

Trustees Annual Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster:

For the year ended 31 December 2022

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Introduction

Every year the PCC is required to write a report of our activities in accordance with guidance from the Charities Commission. This dictates the rather formal approach to much of this document, but it gives us a chance to review all that has gone on in the previous year.

This review looks back over 2022. Although most restrictions regarding the global pandemic of the previous year have been lifted some people are still wary but thankfully this has been a year of trying to bring some normality to the church and community of Lyminster. 2023 will see the return of the Chalice at the Eucharist Services which many are looking forward to.

After the departure of Vanessa we have been deeply grateful to Tom and Mark for keeping the services in both churches functioning. Those whose services have been reduced in frequency whilst we await a new priest in Lyminster have been very gracious and understanding. We give thanks to God for his faithfulness and continue in the years ahead to know, to love and to follow Jesus Christ.

Our thanks also go out to the many helpers who assist with the smooth running of the Church. We could not do without our sacristans, choir, organist, cleaners, flower arrangers, readers, intercessors, meet and greeters and not forgetting the refreshment volunteers.

Tom has now moved to a new parish so we enter 2023 in an interregnum situation and await the arrival of a new priest for the Lyminster and Wick Benefice.

Viv Prior, Church Warden.

Website: www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk

Incumbent for 2022: The Revd Tom Robson
Assistant Curate: The Revd. Mark Rodger

Independent Examiner: Mrs Carol Groves, Bankers: HSBC, Rustington

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

Our aims and purposes as a Church and religious charity.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Tom Robson, in:

- Promoting 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, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- Seeking to know Jesus Christ better and to make him better known.
- To provide practical care and support for people in the parish, from the young to the old.
- Caring for the church and churchyard of St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster.

How we sought to achieve these aims and purposes.

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion':

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

- To invite and enable as many people as possible to worship at our church and considering how these services can involve different groups of people.
- To assist people from all walks of life to know, love and trust Jesus Christ.

For people to grow in love for Jesus, through getting to know Him better:

- To seek to lead church services that allow people to worship, to hear God's word and pray, in an atmosphere in which they are comfortable: through the variety offered by the 8 am Service, the Family Service and 11 am Service.
- To teach, baptise, confirm and nurture new and existing believers.
- To offer small groups, where people can learn more about the Gospel.
- To encourage one another as we meet together, week by week.

For people to follow Jesus and be a blessing and benefit to the community

- To provide pastoral care for people living in the parish and church members.
- To provide practical assistance to the poor and needy of the parish.
- To give practical help to local charitable organisations.
- To reach out to the community through social events and the Christmas Services.
- To support the musical life of the church.
- To provide a beautiful and memorable setting for significant family events such as weddings.
- To sustain and foster the memory of those who were killed or injured fighting for the country.
- To maintain the fabric of the church building as a historic centre and focus of life in the village.
- To hopefully maintain the churchyard as befits the dignity of those buried and commemorated there.

Compliance and Safeguarding

The Incumbent, Curate and PCC have complied with the duty contained under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, fully recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The safeguarding policies are displayed both inside and outside church. All the policies are available on the website and the PCC safeguarding officer has reported to every PCC meeting. The relevant DBS checks and safeguarding training are kept up to date. We are grateful to Christine Fowler for her work as Safeguarding Officer in 2022.

To know Jesus (Coming to faith)

Considerable effort has gone into sustaining and expanding the Family Service, although their services were reduced to once a month at 9.30am for the year. We are grateful to Mark, Laura and their helpers for their dedication to this service and for arranging social events which are always well attended. The parents get involved by preparing craft activities and serving refreshments. The junior choir led by Michael Servant has occasionally led the singing which has really enhanced our worship.

There have also been some thanksgiving services for babies and small children throughout the year and some of these have come to family service as a result, enjoying the informal child friendly style of the family service. Additionally, a small group of mums did the first four sessions of the Alpha Course. Some did this as part of a baptism preparation before their children were to be baptised (in 2023). At the end of the year, the family service had considerably grown in number and many also attended the return of in person all-age services at Christmas such as Christingle and Crib services.



Christmas Angels given out at the Crib Service

As well as proclaiming the Christian message of God's love, of forgiveness and renewal, this service also aims to foster a sense of community among the people who come to the Family Service who, otherwise, often lead busy and fractured lives. Our organist is developing a junior choir which often sings at Family Services.

A small number of the Year 5 and 6 children attended a Summer Camp run by the churches in Littlehampton. They enjoyed themselves hugely, being able to participate in outdoor activities and crafts, as well as listening to Christian talks and simply having fun together after the challenging time of previous years.

At Easter we staged a re-enactment of the stages of the Cross after which we gave children and families the opportunity to come and make Easter gardens outside the Church while the adult congregation attended a Good Friday service. It was a great success, with lots of people coming to think about Jesus' death and resurrection and helping create a fantastic Easter Garden.

To love Jesus (Deepening faith)

The 8am service continued with services on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, providing a quiet and reflective service in the Chancel using the traditional words of the Book of Common Prayer. The core congregation remains committed and continues to participate through reading the Bible, preparing the church and sharing in fellowship.

It was a blessing to be able to meet back in church for our other services and to be able to sing again. It was also a blessing to have our building open again for us to serve people at key times of life with several dedications, christenings, weddings and funerals.



Mia's baptism at Lyminster Church

To follow Jesus (In loving service of the community.)

Demonstrating the love of God to people in the local community continued to be very important. Many people continued to support Turning Tides and the Littlehampton Food Bank, both by donating food and clothes and helping at the centres. Others continued to support the partially sighted in Littlehampton, the Littlehampton Town Chaplaincy and Arun Angels.

Working with All Saints, we were able to provide a Marriage guidance course at the start of the year. An Alpha Course was run in January with six regular guests including three from Lyminster. All the guests enjoyed the first six weeks and grew in their understanding and faith. Three of the guests finished the remaining weeks including Mel from Lyminster family service who became a Christian and was confirmed by the Bishop in April.

Varying coffee mornings and afternoon teas were held during the year where people could gather and chat in an informal setting and a very successful harvest lunch was held in the church. In November Lyminster put on its annual Christmas fayre, coffee and craft morning in Wick Hall (see photo below). Although not as well attended as previous years, it was successful in raising money for the church as we were unable to get a Summer Fete organised for the year. Grateful thanks to the organisers of the Fayre and also to the organisers of the Christmas Quiz which was held again this year in Wick Hall. These events give the chance to meet people and show them something of the church's welcome and hospitality.



Structure, governance and management

St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster is part of the Diocese of Chichester within the Church of England. The PCC is a body corporate and a charity currently exempt from registration with the Charity Commission, under Section 30 of the Charities Act 2011 (It is governed by the PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006).

The Benefice is made up of the following parishes and clergy:

Incumbent, the Rev'd Tom Robson.

Assistant curate, the Rev'd Mark Rodger

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At present at St Mary Magdalene the PCC consists of the Incumbent, church wardens and others elected by members of the congregation who are on the Electoral Roll of the church. A treasurer was co-opted by the PCC. The PCC are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern to the PCC, including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2022 are:

Ex Officio members;

- Incumbent: The Revd Tom Robson
- Curate: The Revd Mark Rodger
- Church Warden: Mr Roger Davies (to May 2022)
- Church Warden: Mrs Viv Prior

Elected Members

- Mrs Margaret Russell
- Mr Roger Davies
- Mrs Sarah Davies
- Ms Ann Nash
- Mrs Carol Hatton
- Ms Christine Fowler

Deanery Synod Reps

- Mr Mike Harris
- Mrs Rae Harris

- Co-opted members
- Mr John Raywood (Treasurer)
- Mrs Jo Lark (Secretary)

Deanery Synod report

Lyminster is part of Arundel and Bognor Deanery Synod. Mike and Rae Harris represent our Church at these meetings.

23rd June 2022 – St Mary’s Climping - Presentation from Rev’d Stephen Gurr

How do we find ourselves after 2 years of pandemic

Encouraged in groups to share experiences, to voice feelings of hidden pains, sadness, fears

Reflect on how best to emerge from the pandemic with an opportunity to share in hope and God’s plan for the future.

5th October 2022 – St Peter & St Paul Rustington - Presentation from Archdeacon Luke on the Diocesan Strategy - Strategy and vision remain same.

“Four Mores”

More Open, More Converted to Jesus Christ, More Generous and More Engaged

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/documents/diocesan-strategy-brochure-2020/>

Prepare for 2025 – “Year of Faith”

2023 will be year of the Old Testament

Fabric Report

The varying checks for safety in the church have been carried out as instructed by the Diocese and arrangements are being made for the quinquennial inspection. We now have the contactless giving machine fixed permanently in the church. This will allow it to be always used when the church is open and maybe attract donations from the varying visitors who come to visit us. Skill Mill have been working hard to get the churchyard in order and we are grateful to them. We purchased gardening items for them in lieu of a donation using the funds donated for the upkeep of the grounds. The flushing toilet project is still ongoing but in the final stages of gaining permission from the Diocese. Hopefully it will be installed in 2023. A defibrillator has been installed in the porchway of the church. This was kindly purchased for the church and Lyminster community by the Warningcamp Relief in Sickness charity.

Account Notes

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2001 and the Church Charities Act 2001 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2015, using the Receipts and Payments basis.

Carol Groves, Independent Examiner of Accounts, was appointed and her full report is attached to the accounts.

Full copies of the Financial Statement and Accounts are available on the Lyminster Church website and a copy is on the notice board at the back of the church. Should you require a hard copy of the accounts please email jo.lark12@gmail.com.

It has been a frustrating year for our new Treasurer with all the legal requirements to change signatures for the bank and service utilities but by October he had full control. He has pursued gift aid refunds due to us and is encouraging the use of the Parish Giving Scheme. At the end of 2022 our pledge to the Diocese of £30,000.00 had been paid and all accounts were up to date. Unfortunately, with no major fundraiser this year expenditure exceeded income but our investments did not need to be touched. We ended the year with a deficit balance of £21,320.89.