

St Mary's Newick PCC Meeting
in the Barn Centre, 16:30 on Monday 24 March 2025

MINUTES

Present: Christopher Hume (CH) - Lay Chair, Rev Paul Mundy (PM), Patsy Bailey (PB), Tony Bailey (TB), Geoff Clinton (GC), Linda Farmer (LF), Audrey Ford (AF), Kate Francis (KF), Sara Fuller (SF), Anthony Mallinson (AM), Pam Mundy (PamM), Ian Reekie (IR), Caroline Smith (CS), Mandy Stockwell (MS) and Rob Bellis (RB)(Secretary).

Apologies: Jeremy Burdett (JB), Dan Cowley (DC) and Jonathan Fenton-Vince (JFV).

1. Opening Prayer:

Rev Paul Mundy opened the meeting with a reading from The Book of Wisdom, Chapter 9 verses 1-6, and a prayer.

2. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from Jeremy Burdett (JB), Dan Cowley (DC) and Jonathan Fenton-Vince (JFV).

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 25 November 2024.

3.1 Acceptance moved by SF, seconded by IR, and passed unanimously and signed by PM.

3.2 Summary of Action Points

CH led the meeting through the Action Points from the previous meeting asking for an update:

Follow up on:

Agenda Items (25-11-24)

4.1.a Welcome Gift for newcomers to Newick

PM discussed possible options for an Easter Greeting and seeds for planting. MS asked Ash about the timing and cost for flower seed sticks. (He came back with a timing of 4 weeks and £1 each for 1000 and £2 each for 500). It was agreed that this should proceed on a budget of £1000 (**Action: PM, MS**)

Fundraising Gift

PM reported that he and Ash had designed a Lego model of St Mary's which could be sold as a fundraiser.

4.1.b One-page document re PCC

A one-page document to encourage dialogue about serving the Church and perhaps becoming a member of the PCC has been completed.

4.1.d Family Worker

PM indicated that this was currently on hold. (**Action: PM**)

4.1.e PGS Giving

CH reported that on completion of the Electoral Roll exercise he would visit those not giving via PGS. In addition, he indicated he would be appealing at the APCM for existing givers by PGS to consider increasing the amount given (**Action: CH**)

4.1.f Purchase of TVs and Xbox Controller

Purchase of two new televisions and a new Xbox Controller for use with the Youth Club will be actioned for September and will include the purchase of a pool table. PM indicated he hoped to obtain external financial support for these items. (**Action: PM, MS**)

4.1.h Electoral Roll

MS reported she is chasing 25 who have not yet returned their forms. There are 19 new people and 11 have been deleted. Hopefully by the APCM the number on the Electoral Roll will be up a little on last year. It was noted that signed forms must be completed for the person to be counted on the Roll. (**Action: MS**)

4.1.i Chaplaincy Team at Beachy Head

MS confirmed, with thanks, that thermal imaging equipment had been purchased.

- 5 Families and Youth Work**
PM made supportive comments about the Youth Choir. Cara had done a school assembly and encouraged pupils to consider coming to the Church Youth Choir. The session to 256 pupils had gone very well so PM was disappointed to report only one pupil had turned up for the next Thursday Youth Choir. There was a brief discussion about how to encourage more to consider joining. The cost associated with attendance at Youth Choir on a Thursday was noted as a possible deterrent. **(Action: PM)**
- 6 Safeguarding**
CS noted some people still needed to complete their C1 training and there were also some who needed to renew their DBS. After discussion it was agreed that CS would contact those who are still to complete/renew and then give SF a list of those still outstanding for C1 training and DBS which would then be sent to PM for direct follow up. Individuals would be approached to find out why the training and DBS had not been done. **(Action: CS, SF, PM)**
- 7.1 APCM reports**
RB confirmed that all reports had been returned and that PM's report would be ready in time for the papers to be issued by the weekend to the Newsletter email list. **(Action: PM, RB, SF)**
- 7.2 Christmas Tree Festival**
SF indicated that there would be a Tree Festival from 12 to 14 December but there would not be the Market Stalls. Stall holders had withdrawn at the last minute and some also reported not making enough money to make it worthwhile. A general discussion concluded that PB's stall should still go ahead in the Barn Centre and PM indicated he would do sausage and bacon baps (10:00 – 14:00). Andy Rees' concert would go ahead as planned. In addition, the idea of a St Mary's event of a Quiz night (MS agreed to organise) with a Raffle and Curry was discussed and responded to enthusiastically. The details of this will be worked on. **(Action: MS, PM, SF)**
- 7.3 Barn Centre**
TB confirmed ground level sensor lights for the paths to assist those moving on the paths in the dark had been installed. The lights in the trees had also been sorted.
- (PamM left the meeting, returning during agenda item 6)
- 7.4 Pews**
CH is awaiting a formal response from DAC regarding Faculty for the permanent removal of pews. **(Action: CH)**
- 7.5 First Sundays**
Nothing further to report.
- 10.2 Treasurer**
CH indicated that following the advertisement that so far there had been no applications for the position of Treasurer. He hoped that this would be resolved in due course. **(Action: CH)**
- 10.3 Parish Share**
Nothing further to report.
- 10.4 Friends of St Mary's**
CH indicated that FOSM is work-in-progress. Further discussion took place under Finance, agenda item 11. **(Action: CH, PM)**
- 10.6 Diocesan Conference**
Nothing further to report
- 12 Youth Club Shed Roof; Dropped Kerb & Deep pit in driveway**
TB confirmed he had re-roofed the Youth Club shed and painted it with creocote, a non-toxic creosote substitute. The meeting thanked him and agreed a great job had been done. TB also confirmed that the deep pit in the gravel of the drive at the southern end of the Barn Centre had been filled in.
- 16.1 Church Hiring**
No further action required.
- 16.2 Diocesan Synod & Songs of Praise**
Nothing further was reported.

4. Record of Standing Committee Meeting on 10 March 2025

KF asked about the House Group mentioned at 2d – “who? and when?”. CH indicated the intention would be for the new group to meet in the evening. KF confirmed she would be happy to host such a group. **(Action: PM, KF).**

Mention was made of AF meetings in The Pantry on a Tuesday and in her house, for Bible Study on a Thursday. The meetings of SOLO Friends that IR organises was also referred to in applauding the work that goes on in the community.

5. Rector Issues and Matters Arising not otherwise on the agenda:

5.1 Risk Assessment

PM noted particular thanks to LF for her work on all the risk assessments; these will be signed by PM and loaded up on the church website. The members of the PCC should read them and confirm and sign a schedule (RB to prepare) at the next PCC meeting to indicate this. **(Action: PM, LF, RB).**

5.2 Safeguarding

PM thanked CS for all her work on Safeguarding.

6. Families and Youth Work (PM, PamM)

In PamM’s absence PM spoke to her tabled report (copied below) - the italic words were comments made on the reported items.

Youth Club

Both **NYC and NCT** are having new members joining regularly, with minimal drop offs.

Both groups have kept their numbers this term, with an average of 35 NYC and 25-30 NCT.

Curry and Planning meeting was held at half term to plan the Get Hyped sessions where we were joined by three of the young leaders.

Get Hyped - Sessions are starting again for both NYC and NCT joining together from 6.30-8pm Wednesdays after Easter and include the activities that we have done in previous years... water rounders, chase the flag, family bbq. *PM noted there could be 50-60 young people in attendance so asked for prayers for volunteers to help run these sessions. MS suggested a call out to the “Dangerous Dads” to see if any would be willing to give up one and a half hours on a Wednesday evening. PM agreed this was a good idea.* **(Action: PM)**

May Camp - We have 38 young people signed up including 3 young leaders, with only 2 families requesting bursary this year. We are however rather short on volunteers – a notice is in the newsletter, though yet to have any responses. We would also like cakes!! *A small marquee is required for this year’s camp. PM has asked Dan Jenkins about whether the team putting up the other marquees could help with a small one for St Mary’s. There was no resolution passed but a strong sense from the meeting we must have a marquee and that PM should arrange marquee to be erected for us by the guy who does them for a number of others and we will pay.* **(Action: PM)**

Youth Encounter

These have continued (Tuesdays 4.30-5.30 pm) in the Upper Room with Lee and Josh, including time for chat, munching pizza together and Youth Alpha.

PM noted that he had applied to the Small Mission Fund for Youth Alpha material. PM also noted that Ethan Batchelor is memorising 6 musical pieces aiming to play them at a concert in the church to raise funds for youth work. He also noted the joy of having Conall at church on Sunday 23rd.

Owls

We have continued to hold monthly Owls Club this term covering Jesus Walks on Water, Christingle, Jesus presented at the Temple, John the Baptist and Baptism. Next month on Easter Sunday, Owls Group will be joining the main service to celebrate Easter and the Baptism of a little Owlet with her older brother and sister who are Owls.

The numbers for Owls are now averaging 12, even with the natural flow of absences.

The introduction of Lego at the end of each session has proved popular, alongside crafts. I hope to run a Lego Morning during the Summer Half Term – as there is never enough time at Owls!!

PB interjected that PamM does an amazing job with these young people. The using of real Bibles and the method of interaction – getting them to listen, do, and watch – is a joy to behold and the work

PamM does is much appreciated by those attending and those that help. This sentiment was echoed by the PCC members.

We have been joined on the Team by George Pottinger 😊 who's two children are Owls. The Risk Assessment for him has been sent over and is up to date. Owls will take place in May in my absence.

Owlets

Owlets continues on Monday's term time 9.30-10.30 am with 20 families registered and has consistently 7-15 in attendance, subject to illnesses, which are many in this age group! We are looking into the possibility of extending this by half an hour.

We have had the privilege of having Saskia Sclater volunteer with us for a while. This week she is moving on as she has new employment, with our sincere thanks and warmest wishes. Thanks to Mandy's invitation at the front of church recently, we have had the offer of a new weekly volunteer, and someone to cover the three Owlets sessions that I am away. DBS will be gained in line with normal procedure.

Those present applauded the great job being done by PamM and MS with this group.

There will be an Easter Trail from 10:00 – 14:00 on Easter Sunday.

(PamM returned to the meeting)

PamM thanked the PCC for providing for all Owl families to have seeds and a booklet for Easter. She also thanked the PCC for providing Real Easter Eggs and Bible stories for all Owls and Owlets (and Leaders!)

The praise that PB had articulated in PamM's absence was repeated. CH underlined this praise in confirming that all this activity with young people was wonderful news for St Mary's.

Alpha

Taking place in St Mary's Newick, we are on week 8 of 10 this week. The Alpha Away Day was held in St Mary's Barcombe last weekend with 13 of 15 guests attending. 3 groups with 15 guests. Leaders come from both parishes.

Many thanks to the PCC for your support in this mission. There are many interesting, honest and challenging conversations taking place, with deeper connections being made between guests and leaders.

Many thanks also to all our helpers behind the scenes, providing cakes, washing up and cooking the meals each week.

(Report for agenda item 6 written by PamM)

CH concluded by saying "well done" to everyone involved.

7. Safeguarding (CS):

CS reported on the safeguarding training. Noting that she had completed her own Safeguarding Leadership Training. The Chair recorded the PCC's thanks for the valuable and important job CS does in respect of Safeguarding.

A copy of the Data Protection Registration Certificate had been attached to the papers for the meeting.

8. Churchwarden Items (SF, CH):

There were no items to report.

9. Electoral Roll (MS, PM):

Dealt with in agenda item 3.2.

10. Outward Giving (JB):

Nothing further to report.

PM noted that Wendy Piccinini, from the Leprosy Mission, had been doing talks at Newick School.

11. Finance (IR, CH):

CH commented on the presented financial information in the papers concluding that the outcome for the year had been successful for survival. However, he noted that there would be challenges in the year ahead, mentioning specifically the heating costs with the cost of oil running at more than £200 per week. He will be working on reviewing the levels of giving as previously indicated and also working with James Main's help on getting legacies organised.

PM indicated the need to seek grant assistance as there is money to be applied for to support many of the activities. This was discussed and it was suggested this might fall into the remit of the new Treasurer. Hopefully there will be someone who could be involved in the Treasurer's role and be able to undertake grant applications. IR pointed out that St Mary's would need to demonstrate its own fundraising activity and the accounts would need to show this in support for our applications for grants. PB noted the difficulties associated with applying for grants and having the right person doing the applications would be very helpful. This was all agreed and it is hoped that an appropriate person will be found to take this forward.

A question on the operation of the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) led to a discussion of whether this would be by using a named Restricted Fund within St Mary's Accounts or a separate charity be set up (as had previously operated). PM noted that several grant awarding organisations specifically did not give to "Church" related charities. Hence the potential benefit of a separate charity that could be seen as community focused. Discussion on this continued and it was agreed that a short paper identify the pros and cons of each route would be prepared and circulated to PCC members so that a vote can be taken at the next meeting as to which route to follow. **(Action: PM, CH, RB)**

12. Pastoral Care (PB):

CH thanked PB for her report.

PB hoped the report was self-explanatory and highlighted one matter in what has continued to be a very busy time for the team. There is a need for transport particularly for getting people to church. She asked that people pray and think about it. **(Action: All)**

PB spoke very enthusiastically about the Preaching Course she has been studying and will be commissioned to preach in due course. PM congratulated PB and wished her "Good Luck".

13. Sexton's Report - Fabric, Barn Centre/Church paths (TB, CH): reported under Agenda item 3

AF commented that the ramp into church was not wide enough (a serious accident had been avoided recently when someone nearly fell off the edge). TB indicated he would look to have this resolved as soon as possible. AF also commented on the restricted access for the choir into the Vestry. TB agreed to look at this as well. **(Action: TB)**

KF noted the entry in the report about Pew cushions. TB explained that a request had been made for cushions for the pews and that a grant may be available for this. The need for Faculty approval was noted. TB indicated that he was in the process of getting quotes for the reduced schemes for the single pathway from the Barn Centre to the Church and the smaller initial project for the Barn Centre which would include an extension to the Cart Lodge. Hopefully there will be more to report shortly and the PCC will be kept informed. **(Action: CH, TB, RB)**

The items still requiring action from the Quinquennial Review had been presented on a schedule in the papers for the meeting. TB indicated these will be addressed, hopefully with grant applications being made where possible. PM underlined the importance of ensuring items did not go into the "red" category. It was noted that the next Quinquennial Review is in 2027. **(Action: TB, RB)**

14. Churchyard (PM, CH): reported under Agenda item 3

CH indicated there was nothing to report. The next Gardening Day is on 12 April. Josh who looks after the rectory hedge is using a fertiliser to revitalise the base of the hedge. PM will enquire as to possible use of this to help the yew tree surrounded by Church paths. **(Action: PM, CH, TB)**

15. Newick Parish Magazine (PM, CH):

PM and CH confirmed there was nothing to report.

(KF left the meeting)

16. Declaration of Confidential Items:

There were no matters to note as confidential.

17. Dates of next meetings

APCM:

Sunday 6 April after the 10am Service

Standing Committee:

Meetings still to be arranged

PCC Meetings:

Monday 23 June at 19:00

Monday 22 September at 19:00

Men's Suppers: (19:00 for 19:30)

Friday 28 March

Friday 20 June

Friday 19 September

18. Any Other Business.

18.1 PM noted that in June GC would be celebrating 50 years as a Reader. An extra sermon from GC at Evensong on 15 June was agreed followed by fizz – in celebration of a fantastic milestone.

18.2 Mens' Supper this week on Friday 28 March; PM noted there is a store of beer available.

18.3 AM confirmed with PM that there would be a Songs of Praise after Easter.

There were no other matters of business.

19. Closing Prayer: The meeting closed at 18:40 with a prayer led by PM and the saying of the Grace.

St Mary's Newick PCC Meeting 24-03-25

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- **NONE**

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SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

Agenda Item

3.2 Summary of Action Points

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