

NEWSLETTER

REMEMBER IT'S

“CHURCH SPRING CLEAN”

TOMORROW



The content deadline is 10am every Thursday

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

With our Rector on a well-earned break, we have no Ramble with Paul this week, but we do have a saunter round St Mary's with Christopher:

Onward and Upward! - Looking forward to our APCM on Sunday May 3rd.



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

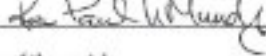
St Mary's Newick's Church

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 15th April 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 – April 2026

<p>Sunday 26th April Third 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 Holy Communion with Baptism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A sung service with Choir and Hymns which includes a Baptism
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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>No 8am BCP* Holy Communion at St Mary's or St Peter'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**



DON'T FORGET.....

Church Spring Clean - Tomorrow 9am -1pm

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

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 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.

Request for prayers from Chris Wagstaff:

Camp Jabez Discipleship Institute, Kenya

We thank God that after years of me being the sole person having oversight over the Managers of Camp Jabez (CJ), last month a board of directors was appointed. Four CJ alumni (going back as far as 2004) volunteered to share in the job of overseeing CJ Discipleship Institute's Management. This coming Monday will be our first online meeting to discuss how each director can take on their respective areas of responsibility. I'm the Board Chairperson. The other 4 areas are: 1. Community & Mission Liaison; 2. Governance & Policy Lead; 3. Treasurer & Finance Committee Lead; 4. Risk & Compliance Lead.

Please pray the new directors will feel responsible to execute their area of responsibility & that in the meeting we can discuss exactly what these responsibilities look like.

Chris

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

A message from the Diocese of Chichester:

“Consultation on the next Bishop of Chichester”

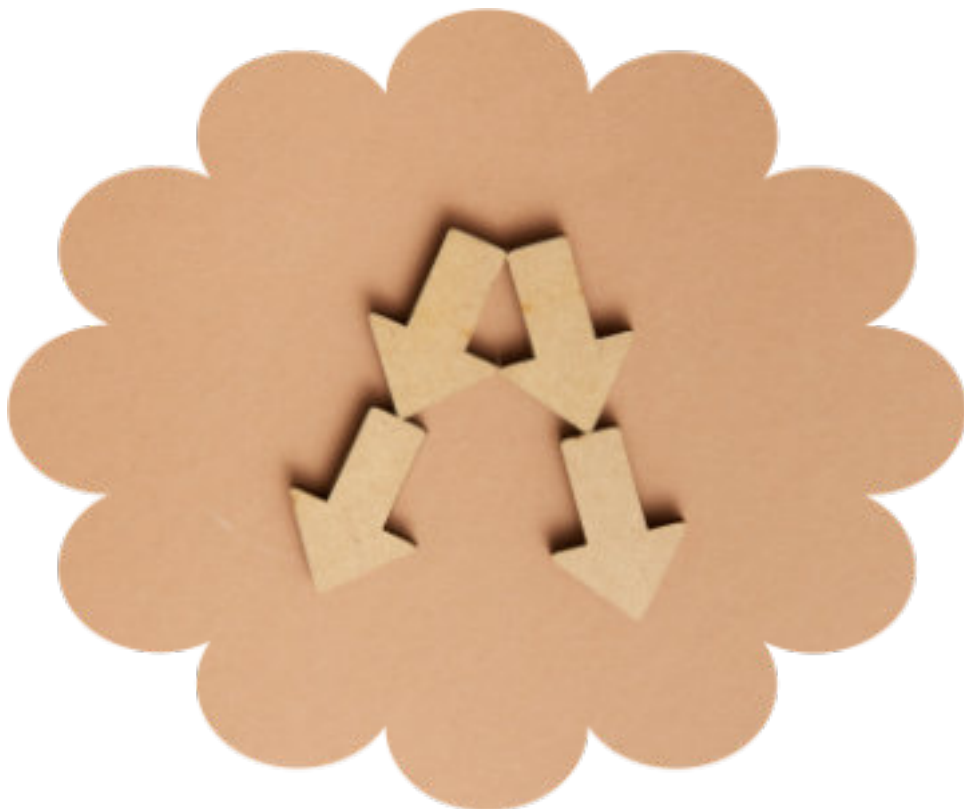
Bishop Martin retires at the end of May, and as a diocesan family we are beginning the search for his successor. Have your say in the appointment at tinyurl.com/next-bishop It will take only a few minutes to complete, and it is open until May 26th. We welcome responses from everyone.

Find out more about the process for appointing our next bishop at www.chichester.org.

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

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!
- 25th April - Church Spring Clean!
- 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

15th 22nd and 29th April in the Barn Centre

6th 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
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

FLETCHING SINGERS' SPRING CONCERT

Fletching Church, TN22 3SR. Saturday 25th 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 21st April. Available online
at <https://www.fletchingsingers.co.uk> , from members, or 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
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

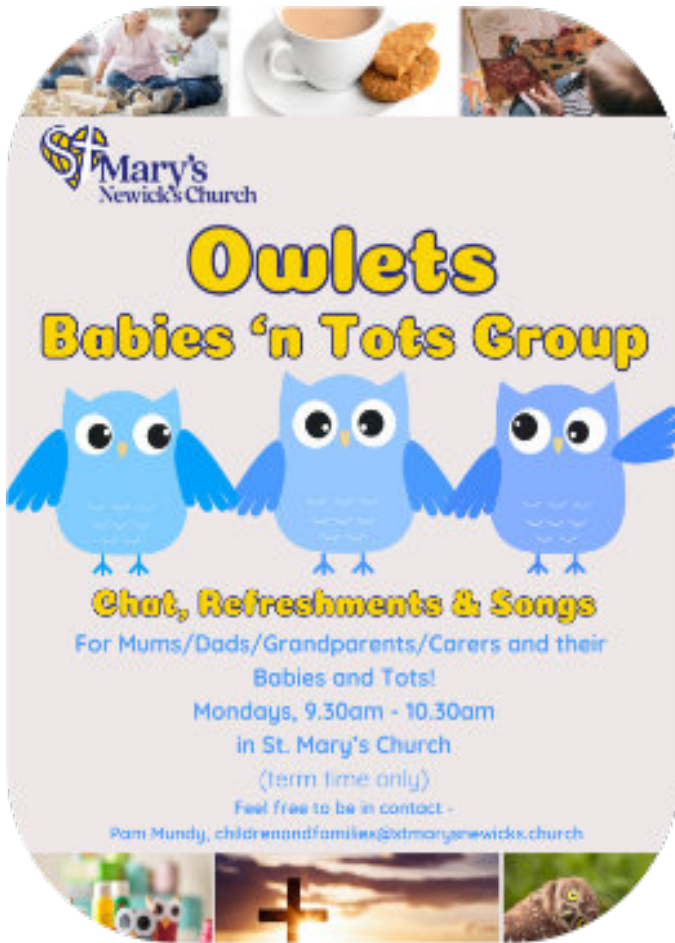
Owlets Babies 'n Tots Group: Chat, refreshments and songs for Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their Babies and Tots. Mondays 9.15-10.30am (term time only) in St Mary's Church. Feel free to contact Pam Mundy for more information childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church


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 -
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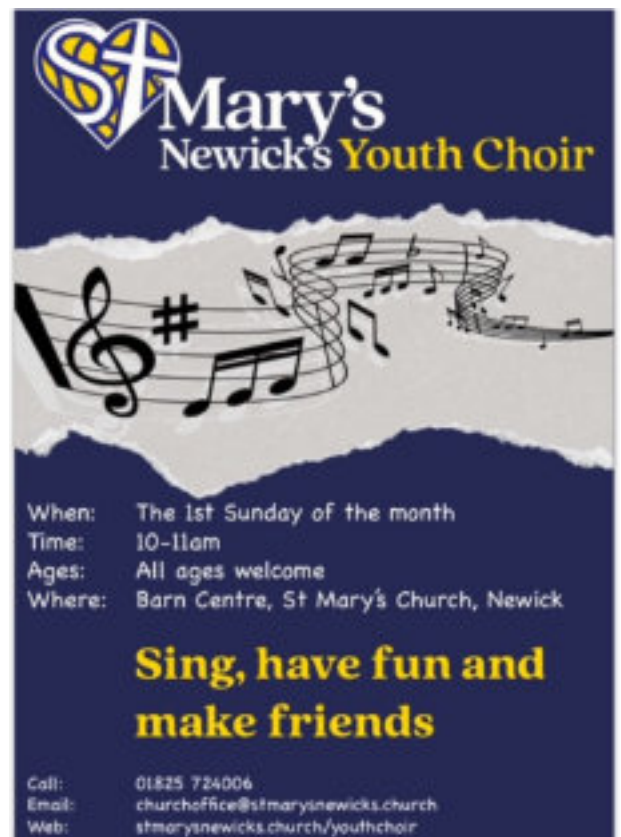



Owls Club




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](#)