraine, devastating violence in Sudan and the Middle East, and widespread economic hardship affecting families everywhere. Modern communications mean that we witness suffering more vividly than ever before. We cannot pretend not to see it.

And yet the Christian response cannot simply be despair or anger. Our calling is to remain people of compassion, hope, and peace. While political leaders often trade insults or pursue power at any cost, the Church is called to model something different: reconciliation, mercy, and unity.

That is why it has been encouraging to see Christian leaders across traditions speaking about peace, cooperation, and human dignity. The relationship between Pope Leo and the Archbishop of Canterbury reminds us that Christians are at our best when we seek unity rather than division, healing rather than hostility.

Of course, following Christ is not always comfortable. The New Testament is very realistic about this. St Peter writes of the “fiery ordeal” that believers may face and

speaks about being “reviled for the name of Christ.” Many Christians around the world still experience persecution, violence, or discrimination because of their faith. Others face ridicule or hostility closer to home for trying to live differently in an increasingly fractured society.

But the answer is never bitterness. Instead, Christians are called to persevere with courage and grace, trusting in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Paul writes to the church in Corinth who were in danger of thinking they were ‘God’s gift’ to the Church – believing their spiritual gifts made them special. Paul explains that the Holy Spirit gives different gifts to God’s people, but they are to be used to serve the common good. The believers should be united as one body in Christ, no matter their background or status.

This week we need to consider how we can honour all the gifts God gives us and use them for the benefit of others, and for His glory.

Perhaps that is where the child’s question leads us. Why did Jesus have to start something new?

Because the world needed — and still needs — a vision bigger than fear, prejudice, or self-interest. Jesus came to show a kingdom where all are valued, where enemies can become neighbours, where forgiveness triumphs over hatred, and where no one is beyond the reach of God’s love.

That remains both inspiring and deeply challenging.

If we were asked to lead our nation for the next three years, what would our priorities be? How would we care not only for the strong and successful but also for children, the elderly, those struggling financially, the unemployed, and the lonely? How would we speak about other nations and people different from ourselves? Who are the suffering brothers and sisters we are being called to notice today?

These are not simply political questions. They are profoundly spiritual ones.

As Christians, we are called to resist the temptation to demonise others or retreat into fear. Instead, we are invited to stand firm in faith, to care generously, and to remember that every human being is made in the image of God.

And if a child asks again, “Why did Jesus have to start a new religion?” perhaps the simplest answer is this:

Because God’s love was always meant for everyone.

Have a great Bank Holiday weekend, a good week, and remember 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 – May 2026

<p>Sunday 24th May Pentecost May Camp Weekend</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion - St Peter's Chailey to join St Mary's 10am Service of the Word ❖ A service with readings and hymns</p>
<p>Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday</p>	<p>8am BCP Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language 10am Churches Together at St Peter's Chailey ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns</p>

Service St Mary's – June 2026

<p>Sunday 7th June First Sunday After Trinity</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language. 10am Morning Worship & Praise with Baptism ❖ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements and includes a Baptism. 5pm Evensong ❖ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with choir and hymns.</p>
<p>Monday 8th June</p>	<p>7.30pm Deanery Confirmation Service ❖ A special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized. Lead by Bishop Will Hazlewood</p>
<p>Sunday 14th June Second Sunday After Trinity</p>	<p>8am BCP* 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</p>
<p>Sunday 21st June Third Sunday After Trinity</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language. 10am Father's Day All Age Worship with Baptism ❖ A service for all with songs and worship and includes a Baptism.</p>
<p>Sunday 28th June Fourth Sunday after Trinity</p>	<p>8am BCP* Holy Communion ❖ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language. 10am Worship & Praise ❖ A mixed style of service, with both traditional and contemporary elements.</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, Steve Carter, Jebby Dyson, Harri Gande, Morris Gee, John and Elizabeth Gould, Rubie Geer, Summer Kilgour, Juliette Lucas, 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, Yvette Smith, Cheryl Stewart, Marcus Thrower, Felicity Veasey, Toni Warrilow, Sean Watson, Nasima Wright.

Our Prayer for Growth

God of Mission

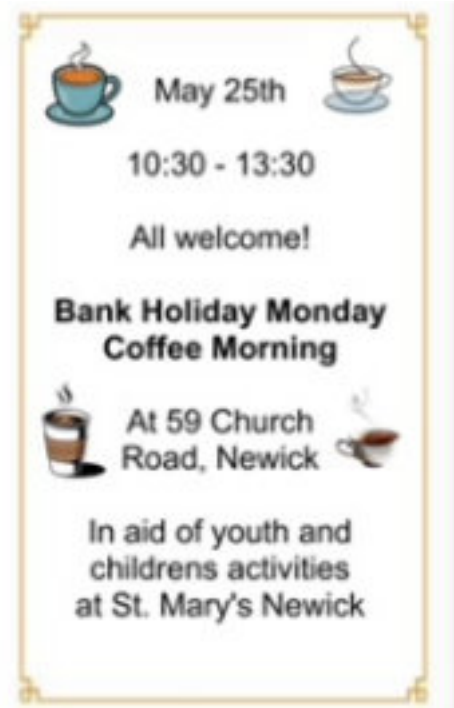
**Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit
To give vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen**



What a great way to Spend a Bank Holiday Monday Morning

All round to Patsy's House!

For such a good cause



Confirmation Service - Request

On Monday 8th June we have the Deanery Confirmation Service at 7.30pm with Bishop Will Hazlewood presiding, and all are welcome!.

There will be confirmation candidates from St Mary's as well as candidates with their Clergy, family and friends from other Parishes and there will be refreshments afterwards.

If you are able to donate a cake or a quiche it would be very well received.

Please let our Verger Rebecca know either:

- via email: rebeccahume@hotmail.com
- or by giving her a call/text on 07796332867

Thank you.

Date for the diary!

Saturday 18th July

As mentioned at the APCM, Paul wishes us to have two Vision days for St Mary's this year, a summer and an autumn/winter one and so please make a date in your diary for the first one which is on **Saturday 18th July**.

It will be 9am to 3pm with lunch provided and will be a really valuable day for us all, with everyone being able to contribute thoughts and views to help shape the vision and future for St Mary's.

It is important that we know how many will be coming so we would really like a commitment to be able to plan to accommodate and of course cater for the day.

Please email churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church to confirm you can come (and if you are bringing a partner/friend to save two messages). There will be a sign up sheet for anyone who doesn't have email at the back of church a bit nearer the time, but hopefully if you are reading this as it's been sent to you, you are able to respond. Thank you.



Newick Afternoon club



Message from Paddy Cumberlege & Malcolm Smith

The Newick Afternoon Club July meeting will be a private visit to Bridge Farm Roman Settlement on Thursday 9th July. This will be in place of the usual talk at The Barn Centre. The tour will commence at 2.30pm and arrival at the site is requested by 2.15pm at the latest.

The excavations are run by The Culver Archaeological Project, more details may be found at <https://www.culverproject.co.uk/>

A donation of £10.00 per person is requested. This can be paid to either Paddy or Malcolm.

At this moment in time, we need to establish an idea of numbers. Please could you email Paddy's secretary, Karen at karen@cumberlege.org with a copy to me at malcolmatcuttings@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

We would be grateful for your answers as soon as possible, and in any case by the end of this month.

We will aim to organise car-sharing, but this can be arranged in June.

Over 30 lovely ladies enjoyed a smashing supper in the Barn Centre last Friday - cooked to perfection by Rev Paul and served to the ladies by Christopher, Jonathan and John. Thanks Chaps!



They also enjoyed some gorgeous desserts which were very kindly provided by some of the ladies - thank you ladies!

Thanks also go to Patsy who gave a wonderful and very entertaining talk about Women from the Bible and she had two very helpful volunteers with

her to demonstrate both the ancient and the modern woman in society. And both called Miriam! - what's the chances of that.....



There was a lot of love in the room, a lot of laughter and a lot of good food; and the ladies are looking forward to the next one already

Photo's courtesy of Emma Wigmore, and to see more - visit our [GALLERY](#)

Wonderful Opera Evening in Church!

Charlotte Wickes brought a team of four opera singers and their accompanist to St Mary's last Sunday evening. We had an audience of going on 100 from Saint Mary's and a good number of people from the wider village. The dedication and professionalism of the musicians was striking, the singing was excellent, the audience was happy and enthusiastic and the performance concluded with a well-deserved standing ovation.



The evening was a fundraiser for Charlotte's Intergenerational Opera which is a successful and growing organisation. It works with schools and the wider community to run six-week programmes bringing school children and older members of the community together to put on an opera performances. Charlotte has done this with a number of our local schools and more widely in Sussex. Intergenerational Opera has gained a number of prestigious awards for this work and is pursuing full charitable status. Our Rector Rev Paul Mundy is a Trustee.

The evening was a happy social occasion. We ran a bar at the beginning of the evening and during the interval of the performance. Our hospitality team with Pat and Rosemary to the fore, bless them, provided excellent nibbles and the bar was well patronised. Malcolm, Michelle and Carl ran the bar very well – many thanks to them for their sterling efforts.

Overall, a great night for St Mary's. Our beautiful Church with its excellent acoustics lends itself to evenings like this. And it was wonderful to see such a good number of people from the wider village joining the congregation members who enjoyed this successful occasion.



A Few Words from The Sexton - Gutter Talk

Quinquennial Inspection

Every five years our Church like every other church in the country has what is called a 'quinquennial inspection' carried out by a suitably qualified architect. This results in a report on the building both outside and inside regarding its condition and flagging up any items of concern. The last two inspections have noted the deteriorating condition of the Victorian cast iron gutters and down-pipes. They have held up well but time and the elements have caused rusting and joint leakage and paintwork generally looking unloved. So on my list of medium and long term items needing attention this was the one I wanted to 'flag up' most at PCC meetings. Deferred from late last year due to weather concerns and a lot of significant services, a time slot from mid April to June this year was chosen well ahead of the next inspection in April 2027.

Paint Job

Local roofing expert Steve Heasman and Webb Plummer of WTP scaffolding were chosen to carry out the necessary work and I then had the job of finding an industrial strength paint finish in exactly the same 'off grey' colour as the existing paint. Without giving away Julian Avis true age we can say with confidence that as a young person he saw the last paint job being done 50 years ago entirely off ladders! This time around apart from health and safety concerns the gutters needed internal attention to seal joints and other leaks which isn't possible with ladders alone.



Well Insured

However we ran into difficulties because our insurers would not insure the lead valley between the two roofs unless security shuttering and an alarm was fitted for the duration. This increased cost and added stress as the start day approached, my sincere thanks to Ian Reekie for resolving these and other issues raised by the insurance underwriters - we got there finally!

The Finish

The gutters are all restored, down-pipes re-fixed, all repainted with a special alkyd based paint and the chancel and trefoil windows



cleaned of guano and anti-bird spikes fitted.

Thanks to Steve Heasman and Steven Rea and Webb and his men. Next repaint another 50 years I reckon.....



Future Projects

Now for the next projects - Clock Face re gilding, Stonework re mortaring, repair and repaint the Weather-vane? There is plenty to think about and fund where the Church exterior is concerned.

THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS ON THE PROJECT CAN BE SEEN ON OUR [GALLERY](#)

Events and Regulars



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!

Events coming to St Mary's - rolling list

- 15th April - NYC/NCT Get Hyped has started and runs until July!
- 13th June - Vivace choir 4pm
- 19th June - Mens Supper
- 11th July - Bubbles and Broadway 7pm
- 19th July - Combined Churches Choral Evensong
- 10th October - Autumn Garden Day
- 11th - 13th December Christmas Tree Festival

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

New events will be added through the year too so keep watching!

Vivace! - In Concert

A small, Sussex based choir performing a wide range of music. Featuring a special appearance by St Mary's Youth Choir.



Saturday 13th June

3.30pm to 5pm

St Mary's Church, Newick, BN8 4JZ

Tickets £10 (all on the door) includes tea/coffee/cake at 3.30pm with concert starting at 4pm. (kids go free)

Email: churchoffice@stmarysnewicks.church

Web: stmarysnewicks.church

All profits will go towards the youth work at St Mary's, Newick

www.vivacechoirsussex.org.uk

Open Garden at Northfields; East Grinstead Road, North Chailey

Supporting St. Peter's Church, Chailey

Come and enjoy a relaxing summer afternoon exploring a beautiful one-acre garden designed with a changing climate in mind. Whether you are a gardening enthusiast or just looking for a peaceful spot for tea, there is something for everyone.

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, 13th June
- **Time:** 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- **Location:** Northfields, North Chailey, **BN8 4JB**
- **Entry:** £5 (All proceeds to St. Peter's Church)
- **Parking:** Ample free parking available on-site



Garden Highlights

- **Climate-Conscious Design:** See how the garden adapts to environmental changes.
- **Features:** Topiary balls, a serene maple-shaded area, and a specialized grass garden for hot spots.
- **Sustainability:** Visit the vegetable patch that provides nearly all the owners' needs.
- **Collections:** A stunning variety of Hosta Plants and much more.

Tea & Relaxation

Not a "walker"? No problem. Grab a seat in the dappled shade of the **large blue Cedar** and treat yourself to:

- Delicious homemade cakes
- Freshly brewed tea
- A perfect view of the summer sun



NYC/NCT Get Hyped

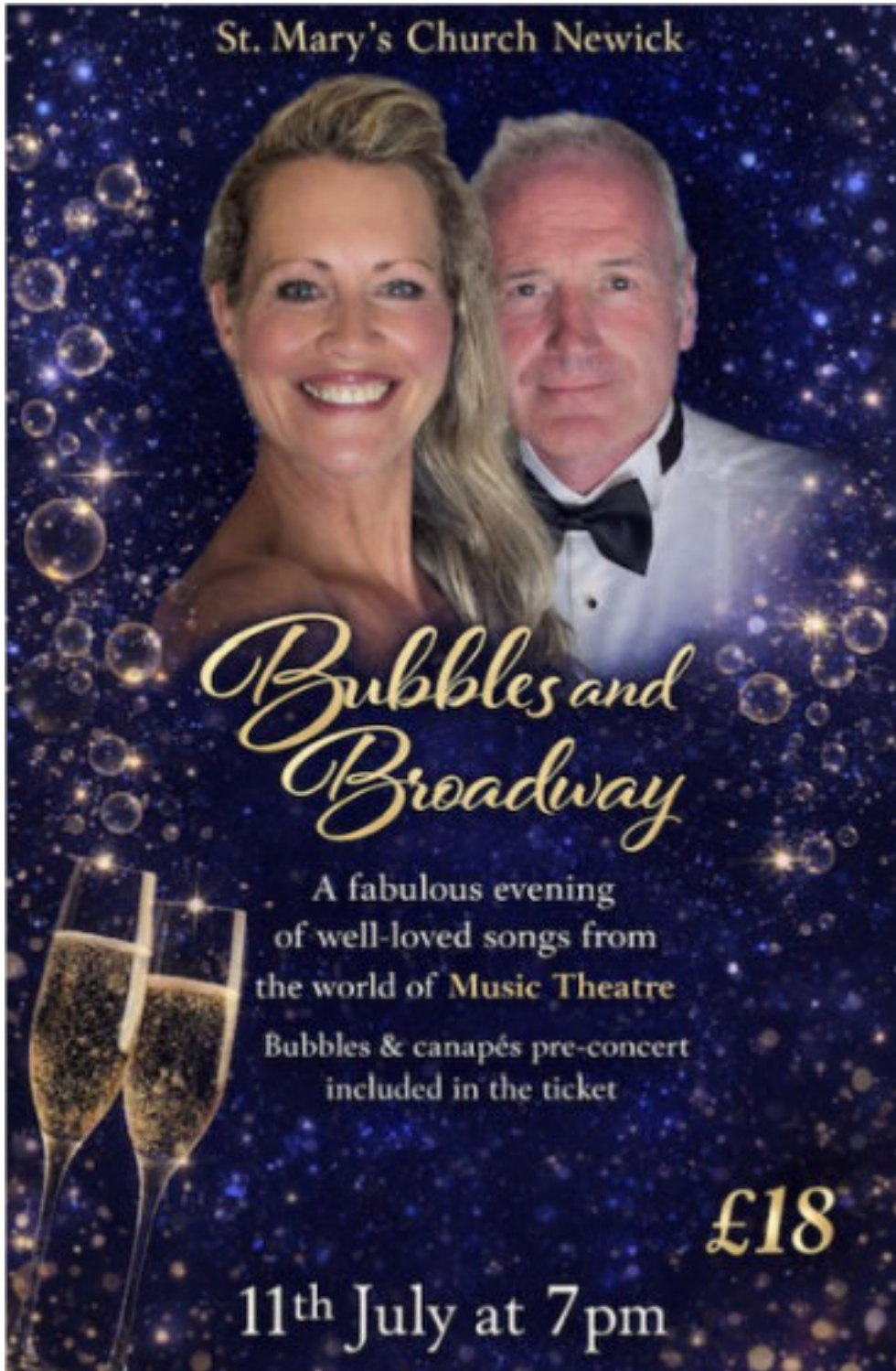
On the Rec

NYC and NCT groups together

Wednesdays 7 - 8.30pm

 7-8:30	NYC/NCT GET HYPED	7-8:30 	
 15th April Task Master	£5 contribution  22nd April Mug decorating	29th April Nerf war 	
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 BBQ the parents 

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

Cash or card on the night at the door or - scan this QR code to get tickets and pay in advance.



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

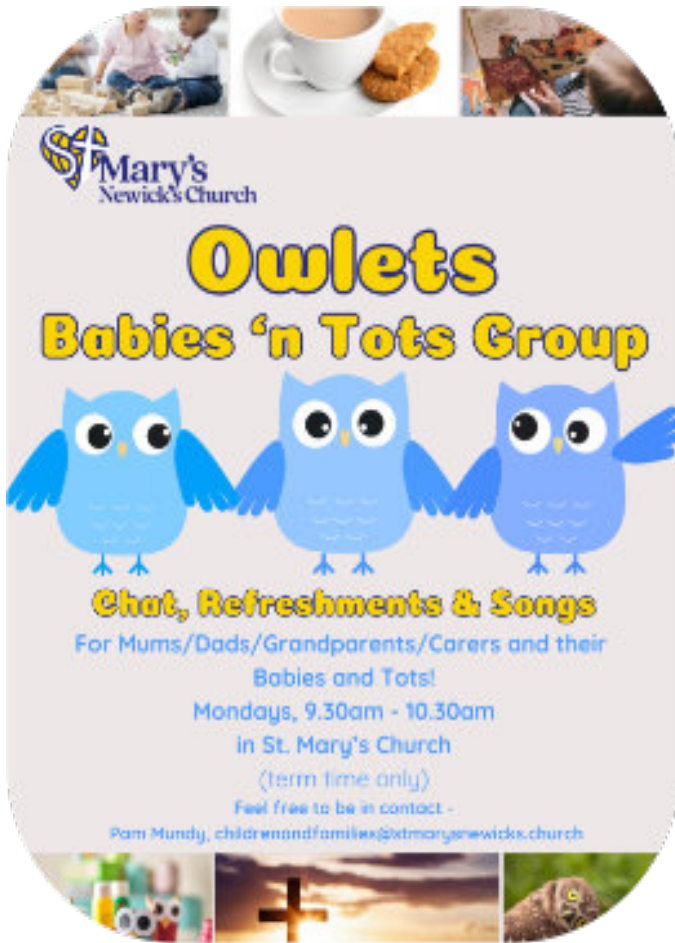
Owlets Babies 'n Tots Group: Chat, refreshments and songs for Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their Babies and Tots. Mondays 9.15-10.30am (term time only) in St Mary's Church. Feel free to contact Pam Mundy for more information childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church


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



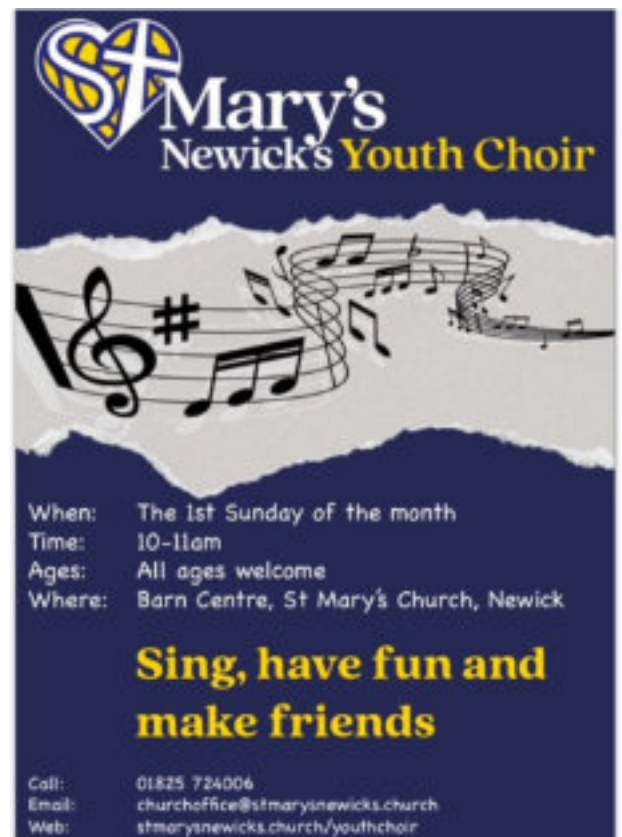



Owls Club




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](#)