

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.

It is with great sadness we have to announce that Ray Russell peaceful in his sleep pass into the arms of Jesus Monday/Tuesday evening Our prayers and blessings to Margaret and family.

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

Jo Lark, 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

22 February 2026

'The Servant with Authority Over Storms and Spirits'

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 Roger Purdom.

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

262 O Lord my God - How great Thou art
380 At the name of Jesus
390 Blessed assurance
398 Christ triumphant

COLLECT for The First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Testimony of good fun

On this first Sunday of Lent, I want to share with you my pastor friend's letter to his congregation, it's food for thought:

Sometime ago I read about a particular bike race that took place in India. One of the participants was however unclear about the rules. When the starting gun was fired, off he rode as fast as he could. Instantly he realised he was being successful – he left the other cyclists far behind. On and on he went until he couldn't even see them, he was so far in front. Finally, when he returned to the starting point he was stunned when he discovered that he had come last in the competition. You see the purpose of the race was to discover who could go the slowest and not fall off. He had misjudged what real success was.

There is a fascinating spiritual parallel to this. The driving force in our society is "be successful" and "be an achiever". Society measures success in terms of "promotion", "wealth", "power", "holidays", "expensive cars" etc etc. The reality however, is that in God's eyes, real success and real achievement is measured in how a person has progressed in their spiritual life. It is to be measured in how loyal an individual is to His Commandments, how trusting they are of His promises, and how faithful they are in resisting temptation. It is to be measured in how they have progressively dealt with their character faults, how they have treated others around them and how they have brought their life into line with the will of God. True greatness, true achievement and true success is what a person is like in heart. It is the heart which God values. And what rewards come with this kind of success? The rewards are peace, joy, self-control, gentleness, kindness and so on. In Revelation Chapter 3 a chilling description is given of people who fail to realise what real success is. It states, "*you have said*

I am rich, have become wealthy and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked."

Day after day I see people striving for the wrong kind of success. I see them working long hours to climb up the corporate ladder. I often think they are like people climbing a tall tree – they strive and sweat and struggle and often they finally achieve their goal by reaching the top, but I know that one day it will dawn on them they have been climbing the wrong tree. If they had spent as much energy and time developing a Godly character then they would be truly great and have rewards that money cannot buy.

Some years ago, a Christian woman described how a young man had repeatedly asked her out on a date. He wasn't interested in spiritual matters and they had nothing in common but he kept on and on at her inviting her to this and that event. Finally in exasperation the young man said "what on earth do you Christians do for fun?" The woman replied, "For fun I get up in the morning without feeling embarrassed or ashamed about what I did the night before." Thinking about it years later, she was able to add, "*For fun I am married to a fine Christian man, for fun I have a little girl and my husband and I are building a Christian home together. I am thrilled at the fun my daughter is having – fun every day, living without the affliction of having selfish materialistic parents. Its fun looking forward to my husband coming home, knowing he won't be stopping off at the pub for a few drinks. Its fun knowing that while he is away, his Christian conduct won't allow infidelity. Its fun watching him hold my daughter with loving protective arms. The list of fun things is endless."*

True success and true greatness are measured in how a person has progressed in their faithfulness towards God and the rewards and fun that comes from this "greatness" are priceless. We should all look at our lives through God's eyes. Only then will we discover if in reality we are a loser or a winner in God's race of life.

During this season of Lent, as we prepare for Easter, let us ask ourselves if we really are in a right relationship with the Lord. The sending of Jesus to suffer in our place on the Cross was no trivial matter....it was

no small thing...it is actually God's indescribable gift to us. And yet the response of many who say they are Christians is to neglect reading their Bible, neglect attending Church and neglect taking Holy Communion all because they have fallen for the lie that worldly success is more important than being faithful to God. One of the most famous paintings of the crucifixion has the wording underneath "I did this for you, what are you doing for Me?" The season of Lent is a perfect time to ask ourselves that very question.

Lisa adds: Today is a great day to start a Bible reading plan, to pause for just 5 minutes in prayer simply enjoying God's presence, to confess to God your sin – it has unparalleled power to deflate our ego, to spend just 5 minutes every day reading a devotional book. Then repeat tomorrow, and by the end of Lent, life-giving habits will have been formed in you.

BIBLE READINGS

Verses of prophecy from the book of Isaiah 53:4

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

Matthew 8:18-34

18 When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. 19 Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, 'Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.' 20 Jesus replied, 'Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' 21 Another disciple said to him, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' 22 But Jesus told him, 'Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.' 23 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. 24 Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. 25 The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We're going to drown!' 26 He replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. 27 The men were amazed and asked, 'What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!' 28 When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. 29 'What do you want with us, Son of God?' they shouted. 'Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?' 30 Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. 31 The demons begged Jesus, 'If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.' 32 He said to them, 'Go!' So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. 33 Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

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Next week's service: 11am service of the Word.

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

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 (Read Ephesians 4:3-6)

News from Bishop Martin, Rt Reverend Martin Warner writes: I shall retire from office on 31 May this year. It has been an enormous privilege to work with so many gifted and committed people during my time in Chichester. I shall always be grateful for our partnership in apostolic mission and will hold this joyful household of faith in my prayers as its future unfolds. The diocese seems to be in good heart after the 950 celebrations. A new diocesan bishop will bring fresh vision and energy, and be supported by a strong, gifted, confident team which is committed to the quality of Christian life in our schools, our parishes, and outreach to those in need. There are well-established protocols for a diocesan vacancy and appointing a new bishop. Discussion about this is now taking shape. There is little that will change in terms of day-to-day life in the diocese. The suffragan bishops will together oversee the life of the diocese during the vacancy. They have decided that Bishop Will is to take on the formal duties of acting bishop, subject to consultation with the Bishop's Council.

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