



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF
ST. MARY MAGDALENE, BOLNEY**

(“St Mary Magdalene PCC”)

Registered Charity Number: 1190593



**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

For the year ending 31st December 2024

Aims and purposes

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St. Mary Magdalene, Bolney (the PCC) has the legal responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar (the Reverend Daniel Valentine) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services and activities can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music, and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.



Vicars Introduction

As I sit to write this introduction to our Annual Report for 2024, I am filled with deep gratitude for the life and ministry of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Bolney. This year has been one of quiet faithfulness, generous giving, and a continued commitment to keeping the church at the heart of our village life.

We began the year in celebration, with Ruth and Tony Bond leading our Epiphany service — a symbol of the shared leadership that sustains our worship week by week. Throughout the year, it has been a joy to see our community gathering, whether at Bolney Markets, the Summer Prize Draw, or our popular Advent initiative, 'Inspiring Angels', which brought people together with creativity, warmth and shared purpose.

We have been blessed by the support of our visiting clergy and readers, the energy of volunteers who tend our church and churchyard with great care, and the dedication of those who serve quietly and consistently behind the scenes. From pastoral care to school assemblies, community events to Sunday worship, every moment has been a testament to our parish's devotion and hospitality.

This past year also brought a generous legacy from the estate of Rodney Pratt, a gift that speaks of lasting commitment to our church and its future. We remain prayerful and discerning as we consider how to use this blessing wisely.

Our challenges remain real — especially the continuing need to grow our congregation, maintain our historic building, and ensure that we are financially resilient in the face of rising costs. But within these challenges, I see real opportunity. Opportunity to invite, to reimagine, and to reach out afresh with the Good News of Christ.

My sincere thanks go to our PCC, Churchwardens, volunteers, and every member of our community who contributes so generously of time, skill, prayer, and financial support. Though small in number, we are rich in spirit, and our church continues to be a place where faith is lived, celebrated, and shared.

May the year ahead be one of hope, growth and joy.

With every blessing...

The Rev'd Daniel Valentine
Vicar

Review of the year

2024 began with Ruth and Tony Bond presiding and preaching respectively to celebrate Epiphany.

In February (and again in May, September and November) we held our quarterly Bolney Markets. These were set up as a way of providing mission to the village to encourage all members of the community to meet over coffee and browse stalls manned by local craftsmen and more.

In April one of the new businesses from Marylands contacted us with a view to doing some voluntary work. It was agreed that they would help to keep the churchyard tidy by taking on tasks that were difficult to find time for. Our churchyard continued to be well-cared for by Martin Burgess and Brian Barker.

In May, St Mary Magdalene was represented at the Parish Assembly held in the Rawson Hall. All organisations were present with information and to answer questions from the community.

In May, August and September three couples from the parish were married in church, by Fr Daniel and Rev Stephen Caple.

Fr Daniel also baptised a young member of a family who had recently moved into the village. In May the PCC launched our annual Summer Prize Draw. It proves each year that it is a successful action to add two books of tickets to each Bolney Magazine as this is where the majority of the profit is raised. As there was no Village Day we concluded the draw at the September Bolney Market. Approximately £800.00 was raised for church funds.

In July Archdeacon Angela came for a prescribed Visitation. It is the duty of the Diocese to make visitations to all parishes and usually rotates between a Bishop, Archdeacon and Rural Dean. We received a positive and helpful report.

Martin Wood took part in the annual September Ride and Stride which initially raises funds for Sussex Historic Churches although we gain as we are given 50% of the funds. £530.00 came to church funds. Thank you Martin!

Bolney Primary School regularly came into church once a week for their assembly and teaching session. They also attended for a Christmas Carol Service and Leavers Service in July.

We have had two new pulpit falls (red and white) made by Margaret Burgess and dedicated to the memories of Rodney and Janet Pratt and David and Barbara Robins. Both were sponsored by their respective families in gratitude for the long service they all gave to St Mary Magdalene.

We had two successful major church cleans in March and November thanks to the help of members of the congregation.

In Advent we launched 'Inspiring Angels' inviting everyone to contribute angels in any shape or form. The event was coordinated by Jenny Harrison. It proved very successful and brought many people together from the village. This was a Deanery wide project. The year concluded with a Carol Service led by Holy Trinity choir.

Susan Ayres
Churchwarden



Report on the Fabric

In April the quinquennial survey was carried out by Robin Nugent. The subsequent report recommended works to be addressed over the quinquennium at a total estimated cost of £6200. The work requiring immediate attention has been completed at no cost, it being carried out by the volunteers from Marylands. The remaining recommended works include redecoration of the Chancel ceiling, cleaning and repairs to the lychgate roof, window cleaning and repairs, fitting a handrail to the steps outside the vestry and sundry minor works none of which are urgent.

There were ongoing discussions with the school Headteacher and WSCC concerning repairs to the Church Lane, the expired lease and the ongoing apportionment of liability for costs between the PCC and WSCC. The PCC has now sought guidance from the Diocesan Property Director and a plan is now in place to offer a new agreement to WSCC that should relieve the PCC of responsibility for future maintenance.

In November the tower bells were inspected by Whites of Appleton. The report concluded that the bells remain useable but would benefit from some remedial work to maintain the installation in good order for the longer term. A programme for the work will be addressed in 2025.

The repair and maintenance work undertaken during the year is summarised as follows:
January: Annual fire extinguisher testing and maintenance was carried out by Churches Fire Security Ltd.

May: Tower clock was serviced by Gillett and Johnston Ltd.

Spring/Summer: Clearing vegetation and other debris from ground drainage channels to ensure proper drainage of rainwater was undertaken by the volunteer team from Marylands.

September: Repairs to the south nave roof, specifically repointing the lower three courses of slabs east of the south porch, carried out by Martin Longdon.

September: Annual PAT testing carried out by RMK Portable Appliance Testing.

October: Annual boiler service by BSW.

October: Damage became visible to the Sanctuary ceiling together with resultant debris caused by squirrel activity in the roof space. Martin Longdon investigated and blocked up some likely access points.

December: Netting on the north side aperture in the belfry was replaced to prevent pigeons from roosting in the belfry.

December: The squirrel damage to the Sanctuary ceiling repaired by Martin Longdon. The Terrier, the Inventory have been kept up to date.

Worship & Attendance

Sunday

Throughout the year in review, the church maintained its traditional approach to Sunday worship at 9.30 am each Sunday with traditional hymns accompanied by Martyn Belsey. We are very grateful to Martyn for his wonderful music ministry playing for our Sunday services and wish him well in his retirement.

Our worship has been enabled by several regular visiting priests from our sister church Cuckfield, including David Tickner, Stephen Caple and Caroline Currer.

The number of worshippers attending during the year remains of concern. Most dioceses set a benchmark of over thirty regular Sunday worshippers as the benchmark for a viable church. We rarely reach this number. The most recent statistics for mission are included in the appendix to this report.

Weekday

We offer weekday communion each Thursday. There is a small but dedicated congregation.

Health and Safety Report

Matters relating to health and safety during the year were attended to by the Churchwardens. Electrical PAT Testing is up to date, as is the annual servicing of our fire extinguishers. There were no reportable health and safety incidents during the year.

We have yet to review and update the Health and Safety Manual. This will take place as part of an overall review of our policies being undertaken over the next twelve months.

Deanery Synod

The Vicar is an ex-officio member of the House of Clergy of the Deanery Synod and two members of the PCC sit in the House of Laity (Ron Leggett and Susan Ayres). This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. The Deanery Synod met 4 times in 2024 under the chairmanship of the Revd. Christopher Powell (Rural Dean)

Tuesday 20th February
Meeting held at St. Wilfred's Church, Haywards Heath.

Wednesday 22nd May
Meeting held at St. Margarets Church, West Hoathly

Thursday 19th September
Meeting Held at Ascension Church, Haywards Heath.

Tuesday 12th November
Meeting held at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield.

With the exception of the latter meeting all were attended by myself and reports sent to the PCC for Action (where appropriate) and general information for the congregation. Additional copies were available on request.

Copies of all Deanery Meeting agendas are sent to Susan Ayres, Church Warden for inclusion in the Forthcoming Events section in Pew News.

ALL Members of the congregation are welcome to attend the Deanery Meetings as has been the practice previous years.

The next general meeting of the Deanery will be in May.

Ron Leggett
Deanery Synod Representative

Electoral Roll

At the end of the year the number on the roll stood at 58 with 8 being non-resident. According to church governance, the roll is due for a complete revision prior to the APCM in 2025. This revision takes place every six years.

Susan Ayres
Electoral Roll Officer

Volunteers

The Vicar would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard for the church. It is unwise to try to mention everyone personally, as this would inevitably mean that someone was missed out. I would not want to miss anyone out. The Vicar has expressed particular thanks to his fellow Clergy, Reader, Visiting Priest with PTO, Churchwardens, Members of the PCC, Sides people, readers, intercessors, and those who help look after and clean the building and look after the garden.

We are an aging congregation, and it is fair to say that we are struggling to fill all of the posts that are now essential in running a church and charity.



The Easter Garden designed and created by Year 5

Safeguarding

The PCC gives the highest priority to safeguarding the welfare of children and young people as well as vulnerable adults within the parish and is required by the Church of England and by law to have effective arrangements in place to protect them.

Thank you to Linda Barker for the years she has served as Parish Safeguarding Officer. Due to her leaving the parish, I agreed to take over on a temporary basis.

I attended the Leadership Course training course and will ensure that all members of the PCC and Bellringers who hold teaching sessions in the tower, have updated their training and applied for their DBS.

Chichester Diocese has recently been inspected for its Safeguarding Procedures. After previous years failings it seems to be recovering thanks to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer's diligence and guidance.

Safeguarding is a standard item on each PCC meeting agenda. There were no safeguarding concerns reported during the year in review.

Susan Ayres
Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO)

Financial Review - Treasurer's Report 2024

1. Draft accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 are attached.

2. Income £57,128; expenditure £52,313; surplus £4,815.

3. In the previous year, the accounts show a surplus of £7,448.

4. In September 2024 the PCC received a legacy of £50,000 from the estate of Rodney Vince Pratt. Pending a decision on how the legacy is to be used, this sum is invested with CCLA in an interest-bearing account. The first instalment of interest in the sum of £507.46 was credited on 3 January 2025.

5. Bank balances as at 31 December 2024 total £80,673, i.e. £30,673 without the legacy monies.

7. The PCC is facing a significant increase to its overheads in 2025 from two sources: share of salary for worker and the PCC's contribution to the diocese, known as parish share.

Reserves Policy

As a matter of policy, the PCC should attempt to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments.



Structure, Governance and Management

Parochial Church Council Report

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operate under Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

The members of the PCC consist of the Vicar, Licensed Clergy, wardens, the reader and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. The Standing Committee of the PCC is formed of the Priest in Charge, The Vice-Chair, the churchwardens, the treasurer and the PCC Secretary, and Treasurer. There were no Standing Committee meetings held during the year in question.

This report covers the period from January 2024 to Dec 2024. The Annual Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on Sunday 21st April 2024. The meetings of the PCC and Members attending were as follows:

	28/02/2025	09/04/2025	21/04/2025	23/06/2024	04/09/2024	30/10/2024	TOTAL
Janice Warren	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
Jenny Harrison (Secretary)	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Linda Barker	1	0	1	1	1	1	5
Martin Burgess	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Martin Wood	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Revd Daniel Valentine (Chair)	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Revd Martin Mills	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
Ron Leggatt	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
Susan Ayres	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
Tim Hutchings (Treasurer)	1	1	1	0	1	1	5
Tony Bond	1	1	1	1	1	0	5
TOTAL	10	7	10	9	9	8	

No other committees were constituted or met during the year.

Administrative and legal information

The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene, Bolney situated on Church Lane, Bolney, West Sussex, RH17 5QR. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a Registered Charity with registration number 1190593

The correspondence address is:

Bookers Farm
Foxhole Lane
Bolney
HAYWARDS HEATH
West Sussex
RH17 5NB

Phone: 01444 881320

Email: stmarymagdalenebolney@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarymagdalenebolney.org.

CHURCH CODE: 610153
ARCHDEACONRY: HORSHAM
DEANERY: CUCKFIELD
BENEFICE: Cuckfield and Bolney
BENEFICE ID: 10-035A
PARISH LEGAL NAME: Bolney
DIOCESE: Chichester

Approved by the PCC on
Daniel Valentine (Vicar and PCC Chair)

and signed on their behalf by the Reverend

The Rev'd Daniel Valentine

Date



Appendix 1 – Accounts for the year to 31st December 2024

Appendix 2 – Mission Statistics for 2024