



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

## **ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, LYMINSTER.**

### **Giving thanks for all the Lord has done**

### **What we achieved and how we positively impacted beneficiaries' lives**

Every year the PCC is required to write a report of our activities in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance. This is a formal document, but it is also a chance for us to look back with thanks for all that the Lord has done and commit the current and future years to His service. In addition to this report, there are financial and other reports available through the Church and on our website. Thank you for all that you do as part of our Church family, and may the glory go to God!

Reverend Lisa Fairman-Brown, Priest in Charge of St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster  
March 2026

<https://lyminsterchurch.org.uk>

## CONTENTS

### Compliance

Our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, on 'charities for the advancement of religion.' The PCC has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

### **Our aims and purposes as a Church and religious charity**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical.
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or any other situation or circumstance.
- Providing financial support for those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives.
- These are summarised in the diocesan vision statement for people to 'Know, Love and Follow Jesus.'

### **How we sought to achieve those aims and purposes**

#### **For people to come to know Jesus as Lord, Saviour and friend:**

- By inviting as many people as possible to become part of our worshipping community.
- By sharing the good news of Jesus and nurturing new believers.
- Through the offer of prayer ministry to those inside and outside our congregation.

#### **For people to grow in love for Jesus, through getting to know him better:**

- By seeking to lead worship services that allow everyone to hear from God's word, exalt Christ and share together in worship.
- By meeting together in small groups – reading the Bible together, praying for one another and encouraging each other.
- Growing our faith in our everyday lives as we deepen our knowledge and faith.

#### **For people to follow Jesus out to be a blessing and benefit to our community:**

- Through the provision of pastoral care for those in need.
- Making donations to missions and charitable organisations.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building for the benefit of the wider parish.
- Encouraging all church members to live out their beliefs in word and deed.

### Reports

## **Priest in Charge's Report: Revd. Lisa Fairman-Brown**

### **Our Vision**

Becoming Spirit-filled disciples who deeply know, love and follow Jesus; releasing his Kingdom in our community.

### **Our Why**

We long to see people:

- Living in the joy and freedom found in Christ.
- Encountering the immeasurable love of the Father through the Holy Spirit.
- Following Jesus and sharing this new life with others.

God's Word shapes our teaching, we want to hear it, obey it and be transformed by it. We did this in our gathered worship by rooting our preaching in the Bible and shaping several of the sermon series around the Chichester Diocese Year of Faith including a short teaching series on baptism, holy communion and being ministers of our God. Then in this 1,700<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Council of Nicaea we took a deep dive into the Nicene Creed to understand how these declarations of the Christian faith have sustained missionaries, been recited by martyrs, guided disciples of Christ in every generation and still in 2025 build our faith.

We expect the Holy Spirit to act. So we actively welcome his presence and his authority as we pray before each service and invite him during and after the preaching of God's Word to speak to us that we might step out in faith.

I want to warmly thank Viv Prior, who is such a dedicated Church Warden. Without her prayer, love, care and generous volunteering, St Mary Magdalene would simply not function. Therefore I want to personally thank her so much for her faithful dedication to God's people and her consistent support and wisdom.

I also acknowledge my thanks to John Raywood, our treasurer, who continues with exceptional diligence to ensure our accounts are prudently handled.

Our monthly Family Service is a faith-filled service which is inspiring for all who come. We are very appreciative of all that God is doing through Mike Harris and Michael Servant in this regard.

With just one clergy person for the benefice, all three of our worship sites moved to one service each Sunday, whilst ensuring Holy Communion was celebrated at one site at least each week. The 4pm All Together Communion Service started in January 2025, and it was heartening to see over 30 join in worship for the first service and then a smaller but regular congregation for subsequent Sundays.

Gill Quigley hosted our monthly prayer meeting, these times of corporate prayer are vital for the vibrancy of our church fellowship and for the empowerment of the mission to which God is calling



us in Lyminster. I am thankful to Gill for her faithfulness, together with the two or three who join her faithfully each month.

During 2025, Gill Quigley took over sacristan duties from Shirley Pope. Our thanks again to Shirley for her dedicated service over many years, and now our thanks to Gill for the care she takes in preparing the elements for the communion table.

Michael Servant continues to lead our musical worship and oversees our choir; for all of whom we give thanks to God.

Two enjoyable social events were held towards the end of 2025 – a Sunday afternoon concert of music from the musicals performed by the Brighton and Hove Operatic Society and the annual Quiz Night at Wick Hall. Thank you to Carol Hatton for organising both events.

## **Church Wardens' Report**

### **Electoral Roll Report: Jo Lark**

2025 marked the six year total review of Church Electoral Rolls. Before publication of the new roll contact was established, where possible, with all existing persons on the roll. Continued eligibility was checked and new forms signed in readiness for the new roll. Application forms were made available for new members of the congregation to complete as long as they met one of the two conditions required. At the end of the process 10 people were deleted from the existing roll and 13 added. This gave us a total of 85 which was an increase of 3 from the previous year. The total review of the roll appeared to have little impact on our numbers.

### **Safeguarding: Rev'd Lisa Fairman-Brown**

Safeguarding in the Church of England is the protection of all those in our church communities who could be deemed to be particularly susceptible to abuse; our children, our youth and vulnerable adults.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is the link between the diocese and the parish concerning Safeguarding matters. Since the end of 2024, this role has been 'caretaken' by John Galvin. However John's busy remit as a headteacher make this role tricky to oversee and so, with his agreement, we began the process of safer recruiting for a new PSO in the early summer of 2025. An interview was conducted and the person accepted our request to take up the post. By the end of the year we were still waiting for safeguarding clearance but remain confident that this will come through in the very near future.

However, my main message is that Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us, not just me.

## **People coming to know Jesus (coming to faith)**

The first part of our aim is to help people come to know Jesus. At St Mary Magdalene, we are passionate about people coming to know Jesus, because this is why Jesus came. And when we have that relationship with God through Jesus, we begin to be transformed by Him and are equipped to make a difference in Lyminster and beyond.

Of course, this happens throughout the week as we get involved in our community in a whole range of different ways, but here are some examples of how we, as a church family, have made a difference.

### **Evangelism and Discipleship: Revd Lisa Fairman-Brown**

A priority for us is to be bringing Jesus to people to make up their own minds and to be curious about the purpose of life and faith. In the first part of 2025 we ran two fruitful courses concurrently on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings, people connected with all three congregations were involved in both courses. We were overjoyed to baptise and confirm 3 adults who had taken part in Alpha. Guests in the morning continued on a discipleship pathway and at the end of the year that discipleship group numbered 17 people who continued to deepen their understanding and love of Jesus week by week as they engaged in The Bible Course which gave them a broad overview of the arc of Scripture, then a deeper dive into the book of Philippians using the Discipleship Explored course.

Particular thanks to Gill Quigley for running the Bible Course of an evening and a delight that the group was composed of people from both parishes.

At the end of 2025 preparations were made for a new Alpha invitation campaign over the Christmas season for the Alpha Course 2026. In prayerfully seeking God, it was decided that there would be one evening course in the next season.

### **Christmas: Revd. Lisa Fairman-Brown**

‘Christmas starts earlier every year...’. This year, while praying in early July, the phrase ‘Prepare Him room’ was repeatedly laid on my mind and I printed out the lyrics to Joy to the World to discern if this was relevant for a Christmas plans.

*Indeed our Christmas 2025 strapline was: Joy to the world! Along with this promise from Psalm 94:19(CSB translation) ‘When I am filled with cares, your comfort brings me joy.’*

Joy to the world; the Lord is come;  
Let Earth receive her King;



Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing.

Many people are longing for hope in hard times. This line reminds us that joy is not based on how we feel, but on the truth that Christ has come.

Liz Brooks took the initial street mapping work prepared by Marian Ayres and extended it right across the benefice and we went ahead and printed 5,000 Christmas card invitations with the aim of delivering them to households right across the benefice. It was marvellous to see the enthusiasm with which so many in the congregations delivered these invitations. At all our Christmas Services we saw many people join us and when greeting people at the door, person after person said they had come in response to the invitation they received through their door.

There was a tangible joy among us at all our Benefice's Christmas events and services in 2025, for which we give thanks to God. From the Christingle, Nine Lessons and Carols and Midnight Communion at Lyminster, to the Wick Christmas Lights On and the Christmas Day Celebration service at All Saints. Huge thanks to each team involved in making these lovely services a blessing to all who came.

## **People growing in their love for Jesus (deepening faith)**

The second part of our vision is to help people grow in love for Jesus and all that He has made.

### **Family Service: Mike Harris**

At Lyminster Family Service, we celebrated the Year of Faith in 2025. Our journey began with Faith in God the Father, exploring stories from the Old Testament including Gideon and David and Goliath.

We then followed the disciples' journey from fishermen to apostles, using illustrations within Lyminster stained glass windows we saw how the disciples moved through their confusion in Jesus's teaching, we saw their fear during Jesus's trial and crucifixion, and their faith growing through the resurrection, ascension and the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

We continued by exploring the apostles' journeys, including Paul's, through modern-day Turkey, Greece, Rome and beyond, sharing their faith with all nations.

We used the Apostle illustrations on the reredos (screen on wall at the back of altar) to introduce Apostles with their banner depicting the creed.

Towards the end of 2025 we looked at our own faith through the Fruits of the Spirit and linked this into our Christingle service.

A huge amount was covered in 2025 but always in a light, fun and interactive way which was hopefully enjoyable for all ages.

## **People following Jesus out to love our community (living out our Faith)**

The third part of our vision as a church is to live out the Faith we have in Jesus by loving our neighbours, the community around us in Lyminster and making a positive impact in people's lives. As everyone has found, we had to adapt to try and fulfil this part of our calling as a church.

### **Fabric, Fixtures and Fittings Report: Carol Hatton**

After much red tape circumnavigating, we managed to complete the work on the repair of the Choir vestry door, and the repair, plastering and re painting of the walls where the plaster was crumbling. We also managed to complete the repairs on the church roof tiles. Scaffolding was erected and the tilers got the work done pretty quickly. All in all, I think the church fabric situation is pretty much stable as 2025 draws to a close.

### **Life events**

Thanksgiving, baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials of ashes give us a wonderful opportunity to support, encourage and share through the highs and lows how Jesus impacts the journey we go on in our relationships as families. At St Mary Magdalene in 2025, we baptised three children and one adult; one adult was confirmed. Two couples were married in the summer and we also had a most joyful Renewal of Wedding Vows Service in September for a couple who had been married at St Mary Magdalene 23 years ago. It is a joy to report that one of the couple has been born again and was also baptised at All Saints Wick at the end of the year.

Our churchyard continues to be difficult to navigate as far as finding plots and understanding some of the rows. A member of the congregation in Wick and local historian, kindly agreed to attempt to draw up accurate plans to reflect all our burials and identify space for further plots. It is not a straightforward task and during the inclement months it has not been possible to make progress. We look to 2026 and Springtime to continue with this.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW: John Raywood, Church Treasurer**

At the end of 2025 our pledge to the Diocese of £30,900 had been paid and all accounts were up to date. Once again, no major fund raising during the year but various small fetes brought in a small amount of funds. Investments are still giving reasonable returns. We have lost 2 investment accounts, the 1<sup>st</sup> that was closed by M&G Investments which we had no control of amounted to £13,650 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one which was discussed by the PCC and as it was an unrestricted account we



decided to close it and recover the funds to help pay for planned building work which gave us £11,747 (this amount was very close to the actual cost of both repairs £11,362).

Regular monthly income is once again down, having lost regular donating members during the year. We ended the year with a deficit of £8,470.64 and an end of year balance in our account of £30,557.05 but we do have one repair to pay for (approx. £8,400) that should have been finished before the end of the year but payment was delayed until January 2026.

## Reserve Policy

Our reserve policy is to hold 3 months operating cost needs and with this we continue to comply.

## Independent Examiner of Accounts

### Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a charity, but is exempted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. St Mary Magdalene Church, Lyminster and the Parish of Lyminster, is part of the Benefice of Lyminster and Wick with All Saints Wick.

Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster, Diocese of Chichester.

Charity's Principals address: St Mary Magdalene Church, Church Lane,  
Lyminster BN17 7QJ

Incumbent Lisa Fairman-Brown (since 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024)

Associate Minister (HfD) Vacant

As of the end of 2025, the following were serving as members of the PCC:

Ex-Officio Members	Revd Lisa Fairman-Brown	Incumbent
	Viv Prior	Churchwarden
Co-opted Members	John Raywood	Treasurer
	John Galvin	Safeguarding Officer
Members	Roger Davies	
	Sarah Davies	
	Julie Galvin	
	Carol Hatton	
	Ann Nash	
	Margaret Russell	
	Ann Bush	
Deanery Synod	Mike Harris	



Secretary to the PCC

Vacant

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members, the Incumbent, the Churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and (up to) 9 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

**Declarations**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Signature(s): ..... Full name(s) .....

Position: ..... Date: .....