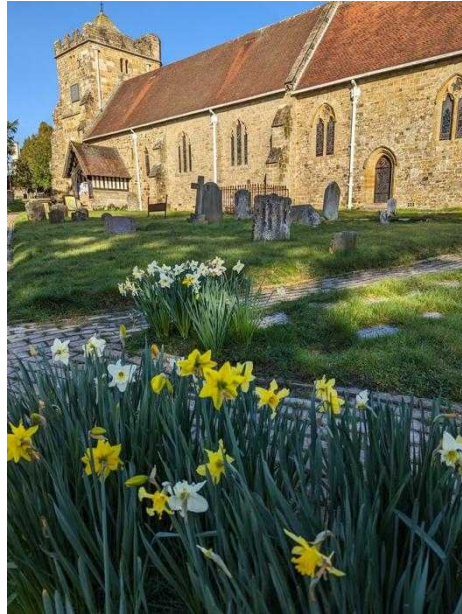




## **LIVING GOD'S KINGDOM**



***"How many are your works, Lord!  
In wisdom you made them all.  
The earth is full of your creation"  
Psalm 104:24***

***Praying – Serving – Growing – Together***

**6 April 2025**

**11:30**

**Vestry Meeting & APCM**

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

(Vestry Meeting)

Election of Churchwardens

Election of Deputy Wardens

Annual Reports

## **ST MARY'S NEWICK'S CHURCH**

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

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**Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Newick.  
PCC Report 2024**

**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 and PCC Vice Chair
Sara Fuller	Churchwarden
Jeremy Burdett	Lay Reader and Member of Deanery Synod
Geoffrey Clinton	Lay Reader
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	PCC Secretary until 21 April 2024
Mandy Stockwell	
Johnathan Fenton-Vince	
Ian Reekie	
Pam Mundy	
Rob Bellis	PCC Secretary from 21 April 2024

Four PCC meetings were conducted in 2024 (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 2024 to give focus on particular areas as listed below. The lead on each of these is in bold:

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

### 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 2024**

### **Worship and the Gospel**

St Mary's continues to hold a central part of our community's life journey, expressed through sorrow and joy, celebration and reflection.

Over the year our Church attendance has increased, 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 average attendance at services on a normal Sunday at St Mary's averaged 18 at the 8am and 78 adults and 7 young people at the 10 am Service.

During the year in the parish there were the following: 4 Baptisms, 6 Confirmations, 5 Weddings, & Blessings and 17 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 and this year we had more wreathes laid than in previous years, including Chailey School, Newick Primary School with readers representing the Secondary School taking part in the service. This year our Remembrance Service was back to pre-pandemic numbers for the first time.

Huge thanks to NEASSA for all they do in enabling and supporting our season of Remembrance, and for the generous hospitality following the Service.

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. Mandy is a Chaplain to The Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team. We continue to hold Mandy, her family, and the Beachy Head Team in our prayers for this much needed and challenging ministry.

With the blessing of the Incumbent and PCC, Patsy Bailey our Authorised Lay Minister in Pastoral Care & Mission, continued her ALM journey by starting the ALM Preaching Module in 2024 which will finish in the early summer of 2025.

## Giving

Giving and tything continues to be a challenge to St Mary's with the continued challenges in the national and global economies, and with the continued rising cost of living, this means that we used some of our reserves to remain solvent in 2024.

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 2024 APCM**

*Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour,  
and my hope is in you all day long.  
Psalm 25*

January saw the launch of St Mary's Newick's Church rebranding, thanks to the incredibly gifted Ash Stockwell, a wonderful new website and logo and we cannot thank Ash enough for providing us with such a creative and thoughtful vision to take St Mary's into 2024.

February & March saw the start of our 2024 Lent Course 'Come Follow Me' written by Fr Martin on the theme of pilgrimage. Reminding us that *"through baptism the Christian journey is transformed into pilgrimage. Pilgrimages are always made in the direction of holiness. Such travels need preparation, direction and purpose. There is always need for sustenance which we find in the Holy Communion and Scriptures. When we look back on our travels, hopefully we will recognise that something within us has changed hoe we see ourselves especially in relation to God who is the Holy One."* The course was well attended and well received and huge thanks to Fr Martin and to Rev Martin Poole, for a challenging and thought-provoking Lenten journey.

2024 continued to be a wonderful year of music in St Mary's with concerts and live music from, the amazing Andy Rees and Jo Appleby, Intergenerational Opera, the East Sussex Concert Band, Vivace, Americana star Scott Matthews and our own choirs outstanding performances during Holy Week and Advent. Added to this a fantastic Christmas Concert from Chailey Secondary School and our youth choirs from Newick Primary and St Marys. Music is at the heart of our mission and outreach at St Mary's and I hope this is something we can build on in the future.

Easter this year fell on the 31st of March 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.

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. It was especially busy for the Mundy's (Tilly & Benjamin in particular) as we welcomed baby Ezra Stanley Mundy into the family on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. Thank you to all our Church family who sent best wishes and beautiful gifts to our gorgeous grandson.

May was an exciting time as we prepared to take 32 young people from NYC to May Camp the Diocesan Youth Weekend at Plumpton Racecourse. That is 11 more than 2023!

We all had a great weekend, huge thank to Lee for organising and for all who supported our youth work, and our very own Josh Stockwell taking the baton from Niamh and stepping up onto Main stage as one the weekends main presenters.

May also started another season of weddings and wedding Blessings, these really do show St Mary's at our best and I am hugely thankful to our Verger, assistant verger, flower team, bell ringers, organists, choirs and sound team for all they do in making these day's even more special.

We celebrated June with a fabulous evening of 'Bubbles and Broadway' with the amazing Jo Appleby & Andy Rees, fizz was flowing and canapes in abundance, and "everyone had a truly fabulous night darlings!!"

We ended the month of June with another celebration as St Mary's hosted the Deanery Confirmation Service with Bishop Will Hazlewood. A time of blessing and joy with 7 candidates from our parishes confirming their faith in Jesus Christ and receiving God's blessing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

July was our bittersweet end of term service, as our year six students said goodbye to their Newick Primary School home and started their summer holidays before moving onto new secondary schools in the Autumn.

August was a gentler month with family time, garden time and wedding preparations and services.

September is always a blessing as we head back to school for another year and our school ministry begins in earnest. NYC and CNY started again with gusto as record numbers (over 80) came to Youth Club, and huge thanks to Lee Buck our Youth worker, assistant youth worker Niamh and our volunteers, Ross, Nicola, Pam, Josh and our young leaders Eden, Kitty & Ellie . . .you are all totally awesome.

We also started our autumn season of Men's Supper's, which were well attended with some wonderful speakers and again huge thanks to the awesome hospitality team and Christopher Hume for organising.

Following a churchyard work party back in 2022, in 2023 I was invited to join a group of Dads from Newick Primary on a trip to Ypres (Wipers) in Belgium to visit the graves of some of the Newick lads and to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate on behalf of the people of Newick and St Mary's. Then this year the same group of Newick Dads with some new recruits visited the Normandy beaches. Again, it was a powerful weekend, in more ways than one with so much to see but also creating space for reflection and remembrance and I am ever thankful for the DDs for inviting me.

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.

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 (probably the finest I've ever seen) which showed the very best of Sussex tradition.

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 later in the month our Thanksgiving Service.

November you kindly packed me off for a much-needed retreat to St David's in Pembrokeshire and I am hugely thankful for the support of the parishes in my spiritual development and well-being. It was a real time of restoration and renewal.

December, we held our awesome Christmas Tree Festival we had a wonderful turnout, with a great 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 2024 and enabled us to be serving at the heart of our community. Especially our 'Blessed Verger' Rebecca, Gill and all our fantastic flower team, our Sexton, Jonathan and the choir, Josh and Dan our Techie Team (looking forward to seeing Alex behind the desk in 2025), to Liuba and Greg for their cleaning of St Mary's, our café rota team and everyone who blesses God's mission through St Mary's.

Huge thank you to the unsung heroes of Robin, Ian and Rob for our accounts, for Sara in the office producing our weekly newsletter, and supporting our administration, (especially mine !!).

As ever our eternal thanks to Jackie and Alex for all their work on our amazing Church Community magazine to Ash Stockwell for the fantastic Re-Branding of St Mary's Newick's Church.

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**

### **Electoral Roll Report 2024**

As at the date of our 2024 APCM, the current roll stood at 149. Of this number 116 lived within the parish boundary and 33 lived outside it.

Since then, two people have been added to the roll but, sadly, two people have died.

Most years, an existing electoral roll is revised, but every six years the Church Representation Rules require that an entirely new roll must be created, and everyone must apply again to be included on it.

2025 is one of the years where a new roll must be prepared. The work on this commenced towards the end of January 2025.

**Mandy Stockwell, Electoral Roll Officer**

### **Children and Family Ministry**

#### **Owls Club**

This year Owls has continued to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. The club is facilitated by Pam and wonderfully supported by Patsy, Valerie, and Issie. DBS checks are currently up to date and diocesan basic safeguarding training has been signposted.

Each month we meet 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 6, rising to 11 from July onwards.



Although Owls Club doesn't take place in August, 10 children and their families joined together to have a picnic on the rec. There is also an opportunity and invitation for Owls families to join the Churchyard Gardening Days, Harvest Lunch, The Christmas Eve Nativity Service, and the Remembrance Sunday service.

For Easter this year, the Newick Primary and Pre-school organised an Easter Trail and activity day in coordination with the Church and Barn Centre, which proved very popular with over 97 children and their families taking part.

### **Owlets Club**

Owlets is a parent and babies/tots group facilitated by Pam M. and Mandy S. Three babies were born in 2024 within our Owls families, so the Owlets Club was started in October.

Running every Monday during term time, from 9:30 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.

With an average of 6 children attending for the first 9 weeks, invitations are being sent out in the new year to other families who have had their children baptised during the previous year. Parents and carers are also welcome to invite others.

### **Pam Mundy**

### **Youth Choir 2024**

2024 has been a busy year for St Mary's Youth Choir.

We started the year with 9 members, unfortunately 2 members moved up to senior school and were doing too many extra-curricular clubs to continue with choir, also one member was trying out and didn't want to commit to choir. This left us with 6 core members who have been extremely committed, and their attendance has been very good throughout the year.

We have been rehearsing every first Sunday of the month in the Barn Centre, along with every third Thursday after school, and Wednesday mornings during the summer holidays, where we have focused on our RSCM 'Voice for Life' training and rehearsing for all our performances. We are currently on White level and are hoping to finish and pass this level in the coming months, in order to move on to the next level, which is light blue. We will have a ceremony for this, and the members will gain a certificate and a ribbon/medal.

We have had a very busy year, performance-wise. We have performed at several major church festivals, including Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest, Remembrance, Nativity and the Christmas Carol service, along with a special Confirmation service in July.

Added to this, we had our first collaboration fundraising concert with another Youth choir and an Adult choir. We had our own whole section of songs, and we also sang a piece with the Adult choir, which was our first experience of this. It gave us a lot more confidence to then sing with St Mary's adult choir at the St Mary's Christmas Carol service. We were also robed for the first time! We also had printed t-shirts to wear at Community events, which we have used several times. We also did our own Christmas concert at the Sussex Barn, a local Christmas shop. We were back by popular demand, as we did it in 2023 too! It was again, a very successful concert, well attended by the local community, and enjoyed by all.

We are currently planning a big drive for new members and many more exiting performances for the year ahead.

### **Cara Barseghian-Pascoe (Youth Choir Leader)**

## **NYC – NCT- Encounter**

### **NYC**

Newick youth club has had a brilliant start to the 2024 academic year. Lots of new faces joining us each week. Young people come together to join us for cooking, crafts, activities and games. We have continued to get new young people joining us, as of January I have had 2 phone calls from new families in Newick/Chailey whose children have heard about our youth group. We normally see 25 young people attending each week. We have also been able to explore who influences us and what is cool. Looking at Jesus being a perfect role model for us to follow. We have now promoted May Camp 2025 at 'Beat the Parents' where we saw the biggest group of young people and parents we have ever had before.

### **NCT**

Newick & Chailey Together is our year 8+ youth group. Has seen last year's year 7's joins us. This has made the group a larger group. We haven't seemed to have lost many from those who were already attending. Making this slightly bigger than NYC, which is also a first seeing around 30 each week. We have started to cook with them each week which has made us come together as a group and eat together. Conversations around the Bible and how to read has come up. There does seem to be more conversations in this group about faith and Christianity. Like NYC we have also looked at who influences us and pointing to the fact Jesus accepts all and does not judge us, which makes him a perfect person to influence our lives. NCT joined NYC for Beath the parents and helped contribute towards it being a brilliant Christmas and end of year event.

### **Encounter**

When we first started NYC, we had no young people for a few months. Encounter is in its early stages but has seen young people attend each week. Engaging 3-6 young people each week. We looked at the questions they had around faith, evidence, big bang, not seeing God and how to read the Bible. We have tackled each of these in a session in an interactive and fun way. Trying to create community and fellowship. We do this via games, activities and eating together. As we head into the new year, we hope this group grows slightly and the content we are producing has a positive outcome for God's kingdom.

### **Lee Buck**

## **Pastoral Care**

This has been a very busy year for all involved in pastoral care.

We've encouraged people to attend the organised activities which are so much more beneficial to them than home visits and some people attend several different sessions. We have also provided home visits where this was not possible for those in need of support.

The needs of the community continue to change. We halve found ourselves listening to people's worries about the basic needs of life - heating, food, bill paying and loneliness.

I would like to include a thank you to Sara Fuller who has been very helpful in printing off application forms for housing and small grants.

The citizens advice bureau offering a surgery in church has been extremely useful to people in difficult circumstances.

Home communion has been provided regularly to some people, prayer was always available to all. Transport has remained a major obstacle for those living locally without a car, Good Neighbour Scheme has provided transport to medical appointments, but it has been sometimes very difficult to find suitable transport for people to sometimes attend church itself and everyday activities such as visiting a hairdresser and shopping.

The pastoral team has continued with the required training, especially first aid and safeguarding. We are able to liaise confidentially with outside agencies such as Adult Social Care, support for the Ukraine's, Newick Trust, Trussell Trust. Good Neighbour Scheme and citizens advice bureau.

List of outreach activities:

*Monthly Lunch Club*

*Monthly Tea at Three*

*Weekly Community Hub*

*Weekly Dancing for Fun and Fitness for older people.*

*Monthly hymns singing at Nightingales*

*Solo Friends (under the umbrella of the church)*

*Home visits to chat/ prayer or over tea/ coffee in a suitable cafe.*

*Home communion.*

*Provision of small amounts of food stuff and toilet rolls. This often supplements Food Bank provision and people appreciate the psychological support it also provides.*

*Advice re Care For The Carers,*

*Adult Social Care and Trussell trust.*

All activities are risk assessed, and relevant policies are in place.

St. Mary's has played a major role in supporting people in Newick who have a variety of problems and especially those suffering the pain and practical issues arising from bereavement. St. Mary's has ensured that those involved attended a Christmas party, receive a suitable gift and to feel valued.

**Patsy Bailey**

### **Men's Suppers**

2024 was another good year for our Men's Suppers.

Our first speaker for the year Was Lt Col Geoffrey Vesey-Holt (retd) of the Tank Regiment. He gave us a first-class overview of the D-Day landing and Normandy campaign in 1944, and its strategic contribution to victory in WWII. That provided insights for the September trip on which Rector Paul and Ash Stockwell led a number of our members to the Normand battlefields.

James Walker was our speaker for our June supper. James spoke of his work as a music event entrepreneur. James went on later in the year to run an event in Saint Mary's on the 6th of November. Scott Matthews, Ivor Novello award winning folk singer gave us a memorable performance that was enthusiastically received by an audience which included many first timers in St Mary's. We hope to do more events with James in the future as part of our PCC's push to widen our contribution to village life and bring as many people into our Church as often as possible.

In September we welcomed Will Folkes who updated us on the splendid work being done at Chailey Heritage. This work is truly inspirational. St Mary's supported it through our outward giving programme in 2024.

John Vine, an actor who was enjoyed a long successful career joined us for our final 2024 Supper in November. John is a very entertaining speaker. He spoke well about how he found his way into the acting profession, and the demanding he went through at Drama School. It was a real eye-opener to hear how demanding the acting profession is. He told us of some of the many interesting productions in which he played his part, and the people with whom he worked.

As always, we were well supported by our tireless ladies who cooked and served for us and made our evenings possible. We are extraordinarily well looked after. I'm glad that the ladies can enjoy their supper while our speakers are entertaining us. We are hugely grateful to them all.

**Christopher Hume**

## **Sexton's Report**

### **Church**

#### **Overview**

For a church that is largely 19th century in build with much older elements i.e., the tower and porch it can be said that it is in a reasonably safe usable condition. However, there are continuous maintenance concerns that need to be addressed rather than 'batting it down the road' to some future undefined time allowing these matters to worsen and increase cost.

#### **Quinquennial Inspection**

This is due in spring 2027 hopefully to be carried out by our current inspecting architect Richard Andrews who has a pragmatic attitude to the repair and maintenance of ancient buildings. However, I have already raised at PCC the need to address matters which he has previously highlighted for attention. These include judicious mortar repairs to the south facing nave wall and cleaning and bird netting of the chancel east trefoil window, cleaning, derusting and repainting of all cast iron gutters and downpipes. The roof has had minor repairs done by 'All About Roofing' and is considered to be in satisfactory condition. The drainage system around the building is working correctly with regular clearance of leaves and debris, JA assists with downpipe blockage clearance.

#### **Future Projects**

I would suggest the following items for consideration - the clock faces are in a poor state, dirty and requiring repainting and regilding, the south face has lost paint, and the woodwork may need renewal - all not a great advert for our church.

The weathervane needs to be checked for safety, derusted, repainted and regilded as necessary.

#### **Tower**

JA is responsible for the inspection and upkeep of the bells, bell frame and ropes. AY continues to maintain the clock mechanism. AB ascends the tower several times a year to inspect the internal condition of all areas and to check drainage is working correctly at the tower top, that battlements are safe and roof tiles are in place on the tower roof and also the main body of the church which can be viewed from the top of the tower. At some point a general top to bottom clean may be desirable inside the tower. The very last steps at the top are eroded by weather as previously noted but the replacement door to the roof has arrested this problem, however the tower should remain out of bounds for tower tours for which we are not insured.

#### **Boiler Room**

The boiler room has regularly been beset with flooding problems that go back well before the oil-fired boiler was installed. However, with the addition of a sump pump to remove surplus backed up water from the drainage system this area seems to be less of a concern, but time will tell. Although there are pressures to adopt a more environmentally friendly form of heating, most are unsuitable for our situation and at a cost which is difficult to justify when we have other priorities. However, there are some systems now available which are worth investigating as an alternative or as an adjunct to the oil-fired system in our church. The 'fresh air' ventilation of the boiler room does create a buildup of leaves which have to be removed in the spring of each year.

## **Organ**

JFV has explained that the organ stops as currently configured are not all working correctly despite recent servicing. The record book has a rather 'testy' entry by the engineer about lack of access caused by the fixed frontal cabinet backing on to the casing. Therefore, it is intended to request the Manders engineer to revisit for a meeting with JFV and AB to try and resolve these problems.

## **Pews**

CH has applied for a faculty to permanently remove the pews that have been taken away from the centre of the aisle plus one more to improve disabled access in this area. I have been requested to obtain quotes for pew cushions for all remaining pews to improve comfort.

## **Fire Safety**

As a Grade II listed church emergency exits signs are not fitted although a faculty may be obtainable if it was felt signage was appropriate. Fire extinguishers are tested on the same date as the barn centre each year and are up to date.

## **Electrical Safety**

The fixed wiring installation in the building is subject to inspection every five years, likewise the barn centre. The installation is currently well within date, which in any case can be flexible to a degree.

## **Lightning Conductors**

AC Wallbridge have carried out an inspection and found no faults on this occasion. We have reverted to an annual inspection regime as this is consistent with the older British Standard to which our installation was first installed.

## **Churchyard**

The churchyard is the province of CH, but I do get involved with footpaths which are a perennial problem due to age, unevenness in places and slippery in wet conditions. Access between the church and the Barn Centre is very poor with many people in wheelchairs or less able, struggling to get past the yew tree to access toilets or the cart lodge, an extra hanging light will be fitted to illuminate this path better. This footpath would under the proposed upgrade plan be lifted and new safe wide path laid between the toilet block door (to be enlarged) and joining the main path facing the tower. The driveway to the car park is pitted in one place and this is due to be dealt with in early 2025 by a contractor. A quote for a light near the lychgate is to be obtained. The youth club shed, which is very flimsy, had lost some roofing felt in high winds, a temporary repair done but due to be refelted early in 2025.

## **Barn Centre**

Most matters are covered under the barn centre report, however as previously noted here the fire extinguishers are tested annually, also fixed wiring and emergency lighting inspection. Weekly tests of fire alarms and emergency lighting are carried out by AB and noted.

The leak over the south facing library window appears to be cured following minor wall repairs by 'All About Roofing'. A corner stone block next to the drive has become dislodged and as a structural matter will be dealt with by 'All About Roofing' as soon as practicable in 2025.

## **Public Footpath**

After more than eighteen months of cajoling and generally browbeating ESCC Highways into action AB has finally managed to get a drop kerb installed at the main gates to the churchyard. This has been well received and ready in time for busy Christmas services, the purchase of a dozen traffic cones now makes it possible to keep the area clear for vehicles carrying anyone disabled or in a wheelchair to drop off and pick up as required. It is AB intention to pursue ESCC in respect of repairs to the rest of the pavement and damage to the camber

of the road as well. Coupled with an installed ramp inside the church main door, access to the church has now been improved considerably.

### **Finally**

Most of the foregoing matters involve cost and some are projects in their own right which could attract grant funding. There needs to be a drive to develop grant funding for those items which are considered to need urgent attention.

**Anthony Bailey**

### **Outward Giving Group**

When considering the wide range of worthy Christian charities that we could donate to it became clear that we could refine our giving to only those charities with which we have strong personal connections, be they local or distant.

With Ron and June Perou giving up their ministry with The Leprosy Mission we still have strong ties with Wendy Piccinini the TLM rep who visits St Mary's annually to deliver a lively gospel message and updates on TLM.

The Kwambegi Trust oversees the work which Chris Wagstaff carries out training young Kenyans for ministry leadership.

We continue after more than 40 years to support Katy Barnwell with her translation work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. She is now entirely UK based but with the miracle of IT is able to continue her work all over the world.

The Bevern Trust and Chailey Heritage are our local recipients with whom with we have many personal contacts

Mandy Stockwell has been working with the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team for the last two years and we have helped to supply them with some important pieces of kit.

Our donations are as follows:

	£
The Leprosy Mission	500
Katy Barnwell	1,200
Kwambegi Trust	500
Bevern Trust	500
Chailey Heritage Appeal	500
Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team	<u>800</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£4,000</u></b>

**Jeremy Burdett**

### **Churchyard Report**

2024 was a satisfactory year in our Churchyard.

Connick Tree Care visited in February to carry out our usual annual programme of work. They visited again on October 16th to carry out our annual health and safety inspection of the Churchyard. No problems were found. A program of maintenance work has been arranged to be carried out in February 2025.

We continued to grow out an area in our main churchyard during the summer period. This is the fourth year we have done this. We mow the area flat at the end of March then leave it alone until we mow it flat again and clear the grass clippings at the end of August. This has had the effect of substantially increasing the variety of both flora and fauna found in the area during the summer. We are getting a pleasing increase in biodiversity, and a good showing of wildflowers. With the help of Nigel Symington who has been running a similar

programme at Fletching for some years now we did a survey of flora and fauna in September. I'm glad to say good progress has been made over the four years we have been running this programme.

Our Garden Days in April and October were pleasingly productive. In October we carried out a substantial programme daffodil planting in the old churchyard in front of the church. We're hoping for good display of daffodils in spring 2025.

Our garden days are happy congregational occasions. Rector Paul barbecued lunch for us, the Ministry of cake was in full operation all day and our ladies rose to the occasion with all the trimmings. Attendance was good, and a happy time was had by all.

One problem we are facing is that our signature Yew Tree between the church and the barn centre appears to be ailing. We have taken advice and done some research. It appears that the Yew is suffering from a form of malnutrition. The paths which surround the base of the tree and the grass under the crown of the tree are preventing the tree getting the nutrition it needs. We plan to take remedial action in 2025.

We continue to receive compliments from the many users of the public footpath which runs through our Churchyard. It is indeed a beautiful place and a fitting final resting place for many departed friends. We are determined to cherish and develop our Churchyard in the years to come.

**Christopher Hume**

### **Ladies' Suppers**

Unfortunately, as in 2023, there were no ladies' suppers in 2024. There is still hope that they may return in 2025.



### **Background**

Solo Friends was inaugurated on 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

Total membership is now 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 emailing Diary Dates to members.

Our programme has a variety of events, with regular lunches at local pubs & restaurants, including two 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 and Scrabble.

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

## **Finance**

There is no need for significant financial assistance as all events are self-funding and we have enjoyed 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 and 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**

Thanks to Pat Beston and her group of helpers, our coffee café is now open after the 8.00a.m. Service and again after the 10.00a.m. Service every Sunday of the year.

We now serve from a permanent spot on the red carpet at the back of the Church and can store all our supplies in that area. We do miss sitting in the Summer Sunshine outside the Cart Lodge but it was becoming increasingly difficult for our volunteers to make use of the venue.

In addition to providing refreshments for our congregation we are able to provide a friendly welcome to visitors to St. Mary's on all occasions, including our Services at Christmas, Easter and Mothering Sunday.

We would love to welcome more volunteers, be it setting up the Café on Saturday, to making the coffee on Sunday, to Serving the refreshments – twice a year is a good starting point! There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Church for Volunteers – or simply offer to help on the day – you will always be welcome.

## **Rebecca Hume**

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Our 2024 festival was blessed with a weekend of good weather for which we were so thankful, bearing in mind the exceptionally wet and windy weather we experienced on Market Day the year before.

The weekend raised a grand total of **£2,897**, which after expenses was divided equally between St Mary's and St Peter & St James Hospice.

The Church was filled again with wonderful trees; and the clubs, societies, and small businesses taking part yet again excelled in their creativity. There was a steady stream of visitors to enjoy them throughout the weekend, and a wonderful team of helpers there ready to serve them cakes and hot drinks too.

The traditional informal vote for best trees took place and the worthy winners were the Beavers in top spot with 130 votes, closely followed by The Deer Guy with 106 and then Headway with 96.

This year there was a raffle for a Sleigh of festive goods provided by Fr Martin Morgan (thank you Fr M) and the winning ticket went to Brenda Ford, a very worthy winner and who was overwhelmed with all the treats this provided.



The festive market was successful again this year with more stalls in the Church than previously, and then a selection of others stalls plus food and drink over in the Barn Centre. As has become the tradition too, Reverend Paul was manning the BBQ (interspersed with some Northern Soul dancing and a bit of a festive sing song) and there was a variety of tasty snacks and drinks available, all served by a wonderful team of helpers. We have said it before, and we say it again - no one can say St Mary's doesn't "do" hospitality well!

After the market and as it got darker on Saturday afternoon, there was a wonderful festive singalong lead by Andy Rees, who also brought some wonderful singers with him to entertain us all. The Church was brimming, and the atmosphere was wonderful. Mulled Wine was enjoyed along with a variety of sweet treats and it really felt like the start of the Christmas festivities.

Thanks go to everyone who worked hard leading up to and over the festival weekend to make it the success it was; and that includes:

- All the lovely home bakers who provided cakes to be sold across the weekend in the church
- Newick Bakery, who so generously supported us with all the rolls for the BBQ
- Those who gave up their time to be in Church and/or the Market welcoming visitors and serving refreshments.
- Andy and his singing guests
- 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**

### **Introduction**

During 2024, increased Church activity led to greater use than ever of the Barn facilities. Use of the Barn broadly falls into three categories – church events, village events and renting for a range of classes and social occasions. Church related events include all those that may follow baptisms, weddings, funerals, memorial services and concerts as well as prayer and reflection sessions. Recently there have also been some monthly diocesan meetings to discuss the future of Rural Ministry. To these should be added weekly meetings for dancing, Fun and Fitness, term time meetings of the Youth Club and Encounter, monthly meetings of the Lunch Club, Solo Friends and Tea at Three, and meetings of Men's Suppers and Garden Days. Village events revolve around local societies, including the Afternoon Club, Rootz, Twinning, the Sewing Group and others and birthday parties or similar. Finally, popular exercise classes, including Pilates, Yoga and Tai Chi, take place weekly throughout the year. Village events and classes carry a charge of £14 per hour.

### **The Team**

All this requires substantial management. Tony Bailey manages the team and the premises – more of which shortly – and Sue Balloch manages the barn occupancy and usage in liaison with Sara Fuller and Rebecca Hume. Sara manages the Barn website, which carries a page on the Barn plus a booking form and terms and conditions, and guides enquiries through to Sue while Rebecca plays a vital role in helping to ensure that Church needs are met and that there is a minimum clash between Church events and barn rentals. (This involves consideration not just of use of the space inside the barn but also of the car park.)

A Barn Centre Committee meets from time to time to discuss any pertinent matters, including rental charges, and also to provide the backing for any grant applications for church-based activities. Our thanks go to Rosemary Walters and Linda Farmer who have served on this committee for a number of years and have contributed a great deal the management and cleaning of the kitchen as well as running the Lunch Club. Linda

has now stepped down but continues in her valued role of checking our certifications. A special mention and thank you also goes to Sue Holman-Williams who has finally handed back her keys after some years of an impossible task keeping the building clean and ready to hire. January 2025 will see the arrival of our new cleaner Rhona Dean and we bid her welcome!

### **Some Issues**

The Barn fulfils a massive need and does so with the help of the above team and the congregation and regular hirers who respect and love this charming building for what it offers. Yet access to the building from the church is poor, toilet facilities are limited and not wholly accessible and the primary space used by everyone - the Cart Lodge - is often not large enough to cope with some events. It is also showing its age in many areas with windows, doors, carpet, etc in need of replacement. While the general core state of the building is good, user interface - doors, windows and carpets are worn out. The carpet has been there for years and has all the dust and dirt embedded in it to prove this. Twice a year Mr Wizard works a miracle floor cleaning but of course it doesn't last long.

Regarding the individual rooms:

#### *Cart Lodge*

New hard flooring will be required as part of any upgrade. In Cart Lodge the chairs are showing their age, are uncomfortable and damage the otherwise pleasant vinyl flooring, especially when the underfloor heating is on. The basic system, however, still works well despite its age although it needs regular mopping or cleaning to keep it in good condition. Before Christmas 2024 a new dark teal colour was purchased, ready to paint below the dado rail to help disguise marking from use.

#### *Kitchen and Toilets*

The kitchen functions well and the toilets are just about acceptable but are not accessible to many disabled people.

#### *Small room off the Kitchen*

This provides a valuable small service and dining area but needs appropriate furnishing.

#### *Church Office*

The church office is often filled with items associated with the youth club and classes making it unsuitable to be truly called an office. There is a storage issue that needs to be addressed now.

#### *The Upper Room*

This lovely space is used for youth club and some meetings but is only accessible via a narrow staircase. The Velux window units are misted but will get replaced during the upgrade process. Barge boards need to be fitted on the southern end of the building and any interstices blocked or filled to prevent wildlife ingress.

### **Funding**

An underlying problem to basic renovation is funding. In 2024 the provisional costs of running the building at £8,477.19 were more than covered by income of £9,076.00 generated through renting, which left a surplus of £598.81. While this is helpful it is insufficient to deal with the issues mentioned above. New funding is needed therefore to make the barn sustainable in the short term.

Secondly, substantial funding is needed to fund the major upgrade that was granted planning permission some time ago to improve this essential facility. As this report shows, change to meet ever growing demand is urgently needed. CH, RB and AB recently attended a grant funding evening at which they learnt of a church in Lancing where the successful outcome of a project to upgrade facilities took approximately seven years so we should not be surprised at the lengthy gestation period which our own scheme is currently taking. But that is not to be complacent – we need to get moving!!

**Anthony Bailey and Sue Balloch**

## **Flower Team**

Although we are a small team, the members work well together and help and support each other, this has made 2024 another successful year.

Unfortunately, flowers have increased somewhat in cost 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.
- June saw the decoration of St. Mary's in celebration of the coronation of King Charles.
- Harvest once again was another highlight.
- Over the two weekends for Remembrance St. Mary's was decorated with poppy and foliage arrangements.
- Decorating for Christmas was another enjoyable and 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 and other essential jobs. We thank them all, we couldn't possibly manage without any of them.

We need 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**

We are becoming an increasingly busy Church. In addition to our regular Services, we have Weddings, Baptisms, Concerts, Funerals, School Services, School Concerts, Christmas Tree Festival, Owlets and all the additional events around Christmas and Easter and of course the many who enter as part of their regular dog walk or as visitors to our Churchyard.

The words I continuously hear about St. Mary's are – welcoming – warmth of atmosphere – friendly – beautiful – alive – joyful – always positive – always thankful.

This welcome is provided by all who care for St. Mary's and that includes the weekly cleaning, which is always a bigger challenge during the winter months with candlewax and muddy boots and muddy dogs and I do hope that we might be able to find a suitable date for a 2025 Spring Clean, maybe before Easter – if not then hopefully before the Autumn of 2025.

In the meantime, Volunteers are always welcome in helping with the preparations for all the events listed above in making St. Mary's the special place that it is.

**Rebecca Hume**

## **Choir**

Our choir at St Mary's Newick is continuing to grow in number and develop its repertoire. Our '*Advent Carols by Candlelight*' was well attended and the '*Nine Lessons and Carols*' was virtually standing room only! At all the main festivals: Holy Week, Easter, Harvest, Advent and Christmas, the choir excelled themselves receiving numerous compliments from members of the congregation and the clergy. We are tremendously blessed to have so many talented singers, whether able to read music or not. We practice twice monthly for an hour or so, usually on a Wednesday evening. Bob Gumpert often hosts the choir at his home for which we are

immensely appreciative. We had a shared lunch at Jonathan's in the summer and at June Ellis' home just before Christmas. The music and worship in our wonderful church is a blessing and supports the wonderful teaching that we receive on a Sunday and at other occasions throughout the year.

**Jonathan Fenton-Vice**

### **Safeguarding Report**

There are currently 42 people with DBS checks on my spreadsheet. All those who Volunteer or are in paid roles working with Children or Vulnerable Adults require a DBS check. Also, PCC Members require a check, because we employ paid Youth Workers. There are three people who need new checks, because they did not register for the Update Service. The Update service is going to be more problematic going forward, because people will not be automatically kept on the system after one year. They will have to actively respond to correspondence from the DBS saying they want to be kept on the system. I emailed Church House asking if the Diocese would contact the DBS Service about this. The response I received was that if I was concerned, I should contact the DBS. They are hardly likely to take notice of one Safeguarding Officer from one Parish. I will raise this issue at my training tomorrow.

At the last PCC Meeting Paul Mundy said everyone on the PCC should do the Foundation Training and let me know the date they did it, so I can add it to my spreadsheet, because it needs to be done every three years. Only two people have done it recently, so most will need to do it again and let me know when they have done. Some PCC Members have only done the Basic training. Patsy and I have to do the Leadership training, because of our roles. I have signed up to do this tomorrow. Patsy has signed up to do the ALM training this month.

There aren't any Safeguarding issues that I am aware of.

Lee Buck still runs the Youth. Pam runs the Owls and now the Owlets for Babies and Toddlers. Cara continues to run the Youth Choir.

As I mentioned last time The Diocese of Chichester updated its Safeguarding Website. It includes: 'What Do I Do If', 'How to guides', 'Training', 'Simple Quality Protects', 'Policies' and Links to other organisations and resources.

**Caroline Smith**

### **Ringers' Report**

Once again, we have managed to ring for 99% of church services as required, including extra services over the Christmas period, and all school services. Unfortunately, the one service we couldn't raise a team for was an important one - Remembrance Sunday - but due to unavoidable circumstances this was the case. I took the decision to just toll the tenor, half-muffled, for 20 minutes before the service as the various societies and villagers marched from the Green to the church, then for another 10 minutes after the service. I hope this was a poignant mark of respect.

We also rang for seven weddings during the year and tolled for two funerals. We rang the bells on 6<sup>th</sup> June for half an hour, 6.30-7.00pm, as part of the national D-Day Landings Commemoration.

We hosted three teams of visiting ringers, and one visit from the Ringers Association to which we are affiliated.

We continue to regularly inspect and maintain our bells.

We currently have three people learning to ring, two who responded to an article I put in the Parish Magazine, which is encouraging as at present we could do with a couple of extra ringers I can call upon. We continue to work with the Chailey ringers – we can call on them if we are short of ringers for weddings and they can call on us likewise.

We finished the year by ringing out 2024 from 11.40pm to midnight and rang in 2025 from midnight to 12.15am. This was another joint effort with two ringers from Chailey. We enjoyed some nibbles and a glass of port to toast the New Year (thanks Paul once again).

Once again, thank you for letting us ring your bells

We are still practicing on Wednesday evenings from 7.15 – 8.15pm.

Thank you.

**Julian Avis,  
Captain of Bells**

## **APCM FINANCE REPORT for the year ended 31 December 2024**

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.

**Christopher Hume**  
**Treasurer**

ST MARY'S NEWICK PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Current financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes					
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	153,212	-	8,811	162,023	151,590
Charitable activities	3	29,048	10,714	1,841	41,603	34,571
Investments	4	3,475	-	-	3,475	4,183
Other income	5	50	1,825	-	1,875	869
<b>Total income</b>		<b>185,785</b>	<b>12,539</b>	<b>10,652</b>	<b>208,976</b>	<b>191,213</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	6	169,723	15,366	16,600	201,689	196,223
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>169,723</b>	<b>15,366</b>	<b>16,600</b>	<b>201,689</b>	<b>196,223</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>16,062</b>	<b>(2,827)</b>	<b>(5,948)</b>	<b>7,287</b>	<b>(5,010)</b>
Transfers between funds		(11,801)	6,960	4,841	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	8	<b>4,261</b>	<b>4,133</b>	<b>(1,107)</b>	<b>7,287</b>	<b>(5,010)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Fund balances at 1 January 2024		12,215	79,925	13,121	105,261	110,271
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2024</b>		<b>16,476</b>	<b>84,058</b>	<b>12,014</b>	<b>112,548</b>	<b>105,261</b>

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)  
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Prior financial year		Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes				
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	132,109	954	18,527	151,590
Charitable activities	3	26,080	8,191	300	34,571
Investments	4	4,183	-	-	4,183
Other income	5	-	367	502	869
<b>Total income</b>		<u>162,372</u>	<u>9,512</u>	<u>19,329</u>	<u>191,213</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	6	<u>153,992</u>	<u>35,686</u>	<u>6,545</u>	<u>196,223</u>
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<u>153,992</u>	<u>35,686</u>	<u>6,545</u>	<u>196,223</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		8,380	(26,174)	12,784	(5,010)
Transfers between funds		<u>(28,242)</u>	<u>27,905</u>	<u>337</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	8	<u>(19,862)</u>	<u>1,731</u>	<u>13,121</u>	<u>(5,010)</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		<u>32,077</u>	<u>78,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110,271</u>
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b>		<u>12,215</u>	<u>79,925</u>	<u>13,121</u>	<u>105,261</u>



**ST MARY'S NEWICK PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	1,753		4,745	
Cash at bank and in hand		125,602		112,358	
		<u>127,355</u>		<u>117,103</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	(14,807)		(11,842)	
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>112,548</u>		<u>105,261</u>	
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	15	12,014		13,121	
Unrestricted funds - general	17	16,476		12,215	
Unrestricted funds - designated	16	84,058		79,925	
		<u>112,548</u>		<u>105,261</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the council members on 19 March 2025



Mr C J Hume  
Trustee

**ST MARY'S NEWICK PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**

**TO THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF ST MARY'S NEWICK PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

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I report to the council members on my examination of the financial statements of St Mary's Newick Parochial Church Council (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the council members of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



**David Martin FCA**

TC Group  
One Bell Lane  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 1JU

Dated: 19 March 2025

**St. Mary's Parish Church Newick**

**Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

**Sunday 6 April 2025**

**AGENDA**

**VESTRY MEETING**

- 1. Welcome and Prayers**
- 2. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting 2024 for approval**
- 3. Election of Churchwardens (2)**
- 4. Close of Meeting**

**APCM**

- 1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2024 for approval**
- 2. Changes to the Electoral Roll**
- 3. Election of Representatives to the PCC**
- 4. The Annual Report**
- 5. Presentation**
- 6. Votes of Thanks**
- 7. Close of Meeting**
- 8. Grace**

**St. Mary's Parish Church Newick**

**Special PCC Meeting (APCM)**

**Sunday 6 April 2025**

**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**

**5. Next Meeting of the Standing Committee**

**6. Close of Meeting**

**St. Mary's Parish Church Newick**

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

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024, 11.30 am**

**Welcome and prayers**

**In attendance:** Rev. Paul Mundy (Chair), Christopher Hume, Sara Fuller, John Sclater, Katherine Sclater, Monica Todd, Peter Todd, Susan Balloch, Mel Balloch, Ian Reekie, John Morrison, Barry Mansfield, Shirley Mansfield, Jeremy Burdett, Jacky Burdett, June Ellis, Rosemary Walters, Kate Francis, Dorothy thrower, John Baker, Anthony Bailey, Heather Ward, Jebby Dyson, Gillian Godsmark, Allen Lucas, Juliet Lucas, Clive Maxell, Ann Maxwell, Geoff Clinton, Rosie Hallett, Anthony Mallinson, Caroline Smith, Lorraine Campbell, Jonathan Campbell, Audrey Ford, Pam Mundy, Vicky Harrington, Christopher Wagstaff, Jonathan Fenton-Vince, Dan Cowley, Patsy Bailey, Ciaran Mundy, Martin Morgan, Rebecca Hume, Julian Avis

**Apologies for absence**

Mandy Stockwell, Linda Farmer, Ron Perou, June Perou,

**MEETING**

**Vestry Meeting**

1. Minutes of the 2023 meeting were approved by Mel Balloch and seconded by Clive Maxwell. Agreed unanimously. Rev Paul signed these as part of the APCM pack.
2. Churchwardens were elected: Christopher Hume - proposed by Ian Reekie, seconded by Monica Todd and agreed unanimously. Sara Fuller - proposed by Audrey Ford, seconded by Caroline Smith and agreed unanimously.

Meeting closed.

**APCM**

**1. Minutes of the previous annual meeting**

The minutes of the previous APCM, held on 21st May 2023, were accepted unanimously. These were then signed by Rev. Paul Mundy as part of the APCM pack.

**2. Adoption of Diocesan Safeguarding Policy**

Rev. Paul Mundy proposed adoption of, and adherence to the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, which was seconded by Mel Balloch and agreed unanimously. Rev. Paul noted thanks to Caroline Smith, Safeguarding Officer, for all her work both in St Mary's and at the School. He also thanked - and in her absence - Linda Farmer for all the work on reviewing and updating risk policies and Health and Safety, and others involved in the daily safeguarding work of St. Mary's.

### **3. Changes to the Electoral Roll**

In Mandy Stockwell's absence Rev Paul reported that since the last Electoral Roll seven names had been added and three sadly removed as they are no longer with us. A further one name was removed as the individual moved out of the Parish. The electoral roll currently stands at one hundred and forty nine people, which is an overall increase of three people on 2023. The 2024 Electoral Roll (names only) will be in the Porch for 14 days.

Mel Balloch proposed a vote of thanks to Mandy Stockwell for all the work involved in reviewing and updating the data of the Electoral Roll.

### **4. Election of Representatives to the PCC**

There are two additions to the PCC committee this year - Rob Bellis and Pam Mundy.

Rev. Paul reflected that it was a privilege to serve on the PCC and thanked all members for their contribution. He advised that there is an opportunity for each PCC member to become involved in activities that may be of particular interest to them, or fit a particular skillset they have - and any PCC member who has an interest in pursuing this, should speak to either himself or one of the Churchwardens in the first instance.

### **5. The Annual Report**

Rev. Paul Mundy thanked every contributor. He also thanked Fr Martin Morgan for the support he gives, to both Paul personally and to St Mary's. Paul made special mention of the wonderful Lent Course that was designed and delivered by Fr Martin this year. He presented Fr Martin with some Evangelist Gin.

There were no overall questions or comments made about the report itself.

On specific items:

**Youth and family work** - Christopher gave thanks to Pam and Paul Mundy for the great work that is happening in this field. May Camp has the best ever number of attendees for this year. Paul mentioned how one of the May Camp attendees on the first year of Paul going - is now going to be on the stage leading May Camp this year! Christopher advised that all of the youth work is dear to his heart but that there is much more to be done.

**Mental Wellbeing** John Morrison enquired as to the current position on Mental Wellbeing work. Rev Paul explained there has been a restructure in the team at Church House dealing with Mental Wellbeing training and we will not be looking to commence a mental wellbeing programme in St Mary's. We will however continue to signpost people to the various avenues that can be taken to gain help, from contacting your own GP to the various mental health services and support available.

**Pastoral Support** - Patsy Bailey gave thanks for all the items left for the food bank and put in a plea for toilet rolls which a lack of - currently appear to be an issue when making pastoral visits.

**Men's Suppers** - Jonathan Fenton-Vince thanked Christopher Hume for the hard work in arranging both the suppers and the speakers. Christopher in turn thanked the team of ladies who work in the background to provide the hospitality for these.

**Ladies Suppers** - Pam Mundy advised to watch this space for this a little later in the year.

**Sexton** - Rev Paul and Christopher Hume asked for a round of applause and thanks to the Sexton for all the work done and the support he gives to St Mary's which is so valuable and very much appreciated.

**Churchyard** - Rev Paul spoke about Spring Gardening Day and that over 80 people had lunch - whether they had taken part or come to support, and this was a wonderful result. Outreach comes from events such as these and thanks were given to Dan Cowley for introducing a family to St Mary's through a garden day and Mens' suppers. That family is now on our Electoral Roll.

**SOLO Friends** - special thanks to Ian Reekie for all the work and support he gives to this programme.

**Christmas Trees** - thanks to Jenny Smerden and Sara Fuller for the hard work and success of the 2023 festival.

**Barn Centre** - thanks were given to Sue Balloch for all the hard work in managing the Barn Centre diary and Rev Paul said how wonderful it is to see so many people using the Barn Centre for such a wide variety of events.

**Flower Team** - thanks and applause were given to the team and Rev Paul expressed gratitude for the huge amount of work and passion that goes into the displays we have in St Mary's all year round.

**Cleaning** - Rev Paul thanked the cleaning team, the "unsung heroes" who come in, sometimes in between services and events, to make sure that St Mary's is always looking its best.

**Choir** - thanks were given to the choir and Jonathan Fenton-Vince expressed a desire to see more congregational singing and extolled the virtues of it. Christopher Hume gave thanks for three new choir members and for the Youth Choir that takes place monthly.

**Safeguarding** - had been covered earlier as part of the adoption of the Diocesan Safeguarding policy but further thanks were given to Caroline Smith for all her work both with St Mary's and Newick School.

**Bell ringers** - applause and thanks were given to Julian and his team of ringers and Rev Paul relayed a fond memory of how they truly make a difference. At the end of first lockdown and people still had to socially distance but the bells were rung. Many people gathered at the end of Church Road to hear the bells and some were brought to tears. One comment made was that it felt like "things were getting back to normal with the bells ringing".

Jonathan Fenton-Vince invited people to go along to a ringing session to see if they may like to take part and extolled the benefits of it as a "workout".

Christopher Hume thanked Julian and the team and relayed how wonderful it was that with short notice on the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup>, the bells were tolled.

**Finance Report** - Christopher gave thanks to Ian Reekie for working so hard on our financial record keeping and analysis and in addition to Robin Parris who is our Payments officer. Christopher said "I continue to be deeply moved by the generosity of our congregation, both financially and in many other ways. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart".

Rev Paul said the Mission grants we applied for with Chailey for diocese funds for our Youth worker have been released – with a view to now being able to recruit a part time children's and family worker. A blessing for us, when many other churches do not have this role.

Audrey led a round of applause of thanks for the whole finance team.

John Sclater said the giving is simply marvellous and we have so much to be grateful for it. Unfortunately, we have overspent on our income in the past couple of years and it is a high-risk road waiting for donations from legacies, as there is no guarantee they will come in the future. What is our record of legacies? Christopher Hume said there had been two in the ten years of his time at St Mary's so it is a risk but we must continue to do what we can.

Rev Paul advised we are using our legacies as instructed and other vicars have restricted fund accounts (allocated for certain larger projects like new roofs) which means they can't afford day to day costs like youth work. Regular giving is the most important way we can maintain the work we do. Ian Reekie spoke about the monitoring and budgeting processes brought in to give greater clarity on overall spend and budgeting for the future. Jeremy Burdett said that God would also provide for us whilst we are in the business of spreading the gospel.

Christopher Hume agreed and said yes the lord provides but the treasurers worry

### **General comments during the meeting:**

Heather Ward spoke of the increasing food bank requirements and advised that sponsorship from Cook (the shop) is in place and they give us 18 free meals a week, which makes such a difference and is a support for those who have issues or loved ones in hospital.

Rev Paul agreed we always need food banks and have increases in pastoral requirements, so sadly this situation continues. He said when people ask for help, we should be there, whatever the circumstances without judgement. He also asked us all to thank Cook if ever we are in Haywards Heath or in/near the shop too.

Kate Francis asked whether the wonderful work of the Verger (Rebecca) had been acknowledged. Rev Paul said yes, that thanks had been given in the 10am service, and that he is always grateful, especially for the gentle nudges/big pushes in the right direction the Verger gives.

### **6. Votes of Thanks**

In addition to the thanks mentioned within the various reporting sections, Rev Paul led a huge vote of thanks and applause to everyone involved in making St Mary's the wonderful warm welcoming worship church it is. This included the Verger and her hospitality team, Sexton, Churchwardens, Admin support, Audio team, Readers everyone who submitted reports and everyone who comes and supports events and worship services. He said without all this St Mary's couldn't run as wonderfully as it does.

Father Martin asked for prayers for someone who has recently been bereaved and additionally thanked Paul for his blessings on us.



Christopher Hume noted that we are well blessed to enjoy the devoted services of Fr Martin and Rev Paul.

## **7. AOB**

Christopher Wagstaff queried the amount of outward giving and whether the figure should be higher and in keeping with the 10% to align with scripture. Jeremy Burdett explained that when this is carefully considered and we take into account our giving through pastoral care and other charitable work, we do give an amount roughly equivalent to the 10% of gross income mentioned. A discussion for later as to how we can evolve our giving was suggested for consideration.

Monica Todd queried why the Lunch teams hadn't been thanked and Rev Paul explained they had been included in the overall thanks but also read out the update and thanks on them from Patsy in her Pastoral report.

Peter Todd queried why Rev Paul doesn't publish his sermons. Rev Paul explained the background and reasons to this and was happy to continue the discussion with Peter after the meeting.

## **8. Close**

The meeting closed with a prayer from Rev Paul who invited all to the Barn Centre for lunch.