

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

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.

Prayer group meets every 3rd Wednesday of the Month 7:30 at Gills. All welcome.

St Mary Magdalene regular service pattern at the moment

1st Sunday of the month All together communion 4pm

2nd Sunday Communion 11am

3rd Sunday All together 9.30am

4th Sunday BCP Communion 8.30 am

Communion 11am

5th Sunday Communion 11am

B C P service for January, February and March will be at 8am on 2nd Sunday of the Month.

PRAYER LIST

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

Please email names for prayer list to wickinformation@gmail.com



14 December 2025

Be Ready, Church!

Our Purpose: Know, Love & 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
Mobile: 07925 275184

Viv Prior (Warden)

vivienneprior1@gmail.com 01903 716021

HYMN NUMBERS WILL BE ON THE BOARD

COLLECT for The Third Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

The joy of the redeemed a vision in full colour – Gaudete Sunday/ Advent 3

Isaiah 35 is a biblical masterpiece like a Rembrandt in words, a symphony of hope painted by God Himself. It shows us the world Christ will bring when He returns: creation renewed, bodies restored, joy overflowing, and God dwelling with His people.

This is the world we are inviting people towards through our Carol Services this weekend, Nine Lessons and Carols next weekend, and our Alpha Course in the New Year. Isaiah 35 is the destination. These services are the doorway.

So imagine the full colour picture which Isaiah is putting across. This is a place where the desert blossoms. The driest places burst into colour and barren land becomes a garden. Every invitation we offer is a glimpse of the God who makes desolate lives beautiful.

“‘Trembling hands and feeble knees’ are steadied because God Himself comes to save. When we invite others to worship, we invite them to meet the One who speaks courage into fear. Broken bodies and broken lives are restored, the blind see, the deaf hear and the lame leap (Janet’s preach last Sunday of jumping for joy from bended knee). Alpha exists for this very purpose: to help people take first steps toward the One who makes all things new.

Water floods the thirsty ground and oasis replaces wilderness. Every invitation is like offering a cup of living water to someone longing for more than this world can give.

A Highway of Holiness appears. It’s a safe, joyful path where the redeemed walk together towards glory. It’s where we walk and the road we invite others onto. Here everlasting joy crowns God’s people. Sorrow flees. Gladness fills the air and fills our lungs. This is the ultimate invitation of Christmas: not to a service, but to everlasting joy.

So, Church – Gaudete! Rejoice! As we give out invitations and welcome guests this Advent and at Christmas, remember: we are not inviting people simply to a service, we are inviting them into eternity. Into the joy of the redeemed, the renewal of all things, the life –full and forever – that Jesus alone can give.

Joy to the world, the King is coming. May everyone for whom All Saints or St Mary Magdalene is their church home, have a wonderful Christmas and may God’s comfort bring you great joy. Lisa

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10

1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. 3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, ‘Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.’ 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. 7 The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. 8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. 9 No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, 10 and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, ‘Peace and safety’, destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether

we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Matthew 11: 2-11

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.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Next week's service's 9.30 Christingle . 4PM 9 Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Eve. 3pm Crib Service .11.15 Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day All together Communion 10 am at All Saints Church

3rd Sunday Holy Communion Service – from Sunday 18 th January there will be an 11am service each month on the third Sunday.

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.

Friday Coffee Morning at All Saints Church. First three Fridays in December raising money for St Barnabas Hospice Christmas themed Tombola and Raffle and Scones Cakes and Pastries.

The National Day of Prayer & Worship (NDOPW) invites you to join the 72 hours of prayer from midnight on Thursday 11th December to midnight on Sunday 14th December. The link is: www.ndopw.com/dailyprayer. You may join at any time. Also, be sure to watch Songs of Praise on Sunday 14th December at 1.15pm on BBC1

Bishop's Certificate 2026

The Bishop's Certificate is an exciting new opportunity for lay people across the Diocese of Chichester to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, explore their calling, and grow in ministry. 20 weeks + 3 Saturdays over 3 terms. Our closest course venue is Worthing, on Mondays from Jan, 7-9pm. Cost £50 or free for the unwaged. It is open to anyone in the diocese with a desire to grow in faith and service. No prior theological training is required, just a willingness to learn and participate. For the course overview, links to the application form and location details, click this [link](#) or visit Chichester Diocese website-Vocations & Ministry. Deadline for applications 15 December.

Improvements to the Sound System – We have commissioned a sound engineer to replace our fault mics and make minor adjustments to the speakers. This is taking place week commencing 8th December. We hope to have good sound everywhere in the building and in time for our special Christmas services.

Helping Set Up Administration Systems I am thankful that Liz Brooks has agreed to work with me over the next few months as our Parish Office Development Lead. She is supporting the parish on a temporary, self-employed basis, helping us put in place the systems and foundations we need for the future. This short-term work will prepare the way for us to create a permanent Parish Administrator role, which we hope to appoint later in 2026. Please join me in welcoming Liz into this role and praying for

her as she helps us strengthen the ministry and administration of the parish. Liz will continue in her current volunteer roles, such as PCC secretary, alongside this paid role, and we are grateful for all she already contributes to our church life.

Please continue to pray for Victoria Godsmark a Committed Member of Lyminster Church Following her confirmation. May she know the abiding presence of God with her in every circumstance.

Please be Praying – for all our Christmas Events, Services, Preparations, Volunteers, Visitors, Conversations and Connections with our Friends, Neighbours and Community. Please also be praying the same for churches right across our corner of the country as well as those you are connected with elsewhere. May this Christmas be the beginning of newness of life in Jesus for all sorts of people who come to or connect with the local church.

Christmas is coming – and we're getting excited and organised!

This year, we'd like as many church family members as possible to feel included in the 'To Do' list for our Christmas Celebrations. So, can you help with any of the following please?

- 21st – 26th November: especially delivering Christmas invitations to all homes in our parishes (before the first event on 29 Nov)
- Welcoming/Stewarding
- Serving/Hospitality

We are all needed as 'mingling welcome team', let's mark the season by looking out for those we don't know with joy and friendship, just as you are already doing. The first (and biggest) priority is the leafleting in bundles of approx 50 of these. They will be made up by 21st November for delivery before the first event on the 29th. If you are willing and able to deliver, please would you let Viv or Lisa know and give us an indication of which part/s of our wonderfully wide parish you would cover (Crossbush, Warningcamp, Hampton Park, Lyminster (south of Black Ditch), Lyminster (Church Lane area), Lyminster Road (north of the bypass). Thank you so much for your help with this, Lisa

Christmas Invitations Thank you so much to everyone who came forward to deliver our Christmas Invitations this year. We really appreciate your help with this.

Christmas is coming, this year the homeless appeal is slightly different.

The Lovely Ladies of Angmering are concentrating on those on the street. I am hoping to fill goody bags for all in very basic temporary accommodation. To spread some Christmas cheer. Required: Small tins of Ham, Corn Beef, salmon, tuna, fruit, cream or custard. Jar of pickles, Bar of chocolate or packet of sweets, Packet of nuts or special biscuits and Christmas crackers. With sincere thanks for all your contributions, Viv. (There will be a spare list in church.)

Christmas Services – who will you invite? Do look out for guests at our services – if St Mary Magdalene is your home church, then you are part of the welcome team.

Save the dates, invite your friends & family, pray for our neighbours to join you this Christmas for:

14th December	Carols for Everyone, 4.30pm, Wick Hall Carols for Everyone, 7.00pm, All Saints Church
21st December	Christingle, 9.30am, Lyminster Church Nine Lessons & Carols, 4pm, Lyminster Church
Christmas Eve	Crib Service, 3pm, Lyminster Church Crib Service, 5pm, All Saints Church Midnight Holy Communion, 11.15pm, Lyminster Church
Christmas Day	All Together Celebration Service with Holy Communion, 10am, All Saints Church