

**PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST. MARY MAGDALENE BOLNEY**

**REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2021  
TO BE GIVEN AT THE  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
VIA ZOOM  
ON SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup>. MAY 2022  
At 11.00am**

## **1. Churchwardens Report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for year end 31 December 2021**

### **Covid-19**

For the first three months of 2021, in-person services were not permitted, an exception for funerals up to 30 people present. Sunday services (including sermons) were recorded and uploaded to the website to be played at any time. The church re-opened to prior bookings for Easter 2021. Social distancing, the wearing of face coverings and use of hand gel continued for the remainder of the year. Throughout the pandemic, the church building was open daily as usual. A protocol to protect worshippers and visitors and manage the risk of spreading the infection was reviewed regularly during the year by the wardens in conjunction with the vicar. Volunteers were on hand to help clean and sanitise pews and church furniture. During this period the WC was out of bounds and the coffee service withdrawn.

### **Weddings and Funerals**

Over the course of 2021, five funerals, including one attended by some 500 mourners, and four weddings, were held at St Mary Magdalene.

### **Terrier & Inventory**

The logbook, terrier and inventory of contents are up to date.

### **Projects**

During the year, the PCC took forward Tower Phase 2, the repair and repointing of stonework on the south & east elevations of the church tower. This was one of the principal recommendations of the 2018 quinquennial, which is the mandatory 5-yearly building condition report. A contract was let to PAYE Stonework & Restoration Ltd and the work carried out in autumn 2021 at a cost of £21,542 including fees and VAT. Grant funding came from various sources: Gatwick Airport Community Trust (GACT) £2,500, Allchurches Trust Limited £1,500, National Churches Trust/Pilgrim Trust £5,000 and Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPoW) £3,601, an aggregate sum of £12,601. A generous donation from a parishioner was gratefully received. The balance of the cost has been charged to the PCC's designated repairs fund.

### **Maintenance & Upkeep**

Maintaining the fabric of an ancient Grade 1-listed building and large churchyard is an ongoing liability. The PCC is fortunate to count on a team of enthusiastic volunteers to carry out a myriad of tasks to keep the church running, clean and welcoming. Brian & Martin continue to provide a valuable service looking after the churchyard throughout the growing season for the benefit of local people, worshippers and the many visitors it attracts. A replacement CCTV system was installed. Maintenance of the church's electrical installation was an ongoing task.

### **Benefice of Cuckfield & Bolney**

In the latter part of 2021, the Rev Michael Maine announced his intention to retire in the early part of 2022. This gives rise to a vacancy for Cuckfield. The wardens of both parishes are liaising over legal and procedural issues.

## **Ministry Team**

This was the first full year of Reverend Michael's ministry, albeit handicapped by continuing restrictions on free movement, gatherings and events. The wardens wish to thank Reverend Michael for his whole-hearted commitment to the role and for engaging to the fullest extent possible with all aspects of parish life. The wardens take this opportunity to thank most warmly Father Martin for his unflinching support and continued participation in the pastoral life of the parish. Last, but not least, a big thank-you to Dr Tony Bond, Reader, for the valuable and distinctive role he fulfils leading services every month and for his professional chairmanship of the PCC.

**Susan Ayres & Tim Hutchings**  
**Churchwardens 22.04.2021**

## **2. PCC Secretary - 2021 Report**

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

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Vicar                         | The Revd Michael Windridge  |
| Chairman/Reader               | Dr Anthony Bond   |
| Incumbent                     | The Revd Michael Maine (retired February 2022)  |
| Curate                        | The Revd Martin Mills   |
| Churchwardens                 | Mrs Susan Ayres, Mr Tim Hutchings   |
| Treasurer                     | Mr Tim Hutchings  |
| Deanery Synod Representatives | Mr Rodney Pratt (Upto June 2021) Mrs Peta Pratt,<br>Mr Ron Leggett (Co opted July 2021) |
| Secretary                     | Mrs Claire George   |
| Safeguarding Officer          | Mrs Linda Barker  |
| Member                        | Mr Martin Burgess   |
| Member.                       | Mr Martin Wood (from APCM 2021)   |
| Member.                       | Mrs Janice Warren   |

The Council met via Zoom on six occasions; January 2021, March 2021, May 2021, July 2021, September 2021, November 2021.

There was an average of 10 members being present at each meeting.

**Meetings** A wide range of items concerning spiritual, pastoral and mission needs of the parish as well as care of church building, social activities, fundraising and financial matters were discussed. Matters concerning Health & Safety, Safeguarding, are standing items on the PCC agenda; at the beginning of the year the pandemic and its consequences were discussed. Details covered in other reports.

**Policies** are updated the second PCC meeting after each APCM most recently in July 2021. In addition during the year an amendment was added to the burial policy, and CCTV Policy, Tax evasion risk assessment, Charitable Giving policy, and Live streaming/ recording at weddings, baptisms and funerals were all adopted.

**Charity Commission.** We are now registered with the Charity Commission and are required at the end of each year (annually) to produce and file a report. The PCC have a legal responsibility. All members (as trustees) can look at the Charity Commission website to acquaint themselves with their obligations.

**Church Website.** We continue to be very grateful to Martyn Belsey whose help as usual has been invaluable in helping keep the church website up to date with all information about church; the services, our diary and calendar, PCC information, magazine rack including latest editions of pew and parish news, photos, hymns to learn. links to relevant websites and the church **Facebook** page. This was particularly so during the pandemic when in addition to Sermons, he has also kept pre recorded Services on our website Audio Files which are ready to listen to by 9am each Sunday morning.

**Rodney Pratt** At our July meeting we remembered the life, service, witness of Rodney Pratt who was a PCC, Deanery Synod, and Diocesan Synod member for many years.

**Claire George (PCC Secretary) April 2022**

### **3. Treasurer's Report to APCM for year ended 31st December 2021**

1. The PCC's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 are duly presented for adoption, having been approved by members at their meeting on 16th March 2022.

2. The accounts show a loss of £7,308 (2020 surplus £1,693). Income receipts of £66,366 include one-off capital grants of £5,500. Adjusted for grants, income is £60,866, an average per month of £5,072 (2020: £50,940 or £4,245 monthly).

3. The PCC relies upon a loyal band of supporters for its regular income, there being no funding from external sources. With the move away from the traditional collection bag or plate and weekly envelopes, various forms of digital giving are proving far more efficient and, pleasingly, not diminishing during the two lockdowns when many churches and other charities suffered catastrophic falls. The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a free, convenient and effective means of regular giving by direct debit. It has the advantage of automatically claiming tax back under GiftAid and crediting the PCC's bank account same month, which greatly assists cashflow.

4. An alternative method is Contactless via the card-reader inside the south door of the church. This is available for anyone to use any day of the week. The default sum is £5 but this can be increased up to £30 per transaction. It is totally anonymous. The PCC's bank is credited weekly net of costs. Other donors pay by standing order. Whilst income from any source is welcome, standing orders suffer from the administrative burden of leaving the PCC to claim tax (assuming the donor to be a taxpayer) which is a time-consuming process, with a lengthy delay before reimbursement.

5. Parishioners who might be inclined to review their current method of giving are invited to contact the treasurer in confidence to discuss the most convenient means for them. Over the last year or so the PCC has lost some of its major supporters with the gaps as yet unfilled.

The resulting loss of income will have an adverse impact on finances as time goes on unless new donors come forward.

6. Total expenditure in the 2021 accounts amounted to £73,674 (2020: £49,248). During the year a major project was carried out, the repair and repointing of the church tower, at a cost of £22,147. Actual expenditure adjusted for this item is £51,527, an average per month of £4,294. When allowing for capital grants and capital projects, income for 2021 is £60,866 and expenditure £51,527, leaving a notional surplus of £9,339.

7. The cash position overall remains healthy. Current and deposit account balances at year-end: £23,657 (2020 £31,349). Liabilities £6,421 (2020: £6,805). Net £17,236 (£24,544).

8. Since 2020, the PCC is a registered charity. This requires the filing of a trustees' annual report with the Charity Commission, incorporating the annual accounts in a prescribed format. Individual members of the PCC are trustees.

The identity of the trustees and the accounts are publicly available to view on the CC's website.

**Tim Hutchings Treasurer 18th April 2022**

#### **4. Electoral Roll**

The Electoral Roll currently stands at 58, with two additions and 3 deletions. 46 resident in the parish and 12 being non- resident in the parish.

Regarding GDPR this document is a legal document with a signed form by each member on the roll therefore we do not need to seek further consent to keep personal details.

The roll is due for a complete revision in 2025.

**Susan Ayres (Electoral Roll Officer)**

#### **5. Diocese & Deanery Synods Reports**

Following Rodney Pratt's death in June 2022, I Ron Leggett, was appointed to serve as Deanery and subsequently Diocese representative.

Due to Covid restrictions the Covid situation meetings have been partly by Zoom.

#### **Diocese Meetings**

**November 2021**, Held by zoom. Peta Pratt and myself at my house in Cowfold.

1. Deanery Matters – Storrington is now part of Chichester Deanery.

2. Clergy Care and Wellbeing – Many are suffering anxiety and stress. The meeting voted by 98% to have a Wellbeing Discussion Meeting.
3. Finance -The meeting agreed a 3% increase in Clergy stipends An appeal was made for PCC's to increase parish share if possible.
4. Church Schools - 30,000 children are now in church schools. We should have growing partnerships with schools.
5. Planning for Future - Gabrielle Higgins observed that 80% of money was spent on Ministry. 80% comes from Parish Share. If everyone gave an additional £2.73 a week this would raise £30M!

**February 5<sup>th</sup> 2022.** Held at St. Mary's Church Horsham & Zoom.

1. Opening address by Bishop Martin emphasising that we should work more closely together and encourage people to give their personal views.
2. The meeting then discussed the result of the LLF report following the on-line survey. Out of the working population of 28000 only 5% responded and as that response showed only a 3% difference of opinion it was decided that this diocese would not make any recommendations to General Synod.

### **Deanery Meetings**

**July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** Held by Zoom, Peta was indisposed and I attended from my home. Meeting was addressed by the Bishop of Horsham Rt. Rev. Ruth Bushyager. Principle item discussed was the effects of Covid on membership and finance. One of the contributing factors was the increase in non-church activities including shopping.

**September 20<sup>th</sup> 2021.** Held at St. Wilfrid's church, Haywards Heath.

The Rev. Canon Rob. Dillingham, Deputy Director of Apostolic Life, Diocese of Chichester was the speaker. He advised a shortfall of £0.3M each year which needed to be addressed.

Realistic plans are needed to address Ministry and Mission. The Mission Action Plan previously sent to parishes was discussed.

**15<sup>th</sup> February 2022.** Held at Holy Trinity, Cuckfield.

The meeting was given over to a Deanery Eucharist presided over by the Rural Dean, Rev. Michael Maine, with an address given by the Ven. Angela Martin.

It is regretted that Peta Pratt is ill in The County Hospital in Brighton and is not in a position to contribute to this report.

**Ronald Leggett – Representative**

## **6. Bolney CEP School**

Once again 2021 has been a year dominated by Covid 19. The staff have shown huge resilience and adaptability in navigating a way through, which was both safe, but above all advantageous for the children and their learning.

It also must be said how well the pupils have responded and adapted. Sadly, as has been repeated across the country, some pupils have fallen behind, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. This has become more apparent during the relative normality of the later part of 2021.

This has been identified and the staff are doing their very best to remedy and help those children. This year has been dominated for the school and all of us, by a pesky virus.

**Tony Bond (Bolney School Foundation Governor)**

## **7. Safeguarding report**

We are very lucky to have a very competent and helpful new safeguarding team member at Church House, Vicky Martin.

Vicky is running various courses for SGO on Zoom.

All PCC meetings are continuing on Zoom. Protocol on these remains good. Members remember that we are still guided by safeguarding rules even and especially when we are on Zoom.

Thankfully we are back in church for services and having coffee again, where members of the congregation are being aware of each other whilst we are still challenged by the pandemic. It has been a quiet year for safeguarding for St Mary Magdalene, Bolney.

**Linda Barker (Safeguarding Officer)**

## **8. The Bolney Guild of Ringers' Report 2021**

There is not a great deal to report since my Report of 2020 for the PCC. The bells are in good condition and Martin Burgess is the steeple-keeper responsible for the maintenance of the bells.

When we were able to return to full ringing after the pandemic of Covid 19, we had a somewhat depleted band of 8 adult ringers as some of our ringers have left because of health problems or work commitments. We do have a new learning ringer called Mark Mumford, who is a friend of Lawrence, but we could do with more people to learn to ring.

We continue to practise on a Friday evening from 7.45 pm-9 pm. and ring before the Sunday service when there are enough of us able to do so. We have had a couple of visiting bands and

earlier as gradually things return to “normal” and people have confidence to come back to ringing.

Our ringers are:

Brian Cook (Tower Captain), Penuel Ellis-Brown, Heather Jordan, Martin Burgess, John Jordan, Lawrence Littleton-Evans, Susannah Bowen, Jeannette Sutton and occasionally, Debbie Malins. Mark Mumford is our adult learner.

**Mrs. Penuel Ellis-Brown (Secretary of the Guild)**

## **9. The Parish Magazine Group Report**

Early in 2021 Penuel expressed her wish to retire as editor of the Parish Magazine. Prompted by this news Rev. Michael asked three members of the congregation to join him in forming a Parish Magazine Group to investigate finding a new editor to ensure continuity of publication and to conduct a review of all aspects of the production of the magazine. After a few false dawns the search for a candidate culminated in an appeal to school parents which yielded a proposal from Sophie Boulderstone who had recent experience of launching a similar publication, albeit on a much larger scale. Bringing Sophie on board allowed the PMG to realise their wish to change the magazine from a subscription based model to a free publication funded entirely by advertising and delivered to all houses in the Parish thus doubling the number of copies delivered and increasing the print run fourfold. The new magazine was retitled the Bolney Magazine and launched with the Christmas 2021 issue. A delivery team that embraced the ambitions of the PMG was crucial to ensuring timely distribution and aside from one or two teething problems with production and printing overall the new Bolney Magazine has been well received in the parish.

**Martin Wood**

**Clergy Report for St. Mary Magdalene APCM for the calendar year 2021.**

### **Rev'd. Michael Windridge's report**

#### **Covid-19**

The dark shadow of Covid-19 continued to affect the life and ministry of St Mary Magdalene during most of 2021. By God's good grace, although several members of our regular congregation fell victim to the virus, none have suffered extreme medical consequences.

It is only recently that we no longer urge the wearing of face masks during services, particularly during the singing of hymns.

The wearing of masks is now left to the personal judgement of each individual who enters the church. The supply of free masks is provided at the entrance. At the Eucharist, although the consecrated wafers are distributed to each individual communicant sadly, as yet, by Diocesan guidance, the chalice is still reserved for the President only to communicate on behalf of the people.



### **The Benefice of Holy Trinity, Cuckfield and St Mary Magdalene, Bolney**

Thanks, in part, to Covid we are only just adjusting properly to the realities of our status as part of the Benefice of Cuckfield and Bolney created only in 2020.

Fr Michael Maine, Rural Dean of Cuckfield and our Benefice incumbent, retired on Sunday 27th February 2022 after an immensely fruitful ministry of seven years. Several members of St Mary Magdalene church attended the Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Cuckfield to honour his significant contribution to the life of the Diocese. I, for one, will greatly miss learning from his parish experience and benefitting from his wise counsel.

### **Benefice Interregnum**

As a consequence of Fr Michael's retirement the PCC of Holy Trinity has begun the process of drawing up a Benefice profile as a key part of recruiting a new incumbent.

Although, naturally, Holy Trinity is taking the lead in this matter, nevertheless St Mary Magdalene PCC has a vital interest in the eventual appointment. Our Churchwardens have already been in conversations with the Cuckfield Churchwardens and a joint meeting of both Cuckfield and Bolney PCCs has been arranged for Tuesday 10th May at 8pm.

### **Cuckfield Deanery Chapter**

I attended most monthly meetings of the Cuckfield Chapter during 2021. All were held by Zoom. February's 2022 meeting included a well attended pub lunchtime meal to say farewell to Michael Maine and to present him with a generous garden goods voucher for use in his much loved Ditchlingham garden.

### **Deanery & Parish Mission Action Planning Survey**

Parishes within the Cuckfield Deanery were required to formulate 'Parish Mission Action' plans to assist the Diocese in developing strategies for finance and resources per Deanery.

Although significant time and effort was spent in drawing up this document submitted in December 2021 there has, as yet, been no Diocesan 'action' in response!

### **Worship and Services, St Mary Magdalene**

The pattern of Services at St Mary Magdalene have been maintained as follows:

At 9.30am First Sunday in the Month: Service of the Word

At 9.30am Second, Third, Fourth (and Fifth) Sundays: Sung Eucharist

### **Attendance at Sunday services**

*Attendance varies between 17 and 27 communicants.*

### **Thursday Eucharist (Said)**

Said Eucharists are held on Thursday mornings at 9.30am. Fr Martin Mills and I preside on alternative Thursdays. *Attendance normally between 8 and 12.*

### **Online Services, January 3rd (Epiphany 1) to 25th March 2021**

As a consequence of Covid restrictions, both Sunday and Thursday Eucharist services were conducted either by Skype or recorded and posted on the Church's website.

### **Good Friday, April 2nd 2021, 2pm-3pm**

It was a great blessing to be able to worship again in Church for the traditional Good Friday service of words and recorded music. The service included a recording of the actor David Suchet reading the Passion narrative from St Mark's Gospel.

### **Easter Sunday, April Sung Eucharist, April 4th, 9.30am**

*Attendance: 37, Communicants 30*

Again, an enormous blessing to be able to celebrate Easter Sunday in Church for the first time since 21st March 2019.

### **Patronal Festival (Eucharist), 25th July, 2021**

*Attendance: 27, Communicants 24.* Dr Tony Bond was the Preacher.

### **Harvest Festival, 26th October 2021**

*Attendance: 11 children under 10; 66 over 16; 45 communicants*

The Harvest Festival Service was held in conjunction with the Bolney Village Chapel. Simon Allaby from the Chapel preached. The service had been widely advertised and Michael and Sabrina Windridge invited worshippers to a well attended wine and small eats reception in the Vicarage garden afterwards.

### **Remembrance Sunday, 14th November 2021**

*Attendance: 29; 27 communicants*

The Eucharist Service began at 9.15am leaving time to reach the Village Memorial for 11am. Reverend Kenneth Reeve, former Honorary Chaplain of the Royal Anglian Regiment, preached in church.

### **Advent Sunday, 28th November 2021**

Service of 'Darkness to Light' *Attendance: 48*

### **Christmas Carol Service and Christmas Crib Service 2021`**

Both the above services had to be cancelled owing to the re-emergence of Covid restrictions. Bolney School was also forced to cancel its own Carol Service traditionally held in St Mary Magdalene. The school held the event at 6pm outside in the playground later the following week and I was invited to give the final Blessing.

### **Christmas Day Service, Sung Eucharist, 9.30am**

*Attendance: 24; Communicants 23*

### **Death of the Duke of Edinburgh, 9th April 2021**

The death of Prince Philip was observed by the placing of a small portrait of him alongside a candle on a stand next to the Chancel altar. His life was remembered during the Sunday Eucharist on 15th April 2021.

### **Worship Committee, 2021**

A small (as yet unofficial) Worship Committee was formed in 2021 primarily to examine the current pattern of St Mary Magdalene Church Services and to offer me feedback and other

advice concerning worship matters. I am most grateful to Sue Ayres, Claire George and Linda Barker for their most willing and perceptive help.

### **Martyn Belsey, Organist**

Martyn is a precious musical jewel in the worshipping life of St Mary Magdalene. His dedication to his role as our church organist is quite outstanding. I greatly value his musical and choral knowledge and advice.

### **Baptisms**

There were no Baptisms conducted during 2021 but, happily, there will be at least 5 planned for 2022.

### **Marriage Services during 2021**

The following Marriage Services were held in St Mary Magdalene during 2021:

May 5th 2021 – Marriage of Sam Coull and Ellie Mackenzie

July 10th 2021 – Marriage of William Bayliss and Kirstie Livings

August 7th 2021 – Marriage of Shaun Machuca and Francesca Taylor

August 26th 2021 – Marriage of Amelia and David Johnson

August 28th 2021 – Marriage of Jade Bryant and Lee Savage

### **Funeral and Thanksgiving Services during 2021**

The following Funeral and Thanksgiving Services were held in St Mary Magdalene during 2021:

18th May 2021 – Gerry Gallagher (burial)

26th May 201 – Dennis Knight (burial)

2nd June 2021 – Frederick Hatchard (burial)

9th June 2021 – Patricia Hodges (burial)

22nd July 2021 – Rodney Pratt (burial)

12th August 2021 – Michael Williams (burial)

12th November – Charlie Batchelor (Service of Thanksgiving followed by cremation.

Interment of Ashes in Churchyard, April 4th 2022)

15th November 2021 – Anne Hazel (earlier cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving )

1st December 2021 – Alfie Hyatt (burial)

### **Interment of Ashes during 2021**

The following interment of ashes in St Mary Magdalene Churchyard took place during 2021:

16th July 2021 – Rosemary Ward

28th November 2021 – Doreen and Peter Webster

### **Bolney Village Chapel**

Simon Allaby, pastor of Bolney Village Chapel, and I have forged an excellent working relationship during 2021. Our two congregations have joined together for Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday Services. We are planning other joint services for 2022, including holding an outdoor service to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

We held via Zoom a well attended combined Lent course during March 2021. Dr Tony Bond, Reverend Simon Allaby and myself led the study of the 2021 Lent book, 'Thy Will be Done' written by Dr Stephen Cherry, Dean of King's College, Cambridge. Simon is a regularly attender and Bible reader at the Thursday Eucharists. We have greatly appreciated listening to his occasional homilies.

### **Bolney Women's Institute**

I was invited by Dilys Dunkin in July 2021 to give a talk to the Bolney WI. I spoke at their meeting in the Rawson Hall on 13th January 2022 and mentioned my previous time working in the House of Commons.

### **Bolney Magazine**

In May 2021 I formed a small group to explore the possibility of improving the design and increasing the outreach of the Parish Magazine. After several false starts, and considerable background work, a new Editor was recruited in time to produce the December 2021/January 2022 edition of the newly styled Bolney Magazine.

From the outset, the primary aim was to enable the PCC to deliver the magazine to each one of the 553 houses in the Parish of Bolney. It was agreed that the financing of the new magazine was dependent on increasing advertising revenue to meet printing, design and production costs. It was emphasised throughout preliminary discussions that there should be no additional financial burden on the PCC.

In general, the new magazine has met with overwhelming approval and appreciation. Four editions of the magazine have now been produced and copy for the May 2022 edition is already finalised.

Inevitably, there have been temporary 'glitches', particularly with delays by the printers, but we are confident that these will be sorted out in the immediate future.

I am enormously grateful to Emily Hutchings, Judy Woodland and Martin Wood for giving up so much of their time and commitment as members of the Parish Magazine Group (PMG) to help steer this project to fruition.

The launch of the Bolney Magazine and its continued publication would not have been possible without the immense design and editorial skills of Sophie Boulderstone as our new Editor.

Nor too would it have been possible to arrange for each household in the Parish to receive a copy without the team of volunteer distributors led so efficiently by Linda Foster.

### **Penuel Ellis-Brown and Albert Clifford**

In passing, an enormous debt of thanks is owed to Penuel Ellis-Brown for her dedicated editorship of the parish magazine over a seven year period. We will be marking Penuel's great service to Bolney at a social function later in the summer of 2022 where we shall also be paying tribute to the vital task of managing the advertising finances undertaken so capably by Albert Clifford.

### **Bolney Church of England Primary School** **School Assemblies**

I have been invited to conduct whole school assemblies on several occasions during the past year. I also 'topped and tailed' the school Harvest Festival service held in church on 29th

September 2021 as well as the special school leavers' service at the end of last Summer Term in July 2021.. I expect to be taking part in the 2022 Leavers' Service.

### **Retirement of Lorraine Kenny, Head Teacher**

This will be dealt with in my 2022 Report.

### **Recruitment of Head Teacher for Bolney School**

This will be dealt with in my 2022 Report.

### **Advent Calendar, 2021**

I wrote to all the families of Bolney School in December 2021 and through the help of the school office manager was able to deliver into each of the children's green book bags an Advent Calendar explaining the Christmas gospel story in order to counter the 'chocolate feast fiesta' threatening to usurp the Christian message!

### **St Mary Magdalene's Churchyard**

I would like to highlight the work of Martin Burgess and Brian Barker in maintaining the beauty and order of our Churchyard, none more so appreciated than in preparing for marriage and funeral services.

I would also like to acknowledge with grateful thanks the continued financial support of Bolney Parish Council by contributing to the upkeep of the Churchyard.

### **Father Martin Mills and Dr Tony Bond (Reader)**

Given that I am supposed to be contracted to work on a two and a half day week basis only I remain indebted to the wonderful ministry of Martin Mills and Tony Bond in taking Sunday services on the first and third Sundays of the month. They were contributing to the worshipping life of St Mary Magdalene long before I arrived in October 2020 and I have benefited enormously from their experience, friendship and support in my belated first parish appointment.

I also would like to recognise Tony's most valuable work as a most effective and efficient PCC chairman.

### **Congregation of St Mary Magdalene**

I draw constant strength and comfort from the faithfulness and devotion of St Mary Magdalene's regular congregation, especially during the challenging periods of Covid lockdowns during 2021.

I also place on record my sincere thanks to the Bell Ringers, the rota of flower arrangers, Bible readers, prayer intercessors, sidesmen, servers and coffee makers all of whom play such valued roles in building up and maintain the life of our worshipping community. I owe special thanks to Claire George as PPC Secretary for guidance on matters of church and Diocesan administration matters and for her skill in designing church adverts for the magazine.

### **St Mary Magdalene Churchwardens**

Finally, I hope both Sue Ayres and Tim Hutchings are aware of the enormous respect and esteem in which I hold them. Our regular monthly 'Wardens' meetings (by Zoom) provide

me a vital means of guidance and encouragement in carrying out my pastoral and worship duties. I cannot thank them enough for their own outstanding Christian service and witness.

**Addendum to Rev'd. Michael Windridge's annual report for 2021.**

Rev'd Michael Windridge has kindly asked me to supply a brief report to accompany his main account of the year, and that fact illustrates the generosity with which Michael shares his ministry at Bolney. It has been a joy and a privilege to work with him, Ruth and Tony at St Mary Magdalene this last year, in worship leading and in the pastoral ministry of the church. Michael, I am sure, will cover all the main developments in his report. I still enjoy very much, my visits to Bolney on the third Sunday of the month, also sharing with Michael in leading the midweek eucharist, which provides several non- Sunday attendees with their worship time. Compline by Skype on Tuesday evenings has its dedicated little band of followers too. Why not join us? It's a lovely, gentle way to end the day.

In addition to coping with all the regularly- changing covid worship regulations, wedding couples also had to deal with similar problems concerning their receptions. I'm sure Michael will agree with me in saying it has been a particular privilege to help several couples navigate their way through these choppy waters, and bring them to the joy of a church wedding, especially as the government decided that the middle of a pandemic would be just the right time to introduce various changes to marriage regulations...

Funeral ministry remains a key part of the work of a parish church. Among other services held during the year in question, it was very moving to be a part of the ceremony for our dear friend Rodney Pratt, led so beautifully by Rev'd Michael Maine.

I would like to make mention of the funeral service held on 1st December for young Alfie Hyatt, because I believe it highlighted the strengths of our church community, in the way that our church wardens, ably assisted by other members of the congregation, all pulled together to assist Michael and I in leading a service that had many emotional, logistical and other challenges. The fact that we were able to welcome the grieving family and a large number of mourners so warmly and efficiently, made a difficult day considerably easier for them to bear. My heartfelt thanks to all of you who were involved in this.

It just remains for me to say, on a purely personal note, that it is always a great pleasure to be with you for worship, and that I am hugely encouraged by all the efforts that Michael is making to strengthen our links with school and village. I look forward to seeing how the Lord will bless these endeavours.

**Fr. Martin**