

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Testimonies:** Many of you will have testimonies of God's goodness in a myriad of ways over the last year. It would be so good to share it with your church family, please get in touch with Lisa or let her know.

**Poor St Clares at Crossbush Taize Service** 7pm last Friday of each Month and Taize Service 6pm first Sunday of the month at United Reform/ Trinity Church High Street Littlehampton.

**Coffee/Tea rota and used stamps:** There is a container for stamps near the door. The coffee tea rota is also there.

### St Mary Magdalene regular service pattern at the moment

<b>1st Sunday of the month</b>	4pm All together communion
<b>2nd Sunday</b>	8 am BCP service and 11 am Communion
<b>3rd Sunday</b>	9.30 Family service 11am Parish communion
<b>4th Sunday</b>	11 am communion
<b>5th Sunday</b>	11 am Communion

**Please note changes 2nd Sunday 8am B C P and 3rd Sunday 11am service**

**Praying the News:** As we read or watch the news, let it move us to prayer rather than despair. Each story is an invitation to bring our world, its leaders, and its suffering to God in hope and trust.

## PRAYER LIST

Gwen Marsh, Miriam, Carol Hatton's good friend Lynne Rule-Peters, Sue Arthur, Richard and his Father.

Please email names for prayer list to [wickinformation@gmail.com](mailto:wickinformation@gmail.com)

# 1 February 2026

## 'The Blessings of the Kingdom'

### **Our Purpose: Deeply know, love and follow Jesus**

Welcome to St Mary Magdalene Church, Lyminster and to our church building which has been a place of worship for nearly 1,000 years. If you are visiting, or this is your first time here, please make yourself known to one of the welcomers.

We hope that you feel welcome and able to share in the good news of Jesus our risen Lord and Saviour. Please contact Lisa, priest in charge of St. Mary Magdalene and All Saints Wick, Churchwarden or welcomers if you'd like to, and please stay to get to know us better after the service. This week's service will be led by Revd. Lisa Fairman-Brown.

### ALL ENQUIRIES

#### Our Clergy

Rev'd Lisa Fairman-Brown Priest in charge  
email [rev.lyminsterwick@gmail.com](mailto:rev.lyminsterwick@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 07925 275184

#### Viv Prior (Warden)

[vivienneprior1@gmail.com](mailto:vivienneprior1@gmail.com) 01903 716021

HYMN WILL BE ON THE SERVICE SHEET

### **COLLECT for The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**In Matthew's Gospel, as Jesus sits on the hillside and opens his mouth to teach, the world quietly turns upside down.**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit... blessed are those who mourn... blessed are the meek." These are not the virtues our age applauds. We admire confidence, self-assertion and success. We avoid weakness, grief and dependence. Yet Jesus looks upon those very places we try to hide and says, 'There...there is the doorway to the kingdom of heaven.'

The Beatitudes are not a set of sayings, nor a moral ladder we must climb. They are first a revelation of Jesus himself. He is the poor in spirit who depends wholly on the Father. He is the man of sorrows who mourns a broken world. He is gentle and lowly of heart. To know Jesus is to recognise that God's reign comes not through strength but through surrender, not through trying to do better but through grace.

This is both deeply unsettling and wonderfully freeing. If blessing belongs to the self-sufficient, then many of us are lost. But if blessing belongs to those who know their need, then hope is nearer than we think. The kingdom of God is not a reward for the impressive; it is a gift for the hungry.

Jesus does not call us to admire this upside-down kingdom from a distance, instead he calls us to enter it, to repent but also to rest. To lay down our coping and allow him to meet us in our poverty of spirit, our grief, our longing for righteousness. There, in the very places we fear, we find Christ himself.

May the Spirit give us ears to hear this strange good news, hearts soft enough to receive it, and courage to follow Jesus into the blessing of his upside-down kingdom.

**BIBLE READINGS**

**Verses of prophecy from the book of Isaiah 61:1-3**

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour.

**Matthew 5:1-12**

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. He said: 3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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**Next week's services:** 8 am BCP & 11am Communion

### **New Preaching Series Sunday: Isaiah Fulfilled – Meeting Jesus in**

**Matthew's Gospel** We will be focussing on the eye-witness account of Jesus in Matthew's gospel and seeing how he deliberately frames Jesus as the fulfilment of the prophecies given through Isaiah some 700 years earlier.

**As we begin 2026**, would you renew your commitment to pray and please pray for the strengthening of their faith and a deepening hope in God, that they may be filled with joy and peace as they trust in Him, knowing He has a purpose and a future for them.

**Holy Communion** – Each dipping their own wafer – unfortunately this practice may not continue. I realise this may be distressing for those who have been doing this now for some while since the pandemic and I apologise for not picking up on this before now. However the Church of England's guidance states that ordinary communicants should not dip the consecrated bread into the chalice themselves. This is because it is not an authorised Anglican practice in the normal liturgy of Holy Communion. Receiving in one kind (just bread or wine) when necessary still counts as full communion. Dipping by communicants is considered unhygienic and increases the risk of contamination of the chalice with germs or gluten from the bread, which could affect others.

**National Day of Prayer & Worship (NDOPW)** invites you to join the 32 Days of on-line (Zoom) 24/32 Prayer (5th Jan to 5th Feb). The link is: [www.ndopw.com/dailyprayer](http://www.ndopw.com/dailyprayer). You may join at any time.

**New Hour of Worship in Littlehampton** with Hope Rising 4th Sunday of the month at United Reform/Trinity Church, High Street, Littlehampton. 6.30 refreshments. 7-8pm worship.

**Giving in different ways:** Thank you for all the ways that you are contributing to the life of St Mary Magdalene Church. Thank you that many of you give by serving on teams. We would absolutely love to welcome you to serve too. Please ask Viv where our various teams need strengthening Thank you for the way you give to all involved in our mission and ministry through your prayers for us, and for God's mission through St Mary Magdalene. Finally, thank you, for your generous giving, and if you would like to find out about that, you can go to the giving page on our website or scan the code below. We do encourage you, if you consider yourself a regular worshipping member of St Mary Magdalene to consider this.



**Alpha Course** – You are invited! Come and join us for Week 2. We had a great start last Wednesday night, we are moving into All Saints church (BN17 7JT) where it will be more spacious, same great atmosphere and the cake will follow us. Come and see what you think, this week we consider 'Who is Jesus?' For the explorers, curious, still thinking. Wednesday 4 th February, 7.30pm, All Saints Church Wick.

**New Wine Festival 2026** – As we look ahead to the summer. Join us this summer at New Wine Festival 2026! 28 July – 2 August, at the Bath & West Showground for a powerful week of worship, teaching, age-specific programmes, and time together as the wider church family. Our Church, along with churches from across the nation will gather, to be refreshed, inspired, and encounter God together in worship, teaching, and the power of the Holy Spirit and to enjoy meaningful time with others on the same journey. All Saints has its own mini village on the campsite, a number of us are already booked. Book now at [festival.new-wine.org](http://festival.new-wine.org)