

## 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**

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

Gill & Michael Lee, Barbara Evens granddaughter; Evie, Margaret Russell & Family, 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)

# 8 March 2026

## 'Is This the One?'

### **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. Bill Meyer.

### 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 NUMBERS WILL BE ON THE BOARD

## **COLLECT for The Third Sunday of Lent**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **A prayer of hope**

“As an Iranian and as a Christian, I speak with a heavy heart,” shares a local Open Doors\* partner. “I do not celebrate war, nor do I take lightly the suffering it brings to ordinary families in Iran, in Israel and across the region. Every life is precious before God.

“Yet as an Iranian, I also cannot ignore the deep longing for freedom that has lived in the hearts of our people for generations. If this painful moment becomes a turning point toward justice and true liberty, then my prayer is that it leads not to greater destruction, but to the restoration of dignity, hope and peace.”

He adds: “As followers of Christ, we pray for the protection of the innocent, for restraint among leaders, and for a future where Iran and the region may know freedom without fear. **May God bring light out of darkness and peace out of turmoil.**”

### **“A significant moment in Iran’s history”**

An Open Doors expert on Iran shares: “The death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei marks a significant and sobering moment in Iran’s history. As an Iranian Christian, I cannot ignore that under his leadership the church in Iran lived for decades under intense pressure, facing restrictions, surveillance, arrests and the constant weight of uncertainty. Many faithful believers endured suffering simply for following Christ.

“Yet even in hardship, the church has remained resilient, prayerful and deeply rooted in hope. This moment is not about revenge or triumph, but about the possibility of a different future. One where freedom of

conscience, dignity and justice are extended to all Iranians, regardless of faith or background. My prayer is that this turning point will open the way for peace, reconciliation and genuine freedom for our nation.”

### **Please keep praying**

Given this escalation, we call for urgent prayers for the people in Iran, Palestinian Territories, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon and especially for our brothers and sisters. Please join in praying:

- for peace, protection and wisdom for the people of Iran and the wider region amid violence and uncertainty
- for comfort for families who have lost loved ones and for the lives of all citizens to be protected
- for families facing economic hardship, that the Lord would provide their daily bread
- for children who are afraid and confused, that God would be their Comforter and protect their hearts and minds
- for those injured, both physically and psychologically, to receive divine healing and emotional restoration
- for Christians in these countries to remain vessels of hope, faith and light to their neighbours
- for leaders and decision-makers worldwide to act justly and wisely and speak boldly for freedom of religion and belief
- for Christian converts in detention, and for all believers held in custody, that they would be protected from any harm and released swiftly
- for courage and hope among Iranian Christians, that even in loss and fear, they would know that they’re not forgotten and not alone. Pray that they will rely on God these days.

\* In the UK and Ireland, Open Doors helps the church to pray, give and speak out for those who share our faith but not our freedom.

[Opendoorsuk.org](http://Opendoorsuk.org)

### **BIBLE READINGS**

#### **The Servant who restores Soul and Body**

#### **Verses of prophecy from the book of Isaiah 35:5-6; 61:1**

5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue

shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

## Chapter 61

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,

### **Matthew 11:1-19**

1 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. 2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' 4 Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.' 7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." 11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15 Whoever has ears, let them hear. 16 'To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the market-places and calling out to others: 17 "We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn." 18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon." 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Here is a glutton and

a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners." But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.'

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

**Next week's service's:** Family service at 9.30 & 11am Communion

**Ladies Breakfast.** The next Ladies Breakfast Meeting is on Saturday the 14th at 9am in the small hall. We're excited that Pauline Latter will be giving her testimony. Please bring a 'bring and share' contribution towards the breakfast if you can, remembering that Wick Hall is a nut-free zone (and no strawberries too please). Please let us know if you're coming, so we have enough tables and chairs out. Thank you, Maryann, Christine, Oli and Liz

**Friday Coffee Mornings** March 20th and 27th raising money for The Snowdrop Trust. Easter theme Tombola and Raffle. Any donations will be gratefully received

**Retreat Day** – All invited to the Holy Spirit Away Day, Bishop's Palace, Chichester. Saturday 28th March, 10am–4pm. Please let Lisa or Liz know that you would like to come: [officeallsaintswick@gmail.com](mailto:officeallsaintswick@gmail.com)

**Electoral Roll Revision 2026** – If you have joined our church in the last year and either All Saints or St Mary Magdalene or both are now your church home, you are potentially eligible to join the Church Electoral Roll. Please speak to Lisa or one of the Churchwardens.

**Parochial Church Council (PCC)** – There will be vacancies for PCC and Church Warden, please come and have a conversation with Lisa if you are interested.

**Prayer Ministry Training** – please get in touch with Lisa for a chat if you would like to be involved in prayer ministry training. A training session will be run very soon.



**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.

**New Wine this summer – help/gifts** You may have caught Kerry's encouragement about how inspirational she found the New Wine Week was for her last summer. Many of you will know that from your own experience too, perhaps you've been and seen just how faith-building it can be. You may also be someone who hasn't been, or can't go this year, but would love to bless others to go. We know there are people in our church family who would dearly love to attend this summer but for whom cost or even not having camping equipment is a real barrier. We've set up a New Wine designated fund to help with that. If you'd like to contribute, please have a conversation with Lisa as soon as possible. Or if you'd love to go but are hesitating because of cost or equipment, please do come and have a conversation with Lisa. We would love, as far as possible, for everyone who wants to go to New Wine this summer to be able to do so. [Festival.new-wine.org](http://Festival.new-wine.org)

**National Day of Prayer & Worship (NDOPW)** 32 days of continual Prayer was concluded at Midnight on Thursday, 5th February. However, you are invited to join NDOPW at 7am, Noon, 7pm and Midnight every day on Zoom. The link is: [www.ndopw.com/dailyprayer](http://www.ndopw.com/dailyprayer) (Read Ephesians 4:3-6)

**Our next Men's Ministry breakfast** is on Saturday 21 March 9am – 10.30am In the small hall & kitchen Wick hall Aaron Colhoun is our speaker & he will share his amazing testimony. Bacon Sausage & egg baps will be served for which I suggest a £5 donation. Please include in notices for All Saints Wick 9 & 10.30 and Lyminster Church please.

**I am once again asking for donations of Easter Eggs** to distribute to homeless and those in temporary accommodation around our town. This year there are more than ever, so please spread a little Christian Joy and drop eggs in the box to be found in church, with grateful thanks – Viv Prior

### **Easter Services**

Holy Week

Monday, 7pm. Holy Week Reflection, All Saints Church

Tuesday, 7pm. Holy Week Reflection, All Saints Church

Wednesday, 9.30am, Holy Week Communion Service

Thursday, 6.30pm, Passover Meal, (details to follow)

Maundy Thursday Garden Watch

Good Friday, 2.30pm, Hour at the Cross, St Mary Magdalene Church

Easter Sunday:

United Sunrise Service at East Beach Littlehampton,  
details to follow

United Celebration Service with Holy Communion,  
10.30am, Wick Hall

Service of Holy Communion, 11am, St Mary Magdalene  
Church