

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

A huge thank you to all for the donations received for the homeless appeal this year, it made a lot of disadvantaged people happy.

A big thank you to all who delivered the Christmas invitations around the benefice, there were lots of New faces at all services, they really made a difference.

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.

There will be no Prayer group on the third Wednesday in January, we will resume in February.

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

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

18 January 2026

'Preparing the Way'

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
Mobile: 07925 275184

Viv Prior (Warden)

vivienneprior1@gmail.com 01903 716021

HYMN NUMBERS WILL BE ON THE BOARD

COLLECT for The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Don't miss the last word in the following verse from today's Bible reading.

'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near,' this is not a threat but a promise. John's call reminds us that repentance is about turning towards God, not shrinking away from him. The good news is that God is not distant or disinterested. In Jesus, his kingdom has drawn near to us in grace, mercy, and transforming love. Whatever this past week has held, today is an invitation to turn again to Christ, to lay down what weighs us down, and to receive the life he offers. God is at work among us, and his renewing kingdom is closer than we think.

I invite you to read this message again, with a hot drink in your hand. Pause, be still and centre your senses on the presence of God with you, read it slowly and then dwell on a word or phrase which stirred you and know that the God of heaven and earth is near, Immanuel God with us.

BIBLE READINGS

Verses of prophecy from the book of Isaiah: 7:14 and 9:6,7

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there

will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Matthew 1:1-25

1 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: 2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, 4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5

Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, 7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, 8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, 9 Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. 12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, 15 Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. 17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah. 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' 22 All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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Next week's services will be a Communion Service at 11am.

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.

Third Sunday Communion Service - Starting 18th January, 11am We look forward to celebrating holy communion each week with you.

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.

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.

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. You may join at any time.

We are sad to announce that long standing member of our church family Tina Ward was called home by the Lord on 15.12.25. Her funeral will take place on Monday 26th January at Worthing crematorium. Muntham Chapel @12.30. Tina regularly attended and served at the 8am service and served the church in a number of ways. Our prayers are with her family.

It is with deep sorrow that we share the news from All Saints of the unexpected death, just before the New Year of our dear friend and sister in Christ Alison Manester. Alison was at the heart of All Saints, often the first to greet us, whether outside the door or inside, and serving faithfully in countless ways across our church life. Most recently she opened the readings at the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols. Her warmth and cheerfulness will be profoundly missed. Yet as we mourn, we also hold fast to the hope of our faith in Jesus Christ, a hope that Alison trusted. Our comfort does not rest on the strength of our own faith, but on the faithfulness of our Saviour, who promises life and peace beyond understanding. As John 3:16 reminds us, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' In Jesus, the gift of eternal life is offered to all who believe. Alison now rests in that love, and we are called to lean on it too, trusting in God's promise that nothing, not even death, can separate us from His purposes and His care.

As we move into this New Year, let's spur one another on to lean on God's promises day by day, remembering Philippians 1:6: '*He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*' May this assurance strengthen us, encourage us, and remind us that God's faithfulness never fails.