

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

**REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2019  
TO BE GIVEN AT THE  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING  
ON SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

**Churchwardens Report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
for year ending 31st December 2019**

**Terrier and Inventory** The logbook, terrier and inventory are all up to date.

**Projects** 2019 turned out to be an active year for projects of various kinds.

The installation of handrails to the lychgate path was finally undertaken at a cost of £5,911, funded by grants from various public bodies. The clock dial was redecorated at a cost of £820. In terms of cost, although not visually obvious, the largest project was repointing and repairs to stonework on the west elevation of the church tower. This was the first phase of a long-term scheme recommended in the 2018 QI report. The work involved scaffolding the tower and was carried out in September 2019 at a cost of £15,060.

**Young Pilgrims** Remains in abeyance as currently we have no demand, but we are always ready to welcome young families into our midst.

**100 Club** Continues as a valuable source of income 2019: £2,310. We always have numbers available and are grateful for any encouragement of new members to join at a cost of only £10 per month.

**Deanery Cluster meetings** Member parishes of the Cuckfield Deanery are split into smaller groups. Our group the West Cluster consists of Balcombe, Bolney, Cowfold, Cuckfield and Slaugham. We meet three times a year to exchange and celebrate news, plans and achievements.

**Village Day July 2019** The PCC again promoted a Grand Draw selling many tickets before the day. It proved very successful financially, raising the sum of £ 912 net and hopefully drew parishioners' attention to our beautiful parish church and all its needs as well as promoting awareness of our mission.

**Fundraising** Fund-raising is very hard work and we are responsible for keeping our Grade 1 listed building in good repair. It is a difficult task for the faithful few. Our plans for Grand Prize Draw in the summer of 2020 and a Garden Party (by kind invitation from Judy) were thwarted by Covid restrictions but would like to issue a challenge to individuals to come up with some ideas of their own perhaps on a small scale that, collectively, may raise a similar total to a Fair thus sharing the load. Please give this suggestion some thought and let us know.

Our Bolney Markets continue to be very successful particularly for mission which was the main reason for setting them up. However, some stalls are successful financially and donate to church funds.

**Electoral Roll** Our current total on roll is 61. The roll has duly been updated in line with Church Representation Rules. We have lost several long -standing members for various reasons. New parishioners have been approached with some minor response.

Sue is currently acting as Electoral Roll Officer but anyone can do this. It is a simple task so if there is anyone willing to take this on please show yourselves!

**Churchyard maintenance** Our churchyard is kept very neat and tidy thanks to the efforts of Martin Burgess and Brian Barker.

We continue to discourage the use of artificial flowers and ornaments sometimes with great difficulty. However, visitors do comment on our well -kept churchyard.

A comment that still frequently appears regularly in our Visitors Book is ‘how good to find the church open and so welcoming’!

**Thanks** Our thanks go to members of the PCC and its officers for their unstinting support; we are very fortunate to have a core group who keep the church warm, clean and welcoming and adorned with beautiful flower arrangements. Our grateful thanks to you all – you know who you are! We do desperately need more folks to help clean the church as we seem to be reliant on very few people who cover the whole year. It is however an enormous help that we do two major ‘cleans’ during the year with the help of a good team.

**Clergy/Interregnum** Fr Keith left the parish to take up an appointment in Goring by Sea in January 2019. We expressed our sincere thanks for his ministry over 11 years with a presentation at his final service.

Fr Martin, Revd Ruth and Tony Bond have admirably stepped up to help during our interregnum for which we are truly grateful. We have welcomed several priests with Permission to Officiate who have come to preside on a few Sundays. They have been quite refreshing with their preaching and approach to worship.

During the year a fully illustrated parish profile document was prepared by the PCC for use by the archdeacon when seeking to fill the vacancy. Advertising commenced autumn 2019. We hope an appointment will be made during the course of 2020.

**And finally**, as always, we must say to Fr Martin, Rev Ruth and Tony, how much we appreciate their ministry and teaching. It is no mean task to meet with the demands of parishes in interregnum. We continue to offer them our unstinting support. Thank you all.

**SBA/TJBH APCM 09/20**

## 2. PCC Secretary - Report for 2019

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

Incumbent/Chairman	The Revd Keith Littlejohn (up to February 2019)
Incumbent	The Revd Michael Maine (From January 2020)
Curate	The Revd Martin Mills
Reader/Acting Chairman	Dr Anthony Bond
Churchwardens	Mrs Susan Ayres, Mr Tim Hutchings
Treasurer	Mr Tim Hutchings
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mrs Peta Pratt, Mr Rodney Pratt
Secretary	Mrs Claire George
Elected Members	Mr John Allen Mr Martin Burgess Mr Ronald Leggett Mrs Janice Warren
Safeguarding Officer	Mr Peter Sutton (up to July 2019) Mrs Linda Barker from July 2019 (co opted to the PCC January 2020)

Please note during the interregnum the vice-chairman acts as chairman.

The Council met up on 7 occasions with an average of 9 members being present at each meeting.

The **PCC meetings** discussed a wide range of items concerning the spiritual, pastoral and mission needs of the parish as well as the care of the church building, social activities, fundraising and financial matters. Matters concerning Health & Safety, Safeguarding, are now standing items on the PCC agenda. From February 2019 onwards the Interregnum also became a standing item. Details of all these will be covered in other reports in the meeting.

**Church Website.** We are particularly grateful to Martyn Belsey whose help 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. Recent sermons, can also be listened to by listening to our audio files.

**Claire George (PCC Secretary) September 2020**

### **3. PCC Accounts 2019 - Treasurer's Commentary for APCM**

- 1.Excess of expenditure over income: **£3,932**.
- 2.Income ignoring one-off receipts £59,457. Forecast 2019: £62,965. Budget 2020: £58,500.
- 3.Expenditure net of projects **£48,834**. Forecast 2019: **£57,586**. Budget 2020: **£57,875**.
- 4.Adjusted surplus: **£10,623**. Forecast 2019 £5,379. Budgeted surplus 2020: £675.
- 5.Income from planned giving plus collections, incl tax: **£47,854**.
- 6.Income from fundraising activities, sales and fees **£11,603**.
- 7.Parish share **£28,753** in 2019 equates to 59% of expenditure.
- 8.Parish share as proportion of income **48%**, i.e. for every £100 coming in £48 goes out.
- 9.Maintenance **£35,644** includes projects Tower Phase 1 £15,060, Clock Dial £820, Handrails £5,911, totalling £21,791. Other items re-allocated to Mission £2,716 (includes one-off advertising cost £999) and Utilities (broadband £389). Upkeep of churchyard £5,736 (includes one-off £3,000 for tree surgery). Building repair, maintenance and servicing £5,012 (previous year £3,670).
- 10.Restricted Funds (clock & handrail projects): **£5,138**. PCC to consider options.
- 11.Loans. Repayments **£6,100** during the year (shown under Liabilities as a deduction). Original loan of £18,000 for organ refurb now discharged. Further loan of £12,500 for boiler down to £5,000 going forward. Two remaining annual repayments of £2,500, interest free.
- 12.Net Assets **£22,852**: bank £31,418 less debtors (loans & fees): £8,566. Previous year net £26,784, i.e. fall of £3,932 over the year (14.6%).

**TJBH 29.02.2020 rev 19.09.2020. (See separate copy of Accounts for 2019)**

### **4. Electoral Roll**

The number on our Electoral Roll stands at 61 having been revised by the end of this reporting year.

**Susan Ayres (Electoral Roll Officer) 25/09/2020**

## **5. Cuckfield Deanery Synod Report**

### **June 2019 synod:**

Speaker The Right Reverend Mark Sowerby Bishop of Horsham. “Know; Love; Follow”  
The diocesan strategy looks at growth (numerical and spiritual, but including financial sustainability);

Re-imagining Ministry (a “portfolio” of training and support including the employment of a lay ministry officer; an occasional preacher scheme; a simpler lay ministers of communion course; and renewing serving clergy); Contribution to the common good (reminding us of the “One New Thing” pledge).

**September 2019 synod:** The floor was opened for discussion: ‘County Lines’, sharing resources, Churches Together in Haywards Heath, and cluster meetings.

**November 2019 synod:** speaker: Cavan Wood (Reader at All Saints Lindfield) :

“Christian care for those with autism” Support for those with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis and their carers by our congregations.

### **Message from the Rural Dean**

*Dear Friends,*

*You will know that it has been a period of considerable challenge on many fronts for all of the parishes in our deanery. That said, and bearing in mind the new world we currently inhabit, it is both very moving and encouraging to see the way in which all of our churches have continued their mission, albeit in differing ways. This is greatly to the credit of clergy and lay people alike – a true sign of the Holy Spirit at work. As you will understand, we have no news regarding future meetings of our Deanery Synod. Until such time as Government and National Church explore how our buildings may safely open and worship resume, we will not have a clear understanding of how the business of the Church will then be able to progress. When the situation becomes clearer from the diocesan authorities, I will be in touch again. In the meanwhile, let us continue to pray for humanity and ask that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit in drawing all those we meet (in whatever circumstances) to grow in the knowledge of the fulness of life which is found in Jesus Christ.*

*With my prayers and best wishes.*

***Michael (Michael J Maine, Vicar and Rural Dean of Cuckfield)***

## **Rodney and Peta Pratt October 2020**

### **7. Bolney CEP School.**

Well it has been an interesting year! It started with the strain of trying to produce a Rolls Royce education with a secondhand mini budget. However the staff and administration particularly have been amazing at continuing to deliver the first class education, not just academically but for the whole person. Every child is known, valued, and enabled to achieve their best.

Then along came Covid 19 and lockdown. The school continued to provide for the children of key workers and we had about 1/3rd of the total attending in carefully controlled 'bubbles'. Meanwhile whilst the staff were teaching these children in school, they were providing teaching on line for the others at home, and also monitoring their progress. No mean feat!

All of the staff including the head teacher have been amazing, showing adaptability, and adjusting to the 'new way' of teaching. There has been a huge amount of work in changing the whole way the school had worked, from class room layouts and equipment, to learning about hand washing and social distancing. Many meetings and risk assessments later, school has returned for the new academic year, with all its challenges.

The staff are very tired but still full of enthusiasm, it is a very challenging environment for staff and pupils and they have all been and are, amazing.

This year will be hard for them, not least because the powers that be are still expecting all the usual assessments and monitoring to continue as if nothing had happened. So please continue to support them in your prayers and in any practical way possible.

**Tony Bond (Bolney School Foundation Governor) September 2020**

## **8. Safeguarding.**

Taking on the Safeguarding Officer job has been a steep learning curve. The Church of England insist every PCC member to have a DBS (disclosure and barring service) and they have to do some safeguarding training. This included myself.

Most members who need a DBS now have one. Covid 19 in 2020 has meant I have not had face to face access to the people who need to get their DBS done so I haven't been able to nag to get everyone done. Also we are required to have at least C0 training done. Well done to members of the PCC who have done that training. Churchwardens and myself needed to do C0, C1 and C2 and many thanks to Tim and Sue who embraced the challenge.

I also attended a brilliant course run by 31:8 to understand the DBS procedure. I have access to our own expert at 31:8 for help and advice. Proverbs 31:8 "Speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable"

Priests, NSM PSO and Readers are the responsibility of the Diocese. SQP quality assurance is still not completed. We cannot ask for certification until all PCC members have a current DBS and have done the required safeguarding training.

**Linda Barker (Safeguarding Officer) 25/09/2020**

## **9. The Bolney Guild of Ringers' Report for PCC**

There is not a great deal to report since my Report of 2019 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 are able to return to full ringing after the pandemic of Covid 19, we should have a band of 10 adult ringers and 1 teenager who is Susannah Bowen's son, Harry. This will probably be next year in 2021 if a vaccine is found and the virus runs its course.

We hope to continue to practise on a Friday evening from 7.45 pm-9 pm. but at present we are limited to only ringing for the Sunday service for 15 minutes. We are also unable to have Advanced Practices with the Northern Division on a Monday evening about 2 or 3 times a year, and we also have had no visiting bands this year as everything has been put on hold since "lockdown".

Previously we were able to ring on 5 or more bells most Sundays before the 9.30 service and for weddings.

Our ringers are:

Brian Cook (Tower Captain), Penuel Ellis-Brown, Heather Jordan, Martin Burgess, John Williams, John Jordan, Lawrence Littleton-Evans, Susannah Bowen, Pam Pattenden, Jeannette Sutton. and occasionally, Debbie Malins. Susannah Bowen's son-Harry, is a learner.

## **Penuel Ellis-Brown (Secretary of the Guild) September 2020**

### **10. The Parish Magazine Report for the PCC**

I have been editing the magazine since August 2012 and although I enjoy my role perhaps it's time for someone else to take over?

Until "lockdown" in March we have been able to produce 10 magazines a year that could be printed at Church House. Since then we have had to put the magazine online and a few distributors have printed copies off for parishioners who do not have access to the internet. I hope the November edition will be printed when Alan Bates at Church House is back from holiday. We hope to print it in colour at a reasonable cost. I think Susan Ayres knows the price?

The majority of the regular contributors are usually good about the deadline date, but I still need to send out reminder emails. I am going to ask them to make sure they send in articles early or find someone else to write for them if they are going to be away on holiday and not able to make the deadline. There are 250 copies printed and about 220 subscribers. Usually the magazine runs to 28 pages, but on a couple of occasions I have added 4 more to take it up to 32 pages. Can't just add 1 page! The paid for advertisements take about 12 of the pages and Albert Clifford is responsible for invoicing the contributors. The Magazine still costs 60p and subscriptions are £6 p.a. Since my last report, Bolney C.E.P. school now provides a regular article which is great to have as do several of the village societies.

We have extended the deadline to the 17th of each month rather than the 15th.

## **Penuel Ellis-Brown (Editor) September 2020**

## **Fr. Martin's Report for the 2020 St. Mary Magdalene APCM**

This report deals with the calendar year 2019. As noted in last year's report, 2019 began with our saying goodbye to Fr. Keith and his family, with a service of thanksgiving and farewell. It is good to report that they have settled happily at Goring on Sea, and that Fr. Keith's many gifts are being well employed.

The remainder of the year under review was spent in a state of interregnum. As the local manifestation of the Church of England, we strove to maintain our position of offering care for the spiritual needs of all in our community, regardless of affiliation, and we welcomed all worshippers, whether regulars or occasional attenders. The church building and churchyard are very much at the centre of this gentle ministry. The fact that the building is kept open during the daylight hours continued to play a part in this, and enabled us to offer a quiet place of sanctuary for local people, to offer their prayers or just sit quietly for a while. The candle prayer stand is well used. The frequently visited and well tended graves in the churchyard bear testimony to the fact that the Lord brings solace to those who attend this beautiful spot. We can all be very grateful to the people who work to maintain the churchyard in such good order, both church members and the Community Payback Scheme. The faithful work of people who attend church cleaning days, and who provide wonderful flower arrangements week by week, also plays an important part in this ministry, in addition to enhancing our worship services. Our thanks to all.

### **Worship**

The regular Sunday services continued to be the centre of our life together. Following discussion with our wardens, Rev'd. Ruth and Dr Tony Bond and I produced a service pattern rota, which we hoped would be sustainable during the interregnum. Unfortunately, I needed to take a period of compassionate leave after my father died in March 2019, and we are very grateful for the dedication shown to our congregation by Ruth and Tony, also by a number of retired visiting clergy. We were very pleased to be called to worship by our team of bellringers once more in 2019: a great privilege to be thus summoned to the Lord's house. The unity of the Body of Christ is very visible when all its members offer their gifts in worship, and it was pleasing to see this in evidence again. Thanks to those who produced and distributed service sheets and rotas, welcomed our visitors as sidespeople, read lessons, led intercessions, provided refreshments, and who served at the altar. It has been very good that Sarah Harvey has joined the server team recently, and we were very glad to welcome her. We should record special thanks to Martyn Belsey, our organist (and IT expert.) His playing adds another dimension to our worship, and his spiritually sensitive guidance on choice of music and hymns is always welcome. We have been able to maintain our Sunday 8am BCP said eucharist, with a service each Sunday either at Bolney or Cowfold, and this attracts a loyal following. The midweek eucharist on Thursdays was also maintained, albeit reduced to fortnightly. It was at this service on 7th November 2019, that we marked our annual commemoration of the souls of the faithful departed.

Archdeacon Fiona provided us with much support and advice over the year, and it was a joy to welcome her to church on 7th June to lead a prayer service in conjunction with the Archbishops' 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative. We pray for God's healing and guidance to Fiona, following her recent retirement on health grounds. St. Mary Magdalene Church continued to be involved in the usual affairs of deanery and chapter. Thanks in no small measure to Ruth's and Tony's assistance, we were also able to maintain the usual range of

seasonal special services for Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, Harvest, Patronal Festival, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas. The Lent course, kindly led for us by Tony, enjoyed the participation of our brothers and sisters from Top Street Chapel, with whom we also shared a harvest supper and dance, happy signs of ecumenism in the village. Christmas services were particularly well supported by the wider community. The crib service was very popular with many young families in attendance. We should, however, note, that we have joined that increasing number of Anglican churches who have no regular attendance by children on Sundays. We are grateful to those who have led our work with children and young people in the recent past, especially Claire George and Peter Sutton, and we hope that this work can be rejuvenated once our new priest in charge has arrived.

A backdrop to our worship, and to the life of the church generally over the last year, has been the decision that, following Fr. Keith's departure, Bolney and Cowfold parishes will pursue separate futures. It has been agreed that Bolney will be linked with Cuckfield as a united benefice under Rev'd. Michael Maine as benefice incumbent. Michael has already been a source of great support, and those of you who know him will be very pleased at this arrangement. Inevitably, as we get to know our brothers and sisters at Cuckfield better, ties with Cowfold will loosen, but I know that many individual friendships will be maintained, and we thank God for the time we have spent together over the last eleven years.

### **The School**

We continue to give thanks for the work of Mrs Lorraine Kenny and her dedicated team of staff at St. Mary Magdalene Church School. The school has continued to attend church for their special services at relevant times of the year, but, unfortunately, I have not found it possible to visit the school to take assemblies. It is good that Dr Tony Bond remains on the board of governors as a link. We also have a link through Sarah Harvey being on the staff, and I know that Sue Ayres also has contact with Lorraine. Hopefully, our new priest in charge will be able to breathe new life into this relationship, which I know we will all welcome.

### **Pastoral Work**

The 'occasional offices' of baptisms, weddings and funerals remained a core part of the church's ministry in this field. It is a great privilege to be invited to draw alongside people at significant emotional moments in their lives, whether of joy or of grief, and to offer them the Lord's love and comfort. As the ambassadors of Christ and His Kingdom, we wish to make His love known to all with whom we come into contact, and these services continue to enable us to reach out to the wider community in a most profound way. It was a particular joy to baptise Sue Ayres' granddaughter, Charlotte, at the feast of Christ the King on 24th November.

It was pleasing to see the ongoing success of the Bolney Market gatherings at the Rawson Hall, which are much appreciated by the traders and the people of the community who attend the sales. This is an effective low key way for the church to build links with the village. Many thanks to Claire, Emily, and all who have helped to make this possible. The diocese has a powerful ministry of assistance to needy families in the county, through its FSW organisation, providing professional support and help with various other needs. We were pleased to be able to assist them by placing a basket in church to receive gifts of food, which are collected regularly for ongoing distribution. On 17th August, Judy Woodland again very kindly made her lovely garden available to us for 'Tea at Agates', both a valuable fundraiser

for us, and another opportunity for the church to meet the wider village community. We express our gratitude to Judy and her team of helpers for a very enjoyable afternoon. Mention of fundraising does bring us to a consideration of finance generally. The church needs to fund its mission and worship, and as the Body of Christ, it behoves each of us, as members of that body, to review our giving regularly, so the body as a whole may function well. Perhaps we shall hear more on this subject from our treasurer at the APCM.

It has been a great privilege and joy to serve as your assistant curate this year, and to know that I have been in your thoughts and prayers, as you have been in mine. We have been blessed to be served by a loyal, effective PCC, and owe our thanks to all its members, including those with particular responsibilities. Tony and Claire, as chairman and secretary, have run things with great diligence and efficiency, and we were also very glad, and relieved, to welcome Linda Barker as our new safeguarding officer.

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to our churchwardens, Sue Ayres and Tim Hutchings. It was with great relief that I learned they were willing to continue in office during the interregnum. As you all know, not only are they both lovely people, but they are extremely dedicated to their task, and, in their many skills, they complement each other perfectly.

During an interregnum the duties imposed upon churchwardens increase considerably, (whether they realised quite how much beforehand I am not sure), but the fact that we have seemed to pass through this year so serenely has been largely due to the huge amount of effort expended by Sue and Tim. Thank you, both, so very much.

The year under review ended with a parish profile produced, the co-operation with Cuckfield taking shape, and our advertisement for a new priest appearing in the Church Times.

Of course, since the end of 2019, rather a lot has happened. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on the church and the world. We have faced change to virtually every aspect of life. As I write this, we are cautiously continuing to emerge from lockdown, and give thanks that we can gather in church again, but much remains uncertain. The events reviewed in this report seem to be both a year and a lifetime ago, and I have struggled to recall every detail. Please therefore forgive me if I have failed to remember any significant event, and especially if I have failed to thank anyone.

This report ends on a highlight and note of hope. We were recently delighted to be able to announce the appointment of the Rev'd. Michael Windridge to be our new priest in charge. We look forward to welcoming Michael and Sabrina to Bolney as soon as they are able to move into the vicarage, and we confidently ask God to bless our future together, as we seek the Lord's will for the ongoing ministry of St. Mary Magdalene Church.

**May God bless you all,**

**Fr. Martin**