When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the People.

Acts 14:27

28th April 2019

Vestry Meeting & APCM
Annual Meeting of Parishioners
(Vestry Meeting)

Election of Churchwardens
Election of Deputy Wardens

Annual Reports

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Pages 1-12        Annual Report
Pages 13           Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)
Pages 14-15        Balance Sheet
Pages 16           Report of the Independent Examiner
Pages 17           Agenda
Pages 18-20        Minutes of APCM 15th April 2018
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Parochial Church Council of St. Mary’s, Newick

Registered Charity No. 1138070

Annual Report for 2018

Administrative information

General
St Mary’s Church is situated on Church Road, Newick BN8 4JZ. The Church is part of the Diocese of Chichester within the Church of England. All correspondence should be addressed to Rev. Paul Mundy, The Rectory, 36a Allington Road, Newick, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 4NB.

Structure, Governance and Management

Parochial Church Council.
Church Members are encouraged to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and we look for a balance of skills and experience. 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 church Representation Rules. Membership consists of ex-officio members (The Clergy), the Churchwardens, the 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. The PCC is responsible for the overall wellbeing, practical as well as spiritual, of the Church, the church members and the church buildings. The PCC also has a duty to promote the mission of the church within the wider community.

Ex Officio members :

- Priest -In -Charge : Rev James Hollingsworth
- Associate Vicar : Rev Paul Mundy
- Churchwardens : Mr. Mel Balloch (& Treasurer)
- Mr. Anthony Mallinson
- Readers : Reader Jeremy Burdett
- Reader Geoffrey Clinton
- PCC Secretary : Mrs.Mandy Stockwell
- Deanery Synod : Reader Jeremy Burdett , Mrs Patricia Bailey
- Deanery & Diocesan Synod : Mrs Kate Francis

Elected and Co-opted Members:

- Mr Christopher Hume (Lay Chair)
- Mrs Caroline Smith (Safeguarding)
- Mr Alan Young
- Mrs. Isobel Baty
- Mrs. Jo Wood
How is the PCC made up?

Membership of the Parochial Church Council is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and up to twelve members of the church who are normally elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) but may also be co-opted as occasion requires. We try to ensure a balance of skills and experience. Church members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC.

What is it for?

The PCC is responsible for a wide range of matters affecting the Parish Church, including compliance with health & safety and disability legislation and child protection. In our capacity as trustees, members of the PCC are responsible for the stewardship of funds and for the appropriate accounting and reporting of the parish finances. The PCC works to ensure that each member is equipped to fulfil the role.

New members.

New members of the PCC are quickly included and fully involved with their roles and responsibilities at the first PCC meeting after their election or co-option. The PCC Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, Vice-Chairman/Lay Chair and Electoral Roll Officer are elected at the first meeting after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Education for members.

The PCC secretary, the Treasurer and the Churchwardens all attend courses run by the diocese on their particular work and courses are also available to members generally. Regular mailings from the diocese keep the officers up to date with changes in church regulations and financial procedures and these are reported to the whole PCC as appropriate.

Safeguarding.

The PCC has appointed Mrs Caroline Smith as Safeguarding Officer. She is responsible for ensuring that Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks are carried out on all those who work with children and vulnerable adults in the church. The PCC has adopted the Diocesan Policy which is available from the church website or a hard copy can be found in St Mary’s. The Parish Protecting Policy statement is pinned up in St Mary’s. Members of the PCC have done online training (C0 or above).
Accountant. The PCC has appointed Mr Brian Hay as its accountant.

Committees. Committees report to the PCC, and are responsible for specific areas of the church’s activities:

The Standing Committee has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the full PCC.

The Fabric Committee deals with the fabric of St Mary’s and the maintenance of our Churchyard.

The Mission Action Committee oversees the giving of a tithe of the income to various charities and keeps the congregation informed of the activities of these charities through guest speakers, prayers and information.

The Youth Committee oversees the youth work of the Church.

Risk Assessment The major risks to which the council has been exposed have been identified by a risk analysis exercise carried out by PCC members. The risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been established to manage the risks.

Public Benefit The PCC acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or aims that are for the public benefit. Details of how the PCC has achieved this are provided in this report. The PCC confirms that it has paid due regard to the Charities Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities it should undertake.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

1. Our aims and purposes as a charity
2. Promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England
3. Promoting the whole mission of the church – pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical
4. Knowing Jesus better and making Him better known
5. Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the oldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay
6. Providing financial support to those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives.
What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives?
We have continued to follow our Mission Action Plan (MAP), which sets out our guiding principles. We also take account of the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Key elements of the MAP include:

- our worship of God and the proclamation of His Gospel
- our listening to God in prayer
- links in the wider community
- support and education in the Christian faith, especially for the young
- maintaining the church property

How did we affect people’s lives in 2018?

Worship and the gospel

Services through the year.

At St Mary’s we continued our pattern of regular services.

Every Sunday we offered a 8am Holy Communion following the liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer.

On the first Sunday of each month we held our Rise & Shine Café service. On the second and third Sundays there was a Holy Communion service for all in the morning; on the Fourth Sunday Holy Morning Worship at 10.00 am. On fifth Sundays, we held a joint service with Barcombe, alternating the venue. Evensong was on the first Sunday once a month. In this way, we strove to meet the needs of all our parishioners and anyone else pleased to join us. There was something for all. The gospel was preached at all the Sunday morning services.

Other services. We held a service on the Recreation Ground as part of Newick Festival, and two services on the Green commemorating the Armistice of World War One.

Easter Day saw the adult baptism of Joshua Stockwell, Andy Jackson and Lee Baker.

“At 6.35pm I had the honour of tolling the bell in memory of the 53 men from Newick who gave their lives in the First World War, while villagers processed from the Church to the Green for the lighting of the Beacon at 7pm. At 7.05 our bellringers rounded off the day by ringing our bells at the same time as those of over 1000 towers nationwide in “Ringing Out For Peace”, part of “Battle’s Over – A Nation’s Tribute”. Job well done ringers, thank you.”

Captain of Tower Julian Avis
Ministry

The church continued to work in collaboration with St Mary’s Barcombe, under the supervision of the Rev James Hollingsworth and our Assistant Vicar Rev Paul Mundy.

The arrangement with the diocese relating to the short-term provision of stipendiary clergy continued (as laid out in the minutes of the 2015 APCM) until October 2020.

Increasing our Parish Contribution (PC) towards full coverage of our Parish Ministry Costs (PMC) continued to be a key focus as we sought to follow the instructions from Church House that as a church community, if we hope to sustain a full-time paid clergy position within the parish, we must continue to grow numerically and financially to support this.

Church Attendance.

• There were 114 parishioners on the church electoral roll, 5 of whom were not resident in the parish. The average weekly attendance counted during October was 74 and 10 Children and this number increased dramatically around the Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Commemorations. Harvest, Mothering Sunday and our Easter and Christmas services showed significant increase. 2018 heralded the introduction of the new GDPR regulations and this was managed with expert efficiency by our Churchwarden, PCC Secretary and Safeguarding officer. We are now looking forward to the 6 year Electoral Roll Renewal in 2019.

• Weddings, funerals and baptisms. Twenty funerals were conducted during the year. Four weddings and seven baptisms were all down a little from previous years.

• Lent and LyCiG. The PCC gathered in the Barn Centre to explore, alongside Barcombe, a new Mission Action Plan using Leading Your Church into Growth ‘LyCiG’. These monthly sessions starting in January and running through to July, made us think and spurred us into action. In September a list of possible projects and their ownership were drawn up and we are planning to revisit these in 2019. Key areas were: Lay training through the Diocesan Living Faith Course, Youth Work, Hospitality, NEASSA, accessibility to Church and Barn Centre and reaching out to the lonely and vulnerable

• The Diocesan Lent Course reflecting on Art was run over a longer period so as to make space for the LyCiG course.
**How did we reach out to our community?**

**Preachers:** We are well served through our Readers and Clergy and look forward to new members of the congregation exploring their vocation in ministry and preaching. Other speakers included speakers from Leprosy Mission, Links International and the Bevern Trust.

**Harvest:** In October, the church laid on a Harvest Service followed by Lunch.

**Remembrance:** A service in Church was followed by an Act of Remembrance on the Village Green and an evening torchlit procession. Prior to the 11th we installed 5 memorials called ‘There but not there’ at key stations around the church and village. These were well received by the community and helped to focus our thoughts to the fallen. Thanks to Ashley Stockwell.

**Christmas:** Our Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary’s raised over £1000 for St Peter and St James Hospice and St Mary’s, and our pub carols, where we visited all three local hostelries singing carols culminated in the final pub with nearly 300 people joining together to sing and toast the coming King.

**Children and young people**

Holiday Club in August, looked at stories of Jesus using the film ‘Miracle Maker’. The Clergy took a small group of Teenagers away at May Camp, and the Newick/Barcombe Posse taught Archery for two days to some 300 young people from across the diocese, under the watchful guidance of the PiC. Rev James also went to Scout Camp for a day to teach archery and led the team doling out Hot Choc on Barcombe Bonfire night.

In November we started a youth club at the Barn Centre called NYC. This was run through a collaboration sharing Danehill youth worker, Lee Buck. Sadly Lee moved to a new post in the Diocese. It is our hope that we will be able to recruit a new youth worker in 2019.

Newick, Barcombe and Fletching were successful in their application for initial set up funding from the Mission Development Fund for an Inter-parish Children and Families Mission Initiator. After a disappointing start to the recruitment campaign, Mrs Alison Brown appeared late in the day and was appointed to the role, to begin in January 2019.
Schools. Newick Primary School came to the Church to celebrate Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. The Associate Vicar took Assemblies throughout the year. Mrs Mandy Stockwell stepped down as Foundation Governor after many years of faithful service. September saw the announcement of the departure of Headteacher Sophie Thomas, this was a very hard time for the school, Church and the Village, but we are hopeful that the right replacement will be forthcoming and we had an emotional farewell for Sophie in December.

The Associate Vicar remains on the Governing body ex officio, as does Mrs Caroline Smith and it is hoped that another Foundation Governor can be found in the new year. The PiC remains a governor for Chailey Secondary, where he did a ‘Grill-a Vicar’ in February. The school has made Religious Education a choice at GCSE level (it wasn’t previously) so the primary aim has been to show the joy and relevance of studying RE in a complicated world.

The Magazine. Newick News goes out into some 650 houses in the village. We decided to retire the aged printer and the magazine is now printed in Seaford. Our thanks go to the able team of David Strachan and Alan Morgan who organise the printed copy, ready for distribution. Thanks, must also go to the many villagers who deliver the PM through rain and shine.

Helpers. Rotas continue to operate for church cleaning, flower-arranging, tea/coffee, pastoral care and so much more. What would we do without all these wonderful volunteers?

Church Family. A Lunch followed our Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, held after a Church service in April. This worked well as a way of gathering people together.

Weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Twenty funerals were conducted during the year. With four weddings and seven baptisms, these were both down a little from previous years.

"Those who don’t volunteer for the cleaning rota miss out on spending time within the building outside the usual Sunday service; chatting to ones fellow cleaner – flower ladies – maintenance man - gardener – passing dog walkers - and the occasional visitor – and as I have said before, one can bring the children/grandchildren, as I have done in the past.”
News from the Rectory: The Priest-in-Charge, Rev James Hollingsworth, continued to double up as Priest-in-Charge at Newick and Rector to Barcombe.

Rev Paul Mundy, continued as Associate Vicar of Newick,

Rev Paul was also inducted as the Chaplain to the High Sheriff of East Sussex, Major General John Moore – Bick. This proved to be a demanding yet incredibly rewarding role, with duties carried out across the county ranging from The Judges Service in Winchelsea, visiting the homeless in Bexhill and Hastings, a visit to Dieppe Commemorating the Dieppe Raid, visiting Lewes Prison and Sussex Pathways, Food-banks, Street Pastors, Action in Rural Sussex, The South of England Show, The Master of Skinners annual dinner and culminating in a high speed pursuit and arrest in an Police armed response car!

Chaplain of NEASSA: With the demise of the local Newick Branch of the Royal British Legion it was felt that there should be a new, independent and locally managed organisation to help commemorate and support service personnel from the British armed services.

A small group (mainly from our congregation) made up of the previous local RBL branch plus some additional non-affiliated persons met and agreed to set up a new organisation. Following discussion around the needs of the village, it was agreed to widen the scope of the new organisation to cover not just the armed services, but also the emergency services. Thus, the Newick Emergency & Armed Services Support Association was born. Their remit to provide public commemoration of those who have died and provide help, advice and support for personnel who are currently serving or have left the British Armed Forces or UK Emergency Services in Newick and the surrounding neighbourhood. NEASSA currently has an acting Chairperson, Secretary and joint Treasurers but will formally create a management committee in mid-2019. Rev. Paul Mundy has accepted the role of Chaplain to NEASSA and Dennis Baker is the honorary President.

The Priest-in-Charge taught the Pastoral Visiting Course to a group over in Pett. James continued as Assistant Rural Dean to Lewes Deanery and took a course in how to lecture as part of his Church History lecturing at St Augustine’s Theological College (making him an Associate Fellow and Tutor). James also remained a member of the General Synod.

The PiC started attending a weekly Boot Camp, whatever that may be.

The Revs James, Lucy, and Paul were summoned in September to the Diocesan Clergy Conference.
As part of the continuing diocesan strategy to Know - Love - Follow - Jesus, our ‘One Thing’ this year was to create a Centre for our community to grow in spiritual maturity, following the Diocesan year of prayer.

Our engagement with the national initiative of Thy Kingdom Come, led by our Reader Jeremy Burdett, saw our church open every day between Ascension and Pentecost, from sunrise to sunset, with prayer stations around the church and members of the church community taking hour long prayer times to pray for our Church, our village, our nation and our world.

A prayer space created in Newick Primary School won the Diocesan Prayer Space competition and our young people also won awards for their personal prayers at a County level.

It has been commented within the Community that St Mary’s is a safe space to just come and be still. This is of particular importance outside of our regular service times and has been greatly appreciated by those who are in need of a still space to come and pray.

This has been especially important to those who would not regularly come to a church service.

As mentioned earlier, February 2018 saw our Associate Vicar Rev Paul take up the roll of Chaplain to the High Sheriff of East Sussex. This was a demanding roll, but Paul was well supported by the PCC and the community and it was greatly appreciated to have Newick on the map at a Shrievalty level, raising the profile of what is happening in Newick and with the collaboration with Barcombe. Several of the things that have come from Paul’s year are a relationship between the Knit and Natter and homeless charities in Hastings and Bexhill, Matthew 25 and Warming up the Homeless, the High Sheriff coming to speak to the Men’s Supper.

September we ran a 5 week sermon series on the theme of Giving, Gifting, Tithing, Stewardship & Mission. This proved hugely helpful with recognising the amazing resources we have in our community and creating new ways of enabling our vision for St Mary’s and securing our position within the Diocese as a growing Church.

Our Armistice Centenary Commemorations were one of the highlights of 2018. Planning together with Parish Council, NEASSA, St Mary’s Tower Team and Newick Bonfire Society, saw the Church full to bursting, and an extension of our main service processing down to the Green where a further 200-300 people joined us for the Act of Remembrance. The Evening started with the poignant ‘Over the Top – Newick Remembers’ film from NEASSA,
our bells tolling the fallen and a torch lit procession to the Green for our Beacon lighting.( See Captain of Bells report)

• **Ladies & Men’s Suppers**: Christopher Hume and Jo Wood have continued to build on the success last year of our Men’s and Ladies’ Suppers, with good numbers and engaging speakers. Many of our attendees are not regular church attenders but come along for the fine food, fellowship and Christian message.

• **Pastoral Care**: In October, 7 members of the congregation attended the Bishop’s Training Day in Mental Health Awareness and Community Support. Newick pastoral team have continued to work together and to oversee the pastoral care that happens both within the Church, the Home groups and beyond the fringes of the

• **Church community**: Lunch Club continues to thrive, a new Memory Moments Café was launched mid-year in collaboration with the local Health Centre, and a new venue for TLC came from of Giving Day in September

• **Home Groups**: We currently have four active home groups with a new Wednesday home group meeting in the afternoon.

• **Parish Administrator**: The PCC has secured funding for Administrative Support for 10 hours a month and we look forward to recruiting for the position in 2019.

• **Fabric**: The Church buildings were well looked after, and we received an outstanding report from our Quinquennial through our Inspecting Architect. Trees have been a great concern this year but thank to Alan Young and Christopher Hume and extensive review has been completed with work starting in the new year. An excellent Churchyard party in October was well attended and much was completed, thanks to all who came and the hospitality team for keeping us going.

---

**God of Mission**

Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen
Treasurer's Report Year ended
31st December 2018

The accounts (in Charity Commission format) for 2018 are attached.

(A more informative form of accounts is available on request.)

General Fund
Regular giving (the lifeblood of our church) increased splendidly from £53,174 to £65,641.
These figures include the relevant Gift aid tax relief.
Occasional giving, at £12620 also showed an increase of £3,150.
This was not the only good news as, in addition, a legacy from the late Eleanor Manvell of £37,375 was received, which, although unrestricted, has been set aside for special projects in a separate fund.
Wedding and funeral fees brought in a useful £7,338, mainly and sadly, as a result of the number of funerals.
But this does highlight the important role that the church plays in the life of our community.

Our Parish magazine, thanks largely to strong advertising revenue recorded a surplus of £6,649.

Our Barn Centre shows a £4,675 loss this year due to (i) lower third-party lettings as church use (free) has increased, and (ii) heavy expenditure improving the facility.
Further improvements are planned in the current year.

Expenditure from the General Fund totalled £89,713 (but see also Manvell bequest fund below).

Our Parish Contribution at £56,400 (vs £55,000 in 2017) does not include church insurance of £3,469 previously paid by the diocese.

Most other expenditure is consistent with previous years apart from increased spending mainly outside in the churchyard (plus on insurance as previously noted).

The overall General Fund surplus was £15,074 resulting in a fund balance of £64,800.

Other Funds
(In the Charity Commission style accounts the Fabric fund and the Dance for Fun & Fitness fund are treated as "Restricted").

Fabric Fund. As reported last year we had built this fund up pay for our Audio-Visual equipment, but this was capitalised as a fixed asset. The only charge against this fund this year is depreciation of £8,000 on the AV equipment of leaving a balance of £19,477.

Barn Fund. This is now reduced to £4,743 and may need a boost from our General Fund at some future date.

Flower Fund. We have £2,109 in this fund.

Dance for Fun & Fitness. DFF received two donations during the year, made charges to its clients of £2,374 and incurred expense of £4050; at year end funds of £2,880 remain.

Manvell bequest Fund. This very generous legacy was for £37,375 with a little more to come in 2019. The first project identified for this fund to cover is the embryo Newick Youth Club on which £3,243 was spent in 2018. Two donations to this work were received in the year amounting to £1,750. This includes the appropriate Gift aid.

Balance Sheet
As a result of a successful 2018 and the aforementioned legacy our cash position is very healthy with over £103,000 in the bank. Full details are shown in the accounts.
St Mary’s Church, Newick

GENERAL FUND  Year ended 31st December 2018

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**BALANCE SHEET**

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**FUNDS**

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<td>Barn Fund</td>
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<td>9418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Fund</td>
<td>2109</td>
<td>1797</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance for Fun &amp; Fitness fund</td>
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<td>2746</td>
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01/03/2019
# OTHER FUNDS

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<th>Flower</th>
<th>DFF</th>
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| 31-Dec-18            | 19477  | 4743 | 2109   | 2880| 35882     |

Manvill Legacy fund expenditure

- Youth worker (1st (of 3) instalments): 1167
- Pool table: 1042
- Storage shed: 613
- Hockey table: 157
- Supplies: 96
- Storage shed: 168

* incl. £500 grant from Sussex Police
Independent Examiner's Report
to the PCC of St Mary's Church, Newick
for the Year Ended 31st December, 2018

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St Mary, Newick, on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2018 set out on pages to

The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:
1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr. K Speirs, Fyndings, Stations Road, Plumpton, East Sussex BN7 3BX

April 2018
Agenda

1. Welcome, Bible Reading and Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Chairman’s Introduction
4. Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting
5. Adoption of Diocesan Safeguarding Policy
6. Know - Love - Follow - Jesus (Diocesan Vision))
7. Secretary’s Report
8. Treasurer’s Report
9. Report on Fabric
10. Presentation of Church Electoral Roll
11. Election of Lay Representatives to the PCC
12. Election of Lay Representatives to the Deanery Synod
13. Election of Sidesmen
14. Reports and Questions
15. Any Other Business
16. Closing Remarks and Prayer
St. Mary’s Parish Church Newick

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 15th April, 2018, 11.30 am

In Attendance:
Ian Reekie, Rosie Hallett, Paddy Cumberlege, Joy Hay, Brian Hay, Kate Francis, Hilary Clothier, Jennifer Hastings, June Herron, June Perou, June Ellis, Ron Perou, Patricia Bailey, Jebby Dyson, Jo Wood, Dorothy Thrower, Issie Baty, Alex Baty, Hazel Clinton, Geoff Clinton, Alan Morgan, Christopher Hume, Rebecca Hume, Clive Maxwell, Ann Maxwell, Rosemary Walters, Juliette Lucas, Alan Lucas, Louise Young, Alan Young, Barry Mansfield, Shirley Mansfield, Pat Mundy, Sara Fuller, Susan Balloch, Caroline Smith, Anthony Mallinson, Melvyn Balloch

1. Welcome, Bible Reading 1 John 3 & Prayer

2. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from, Jeremy and Jacky Burdett, Phoebe Caffyn, Aveline Moore, Lilian Morgan, Peter Todd, Monica Todd, Ruth Conellan, David Conellan, Hilary Bryan, John Sclater, Catherine Sclater, Audrey Wagstaff, Ian Wagstaff

3. Chairman’s introduction

4. Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting:
The minutes of the previous APCM, held on Sunday, 23rd April, 2017 were accepted, proposed by, Geoff Clinton seconded by Kate Francis and signed by Rev James Hollingsworth

5. Secretary’s report:
The Secretary’s report was included in the booklet produced and distributed prior to the APCM.

6. Treasurer’s report
It was reported that we are currently in a comfortable position – we’re not wealthy but we don’t have any debts. We are working towards being able to pay our full Parish Contribution in 2019. In 2017 there was a £13k gap between what we should have paid and what we actually paid. In 2018 the gap has now narrowed to about £6k and the aim is to pay in full next year. It was also confirmed that we can fund 36 months of our share of a Mission worker to concentrate on youth and families with the view to working towards this being a permanent position. The figures show that, as well as growing spiritually, St. Mary’s is growing financially too.
Thanks were given to Brian Hay who pulled all the figures together and to Robin Parris for his continued help.
7. Fabric report
The major events of the year were the commissioning of the Quinquennial Inspection of the church fabric & building, the installation of the new audio-visual system and the undertaking of required or needed electrical works, some of which were directly related to the AV installation. We have been blessed by working with our new architect Richard Andrews. We have a wonderful building in a good state of repair with nothing urgent needing attention.

8. The Church Electoral Roll
Kate Francis confirmed that we currently have 127 on roll. Over the past year 1 person moved away, 2 passed away, 6 are now non-resident & we have 10 new members. Every 6 years the whole Electoral Roll is deleted and started again from scratch. This project will be undertaken in 2019.

9. Election of Churchwardens
Both Melvyn Balloch & Anthony Mallinson were voted into the positions of Church Wardens for another year. Both were proposed by James Hollingsworth and seconded by Paul K Mundy.

10. Deputy Wardens
After approximately 8 years in role, Alan Morgan had decided to step down from his role as Deputy Warden. He was thanked for his time in role especially with his work with regards to the distribution of the parish magazine. Alan Young has offered to step up into the role. Thanks were given to both Alans. Kate Francis confirmed that she was happy to stay in her role as the other Deputy Warden.

11. Election of lay representatives to the PCC
Christopher Hume, Caroline Smith & Alan Young, who had previously been co-opted to the PCC were officially elected and thanked for their contribution so far. All other members of the PCC were continuing in role: Jeremy Burdett, Kate Francis, Patsy Bailey, Jo Wood, Issie Baty, Mandy Stockwell, Geoff Clinton, Pam Mundy.

12. Election of Sidesmen
List from Alan - proposed by MB and seconded by Clive Maxwell. These include: Paddy Cumberlege, Kate Francis, Tricia Greenfield, Christopher Hume, Valerie Jago, Juliet Lucas, Anthony Mallinson, Shirley Mansfield, Ann and Clive Maxwell, Alan Morgan, June and Ron Perou, Ian Reekie, Catherine Sclater, Ashley and Mandy Stockwell, Bobby Blundy and Jo Wood.

There are currently two vacancies – please chat to Alan if you’re interested in joining the rota.

JB outlined the plans for the forthcoming Thy Kingdom Come events and the hope that this could lead to more church growth both numerically and spiritually. We need to look at new ways of taking our church into the local community. Patsy’s idea for an umbrella brand were briefly discussed.
It is now really important that we focus on getting the Youth & Families Mission Enabler in place. We’ve put the money aside and we now need to pray that the right person comes forward.

Next year will be the Diocese Year of Vocation – vocation is not just about wearing a dog collar – vocations comes in all shapes and sizes and we all have a calling in one way or another. God equips us with the skills to be his representatives to his world.

14. Reports and questions
Most activities linked to the church had prepared a report which had been printed in the leaflet distributed prior to the APCM. Questions on the content were invited:

Fabric Report:
Paddy Cumberlege confirmed that the painting in several sections depicting an imaginative gathering of the village of Newick, it’s people and it’s associations around the figure of Jesus Christ, currently displayed in the north west corner of the church, had been done by a previous youth group and the project had been led by Hugh Longhurst. He advised that it belongs to the church and should be kept on display.

Safeguarding:
It was stressed how safeguarding should always be of utmost importance – it must be added to the agenda for the next APCM.

When we have our website up and running there will be links to safeguarding training.

Everyone was encouraged to do C0 & C1 – only Caroline, James and Paul have to do C2

Dancing for Fun & Fitness:
Italics on page 34 are comments & feedback from people whom have been touched by Patsy’s classes

Flower arranging:
PKM has report but missed out in printing – MS will distribute to everyone

It was suggested that, next year, there should also be a Giving Report, a Mission Report and one from the Barn Centre Committee.

15. Any other business
Proposal for the next APCM to be held on Sunday 28th April after the 10am service to be followed by a bring and share lunch. This was proposed by PKM, seconded by Kate Francis and the majority of the congregation were in favour.

Mel Balloch said a vote of thanks to our clergy and their families and thanks to Mandy Stockwell for her administration support.

There will be a Deanery confirmation service on Sunday 10th June at Holy Cross in Uckfield. We have one definite & 1 possible candidate

Alan Maxwell asked why there was no report from the Barn Committee Geoff Clinton referred him to page 13 of the booklet – there were some figures included there.

Pam Mundy gave her thanks to Dorothy Thrower “you are amazing”!

16. Closing remarks and prayer
The meeting was concluded at 12.25
St Mary’s Church, Newick, East Sussex
Annual Fabric Report

The required annual visual inspection of the church, both externally and internally, and the Churchyard areas was undertaken on Sunday 17th February 2019 by Mel Balloch (Churchwarden and Alan Young (Deputy Warden).

The Terrier, Inventory and Log Book were inspected and updated where necessary by Mel Balloch and Anthony Mallinson (Churchwardens) and Alan Young (Deputy Warden) on Sunday 10th March 2019.

New entries were made in the Log Book to acknowledge the success of the application (current during the last Annual inspection) to the Diocesan authorities for a Faculty for the removal of some rear, central Nave and North Aisle pews; and the donation of a wooden Bishop’s Chair, handcrafted and donated to St Mary’s by Anthony Bailey in time for the Bishop of Lewes to use at the Confirmation service that took place at St Mary’s on 27th January 2019. The chair is valued at around £1,200.00.

A definitive list of all church documents and registers etc now archived at the East Sussex Records Office (the Keep) was appended to the Inventory. The registers and documents currently lodged at the keep span the period from 1837 to 2013.

The ‘fine tuning’ of the Audio-Visual system installed in the Church during the latter part of 2017 was successfully carried out during the early part of 2018. Ashley Stockwell arranged a successful training session for a number of regular Church attenders on the operation of the AV system in March 2018.

A ‘Satisfactory’ Certificate was issued on March 2018 in respect of the major work on the electrical system within the Church building that had been undertaken by Walco during 2017-18. The work comprised (a) the required 5-yearly inspection of the entire system; (b) adaptations and extensions to the electrical system to accommodate the Audio-Visual system that was being installed in the Church in 2017; and (c) addressing various issues that came to light during the above that it was felt desirable to undertake as part of the overall programme of electrical work within the building.
Two incandescent lights remain in operation within the Church building at the present time. Due to the difficulty of replacing either of these lights, a decision has been taken to replace both lights as soon as one or other of them fails.

Thanks are once again due to Mr Julian Avis, a local general builder and a St Mary’s bell ringer for many years and now Captain of Bells, for his contributions to the Fabric of St Mary’s. On 27th December 2018, under the direction of the Churchwardens, Julian had gone up on to the roof of the Church to reapply ‘Smart Water’ to sections of the lead covering, and clear the valley guttering between the Nave and the North Aisle of accumulated plant matter and other debris etc.

Mr Avis also agreed to carry out other work to the Church fabric, to repair water damage to the east-facing outside wall of the Clergy Vestry, and to sections of the perimeter wall of the Old Churchyard in the vicinity of the Barn Centre Patio. These works are to be carried out during 2019 using traditional lime mortar.

The PCC will be asked during 2019 on the possibility of installing a CCTV camera and/or a light beam sensor on the roof of St Mary’s to improve security of the lead roof. The cost would be of the order of £1,000.00. The PCC will likewise be asked during the course of 2019 to make a decision on the frequency of the formal inspection of the Church’s lightning conductor system.

There are currently 10 outside lights within the Churchyard between the South Porch and the Barn Centre Patio which operate according to light and movement sensors. A decision was taken by the PCC in November 2018 to authorise specialist works to enable these sensors to be overridden, so that the lighting stays on when required to provide a safe and welcoming environment to those attending evening events and services in the Church during the hours of darkness over the course of the winter. This work is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2019.

During the course of 2018 a new telephone line was installed in the Barn Centre, providing telephone, broadband and wi-fi service throughout the Centre. The opportunity was taken to run an ethernet cable from the hub in the Barn Centre to a transmitter located on the western perimeter wall of the old Churchyard, which beams a wireless signal to a receiver in the Church Tower, which then re-broadcasts an effective signal throughout the nave, North Aisle, Chancel and Vestries.
One aim of this is to enable wireless devices to be deployed to enable contactless electronic payments to be made towards the Collections at regular and occasional services (such as weddings and funerals) held within the Church, and also to allow donations to be made electronically by casual visitors to the Church at any time the building is open.

Following the trial of a number of temporary arrangements over the Christmas period in 2018, a survey is due to be undertaken in 2019 regarding permanent arrangements to enable the East Window of the Church to be effectively illuminated from the outside during the hours of darkness. An initial budget of £300 has been set aside for this survey.

Mel Balloch & Anthony Mallinson (Churchwardens) and Alan Young (Deputy Warden)

10th March 2019

Annex

Schedule of issues identified in the Report written in 2018, with updates and action points for the current year:

There is a small wooden carved statue of the Holy Family currently located on the windowsill of the north window of the Sanctuary. The statue is believed to have been donated to St Mary’s at some time during the past five years. Its ownership needs to be clarified and details of its provenance need to be obtained, and the statue added to the Inventory if this proves to be appropriate.

2019: The Rev. Paul Mundy clarified that the statue - now located in the Priest’s Vestry – was donated by Paul Scrase around Christmastide in 2015. Mel is to obtain a small batch of Smart Water to apply to the base of the statue.

A painting in several sections depicting an imaginative gathering of the village of Newick, its people and its associations around the figure of Jesus Christ has been displayed in the children’s play area at the north west corner of the church for some time. The status of this painting needs to be clarified, and the painting added to the Inventory if this is agreed to be appropriate.
2019: The painting was produced and donated to St Mary’s several years ago by Patsy Bailey. The future display arrangements for the painting will be impacted by implementation of the Faculty (now granted) to remove pews from this area.

*Several former church pews have been ‘adapted’ to their new positions against the north and west walls in the north west corner of the church, essentially by the removal of the pew ends to allow a snug fit into the corners of the children’s play area. A decision needs to be taken if and how this arrangement will be modified if the children’s play area is enlarged by the removal of more existing pews as per our current Faculty application.*

2019: A Carpenter, David Baker (son of Parishioner Dennis Baker) has been contacted and has offered his services in the practical implementation of the Faculty that has now been granted.

*Items 4-7: No Further Action required in 2019.*

*The water tap on the outside wall of the church next to the choir vestry door needs to be changed to a timed water tap, to limit the flow of water should the tap be misused (whether accidentally or for malicious purposes) and left running.*

2019: A plumber is to be contacted to undertake the necessary work.

*A new weatherproof electrical socket has been fixed to the outside of the north wall of the tower, replacing an older socket.*

2019: The new single socket referred to above has now itself been replaced by a new double socket.

*The over-provision of waste bins against the north wall of the Barn Centre – some of these in a decrepit condition – needs to be addressed.*

2019: The Barn Centre Committee agreed (and paid) for new fencing which was erected around the bin area in 2018. A second bulkhead light was added to the outside of the Barn centre to provide full illumination to this area.

*The more westerly (and now thoroughly decrepit) of the two garden sheds close to the north wall of the Barn Centre needs to be removed as a matter of some urgency.*
2019: The shed was removed and burnt at the bonfire site in the New Churchyard in 2018.

An investigation needs to be carried out re- the current layout of the brick paths to either side of the ancient Yew tree standing north east of the Barn Centre: root growth has made the current paths very uneven, and overhanging branches present a health and safety risk.

2019: The PCC considered the state of the brick paths during 2018 and considered what action needed to be taken to ensure a safe and level surface on each of the paths. However, the issue has been overtaken by another proposal (still currently in its early stages) to reorder the internal arrangement within the Barn Centre so as to improve the toilet facilities for persons of all abilities: early indications suggest that the works needed to ensure safe and accessible access to the Barn Centre, particularly from the Church, might necessitate the relocation of parts of the existing path network within the Churchyard.

CHURCHYARD REPORT
St Mary’s Newick APCM 28 April 2019

Our Churchyard is in good order, and significant progress was been made during 2018.

Church members have supported the Churchyard well. Alan Young has made a particularly significant contribution at weekends, and Audrey Wagstaff continues to provide regular support.

Our October “Gardening Morning”, which was followed by a barbecue lunch, was a particular success. Some 25 people attended and a substantial amount of clearing was achieved. The lunch, provided by the ladies, was well attended and enjoyed by all.

We made significant progress with tree work during the year. The yew overhanging the oil tank was trimmed back – a long overdue maintenance issue. Following a competitive tender we appointed Connick Tree Care to provide us with a Churchyard map, a report on the state of the trees in the Churchyard, and recommendations as to work
that was needed. The PCC considered the report and agreed to carry out the work recommended. This was a major exercise, and was completed satisfactorily at the end of February 2019.

Health and Safety. Following completion of the tree work carried out in February 2019, in accordance with the recommendations of Connick Tree Care, we have done what is necessary for health and safety purposes. We shall have to continue with regular checks in the future.

Following the retirement of Ian Wagstaff, after many years of dedicated service, we appointed Nick Pendleton, a local farmer and bee keeper who has the necessary qualifications, to do the spraying of the paths, parking area and Barn Centre surrounds. The spraying was successful, and we shall continue with this program in 2019.

Paul Tilson continues to keep the grass under control in the old Churchyrd with regular work during the season on Saturday mornings. Two new strimmers were purchased during the year to replace worn out equipment. We need a heavy duty one for the major work, and a smaller one for the fiddlier bits around the old graves.

Our Giving Day in November 2018 brought forward a number of volunteers who will help us keep the Churchyard in good condition.

Substantial bulb planting was carried out, with good results showing in Spring 2019. We received favourable comment for this on the “Newick Talk” website.

We have a full program of maintenance and development work planned for 2019, with two Gardening Days scheduled for Saturday April 6th and Saturday October 12th.

**Church Cleaning**

Regular church cleaning is carried out early each week by two paid members of our congregation and at the end of the week by volunteers, usually working in pairs. Together these ensure that our beautiful church is not only looking at its best for Sunday services but is also ready for the many additional services that take place during the week and on Saturdays. Our thanks go to these hard working people for all their efforts and their willingness to work around different demands.
Different issues arise in cleaning over the year. In 2018 it was the proliferation of yew berries in the autumn that caused problems, fortunately something that doesn’t happen in quite such volume every year. At Christmastime it’s candlewax that presents a challenge and requires the careful application of hot irons to brown paper to remove it from the carpets. Other minor problems, such as high flying cobwebs, are dealt with on an annual cleaning day, soon to be arranged.

One issue that the congregation might wish to consider is the proliferation of kneelers which make it hard to clean between the pews. Many of these have been lovingly crafted and there is no wish to dispense with them but we do wonder if we need as many as are made available given their limited use. Another issue is a need to provide proper pew cushions which would enable us to dispense with the proliferation of odd cushions in the pews and at the back of the church.

We are very much in need of more volunteers as currently we have no regular cover for the first weekend of the month; if anybody feels able to come forward please contact Sue Balloch for a chat in church or email her on sueballoch@btconnect.com.

Outward Giving, a report for the St Mary’s Newick APCM for 2018
The accounts for 2018 show that the outward giving of St.Mary’s was £2840, down from £3350 in 2017. It is quite difficult however to tell from the accounts exactly how much was given by the church, as some collections on special occasions go straight to the beneficiary and do not appear in the accounts.

During 2018 we started looking at ways in which we could make the reporting of outward giving both transparent and accurate and we have formed the Outward Giving Group to take responsibility for this from the beginning of 2019.

We have also opened an account with Links International who have Act4You, which means that they help individuals and churches connect financially with their chosen charities worldwide. This account has been charged with £4000 and we will disburse this among those charities which the PCC adopts for the year.

One advantage of Act4 You is that if individuals want to add their own contribution to these charities, they can pay money straight into this account, details of which will be made available.
The account will also hold a contingency sum so that small immediate needs can be cared for without prior permission of the full PCC.

The main beneficiaries in 2019 will be:
Katy Barnwell at Wycliffe Bible translators
The Leprosy Mission
The Bevern trust
Projects for the Wayuu people of La Guajira in Colombia

Pastoral Report

Pastoral Care Report for April APCM.
We continue to give lifts to hospital, doctors & dental appointments & to accompany them when needed. We have had to make a few changes as we were getting so many requests for lifts largely from people unknown to us. We have now deleted the offer of lifts in the church magazine.
As there have been so many social service cuts we have had many requests for help with meals etc again largely from people unknown to us, we have had to refuse as we don’t have resources to do this & have put them on to the appropriate agencies.
Linda Farmer is updating our records & we now have a locked file in the library with details of next of kin etc so if people become ill during our activities lunches & exercise classes we have contact numbers.
Audrey Ford is visiting Nightingales & is going to set up a garden project there she is also organising a monthly communion.
Ron & June continue to visit & support many people in the village. Jebby is helping those with neurological problems.
We continue to visit many lonely people in the village & to be on the end of the phone for them.
The TLC teas & parish lunches are thriving.
We have also got several new volunteers so our team is growing.

Knit and Natter, Tuesday Afternoons.
After seven years of meeting weekly this has closed, the younger members now attend the new, more convenient evening group and sadly the older members have been hit by a variety of illnesses reducing numbers down to an unsustainable level. The remaining three have been found alternative activities.
Sit and Get Fit. Wednesday 10-10.45 Barn centre.
This group meets weekly to share chair based exercises together, the members encourage each other, they use a variety of accessories and music to enhance their exercises, the atmosphere is fun, friendly and supportive. I am very impressed by the progress made by every member, it is well attended.
The group has been visited by the Village agent from Action in Rural Sussex who is very enthusiastic about our aims and outcomes.

Dancing for Fun and Fitness. Wednesday 11.00-12.30
This weekly class continues to bring people from several villages together to enjoy a morning of dance and social interaction, the members have fun dancing and sharing a coffee break together, the standard of dance is extremely good. Friendships have been forged and some members now meet up for lunch in a pub on Sundays, others accompany me to Copper Beech Nursing home to entertain the residents. I am invited to several older people’s clubs during the year in the surrounding villages to entertain and promote the group, also earning donations. In December we made a short film of the dance to a Graham Kendrick track which accompanied prayers in Church, this boosted the self esteem of the dancers considerably.
Our group has been running for nearly eleven years and some members have been with us for most of that time.
The combination of these two groups ensures members have exercise available whatever their physical challenges in the future.

St Mary’s Lunch club Report March 2018:
We have 2 brilliant teams of cooks and volunteers that alternate months and we have a few volunteers that come and help every month and have set jobs setting up, doing the raffle and collecting donations as well as clearing away. We have 2 great florists that do the flowers.

We are fortunate to have a brilliant team of about 8 drivers who do more than just drive they help to settle those that are frail and who live alone making sure they are comfortable with cups of tea etc.

We have approximately 35 – 40 elderly every month this month we got 3 new people. We’ve had delicious meals and great entertainment like ukulele bands, singers, Bingo and great speakers like Chris Hume. Some of the elderly have memory problems so it’s been great to have the lovely team of helpers to chat to and reassure them and to give support to their carers and family. Many of them now go to tlc tea and the memory cafe or Patsy’s exercise class so it’s been great to link to other groups in the community.
Report on the Flower Team at St Mary’s 2018-2019
We have had a good year, inspite of the fact that we are a small team.

The Easter lily donations for 2018 exceeded our expectation, and St. Mary’s looked amazing with the arrangements throughout the church. Harvest Festival went well, with plenty of autumn colour.

The ladies in the team had a discussion concerning Remembrance Sunday. As 2018 marked the centenary of the end of the First World War, we agreed a special effort should be made to commemorate the occasion. From all the feedback we received the displays were a resounding success.
We were grateful to all members of the church and British Legion that assisted us with the practical aspects.

The Christmas Tree Festival was another successful occasion with a record number of trees on display. The flower team generally were not involved, but some members assisted with duties and decorated trees as part of a group.

Christmas decorations followed the next week, and once again St Mary’s had a fabulous display of greenery and flower arrangements. We appreciate the assistance we have had for the festivals, but we do struggle on a physical level.

We would, ideally, like to call on someone we could ask regularly to help with lifting and carrying pedestals, containers with arrangements, buckets of water, and other heavy duties involved with the flowers and greenery. Also, an URGENT request for any persons that would consider joining the flower team.
No special skills are needed, just a love of flowers.

Report on St Mary’s Choir
2018 has been a successful year for our choir, with new members joining the choir and guests contributing to the choir for our major festivals. During 2018 we welcomed the regular rehearsals initiated by organist Nathan Waring and this has been further developed by the return of organist Jonathan Fenton-Vince. It is hoped that through these rehearsals and new members, our choir will grow in confidence and numbers. The choir took part in several Pastoral Services, including weddings and funerals of much loved parishioners. The Choir joined together for several gatherings of hospitality.
On April 1st last year I was appointed Captain of the Bells here in Newick. I don’t know why? At the resignation of Allen Lucas I felt I had some big boots to fill! Allen is a more accomplished ringer than I will ever possibly be. He can ring recognised “ringing methods” which to some makes ringers ringers. I don’t necessarily share this view – good striking is most important. I was, nonetheless, honoured to be appointed to the job by my fellow ringers, some of whom I consider more deserving.

I learned to ring here in 1968, at the age of seven. All my family were ringers, so I didn’t learn because I wanted to, rather I think it was just expected. My uncle was Captain of the Tower at the time. My grandfather had been one of two men who got a team of ringers together after the war and set the bells ringing again. My great grandfather had rung before him, so when I go into the ringing chamber, I feel immense pride knowing that my forebears were doing this around 100 years ago, exactly, what I am doing today.

My family have rung here continuously for 100 years, with a short lapse due to me when I drifted away in around 1987 before returning to the tower in 2013. So I feel a pang of guilt as if I let my family down.

Allen Lucas encouraged me to take up ringing again, for which I am very grateful. I had forgotten the enjoyment you cab get from good ringing. Thank you Allen.

During the past year, we have continued our practice evenings on Monday’s between 7 and 8 pm. For the most part I think practice pays dividends in getting smooth rhythm and clear striking. Sometimes, however, I must admit we owe our parishioners in earshot an apology for the most awful racket coming from the tower. As Revd James Hollingsworth said a few weeks ago “at least when things aren’t perfect you know it’s real people ringing the bells” and not just a recording being played as happens in some places.

This year we have welcomed and taught three new ringers, the youngest being 12 years old. All are now competent at bell control and become ready to ring the services.

Over the year we welcomed three teams of bellringers from other towers to ring at Newick, and had another two or three ringers attend on our practice nights.
We are very fortunate to have enough ringers to call on for a full team most Sunday’s, and when required for weddings (we rang two last year) funerals and ceremonial ringing. Talking of ceremonial ringing, my personal highlight of 2018 was 11/11/18 – the centenary of the end of the First World War. As usual on the Sunday we rang for the Remembrance Service with the bells half muffled. This creates the effect of the bells ringing normally and then almost an echo replying. We only do this once a year, which sharpens our concentration and in turn produces better ringing.

At 12.30 we rang bells again for 15 minutes as part of the national “Ringing Remembers’ tribute, timed to coincide with the march past at the Cenotaph. At 6.35 I had the honour of tolling the bell in memory of the 53 men from Newick who gave their lives in the First World War, while villagers processed from the Church to the Green for the lighting of the Beacon at 7pm. At 7.05 our bellringers rounded off the day by ringing our bells at the same time as those of over 1000 towers nationwide in “Ringing Out For Peace”, part of “Battle’s Over – A Nation’s Tribute”. Job well done ringers, thank you.

I am aware of one person who has shown an interest in learning to ring and we are always happy to teach the art of bellringing to anyone wishing to learn. You don’t have to commit to ringing regularly, although you may wish to one day. It’s a lot like riding a bike, once you learn to ring you never forget. We may, if required, have separate evening practice for new learners. My grateful thanks to the ringers for their support over the past year. Julian Avis

General Synod This is like Church Parliament. We talk about
- Legislation (such as Church Representation Rules)
- Sex: the Synod decided to not ‘take note’ in February 2017 of a debate on how the church understood sexuality, resulting in several sub-committees being formed collectively called the Living in Love and Faith Committee (LLF). This group are working to report back to General Synod for July 2020. After that the House of Bishops will be left to work out how to turn this into a working document for how we as a Church understand human identity, relationships, gender and sexuality.
- Money: There isn’t much. We’re investing what we do have in certain aspects of mission. Some of the Investment money is being used to move large corporations towards greener policies.
- Rock n Roll: There’s an awareness that most people find their faith by their teenage years. So that’s where we need to be investing our time and effort.
The Barn Centre 2018

There were a number of interesting developments both inside and outside the Barn Centre in 2018. New ovens were installed in the kitchen in March and new patio doors in the Cart Lodge in May. The coffee room was redecorated by Clive Maxwell and Geoff Clinton and Tony Bailey built a large cupboard upstairs. A new phone line and broadband were set up in the library in the autumn and wifi is now available in both Barn and Church (password is Barn2018 or Church2018). Changes to the exterior included new paving in the patio area and disposal of the old shed, with the erection of a four foot high fence around the shed area which is now used for dustbins. Many thanks to Geoff, Clive and Alan Morgan who worked very hard to bring this about. Finally a new shed was erected just beyond the patio to house some of the equipment needed for the youth and holiday clubs. Expenditure and income details are contained in the Financial Report.

The Barn has continued to host regular sessions of yoga, tai chi, pilates, sitting exercises and quilting which contribute to its annual income. The library is increasingly used for counselling. A monthly timetable of these and other events is posted in the barn and circulated to all concerned. Wedding and christening parties, other family functions and funerals continue to use it for their gatherings. The Lunch Club meets in the Cart Lodge every second Monday of the month with attendance of 30+ and ladies’ and men’s suppers are regular evening events. Members of the Barn Centre Committee organised a very successful wine and cheese party and auction in June which raised the substantial sum of £1060 for the Barn funds – many thanks to Ann and Clive and Andy Jackson for this.

At the end of the year a small sub-committee met for the first time to consider a long standing issue of concern – the lack of disabled toilet facilities. Contact was made with a local architect, Clive Stillman, to scope the issue, looking at both disabled toilet facilities and access to these from the Church. Subsequently initial plans were drawn up which included disabled access from within the Cart Lodge into the Barn corridor and new toilets and a ‘Changing Places’ facility to meet the needs of disabled people both within the congregation and the local community. For those interested go to the Changing Places website www.changing-places.org. Currently only one other Church of England has a Changing Places facility – St.John’s Farsley in Leeds. All this is possible within the footprint of the current toilets although a new path will be needed to access these from the Church. Clive has carried out this initial work for no charge and we thank him for this generosity. During the course of 2019 it is anticipated that drawings will be finalised, agreed, costed and put out to tender and fundraising commenced.
Greater love hath no man than this
John 15

‘To live in the hearts of those we love is not to die’