



**ST MARY
MAGDALENE**

LYMINSTER

PARISH PROFILE



The Parish

St. Mary Magdalene Church is a Grade 1 listed building situated in the village of Lyminster, West Sussex, off the A284, between Arundel and Littlehampton.

The Church itself is situated within a conservation area and predominantly surrounded by farmland. The seaside resort of Littlehampton lies to the south and the historic town of Arundel lies to the north. From here there are spectacular views of the South Downs National Park. To the west you have Bognor Regis and the City of Chichester and Worthing and the City of Brighton are to the east.



There have been several new housing developments recently within the further boundaries of the parish but with the location of the Church, private transport is essential for most of those wishing to attend. Public transport does not pass through the village on a Sunday.



The Church and its People

As Lyminster is only a small village most of our congregation come from further afield. Many of them have had a long association with the Church over several generations. For the main weekly 11am Eucharist Service the average attendance is approximately 30 and tends to be towards the older age group. Our once-a-month Family Service has been steadily growing under the guidance of the benefice curate who is based at All Saints Church in Wick. This is one of the many ways we have benefitted by being in a benefice with them. This service is lively and interactive with families contributing with craft activities and reading, and also with tea and coffee after the service. During the vacancy the 8am communion from the Book of Common Prayer has had to be reduced to once-a-month. There is a stable 8-10 people who attend this service.



Members of the congregation read the Lesson and lead intercessions at the 11am service and also we have several trained members of the congregation to help serve the Chalice at communion and act as sacristans. Flowers, cleaning and opening and closing of the Church are all willingly done by volunteers.

Since the global covid pandemic we have not yet re-established our major fundraising event, our summer fete, but smaller events have been held throughout the year. Quiz nights, concerts, Christmas Fayres, harvest lunches have all been well supported to help bring in much needed funds.

A prayer group runs once a month and we are also very involved in pastoral care in our community and support various charities, including Turning Tides, 4Sight, the local foodbank and local chaplains.

Several of the young people from the Family Service attend the summer camp held by Littlehampton Churches each year.

Who we are looking for – What we can offer

- Our new Minister should:

- Be dedicated to the service of God and the Christian family community
- Be able to work collaboratively within the Benefice of All Saints, Wick and St. Mary Magdalene
- Be able to offer creative meaningful leadership to all age groups
- Work with the congregation and the PCC to use their skills to enhance the smooth running of the Church
- Have a commitment to pastoral care and outreach and an ability to lead and develop work to support those with particular needs
- Be happy to engage with the congregation at both a spiritual and social level
- Be open to tradition as well as being innovative in fresh ideas regarding worship and mission
- Have the ability to deal with the interests and needs of people from all walks of life
- We welcome both female and male applicants



- A friendly inclusive Church and local community
- A beautiful Grade 1 listed building including bell tower
- A Church that has been an established place of worship since Norman times
- An established vibrant choir with an enthusiastic choir master/organist
- Due to position and beauty of the church we are a very popular venue for christenings and weddings for anyone with a qualifying connection with the parish
- Tea and coffee after 11am and family service giving the chance for the congregation to socialise
- An established PCC willing to assist in any situation
- A few minutes walk from the church there is a vicarage which is a centrally heated detached 4-bedroom house, with large kitchen diner, lounge, study and downstairs cloakroom. Upstairs is a family bathroom. The master bedroom has ensuite, there are 2 further double bedrooms and one single. For keen gardeners there is a fair size garden backing on to open fields.



Worship



- Sundays – 8am – 4th Sunday of the month – Communion from Common Book of Prayer (Ideally, we would like to reinstate to twice monthly services)

9.30am – 3rd Sunday of the month - Family Service – a lively interactive service

11am – every Sunday – traditional Eucharist service

We celebrate all major festivals from the Liturgical calendar. Some of these jointly with All Saints Church. Our services during Advent are always well attended with the congregation coming from wider regions of the county to attend.

Pew sheets are handed out each week showing the Lesson and Gospel readings along with welcome information, prayer list and any church or community events of interest. Our grateful thanks go to the Wick Information Centre who print these for us.

Deanery and Diocese

St. Mary Magdalene is part of the Diocese of Chichester and in the Deanery of Arundel and Bognor. The Deanery covers a wide area from Bognor in the west to Angmering and East Preston in the east with Aldingbourne, Walburton and Arundel to the North. It embraces a wide variety of Churchmanship, practice and tradition and our Deanery Synod members say it has a very supportive feel, with those of different traditions feeling valued by all the others. The meetings are interesting and informative.



The Building

- The building dates from the 11th century and is Grade 1 listed. It is in a good state of repair taking its age into account. Over the centuries various additions and alterations have been made but the character of the Church has been maintained. New roofing has been undertaken and this year will see the old compostible toilet removed and a new flushing toilet installed. Our grateful thanks to the local farmer for giving us permission to have a septic tank on his property. A long overdue quinquennial report has just been completed.



The churchyard is well maintained by voluntary helpers and a plan of the churchyard has been produced to assist in locating graves and planning for its use as it is still open for burials.

St. Mary Magdalene, Lyminster, has been a place of worship for over 1000 years.

Finances

As with all small churches, finance is always a concern. Our congregation are very generous and continue to support the church even though everyone is suffering from financial hardship in one form or another. With no fundraising fetes during the pandemic of 2020 and subsequent years of 2021 and 2022 we have had to juggle our finances to pay our parish share, thankfully due to fortunate circumstances that have arisen this year we are in a position to pledge £30,000 for 2023.



Vision for the Future

- We would love to encourage social interaction within the varying sections of the church.



- At present we have no bridging service between the family service and the more traditional 11am Eucharist service and we would hope to establish this in the future. At the moment our congregation for 8am and 11am is in the elder generation. In saying that, our family service is thriving and growing because of several new families in the parish. Our eventual aim is to link the three services, but with the lack of a hall or building to use as a withdrawal venue this is proving hard to achieve.



- A Mission Action Plan has been established which will include more outreach to include the new housing estates at the far extremities of our parish boundary. This is approximately 2 miles away and with the lack of public transport some people will find difficulty in attending a service.



- A member of the choir is looking into re-establishing a church newsletter so people are aware of our services and social activities.

- Everyone is always welcome at our Church, please arrange a visit to see the tranquility and beauty of St. Mary Magdalene and its surroundings.

