

# NEWSLETTER



## **Services this Easter in St Mary's**

11am Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - At the Cross

Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April:

5.45am Sunrise Service

8am BCP Service

10am Easter Day Communion

Deadline for entry into the Newsletter is 10am every Thursday.

Anything received after this time may be held over until the following week.

## **Rectors Ramble**

*“And Sarah declared,  
‘God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me.’”  
Genesis 21:6*

Dear Friends,

As we enter these three holy days, or Triduum, of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, we journey towards the heart of the Holy Week observance. Holy Week ends with the celebration of the Easter Vigil, and we will gather in the Churchyard of St Mary’s Newick from 05:30am on Sunday morning, all are welcome, and there will be refreshments following.

As we enter the solemn beauty of these coming days we step once more onto a well-worn path – the path Jesus Himself walked, the path that reveals the depth of God’s love and the wideness of His mercy.

But first we hold the beautiful haunting solemnity of our Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Service of Shadows at St Peters at 7pm.

On Good Friday at St Mary’s, we will gather for our 11am At The Cross Service of 5 reflections and solemn hymns, then at St Peter’s at 2pm our Good Friday Vigil will lead us into Silence of Holy Saturday.

This week invites us to slow down, to breathe, and to recognise that faith is always a journey: a journey of turning and returning, of listening and responding, of allowing God to lead us more deeply into His life. The Holy Spirit calls us to turn our gaze again towards Christ, who sets His face toward Jerusalem with courage, humility, and unwavering obedience to the Father.

We are reminded that true discipleship is not simply about following from a safe distance, but about allowing His steps to shape our own.

It is a journey of the heart – a journey of conversion – where we allow God to realign our priorities, renew our desires, and re-anchor our purpose.

In these days, the Holy Spirit speaks quietly but insistently, urging us to notice where God is already at work and inviting us to join in. Our task is to listen: to listen to God’s whisper in Scripture, to listen to the cries of those who carry burdens, to listen to the stirrings deep within our souls.

Discernment becomes an act of love – a way of seeing with Christ’s eyes and responding with Christ’s heart. The Triduum also reminds us who we are called to be as Church: a people shaped by the love we witness in the Upper Room, the mercy we encounter at the Cross, and the hope we glimpse in the dawn of Easter.

This identity flows outward into our pastoral vision and mission.

We are not simply organisers of activity or custodians of the familiar; we are a community sent to embody God's compassion, to walk alongside others, and to participate in God's desire for the world.

Strategy, vision, and mission all begin here – at the foot of the Cross where love gives everything, and at the empty tomb where new life begins.

Easter is the greatest of all Christian feasts, and the happy season of Eastertide lasts 50 days from Easter Day until the Feast of Pentecost. St Gregory of Nazianzus said that Easter was *'like the sun among the stars'* of the other festivals. It is the heart of the sacred calendar, around which all of the other festivals have meaning and purpose.

Sunday morning is the summit of the Christian year, the fact that Christ is risen shows that God will never leave us, bringing good out of conflict, suffering and death.

Easter tells us that just as Christ is risen.

So too we can expect to be raised with him to eternal life.

As we walk towards Easter Week, we consider that death was only the beginning, Christ is with us forever.

So as we step forward with Jesus, may we walk slowly and attentively.

May these coming days encourage us to turn again towards God with openness, listening for the Holy Spirit who guides our steps.

May we become, more fully, a people of love and mercy – a people shaped for mission, grounded in hope, and committed to the work God places before us.

be joyful, keep the faith and keep doing the little things that make a difference to those you love and those in need.

Paul xx

## **Hymns for Easter Sunday at St Mary's**

285 Jesus Christ is Risen today.

Praise the Name (Worship Video)

2020 See what a morning (Worship Video)

1346 In Christ Alone

551 Thine be the Glory.

P.S

As there will be no Ramble next weekend, I thought I'd leave you with a rather wonderful article from my brother in Christ Rev'd Fergus Butler-Gaille (and thank you to Ash Stockwell for sharing).

*There is one Easter tradition whose resurrection is, I think, a matter of urgency. For much of the medieval period, there was a well-established ritual for churches to invoke the Risus Paschalis or 'Easter laughter'. Specifically, priests would seek to begin their Easter sermons by making the congregation laugh.*

*I don't merely mean that they deployed the squirm-inducing jokes you might associate with a vicar today, but rather that they viewed it as necessary to provoke a real, deep and unfeigned laugh from the assembled company.*

*Some were even prepared to deploy rude and ribald humour if need be.*

*Why?*

*At the heart of the tradition was a declaration of faith. The laughter was thought to be directed at no other target than Death itself.*

*The joy of Christ's resurrection and its consequences for the lives of all humanity was thought to be so great and triumphant that only laughter would do by way of response. We know that the practice survived the Reformation, as comic actors in the time of Shakespeare would listen to Easter-tide sermons to pick up gags and tips on delivery. Now, however, it seems to have gone the way of Leicester Hare Hunt.*



*It strikes me that we could do a lot worse than to resurrect such a tradition. Firstly, because joy is in short supply in our world and it ought to be part of the mission of the Church to remedy that. Churches should be places that communicate joy, and there is no better time for them to do so than at Easter. Secondly, it would be good to restore because it makes such a firm statement of belief in the Resurrection.*

*The Resurrection is at the heart of Christianity: it is its most important doctrine, the centre of our rituals and the very reason for its existence. It is, quite literally, what gets me out of bed in the morning. At the heart of the Resurrection is joy: joy in the promise of God that life and love are stronger, even than death. It contends that for all our odd-ness, our weakness and our occasional wickedness as human beings, we are still not so precious in the sight of God that he defies even the grave on our behalf. Bear that truth in mind whatever you do this Easter, whether you're chasing a bottle, hunting for eggs, hitting someone you're attracted to with a stick or simply enjoying a wonderful meal among family and friends. No matter how ridiculous you might be seeking to make yourself this Easter holiday, recall that the purpose of the entire season is to remind you that you are infinitely loved. If that isn't worth throwing back your head and having a laugh about, I don't know what is.*

*The Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie is vicar of Charlbury with Shorthampton in Oxfordshire. You can find the full article at <https://www.countrylife.co.uk/magazine/country-life-april-1-2026> or on Fergus' Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/butlergallief/>*

## Services St Mary's – April 2026

<p><b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>  <b>Maundy Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>At St Peter's Chailey</b>  <b>7pm Maundy Thursday and Service of the Shadows</b>                  ♦ A Service of Holy Communion followed by Christian liturgy that meditates on Christ's passion through readings, music, and the symbolic extinguishing of candles.</p>
<p><b>Good Friday 3rd April</b></p>	<p><b>11am At the Cross</b>                  ♦ A Contemplative time of song and scripture as we reflect on the Passion of Jesus Christ</p>
<p><b>Easter Day 5<sup>th</sup> April</b></p>	<p><b>05:45 am Sunrise Service</b>  <b>8am BCP* Holy Communion</b>                  ♦ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language  <b>10am Easter Day Communion</b>                  ♦ A sung service with Choir and Hymns</p>
<p><b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>  <b>First Sunday After Easter</b></p>	<p><b>8am BCP* Holy Communion at St Peter's Chailey</b>                  ♦ A beautiful said service in Traditional Language  <b>10am Holy Communion</b>                  ♦ A sung service with Choir and Hymns  <b>5pm Evensong</b>                  ♦ A Book of Common Prayer sung service with Choir and Hymns</p>
<p><b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>  <b>Second Sunday after Easter</b></p>	<p><b>8am BCP* Holy Communion St Peter's Chailey to join St Mary's</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>
<p><b>*Denotes standard Year A Lectionary Readings</b>  <b>Prayers for Church Services – barn Centre 9.30am every Sunday</b></p>	

### 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**



**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)

## GARDEN DAY, SATURDAY APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>

Spring has sprung, and very welcome it is.



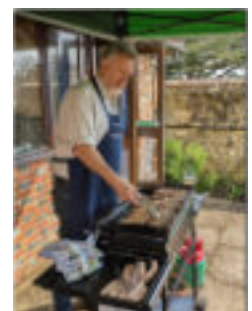
Our churchyard is coming to life. The daffodils and crocuses we planted in years gone by are giving us a welcome display. More and more people are tending and decorating graves in the New Churchyard – it looks wonderful.

Now it's time to keep up the good work and continue the development. We have a number of projects this year:-

- Use membrane and wood chippings to improve the southeast bed where we planted trees (they are doing really well) and took out some shrubbery that was past its sell-by date at our autumn garden day. Well done and thanks again to the Dads and Kids who did so well that day.
- Refurbish our garden beds, and in particular use mulch to prevent weed regrowth.
- Refurbish the two mini-gardens at the Martin war grave and the Chemist's grave – he was our only civilian lost in WW2 to a stray bomb
- Clean up our paths, particularly around the Barn Centre and put down more fertiliser to assist our ailing central yew tree
- Have some fun! Our Garden Days are enjoyable Church family days with lots of happy youngsters doing their thing. There is a lovely spirit to the days, and that's the most important thing of all.



The day will begin with coffee and cakes from 9 o'clock until noon. Then we break for a Rector driven bbq and a happy social time. You don't have to work, just coming to encourage and be a welcome part of it all is a good contribution.



**COME AND ENJOY!**

# ***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!

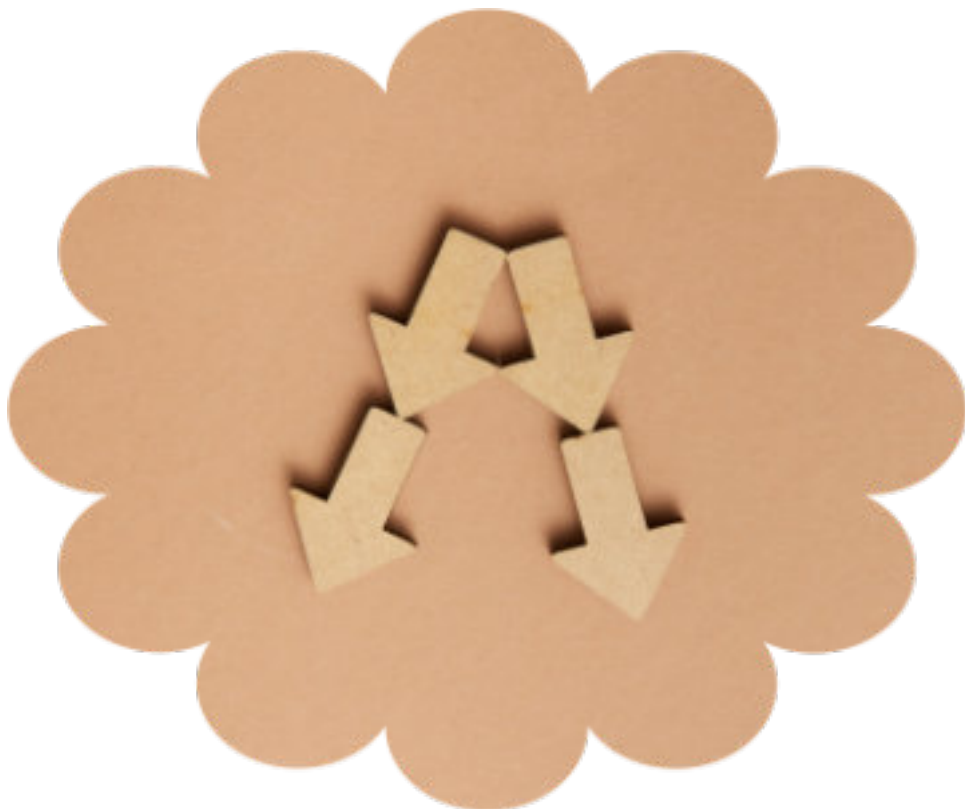
See you there....

Tony Bailey - Sexton



# *Events and Regulars*

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



# **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES!**

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

- 4<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Egg Trail and Craft Morning
- 11<sup>th</sup> April - Garden Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> April - NYC/NCT Get Hyped starts!
- 3<sup>rd</sup> May - Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) followed by lunch
- 15<sup>th</sup> May - Ladies Supper
- 17<sup>th</sup> May - Intergenerational Opera Evening
- 13<sup>th</sup> June - Vivace choir 4pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> June - Mens Supper
- 11<sup>th</sup> July - Bubbles and Broadway 7pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Newick School PTFA

*Children can follow the Easter Egg Trail with a prize at the end! before heading into the Barn Centre for some creative Easter crafts. It's always such a lovely, relaxed morning and a great way to celebrate the Easter holidays with friends.*

Tickets are £5.50 per child and must be purchased in advance.

Book here: <https://pta.events/easter-trail-2026>



The poster features a central wreath of flowers and a blue rabbit. At the top, it says 'NEWICK SCHOOL PTFA' with a logo of five colorful figures. To the right is a circular logo for 'Newick Pre-School' with illustrations of children. The main title 'Easter Egg Trail & Craft Morning' is in large, bold, orange and red letters. Below the title, the date and time are 'SATURDAY 4 APRIL | 10AM - MIDDAY' and the location is 'THE BARN CENTRE ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NEWICK'. The price is '£5.50 per child' in red, with 'ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY PLEASE' in black below it. In the bottom left, there is a paragraph of text. In the bottom right, it says 'TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW:' next to a QR code. At the very bottom right is the logo for 'St Mary's Newick's Church'.

NEWICK SCHOOL PTFA

Newick Pre-School

# Easter Egg Trail & Craft Morning

SATURDAY 4 APRIL | 10AM - MIDDAY  
THE BARN CENTRE  
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NEWICK

**£5.50 per child**  
ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY PLEASE

Please arrive between 10am - 11am for an Easter Egg trail around the Churchyard, followed by crafts and a cake & refreshment sale in The Barn Centre.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW:



St Mary's  
Newick's Church

# NYC/NCT Get Hyped is coming !!

*Starting 15<sup>th</sup> April with the first three dates being in the Barn Centre (6<sup>th</sup> May onwards are on the Rec) it's our NYC and NCT groups together each Wednesday 7 - 8.30pm*



## 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

# 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:

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

More information: [HERE](#)

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

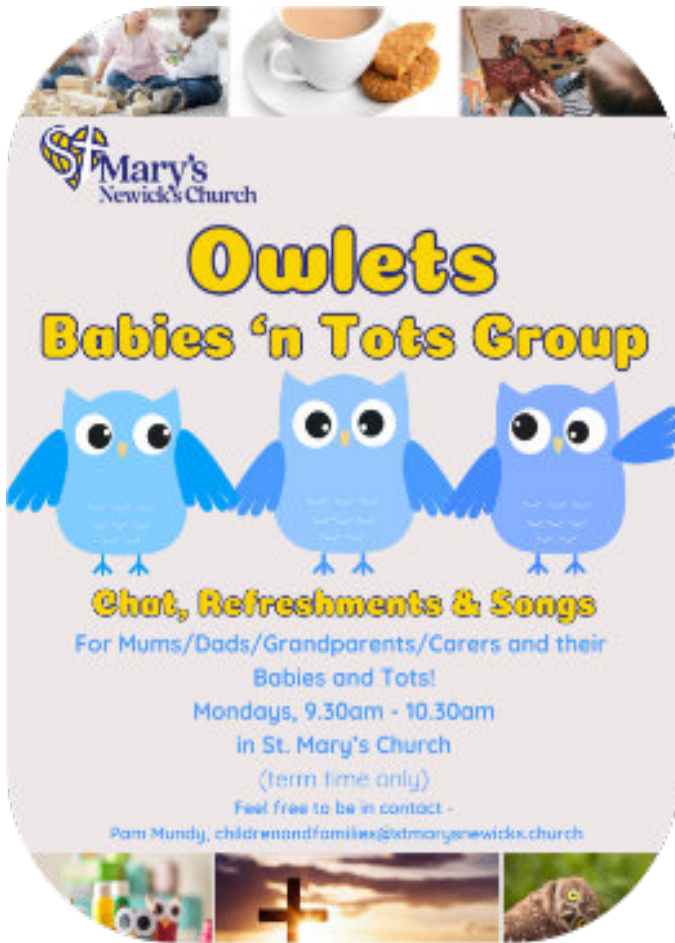
**Owlets Babies 'n Tots Group:** Chat, refreshments and songs for Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Carers and their Babies and Tots. Mondays 9.15-10.30am (term time only) in St Mary's Church. Feel free to contact Pam Mundy for more information [childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church](mailto:childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church)

**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)

Next dates - check the Owls Poster on Website, in Newsletters and up in the Church Porch

**Prayer Group:** 1st and 3rd Monday 2pm Barn Centre (unless otherwise notified)


**Prayers for Church Services:** Sundays 9.30-9.45am Barn Centre



**St Mary's**  
Newick's Church

# 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)



**St Mary's**  
Newick's Church

# Owls Club



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

9.55am - 11.00am  
Next dates 15<sup>th</sup> February 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Feel free to be in contact -  
Pam Mundy, [childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church](mailto:childrenandfamilies@stmarysnewicks.church)

## NEWICK YOUTH CLUBS NYC & NCT

Wednesday evenings  
(Term Time)

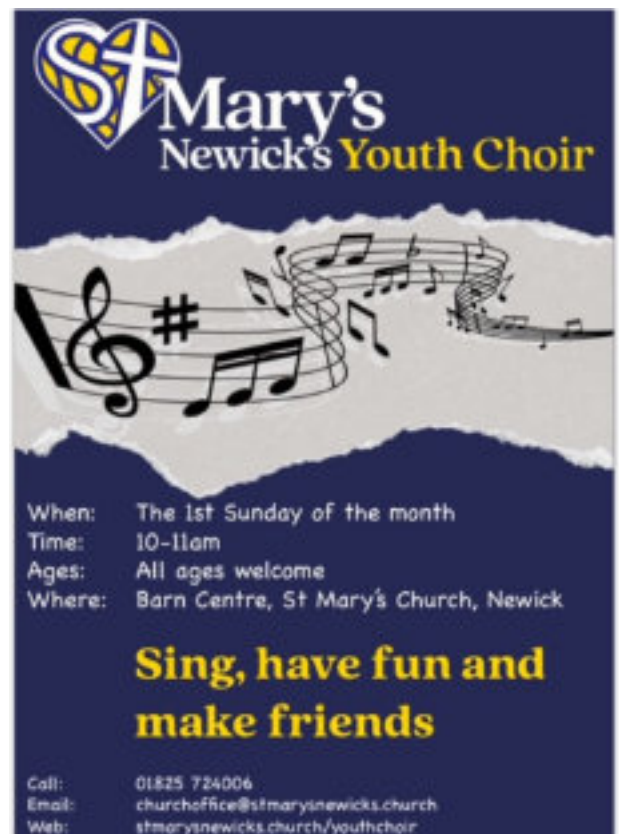
The Barn Centre

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](#)



**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)