



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

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

**Sunday, 3 May 2026, 11.30 am**

#### **Welcome and prayer**

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

**In attendance (41):** Rev. Paul Mundy (Chair), Julian Avis, Anthony Bailey, Patsy Bailey, John Baker, Susan Balloch, Mel Balloch, Cara Barseghian-Pascoe, John Bean, Michelle Bean, Roberta Blundy, Jeremy Burdett, Jonathan Campbell, Lorraine Campbell, Sylvia Chapman, Geoff Clinton, Jebby Dyson, Linda Farmer, Jonathan Fenton-Vince, Audrey Ford, Kate Francis, Sara Fuller, Gillian Godsmark, Christopher Hume, Rebecca Hume, Allen Lucas, Anthony Mallinson, Clive Maxwell, Ciaron Mundy, Pam Mundy, Ian Reekie, Catherine Sclater, Josh Stockwell, Caroline Smith, Malcolm Smith, Christine Speller, Dorothy Thrower, Christopher Wagstaff, Rosemary Walls, Rosemary Walters and Rob Bellis (Secretary).

**Apologies for absence (8):** Dan Cowley, Rosie Hallett, Aveline Moore, Father Martin Morgan; John Morrison, Mandy Stockwell, June Perou and Ron Perou.

#### **MEETINGS**

##### **Vestry Meeting**

1. The Minutes of the 2025 meeting were approved – proposed by Ian Reekie and seconded by Audrey Ford and agreed unanimously. Rev Paul Mundy signed these as part of the APCM pack.

2. Two Churchwardens were elected:

**Christopher Hume** – was proposed by Sara Fuller, seconded by Pam Mundy and agreed unanimously.

Rev Paul Mundy gave a huge thank you to Christopher for his personal support and the huge amount of work he does for St Mary's. He then reported that Sara Fuller had intimated she wished to step away from being Churchwarden but thankfully was willing to continue her invaluable work as Church Administrator. Rev Paul Mundy thanked her for her support and work as Churchwarden and presented her with flowers and a bottle of wine, to generous applause.

He was then delighted to introduce Jonathan Campbell who was willing to stand as a Churchwarden. Rev Paul Mundy and Christopher Hume extolled Jonathan's credentials and both expressed excitement about what Jonathan and his wife, Lorraine, will bring to St Mary's.

**Jonathan Campbell** – was proposed by Sara Fuller, seconded by Pam Mundy and agreed unanimously.

Jonathan responded, speaking about the opportunities for growth and for working with the Congregation and the Community – the young and the old.

Vestry meeting closed at 11:55.

##### **APCM**

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

The minutes of the previous APCM, held on 6 April 2025, were approved – proposed by John Campbell and seconded by Mel Balloch and agreed unanimously. These were then signed by Rev. Paul Mundy as part of the APCM pack.

## 2. Changes to the Electoral Roll

On behalf of Electoral Roll Officer, Mandy Stockwell, Rev Paul Mundy intimated detail of the Electoral Roll numbers.

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

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

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

In her absence a vote of thanks and applause was given for Mandy's work on the Electoral Roll and in the school.

## 3. Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod

Four appointments to the Deanery were approved:

**Jeremy Burdett** – Proposed by Sara Fuller, seconded by Christopher Hume and agreed unanimously.

**Patricia Bailey** – Proposed by Sara Fuller, seconded by Christopher Hume and agreed unanimously.

**Catherine Francis** – Proposed by Sara Fuller, seconded by Christopher Hume and agreed unanimously.

**Christopher Hume** – Proposed by Sara Fuller, seconded by Rev Paul Mundy and agreed unanimously.

Rev. Paul thanked those members of the PCC for their faithful service to the Deanery Synod. He also noted that Jeremy Burdett is Chair of Deanery Synod.

## 4. Election of Representatives to the PCC

Three renewals to the PCC committee were confirmed:

**Anthony Bailey** – Proposed by Christopher Hume, seconded by Sara Fuller and agreed unanimously.

**Audrey Ford** – Proposed by Christopher Hume, seconded by Sara Fuller and agreed unanimously.

**Anthony Mallinson** – Proposed Christopher Hume, seconded by Sara Fuller and agreed unanimously.

Rev. Paul thanked all members of the PCC for their faithful service to St Mary's, in particular Linda Farmer who was stepping down after many years as a Trustee and Ian Reekie who was stepping down after even more years as a Trustee. Thankfully Linda has agreed to continue to keep an eye on matters of Health and Safety and the policies and both Ian will continue as co-opted member of the PCC along with Rob in their official Treasurer and Secretary positions.

## 5. The Annual Report

Rev. Paul Mundy thanked all the contributors to the Annual Report. He reflected that the reports demonstrate that 2025 was a very busy year. He indicated he did not intend to go through all the reports and encouraged those that had not yet read them to do so.

He did however want to underline his thanks to everyone for their support while he was on his sabbatical. He appreciated the love, prayers and financial support he had received. He was especially grateful to those who looked after everything while he was away – the Churchwardens, Rebecca, Anthony Bailey, Patsy, Geoff, Jeremy, Ian and Mandy.

He then invited questions and comments:

**Sue Balloch** made a proposal that in future there should be a House Groups Report included in the Annual Report. This was agreed as an excellent suggestion (**Action: RB**).

**Mel Balloch** articulated that he was struggling with the initiatives and wanted to see details about "growth" and "vision". He wanted to be able to buy into the vision but could not see it – "What is the vision?" Rev Paul responded by saying there are quite a few things in the air .... Application for five-year grant for Youth Work (for a Children, Families and Youth Pastor); an extension to the Churchyard; a possible reorganization in the church; and possible upgrade of areas in the Barn Centre. The details of the plans are being worked on and

he proposed that there should be two “Vision Days” to share information and have discussions – one in June/July and the other in September. This was greeted favourably.

**Pam Mundy** reported on the Children and Families “Vision group” that has already met and will continue to do so to shape the way forward.

Rev Paul spoke a little more about the organization of the church, mentioning particularly the need for comfortable pew cushions which he regretted having delayed action on.

**Sue Balloch** acknowledged the opportunities and mentioned the “adage” – “Nothing about us, without us” – suggesting the congregation was interested and will be even more supportive knowing what is proposed.

#### **Finance Report –**

Rob Bellis spoke about the Finance: He hoped that some of those attending the meeting might have taken the opportunity to lift out the full Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year to 31 December 2025 that had been displayed on the Church notice board. He noted that what is in the APCM papers is simply an extract.

The Finance Review is included in the full document and in the APCM papers but for **the sake of good order and record Rob read it out ...**

“2025 was another challenging year for St Mary’s.

The total income was £212,409 compared with £208,976 in 2024. Total expenditure was £208,404 compared with £201,689 in 2024. We started the year with funds in hand of £104,862 after making a prior year end adjustment for Magazine Creditors of £7,686 and finished the year with funds in hand of £108,867. We recorded a very modest surplus of £4,005.

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

We have continued to keep fully up to date with maintenance on the Church and Barn Centre.

We have also progressed our preparatory work for our Barn Centre and path projects as well as considering a reorganization within the Church.

We will need to appeal to the Electoral Roll and the wider community for financial support for our aspirations and vision for the future.”

Rob hoped the leaflet he had prepared was of interest. This has bar charts showing the split of the income and expenditure figures for 2025 and 2024 actual and the 2026 budget. It also shows the 2026 budget figures in a pie chart indicating the church running costs.

The leaflet shows, for income - the dependence on the regular giving and donations. For expenditure can be seen increases - in staffing costs, as the contracts for the Youth Worker and Church Administrator have been formalised, and the anticipated costs of electricity and oil particularly in the Light, heat rates and running costs. The pie chart shows a different analysis of the expenditure – noting that 61% of our anticipated costs this year is on Parish Share and Church & Services costs. Then there is the significance of Youth work, Pastoral Care and the magazine.

The rest of the leaflet underlines Key Activities, Ambitions and How you can help. Rob hoped the statements resonated with people in an appropriate way.

Rob finished with personal thanks to Ian Reekie for his enormous support and assistance since Rob had taken on this role in June last year. Mentioning in particular all he does in looking after the insurance and gift aid aspects of the Treasury function. He invited questions or comments or for people to catch him to talk or to email him if there is anything people wished to raise less publicly.

**Mel Balloch** suggested it would be helpful to have an analysis of costs in the various areas broken down into “essential”, “key” and “nice to have” so that informed decisions could be taken if the level of income cannot support the proposed level of activity. Rob agreed with this positive suggestion. (Action: RB)

**Kate Francis** encouraged the next steps to be as soon as possible so that pledges could be made for the different projects.

Rev Paul gave a particular vote of thanks to Sue Balloch, who had stepped down as Barn Centre Secretary at the beginning of this year, for her faithful and detailed attention to the role over many years. She was presented with flowers and a bottle of wine – to generous applause!

## **6. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Rob Bellis acknowledged the efficient, professional and friendly way the team at Independent Examiners Limited had dealt with St Mary's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025. He thanked Lomax Pavey for his work in carrying out the Independent Examination, especially for his constructive suggestions on presentation of the prior year adjustment and some of the notes.

He had no hesitation in proposing IEL continue their appointment as Independent Examiner for the Financial Statement for the year ending 31 December 2026. This was seconded by Rev Paul Mundy and approved unanimously.

## **7. Votes of Thanks**

Before the votes of thanks Christopher Hume invited any further questions or comments.

As there were none, in addition to the thanks already mentioned, Rev Paul recorded a big "thank you" to Julian Avis for the work done with the Bellringing team, to Pam for the Owlets activity and its growth, to Cara for the Youth Choir, to Jonatha Fenton-Vince for the Music and to Josh for running the AV desk and training up Alex and Sam.

**Sylvia Chapman** proposed a "thank you" to Caroline for her work on safeguarding.

Rebecca Hume then spoke about her witnessing the fantastic work Rev Paul Mundy does, particularly with young children and suggested everyone needed to "look after your Rector". Jonathan Campbell echoed these sentiments and emphasized what an amazing man Rev Paul is – with a heart for the Community and the Gospel – with a vision for the church. Rev Paul added the enjoyment of doing things together. He said "thank you" to all, for all that they have done over his ten years at St Mary's and expressed that he is excited by what the future holds.

Rev Paul finished the meeting by reading a Malcolm Guite poem -The Last Beatitude

And blessed are the ones we overlook;  
The faithful servers on the coffee rota,  
The ones who hold no candle, bell or book  
But keep the books and tally up the quota,  
The gentle souls who come to 'do the flowers',  
The quiet ones who organise the fete,  
Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,  
Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.  
God knows the depths that often go unspoken  
Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,  
Or the slow healing of a heart long broken  
Placing each flower so for a year's mind.  
Invisible on earth, without a voice,  
In heaven their angels glory and rejoice

## **8. Close**

The meeting closed at 12:45 with the saying of The Grace.