

# St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster

Church Lane, Lyminster, Littlehampton BN17 7QJ

For the year ended 31st December 2024

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## Introduction

Every year the PCC is required to write a report of our activities in accordance with the guidance from the Charities Commission. This dictates the rather formal approach to much of this document, but it gives us a chance 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. Thank you for all that you do as members of our Church family, may the glory go to God!

Website: [www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk](http://www.lyminsterchurch.org.uk)  
Incumbent: The Revd Lisa Fairman-Brown  
Independent Examiner: Mrs Carol Groves  
Bankers: HSBC, 1 Centenary Square, Birmingham. B1 1HQ

# St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster

## Trustees Annual Report for 2024

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### Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest in Charge, the Revd Lisa Fairman-Brown, 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.
- To know, love and follow Jesus;
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or, ability to pay;
- Providing financial support those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.

### What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

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

The council has complied with the duty 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 PCC have appointed Mr John Galvin to act as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

For this year we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

#### **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.

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

- By seeking to lead worship services with a variety of formats
- By praying together for the Church, our parish, the local area and nation.
- 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 charitable organisations
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building for the benefit of the whole parish and for the generations to come.
- Encouraging all church members to live out their belief in Jesus in word and deed.

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

It was a longer wait than we had hoped but with great anticipation we moved home to join you in 'the seaside diocese' in September 2024.

At the October PCC I asked our PCC members to share what they love about living here and their hopes for kingdom growth. For my part, I shared these scriptures from John's Gospel, 'Whoever *comes to me* will never go hungry' and from the book of Acts, '*Go, stand* in the temple courts and *tell* the people all about this new life'. I believe Jesus is calling us individually and together to 'Come to Jesus'. It's an invitation to intimacy, to restoring, refreshing and re-envisioning. From that place of being with Jesus, He re-commissions and equips us to 'Go', this is our great commissioning, to 'Stand' in the authority He is giving us and 'Tell' people about this new life which is only found in Jesus Christ.

As we increasingly make this our way of life, we will see God's kingdom extending to all sorts of people in Lyminster, Wick and beyond, and ourselves growing as disciples who radically know, love and follow Jesus.

My prayer for each of us who call St Mary Magdalene home, is that we would come more fully alive in all the fullness of Jesus through the Holy Spirit at work in and through us, wherever we are.

Thank you so much to you all for so warmly welcoming me in these first few months.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to our committed and loyal Churchwarden, Viv Prior and acting Churchwarden Jo Lark. Also, while we remain in partial vacancy, awaiting the appointment of a House for Duty Minister for the Benefice, I am very grateful to Revd Bill Meyer who has continued to provide us with regular cover at our Holy Communion and BCP services. Additionally, my thanks to all of you who help to support the continuing worship of God and the welcome of the whole community to St Mary Magdalene.

## Churchwarden Report: Viv Prior

There were a few changes over the course of 2024. We were very pleased to welcome Lisa as our Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Lyminster and Wick in September 2024. Along with the Churchwardens at All Saints Wick we came up with a slightly changed service pattern which remained until the end of the year. We are very grateful for the faithful support of Revd Bill Meyer who continued to support our 8.30am BCP service and two further 11am communion services. We absorbed new service changes at the end of the year as we continue to manage this time of partial vacancy (awaiting a house for duty clergy person for the benefice). All of the above I believe is God's way of shaking us up to rethink what He wants us to achieve individually and as a church family and to consider how we ensure that we pass on the faith to the next generations and spread the good news of His word out into the community. Thankfully the congregation numbers at 11am have remained steady and with the slightly later start time of 8.30am, the BCP numbers are improving.

We are delighted to see our Family Service growing and particularly joyful to see our Autumn numbers reach 19 children and 19 adults. Our thanks to Mike and Michael for wonderfully leading this. As we move into 2025 there will be a new All Together Communion Service.

The Church building itself has caused a few problems; though given its considerable age what do we expect? We are very thankful to Carol who has dealt with all these issues on behalf of the PCC. We did explore removing the side pews to make more room for social and community space but sadly this has proved too costly, so we are back to the drawing board with this.

A number of social events over the year have been enjoyed. The quiz night was once again very popular. The first Music Festival which took place in September was much enjoyed by those who attended and included a jazz band, a string quartet, a musical interpretation to accompany a 'silent' movie, vespers at the convent and a

flamboyant baroque music group. If we are to repeat this event, it will need to be more widely advertised to bring in more people.

Special thanks to Shirley Pope for all the work she has done behind the scenes for nearly 23 years and we wish her a happy retirement.

I extend my grateful thanks to Jo Lark for all her support not only as Churchwarden and PCC Secretary but all the extra work she has undertaken to support our Church community. I personally am very sad to see her retiring from both positions but understand completely her reasons.

Finally my thanks to everyone for the support and practical help over the last, sometimes difficult year. Our PCC met every other month and their role is to further the mission and ministry of the church and we look forward to seeking God's guidance as we look to fulfil this in the year ahead.

Thank be to God for all he has done, all he is doing, and all he will do in future for the Church of St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster.

## **Financial Summary – John Raywood (Treasurer)**

At the end of 2024 our pledge to the diocese of £30,000 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, I don't know what will happen this coming year with all the financial problems that are now affecting the world. Regular monthly income is once again down, having lost regular donating members during the year. We ended the year with a deficit of £11,477.34 and an end of year balance in our account of £22,086.41.

## **Why we hold some money in reserve**

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations.

As well as holding the above general reserves, from time to time the PCC receives restricted legacies for expenditure on restricted purposes, defined by the donor. We aim to expend such money as soon as possible after receiving the legacy, depending on the specific objectives of the donor. Where we have identified that the specific purpose can only be achieved by delaying the expenditure, we invest the legacy temporarily until the need for expenditure is identified.

## **Management of risks and their mitigation**

The PCC has an ongoing task of reviewing the major risks which impact on the work of the churches in the parish. The usual PAT testing and fire extinguisher checks have been carried out.

The PCC consider that the principal risks and uncertainties are:

- The health and safety within the church building. These issues are regularly reviewed by the PCC.
- The need to fund unexpected costs associated with the church's listed buildings such as the conditions of the interior walls and ongoing necessary roof repairs.
- An unexpected fall in income, particularly given the dependence of the church on a limited number of major regular donors.
- The requirement to find volunteers with the appropriate skills, time and commitment to support the ministry of the congregation.

The PCC seeks to manage these risks and uncertainties by regularly reviewing its plans for the use of the church buildings. We aim to maintain our properties to a high standard and carries out the priority items of a quinquennial review in a timely manner.

Given the historic financial deficits, the PCC have been working towards paying our ministry costs for the shared Incumbent with All Saints Church, Wick and in 2024 paid a parish share of £30,000 to the Diocese.

## **Future Uncertainties**

The deficit for the year is a concern, but we hope to increase regular giving via a Stewardship campaign to ensure we are in a strong position to meet regular commitments. It is important to ensure that as the day-to-day costs rise, the growth in income is sustained through renewed giving pledges, to strengthen our underlying financial position. This will enable further improvements to be made to the fabric of our Church, in addition to paying our costs.

# Structure, governance and management of the charity

The PCC is a charity but is exempt 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.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

*Ex Officio members*

Incumbent:	The Revd Lisa Fairman-Brown	Chair (From September 2024)
Wardens:	Viv Prior	Vice Chair
PCC Secretary	Jo Lark	

Elected Members

- Roger Davies
- Sarah Davies
- Julie Galvin
- Carol Hatton
- Ann Nash
- Margaret Russell

Treasurer

John Raywood

Deanery Synod

Mike Harris

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), 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 (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Revd. Lisa Fairman-Brown, PCC Chairman

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Date.....

# Annual Financial Report

Of The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster

**For the year ended 31st December 2024**

See PDF file 'Annual Financial Report 2024 St Mary Magdalene Lyminster'