

# Trustees Annual Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster:

For the year ended 31 December 2023

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## Introduction

Every year the PCC is required to write a report of their activities in accordance with guidance from the Charities Commission. This dictates the rather formal approach to much of this document, but it gives us a chance to review all that has gone on in the previous year.

This review looks back over 2023 which saw the whole year in an interregnum position, following the Diocesan procedures in readiness for the appointment of a new priest for the Lyminster and Wick Benefice.

After the departure of Tom Robson we have been deeply grateful to all the clergy and lay readers who have stepped in to support us to keep the services running smoothly without having to restrict any services. We give thanks to God for his faithfulness and continue in the years ahead to know, to love and to follow Jesus Christ.

Our thanks also go out to the many helpers who assist with the smooth running of the Church. We could not do without our sacristan team, choir, organist, cleaners, flower arrangers, readers, intercessors, meet and greeters and not forgetting the refreshment volunteers. Special mention must be made for the assistance of the PCC who have taken on the various administrative tasks of running the Church.

Viv Prior, Church Warden.

Website:

[www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk](http://www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk)

Independent Examiner: Mrs Carol Groves,

Bankers:HSBC, Rustington

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

### Our aims and purposes as a Church and religious charity.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with visiting clergy, in:

- Promoting the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- Seeking to know Jesus Christ better and to make him better known.
- To provide practical care and support for people in the parish, from the young to the old.
- Caring for the church and churchyard of St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster.

### How we sought to achieve these aims and purposes.

When planning our activities for the year, the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion':

#### **For people to come to know Jesus as Lord, Saviour and friend:**

- To invite and enable as many people as possible to worship at our church and considering how these services can involve different groups of people.
- To assist people from all walks of life to know, love and trust Jesus Christ.

#### **For people to grow in love for Jesus, through getting to know Him better:**

- To seek to lead church services that allow people to worship, to hear God's word and pray, in an atmosphere in which they are comfortable: through the variety offered by the 8 am Service, the Family Service and 11 am Service.
- To teach, baptise, confirm and nurture new and existing believers.
- To offer small groups, where people can learn more about the Gospel.
- To encourage one another as we meet, week by week.

#### **For people to follow Jesus and be a blessing and benefit to the community**

- To provide pastoral care for people living in the parish and church members.
- To provide practical assistance to the poor and needy of the parish.
- To give practical help to local charitable organisations.
- To reach out to the community through social events and the Easter and Christmas Services.
- To support the musical life of the church.
- To provide a beautiful and memorable setting for significant family events such as weddings, funerals and baptisms.
- To sustain and foster the memory of those who were killed or injured fighting for the country.
- To maintain the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the village.
- To maintain the churchyard as befits the dignity of those buried and commemorated there.

## **Compliance and Safeguarding**

The PCC have complied with the duty contained under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The safeguarding policies are displayed both inside and outside church. All the policies are available on the website and the PCC safeguarding officer has reported to every PCC meeting. The relevant DBS checks and safeguarding training are kept up to date. We are grateful to Christine Fowler and John Galvin for their work as Safeguarding Officers in 2023.

## **To know Jesus (Coming to faith)**

Considerable effort has gone into sustaining and expanding the Family Service. We are grateful to our former Curate Mark Rodger and his wife Laura who led the family service until November. Since November it has been successfully led by Michael Servant, Mike Harris and Carol Hatton and their helpers and we thank them all for their dedication to this service and for arranging social events which are always well attended. The parents get involved by preparing craft activities and serving refreshments. The junior choir led by Michael Servant has occasionally led the singing which has really enhanced our worship.

There have also been some baptisms and thanksgiving services for babies and small children throughout the year and some of these have come to family service as a result, enjoying the informal child friendly style of the family service.

As well as proclaiming the Christian message of God's love, of forgiveness and renewal, this service also aims to foster a sense of community among the people who come to the Family Service who, otherwise, often lead busy and fractured lives.

Good Friday and Easter Sunday services were well attended. Other Easter services were combined at All Saints Church, Wick.

A very successful Harvest Festival service was held which combined the Family Service and 11am congregation.

Special services were held for both Remembrance Day and All Souls Day.

Christmas services were held and well attended, some in conjunction with All Saints, Wick.

Several weddings, wedding blessings, funerals and interments of ashes were conducted, and grateful thanks go to the visiting clergy and lay readers who assisted at these services. Thanks also to Margaret Russell from the PCC who took on the task of arranging these services.

Thanks must also go to Mike Harris, our PCC IT guru for keeping the congregation informed of the various activities by email and the website.

## **To love Jesus (Deepening faith)**

The 8am service continued with services on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, providing a quiet and reflective service using the traditional words of the Book of Common Prayer. Numbers at the 11am Eucharist Service have remained stable and the core congregation remains committed and continues to participate through reading the Bible, preparing the church and sharing in fellowship.

## To follow Jesus (In loving service of the community)

Demonstrating the love of God to people in the local community continued to be very important. Many people continued to support Turning Tides and the Littlehampton Food Bank, both by donating food and clothes and helping at the centres. Others continued to support the partially sighted in Littlehampton, the Littlehampton Town Chaplaincy and Arun Angels.

Varying coffee mornings and afternoon teas were held during the year where people could gather and chat in an informal setting. A Burns Night celebration was well attended and also a very successful harvest lunch was held in the church. Grateful thanks to the organisers of our annual quiz night which was held again this year in Wick Hall. These events give the chance to meet people and show them something of the church's welcome and hospitality. The Lyminster community and the choir organised very successful carol singing around the village which added much needed funds for the church.

## Structure, governance and management

St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster is part of the Diocese of Chichester within the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate and a charity currently exempt from registration with the Charity Commission, under Section 30 of the Charities Act 2011 (It is governed by the PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006).

The Benefice is made up of St. Mary Magdalene, Lyminster and All Saints, Wick.  
Clergy: Assistant curate, the Rev'd Mark Rodger (To November 2023)

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At present at St Mary Magdalene the PCC consists of the church wardens and others elected by members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. Our amazing treasurer, John Raywood, was co-opted by the PCC. The PCC are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern to the PCC, including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2023 are:

Ex Officio members:

Curate: The Revd Mark Rodger (To July 2023)  
Church Warden: Mrs Viv Prior  
Church Warden: Mrs. Jo Lark (From May 2023)

Elected Members

- Mrs Margaret Russell
- Mr Roger Davies
- Mrs Sarah Davies
- Ms Ann Nash
- Mrs Carol Hatton
- Ms Christine Fowler (To August 2023)
- Mrs Julie Galvin (from March 2023)

Deanery Synod reps

- Mr Mike Harris
- Mrs Rae Harris

- Co-opted members: Mr John Raywood (Treasurer) - Mrs Jo Lark (Secretary)
- Safeguarding Officer: Ms Christine Fowler (to August 2023) - Mr John Galvin (From November 2023)

## Deanery Synod Report

Lyminster is part of Arundel and Bognor Deanery Synod. Mike and Rae Harris represent Lyminster Church at these meetings.

7th Feb 2023 – St Wilfrid’s Bognor Regis -Guest speaker – Coleen Jackson from Diocese of Portsmouth “Spirituality amongst older people”. Coleen introduced us to a very interesting talk on Anna Chaplaincy <https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk>. This was discussed at PCC and information has been passed to Churches Together.

18th July 2023 – St Richard’s Bognor Regis - Guest speaker – Bishop Ruth sharing inspiring stories of things happening in our Diocese and Deaneries. Followed by discussions in small groups.

29 Nov 2023 – St Mary’s Church Feltham - Guest Speaker – Steve Gurr with an inspirational talk on pastoral care – “More than tea and sympathy”. Handout for the talk is available from Mike and at the back of church.

## Fabric Report

The varying checks for safety in the church have been carried out as instructed by the Diocese and a long overdue quinquennial inspection was carried out. Our grateful thanks must go to Kevin Guild who has kept the churchyard mowed throughout the year. Finally Diocesan permission was gained for the flushing toilet project. Quotes were called for and initially these were exorbitant but with dogged persistence from Roger Davies, Mike Harris and Carol Hatton, members of the PCC, we are now able to go ahead.

## Financial Report

Our Treasurer has pursued gift aid refunds due to us along with substantial rebates from our utility suppliers and returns of VAT overpayments. The Parish Giving Scheme is still being encouraged.

At the end of 2023 our pledge to the Diocese of £30,000.00 had been paid and all accounts were up to date. Once again, we did not have any major fundraising during the year but various small fetes have brought in welcome funds. Our investments are still giving good returns. We ended the year with a healthy surplus of £12,243.25 and an end of year balance in our account of £33,564.14.

## Account Notes

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2001 and the Church Charities Act 2001 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2015, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Carol Groves, Independent Examiner of Accounts, was appointed and her full report is attached to the accounts.

Full copies of the Financial Statement and Accounts are available on the Lyminster Church website and a copy is on the notice board at the back of the church. Should you require a hard copy of the accounts please email [jo.lark12@gmail.com](mailto:jo.lark12@gmail.com).

