St Mary's Newick's Church

St Mary's Newick PCC Meeting

in the Church, 19:00 on Monday 22 June 2026

MINUTES

Present: Christopher Hume (CH) - Lay Chair, Rev Paul Mundy (PM), Patsy Bailey (PB), Anthony Bailey (AB), Jonathan Campbell (JC), Dan Cowley (DC), Jonathan Fenton-Vince (JFV), Audrey Ford (AF), Kate Francis (KF), Sara Fuller (SF), Anthony Mallinson (AM), Pam Mundy (PamM) and Caroline Smith (CS).
Co-opted attendees: Ian Reekie (IR) and Rob Bellis (RB)(Secretary).
Apologies: Jeremy Burdett (JB) and Mandy Stockwell (MS.

1. **Opening Prayer:**
   PM opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 4 and a prayer.

2. **Welcome and Apologies.**
   The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Jonathan Campbell, the newly appointed Churchwarden, to his first PCC meeting. SF was thanked for her devoted service as Churchwarden. Apologies for absence had been received from Jeremy Burdett (JB), and Mandy Stockwell (MS).

3. **Minutes of PCC Meeting of 23 March 2026 and Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda**
   Acceptance of the minutes of 23 March 2026 was proposed by JFV, seconded by AM, and passed unanimously. PM signed a copy of the minutes.
   There were no Matters Arising not otherwise covered by the agenda items.

4. **Safeguarding (CS):**
   CS gave an update on the current safeguarding situation and confirmed that there were no outstanding matters.
   It was noted that doing the domestic violence training was a good idea, even though it was not essential. PM indicated that there is a link on the Diocese website for the domestic violence training. He suggested that the cyber awareness training was also worth doing.

5. **Rector Issues and Notes of the Standing Committee meeting of 11 June 2026**
   PM reported on a number of matters:
   - **Youth work** is going very well: in particular the relationship that is building with all the schools he is involved with, primary and secondary schools as well as Newick Pre-school. The number of young people getting baptised as well as those asking to do so is encouraging.
   - An **application to the Diocese for a full time Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Pastor** is being prepared. The discussion with the Diocese has been very encouraging. It will be a big financial commitment. There is a need to look at services that suit young people and families.
   - There should be consideration of being a **cross-generational church**. Looking at the vision for church in 5 to 10 years' time. The legacy of older people and the style of the church for young and old in the future.
   - The **Vision Day on 18 July** will not focus on the current situation, though it will acknowledge it, but will rather look forward to what the church could/should look like in 5 years' time and onwards to 10 years' time.
   - It has been a busy time over the last few months and there are challenges over the possible building developments.
   - PM has agreed to be **Priest-in-Charge for St Peter's Chailey for the next five years** enabling the links with the Chailey schools to continue.

6. **Families and Youth Work (PamM)**

CH thanked PamM for her report.

PamM referred to the papers that had been submitted and added the following*:*

- She is "really encouraged" by the growing relationships that are being developed in **Owlets** between the young people and the relationships between their parents and grandparents.
- She is "satisfied" by what is going on in **Owls** and is looking forward to it developing in the future.
- She is "very happy and hopeful" about what is going on in the **Youth** groups.
- The intergenerational aspects that involve grandparents and parents as well as other helpers is a joy. PM and PB emphasised this from their recent conversations. PB congratulated those that are helping with Owlets.
- PM spoke about the possibility of a service to connect Owls with Owlets to help make a connection and encourage transition.
- Referring to the grant application for a CYF Pastor PamM noted that the salary would need to be sufficient to cover the rent they would need to pay for accommodation. There was a brief discussion about possible accommodation solutions. There is potential for the purchase of a property in Newick or Chailey in the longer term but no immediate prospect of doing this.

7. **Health and Safety (AB)**

AB reported on the following:

- He has completed a document for Sidespeople for Fire warden training. CH agreed to coordinate with AB those who would form the team of Sidespeople and SF will organise a convenient date for the training. (Action: CH, AB, SF)
- The evacuation notice is being read out monthly, confirmed by PM.
- Progressing the new footpath between the Barn Centre and the Church is urgent and a matter of health and safety, hence it being raised here. Planning permission is in place until September but a Faculty is required and CH is in the process of making the application. Sussex Driveways have quoted £3,360 for carrying out the preliminary excavations once the Faculty has been obtained. (Action: AB, CH)
- The width of the proposed path was questioned. Currently shown as 1.2m it was agreed that it should be at least 1.5m to allow suitable access for people in both directions. AB will take this up with Clive Stillman. (Action: AB)
- PM reflected on the health and safety and insurance aspects of the cladding required for while the work was done on the gutters and downpipes and congratulated and thanked AB for his work with the contractors and IR for his work with the insurers – in the completion of a very successful project.

8. **Churchwarden Items (CH, JC):**

There were no matters raised by the Churchwardens.

9. **Electoral Roll (MS, PM):**

In the absence of MS there was no update on the current Electoral Roll.

10. **Outward Giving (JB):**

In the absence of JB, PM noted that there is a meeting coming up for the Outward Giving Committee.

11. **Finance (RB, IR):**

RB reported on the following:

- His thanks to those who had been involved in providing Santander with documentation to verify their position as Trustee. This has proved to be a fraught exercise requiring Trustees full names to be on the Charity Commission website and supplying ID documentation acceptable to the checks in Santander's system. Hopefully this will be resolved shortly so the Santander account will not be blocked. (Action: RB)

- The Parish returns for Finance and Energy have been made for the 2025 data.
- The new three-year contract with TotalEnergies (backdated to 20 December 2025) that was signed in February has at last been successfully implemented after three months of incorrectly issued invoices and demands for payment. The change to the account numbers and the Total computer system had been the reason for the problems. The matter is now fully resolved.
- The Trustees' financial responsibilities are important and to ensure this is implemented the responsibilities for the various cost centres have been refined to give one Trustee "manager" responsibility. RB will work with this person to ensure all expenditure is properly approved and to have appropriate discussions about the budgets going forward. (Action: RB, Cost Centre Managers)
- IR was thanked for his input into all financial matters. RB invited him to summarise the position on Insurance. IR indicated that Ecclesiastical had carried out a full evaluation and as a result of a positive outcome there has been a very modest reduction (£2.59!) in the monthly premium. The exhaustive evaluation had included the churchyard, re the gravestones and consideration of asbestos. IR also reflected on a good relationship with those at Ecclesiastical that has facilitated quick resolution to matters as they have arisen. The contract with them is for three years. IR thanked AB and LF for their help in dealing with the evaluation.
- The half-year financial reporting will be issued to PCC members by email as soon after the end of June as possible. (Action: RB)
- The Financial Controls Policies and Procedures Handbook, noted at the previous meeting is almost ready for distribution. (Action: RB)

12. Pastoral Care (PB):

CH thanked PB for her report.

PB indicated that she has been encouraged by conversations with someone who is interested in being involved with Pastoral Care. However, there is still a need for more helpers to support this work. There followed a general discussion about training and the different activities of Pastoral Care. The activities of the Community Hub, the Lunch Club and Nightingales were mentioned as well as her involvement with the ten people she attends to in her chaplaincy capacity. AF noted the Pantry meetings on a Tuesday morning.

PM advised that the Diocese now require all Parishes carrying out Pastoral Care work to have an appropriately trained ALM. This is something that will require action for St Mary's. (Action: PM, PB)

13. Sexton's Report (AB):

CH thanked AB for his report.

AB added the following:

- AB had already mentioned the new pathway from the Barn Centre to the Church in the Health and Safety item of the agenda.
- In the report was the matter of the unreliable WiFi. He explained the situation and the proposed solution. Wear Communication have quoted £918 for this. **AB proposed replacing the WiFi with a Point-to-Point link from the Barn Centre to the chancel. This was seconded by JFV and approved unanimously.** *(AB subsequently confirmed that this work will be done on Tuesday 14 July 2026).*
- AB thanked Jody Greenwood for her work on the Altar Frontals, praising the quality of her work and being grateful that she was only charging for materials.

AB was thanked for all his work.

14. Barn Centre – Chairman's Report (AB):

CH thanked AB for his report.

AB picked out one item from his report relating to the cleaning of the carpets. After a brief discussion it was agreed that AB would instruct Mr Wizard to do two cleans each year. (Action: AB)

15. Churchyard (CH):

CH noted that Connick Tree Care will be carrying out their annual tree care work on Wednesday 1 July from 09:00. There was a brief discussion about and concern for the health of the Yew tree.

PM reported that following the issue of the wrong grave being prepared there will now be a notice "Next in Line" to indicate the next grave space to be prepared.
CH noted the gardening day on 11 April had gone well and the next one is planned for Saturday 10 October. He suggested that there should be more gardening activity between the gardening days.

16. Newick Parish Magazine (PM):
PM reported that there is a meeting with Alex Harrison on 8 July regarding the Parish Magazine. (Action: PM, JC, SF)

17. Declaration of Confidential Items:
Those matters referring to named people and personal matters were confirmed to be treated as confidential. (Action: RB)

18. Dates of next meetings:
The originally scheduled date of 21 September 2026 for the next PCC meeting was revised to Monday 14 September 2026.

PCC Meetings:
Monday 14 September at 19:00
Monday 23 November at 16:30

Standing Committee:
Monday 7 September 2026
Monday 9 November 2026

Men's Suppers: (19:00 for 19:30)
Friday 25 September 2026
Friday 20 November 2026

APCM:
tba

Garden Days:
Saturday 10 October 2026

19. Any Other Business.

18.1 AM asked that the timing of services might be planned such as to not overload a particular day. It was agreed that this will be looked at. (Action: PM)

18.2 AM noted that it was sometimes very difficult for the choir to hear what was being said. PM confirmed the speakers had been checked so that the problem is associated with those speaking into the microphones. It was agreed that those taking part in the service and using the microphones would be made aware of the need to speak up and in the direction of the microphone.

18.3 KF asked about pew cushions and pew removal. PM indicated what was proposed and it was agreed that this will be shared at the Vision Day to ensure support from those attending and the congregation generally. It was agreed AB will get a revised quote for the pew cushions. (Action: AB)

18.4 JFV suggested that future PCC meetings should be held in the church. This was agreed. (Action: CH, RB). PM was thanked for the refreshments.

18.5 **AF proposed that there be supports provided for the beautiful peonies that are beside the churchyard gate. This was seconded by PM and approved unanimously.**

18.6 After a brief discussion about solar lights in the car park it was agreed that people should be encouraged to carry a torch. There was support for Newick being a dark-sky village.

There were no other matters of business.

20. Closing
Following a prayer from PM and the saying of The Grace, CH thanked everyone and the meeting closed at 20:40.

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RESOLUTIONS PASSED

PROPERTY

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