# PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE BOLNEY

# REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2022 TO BE GIVEN AT THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

ON SUNDAY 23 rd APRIL 2023 At 11.00am

# 1. Churchwardens' Report to APCM for the year ended 31st December 2022

### Weddings and Funerals

Over the course of 2022, five funerals and three weddings were held at St Mary Magdalene. Also, four Interment of Ashes were conducted in the churchyard following cremation.

#### Terrier & Inventory

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

#### Projects

There has been no major project in 2022. Following completion of Tower Phase 2 at the end of the previous year, the approved grants were duly claimed and paid: see 2022 accounts.

#### Maintenance & Upkeep

Maintaining the fabric of an ancient Grade 1-listed building such as St Mary Magdalene, and a 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 an invaluable service looking after the churchyard throughout the growing season for the benefit of local people, worshippers and the many visitors it attracts. Maintenance of the church's electrical installation was an ongoing task. LED low-energy bulbs are replacing older bulbs whenever the opportunity arises.

### Benefice of Cuckfield & Bolney

Holy Trinity Cuckfield has been in vacancy since March 2022. The wardens are members of a working group with their counterparts in Cuckfield. The post was advertised after the year-end.

### Family Support Work

The parish has generously supported the Diocesan charity (FSW) with donations of nonperishable goods which are distributed to those in need throughout the county. We have become a main collection point for Cowfold, Lower Beeding and Coolhurst who are equally generous.

#### Sacristan's notes

SA has been performing these duties for some years and is searching for an assistant. I have approached some who either worship with us or who are willing to support our church but so far no one has been willing to make any commitment.

#### Garden Party

At the kind invitation of Judy, we held a successful Garden Party last August. With the generous financial result, we purchased a pair of silver altar candlesticks which were presented at Christmas 2022.

#### Ministry Team

This was the second 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 14.04.2023

#### 2. PCC Secretary - 2022 Report

During 2022 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	Mrs Peta Pratt (Upto May 2022)
	Mr Ron Leggett
Secretary	Mrs Claire George
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Linda Barker
Member	Mr Martin Burgess
Member	Mr Martin Wood
Member	Mrs Janice Warren
Deanery Synod Representatives Secretary Safeguarding Officer Member Member	Mrs Peta Pratt (Upto May 2022) Mr Ron Leggett Mrs Claire George Mrs Linda Barker Mr Martin Burgess Mr Martin Wood

The Council met via Zoom on 5 occasions; January 2022, March 2022, May 2022, July 2022, September 2022, and on 1 occasion at the Rawson Hall committee room in November 2022. There was an average of 8 members being present at each of the 6 meetings.

**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. Details covered in other reports.

**Policies** are updated on the second PCC meeting after each APCM most recently in July 2022. In addition during the year an amendment was added to the Policy for the Burial or Internment of Ashes in the Churchyard and the Erection of Monuments. The Policy for Significant Events including the Preparation for the Death of a Monarch was adopted and added to our policies.

**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. 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 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. He has also keeps recorded sermons on our website Audio Files.

**Benefice of Cuckfield and Bolney.** Following the retirement of Rev. Michael Maine in February 2022 the Benifice continues in vacancy.

**Peta Pratt** In May 2022, Peta Pratt resigned from being our Deanery Synod, and Diocesan Synod representative due to ill health. We are still looking for a replacement. Grateful thanks to Peta for all she has has done.

**Tony Bond** completed his three year term as Foundation Governor of Bolney Primary School in August 2022. Many thanks to Tony for completing this task. A replacement still needs to be found.

**On a personal note**, I am not seeking reelection to the PCC since my move to Cornwall and would like to thank all members and clergy I have served with on the PCC over the years, firstly as a PCC member, and then as secretary. Special thanks to Tim Hutchings for being my scrupulous proof reader.

# Claire George (PCC Secretary) April 2023

### 3. Treasurer's Report to APCM for year ended 31st December 2022

1. The PCC's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 are duly presented for adoption, having been approved by members at their meeting on 12th April 2023.

2. The accounts show an overall surplus of £157 but this masks an underlying loss of £9,944 when adjusted for one-off grants received at the start of the year relating to the tower restoration project in 2021. Income receipts of £62,624 include one-off capital grants of

 $\pounds$ 10,101. Adjusted for grants, income is  $\pounds$ 52,523, an average per month of  $\pounds$ 4,377. Previous year 2021:  $\pounds$ 60,866 or  $\pounds$ 5,072 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 convenient and effective means of regular giving by direct debit. It has the great advantage of automatically claiming tax back under GiftAid and crediting the PCC's bank account same month, which assists cashflow.

4. An alternative method is Contactless via the card-reader inside the south door of the church. This is available for anyone, including casual visitors, 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 is having an adverse impact on finances. As time goes on new donors are needed to come forward.

6.The cash position overall remains healthy. Net £17,166. Previous year 2021: £17,236.

7. 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 14th April 2023

### 4. Electoral Roll Electoral Roll Report 2022/2023

Due to the rules of keeping the Electoral Roll updated this report covers the update of April 2023. Currently there are 49 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.

### Susan Ayres (Electoral Roll Officer)

# 5. APCM Cuckfield Deanery Synod Report for the year 2022

There were four meetings of the Cuckfield Deanery Synod during the year. Detailed reports of those meetings were communicated to the PCC secretary and distributed to all the current PCC members by the PCC secretary. A precis of the dates, attendees and business is as follows:

### 15th February at All Saints Church, Cuckfield.

This meeting was given over to a Eucharist presided over by the Rev. Michael Maine on the event of his retirement. It was attended by many members of the congregation of St Mary Magdalene.

### 28th June at St. Mary's Church, Slaugham

Attended by Rev. Michael Windridge, Susan Ayres & Ron. Leggett The new Rural Dean Revd. Christopher Powell introduced himself and welcomed the new FSW Practitioner Alison Green who gave a short talk. A presentation was given by Cavan Wood on his new Book "Angels"

### 12th October Church Hall, Wivelsfield

Attended by Fr. Martin Mills and Ron. Leggett A presentation was given by Laura Steven, the newly appointed DoC Head of Wellbeing for Clergy & their Families (WCF). The Theme was "Avoiding Burnout".

### 22nd November St. Richards, Haywards Heath

Attended by Rev. Michael Windridge, Susan Ayres & Ron. Leggett A Presentation was given by Rev. Andrew Smith the DoC Generous Giving Advisor.

# **Ronald Leggett – Representative**

### 6. Bolney CEP School

Appointment of new Head Teacher. I formed part of a small group of Bolney School Governors assessing the applications for the new post of Head Teacher following the retirement of Lorraine Kelly. Three candidates were short-listed and subsequently interviewed. Ms Emma Lofthouse received the unanimous approval of the interview panel and we subsequently recommended her appointment to the full board of Governors. I have been most appreciative of Emma's positive support for St Mary Magdalene and my ministry.

School Assemblies. I have continued to conduct whole school assemblies on several occasions during 2022. I 'topped and tailed' the school leavers' service in church on Thursday 21st July 2022. I was particularly pleased to have been able to re-instate the marvellous former tradition of the leavers climbing the church tower and waiving animatedly to their

friends and the rest of the school gathered on the cricket field below. My grateful thanks to Martin Burgess for having facilitated this enjoyable custom.

I also 'topped and tailed' the school Harvest Festival service held in church on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 9.15am.

Advent Calendar 2022. I wrote again to all the families of Bolney School in December 20222 and through the help of the school office manager was able to deliver into each of the children's book bags an Advent Calendar explaining the Christmas gospel story in order to counter the 'chocolate feast fiesta' threatening to usurp the Christian message!

### **Reverend Michael Windridge**

### 7. Safeguarding report

There have been no safeguarding incidents to report for this year. The diocese has now got the C2 course set up part answering scenarios and a 2 part Zoom meeting.

### Linda Barker (Safeguarding Officer)

# 8. The Bolney Guild of Ringers' Report 2022

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 are now able to ring for weddings since the lifting of all Covid restrictions. Our ringers are:

Penuel Ellis-Brown, Heather Jordan , Martin Burgess, Brian Cook, (Tower Captain), John Jordan, Susannah Bowen, Jeannette Sutton, Lawrence Littleton Evans when he is able to get a lift from Hurstpierpoint with our new learner Mark Mumford, 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.

We will ring for King Charles's Coronation on May 6th.

### Report prepared by Mrs. Penuel Ellis-Brown (Secretary of the Guild)

# Reverend. Michael Windridge's report, January-December 2022

# **Presentation of Report**

The report for the period January-December 2022 was presented for the Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council held on Sunday, 23rd April 2023.

# Death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

Sadly, the outstanding event of our Church's year was the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Balmoral Castle on Thursday 8th September 2022. Thanksgiving for the Queen, Sunday 11th September 2022

During the Sung Eucharist on Sunday 11th September 2022 at 9.30am prayers and reflections were offered giving thanks for the Queen's life of 96 years.

Special Service for the Queen, 18th September 2022

A special service of thanksgiving for the life and service of the Queen was held in St Mary Magdalene at 7.15pm on 18th September. A minute's silence was observed. The National Anthem concluded the service with 'God Save our Gracious King'. *There were 50 in attendance*.

# <u>Covid-19</u>

The dark shadow of Covid-19 affected the life and ministry of St Mary Magdalene in only minor ways during 2022.

By God's good grace, although several members of our regular congregation fell victim to attacks of the virus, including my wife and myself, none suffered extreme medical consequences.

It was good to have started singing hymns again without the wearing of facemasks.

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

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, greatly miss learning from his parish experience and benefitting from his wise counsel.

# <u>Benefice Interregnum</u>

As a consequence of Fr Michael's retirement the PCC of Holy Trinity, Cuckfield 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 are involved with the process for recruiting the new Benefice incumbent and have helped with the drawing up of the Parish Profile. (see attached).

The vacancy was advertised in the Church Times at the end of December 2022 and also in January 2023. I wrote to the Bishop of Horsham raising my concerns about the handling of the vacancy. My letter was copied to the PCC.

I understand interviews are to be held later this month in which, hopefully, Sue Ayres and Tim Hutchings are due to take part.

### **Deanery Parish Mission Action Plan**

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

The latest draft is shortly going to be circulated to Deanery Synod members and PCCs with the request that PCC's consider it and give any feedback by July 2023.

### 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 12 and 25 communicants.

### Thursday Eucharist (Said)

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

### Ash Wednesday 2nd March 2022

A service for Ash Wednesday was held at 9.30am with eleven communicants present.

### Maundy Thursday, 14th April 2022

A said service of the Eucharist was held at 9.30am. There were eleven communicants.

# Good Friday 15th April 2022, 2pm-3pm

A traditional service of words and organ and recorded music was held on Good Friday. The service included a recording of the actor David Suchet reading the Passion narrative from St Mark's Gospel. Fifteen in the congregation.

I was most grateful for Martin Burgess tolling the single bell to denote the beginning of the service and also for Martyn Belsey for introducing us to the recording of Liverpool Cathedral choir singing the 'Pange Lingua'.

# Easter Sunday Family Service, 18th April 2022

For the first time an experimental 'Short & Sweet' Family Service was held beginning at 10am and ending at 10.35am. The service consisted of a hymn, confession, the Easter Story, prayers read by some children from Bolney School and the song 'Lord of the Dance' to conclude.

Refreshments were offered to all present immediately afterwards with the children searching for mini Easter eggs hidden throughout the Church.

*There were 25 children and 50 adults present.* The service was judged to have been a success and it was agreed to offer the same formula for 2023.

# Easter Sunday Service – Sung Eucharist, 18th April 2022

My special thanks go to those members of the congregation who loyally supported the Family Service and remained for the 11am Sung Eucharist service. There were 20 communicants.

#### Patronal Festival (Sung Eucharist), 25th July, 2022

The Patronal Festival Eucharist on Sunday 25th July 2022 followed upon the previous Saturday evening's Patronal Festival Concert. (see later report).

The Reverend Dr Trevor Dennis, former Vice Principal of Salisbury& Wells Theological College and Canon Chancellor of Chester Cathedral gave a challenging sermon on Mary Magdalene which was enormously well received. *There were 39 in attendance with 18 communicants*.

### Harvest Festival, Sung Eucharist 25th September 2022

The Harvest Festival Service took place at St Mary Magdalene on 25th September 2022. *There were 57 in attendance and 27 communicants.* 

#### Restoration of Shared Chalice, Sunday, 9th October 2022

It was an enormous joy, following the Covid suspension, to have been able to re-introduce the shared chalice at the Sung Eucharist on Sunday, 9th October 2022. Given the sensitivity of this arrangement with incidents of Covid still present in the village it was stressed that receiving the Cup was entirely a matter of personal choice and conscience. Happily, most members of the congregation presented themselves most willing to receive communion of both kinds.

### Remembrance Sunday, 13th November 2022

The Eucharist Service, combined with Bolney Village Chapel, began at 9.15am leaving time to reach the Village Memorial for 11am. Reverend Simon Allaby from Bolney Village Chapel preached in church. *74 in attendance, 35 communicants*.

Many members of the congregation processed to the War Memorial accompanied by a good number of children from Bolney School which was most encouraging.

We were delighted to enjoy listening to Mark Travers (conductor of the recently revived Bolney Voices Choir) playing the trumpet for The Last Post and Reveille. *Rawson Hall* 

Refreshments were offered at the reception in Rawson Hall immediately after the service and was extremely well attended.

#### Advent Sunday, 27th November 2022

Sung Eucharist was held on Sunday 27th November. 41 in attendance, 20 communicants. Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, 24th December 2022, 11pm

A letter had been sent to each of the 550 homes in the Parish inviting villagers to the service. This was the first offer of midnight mass since well before Covid. Concern was expressed about how well this 'invitation' would have been received. Happily, there was an excellent response. *146 in attendance, 60 communicants*.

#### Christmas Day Service, Sung Eucharist, 25th December 2022

The Sung Eucharist was held at 9.30am. 76 in attendance, 32 communicants.

### Martyn Belsey, Organist

Martyn Belsey continues to play a vital role 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. He gives significant time and advice to those bridal couples at whose wedding he plays. Martyn also handles music requests for funeral services with great tact and sensitivity.

### <u>Baptisms</u>

With no baptisms having been conducted in 2021 (*again thanks to Covid*) it is especially encouraging to record the following baptisms having taken place in St Mary Magdalene during 2022: Saturday, 30th April 2022, 12.30pm – Molly and Jack Earle Sunday 17th July 2022, 2.30pm – Ebonie Haworth

Sunday 31st July 2022, 2pm – Ivor DeBaerdemaecker

Sunday 9th September, 3pm – Gabriel Jones (Cuckfield) (joint service with Reverend Simon Allaby)

Sunday 16th October 2022 2pm - Milo and Annie Blacker

# Marriage Services during 2022

The following Marriage Services were held in St Mary Magdalene during 2022: Saturday 23rd April 2022, 3pm – Marriage of Emily Crow and Toby DeBaerdemaecker Saturday 13th August 2022, 1.30pm – Marriage of Lucy Bushell and Harry Balfour Saturday 20th August 2022, 12 noon – Marriage of Ben and Charlotte Olney

# Funeral and Thanksgiving Services during 2022

The following Funeral and Thanksgiving Services were held in St Mary Magdalene during 2022:

Friday 11th February 2022, 2pm – David Robins (burial) Monday 14th February 2022, 1pm – Fred Harrison (burial) Friday 29th April 2022, 2.30pm – Brian Clement (Thanksgiving) Tuesday 3rd May 2022, 1.30pm – David Williams (burial) Monday 20th June 2022, 11am – Sheila Nichols (Funeral) Monday 11th July 2022, 3pm – John Higinbotham (Thanksgiving) Monday 18th July 2022, 2pm – Cyril Lucas (Thanksgiving) Tuesday 8th November 2022, 11am – Joan Clifford (Funeral)

# Interment of Ashes during 2022

The following interment of ashes in St Mary Magdalene Churchyard took place during 2022: Tuesday 8th March 2022, 2pm – Richard Waltho Wednesday 6th April 2022, 1pm – Charlie Bachelor Wednesday 6th April 2022, 2pm – Ann Gardner Thursday 25th August 2022, 3pm – Douglas Mills

# **Bolney Village Chapel**

Simon Allaby, pastor of Bolney Village Chapel, and I continue to enjoy a good working relationship. Simon has preached several times at the 9.30am Thursday Eucharist which has been greatly appreciated.

#### Patronal Festival Concert, Saturday 23rd July, 6pm

The Festival Concert of words and music was held in St Mary Magdalene with choral music provided by the 'Halcyon Singers', a choir of professional musicians brought together by Sebastian Charlesworth, conductor of the New Sussex Singers who came to us at Christmas. The Reverend Dr Trevor Dennis offered reflections on the role of women in the New Testament including Mary Magdalene.

The Concert was particularly well supported and had been widely advertised throughout the village. *75 people were in attendance*.

#### Vicarage Reception, Saturday, July 23rd 2022

Prior to the Concert, a reception of Strawberries, Cream and Prosecco was held under a large marquee in the Vicarage garden. Again, this was very well attended and happily the sun shone!

#### Carol Concert by Candlelight, Sunday 18th December 2022, 6.30pm

A Carol Concert of Christmas Music was given by the New Sussex Singers in St Mary Magdalene on Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm. Interspersed between the choir singing there were three lessons and four traditional carols sung by the congregation. The concert had been widely advertised and drew an excellent attendance *(approx. 75 people)*. Mince pies and mulled wine were served afterwards.

#### <u>Bolney Magazine</u>

I contributed an article for each of the ten editions of the Bolney Magazine published in 2022.

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

A report covering these three items can be seen under item 6. Appointment of new Head Teacher School Assemblies Advent Calendar 2022

#### St Mary Magdalene's Churchyard

I would like to express my thanks again to 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.

There are several infringements of Diocesan regulations governing the decorations of gravestones and burial areas which came to light in 2022 and which are currently under serious examination.

# Father Martin Mills and Dr Tony Bond (Reader)

I remain indebted to the wonderful ministry of Fr Martin Mills and Dr Tony Bond in taking Sunday services on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Fr Mills has also taken several baptisms, marriages, funeral services and interment of ashes. Both Martin and Tony continue to contribute to the worshipping life of St Mary Magdalene and I regularly benefit from their generous support and wise counsel.

I also would like to thank once again Tony's valuable work as a most effective PCC chairman.

# Congregation of St Mary Magdalene

I continue to draw constant strength and comfort from the faithfulness and devotion of St Mary Magdalene's regular congregation.

I also place on record again my sincere thanks to the Bell Ringers, the rota of flower arrangers under Emily Hutching's indefatigable leadership, Bible readers, prayer intercessors, sidesmen, servers and coffee makers all of whom play such valued roles in building up and maintaining 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. I shall miss her invaluable contribution enormously.

It was entirely fitting that at the end of the Sunday Eucharist shortly before Claire and Patrick (George) were due to leave Bolney for their new home in Cornwall that we were able to present them with a mounted water colour painting of St Mary Magdalene Church together with a voucher for gardening purposes.

Both Claire and Patrick have made an immensely valuable contribution to the life of the church and the Bolney community over many years and we wish them every blessing as they begin their new life in Gorran Haven.

# <u>St Mary Magdalene Churchwardens</u>

Finally, Sue Ayres and Tim Hutchings are my official ministerial life support systems! Our regular monthly 'Wardens' meetings (by Zoom) continue to provide vital guidance and encouragement in carrying out my pastoral and worship duties.

I cannot thank them enough for their own outstanding Christian service and witness.

Reverend Michael Windridge Bolney Vicarage, 14th April 2023