



LIVING GOD'S KINGDOM



"- you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2 v5

Praying – Serving – Growing – Together

3 May 2026

11:30

Vestry Meeting & APCM

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

(Vestry Meeting)

Election of Churchwardens

Election of Lay Deanery Synod Members

Election of Deputy Wardens

Annual Reports

ST MARY'S NEWICK'S CHURCH

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

CONTENTS

Page

2	Table of Contents
3 – 20	Reports
21	Treasurer's Report
22 – 23	Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet
24	Independent Examiner's Report
25 – 26	Agendas for meetings
27 - 31	Minutes of APCM held on 6 April 2025

**Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Newick.
PCC Report 2025**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The Primary objective of St Mary's Newick's Church PCC is to live out and declare the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to manifest the love of God in the world, according to the 39 articles of Religion and the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector & Incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical following the 5 marks of mission:

Tell-Teach-Tend –Transform - Treasure

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need in loving service and by serving the Common Good.
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation and Sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (No 1138070) under the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. Membership is determined under the new Church Representation Rules 2020. Membership consists of the Rector, ex- officio members, Churchwardens, Lay Readers, Members of Deanery Synod and up to twelve members of the Church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) or later co-opted during the year.

Ex-Officio Members

Revd. Paul Mundy	Rector
Christopher Hume	Churchwarden, Treasurer until 23 June 2025 and PCC Vice Chair
Sara Fuller	Churchwarden
Jeremy Burdett	Lay Reader and Member of Deanery Synod
Geoffrey Clinton	Lay Reader (resigned from PCC 22 September 2025)
Patsy Bailey	Associate Lay Reader and Member of Deanery Synod
Kate Francis	Member of Deanery Synod

Elected Members

Caroline Smith	Safeguarding Officer
Tony Bailey	Sexton
Linda Farmer	
Audrey Ford	
Anthony Mallinson	
Alan Young	
Dan Cowley	
Mandy Stockwell	
Johnathan Fenton-Vince	
Ian Reekie	Deputy Treasurer
Pam Mundy	
Rob Bellis	PCC Secretary, Treasurer from 23 June 2025

Four PCC meetings were conducted in 2025 (March, June, September, and November). Agenda topics included: the mission of St Mary's, safeguarding, prayer, finance, health and safety, pastoral care, fabric, churchyard, outward giving, Barn Centre, parish magazine and the Christmas tree festival. Several small groups and committees were in place during 2025 to give focus on particular areas as listed below. The lead on each of these is in bold:

Standing Committee:	Revd. Paul Mundy , Tony Bailey, Rob Bellis, Jeremy Burdett, Geoff Clinton, Sara Fuller, Christopher Hume.
Finance:	Christopher Hume , Robin Parris, Rob Bellis, Ian Reekie
Fabric:	Tony Bailey , Christopher Hume, Sara Fuller
Pastoral Care:	Patsy Bailey , Pat Beeston, Jebby Dyson, Audrey Ford, Ian Reekie, Pat Pioli, Rosemary Walters, Marion Young, Ron & June Perou
Outward Giving:	Jeremy Burdett , Revd. Paul Mundy, Ron & June Perou, Ian Reekie, Sue Balloch
Youth:	Revd. Paul Mundy , Ali Brown, Pam Mundy, Lee Buck, Patsy Bailey, Isobel Baty, Rebecca Hume
Barn Centre:	Tony Bailey , Patsy Bailey, Sue Balloch, Linda Farmer, Rosemary Walters, Revd. Paul Mundy
Churchyard:	Christopher Hume , Tony Bailey
Christmas Tree Festival:	Sara Fuller , Jenny Smerdon
Parish Magazine:	Revd. Paul Mundy , Mel Balloch, Sue Balloch, Alex Harrison, Christopher Hume, Alan Morgan, Jackie Potter, Monica Todd, Malcolm Smith

Aims and purposes as a charity

- Promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
- Promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, social, evangelical and ecumenical
- Knowing Jesus better and making Him better known
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay
- Providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives

To meet our charitable objectives, we have continued to follow our mission, expanding our guiding principles. We also consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Key elements of our mission include:

- Worship of God and the proclamation of His Gospel
- Listening to God in prayer
- Linking to the wider community
- Support and education in the Christian faith, especially for the young
- Maintaining Church property

Rob Bellis

How did we affect people's lives in 2025

Worship and the Gospel

St Mary's continues to hold a central part of our community's life journey.

Over the year our Church attendance has maintained, with services taking place at St Mary's for BCP Holy Communion, Evensong, 10am Services, Healing and Memorial, School Services back in Church and Fresh Expressions of worship in monthly our Worship 2.

The usual attendance at services on a normal Sunday at St Mary's averaged 127 adults and 10 young people.

During the year in the parish there were the following 4 Baptisms, 3 Weddings, 1 Blessing and 23 Funerals.

Other Services

Worship 2 continues to be well supported and gratefully received by all those who attend. Our Remembrance Services took place on the Green and in Church and were well supported. Huge thanks to NEASSA for all they do in enabling and supporting our season of Remembrance.

Our Healing Services, Thanksgiving and Memorial Services were well supported, Thanks to Patsy & Mandy for the pastoral work around these much-needed services.

Ministry

Rev Paul Mundy continued his appointment as Rector and Incumbent of the Benefice of Newick and continues in his role as Priest-in-Charge of St Peter's Chailey.

We continue to be hugely thankful for the Lord bringing Fr Martin Morgan to our ministry and his joy, wisdom, hospitality, and excellent pastoral care are a blessing to both St Mary's and St Peter's.

Our Readers Geoff Clinton and Jeremy Burdett continue their vital roles in the life of St Mary's and assisting in neighbouring parishes.

Ian Reekie continues to be an Occasional Preacher with the permission of the Incumbent and Churchwardens.

Mandy Stockwell continues her lead in our Fresh Expressions Worship 2 service and as a worship leader with the permission of the Incumbent and Churchwardens.

Patsy Bailey is our Authorised Lay Minister in Chaplaincy, Mission & Preaching.

Giving

Giving and tything continues to be a challenge to St Mary's with the continued rising cost of living.

Legacy continues to be a major hope for our future, and we would like to thank Christopher & Ian for their continued work.

Even with the current situation St Mary's community have been incredibly generous through the Parish Giving Scheme, occasional gifts, and monthly giving. Thankfully this means we can continue to be an active presence of Christ's love in our community and beyond. Thank you all, and to the good governance and wise stewardship of the Finance Team.

Rectory Report for the 2026 APCM

January was a gentle lead into what I knew would be busy year ahead. One of my great joys was seeing the team come together to launch our 2025 Alpha Course, held at St Mary's.

February was mostly spent with organising cover and making final arrangements for my sabbatical which would start after Easter. I am hugely grateful to all who have stepped up to make all the services and pastoral organisation run so smoothly.

In **March** we began Lent with Ash Wednesday and launched our Lent Course "I Believe", when we were invited to consider the Nicene Creed and celebrate together 1700 years of the Creed and the impact it has today by unfolding for us the mysteries of Christ. The Course was well attended with plenty of puddings to keep us going through the trickier conversations.

We had our first Baptism of 2025 in March and a fantastic Men's Supper Talk from Chris Armitage titled "From Eastbourne to Kabul", exploring the joys and challenges working for HMRC on what was clearly the front line of their operations. The evening was wonderfully supported and a great evening enjoyed by all.

April gave us The Meditation of the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer performed by the choir and visiting singers and a sombre but hope filled evening was appreciated by those in attendance.

Easter this year fell on the 20 April and started in the dark with our Sunrise service. We gathered around the fire and sang God's praise announcing the Risen Christ with all the joy and expectation of this most Holy Days. Hot cross buns were served by the Ministry of Cake team (Rebecca & Pat) and lashings of 'wobbly coffee' to keep out the morning chill, provided by our Churchwarden Christopher Hume. 8am service and a then 10am Family Communion in the beautifully decorated St Mary's were very well supported.

Then Pam and I packed up the car and journeyed north for the start of my Sabbatical.

April is always a busy month and well attended Gardening days and preparations for the making our Church and Churchyard look their best for the Summer. Thank you to all who have supported this event again.

May was the first full month of Reverend Pauls' Sabbatical and we welcomed Reverend Chris Lawrence to lead us in our Sunday Service whilst Fr Martin was on a Pilgrimage to Walsingham. We supported NEASSA with our Church Bells peeling for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with thanks to Julian and the ringers. Our wonderful Flower Team adorned the church with flowers to mark the occasion and Patsy lead a tea in the Community Hub with songs from 1945 and refreshments.

Men's Group started and with the varying commitments and working patterns amongst the group, a 7am start was set which works well for all concerned.

Last but by no means least - Patsy Bailey presented her first Sermon as an Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) and it was great!

In **June** after some 20 years since the first one, Monica Todd arranged a beautiful wedding festival in St Mary's with funds raised going to Farms in Crisis. They were thankful to be presented with over £400 and St Mary's was a wonderful sight with beautiful dresses, photographs and memorabilia from members of the congregation and parish.

We saw the Treasurer reins being handed over to Rob Bellis who was appointed by the PCC after a unanimous vote in favour. Thanks go to Christopher for covering the role in addition to his Churchwarden Role in the interim period.

We were blessed to have Bishop Will host a Churches Together service in St Mary's and we welcomed St Peter's along. During the service he also officially licenced Patsy as a new ALM because she had been unable to attend the licencing service in Portsmouth. The Congregation were delighted to be able to witness that and celebrate with Patsy and Bishop Will.

There was a wonderful donation from Clive and the Maxwell family of a set of chairs for the Barn Centre - in memory of our lovely Anne whom we all dearly miss. Thank you again Clive and family.

In **July** 27 young people were sponsored with a new Bible as they left Primary and were ready to move onto Secondary school after the summer holiday.

There was a special service of celebration for Geoff Clinton who celebrated 50 years as a Lay Reader and as a wonderful support to St Mary's and more latterly to St Peter's Chailey too. Throughout his 50 years here he has served faithfully on our PCC, Standing Committee and for a period of time was a Churchwarden too. A fully rounded and faithful service indeed to our Lord and to St Mary's.

August - Well, what a welcome back, I have to say the biggest thank you to all at St Mary's who supported my sabbatical and who made everything run like clockwork whilst I was away.

My big take home from sabbatical is that we need to remember to move at God's pace and not expect God to keep up with us. Jesus walked from place to place, experiencing the encounters along the way, if we are always running on ahead, we miss the moment in the present, and I definitely need to work on this.

The other thing was that it is often at the end of the journey that the real mission begins, so yes the pilgrimage gave me so much along the way but as I crossed to Holy Island, God's message was very much " Now the mission begins" and I am so excited to be sharing that mission and God's vision with you all at St Mary's Newick.

A Summer Concert of Two Trio's - "The Cocktail Party" and "Harmonica Trio" rang out in St Mary's to start the month and we had Broadway songs with the wonderful Andy and Jo to finish the month. Both events were well attended and a thoroughly super time was had by all.

Holiday at Home club took place both at the end of July and again mid-August and young people took part in arts and crafts, a singalong and some dancing and - had a performance by the youth choir too.

On 15th August Victory in Japan (VJ) Day was celebrated and again the bells rang out in St Mary's with thanks to Julian and the wonderful ringers and - flowers in recognition adorned our church again with thanks to our Flower Team.

Those who sat outside in the evening sunshine then saw an amazing sight - a granite cross further down in the Churchyard lit up and as one attendee put it "Suddenly, a deep pink granite cross in the graveyard was blazing with a fiery, brilliant white light. The light was literally leaping out of the cross!" It was truly a sight to behold.

We celebrated the end of August with the super talented Jo and Andy Rees with a Bubbles on Broadway extravaganza.

September is always a blessing as we head back to school for another year and our school ministry begins in earnest. Owlets and Owls Club were back in full swing and NYC started again with over 80 young people in attendance.

October is a time of Thanksgiving and Harvest Celebrations and as always, our Flower team excelled themselves. We hosted school for their Harvest Celebration, as well as our Main Service at St Mary's, and our Collections going to support those most in need during these difficult financial times.

Our Thanksgiving service was beautifully and respectfully choreographed and appreciated by all who came. Huge thanks to Mandy Stockwell and Patsy Bailey for creating this very precious space.

October, we hosted another fantastic Churchyard tidy with plenty of volunteers, cake, soup, and hotdogs in abundance.

Bonfire night was a huge success with a dramatic firework display which showed the very best of Sussex tradition.

November and the flower team again performed miracles as they transformed St Mary's in preparation for our season of Remembrance with our Remembrance Sunday Service and special thanks to NEASSA for their support and generous hospitality.

December, we held our awesome Christmas Tree Festival and despite fear that the financial situation might put folk off entering we had a wonderful turnout and a fantastic amount raised for St Mary's and St Peter & St James Hospice. Thank you to Sara, Jenny and Tony and all the team for making this happen.

Christmas services were amazing with wonderful attendance at all our services, and especially for the 'At the Crib Service' as always huge thanks to Patsy and the Bailey family for all their hard work and dedication. Advent Carols was wonderful, and well attended, thank you Jonathan and the Choir, and our Lessons and carols, Midnight, and Christmas Day Services, were a joyful celebration of awe and wonder at the coming of the new-born King.

This closes another busy, and challenging year at St Mary's, but once again filled with much joy, celebration, generous hospitality and of course CAKE!

Thank you everyone who has been a been of our St Mary's family in 2025 and enabled us to be serving at the heart of our community.

Huge thank you to Robin Parris for his tireless work on our accounts over many years and to Sara in the office producing our weekly newsletter and supporting our administration.

As ever our eternal thanks to Jackie and Alex for all their work on our amazing Church Community magazine.

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

Paul

Safeguarding Report

Our Church Website has the relevant policies, information and how to report concerns and access help under Safeguarding.

The Diocese of Chichester has changed it Safeguarding from 'SQP' (Simple Quality Protects) to a Safeguarding Dashboard, which the Parish are now using. This requires a lot more input from the Safeguarding Officer and those carrying out all aspects of Church Activities. We have completed Level 1 and are working through Level 2.

All PCC members and anyone working with Children or Vulnerable Adults have DBS checks. Currently there are nearly 50 people with DBS checks. These are now renewed on a three-year cycle. I keep a record of all those who are DBS checked on my database and inform them when their checks need to be renewed.

All Volunteers are encouraged to do at least basic Safeguarding Training. PCC members need to do the next level (Foundation Training) Those in Leadership Roles do Leadership Safeguarding Training. This should be done every three years. Basic Safeguarding and Foundation Training is available on the Diocese website. Leadership Training is a mixture of Website and Online work, including Case Studies and more recently face to face training has been brought back. Patsy has run an inhouse training to meet the specific needs of our Pastoral Support Volunteers.

As Safeguarding Officer in line with the Diocese of Chichester guidance I have done 'Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking' training.

Lee Buck, who runs the Youth Club Lee Buck, Pam who runs Owls and Cara Barseghian, who is running the Youth Choir all have up to date DBS Checks and are aware of Safeguarding issues and Health and Safety. They do the appropriate training for their roles.

There are no outstanding Safeguarding issues.

Caroline Smith

Electoral Roll Report 2025

The current electoral roll stands at 153. Of this number 118 live within the parish boundary and 35 live outside it. 12 names have been added to our Roll, and we extend our warm welcome to all those people.

Sadly, 5 people have been removed. We give grateful thanks for the lives of Ann Maxwell, John Sclater and Melanie Thew and for the prayer ministry of Mandy Watson before she moved away.

The list of names on our Electoral Roll will be displayed in the porch for two weeks as required by the Diocese of Chichester. This list will include names only; no other data will be displayed.

Mandy Stockwell, Electoral Roll Officer

Children and Family Ministry

Owls Club

This year **Owls** has continued to meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month. The club is facilitated by Pam and wonderfully supported by Patsy, Valerie, and Issie and George Pottinger, when able. DBS checks are currently up to date and diocesan basic and leadership safeguarding training has been completed where required.

Each month we meet together in the Owls Nest at the front of the North Aisle at the beginning of the church service, before heading over to the Barn Centre together with a sending prayer from the congregation. Parent/carers remain in church for the service.

The children always start the session with an opportunity to share any Good News from the previous month. The topic of the day is then introduced before the passage for the day is looked up in youth bibles and read out. The children are noticeably becoming more confident in exploring their bibles. In September we introduced ending the sessions with an opportunity to recreate together the subject of the day using Lego, which has proved popular and will be continued.

We then all head back to the church for an opportunity to receive a blessing during communion and to share what Owls has been up to that day.

Average numbers for the first half of the year were down due to a family of four moving on. However, parent and family relationships continue to be strong.

Although Owls Club and Owlets doesn't take place in August, several children and their families joined together for a **picnic on the Rec** twice during the school holidays. There is also an opportunity and invitation for Owls/Owlets families to join the Churchyard Gardening Days, Harvest Lunch, The Christmas Eve Nativity Service, and the Remembrance Sunday service.

An **advent** calendar (including a Christmas Story booklet with puzzles) was delivered to each child at the end of November and a Church of England 'Hope' Leaflet, along with a flowerpot and sunflower seeds was delivered to the families for **Lent** this year, which was well received.

For Easter this year, the Newick Primary and Pre-school once again organised an **Easter Trail** and activity day in coordination with the Church and Barn Centre, which proved very popular with over 90 children and their families taking part.

In October half term a **Craft and Lego** morning was held in the Barn Centre open to all Owls/Owlet families. It is hoped to hold this again in the half term breaks.

Owlets Club

Owlets is a parent and babies/tots group facilitated by Pam Mundy and Mandy Stockwell.

Running every Monday during term time, from 9:15 to 10:30, at the back of the North Aisle in Church, Owlets is a space for chat, a cuppa, and biccies. Play toys are available for babies and toddlers. We then close the session with a selection of sung nursery rhymes. The toys are stored between the organ and the back of the choir stalls. This group is currently being offered free of charge.

Numbers have naturally reduced in the last few months due to parents going to work, moving out of parish or children moving up to nursery school. Invitations are being sent out in the new year to families who have had their children baptised during the previous year. We are now advertising regularly in the parish magazine, on Newick talk and at the primary school, and are looking to make links with Newick Pre-school in the new year. Parents and carers are also welcome to invite others.

We have noticed an increase of grandparents bringing their grandchildren. We also signpost to other Tots groups in the area; Possums in St Peter's on Wednesdays and at Fletching Church on Fridays.

The Children's Work within the Parish is very well received but is limited in its reach and regularity due to time constraints and it being fully volunteer run. A full/part time children's and family worker could significantly move forward the work of Christian faith within Newick and outlying areas.

Pam Mundy

Youth Choir 2025

It has been another busy year for the Youth Choir.

At the beginning of the year we had six core members, and with a visit to the school, we gained one more member, who has fitted into the Choir very successfully.

We meet every first Sunday of the month and perform a song at the end of the Service for the congregation that is relevant to the theme of the Service (for which we always get lovely feedback, which is so encouraging for these young singers). The children are progressing really well and we have been able to learn some more challenging pieces-we have quite a broad range of repertoire now, including songs with more harmonies (and solos!), and also some Latin!

I am keen to introduce some more 'modern' religious pieces this year, which have great backing tracks, but these would ideally be performed with a live band/group, so if that's something that takes off at St Mary's we will be ready to collaborate!!

Along with the Sundays, we continue to meet one Thursday per month, after school, to practice, and also work on our 'Voice for Life' training. The plan is to finish and award this level by the beginning of July, in order to move onto the next (Light blue) level during the summer holidays.

The musical theory and techniques that this scheme offers, are continuously being utilised whilst learning and performing songs, leading to greater confidence and progress.

It has been another busy year of events, as well as the regular Sunday performances, we did a set at the 'Easter trail' on Easter Saturday, two 'Holiday at Home' concerts (these took place during summer-more details down below), and performed a song at Andy Rees' Remembrance event on Remembrance Sunday. Along with this, we had several Christmas events, starting with The 'Sussex Barn' concert which has become a regular fixture, being our third year. This year was the most well attended of the three, and I also noticed there were many more people from the wider community in attendance, which was very rewarding - to be a part of outreaching into the community and spreading the word! After this, we performed at the Carol service and finally the Crib service, where we gained more interest in the Youth Choir, by two sisters, who would like to join and are coming to trial it on the 1st February, so hopefully, this will work out.

As well as this, during the summer holidays, Patsy Bailey and I organised two 'Holiday at Home' days in the Barn centre. These were attended by various members of the community of all ages. They were truly joyful events, bringing all generations together to commune and enjoy each other's company, it was especially aimed at people who live alone and/or find it difficult to get away for holidays.

We created communal art in the morning and after lunch, the Youth Choir performed, followed by a performance from Patsy's dancers, and we ended with a big sing-along for all. These events were truly uplifting and proved to be successful. Patsy and I are keen to repeat these this year and build upon the foundations laid last year. We are also looking at creating some kind of concert/event incorporating these groups and

possibly one other group that I lead, to raise funds for St Mary's-we'll keep you updated, so watch this space!! We also had some interest in the Youth choir at one of these days, by a young Mum who attended with a baby and a 7-year-old. She is hoping to join us this year; I am regularly in contact with her.

As for this coming year, as well as hopefully performing at all of the same events as last year, the Youth choir will be performing their own set at The Vivace (adult choir) concert on the 13th June at St Mary's, and also collaborating on one or two songs with the adults, whilst raising valuable funds for the Youth work at St Mary's. So, lots to look forward to!

Cara Barseghian-Pascoe (Youth Choir Leader)

NYC – NCT- Encounter

Both NYC (Year 7s from 6-7.30pm) and NCT (Year 8-11 from 7.30-9pm) continued to be very well attended. The summer term **Get Hyped** combined sessions regularly had over 50 young people attending, culminating in over 120 folk gathering together for the End of Year BBQ on the Rec!

38 young people came to **Maycamp** (a Christian fun-filled Youth Camp at Plumpton Racecourse, organised by the Diocese) this year, and we were very appreciative of the assistance from additional volunteers while Rev. Paul was on his sabbatical.

Our current NYC is gathering about 25 young people each week and NCT is the largest it's ever been, with over 30 young people regularly coming. This is mainly due to our Year 9's continuing to attend rather than the usual dropping away as they get older. This has inspired us to offer a **Youth Retreat** in February 2026 solely for St Mary's Youth. This will take place at Holcot Centre in Edenbridge. The programme is much the same as Maycamp, but allows for more time together as a group, nurturing faith, connection and a sense of belonging.

We had several of our Owls and Youth take part in the **Christmas Eve Nativity Service** this year as the infamous donkey and camel.

For the last 2 years we have offered the Duke of Edinburgh award. In 2025 five girls took on Silver. They had their final at the end of the summer holidays. However, the weather was awful! They walked the seven sisters in torrential rain and high winds. They persisted and walked for 3 days and spent 2 nights in a tent while the rain continued. We are all very proud of what they achieved and the resilience they showed.

Our Christmas Beat the Parents Quiz took place in Church this year due to our high numbers. This worked well as it offered an opportunity to also put videos up of the different youth events happening this year.

The Club has decided to move from cooking each week with the NCT group to offering craft activities, which has worked well with more of a mix of the young people getting engaged and chatting.

Again, the Youth work opportunities are being stifled somewhat due to the limited nature of having a part-time youth worker. We are extremely grateful for the volunteers who support the work.

Youth Encounter is on pause at present as we don't have the required volunteer help on a Tuesday to satisfy safeguarding numbers and to cook the Pizza !

Lee Buck

Pastoral Care

St. Mary's Church provides the following outreach activities - *Lunch Club*, monthly in the Barn Centre; *Food Provision* to those in need; *Tea at Three*, monthly in the Barn Centre; *Community Hub* in the Community Centre, weekly; *Home Visits* to the housebound for company, prayer or home communion and to those needing end of life support; *Contact and liaison* with Adult Social Care, Citizens Advice Bureau and provide Information re social support available such as Care for the Carers, Newick Trust and Trussell Trust; *A group visiting* providing a monthly visit to Nightingales singing hymns and prayers; *Individual support* to those bereaved, or with a variety of problems at home or a cup of coffee in a suitable situation and *Dancing for Fun and Fitness* for older women, a weekly session in the Barn Centre.

The pastoral group liaises with the Good Neighbours Scheme.

This has been an exceptionally busy and productive year where many people have had their wellbeing enhanced by these activities and are all aware that our activities are supported by

St. Mary's and the invitation to attend as Services is always there and prayer is offered. The Christmas period has been exceptionally busy to ensure that as many people as possible received some Christian Christmas cheer.

The increasing need for social services support is now causing long waits consequently people are turning to the church for the support sometimes beyond which we can offer.

The need for support is increasing in within the older age group and the activities provided are exceptionally well attended, however there is a real need for more volunteers and especially for those able to provide transport, both these activities require safeguarding checks and some training.

Patsy Bailey

Men's Suppers

2025 was another good year for Men's Suppers.

As usual we had four suppers through the year. This year we were extremely fortunate with our speakers who gave most generously of their time. We were well entertained and informed. The evenings remain good natured and welcome community get-togethers. Newick is a friendly village, and that shows at our suppers. We always seem to generate some laughter.

Our program started in March when Chris Armitage talked about his most interesting service with HMG at home and abroad. Peter Suter joined us in June with a well thought-out and perceptive take on his commercial and business experiences. Martin Stringer ran us through his RAF experiences, Vulcan bombers and later peripatetic service as, among other things, a Military Attache in Singapore, and our own Rector Paul Mundy gave us reflections in November on the physical, mental and spiritual challenges and outcomes of his Scottish pilgrimage during his sabbatical.

We were extremely fortunate once again to be splendidly well catered for by our loyal and generous band of ladies. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Just brilliant. Miracle workers. I shake my head in wonder and gratitude as I pay tribute. Wonderful.

Christopher Hume

Ladies' Suppers

The first Ladies' Supper after an absence of several years was held at the beginning of November – after a bit of a slow start, requests for a 'place at the table' increased and in the end we had a waiting list!

It turned out to be a very successful evening - the Barn Centre looked lovely, with tables set and flowers on each one and it was great to see a mix of ages in the ladies attending. A lot of friendly chatting before, during and after a delicious meal, until it was time for our speaker – Kate (Gould) came to tell us about Chailey Beating the Bounds, the history of the tradition and about the plans for reinstating it. It was really interesting to hear about and see the photos and maps Kate showed us, local history brought to life.

Many, many thanks to Paul and his team who provided such lovely food, and helped provide such a warm, welcoming atmosphere. I had never been to a Ladies' Supper before and I can see why they were missed – it was an evening of great friendliness and community spirit.

Bev Connor

Sexton's Report

Church

The fabric of the building continues to be in generally good condition with some maintenance work required.

Disabled access into the building has been made possible due to work to create the internal ramp and doubling the width of the external ramp.

The internal areas of the tower seem to be in reasonable condition; a minor repair being made to the roof lead to seal a possible leak.

It was agreed in PCC to have the gutters and downpipes repainted as they were highlighted in the last two quinquennial inspection reports. However, it was deferred from 2025 to spring 2026 because of concerns about prevailing weather conditions.

The fan in the boiler room which serves to keep air circulating around the boiler failed and has been replaced with an identical model.

Testing of fire extinguishers and PAT testing of portable electrical devices is up to date, as is inspection of the lightning conductor system. This latter inspection has highlighted the need for surge protection of the electrical system.

A free energy survey offer via the diocese was taken up and a meeting with an energy advisor took place, but we have had no report at present. There is a need to improve our energy footprint, but we need the right information to make any progress on this.

The cost of heating over most of 2025 including this winter has been better than previous years thanks to market price stability.

There have been positive discussions about reordering the north aisle to create more usable space. We are awaiting a response from the architect as to how this might look.

Barn Centre

See Barn Centre report

Churchyard

New solar path lights have been installed, although not a perfect solution they have worked well making use of the main footpath safer in the evenings or at night. The mains lighting between church and the barn centre was not functioning properly so our electrician replaced the defective wireless components which control it.

Anthony Bailey

Outward Giving Group

Some years ago, St Mary's set aside £4000 to donate to Christian charities. This sum was split between 4 to 6 charities with whom we have good connections. Our longest serving beneficiary of over 40 years was Katy Barnwell one of the great Wycliffe Bible translators. Others included the Bevern Trust, Leprosy Mission and the Diocesan Family Support work.

In 2025 Katy Barnwell died and she had been receiving the largest of our annual donations (£1,000). We are currently looking to support another translator from Wycliffe. Also, we have not donated so much to some of our regulars. The Leprosy Mission received £1,500 from our congregation in the Summer which was wonderful and exceeded previous annual totals from church funds and freewill offerings.

This left us only donating £500 to the Bevern Trust, which was match funded, from our £4,000 budget. We will be forwarding £500 to Family Support Work in the Diocese of Chichester.

The treasurer agreed that with the blessing of the PCC we could roll over our allotted budget and disperse the money as and when the needs arise for those organisations which we support and for other individual needs. Many charities now have times of the year when our donation will be match funded thus doubling our input and it is worth adjusting our giving to take advantage of this.

So, we go into 2026 waiting and looking for other Christian individuals or organisations who would benefit from our Fund.

Jeremy Burdett

Churchyard Report

2025 was a year of steady progress for St Mary's Churchyard.

Our two garden days each year continue to be well supported. They meet dual objectives of maintaining and improving our beautiful Churchyard, and of having a convivial barbecue lunch afterwards. The lunches are successful congregational occasions and a welcome contribution to the life of our village and Parish.

It is noteworthy that our garden days are attracting families who enjoy the work and the socialising at lunch time. It is heartwarming to see parents and children working together. It works as outreach – we attract people who are not regular worshippers with us. Yet!

This year we continued to develop the garden beds in the new Churchyard, and made a start on developing the area on our southeast boundary which needed some love. We have planted a number of trees there aiming to provide greenery for our flower team as well as improving the appearance of that area. In 2026 we plan to control weed growth with a mulching program using membranes/chippings and conventional mulch where appropriate.

In 2025 we maintained small garden areas at two of our war graves. This has made a real difference to the look and feel of the Churchyard.

Our Church garden benches remain popular spots for morning coffee or a picnic with villagers using the public footpath which runs through our Churchyard. It is very popular with hikers and dog-walkers.

We are fortunate to enjoy the services of Paul Tillstone and Alex Martin who do our mowing and hedge trimming. We are most grateful to them for their high standards and dedication to the work they do.

One sadness this year was that, for health and safety reasons we had to fell the substantial lime tree in the southeast corner. But we now have better access and much more light in that part of the Churchyard.

Each year we seem to find more families tending graves with floral tributes which contribute wonderfully to the appearance and amenity of the area. The daffodils, crocuses and other bulbs and the roses we have planted over the years are a real blessing in the Spring.

Many thanks to all the many members of our congregation and our community who contribute so much to the ongoing life of "God's Acre" in Newick.

Christopher Hume



Background

Solo Friends was inaugurated on 31st January 2019 as an activity group through which people living in their own in Newick could join in social events

Membership

Since then the number of Friends has steadily grown largely by word of mouth invitation and in response to the advertisement in the Parish News.

Total membership is now over 60

All members are kept informed of activities and other matters of interest through a regular list of Diary Dates.

Events

Events are reviewed and planned at Monthly Get Together meetings in the Barn Centre and coffee mornings at The Pantry.

Monica Haynes continues to do an amazing job as central co-ordinator producing Diary Dates for members.

Our programme has a variety of events, with regular lunches at local pubs & restaurants, including three very enjoyable Christmas lunches.

Some of the activities are at Friends homes including lunches, take away suppers, teas and wine tasting as well as Canasta & Scrabble

We are also supporting village events, such as NADS & the Village Hall Film Nights.

Finance

There is no need for significant financial assistance as all events are self funded and we continue to enjoy free use of the Barn Centre.

Individuals are responsible for paying for their own tickets for events.

Car sharing is used wherever possible and a fair means of cost sharing agreed with the driver.

To help offset printing and other expenses we ask for a £1 contribution at our monthly Barn meeting & occasionally have a bring and buy sale.

Structure

The activities of Solo Friends are legally part of the pastoral work of St Mary's and as such a report summarising its activities are required to be submitted to the PCC.

The risk assessment responsibilities fall under the Health & Safety Policy of St Mary's.

Solo Friends are most grateful to the PCC for permitting their activities to be treated as part of St Mary's pastoral activity and for the use of the Barn Centre.

Ian Reekie

Coffee Café

Our very popular Church Café runs from the end of the 8.00a.m. Service on Sundays through the 10.00a.m. Service and then on until everyone has found their way home – usually around noon.

We have a very small team of volunteers who provide and serve the coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cakes (sometimes) and biscuits and of course the milk, sugar, cups, teaspoons and marshmallows.

It would be an enormous help if additional volunteers could step forward, be it once a month or once every six months. It is a way of getting to know members of the congregation and of providing a warm welcome to all our visitors – and sharing the joy of being together.

Rebecca Hume

Christmas Tree Festival

Our 2025 Tree Festival was a wonderful success with over 35 beautiful trees adorning the Church. We had two entries this year that were a little different from the norm. A wonderful Olive Tree standing some 7' tall from Plants for Presents and a beautiful Willow tree that was lovingly created by a young lady at her local Gardening Club but sadly was then unable to display it at the Uckfield Tree Festival so we said – YES. Bella lovingly created the tree to be inclusive for those with no sight and her sign was in braille and some of the leaves had festive sayings, again in braille.

The remaining trees from our local businesses, clubs and societies were as creative as ever and a steady stream of visitors were able to enjoy them whilst also enjoying a cuppa and a homemade piece of cake, generously supplied by various kind donors and served by equally generous and willing helpers. Thank you all!

There was a separate event to the Festival on the Friday evening, held amongst the trees and the Curry and Quiz night was a resounding success for St Mary's.

Saturday morning, we had the pleasure of Nigel Stephens who offered to come along, free of charge and serenade the visitors to church and not least, the Children who were all enjoying the Craft Workshop run by Mandy, Pam and Sarah. Over 30 children took part and lovingly made baubles for the community, a neighbour and themselves. Much fun was had by all.

Our Rector oversaw the annual festive Saturday BBQ whilst Patsy's Emporium and the Hospice Tombola took place in the Barn Centre along with a warm environment for people to enjoy their lunch if they didn't fancy the winter sunshine and bit of a chill.

The (now) regular Singalong with Andy Rees and his guests again drew in people who all enjoyed the songs and ambience and one of our Churchwardens morphed into one of the Three Kings, singing heartily. Guess which one...

Father Martins Festive Fayre raffle was a great fundraiser and the lucky winner was none other than our own Rector! And the winning ticket was pulled by one of the tree exhibitors.

The traditional informal vote for best trees took place and the worthy winners in the adult category were the Crown. Top spot in the junior category was Newick Pre-School who literally beat Newick School by a couple of votes.

Thanks again go to everyone who worked so hard leading up to, over and after the festival weekend to make it the success it was; and that includes (but is not limited to):

- All the lovely home bakers who provided cakes to be sold across the weekend in the church
- Newick Bakery who so generously supported us again with all the rolls for the BBQ
- The Ladies who ran such a wonderful craft workshop amongst the trees
- Andy and his singing guests
- Those who gave up their time to be in Church and/or at the BBQ, cooking, serving, welcoming visitors and generally keeping everything going in Church and in the Barn.
- And last but by no means least, all the visitors that came along over the weekend.

The community spirit was high – God is good

Sara Fuller

Barn Centre

The Barn Centre continues to be a key asset to our church for church related events and as a base for catering, toilet facilities and church office as well as as well as regular and one-off hires which also help to bind the wider community to that of our church - inwards-outward mission. The church and congregational community could not function in the way that it does without the barn centre. It is indispensable and needs to be well maintained, improved and upgraded to meet all needs now and into the future. Regarding the proposed upgrade plan including a new footpath, our architect has applied for new planning permissions to help move this project forwards.

Our new cleaner Rhona Dean who started work at the beginning of 2025 has proved to be excellent and doing a very good job, generally in two sessions per week keeping the building in good order. I think her efforts can be judged by the lack of concerns regarding cleanliness of the building. We also have at least one session per year of carpet and floor cleaning done by Mr Wizard an expert in such matters.

A major expense has been significant electrical works carried out by our very reliable and knowledgeable electrician Sullivan George. The distribution boxes had to be replaced due to new regulations meaning they lacked enough capacity for new additional circuit breakers, also they now have surge protection which the church will also get in due course. Another problem was rodent damage to cart lodge lighting circuits which has required a means of preventing a reoccurrence in future. The cooker has also required replacement parts and needs regular cleaning.

It is good to report that in 2025 the kitchen finally received the 5 point food hygiene rating which it deserved thanks to the efforts of Linda Farmer and the catering teams.

The cart lodge was given a partial new paint scheme to make it a more pleasant environment.

We were blessed with a generous donation from Clive Maxwell in memory of his late wife Anne which allowed us to purchase a large set of comfortable chairs some with arms for use in the cart lodge, they have also been used in church over the busy Christmas period.

Lastly it should be mentioned that Sue Balloch who has done a brilliant job as barn secretary has finally stepped down and handed responsibility over to Sara Fuller who will now handle all bookings and related matters. Sue will be missed in that role but I'm sure Sara will get to grips with it quite quickly with handover support from Sue.

Anthony Bailey

Flower Team

Although we are a small team, the members work well together and help and support each other, this has made 2025 another successful year.

Unfortunately, flowers have increased somewhat in cost again this year, but as ever, we are mindful of the finances and keep our costs as low as possible.

The donations for Easter Lilies were exceptional again this year.

May and August saw the decoration of St. Mary's in commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of V E Day and V J Day.

Harvest once again was another highlight.

Over the three weekends for Remembrance St. Mary's was decorated with poppy and foliage arrangements.

Decorating for Christmas was quite stressful with the lack of flower arrangers, the team worked well and it proved to be another successful session.

We have been helped and supported at all the festivals by members of the congregation, the Ladies have produced beautiful arrangements, they have also fetched, carried and cleaned with one Lady providing refreshments to keep us going, these were successful and enjoyable occasions. We have also been helped by the Gentlemen who come to our aid for repairs, provision of mechanics, erecting tables etc. We thank them all, we couldn't possibly manage without any of them.

We need of more recruits to join the flower rota, not just for arranging, but who would be prepared to be called upon for watering and generally helping out. No special skills required, just a love of flowers and a willingness to join in.

The Flower Team

Church Cleaning

St. Mary's is a beautiful Church to walk into, and it takes a lot of hard work to make it welcoming and presentable to all who walk through the door and we are very fortunate in having the help of a most wonderful family to attend to this aspect of life at St. Mary's.

The Summer months are full of pollen, dust and confetti, the Autumn months are full of flying leaves and fallen berries, whilst the winter months bring mud and rain into the almost daily Services, Concerts and Festivals as December draws to a close.

That leaves Spring – a time for cleaning and preparation for the Summer, Autumn and Winter months that will lie ahead – I hope that we can find a space for that time in our very busy lives.

Rebecca Hume

Choir

We have again been incredibly blessed as a choir. For a village church we can sing with confidence and gusto leading the music at services of differing styles and forms of worship. Our Easter and Christmas services were some of the highlights of the year. The Stainer's Crucifixion was incredibly moving and blessed a significant number of people who were able to be there marking an important part of Holy Week leading toward the

celebrations of Easter. We have been fortunate to welcome new members to the choir and have a small number of additional voices who sing as and when they can. Having Keith as an additional tenor is encouraging as we look to expand our voices. We now hope to find additional altos to support our wonderful Penny.

Another highlight of the year was singing the Advent Carols on the 30 November. A beautiful candlelit service which we hope to expand and open our doors to support St Peter & St James Hospice on the first Sunday evening in Advent in 2026. On the first Sunday evening of December our choir with a few additional voices and the professional Opera singer Isabelle Peters and Choral Scholar Guy Minch performed J S Bach's 'Sleepers Awake'. The occasion raised over £700.00 for the Bevern Trust and we shall hope to continue to support local charities with future concerts and events, hopefully a spring concert bringing some wonderful songs from musicals over the last fifty years or so.

We shall be hosting choirs for the diocese singing Choral Evensong in July 2026 which will incorporate The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Walmsley in D Minor.

There is so much that we could comment on regarding the efforts and talent of our wonderful singers in the church. They are hugely valued and appreciated.

Jonathan Fenton-Vince

Ringers' Report

During 2025, we covered all Church and school services. We rang for four weddings and tolled for three funerals.

We rang for the 80th anniversary celebrations of both VE Day (8 May) and VJ Day (15 August).

Throughout the year we hosted visiting ringers on five occasions. It's interesting that a lot of experienced ringers find our bells a challenge, due to them being so light. We do have the lightest bells in Sussex.

We've taught three new people to ring and had one with a little previous ringing experience (40 years ago) pick up the rope again. All have done well, were ringing with us over Christmas and New Year, and are now part of the team. I have a pool of twelve ringers I can call upon; all attend regular practice nights.

In October, at Paul's request, Alan Young and I, along with Paul and teachers, took some of the primary school children up into the bell tower to show them the clock room and the bells. I explained to them how the bell was working while Mr Young was down below, ringing the bell (silently, as I'd tied the bell clapper up to protect the children's hearing).

I quite enjoyed this. One boy, as we stepped into the clock room, asked "What happens if this floor collapses?". One girl became quite concerned, exclaiming "I'm frightened!", as were one or two others. Paul quickly reassured them that it wouldn't happen, and all was well. Several of them thought going up the tower stairs was like being in a Harry Potter film. Of course they had to make a noise with a bell, so we let them pull the ropes on the unraised bells to make them chime. I think they all enjoyed it, and you never know, one may decide to take up ringing in the future.

A little later, in November, we had a replay, with some of the cubs, as part of their 'My Faith' badge. A couple of the cub helpers also found their trips up the tower very interesting indeed.

After the ringing over Christmas, we rang to welcome in the New Year (with hopes for a better one) from 11.30pm on 31st December 2025 to 12.15am on 1st January 2026. Thank you, Paul, for the refreshments and port.

We are still carrying out routine maintenance throughout the year, splicing ropes when required, greasing parts and checking stays, sliders and bolts etc. Once again, on behalf of the ringers, thanks for letting us keep your bells rust-free. We get enjoyment from ringing them when it's going well. I apologise to our neighbours (and anyone in earshot) when it isn't. Thanks to my team, who I'm very proud of, for their continued patience and support. We still practice on Wednesdays 7.15-8.15 pm.

**Julian Avis,
Captain of Bells**

APCM FINANCE REPORT for the year ended 31 December 2025

2025 was another challenging year for St Mary's. We started the year with funds in hand of £104,862 after making a prior year end adjustment for Magazine Creditors of £7,686 and finished the year with funds in hand of £108,867.

We recorded a very modest surplus of £4,005. We are working hard to use our income effectively across all our various activities but with donations and regular giving down 6% on last year it means we have been dependent on giving to specific activities to enable our Youth Work and Pastoral Care to function effectively. We have seen an increase of 70% in the Restricted Fund giving which is a testament to those recognising the value of these specific activities which benefit the wider community.

We have continued to keep fully up to date with maintenance on the Church and Barn Centre. We have also progressed our preparatory work for our Barn Centre and path projects as well as considering a reorganization within the Church. We will need to appeal to the Electoral Roll and the wider community to support our aspirations for the future.

Two generous legacies have been the rock on which our activity depends. The Lacey Bequest of £36,681 and the Marvel! Bequest of £36,759 have been vital in underwriting our growing activities. Without these legacies our major initiatives in youth work, our youth choir, and making our magazine free to all in the village would have been impossible. We recognise the importance of legacies to fund major capital projects in the future.

Rob Bellis
Treasurer

ST MARY'S NEWICK PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Current financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes					
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	143,959	-	15,115	159,074	162,023
Charitable activities	3	30,656	10,206	5,290	46,152	41,603
Investments	4	4,894	-	-	4,894	3,475
Other income	5	-	-	2,289	2,289	1,875
Total income		179,509	10,206	22,694	212,409	208,976
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	6	170,563	13,725	24,116	208,404	201,689
Total expenditure		170,563	13,725	24,116	208,404	201,689
Net income/(expenditure)		8,946	(3,519)	(1,422)	4,005	7,287
Transfers between funds		1,328	386	(1,714)	-	-
Net movement in funds	8	10,274	(3,133)	(3,136)	4,005	7,287
Prior Year Adjustment re Magazine Creditor:	18					(7,686)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		8,790	84,058	12,014	104,862	105,261
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		<u>19,064</u>	<u>80,925</u>	<u>8,878</u>	<u>108,867</u>	<u>104,862</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ST MARY'S NEWICK PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	11	6,525		1,753	
Cash at bank and in hand		124,957		125,602	
		<u>131,482</u>		<u>127,355</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(22,615)		(22,493)	
Net current assets			<u>108,867</u>		<u>104,862</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted funds	13		8,878		12,014
Unrestricted funds - general	15		19,064		8,790
Unrestricted funds – designated	14		80,925		84,058
			<u>108,867</u>		<u>104,862</u>

The financial statements were approved by the council members on 23 March 2026.



Mr C Hume

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

I report on the accounts of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary, Newick for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 9 to 25.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the organisation and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

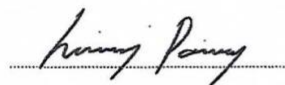
Since the gross income for the year exceeds the amount provided in section 145(3) of the Act, I confirm that I am qualified to act as Independent Examiner under the provisions of that section of the Act and that my qualification is as shown below.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Lomax Pavey
Independent Examiner's Ltd
The Grain Store
Hills Barns
Appledram Lane South
Chichester
West Sussex
PO20 7EG

25th March 2026

St. Mary's Parish Church Newick

Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Sunday 3 May 2026

AGENDA

VESTRY MEETING

- 1. Welcome and Prayers**
- 2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 2025 for approval**
- 3. Election of Churchwardens (2)**
- 4. Close of Meeting**

APCM

- 1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2025 for approval**
- 2. Changes to the Electoral Roll**
- 3. Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod**
- 4. Election of Representatives to the PCC**
- 5. The Annual Report**
- 6. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 7. Votes of Thanks**
- 8. Close of Meeting**
- 9. Grace**

St. Mary's Parish Church Newick

Special PCC Meeting (APCM)

Sunday 3 May 2026

AGENDA

1. Present:

Apologies:

2. Appointment of Officers:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Electoral Roll Officer:

Safeguarding Officer:

Standing Committee:

3. Any Other Business:

4. Next Meeting of the PCC – Monday 22 June 2026 at 19:00

5. Next Meeting of the Standing Committee – Thursday 11 June 2026 at 16:00

6. Close of Meeting



**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
(Including Vestry Meeting)**

Sunday, 6 April 2025, 11.30 am

Welcome and prayer

The Chair, Rev Paul Mundy, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer.

In attendance: Rev. Paul Mundy (Chair), Christopher Hume, Sara Fuller, Susan Balloch, Mel Balloch, John Morrison, Jeremy Burdett, Jacky Burdett, June Ellis, Dorothy Thrower, John Baker, Heather Ward, Jebby Dyson, Gillian Godsmark, Lorraine Campbell, Jonathan Campbell, Sylvia Chapman, Roberta Blundy, Julia Cumberledge, Juliet Cumberledge, Paddy Cumberledge, John Bean, Lorraine Campbell, Jonathan Campbell, Juliet Lucas, Allen Lucas, Audrey Wagstaff, Christopher Wagstaff, Pat Mundy, June Perou, Ron Perou, Carl Murphy, Aveline Moore, Malcolm Smith, Liuba Jomiru, Glenda Blackaller, Maggie Gozlan, Rebecca Hume, Julian Avis, Ian Reekie, Kate Francis, Anthony Bailey, Anthony Mallinson, Caroline Smith, Audrey Ford, Pam Mundy, Jonathan Fenton-Vince, Patsy Bailey, Mandy Stockwell, Ashley Stockwell, Linda Farmer and Rob Bellis

Apologies for absence

Rosie Hallett, John Sclater, Catherine Sclater, Geoff Clinton, Alan Morgan, Lilian Morgan, Clive Maxwell, Barry Mansfield, Shirley Mansfield, Louise Young, Alan Young and Pat Beeston

MEETINGS

Vestry Meeting

1. The Minutes of the 2024 meeting were approved – proposed by Mandy Stockwell and seconded by Anthony Mallinson and agreed unanimously. Rev Paul Mundy signed these as part of the APCM pack.
2. Two Churchwardens were elected: Christopher Hume - proposed by Rev Paul Mundy, seconded by Rob Bellis and agreed unanimously. Sara Fuller - proposed by Rev Paul Mundy, seconded by Rob Bellis and agreed unanimously.

Rev Paul Mundy gave a huge thank you to Christopher and Sara for the immense work they do as Churchwardens. St Mary's is extremely blessed to be served by them both.

Vestry meeting closed at 11:41.

APCM

1. Minutes of the previous annual meeting

The minutes of the previous APCM, held on 21 April 2024, were approved – proposed by Audrey Ford and seconded by Pam Mundy and agreed unanimously. These were then signed by Rev. Paul Mundy as part of the APCM pack.

2. Changes to the Electoral Roll

Electoral Roll Officer, Mandy Stockwell, intimated that the Electoral Roll needed to be redone every 6 years and 2025 is a year for renewal. At the cut-off date (22 March 2025) 22 names had been added and 25 had been deleted (4 deaths, 7 moved away from the Parish, 4 moved within the Parish but away from St Mary's, 2 not renewed for an unknown reason and 8 had not been heard from. The total number on the Roll stands at 147, with 112 living within the Parish and 34 living outside the Parish.

A vote of thanks and applause was given for Mandy's work.

3. Election of Representatives to the PCC

Four renewals to the PCC committee were confirmed:

Dan Cowley – Proposed by Sara Fuller, seconded by Anthony Bailey and agreed unanimously.

Jonathan Fenton-Vince – Proposed by Christopher Hume, seconded by Linda Farmer and agreed unanimously.

Ian Reekie – Proposed by Rob Bellis, seconded by Christopher Hume and agreed unanimously.

Mandy Stockwell – Proposed by Sara Fuller, seconded by Rob Bellis and agreed unanimously.

Rev. Paul thanked all members of the PCC for their faithful service to St Mary's.

4. The Annual Report

Rev. Paul Mundy thanked all the contributors to the Annual Report. He reflected that the reports demonstrate that 2024 was a very busy year.

He asked everyone to think about the finances required to keep all the activities going as well as maintaining the church buildings and premises. He highlighted the **vacancy for Treasurer** as, at this important time for St Mary's, he wants Christopher Hume to focus on his Churchwarden responsibilities. The finance team will continue their work while a new Treasurer is found. Rev Paul Mundy asked that people pray that a suitable person be willing to step forward as Treasurer.

The Chair highlighted the excellent work of Patsy and Heather and the **Pastoral Support** work they do that mostly goes under the radar. Pastoral Care has become a vital part of St Mary's in the community. He asked that people pray for more people to come forward to help with this vital work.

Rev Paul Mundy lead the meeting through the other sections of the report highlighting specific matters of note:

Children and Family Ministry –

Rev Paul commented on the growing numbers attending Owlets and gave thanks to Pam and the other volunteers for the work they are doing.

Lee and Josh are doing an amazing job with the Youth Work, running an encounter course and Youth Alpha. NYC, the combined youth group, has big numbers attending – 30 – 40. He noted that this does cost a significant amount of money and it could not be done without the support of the St Mary's community for which he gave thanks. It is the intention to speak with the Village Parish Council to see if they might assist in supporting this work as a community activity.

38 young people are signed up for this year's May Camp.

Rev Paul asked for continued support from everyone, if they can, to help cover the £30k cost of Youth Work. It would be lovely to have a full-time Youth Worker and he asked people to pray about this. He commented that Lee is brilliant, working at St Mary's on his day-off from his job elsewhere.

Youth Choir -

This is developing well under Cara's leadership

Men's Suppers –

The Chair thanked Christopher Hume for arranging both the suppers and the speakers and thanked the team of ladies who work in the background to provide the excellent hospitality.

Sexton –

Rev Paul asked for a round of applause and thanks to the Sexton, Anthony Bailey, for all the work done and the support he gives to St Mary's which is so valuable and very much appreciated. Work on the pathways and Barn Centre continues to be a focus of attention. Particularly in the light of the lady who fell and broke her arms. Funding will need to be found for new pathways to make St Mary's accessible and safe.

Outward Giving –

Rev Paul noted that the Outward Giving is making a real difference and asked that everyone pray for the group as they consider the potential recipients for this year.

Churchyard –

Rev Paul spoke about the work that Christopher Hume and Tony Bailey carry out to ensure that the Churchyard is safe and tidy. Consideration is being given to carry out work around the Yew Tree to ensure it returns to full health.

Ladies Suppers –

Rev Paul noted that there is still a hope that Ladies' Suppers will return.

SOLO Friends –

Rev Paul commented on the fantastic work of SOLO Friends and the 60 folk who are members.

Ministry of Cake – The Coffee Café

Rev Paul enthused about the wonderful work that the group of helpers do in providing refreshments to the various Church activities.

Christmas Tree Festival –

Rev Paul reported that the Christmas Tree Festival was a time of blessing. Though it had become a tougher time for the Market as others had copied the format and were holding theirs earlier which meant the traders at the St Mary's market were not doing so well or indeed staying away. He noted that the Festival in 2025 was likely to look a little different. He thanked Sara Fuller, Jenny Smerden, Anthony Bailey and all those who volunteered over the Festival weekend for their hard work and the success of the 2024 Festival.

Chailey School –

Whilst reporting on Christmas activity Rev Paul was pleased to report the success of the 9 lessons and carols service for Chailey School and he was delighted to report that the Head had contacted him to book "the same again" for this coming Christmas.

Barn Centre –

Rev Paul intimated that this is going to be Sue Balloch's last year as Secretary and asked everyone to pray for someone suitable to step in to take on this role which Sue is doing so brilliantly. There was a huge round of applause for Sue.

Rev Paul thanked Anthony Bailey for the work he does in keeping the Barn in good order and in working with the new cleaner, Rhona Dean – with thanks to her too, to ensure the building is fit for use for a wide range of events.

Flower Team –

At Rev Paul's invitation there was a round of applause for Gill and her team for the wonderful displays they present. Given how busy they are they need and would welcome more volunteers, particularly at the time of big festivals.

Church Cleaning –

Rev Paul thanked Rebecca and the cleaning team, especially Liuba and Grigore, who do an amazing job even with the increased usage of the church and the challenge of the drips from the candles! There was a round of applause!

Choir –

Thanks were given to the choir and Jonathan Fenton-Vince. Rev Paul said he would love to see more young people involved.

Safeguarding –

Rev Paul regarded the job done by Caroline Smith as the toughest in terms of importance – so a big thank you was given to her for the job she does so well. He noted that safeguarding is everyone's job and everyone needs to be involved in ensuring St Mary's is a safe place. He also noted the important job done by Caroline in relation to Newick School.

Ringers –

Rev Paul said thank you to Julian Avis and his team and invited him to the front of the meeting to be presented with a framed original script showing the Rules of Bell Ringers dating from April 1900. Julian indicated he had been bellringing since the age of 7!! There was loud applause for Julian. Julian then proposed that the clock in the Tower was made able to strike during the daytime, Ash Stockwell seconded this and everyone at the meeting was enthusiastic about this happening. Rev Paul said it would be investigated and hoped it might come to fruition.

Finance Report –

Rev Paul thanked Christopher Hume for all his work as Treasurer and read the Finance Report in the papers:

“2024 was another challenging year for St Mary's.

We started the year with funds in hand of £105,261 and finished the year with funds in hand of £112,548. The surplus was £7,287 and was added to reserves. Whilst in surplus we must work towards a better financial result.

One significant bright spot in 2024 was that our income from Donations and Legacies rose some 6.8% during the year, an excellent result. This supported a substantial increase in our activities on youth work and all areas of our mission during the year.

This increase in our giving, and in the general level of our activities is pleasing evidence of the continuing progress of St Mary's under the dynamic and energetic leadership of our Rector Rev Paul Mundy.

We have continued to keep fully up to date with maintenance on our beautiful but demanding Church and Barn Centre. We have also progressed our preparatory work for our Barn Centre and path projects.

Two generous legacies are the rock on which our activity depends. The Lacey Bequest of £36,681 and the Manvell Bequest of £36,759 have been vital in underwriting our growing activities. Without these legacies our major initiatives in youth work, our youth choir, and making our magazine free to all in the village would have been impossible.

Legacies past and future will remain vitally important to the future of St Mary's."

As well as looking for someone to replace Christopher as Treasurer, Rev Paul indicated that given the nature of the building projects and other church activities we are looking for one to three people to assist with grant/funding applications. Perhaps a person or people who are specialists in this area to be able to match the potential fund provider with the criteria of the project/activity.

Mel Balloch gave a vote of thanks to Christopher Hume for the enormous effort put in to get St Mary's accounts in order. There was a round of applause for Christopher. Rev Paul added his thanks for the work that Christopher, Ian Reekie, Robin Parris and Rob Bellis have done over the past year. He also thanked David Martin FCA for carrying out the Independent Examination of the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

5. Votes of Thanks

In addition to the thanks mentioned within the various reporting sections, Rev Paul gave a vote of thanks to everyone who had attended this APCM. He also commented on his sabbatical starting after Easter and his pilgrimage in Scotland and the north of England. He expressed excitement for his return in September and was already looking forward to Christmas! He asked that everyone support the PCC, Father Martin, Rev Chris, Rev Peter and Bishop Will.

Audrey Wagstaff gave a vote of thanks to the Lay Readers – to Jeremy Burdett and Geoff Clinton. The latter Rev Paul indicated was about to celebrate 50 years as a Lay Reader!! Rev Paul asked for prayers for Patsy Bailey as she completes her ALM course. He asked for people to pray about Readers and Readership Ministry.

Rebecca Hume had been preparing for the lunch and reappeared and Rev Paul led the applause for her sterling work as Verger.

7. Close

The meeting closed at 12:34 with the saying of The Grace.

There was an expression of thanks to Rev Paul Mundy.