

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

**REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 2023**

**TO BE PRESENTED AT THE
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL
CHURCH MEETING**

ON

**SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024
FOLLOWING THE EUCHARIST**

PCC of St Mary Magdalene, Bolney

Report for APCM 21 April 2024

1. At the start of 2023, we bade farewell to Claire George, long-serving PCC Secretary. Rev Michael's ministry continued through the greater part of 2023 following the announcement made in July of the expiry of his licence and his retirement in the autumn. A farewell service was held on 1st October 2023 when a presentation was made to Michael and Sabrina, made possible by the generosity of many parishioners. After three years in Bolney, Michael and Sabrina moved back to Norfolk.

2. This being a "House for Duty" post, the vicarage was duly vacated. Following an inspection by the wardens with the diocese property manager, the house is being kept ready for re-occupation.

3. Thanks to the invaluable support of our honorary "home team" comprising Fr Martin, Rev Ruth and Tony Bond, weekly services Sunday services were maintained for the rest of the year with visiting priests also officiating, with Thursday services taking place every other Thursday. A number of weddings and funerals have taken place.

4. Events held during the year included special services at Easter, Christmas and other festivals and on the occasion of the coronation of King Charles III last May. The church had a visible presence on Village Day when the Grand Draw took place which raised £1,000 for PCC funds. The yearly Act of Remembrance at the war memorial attracted another good turnout.

5. The fabric of the church remains sound, although being an ancient building it requires regular maintenance. The five yearly survey (QI) is due in 2024 which may reveal the need for fabric repairs. The churchyard continues to be visited by many people locally, from other parts of the country and overseas. It is well maintained thanks to the hard work of Brian and Martin.

6. Following the previous editor's departure in February 2023, Bolney Magazine (owned by the PCC) took on a fresh lease of life thanks initially to Sabrina, who stepped into the breach at short notice and rescued the magazine from imminent closure, handing over its editorship to a new team (Karyn Kelley and Melanie Uniacke), who are taking it forward. The magazine is delivered free of charge to every house in the parish ten times a year, the cost of printing and production being financed by advertising.

7. On Rev Michael's initiative to spread awareness of the church more widely and help meet the challenge of funding its upkeep, a reception was held during the summer of 2023 attended by a number of parishioners who would not describe themselves as regular worshippers but for whom St Mary Magdalene, the only Grade 1-listed building in the parish of Bolney, is important. This resulted in the welcome addition of some fresh donors via PGS, and interest expressed in the formation of a Friends' Group.

8. Volunteers undertake a myriad of tasks from sweeping and cleaning the church to flower arranging, reading lessons, coffee tea-making, welcoming arrivals at the door, all of which enable the church to run smoothly. The wardens take this opportunity to thank each and every one for their much-valued contribution.

9. On 22nd November 2023, we welcomed the Rev'd Daniel Valentine as Vicar of the United Benefice of Cuckfield and Bolney. The post of House for Duty Associate Priest for the Benefice with responsibility for Bolney is (as at the date of this report) being advertised in April 2024.

TJBH 30.03.2024

PCC SECRETARY-2023 REPORT

During 2023, the following served as MEMBERS of the Parochial Church Council ;

Associate Priest (with particular responsibility for Bolney) and PCC Chairman Vicar:
The Rev'd Michael Windridge. (Retired Oct 2023)

Vicar: The Rev'd Daniel Valentine and PCC Chairman . (From Nov 22nd 2023)

Chairman/Reader and Lay Vice Chairman (and acting Chairman to 22nd Nov 2023):
Dr. Anthony Bond.

Non-stipendiary minister Curate: The Rev'd Martin Mills (also non-stipendiary minister, Lower Beeding, (Holy Trinity) (St John The Evangelist) and Cowfold.

Church Wardens: Mrs. Susan Ayres, Mr. Tim Hutchings.

Treasurer: Mr. Tim Hutchings.

Deanery Synod Representative: Mr. Ron Leggett.

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs. Susan Ayres.

Secretary: Mrs. Claire George. (Retired from post April 2023).

Secretary: Jennifer Harrison (In post May 2023).

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs. Linda Barker.

Member: Mr. Martin Burgess.

Member: Mrs. Janice Warren.

Member: Mr. Martin Wood.

MEETINGS

The Council met on 5 occasions;-

January 2023, March 2023, May 2023, August 2023, and November 2023.

Three of the meetings were held at the Rawson Hall committee room, one at St. Mary Magdalene church, and one was held via video call (May 2023).

There were an average of 9 members present at each of the five meetings.

Items discussed included;

Ministry, Mission and Outreach (including Bolney Magazine).

Safeguarding. Both standing items on the agenda.

Maintenance of all church buildings , structural and otherwise.
(including the now vacant Vicarage).

Maintenance of the churchyard.

Maintenance of Church Lane (access road).

Foundation Governor posts. (Bolney C of E school).

Ministerial House for Duty post (Currently vacant).

PCC meetings going forward. Rescheduling .

Details are covered in other reports.

POLICIES

Policies continue to be updated on the second PCC meeting after each APCM. A revision of the current policy regarding churchyard memorials, was proposed in order to give further guidance to persons tending Memorial stones and Burial plots.

CHARITY COMMISSION

We are registered with the Charity Commission, and are required, at the end of each year, annually, to produce and file a report.this annual report and accounts.

The PCC have a legal responsibility, and all members (as trustees), can access the Charity Commission website for further information on their responsibilities.

CHURCH WEBSITE

We are indebted to Mr. Martyn Belsey, for his continued expertise and dedication.

In 2023 due to a system upgrade, he redesigned and rebuilt our Homepage , and edits and uploads other content when required. Please see report for further information.

CHURCH MUSIC

We are grateful to Mr. Martyn Belsey, our accomplished and knowledgeable church organist , for his wonderful contribution to the beauty and sacredness of our church services, and for sourcing additional music online to augment a choirless service . Please see report for further information.

BENEFICE OF CUCKFIELD AND BOLNEY

We said our farewells to the Reverend Michael Windridge and his wife Sabrina at his last service in late September 2023.

We welcomed the Reverend Daniel Valentine as our new vicar at his licencing at Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield on November 22nd 2023.

There remains a vacancy for a ministerial House for Duty postAssociate Priest to the Benefice, with particular responsibility for St. Mary Magdalene.

Foundation Governor Posts (x2)

We have one post vacant.

Rev'd D. Valentine having been licensed and being ex-officio as incumbent.

Jennifer Harrison. PCC Secretary.

Financial statements for year ended 31 December 2023

1. The annual accounts for year ended 31st December 2023 were approved by the PCC at its meeting on 9 th April 2024 and are presented to the APCM for adoption.

2. Net assets £24,207 (2022: £17,166). This comprises cash at bank £27,936 (2022: £18,746) less £3,729 (£1,580) owed to the diocese for parochial fees. Cash at bank is held in two bank accounts: a charity account with HSBC, closing balance £9,311 (2022: £525), and an interest-bearing deposit account with CCLA, closing balance £18,625 (2022: £18,221).

3. Income for 2023 £58,207 (2022: £62,624). Expenditure for 2023 £52,666 (2022: £62,467). Surplus for 2023 £7,041 (2022: £157).

4. The greater part of the PCC's income is derived from regular donors £40,767 (2022: £36,415). Thanks to encouragement from our previous vicar retired Associate Priest, several new donors signed up to the parish giving scheme (PGS) during the year. PGS is the preferred means of donating, being wholly digital with tax recovery under Gift Aid automatically applied.

5. Village Day raffle in 2023 produced £1,100 (2022: £1,325).

6. The single highest outgoing is parish share £24,800 (2022: £28,938). This accounts for approx. 43% of income.

7. Bolney Magazine advertising sales and contributions generated £7,448 (2022: £6,472). The cost of printing & production was £6,314 (2022: £8,052).

8. Maintenance and repairs have been relatively light over the last two years (£1,930 and £1,761). The five-yearly building survey (QI) is due in 2024, which may reveal the need for expenditure on the roofs, valley, eaves gutters and walls. Such costs can escalate at an alarming rate and will require careful planning by the PCC. The sum of £12,912 is held in a fund designated for quinquennial repairs.

9. Churchyard maintenance was £2,122 for the year in question and £2,131 in 2022. The PCC is fortunate to have the services of Brian Barker and Martin Burgess to keep the churchyard in good order. A grant of £1,500 was gratefully received from the parish council. For 2024, this is increased to £1,750.

Tim Hutchings, Treasurer, St Mary Magdalene PCC
9th April 2024

Electoral Roll Report 2023/2024

Due to the rules of keeping the Electoral Roll updated this report covers the update of April 2024.

Currently there are 51 names on our roll, 40 being resident in the parish and 9 non-resident.

Numbers are reduced as a result of some moving out of the parish and sadly some deaths.

The roll is due for complete revision in 2026 when all current members will be requested to complete a new application form.

Susan Ayres Electoral Roll Officer

Deanery Synod Representative report

Deanery Synod met twice in 2023 (June and September) under the chairmanship of Rev Christopher Powell (Rural Dean).

The June meeting was held at St Augustine's Scaynes Hill. The speaker was Stephen Argent, Reader at St Augustine's and Assistant Warden for Lay Ministry in the Horsham Archdeaconry.

A 'READER'S COURSE' for lay ministry is once again available from the Diocese. This is a two year course and any member of the C of E may apply.

The September meeting was held at St Peter and St John the Baptist, Wivelsfield. A Eucharist was held for the new Synod members. Attended by Ron Leggett and Sue Ayres.

Reports on these meetings were presented to appropriate Bolney PCC meetings and are available on request.

Ron Leggett

Safeguarding Report for APCM 2024

Thankfully we have had another quiet year on the safeguarding front.

As SGO PSO I am required to update my Safeguarding training every three years. This has been done.

I also attended a thank you reception at the Bishops Palace in Chichester on 17th July. I met many of the safeguarding team and other SGO's from across the diocese, we were all able to let the Bishop know how pleased we have been with the support from the team.

Linda Barker

The Bolney Guild of Ringers' Report 2023

The bells are in good condition and we only need to check them to see if they need greasing.

Since Covid-19 and other health problems with some of our ringers, we are down to 7 regular ringers (and occasionally 8 ringers.) We still practise whenever possible on Friday evenings from 7.45 pm- 9 pm. Occasionally, we have Advanced Practises with the Northern Division on a Monday evening about 2 or 3 times a year and we also have a few visiting bands who ask to come and ring the oldest peal of 8 bells in Sussex.

We try to ring on Sundays but that isn't always possible if there are only 4 of us.

We have rung for weddings this year and there are a couple of weddings in 2024.

Our ringers are:

Penuel Ellis-Brown, Heather Jordan , Martin Burgess, Brian Cook, (Tower Captain), John Jordan, Susannah Bowen, Jeannette Sutton, and sometimes Debbie Malins.

We desperately need more young people to learn to ring otherwise the art of bell ringing will die out. Perhaps some of the older primary school children could be encouraged to learn and maybe the younger members of the parish between 20 and 50 years of age? Unfortunately, articles put in the Parish Magazine don't seem to produce anyone coming forward to enquire about learning nor do Open Tower Days although we may try advertising again through leaflets and another Open Tower sometime during the summer.

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

Organist's Report APCM 2024 Martyn Belsey

To provide suggested list of hymns and settings to the officiating priest taking into account -

Lectionary readings

Season

Familiarity

Style

RecurrancyRecurrency

Difficulty of new music with no choir to lead

Research, source, editing and delivery of recorded music which would otherwise not be used and heard

Website Maintenance via Church Edit

The website platform is specifically designed for churches and is hosted and managed by a 3rd party who provide a number of tools to enable functionality and localised design including the homepage, menus, calendar, contact forms, gallery and rotating images.

In 2023, they also implemented a major system upgrade which required the homepage to be redesign and rebuilt.

All of the current content including design, structure, layout, text, format, audio, photographs, video and graphics are created, edited and uploaded by myself.

Prior primarily to Christmas and Lent/Easter, additional seasonal promotional information and images need to be produced.

Additional features have also been incorporated that are reliant on other external applications, e.g. Pew News, Give a Little, Sermon archive and ebook functionality.

For it to remain a trusted and reliable source of information, the principal weekly task is to ensure that it accurately reflects forthcoming events and last minute changes - but as a village non-resident, it is sometimes challenging to receive information in a timely manner without a telephone call or email!

Service Booklets & Hymn Sheets

Design, compilation (liturgical content in association with the officiating priest), editing and formatting all additional special service booklets, hymn,