

Trustees Annual Report
of
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster:
For the year ended 31 December 2021

CONTENTS

Trustees Annual Report	p2
Notes to the Accounts	p6

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Introduction

Every year the PCC is required to write a report of our 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 and to look forward.

This review looks back over 2021, which continued to be lived in the shadow of the global pandemic. It was also a year when Vanessa Baron who had been the vicar here for the previous four years moved to a new position at Chichester Cathedral.

I am deeply grateful to everyone in the congregation who had helped during this time, whether practically by activities like cleaning or by keeping in touch with other members of the congregation. Those whose services have been reduced in frequency whilst we await a new priest in Lyminster have been very gracious and understanding. We give thanks to God for his faithfulness and continue in the years ahead to know, to love and to follow Jesus Christ.

Tom Robson, Incumbent of the Lyminster and Wick Benefice, April 2022.

Website:	www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk
Incumbent:	The Revd Tom Robson
Associate Vicar (until August 2021):	The Revd Vanessa Baron
Independent Examiner:	Mrs Carol Groves
Bankers:	HSBC, Rustington

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

Our aims and purposes as a Church and religious charity.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Tom Robson, 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, our incumbent and 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 via our online services for part of the year; 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 together, 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 Christmas Services.
- To support the musical life of the church and the bell ringers.
- To provide a beautiful and memorable setting for significant family events such as weddings.
- 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 Incumbent, Associate Vicar and 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 Mrs Margaret Russell for her continuing work as Safeguarding Officer in 2021.

To know Jesus (Coming to faith)

This year continued to be influenced by the pandemic and the first few months were again spent in lockdown. This year we were able to continue with socially-distanced services with a number of restrictions, which we recorded and uploaded to Youtube for those who understandably remained at home at that stage in the pandemic. These online additions had views equivalent to an average of 3-5 people watching the whole service each Sunday. We need to note out thanks to James Baron for recording all the services.

Considerable effort has gone into sustaining and expanding the Family Service, which met twice a month at 9.30 for the first half of the year, and enjoyed a fun social in the vicarage garden in the summer. This service has continued to attract new families, even during and following the lockdowns. At the end of the year, the family service had considerably grown in number and many also attended the return of in person all-age services at Christmas such as Christingle and Crib services.

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.

A small number of the Year 5 and 6 children attended a Covid-safe Summer Camp run by the churches in Littlehampton. They enjoyed themselves hugely, being able to enjoy outdoor activities and crafts, as well as listening to Christian talks and simply having fun together after a challenging year.

A number of these children attend Arundel Church of England school and our links with the school have been strengthened by lay people and clergy taking assemblies there and helping with pre-school activities.

At Easter we gave children and families the opportunity to come and make Easter gardens outside the Church. It was the first time we tried it and it was a great success, with lots of people coming to think about Jesus' death and resurrection and helping create a fantastic Easter garden.

As we thought about our mission and wanting people to come to know Jesus, we held a planning coffee morning in the garden of the vicarage, gathering together mission ideas that then fed into the PCC's Mission Action Plan that was submitted to the Diocese in the autumn.

To love Jesus (Deepening faith)

The 8am service returned during 2021, providing a quiet and reflective service in the chancel using the traditional words of the Book of Common Prayer. Following Vanessa's departure this service took on a new pattern of twice a month, but the core congregation remains committed and continues to participate through reading the Bible, preparing the church and sharing in fellowship.

It was a blessing to be able to meet back in church for our other services. However, it took a while for all the restrictions to be removed, and a huge sense of joy was felt once we could sing again. The numbers in church continued to be a little below pre-Covid levels, but grew steadily back towards that number over the course of the year.

Members of the congregation continued to take responsibility for keeping in touch with others, phoning them and meeting up when possible. It was also a blessing to have our building open again for us to serve people at key times of life with a number of dedications, christenings, weddings and funerals.

In June we hosted the ordination of three deacons to the priesthood, including our own Mark Rodger. It was a happy occasion with a lovely service taken by Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham.

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Vanessa and James Baron in the summer of 2021. During their time with us they had been a wonderful presence not only in the church but in the community of Lyminster. A number of people spoke fondly of how they had positively impacted their faith and that they would be sorely missed.

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

Demonstrating the love of God to people in the local community continued to be important as we looked to gradually move out of the pandemic.

Very 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, although this too moved to be telephone support. For the most part, visiting Ford Prison and the Littlehampton Town Chaplaincy were not allowed during the year.

Working with All Saints, we were able to provide an online Marriage guidance course at the start of the year. We held a Lyminster lunch in June and then in July had a lovely afternoon of tea on the Paddock outside the vicarage and the heart of the village, followed by a well-attended songs of praise service.

In September we put on a special tea for those who perhaps find it harder to get to services in church. It was a lovely afternoon to chat, and encourage one another. At the end of November, a team from Lyminster put on a Christmas fayre, coffee and craft morning in Wick Hall. It went well, raising over £1,000 pounds for the church and also giving us the chance to meet people and show them something of the church's welcome and hospitality.

In December, in addition to our usual Christmas services, we put on a quiz in Wick Hall, wonderfully hosted by David and Francis Farrer-Brown. It was a successful evening in every way, and no doubt will be repeated.



The Lyminster Church Christmas Fayre held in Wick Hall

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 the following parishes and clergy:

Incumbent, the Rev'd Tom Robson.

Assistant curate, the Rev'd Mark Rodger

Associate Vicar, the Rev'd Vanessa Baron (House for Duty). (Until August 2021)

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary Magdalene the PCC consists of the Incumbent, the associate vicar at Lyminster, church wardens and others elected by members of the congregation who are on the PCC of the church. A treasurer 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 2021 are:

Ex Officio members;

- Incumbent: The Revd Tom Robson
- Associate Vicar: The Revd Vanessa Baron
- Curate: The Revd Mark Roger
- Church Warden: Mr Roger Davies
- Church Warden: Mrs Viv Prior

Elected Members

- Mrs Margaret Russell
- Mrs Sarah Davies
- Ms Ann Nash
- Mrs Carol Hatton

Co-opted members

- Mr James Baron (Treasurer)
- Mr John Raywood (Treasurer-elect from September 2021)
- Jo Lark (Secretary)

Deanery Synod Reps

- Mr Mike Harris
- Mrs Rae Harris

Notes to the Accounts

Financial Review

- The total receipts on general unrestricted funds was £46,737, which is broadly in line with the receipts in 2020 but significantly down on the previous years before that. Full details can be found in the Financial Statement and Accounts.
- Giving through standing orders and in the collection increased by 7.6% on 2020 to £25,485 in 2021.
- The total expenditure from general unrestricted funds was £39,494
- This expenditure does not include the 2nd and final payment of £12,000 to the Diocese towards our Parish Ministry Costs (PMC) in 2021.
- One of the biggest external income generators for the PCC, the summer fete, was unable to be held for a 2nd year in a row which had a significant impact on our finances for the 2nd year running.
- The largest expenditure to the PCC was the sum of £12,000 paid to the Diocese towards the cost of our ministry. This goes towards the cost of the training, housing, stipend and pension costs of clergy, diocesan central costs, departments at Church House and a contribution to the national church. It is worth noting that the £24,000 the PCC agreed to pay in 2021 only represents 46% of our actual costs, and so we continue to rely on other churches paying more than 100% of their costs.
- Although the balance sheet shows a surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £7,243, the more accurate picture is that due to the £12,000 PMC payment being delayed, the actual result for the year was a deficit of £4,757

Reserve Policy

It is the PCC policy to try and maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £10000. It is held to smooth out fluctuation in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £13486 held in the General Account at the end of the year is therefore considered sufficient at the present time.

(Full copies of the Financial Statement and Accounts will also be available on the Lyminster Church website)

Independent Examiner of Accounts

Carol Groves was appointed and has examined the 2021 Accounts.

Her report and the full accounts can be found online and hard copies in the Church.