

# St Mary's Newick

## Living God's Kingdom



***"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship,  
to the breaking of bread and to prayer"***

Acts 2:42

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

**21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Vestry Meeting & APCM**

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners  
(Vestry Meeting)**

**Election of Churchwardens**

**Election of Deputy Wardens**

**Annual Reports**

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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**Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Newick.  
PCC Report 2023**

## **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

Mandy Stockwell

Johnathan Fenton-Vince

Ian Reekie Deputy Treasurer

Five PCC meetings were conducted in 2023 (January, 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 2023 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, Jeremy Burdett, Geoff Clinton, Sara Fuller, Christopher Hume.
Finance:	<b>Christopher Hume</b> , Robin Parris, Ruth Connellan, 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> , Ali Brown, 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, Monica & Peter Todd

#### **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

**Sara Fuller**

### **How we did we affect people's lives in 2023.**

## **Worship and the Gospel**

St Mary's continues to hold a central part of our community's life journey, expressed joyfully in our celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III. It is an important reminder of the role the Church holds during times of national celebration and mourning.

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 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, 5 Weddings & Blessings and 13 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 and The Merchant Navy for the first time. 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 are 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 & Jeremy Burdett continue their vital roles in the life of St Mary's and assisting in neighbouring parishes.

Ian Reekie continues his study through Sussex Gospel Partnership and is an Occasional Preacher with the permission of the Incumbent and Churchwardens.

Mandy Stockwell completed her course at St Augustine's as an independent student as part of her vocation journey and continues her lead in our Fresh Expressions Worship 2 service and as a worship leader with the permission of the Incumbent and Churchwardens. Mandy successfully trained as a Chaplain to The Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team. This is a challenging and rigorous discernment process, which Mandy graduated from with high praise, and we continue to hold Mandy, her family, and the Beachy Head Team in our prayers for this much needed and challenging ministry.

Patsy Bailey is our Authorised Lay Minister in Pastoral Care & Mission completed an elective ALM in Chaplaincy which has furthered her ALM role enabling greater involvement with our Nursing homes and Hospice. Patsy continues her ALM journey with the blessing of the Incumbent and PCC.

## **Giving**

Giving and tithing continues to be a challenge to St Mary's following the pandemic and with the continued rising cost of living, this means that we will be using some of our reserves to remain solvent in 2023 & 2024.

With these financial concerns in mind, it was wonderful that through your incredible generosity for our Christmas Appeal for Youth and Families work in the Parish, we will be able to advertise for a new Families worker in 2024, following Ali Brown's return to full-time teaching in October 2023.

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 and 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 2023 APCM**

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the Second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself".*

*Matthew 22*

January was quieter month this year as we looked forward to moving into Lent in the third week of February. I took advantage of this season by retreating away to a mountain. . . . and went skiing in Italy for a week!! I returned refreshed and mercifully with nothing more than a few aches and bruises.

February, I had a wonderful time with Newick Beavers & Cubs working through towards their Faith Badge where we had a pancake race, marked each other with ashes, made palm crosses and then we all washed each other's feet. . . . .That last bit was interesting!!!

In March we launched our Lent Course titled "Failure" by Dr Emma Ineson, this proved to be a bit like 'Marmite' . . . I thoroughly enjoyed it, but then I like Marmite and this time I was definitely in the minority! But the passage

One of the great joys of 2023 was having our concerts and live music at St Mary's. Performances from the world-famous Stile Antico, the amazing Andy Rees and Jo Appleby, Intergenerational Opera, the East Sussex Concert Band, Vivace 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 9<sup>th</sup> of April and started in the dark with our Sunrise service, only this year was more of a Foggy Service than Sunrise as a heavy mist rolled up the valley as the sun tried to break through. We gathered closer 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.

May was an exciting time as we prepared to take 21 young people from NYC to May Camp the Diocesan Youth Weekend at Plumpton Racecourse. That is 7 more than 2022!

We all had a great weekend, huge thank to Lee for organising and for all who supported our youth work. There was also the added bonus of NYC winning the football cup for the second year in a row.

May through to September gave us another season of weddings and wedding Blessings.

May also gave us the joy by celebrating The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla with celebrations in Church and in the community, with tea parties, beacon lightings, food fairs and concerts.

August was preparation time for Holiday Club with a new venue at Newick Primary School and over 50 young people attending from Newick and Chailey. It was a huge success and well done to Ali and all the team of volunteers.

August was also a sad month as our wonderful Church administrator Caroline Lewis-Irlam who had worked for us part-time for four years, was offered a full-time position at Horsted Keynes Primary as School Administrator, a vital role in our Church of England Primary Schools. Caroline went with our blessing and thanks for all she gave to St Mary's and her support for me, especially during the pandemic.

September is always a blessing as we head back to school for another year and our school ministry begins in earnest.

Following a churchyard work party back in 2022, I was invited to join a group of Dad's 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. It was a powerful weekend, with so much to see but also creating space for reflection and remembrance and I am ever thankful for the DD's 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.

We also said goodbye to Ali Brown our Children's and Families Missioner who had served St Mary's and our school faithfully and she will be greatly missed.



Bonfire night was a huge success with a dramatic firework display 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 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 2023 and enabled us to be serving at the heart of our community.

Huge thank you to the unsung heroes of Robin & Ruth for our accounts, for Caroline in the office producing our weekly newsletter, and supporting our administration, and to Sara for stepping into the Administrator role following Caroline's departure. As ever our eternal thanks to Jackie and Alex for all their work on our amazing Church Community magazine and watch this space as we move forward to a fantastic Re-Branding of St Mary's Newick's Church, thanks to the incredibly talented Ash Stockwell.

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**

The current roll stands at 149. Of this number, 116 live within the parish boundary and 33 live outside it.

Since last year's report, 7 names have been added and we extend our welcome to those people.

Sadly, three people have been removed, as they are no longer with us. We give thanks for the lives of Hazel Clinton, Ian Wagstaff, and Brenda Bellis. One other person has been removed as they have relocated to Portsmouth.

The list of names on our Electoral Roll will be displayed in the porch for 2 weeks as required by the Diocese of Chichester. This list will include names only; no other data will be displayed.

**Prepared by Mandy Stockwell  
Electoral Roll Officer**

## **Children and Family Ministry**

At St Mary's, Owls Club numbers have decreased over the past year, with an average of 6 children each month. This is a reflection on the fact that we no longer run a midweek club at school, which was originally carried out by Mandy Stockwell, Cath Claisse, and Issie Baty, and then taken over by Ali. It is important to note that personal connections within the school make a huge difference to the numbers attending Sunday services. There is a small number of children who regularly attend Owls each month with their families and who also attend other services on non-Owl's weeks, including the Newick Youth Choir.

We welcomed Valerie to the Team in November and now have a team of four DBS helpers most months, enabling splitting into two groups when numbers increase. We also welcomed 2 young leaders to join us each week in November as they are now in Year 7. It has been wonderful to see relationships develop within these smaller groups.

Three events were offered to the families of Owls during the year: including a Picnic on the Rec in July, an Arty Party in May half term, and a Fun by the Fire in October half term at the Barn Centre. These were well received, and some non-church families also attended.

At Easter, Owls leaders offered a Bible Society Easter trail outside the Church for families and children, which ran on Easter Sunday and was well attended and appreciated.

In August, the Holiday Club was run at Newick Primary School. It was a great success with over 60 children, with volunteers across both parishes (including a greater representation from St Peter's Chailey). The focus of the holiday club was Restoration Station, based on John's Gospel by Scripture Union.

In 2023, the role of Children and Family Ministry was carried out by Ali Brown, divided between Chailey and Newick until October, when Ali resigned from her post to take up full-time teaching. Owls Club continued every month, coordinated by Pam. Owls begins with sharing our 'Good News' together and a time of personal prayer when appropriate, followed by a craft, learning from the bible, and discussions together, covering so far 'the Parable of the Talents' and 'Christingle'.

In December Owls celebrated the birth of Jesus at Patsy's amazing Crib service, which was attended by several Owls as well as many other children from the village and at which Cara's Youth Choir sang, to the delight of the congregation.

In Newick Primary School, assemblies continued as a routine on Wednesday mornings, with a new style of assembly initiated in October to mimic a Church service and teach the children the Lord's Prayer. The assembly now routinely has a covered table set up with a cross / Holy Trinity candle / Bible to remind the children of the symbolism of the Christian faith. The Children and Family ministry work previously carried out by Ali has ceased, although Rev Paul has continued assemblies (within his role as Governor). The journey so far with Owls reflects the importance of Children and Families' work. We hope that we will be advertising for a new Children and Family worker this year.

**Pam Mundy**

## **NYC – NCT**

**NYC** - is our year 7+ group in 2023 we saw a regular group at the beginning of the year of 20+. As the winter season comes and the dark evenings we do lose some young people. However, this does then allow us to grow the connection with these young people and create a stronger and longer-lasting relationship. We fundamentally want to create a loving community, which having this time with them allows. We have several young leaders who help from NCT at NYC some of these are doing DofE and this is their volunteering. This has allowed us to catch up with them before the young people turn up and has helped us shape future leaders.

Later in the year April onwards we join both youth groups together and have a get Hyped program. This involves hungry hippo's, escape rooms, games in the woods, water rounders and inviting year 6's along. We had 30 – 40 for most sessions. Young people enjoyed the sessions and we continued to build rapport with these young people.

As we started our new academic year in September 2023. We saw a regular attendance of 33 young people each week. Coming from Newick, Chailey, Wivelsfield and Danehill. We seem to have become a catchment for young people in the local area. These number have stayed sturdy. We then finished our year off with a beath the parents evening were we have over 60 Young people and parents par take in a quiz about Christmas and hear about the true meaning of Christmas and may Camp 2024.

**NCT** - is our year 8+ youth group. We had similar numbers to begin with 30+. On a weekly basis we saw 60 – 70 youth. However, after a small amount of time we lost a large sum. We also lost a few leaders. As the Get Hyped sessions arrived, we saw some of these young people come back, however the new skate park became very popular. However, the numbers we did have left were still 15+ which was a blessing when we had a smaller number of leaders. We still took this opportunity to grow rapport and engage with them in a different way. We started to cook and do crafts with them which allowed us to be with them more during youth club.

As our year 7's went up to year 8. They then joined the older group. Which helped bring our numbers up. We have more young leaders to train and inspire. We felt we built a loving group that has good cohesion between them. They all loved May Camp and were huge advocates for May Camp to the younger ones. We have also offered the Duke of Edinburgh to those old enough.

**May Camp** - This year we took more than last year. We took 14 last year and 21 this year. We had a great time and a thought-provoking Christian message. The young people would come out of the night entertainment and ask the team about Jesus and why he died. Although these were questions, they should know. They are asking to get a deeper understanding. We worshiped, heard about God's plan and how we are all united. Our 2 football teams reached each other in the semifinals. One went on to win the final to keep their title of winners. I can't describe what happens at May Camp. Young people learn, question out loud or in their head. They absorb an atmosphere that is irreplaceable. That we can only describe as God in their lives.

**Chailey School** - I go into Chailey once a week. I sit in a classroom with some tabletop games. I chat, discuss, and listen with the year 7's. On average there are 20+ young people that join me on a Wednesday lunch time. It's allowed me to meet new young people, friends of those who attend youth club, build stronger relations, and re-engage those who stopped attending youth club.

**Lee Buck**

## **Pastoral Care**

The team continues to support to a variety of Newick Residents who are housebound, they provide visits, prayers, and communion, which is much appreciated. Where possible these visits continue when people move to nursing homes, the team also provides a sing-a-long hymn session monthly for the residents of Nightingales.

The team is up-to-date with first aid training, food preparation how to recognize signs of abuse with basic safeguarding responsibilities.

Where possible older people are encouraged to attend our communal outreach activities instead of home visits, as there are significant wellbeing advantages to socializing outside the four familiar walls of home. All activities illustrate that our Church cares for the wider community and these volunteers represent our Church and the essence of our faith.

The Social prescriber working from Chailey and Newick Health Centre is able to discuss call the support St. Mary's provides with clients she visits which has been very successful in gaining new members for activities.

## **Lunch Club.**

The monthly Lunch club held in the Barn Centre has attracted several new helpers and has been re-organized to run more efficiently, it provides a good and nutritious meal for 30 or more older residents at a reasonable price, transport can be provided, and it provided essential.

social support. All were provided with a Christmas gift from Father Christmas.

The meals are free at both Christmas and Easter.

## **Food Provision.**

This continues to assist those struggling financially, we work closely with the local Trussell Trust and have had access to frozen food donated by Cook in Hayward's Heath.

The most important aspect is that people feel supported, that our Church cares for the surrounding community even if those people in need are not church members., people report they feel more able to cope

and appreciate having had the opportunity to share their concerns, they are directed to the Newick Trust and advised to engage with Citizens Advice Bureau.

### **Tea @Three**

Tea at Three has been a very successful outreach, bringing people together for an afternoon to socialize together over tea and cake on the third Thursday afternoon of every month in the Barn Centre.

### **Dancing for Fun and Fitness.**

This weekly activity provides appropriate exercise and social opportunities for older women, this long running outreach continues to thrive and the members are preparing to begin rehearsing to entertain others by visiting and providing entertainment for older peoples groups i.e. Plumpton and Ofham church groups and this coming year plan to go to entertain residents living in Nightingales. The activity promotes better physical health and friendships, during this past year has three members have become widows and two have dementia, the group supports all its members through these life changing problems, all members have been part of the group for many years, sadly the size of the hall keeps the class with no more than twelve members but on an individual level it is invaluable.

### **Community Hub.**

The weekly Friday morning hub in the Community Centre has been consistently well attended by older members of the village and although we have very few Ukrainians living in Newick, those who have moved away frequently return, it offers refreshments and company.

It is staffed by volunteers from the community and Parish Council, Malcolm Smith and I represent St. Mary's, it is also a useful situation for pastoral and Chaplaincy support and representing St. Mary's in our community. It is ideal for those with dementia or who are wheelchair bound.

The Community Centre has good disabled access and is in an excellent situation to also be a warm space.

### **Chaplaincy**

This additional role is growing and underpins my entire activities, support is offered to those in need of someone to be beside them in difficult times sharing prayers, communion and especially support to carers, those moving towards end of life and after bereavement.

### **Patsy Bailey**

### **Men's Suppers**

We enjoyed another good year with our Mens' Suppers. Speakers were excellent, attendances grew and all had a very good time. We were fortunate to enjoy the company of more of the "Dangerous Dads" as the year went on. That lowered our average age, increased the noise levels and wine consumption and added to the general joie de vivre of our evenings.

Derek Cleaver was our first speaker for the year. He gave us an interesting perspective on his work for the Duke of Edinburgh awards and the personalities involved. Very pertinent as 2024 will see us commence our DoE Award work with six members of NYC as our first cohort. Jeremy Burdett followed with an interesting

perspective on organic farming – he and his family are exemplary managers – I thought the questions would never end. Fascinating. Malcolm Wells MBE was our third speaker covering interesting and amusing incidents in his 24 years as an army musician, and his subsequent activity in charity fundraising. We were all quite taken with his work on literacy boxes work promoting early year education in Africa, and a retiring collection financed three boxes for his charity. Our final speaker was Rev Julio Abraham, CEO of Off the Fence, the charity supporting the homeless in Brighton. He outlined his interesting and inspiring career, and the splendid work of the charity.

We were very well looked after by our tireless supporting cast of ladies who cooked and served and made our evenings possible and good fun. I am constantly amazed and grateful for the quality and enjoy ability of the suppers they serve.

The appetite for “seconds” of the fortunate beneficiaries of their splendid efforts bears witness to their prowess. Thank you all!

**Christopher Hume**

## **Sexton’s Report**

Early in 2023 I was able to inform the Treasurer that I was not expecting great expenditure during the year no doubt much to his relief but I did qualify it by saying that situation would not last!

### **Exterior State**

I first identified a problem with the south nave exterior wall back in 2021. Incorrectly used cement mortar repointing was beginning to fail causing it to fall out and taking fragments of stonework with it in several places. This problem increased after the winter of 2022 with an excess of wet weather and freezing conditions exacerbating the problem and likewise winter 2023. This needs to be considered with some urgency in 2024 as repair cost will be significant and should be addressed before the next quinquennial inspection in 2027. There are other matters such as the degraded state of the clock faces and rusted cast iron rainwater goods, but these can be deferred for a time.

### **Heating**

We have an ancient Victorian central heating system which still works, connected to an oil-fired boiler in an age when fossil fuels are frowned on, controlled by a modern digital system. It works and the best advice seems to be that we should stick with what we have got as modern environment-friendly heating systems are not applicable, practical, or affordable in our situation. Heating in winter is never very effective in such a big old stone building as ours. Mitigations put in place to prevent the boiler getting flooded during heavy downpours appears to be working satisfactorily.

### **Safety**

During the year fire extinguishers are tested and portable electrical devices are PAT tested. There are policies that cover various aspects of the use of the church to keep congregation and volunteers safe. New regulations regarding responsibilities for those in charge of communal buildings came into force which also affect church buildings. The church is normally unlocked during the daytime to allow for visitors and for prayer and

reflection, but locked at night, done by volunteers. During services all exterior doors are unlocked to allow for emergency egress.

### **Capacity**

The temporary removal of some pews and the increase in numbers of wheelchair users for services have highlighted the fact that we need consider what permanent changes need to be made. There has also been a big increase in numbers attending key services such as Lessons and Carols and the Crib Service at Christmas time, where the capacity of the building was pushed to its limit which is both gratifying and also a real concern for the stewarding of such services.

**Anthony Bailey**

## **Outward Giving Group**

After recommendation that we should cancel our distribution of funds through our account with Links International, because of a doubling in their handling charges, the PCC has agreed that funds should be distributed directly from the St. Mary's account from 2023. There was £100.05 in the account at closure and that money has been sent to Syrian Refugees in Lebanon who we supported in 2022.

£4000 has been set aside for the group to recommend which charities we will be supporting in 2023. £600 was set aside in the 2022 grants to provide Ali Brown's expenses in her expected fact-finding trip to Colombia in 2023. Ali was unable to fulfil her and our wishes to make this visit and the Funds are still with IMC (UK).

At the time of writing this report I am delighted to report that a group of people from Links International and IMC are currently in Colombia spending a week with the Wayuu indigenous peoples of northern Colombia. One of these is Seren Boyd (Chair of IMC Trustees) and the £600 will be made available for her expenses in Colombia.

Unfortunately, we have not completed our giving choices for 2023 but funds are being held over so that we can complete them.

The likely distribution will be as follows:

Katy Barnwell (Wycliffe Bible Translator)	£1200
The Leprosy Mission	£ 800
Bevern Trust	£ 800
Amos Trust (in aid of Palestinian Christians)	£ 800
Family support work (Diocese of Chichester)	£400

**Jeremy Burdett**

## **Churchyard Report**

Our Churchyard continues to draw compliments from visitors and to provide a fitting setting for our lovely Church. We are always aware of its importance to our village. An increasing number of families are choosing our Churchyard as a fitting resting place for their loved ones. A heavily used public footpath runs through the Churchyard, and many villagers use the various seats for rest and picnics, particularly during the summer. Our

Youth Club and Owls Club make good use of the space. In recent years we have held an impressive and moving dawn service on Easter Day in our Churchyard which is increasingly well attended. 45 people turned out in 2023 and a fine service was followed by welcome refreshments provided by our indefatigable ladies. Proper maintenance and development of the Churchyard continues. Paul Tilstone and Adam Martin serve us well with mowing and hedging. Our two Garden Days each year are steadily improving the look and feel of the Churchyard. Jonathan Wilkins has done a splendid job with a five-year project to rescue and nurture our apple tree into its current happy state. Our garden beds continue to develop pleasingly. A generous private donation has enabled a working tap to be sited at the Lych Gate which is a huge boon to all of us maintaining the gardens, and in particular to families tending the graves of their loved ones. We are enjoying a virtuous cycle of improvement – the more work we do, the more effort families put into the flowers, decoration and maintenance of family graves and the overall result is an increasingly beautiful Churchyard.

We contract out tree maintenance to Connick Tree Care. Each year they carry out a health and safety survey for us and agree a program of work for the year which they then carry out. They are scheduled to carry out a program of work on Thursday 15 February 2024, and the results should be evident by the time of the APCM. A major part of this work will be attention to our signature tree, the ancient Yew which stands between the Church and the Barn Centre. It needs some loving care and attention.

Our Garden Days have become real congregational and community events. Our ladies, God bless them all, serve coffee and cake – our splendid Ministry of Cake going full bore – and our Rector barbecues his contribution to a jolly good lunch. We encourage all members of the congregation to join us – even if you don't work, we love the encouragement you give, and your contribution to the joie de vivre of the day in general and the lunch in particular.

One notable and very welcome development is that a good number of "Danger Dads" and their families turn up and work like Trojans. The clearing and beautification of the previously completely wild area outside the vestry door is a case in point. It was hard to believe just how much was achieved, the high point being the clearing of some important historical graves.

The "Danger Dads" have, over the last couple of years, uncovered a number of First World War memorials. This led to our Rector Leading a group of them to Ypres on a tour of the battlefields. And one or two other religious houses famous for the beers they brew. A follow up trip to the Normandy battlefields is planned for 2024. Onwards and upwards!

**Christopher Hume**

### **Ladies Suppers**

There were no ladies' suppers in 2023, and we are currently advertising for a volunteer to take the lead. We are hoping in 2024 we may see a return.

**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 56.

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 all 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 & 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-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 occasionally have a bring and buy sale and hold a petty cash box.

## **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 Marys pastoral activity and for the use of the Barn Centre.

## **Ian Reekie**

## **Coffee Café**

Our Coffee Café in St.Mary's on Sunday mornings continues to grow in popularity and provides a warm welcome alongside the tea, coffee, hot chocolate, soft drinks, biscuits and the occasional cake that is served between the hours of 8.30 and 11.30a.m.

This all takes a fair amount of organisation and we are very grateful to Pat Beeston and our volunteers for setting everything up, ensuring that we have adequate supplies of all that is needed to keep the café running, and putting it all away again.

The hospitality offered by the volunteers and the warm welcome that they extend provides a very special end to the morning that we have spent together in Worship. All offers of help are very gratefully received, be it spontaneously on the morning itself, or by adding your name to the sign-up sheet, it all contributes to the time that we share together.

**Rebecca Hume**

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

We had a very successful week, raising over £2000, which benefitted the Hospice and St Mary's equally and Kicking Cancer into Touch from the direct donations received as part of the festive weekend for their tree.

Again, we saw creativity with many different themes and styles for the trees and a steady stream of visitors enjoyed them across the week. The informal voting gave us five top scorers:

- Overall winner - Newick Pre School
- Second place - Chailey & Newick Colts
- Third place - Newick Rugby & Football Clubs Combined
- Fourth place - Newick Bonfire Society
- Fifth place - Headway

We started festive market day off with torrential rain which meant we had to change plans last minute and fit everyone into the Church and Barn Centre. It cleared up nicely by mid-morning and Paul eventually managed his usual outdoor BBQ of sausages so all was good in the end.

A positive came from all that rain though as we discovered for ourselves and from stallholders and visitors that actually - they preferred the atmosphere of the stalls in St Mary's and so next year we are going to review what we do... watch this space.

Saturday afternoon Andy Rees led a church full in St Mary's with a festive singalong and people joined in whilst enjoying mulled wine and sausage rolls. A great start to the festive period.

Thanks go to everyone who took part - from tree exhibitors to stall holders and of course everyone who came along to enjoy the event at some point. Two big thankyou's must go to - first the Rangers who, through all the

rain on the Saturday were directing car into the parking area, helping set up stalls and then hastily help move them and generally do whatever was asked of them - with a smile and a "can do" attitude. Second to the wonderful team who helped with the hospitality throughout the festival. Setting up and clearing away preparing and serving - all went fairly seamlessly as always. It's what makes the hospitality at St Mary's second to none.

**Sara Fuller**

## **Barn Centre**

### The Essential Facility

The Barn Centre continues to be an essential of Church activities as well as hires to other users. So much so that the timetable for the building has very few free spaces and some activities clash or overlap. Thanks to the good offices of the booking secretary SB working with the verger and others and goodwill between users, pretty much every request for use of the building or parts of it has been satisfied. It is impossible to imagine the Church and all its services and other activities being able to function without the continual use of this building. Cleaning remains an issue with frequent heavy use, ideally it needs partial or whole cleaning of carpet and hard floors twice a week. There is a need to improve facilities and disabled access in particular, not just within the building but access over paths in the churchyard.

### Hygiene and Safety

Lunches, teas and suppers are regular features of events in the Barn. Volunteers preparing food have current food hygiene certificates and various policies regulate how the building is run to keep it and users as safe as possible.

### Emergency Testing

Fire alarms and emergency lighting is tested weekly and annual checks on electrical safety have been carried out during the year. A new sensor light has been fitted so anyone entering the building via the toilet block after dark can do so safely. The AED (Automated External Defibrillator) installed inside is checked frequently and operational status regularly updated on the national The Circuit website in case it is ever needed. The parish council map has now had this machine added making an impressive number of AEDs for a village community!

### Maintenance

The building is basically in good order. Roofs, gutters, and downpipes have to be cleared regularly of moss and yew needles. All the wooden entry doors are in a poor state being original to the building conversion, original windows are also degraded with misted double-glazing units, they are all being maintained until the hoped-for building upgrade takes place when windows and doors will be replaced with modern equivalents.

During heavy rains in December water percolated through the south facing wall of the church office above the window. This problem was addressed a couple of years ago but has now returned. A quote will be sought for early repair probably involving deep raking of mortar joints between the brickwork and applying new mortar.

### Website

Committee meeting minutes and timetable have been regularly displayed on St. Mary's website under the Barn Centre heading. The development of the new website for St. Mary's will allow scope for both online booking for the Barn and a new timetable, the latter allowing a potential user to check days and dates for barn availability.

**Sue Balloch/ Anthony Bailey**

## **Flower Team**

2023 was another busy and successful year for the Flower Team

In spite of being a small team, we support and help each other,

Donations for Easter Lilies were exceptional again.

The whole church, including the window shelves, made a wonderful display for the Easter services.

Although flower costs have increased again, we endeavour to be mindful of the finances and keep our costs as low as possible.

The great celebration this year was the Coronation of King Charles,

St. Mary's had the opportunity to participate with some beautiful floral displays throughout the church from the porch to the altar, these were much admired by everyone who visited the church.

Harvest once again was another highlight, with additional beautiful garden flowers which had been donated.

Remembrance is always a special festival and St. Mary's was decorated with pedestal and wall hanger arrangements of poppies and foliage,

Decorating for Christmas began early and was extended with window shelves throughout January to include Candlemas. The decorations were a success with much support from the flower team,

The Ladies in the Flower Team have produced beautiful arrangements for the festivals and throughout the year and are supported by many others in the congregation who offer their help in clearing, tidying, cleaning, and providing refreshments.

We have also been helped by the Gentlemen who come to our aid for repairs, provision of mechanics, erecting tables etc.

We thank everyone who has kindly given assistance when needed

We would always welcome ladies to join our flower team, no special skills required, just a love of flowers and a willingness to join in, and happy to help when needed.

**The Flower Team**

## **Church Cleaning**

In my last report regarding the cleaning of St. Mary's I expressed the wish that in future we might be able to set aside a day for 'Spring Cleaning' and that wish was granted – twice.

The first was on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April when a very enthusiastic and hard-working team arrived, cleaning St. Mary's from the very top, with the assistance of high ladders, very long poles and helpers who do not suffer from vertigo to the very bottom, where the rest of us attended to pews, pipes, choir stalls – and of course candle wax. We were ably assisted and encouraged during the morning with delicious and much needed refreshments – and a lot of laughter.

The second was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July when the re-arranging of some of the Pews brought with it great clouds of dust and badly marked floors. This was particularly hard work for the Pew Team and this time we encouraged them with a seemingly endless supply of bacon sandwiches, proving that nothing is done at St. Mary's without the provision of refreshments in one form or another.

With thanks to Liuba, Gregore, Alex and now baby Leonardo, St. Mary's has continued to offer a well-cared for welcome to all who step inside, and we are very fortunate to have such a lovely family working with us.

We do of course rely on voluntary help to prepare and clean for all our events – Weddings, Funerals, Concerts, School Services, additional services during the week, and of course Easter and Christmas. Anyone who can offer their help is very welcome – it doesn't have to be a regular contribution – it can be just an hour or two during the course of the year, before or after an event.

**Rebecca Hume**

## **Choir**

Our choir have continued to introduce new music to their repertoire and having had a successful Advent Carols, are now preparing for The Cross of Christ where we shall be joined with some of the choir from Chailey. We have welcomed four new choristers Penny, Sooja, Bev & Maurice and look forward to welcoming others sometime in the future. Bev has kindly agreed to be our choir librarian and we continue to appreciate Rosie as the choir administrator. We have welcomed sizeable numbers to Evensong and have sung several anthems at this service and during communion at the 10am. Choir practices have moved to Wednesday evenings and we much appreciate Bob & Jasmine's hospitality in hosting these in the winter months.

**Jonathan Fenton-Vice**

## **Safeguarding Report**

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

The Diocese of Chichester website has recently been updated. Under Safeguarding 'Using the Website', it includes: 'What Do I Do If', 'How to guides', 'Training', 'Simple Quality Protects', 'Policies' and Links to other organisations and resources.

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 PCC members and Volunteers are encouraged to do at least basic Safeguarding Training. Those in Leadership Roles do Leadership Safeguarding Training. This should be done every three years. Basic Safeguarding Training is available on the Diocese website. Leadership Training is a mixture of Website and Online work, including Case Studies. As mentioned previously Patsy, ran 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. There are no outstanding Safeguarding issues.

**Caroline Smith**

## **Ringers' Report**

During the past year we have rung for all the usual church services on Sundays and extra services as required, e.g. over the Christmas period, and for school services. We also rang for four weddings and tolled for two funerals.

On 6th May we had the privilege of ringing for the coronation of King Charles II and Queen Camilla. We rang a series of changes composed specifically for the occasion. One set was "The Mexican Wave" and another was "The Orb & Sceptre". We also rang a set of 48 changes which were composed for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth I. These were all supplied by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR).

We helped the Chailey ringers out twice, providing ringers when they were short on members of their team for weddings. They helped us on two occasions when I was short of ringers. It's a good relationship to have as we all get along well.

We continue to regularly inspect our bells every couple of months or more frequently if something doesn't feel right. During these inspections I have noticed some of the ropes showing signs of wear. We move the ropes where they join the wheels to try and spread the wear, but you can only do this twice before it makes them hard to reach to ring. It's taken 10 years to get to this point and we've had to take, so far, three ropes off the bell wheels, cut out the worn section, splice the ropes back together and refit them. They may be good for, hopefully, another 10 years.

We finished 2023 by ringing the year out from 11.40pm to midnight and welcomed 2024 from midnight to 12.15am. We finished with a nip of port and cheese and biscuits (thanks Paul). This was another joint effort between Newick and Chailey ringers, and hopefully will become a regular feature again, this being the third year since we revived the old tradition.

Once again, thank you for letting us ring your bells, hopefully the bells being rung brings joy and pleasure to people. I apologise for the, hopefully, very occasional day where you may get an awful racket. We are still practicing on Wednesday evenings but, as of March this year, have moved the start time to 7.15pm to accommodate choir practice.

Thankyou

**Julian Avis, Captain of Bells**

### **APCM FINANCE REPORT FOR 2023**

2023 was another challenging year for St Mary's.

We started the year with funds in hand of £110,271 and finished the year with funds in hand of £105,261. The deficit of £5010 was comfortably covered by our reserves. But we cannot continue to run deficits and must work towards a better financial result.

One significant bright spot in 2023 was that our income from Donations rose some 21% 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 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds general 2022 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2022 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>								
Donations and legacies	2	132,109	954	18,527	151,590	119,508	4,591	124,099
Charitable activities	3	26,080	8,191	300	34,571	35,651	5,572	41,223
Investments	4	4,183	-	-	4,183	1,786	-	1,786
Other income	5	-	367	502	869	-	1,753	1,753
<b>Total income</b>		162,372	9,512	19,329	191,213	156,945	11,916	168,861
Charitable activities	6	153,992	35,686	6,545	196,223	173,166	20,276	193,442
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		8,380	(26,174)	12,784	(5,010)	(16,221)	(8,360)	(24,581)
Transfers between funds		(337)	-	337	-	12,518	(12,518)	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		8,043	(26,174)	13,121	(5,010)	(3,703)	(20,878)	(24,581)
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>								
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		32,077	78,194	-	110,271	35,780	99,072	134,852
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b>		40,120	52,020	13,121	105,261	32,077	78,194	110,271

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 2023

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	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	4,745		3,586	
Cash at bank and in hand		112,358		116,927	
		117,103		120,513	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(11,842)		(10,242)	
Net current assets			105,261		110,271
			<u>105,261</u>		<u>110,271</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Restricted income funds	14		13,121		-
Unrestricted funds - general			40,120		32,077
Unrestricted funds - designated	15		52,020		78,194
			<u>105,261</u>		<u>110,271</u>

The financial statements were approved by the council members on 5 April 2024

Mr C 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

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 2023.

#### **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 W Martin FCA**

Knill James LLP One Bell  
Lane Lewes  
East Sussex BN7 1JU

Dated: 5 April 2024

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

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

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

**AGENDA**

**VESTRY MEETING**

- 1. Welcome and prayers**
- 2. Minutes of the Vestry meeting 2023 for approval**
- 3. Election of Churchwardens (2)**
- 4. Close of Meeting**

**APCM**

- 1. Minutes of the Annual meeting 2023 for approval**
- 2. Adoption of Diocesan Safeguarding Policy**
- 3. Changes to the Electoral Roll**
- 4. Election of Representatives to the PCC**
- 5. The Annual Report**
- 6. Votes of Thanks**
- 7. Close of Meeting**
- 8. Grace**

**St. Mary's Church Newick**  
**Special PCC Meeting following APCM**

**21<sup>st</sup> April 2024**

**AGENDA**

**1. Present:**

Apologies:

**2. Appointment of Officers**

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Electoral Roll Officer:

Safeguarding Officer:

Standing Committee

**3. AOB**

The next PCC meeting will be on 17<sup>th</sup> June at 4.30pm

The next Standing Committee meeting will be on

Close of Meeting

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

### **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Sunday, 21<sup>s</sup> May 2023, 11.30 am.**

#### **1. Welcome and prayers**

**2. In attendance:** Rev. Paul Mundy (Chair), Julian Avis, John Baker, Mel Balloch, Sue Balloch, Bobby Blundy, Jeremy Burdett, Sylvia Chapman, Geoff Clinton, Dan Cowley, Paddy Cumberlege, Julia Cumberlege, Jebby Dyson, Dick Dyson, June Ellis, Jonathan Fenton-Vince, Audrey Ford, Kate Francis, Sara Fuller, Rosie Hallett, Christopher Hume, Rebecca Hume, Andrew Jackson, Allen Lucas, Juliette Lucas, Anthony Mallinson, Barry Mansfield, Shirley Mansfield, Ann Maxwell, Clive Maxwell, Aveline Moore, Alan Morgan, Lilian Morgan,, Ian Reekie,, Ashley Stockwell, Josh Stockwell, Mandy Stockwell, Rosemary Walters, Heather Ward, Alan Young, Louise Young

#### **Apologies for absence**

Anthony Bailey, Patsy Bailey, Linda Farmer, Ron Perou, June Perou, Catherine Sclater, John Sclater, Caroline Smith, Frank Thrower, Dorothy Thrower.

### **MEETING**

#### **3. Vestry Meeting - Churchwardens were elected:**

Christopher Hume - proposed by Ian Reekie, seconded by Rev. Paul Mundy, and agreed unanimously.  
Sara Fuller - proposed by Kate Francis, seconded by Rev. Paul Mundy, and agreed unanimously.

Meeting closed.

### **APCM**

#### **4. Minutes of the previous annual meeting**

The minutes of the previous APCM, held on 22nd May 2022, were accepted unanimously. These were then signed by Rev. Paul Mundy.

#### **5. Adoption of Diocesan Safeguarding Policy**

Rev. Paul Mundy proposed adoption of, and adherence to the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy which was seconded by Jonathan Fenton-Vince and agreed unanimously. He noted thanks in their absence to Caroline Smith, Safeguarding Officer, Linda Farmer, and others involved in the daily safeguarding work of St. Mary's.

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

Mandy Stockwell reported that since the last Electoral Roll eight names had been added and two sadly removed as they are no longer with us. A further two names were removed as the individuals moved out of the Parish. The electoral roll currently stands at one hundred and forty-six people which is an overall increase of four people in 2022.

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

There are no changes to the PCC committee this year and

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.

## **8. Election of Deanery members**

All three of our current Deanery members have confirmed their wish to remain as our representatives. Patsy Bailey, Jeremy Burdett, and Kate Frances were therefore proposed by Rev. Paul Mundy, seconded by Mandy Stockwell, and agreed unanimously.

## **9. The Annual Report**

Rev. Paul Mundy thanked Church Administrator, Caroline Lewis-Irlam for all her work in preparing the Annual Report and also thanked every contributor. There were no overall questions or comments made about the report itself.

On specific items:

- a) Treasurer's report: Christopher Hume said that 2022 was a difficult year for St Mary's with a decline of some 13% of funds in hand and giving declining £12k as well. The offertory plate has recently been re-introduced which, in addition to the card giving provides a variety of options. Christopher emphasised the importance of Legacies, both past and future and that they play a vital part in supporting our major initiatives of youth work, youth choir, and continuing with our free magazine across the village. Rev. Paul Mundy emphasised the importance of giving and that we cannot rely on mission grants moving forward if we wish to continue with youth work. The costs are envisaged to rise as we have Lee Buck now going into Chailey Secondary School and we also need to cost share with St Peters Chailey. Christopher Hume confirmed that youth work is for both the church and the children and that our congregations average age is high. Parents and children becoming involved with St Mary's will help the future of the church. Rev. Paul also stressed the importance of highlighting legacies to our friends and families and gave a recent example of how this could have worked had an understanding of legacies been in place. There were two questions from the floor which were answered by both Rev. Paul and Christopher Hume and one action which is to review, with the Barn Centre Committee, the expenses and rentals and then discuss these at PCC was agreed. Mel Balloch wished to propose thanks to Christopher Hume for taking on the treasurer role and also wished to thank Ian for stepping in to support Christopher. This was unanimously agreed and thanks given. Rev. Paul also wished to personally thank Christopher Hume and Ian Reekie for their finance work and everyone for the donations and legacies to date. Then before moving on Rev. Paul proposed that Kevin Speirs be appointed as the Independent Examiner, and this was unanimously approved.
- b) Fabric report: Rev. Paul gave huge thanks to Tony Bailey in his absence for all his work as Sexton.

## **10. Votes of Thanks**

Rev. Paul gave a massive vote of thanks to the Verger for all her work and also that of her Team and said that this support is paramount to allowing everything to run well and for him to be able to do what he does.

**11. Questions:**

Clive Maxwell asked what is happening with regard to the Barn Centre development. Rev. Paul confirmed that the planning applications are in at the moment. Then it will be a period of consultation with DAC and then fundraising, although we need to get everything aligned first so that we are in a position to approach charities for support when the time is right. Christopher Hume raised a question he had received which was regarding discussion time during the meeting as part of the agenda not being provided. Rev. Paul explained that everyone has the opportunity to raise questions and queries throughout the year and talk about concerns as they arise, rather than wait until each APCM. He also invited people to come along to the PCC with anything they may wish to discuss, and confirmed the PCC would accommodate their visit. All minutes of meetings are openly shared and with only small exceptions, everything is in the public domain.

**12. Close of Meeting**

All were invited to lunch in the Barn Centre. Rev. Paul thanked all those attending and closed the meeting with a prayer.