

The Thomas Project

England & Wales · Charity number 1082423

Details

Other names	FAMILY GUIDANCE AND COMMUNITY WELFARE, THE THOMAS PROJECT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2000-09-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Thomas Project 196h Walsall Wood Road Aldridge Walsall WS9 8HB
Phone	01922452213
Email	office@thethomasproject.co.uk
Website	https://thethomasproject.co.uk/

Activities

Objects: A; THE RELIEF OF HARDSHIP, NEED AND DISTRESS; AND B; THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

Activities: Support to individuals and families in need.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** COUNTIES OF WEST MIDLANDS AND STAFFORD
- Walsall

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£84,144	£56,494	-	-
2023-12-31	£49,143	£40,737	-	-
2022-12-31	£37,545	£37,343	-	-
2021-12-31	£30,538	£40,416	-	-
2020-12-31	£54,813	£28,926	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Paul Roy Bradburn	Chair	2022-09-13
KEHINDE OLAJUWON		2023-04-15
Michael Cain		2024-10-10
Peter Brentnall		2016-03-02

The Thomas Project

England & Wales - Charity number 1082423

Accounts

Annual Report 2024 - The Thomas Project

About us

The Thomas Project is a Christian charity in Walsall that serves our local community, helping those in hardship, need and distress. From our community hub in Aldridge, we work alongside other local charities and community partners, to offer a range of activities and support services to everyone in our community, regardless of faith, and bring people together. The Thomas Project is well known and trusted because of our long-standing relationship with the community, and we have a long standing good reputation for providing help and support to people in need. Our premises are in the heart of a community of shops and local businesses which is easy to access with bus stops just outside. The building is a neutral location which creates no barriers, has disability access and is open to everyone from all parts of the community.

A high percentage of the people we provide services to are in a state of food poverty and need urgent help with essential food supplies and other basic household items. Many of these people are in families so need help for the whole family not just themselves. Many are in long term unemployment and need help and support to find pathways back into work. Most of these people lack the ability to change their circumstances without support and assistance. There is also a high population of people over age 65 in Aldridge who have a need for local services so they don't have to travel far. Often they have experienced bereavement, experience loneliness and need a place where they can meet with others and find friendship, support and activities to stimulate them. Some lack the skills or have equipment to connect via the internet so need access to computers and internet and practical help with IT for form filling and connecting with family.

2024 Aims

We started 2024 in a good strong position having steadied our income and expenditure and starting to build up our reserves and finance for growth and development. Our strategy for 2024 was to increase our support and services, grow our charity, enable us to meet diverse needs, help more people, and reduce the impact of poverty on people's lives. Our core aims were:

- **For our community:** We aimed to provide a safe and welcoming community hub, deliver a range of community activities, and bring people together to prevent isolation and loneliness .
- **For those in need:** We aimed to deliver pastoral support, work with partners to provide information, advice, and guidance services, and continue to provide our weekly foodbank .
- **For people who want spiritual support:** We aimed to provide opportunities for people to learn more about the Christian Faith, support our local churches

and fellow Christian organisations, and live our values through our activities and services .

- **For our future:** We aimed to support trustees, staff, and volunteers to deliver our charitable aims, increase our income, grow our financial independence and security, diversify our impact, and raise our profile in our community and beyond .

2024 Achievements

2024 was a very busy year for The Thomas Project as we added more activities, events and sessions to our schedule. Our registered footfall into our community hub alone during 2024 was **492 individuals** with a total number of **1,031 visits**. This does not include the numbers who attended our events which were held outside of our premises which would significantly increase the statistics. During 2024 we;

- Explored and piloted new activities and services
- Enhanced and expanded our existing services
- Delivered a range of support and activities within our community hub and at other venues
- Increased our opening hours and food provision
- Organised more community events
- Attended local events to share information about our services
- Developed our relationships with our supporters
- Connected those who need help, with those who want to and are able to help
- Worked alongside more partners to increase support and signposting
- Increased our partnership working.

Foodbank: This continued to be busy, providing essential food and other basic supplies such as toiletries and cleaning products to **1,248** people in crisis. Alongside food parcels and other items people take home, each person who attends has the opportunity to sit down and have free refreshments and snacks while volunteers spent time making them feel welcome. Our volunteers offered a listening ear, finding out if people had any other needs we could help with and provided signposting to agencies providing long-term solutions.

"I actually feel happy and very welcome. Thank you to all the people who work here."

Place of Welcome: This was open weekly throughout the year and received **235 visitors**, providing a warm welcome and a warm space, serving refreshments and light snacks. People can come to save on fuel and food costs, socialise, and to form friendships. This helps tackle loneliness, isolation, and fuel poverty. Staff and

volunteers are on-hand to provide information and support for those in need and we provide a range of games and activities that people can get involved in. We extended this during 2024, making onwards referrals for those in fuel poverty to H.E.A.T, an advisory service which enables people to access advice and support, to access eligible hardship funding, to apply for warm home discounts etc, to control household energy usage and access support for any energy related issue. We also provided relevant useful literature and arranged information sessions during our place of welcome.

“I was extremely happy and humbled to have received such a warm welcome where I was listened to, wasn't judged, and treated with respect.”

Monthly Munch: As a result of feedback from service users we extended our support for people experiencing food poverty by developing a new service called 'Monthly Munch' which started in September 2023. This is a monthly hot cooked meal where the community can come along and meet other people, have a chat and eat a nourishing meal. It is held at St Thomas Church where there is more space, and volunteers from The Thomas Project help with cooking, serving and chatting to those who attend. This is delivered in partnership with St Thomas Church and has been well attended, with feedback showing this is helping people experiencing food poverty and supports their food and fuel bills. It also helps bring people together.

Information and Support: We provided general information, emotional and practical support to people in need, and continue to refer to advice and guidance services where detailed or specialist help is required. The information and support needed has including help with money management, form filling, accessing services, housing support, debt management, looking for work and applying for jobs. We also ran information sessions which were designed to help people in a variety of innovative ways. For example, we ran a Taste Test session in September which gave people the opportunity to 'blind taste' various expensive brands against cheaper supermarket brands of food. Many people were unable to tell the difference and in a lot of cases chose the supermarket brand as their favourite. This surprised people and changed their mindsets from always wanting to buy the brand names. This has helped with their weekly/monthly shopping budget. We work in partnership with many local organisations to ensure that between us we can provide a range of information, advice and guidance to meet people's needs in a holistic way.

Health Awareness Sessions: After speaking to people in our community we found that there was a need for some Health Awareness sessions, which increase awareness and encourage people to seek medical advice, improving their health and wellbeing. In response to this, we ran two Cancer Awareness sessions in July. The first one was aimed specifically at women's cancers and the second one was aimed

at men's cancers. The professional who delivered the sessions said that attendance at our sessions bucked the trend as we had low attendance at our women's session and high attendance at our men's session. She stated that it is unusual for men to attend in high numbers. We spoke to people after the sessions and discovered that the reason for not many women attending was because a lot of people had other commitments. Therefore, we plan to run further sessions next year to give them the opportunity to attend. As a result of running the men's session two men went to their GP for tests. One had to have further investigations but was given the all clear and another man had further investigations which resulted in a diagnosis, not of cancer but on a condition that needs to be monitored. This showed that the sessions were very worthwhile and worth running again. We also ran a Blind awareness session with Walsall Society for the Blind.

IT Café: We provided free internet access and help and guidance with basic IT skills to **186 visitors** at our internet café which runs weekly. This service helps people access vital services such as NHS and benefits, and supports unemployed people in finding employment. We spoke to people who came to The Thomas Project for help with accessing online services and other services, and with Walsall Works to find out how we might extend this service to provide more support. Their feedback led to us developing a specific IT course for complete beginners which we launched on 24th September with a 6-week lesson plan. We worked with Walsall Works who provided a space with a suite of computers in Walsall Central Library on Tuesday afternoons for 6-weeks. This was run by our IT qualified volunteer and was a great success.

"The staff always go out of their way to help with any problem."

Arts and Crafts Projects: Through the year we ran regular creative and artistic sessions to help with mental wellbeing which was identified as an issue for many service users. We consulted with our service users in developing these activities. As a result we have commenced regular creative and artistic sessions at The Thomas Project which are known to help with mental wellbeing. For example, in October we ran a weekly series of Creative Writing workshops led by Poet Laureate Ian Henery, in partnership with Manor Farm Community Association and their Wider Determinants of Health programme. We ran three craft sessions on 17th October (Designing your own tote bag), 28th November (Designing and painting plant pots) and 5th December (designing and painting your own T shirt) and the people attended said they felt they had benefited from them. We also ran a session for people to learn how to make a Christmas door wreath which they could take home. Every session provided opportunities for people to come together and make friends which can positively impact on people's wellbeing. We funded the staff, volunteers, facilities and equipment for these sessions.

Walking Group: We coordinated monthly health walks, providing opportunities for people to socialize and improve their physical and mental health. Led by our walk leaders, people can walk at their own pace, chat and improve their health and wellbeing. In 2024, we extended this activity, working together with Manor Farm and

the Wider Determinants of Health programme, organising two walks which were outside of Aldridge, one in Brownhills along the canal towpaths and one in Walsall Arboretum. This was to give people the opportunity to walk different routes and to give people from other areas the opportunity to join in. This increased the number of people who benefited and some who were unaware of our monthly walks will now be joining these.

Plant to Plate Project: This 20-week gardening project, commencing in May, taught people how to grow fresh fruit and vegetables in a local green space. This project improved physical and mental health whilst teaching people new skills. As an added benefit it also provided fresh produce for the foodbank. We successfully piloted the Plant to Plate Project in 2023, and in 2024 we extended the duration from 12 weeks to 20 weeks in response to the feedback from participants, They told us that as well as producing fresh fruit and vegetables, they were learning new skills and the fresh air and exercise had a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. Participants learned everything from preparing the ground, planting seeds, tending seedlings and plants and eventually harvesting them. Each week the participants had the opportunity to do what they were capable of and also to sit down for refreshments and a chat before we finished. Excess vegetables were donated to our foodbank. At the end of the project attendees were invited to take part in the harvest celebration at the church where the garden was provided from and also at The Hawthorns residential home from where a few of the residents had attended. This project was a great success with people asking for it to be run again so we plan to run a third Plant to Plate project in 2025. Participants enjoyed regularly meeting up in the fresh air and felt that this and the exercise

"I really enjoyed learning about the different soils and how to make my own compost."

Various Community Events: We have organised several community events which have been well attended by people from the community, where people have been able to connect and make friends including;

- An Irish Night with hot food
- A Sixties and Northern Soul Night
- A Summer Strawberry Tea and open air concert
- Christmas Concert

These also help to raise funds for our Charity, with people being keen to support us so that we can continue to deliver services.

Christmas Gifts Appeal: We organised donations and distributed 490 gifts for children in need at Christmas (working alongside local businesses, community organisations, churches and members of the public), This service brings joy to

children and supports families in need and is a great way for people to make a difference.

Winter Warmth Appeal: We organised donations of warm coats, hats, scarves, gloves and socks for people in need and those who are street sleepers in Walsall, working with our community hub, Walsall Street Ministry and the Salvation Army to distribute these. This service helps people stay warm during the winter months.

A telephone befriending service: We provided emotional support to people in need, but who were unable to come into our community hub, via telephone support. We also signpost people to Linking Lives, a local telephone befriending service.

Uniform Bank: We worked together with other charities in Aldridge to take donations of local school uniforms which are then cleaned and provided to people in need in the community.

Alpha courses: One of our core charity aims is to promote the Christian faith. We believe that unmet spiritual needs have a negative impact on people's health and wellbeing, on social connectivity and on wider societal issues. We ran our third Alpha course in 2024 which was an opportunity for people to explore Christianity. As a result 3 people are now attending local Church of England Churches regularly, and one is attending other group activities in the church. Another one is attending a local Pentecostal church regularly and has joined a life group there.

Sustainability and organisational development

Our service users: We have built up a reputation for being a place of hope and help and have service users who recommend us to others. We have some regular attenders to some of our activities who come along most weeks and enjoy the friendships they have made.

Our supporters: We have a great variety of supporters, many of whom donate goods and finance regularly which helps us to continue the work we do. Our supporters also refer people to us for help and advertise our work and activities to help us reach more people. We have had other groups and agencies partner with us to expand the services we can offer.

Our volunteers: We are extremely blessed to have amazing, committed, regular volunteers without whom we could not deliver our services. In 2024 we provided Food Hygiene training, Manual Handling training and Health and Safety awareness training to increase the skills of our volunteer workforce. We are increasing the ways in which they can volunteer and the skills they can both offer and learn. We subsidised a Christmas meal in January 2024 for our staff and volunteers, and in July 2024 we coordinated a Thank You event for our volunteers to recognise and thank them for the work they do. This also gave our volunteers the opportunity to get together as a group, as many of them volunteer on different shifts so don't always get to see all of the other volunteers. We had 20 regular volunteers, excluding

trustees, during 2024. We obtain the appropriate level DBS check on all trustees, employees and volunteers who are in roles that are eligible for these checks as defined by the guidelines for these checks.

Our staff: We have two paid members of staff, our Charity Manager, Liz McMeekin, and our Activities Coordinator, Marlene Bradburn. We invested in an increase of staff hours for both posts during 2024 to enable us to develop and expand our services, increase our impact, and increase the opening hours of our community hub.

Our trustees: Together our Trustees contribute a wide range of skills, experience and connections that help us to deliver our plans. Among our Trustees we have people who have worked in social work, senior level charity work, finance and in business and many of our board and our team have lived experience of the issues we are addressing as a charity. These skills and experience mean there is good understanding of the needs and issues as well as of how to help and to manage the Charity. We took on a new Trustee Treasurer in 2024, Mike Cain, who is a great addition to the board. He has worked for many years in the finance industry and brings with him a wealth of experience. In 2025 we aim to increase the size and skills of our Trustee Board. A summary of our Trustee Board during 2024 is below.

Name	Position	Status changes	Joined
Nikki-Dee Haddleton	Chair	None	
Pete Brentall	Secretary	None	
Sanja Kalik	Treasurer	Resigned 11.6.24	
Mike Cain	Treasurer	New Recruit – Joined	10.10.24
Paul Bradburn	Trustee	None	
Kehinde Olajuwon	Trustee	None	
Crystina Woolley	Trustee	Resigned 13.11.24	

Our profile: To enable us to serve our community and reach people in need, it is vital that people are aware of us and what we offer. We raised our profile in our community and beyond through a range of events, speaking engagements, and marketing. This included updating our website and social media pages and launching our quarterly newsletter for supporters. We have invested in marketing materials to support our events and have more actively promoted who we are and what we offer, and defined our key messages and communication routes which support our Strategic Plan.

Our partnerships: We built strong relationships with key stakeholders and partners. Our Charity Manager has been crucial in identifying stakeholders and other interested parties, and connecting with them, as has our Activities Coordinator as she interacts with the community.

Our facilities and resources: We currently have a small community hub in Aldridge and have worked hard to make the best use of it with movable furniture so we can change it according to the session we are doing. We have been looking for new

premises so we can expand what we can offer, and we will continue to search for the right place for us and our service users.

Our Finance: Our financial period runs from 1st January to 31st December each year. The Charity ended the year with a net surplus of £44,389 after accounting for reserves which is an increase of £24,650 on the previous year. We have exercised good financial management to ensure that we operate comfortably within our means and still meet our objectives. We received funding from Grants of £47268 of which £25,311 was restricted. Donations from the public (Individual and Corporate) amounted to £21,596 and we received £2,526 from fund-raising events. We spent £33,473 on salaries and £9,500 on rent. The money spent by the Charity has been applied towards providing a Community Hub in Aldridge which is managed by 2 members of paid staff supported by Volunteers. Various activities and services are provided at the Hub during each week in line with the fulfilment of our objectives. We are half way through a 3 year Grant from the National Lottery which will enable us to comfortably continue our good works until mid-way through 2026. We will continue to actively seek other funding streams to take us beyond this date. The Thomas Project has a Policy of holding the equivalent of 3 months' worth of core expenditure in reserve to cover wind up costs in the event of the dissolution of the Charity. Our reserves figure for 2024 was therefore £12,500. We did not receive any income from other countries and our charity does not operate outside England and Wales. No trustees received any remuneration, payments or benefits from the charity other than refunds of legitimate trustee expenses. None of our charity's staff receive total employee benefits of £60,000 or more. We do not operate an employee benefits scheme. We are a 'living wage employer' and our salaries exceed the minimum living wage requirements. We contribute towards the employee pension scheme through payroll.

Conclusion

2024 overall was a great year for our charity, and we have been blessed to have such wonderful support throughout the year from our community and the communities we support. Financially, we were able to increase our income which has allowed us to invest in developing and growing our services. We have steady staff and volunteer resources to enable us to deliver our charitable aims, and have a strong board of Trustees. We have detailed plans in place to ensure 2025 is a successful and impactful year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Thomas Project I confirm that this report is accurate to the best of our knowledge and the financial statements accompanying this report is accurate and has been independently examined.

Authorised by: Paul Bradburn, Acting Chair of the Board of Trustees

Date: 6 October 2025



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01-Jan-24		31-Dec-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
101 - Standing Order Donations	3755	-	-	3,755	5,862
102 - Individual Donations	3269	-	-	3,269	10,573
104 - Fund Raising Events	2525	-	-	2,525	4,514
105 - One Off Donations		-	-	-	-
107 - Corporate Donations	6846	-	-	6,846	3,794
108 - Community Donations	7726	-	-	7,726	4,028
111 - Endowments/Legacy	9203	-	-	9,203	-
109 - Grants and Trust - Unrestricted	21957	-	-	21,957	5,000
103 - Room Hire		-	-	-	188
106 - Gift Aid Claims	411	-	-	411	143
110 - Sundry Income	3141	-	-	3,141	1,205
113 - Grants and Trusts - Restricted		25,311	-	25,311	13,836
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	58,833	25,311	-	84,144	49,143
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	58,833	25,311	-	84,144	49,143
A3 Payments					
201 - Salaries	8162	25,311	-	33,473	21,885
202 - Rent	9500	-	-	9,500	9,500
203 - Utilities	1437	-	-	1,437	1,525
204 - Phone and Broadband	949	-	-	949	517
205 - Council Tax	490	-	-	490	400
206 - Cleaning	1150	-	-	1,150	706
207 - Repairs and Maintenance	942	-	-	942	263
209 - Subscriptions	310	-	-	310	1,510
210 - Sundries	1707	-	-	1,707	2,693
211 - Printing & Stationery	508	-	-	508	345
212 - Foodbank	2772	-	-	2,772	21
213 - Pastoral		-	-	-	-
214 - Volunteer Costs	411	-	-	411	-
215 - Insurance	506	-	-	506	1,011
216 - Christian Outreach	420	-	-	420	-
217 - Training	190	-	-	190	168
218 - Branding/Publicity	768	-	-	768	-
219 - Activity Cost	355	-	-	355	-
	30,577	25,311	-	55,888	40,544

A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
208 - Equipmnt	606	-	-	606	193
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	606	-	-	606	193
Total payments	31,183	25,311	-	56,494	40,737
Net of receipts/(payments)	27,650	-	-	27,650	8,406
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	32,239	-	-	32,239	23,833
Cash funds this year end	59,889	-	-	59,889	32,239

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	58,889	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	58,889	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Equipment	N/A	606	606
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature 	Print Name M J CAW.	Date of approval 6/10/25
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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name: The Thomas Project

On accounts for the year ended

31st December 2024 Charity no (if any) 1082423

Set out on pages

1 to 12 remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
• the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 09/10/2025

Name: Mrs Joanne Hunt.

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

[Empty box for professional qualification]

Address:

184 Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace
Burnwood, Staffordshire.
WS7 1NT

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

The Thomas Project

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Accounts

End of Year Report 2023

The Thomas Project

About us

The Thomas Project is a Christian charity in Walsall that serves our local community, helping those in hardship, need and distress. From our community hub in Aldridge, we work alongside other local charities and community partners, to offer a range of activities and support services to everyone in our community, regardless of faith, and bring people together. The THOMAS Project began in 2013 by becoming the working name for the charity Family Welfare and Community Guidance, established in 1985 by Jan Coleman and volunteers from St Thomas Church in Aldridge to serve the residents of the Leighswood estate and surrounding areas, with the aims of relieving hardship, need and distress and for the advancement of the Christian religion.

In 2000, the organisation became a registered charity and in 2022 formally changed its name to The Thomas Project. The Thomas Project is well known and trusted because of our long-standing relationship with the community, and we have a long standing good reputation for providing help and support to people in need. We are currently already working in the community, reaching people in food and economic poverty and have success stories of people who have made the journey of life transition from food poverty to become financially stable and able to provide for their families. Our premises are in the heart of a community of shops and local businesses which is easy to access with bus stops just outside. The building is a neutral location which creates no barriers, has disability access and is open to everyone from all parts of the community.

The Thomas Project is located in Aldridge which is a borough of Walsall, and according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation report of September 2019 which measures levels of multiple deprivation, Walsall as a whole is ranked as the 25th most deprived area in England out of 317 and Aldridge sits at level 4 within the borough, on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being the most deprived and 10 being the least deprived. The English Indices of Deprivation 2019, produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), identify small areas of England which are experiencing multiple aspects of deprivation. The figures are based on the concept that deprivation consists of more than just poverty; so while poverty is related to not having enough money to live on, deprivation refers to a much broader lack of resources and opportunities.

A high percentage of the people we provide services to are in a state of food poverty and need urgent help with essential food supplies and other basic household items. Many of these people are in families so need help for the whole family not just themselves. Many are in long term unemployment and need help and support to find pathways back into work. Most of these people lack the ability to change their circumstances without support and assistance. There is also a high population of people over age 65 in Aldridge who have a need for local services so they don't have to travel far. Often they have experienced bereavement, experience loneliness and need a place where they can meet with others and find friendship, support and activities to stimulate them. Some lack the skills or have equipment to connect via the internet so need access to computers and internet and practical help with IT for form filling and connecting with family.

Our strategy (2021-2023)

Our strategy for 2021-2023 is to increase our support and services, and grow our charity, enabling us to meet diverse needs, help more people and reduce the impact of poverty on people's lives. Our current strategic plan was developed through consulting staff, volunteers, trustees and service users in late 2021 and commenced in January 2022. In this plan, we identified 4 key workstreams for the charity over the coming years. The aims of these workstreams are:

For our community

- We will provide a safe and welcoming community hub
- We will deliver a range of community activities
- We will bring people together to prevent isolation and loneliness

For those in need

- We will deliver pastoral support to those in need
- We will work with partners to provide information, advice and guidance services
- We will continue to provide our weekly foodbank

For people who want spiritual support

- We will provide an opportunity, for people who are interested, to learn more about the Christian Faith
- We will support our local churches and fellow Christian organisations
- We will live our values, and our activities and services will reflect these

For our future

- We will ensure trustees, staff and volunteers are supported to deliver our charitable aims
- We will increase our income, growing our financial independence and financial security
- We will increase our impact, diversifying what we do and increasing the number of people we help
- We will raise our profile in our community and beyond and build strong relationships with key stakeholders and partners

How we started 2023

In 2023 we, as an organisation, the people we were supporting, and the people we wanted to support, were dealing with the cost of living crisis and inflation. As a charity, this meant that the costs of running our charity were increasing and our income from donations were decreasing, whilst the need for our services and support was growing. Additionally, due to the instability of funding and income streams in the wider charity and voluntary sector, we were facing increased competition for grants and trust funding.

In January 2022 we launched our two-year strategy which continued through 2023, rebuilding the foundations of our charity to ensure our future sustainability. Supporting our Charity Manager role was our committed volunteering team of 20 active volunteers, and one-off volunteers. They volunteered 2496.02 hours during 2023, equivalent to £26,008.53. We acknowledged once again that without our volunteers none of what we deliver would be possible. We reflected on this, and reframed how we thought about our service delivery. Our delivery model now better reflects this. We are delivered by the community, for the community, and we have a key role in bringing together people who need help with people who want to help. This enables us to engage with people in our community so they are able

to have a greater impact than we could ever have with a delivery model which was wholly staff delivered.

In June 2023 we employed an Activities Coordinator for 10 hours per week to support the work and the growing activities schedule. Their role is to coordinate, develop and plan relevant activities to meet the needs of our community. This involves helping to coordinate the volunteers and supporting the Charity Manager. The person we appointed was previously a trustee with us and was already helping in practical ways, had good relationships with stakeholders and had all the skills required for the position. She felt she could have more impact by becoming a staff member which meant that she had to resign from her role as Trustee.

We also have our board of Trustees. Together they contribute a wide range of skills, experience and connections that will help us to deliver these plans. Among our Trustees we have people who have worked in nursing, social work, senior level charity work, and in business and many of our board and our team have lived experience of the issues we are addressing as a charity. These skills and experience mean there is good understanding of the needs and issues as well as of how to help and to manage this project. We recruited three new Trustees in 2023. A summary of our Trustee Board during 2023 is below.

Name	Position	Status changes	Joined
Nikki-Dee Haddleton	Chair	None	
Pete Brentall	Secretary	None	
Sanja Kalik	Treasurer	New recruit	15.4.23 (resigned 11.6.24)
Marlene Bradburn	Trustee	Resigned - 4.6.23	
Paul Bradburn	Trustee	None	
Kehinde Olajuwon	Trustee	New recruit	15.4.23
Crystina Woolley	Trustee	New recruit	15.4.23

We took on a new Trustee Treasurer in 2023, Sanja Kalik, who was a great addition to the board, however she has had to resign in 2024 due to health issues and work commitments.

In 2024 we aim to increase the size and skills of our Trustee Board.

What we delivered in 2023

[For our community...](#)

For our community...

For our community, our aim is to reduce loneliness and we are trying to provide a community for them where they will feel welcome, safe and ultimately feel that they are a functioning part of that community. In order to reduce loneliness in people and get them together and help them to network and socialise with others we were able to offer:

- **A Place of Welcome serving free refreshments**

Our Place of Welcome is open each week and has been a welcoming place for people from all walks of life. We have some regular attenders and some who are drop ins. There has always been someone available to sit and chat with attenders and we have had some occasions where we have got them involved with doing crafts such as making Christmas and Easter decorations.

- **IT Café serving free refreshments and providing free internet access and help and support with basic IT**

We spoke to regular attenders of our IT café to find out their needs. They were mainly attending to carry out job searches (although some came for other reasons) so we developed the afternoon to include help and support with finding work by inviting a representative of Walsall Works to have a session running during the IT café so that anyone attending could access the help. This was very successful as it worked for both us and Walsall Works and has brought an increase in the numbers attending.

- **Arts and Crafts projects and activities**

We have had craft activities for people to do when attending the place of welcome. They made decorations for our Christmas tree at the Aldridge Christmas Tree Festival and for our Easter activities. We plan to run some specific Arts and Crafts Projects later in 2024 as this was popular and helped some people to feel more relaxed and less anxious.

- **Plant to Plate Project**

We ran a 12 week gardening project commencing in June 2023 in response to needs identified by speaking to people who attended our foodbank. The needs we identified were that people needed to include more fresh fruit and vegetables in their diet. We understood that items included in a food parcel from the food bank were items with a long shelf life such as tinned and packet food. We also knew that as well as fresh fruit and vegetables, learning new skills and fresh air and exercise have a positive impact on health and wellbeing so we developed a project where people could learn to grow their own fruit and vegetables and actively participate in doing what they learned. We secured the use of a garden in the community which was overgrown, and the participants learned everything from preparing the ground, planting seeds, tending seedlings and plants and eventually harvesting them. Each week the participants had the opportunity to do what they were capable of and also to sit down for refreshments and a chat before we finished. Each participant was offered a slow cooker and recipes on how to cook the vegetables they had grown. Excess vegetables were donated to our foodbank. At the end of the project attendees were invited to take part in a harvest celebration at the church where the garden was provided from and also at The Hawthorns residential home from where a few of the residents had attended. This project was a great success with people asking for it to be run again so we plan to run a second Plant to Plate project in 2024. People have benefitted in their physical and mental health through this and we received an email on behalf of two attendees stating *'I would also like to say a massive thank you from Sr. Anne and Margaret who thoroughly enjoyed themselves on Friday and really enjoyed the afternoon. Margaret was particularly impressed at how organised the project is being run and how knowledgeable the leader is. They had a really great time. Thank you.'*

- **A walking group, games afternoons**

We held a Health Walk each month for people to join in where people could walk at their own pace, chat and improve their health and wellbeing.

We commenced Thursday afternoon games afternoons as this was something which was requested by people when we surveyed them. We now have a regular group attending and one attendee stated that they love coming and have a lot of fun, especially when they win!

- **Various community events to bring people together**

We have organised several community events which have been well attended by people from the community, where people have been able to connect and make friends. At one of our events two ladies who hadn't seen each other since school over 50 years ago and who are both widowed, met and reconnected an old friendship. They both became regular attenders at some of our activities.

Events we organised:

An afternoon tea
Summer Greek BBQ
A quiz and fish and chips night
Christmas Concert
A family games day

For those in need...

According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, in October 2023 4.8 million (41%) of low income households were in arrears with the average amount owed by families who are in arrears being £1600. 37% of those in arrears were behind on 4 or more bills. In order to reduce the impact of economic, fuel and food poverty in people's lives we have offered practical help by providing various types of support including, but not limited to:

- A warm space where people come to save on fuel costs;
Our Place of Welcome is open each week and has been a welcoming place for people from all walks of life. To develop the support we can give with regards to people suffering from fuel poverty we connected with H.E.A.T. an advisory service and part of the Wise group. We made literature available and were able to make referrals to them or signpost people to them for advice and support to access eligible hardship funding, to apply for warm home discount etc, to control household energy usage and access support for any energy related issue. We arranged a few information sessions during our place of welcome.
- Free food, toiletries and cleaning products via a foodbank as well as providing food and refreshments in our premises;
Our Food bank continued to be busy and we offered each person who attends, the opportunity to sit down and have free refreshments and snacks while volunteers spent time chatting to them and making them feel welcome. This was an opportunity for us to find out any other needs we can help with. We have taken these opportunities to listen to them and have increased the support services we have by partnering with H.E.A.T., Walsall Works, Walsall Connected, by running Plant to Plate Project and by supporting terminally ill people with telephone calls, texts and hospital visits as well as food.

According to the Trussell Trust in the year up to March 2023 almost 3 million emergency food parcels were distributed to people who were unable to afford the essentials. This is half a million more than the previous year. The Black Country Foodbank also saw increases in those accessing help with numbers of food vouchers presented up by 18.3%. Our foodbank alone gave out 12,700kg of food and essential items in 2023.

- Free internet access and support helping unemployed people find employment and access benefits information;
We spoke to regular attenders of our IT café to find out their needs. They were mainly attending to carry out job searches (although some came for other reasons) so we developed the afternoon to include help and support with finding work by inviting a representative of Walsall Works to have a session running during the IT café so that anyone attending could access the help. This was very successful as it worked for both us and Walsall Works and has brought an increase in the numbers attending

We also became a part of Walsall Connected and were given a supply of Chromebooks and Dongles to distribute to people who fell into the categories of need according to Walsall Connected. We were able to arrange for 5 people to have them. We also helped people with form filling and we referred people to a centre providing advice when the need arose. We have been exploring the potential of offering advice and guidance and have someone who is interested in being trained in this. We also plan to have other groups come to offer advice and guidance sessions from our premises.

[For people who want spiritual support...](#)

According to the Church of England's statistics for attendance at services in 2023 average weekly attendance rose by almost five per cent in 2023. One of our core charity aims is to promote the Christian faith and direct people towards joining a local church and introducing them or taking them to a local service. We ran our first Alpha course in 2022, which was an opportunity for people to explore Christianity. After it's success we ran another Alpha course in 2023 and had another group of people attend with two of them going on to complete the 8 week discipleship course we subsequently ran to help them consolidate their faith. Both are now attending local churches which has contributed to the increase shown in the Church of England's figures.

[For our future...](#)

In 2023 we had a team of 20 dedicated volunteers who, together provided 2496.02 hours of service to the work of The Thomas Project. This equates to an approximate value of £26,008.53 going by the national living wage in 2023 of £10.42. In June 2023 we held a Volunteers Meal to recognise and thank our faithful volunteers for the work they had done. We provided a meal at a local restaurant and gave out thank you gifts. This also gave them the opportunity to get together as a group, as many of them volunteer on different shifts so don't always get to see all of the other volunteers. In 2023 we provided Food Hygiene training and first aid training to increase the skills of our volunteer workforce. We cannot

deliver our services without the support of our volunteers and we want to increase the ways in which they can volunteer and the skills they can both offer and learn.

In our strategic plan we aimed to recruit four new trustees between 2021 and 2023 in order to provide increased skill sets within the board, and a greater diversity of experiences, knowledge and perspectives and increase our innovation and resilience. In 2022 we recruited one new Trustee and in 2023 we recruited three new Trustees, Kehinde Olajuwon, Crystina Woolley and Sanja Kalik.

We continued to increase our impact, diversifying what we do and increased the number of people we help. We raised our profile in our community and beyond and built strong relationships with key stakeholders and partners. We updated our social media and website and have more actively promoted who we are and what we offer, and defined our key messages and communication routes which support our Strategic Plan. Our Charity Manager has been crucial in identifying stakeholders and other interested parties, and connecting with them.

Regular activities

We delivered the following activities:

Activity name: Place of Welcome

Number of sessions: **43** Number of visitors: **189**

Description of service: Providing a warm welcome and a warm space, serving refreshments and light snacks. Tackles loneliness and isolation and fuel poverty where people can make new friends, chat, relax and keep warm.

Quote: *I really enjoy coming to The Thomas Project Place of Welcome. The people always have time for me to chat and listen to me. I've made some new friends here.*

Activity name: IT Cafe

Number of sessions: **43** Number of visitors: **113**

Description of service: Providing a warm, welcoming space for internet access with gentle guidance from an IT expert. IT equipment, printing and internet access provided.

Quote: *It's been very helpful in giving me time and space to do job searches and complete job applications. And I've had help with any problems or errors in online applying.*

Activity name: Plant to Plate

Number of sessions: **12** Number of visitors: **55**

Description of service: Teaching people how to grow fresh fruit and vegetables and cook healthy meals in order to bring the community together, teach them new skills and improve their physical and mental health.

Quote: *I really enjoy the time outdoors meeting new people and I have learned so much.*

Activity name: Games afternoons

Number of sessions: **2** Number of visitors: **27**

Description of service: Bringing the community together to enjoy fun and make friends in a warm, welcoming space which helps them save on fuel costs.

Quote: *I have enjoyed the fun and had a good time.*

Activity name: Alpha

Number of sessions: **13** Number of visitors: **51**

Description of service: Alpha is for anyone who is curious or would like answers to some of life's biggest questions. Breakfast together followed by an opportunity to explore and discuss the basics of the Christian faith.

Quote: *There was so much I didn't know about God. This has helped me to find out more about Him.*

Activity name: Discipleship Course

Number of sessions: **15** Number of visitors: **42**

An interactive Christian discipleship course equipping people with tools to live free and stay free and developing their relationship with God.

Quote: *I suffer with anxiety and low self worth. This course helped me to deal with some of my issues.*

Activity name: Foodbank

Number of adults: **778** Number of children: **610**

Description of service: Providing food for those in crisis. An opportunity to lend a listening ear and signpost clients to agencies providing long-term solutions.

Quote: *Thank you so much, I didn't know how I was going to feed my kids and you have helped us so much.*

Where we ended 2023

2023 overall was a great year for our charity and we have been blessed to have such wonderful support throughout the year from our community and the communities we support. Financially, we were able to keep our income and expenditure stable, generating sufficient income to cover our financial costs, whilst ensuring our reserves remained static. We have steady staff and volunteer resources to enable us to deliver our charitable aims, and have a strong board of Trustees after recruiting more in 2023. We have a strong team, and detailed plans in place to ensure 2024 is a successful and impactful year.


Financial Review

Our financial period runs from 1st January to 31st December each year. At the beginning of 2023 we held £23,873 in reserves. At the end of 2023 our income of £49,143 was more than our outgoings (£40,737). The end of year balance was £32,239. The trustees aim to maintain cash reserves at no less than the equivalent of 3 months average expenditure and this was met. The income received in 2023 is 24% higher than the previous year. In our 2024-2026 Strategic Plan we will review our reserves policy and plan to invest monies above our reserve amount into necessary resources for the charity.

As a charity we raise funds from the public to enable us to deliver our charitable aims. The main source of income for the charity during 2023 was through personal and corporate donations. During 2023 our focus was on increasing our financial stability, exploring new income sources and increasing our engagement with our supporters and stakeholders. In 2023, volunteers from the fundraising committee made up of interested volunteers, planned fundraising activities. We have not worked with any professional fundraisers, nor paid for work delivered by professional fundraisers. Our volunteer fundraising committee worked together to plan and deliver fundraising events throughout the year.

Grants are applied for when appropriate and required. We received £18,836 in funding from grants and trusts in 2023 of which there was zero income from government grants during 2023.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Thomas Project I confirm that this report is accurate to the best of our knowledge and the financial statements accompanying this report is accurate and has been independently examined.



We did not receive any income from other countries and our charity does not operate outside England and Wales.

No trustees received any remuneration, payments or benefits from the charity other than refunds of legitimate trustee expenses. One Trustee resigned prior to taking up a paid position within the charity (see section 'How we started 2023').

None of our charity's staff receive total employee benefits of £60,000 or more.

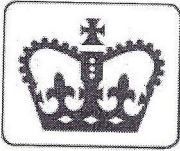
We do not operate an employee benefits scheme.

We are a 'living wage employer' and our salaries exceed the minimum living wage requirements.

We contribute towards the employee pension scheme through payroll.

We had 20 regular volunteers, excluding trustees, during 2023.

We obtain the appropriate level DBS check on all trustees, employees and volunteers who are in roles that are eligible for these checks as defined by the guidelines for these checks.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

The Thomas Project

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2023

**Charity no
(if any)**

1082423

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2023, which are set out on the attached pages.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

24/09/2023

Name:

Mrs Joanne Hunt

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FMAAT

Address:

184 Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace,

Burntwood, Staffs.

WS7 1NT



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

THE THOMAS PROJECT

1082423

CC16a

Receipts & Payments Accounts

For the period from	01/01/2023	To	31/12/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year 2022 to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
101 - Standing Order Donations	5,861.90	-	-	5,862	5,678
105 - One Off Donations	10,572.58	-	-	10,573	7,776
104 - Fund Raising Events	4,513.89	-	-	4,514	2,418
107 - Corporate Donations	3,794.20	-	-	3,794	680
108 - Community Donations	4,027.90	-	-	4,028	11,939
111 - Endowments	-	-	-	-	1,015
109 - Grants and Trust	5,000.00	13,836.00	-	18,836	4,750
103 - Room Hire	187.50	-	-	188	1,250
106 - Gift Aid Claims	143.38	-	-	143	1,815
110 - Sundry Income	1,205.38	-	-	1,205	223
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	35,307	13,836	-	49,143	37,545
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	35,307	13,836	-	49,143	37,545
A3 Payments					
201 - Salaries	21,885	-	-	21,885	19,950
202 - Rent	9,500	-	-	9,500	9,500
203 - Utilities	1,525	-	-	1,525	1,603
204 - Phone and Broadband	517	-	-	517	761
205 - Council Tax	400	-	-	400	555
206 - Cleaning	706	-	-	706	858
207 - Repairs and Maintenance	263	-	-	263	984
209 - Subscriptions	1,510	-	-	1,510	475
210 - Sundries	2,693	-	-	2,693	619
211 - Printing & Stationery	345	-	-	345	277
212 - Foodbank	21	-	-	21	26
213 - Pastoral	-	-	-	-	76
214 - Volunteer Costs	-	-	-	-	54
215 - Insurance	1,011	-	-	1,011	917
216 - Christian Outreach	-	-	-	-	163
217 - Training	169	-	-	169	210
Sub total	40,544	-	-	40,544	37,026
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
208 - Equipment	193	-	-	193	317
Sub total	193	-	-	193	317
Total payments	40,737	-	-	40,737	37,343
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,430	13,836	-	8,406	202
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	23,833	-	-	23,833	23,631
Cash funds this year end	18,403	13,836	-	32,239	23,833

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds				
	Reserves	18,403	13,836	-
	Cash At Hand	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	18,403	13,836	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

Income in this return shows as £49,143. In the bank statements it shows £49,315.73. The variance on the bank statement is attributed to a bank error of £155 recorded on 17th February 2023 and a disclosure refund of £18 dated 14th June 2023, which was processed on 26th June 2023. This is a total of £173 i.e. (£155 + £18). Thus:

	Report Total Amount	Bank Statement Total Amount	DIFFERENCE
Total Amount In to date	49,143.00	49,315.73	173
Total Amount Out to date	40,737.00	40,910.06	173

The Thomas Project

England & Wales - Charity number 1082423

Accounts

End of Year Report 2022

The Thomas Project

About us

The Thomas Project is a Christian charity in Walsall that serves our local community, helping those in hardship, need and distress. From our community hub in Aldridge, we work alongside other local charities and community partners, to offer a range of activities and support services to everyone in our community, regardless of faith, and bring people together. The THOMAS Project began in 2013 by becoming the working name for the charity Family Welfare and Community Guidance, established in 1985 by Jan Coleman and volunteers from St Thomas Church in Aldridge to serve the residents of the Leighswood estate and surrounding areas, with the aims of relieving hardship, need and distress and for the advancement of the Christian religion.

In 2000, the organisation became a registered charity and in 2022 formally changed its name to The Thomas Project. The Thomas Project is well known and trusted because of our long-standing relationship with the community, and we have a long standing good reputation for providing help and support to people in need. We are currently already working in the community, reaching people in food and economic poverty and have success stories of people who have made the journey of life transition from food poverty to become financially stable and able to provide for their families. Our premises are in the heart of a community of shops and local businesses which is easy to access with bus stops just outside. The building is a neutral location which creates no barriers, has disability access and is open to everyone from all parts of the community.

The Thomas Project is located in Aldridge which is a borough of Walsall, and according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation report of September 2019 which measures levels of multiple deprivation, Walsall as a whole is ranked as the 25th most deprived area in England out of 317 and Aldridge sits at level 4 within the borough, on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being the most deprived and 10 being the least deprived. The English Indices of Deprivation 2019, produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), identify small areas of England which are experiencing multiple aspects of deprivation. The figures are based on the concept that deprivation consists of more than just poverty; so while poverty is related to not having enough money to live on, deprivation refers to a much broader lack of resources and opportunities.

A high percentage of the people we provide services to are in a state of food poverty and need urgent help with essential food supplies and other basic household items. Many of these people are in families so need help for the whole family not just themselves. Many are in long term unemployment and need help and support to find pathways back into work. Most of these people lack the ability to change their circumstances without support and assistance. There is also a high population of people over age 65 in Aldridge who have a need for local services so they don't have to travel far. Often they have experienced bereavement, experience loneliness and need a place where they can meet with others and find friendship, support and activities to stimulate them. Some lack the skills or have equipment to connect via the internet so need access to computers and internet and practical help with IT for form filling and connecting with family.

[Our strategy \(2021-2023\)](#)

Our strategy for 2021-2023 is to increase our support and services, and grow our charity, enabling us to meet diverse needs, help more people and reduce the impact of poverty on people's lives. Our current strategic plan was developed through consulting staff, volunteers, trustees and service users in late 2021 and commenced in January 2022. In this plan, we identified 4 key workstreams for the charity over the coming years. The aims of these workstreams are:

For our community

- o We will provide a safe and welcoming community hub
- o We will deliver a range of community activities
- o We will bring people together to prevent isolation and loneliness

For those in need

- o We will deliver pastoral support to those in need
- o We will work with partners to provide information, advice and guidance services
- o We will continue to provide our weekly foodbank

For people who want spiritual support

- o We will provide an opportunity, for people who are interested, to learn more about the Christian Faith
- o We will support our local churches and fellow Christian organisations
- o We will live our values, and our activities and services will reflect these

For our future

- o We will ensure trustees, staff and volunteers are supported to deliver our charitable aims
- o We will increase our income, growing our financial independence and financial security
- o We will increase our impact, diversifying what we do and increasing the number of people we help
- o We will raise our profile in our community and beyond and build strong relationships with key stakeholders and partners

How we started 2022

In 2022 we, as an organisation, the people we were supporting, and the people we wanted to support, had been and continued to be impacted by COVID. Whilst lock-downs were over, we were still dealing with the ongoing impact of the pandemic, and the lock-downs in 2020 and 2021. On top of this we were also dealing with the cost of living crisis and inflation. As a charity, this meant that the costs of running our charity were increasing and our income from donations were decreasing, whilst the need for our services and support was growing. Additionally, due to the instability of funding and income streams in the wider charity and voluntary sector, we were facing increased competition for grants and trust funding. This meant that during 2021 we experienced a significant difference between our income and expenditure, with our expenditure being roughly £10k higher than our income. This shortfall of £10k for 2021 was funded from reserves.

In January 2022 we launched our two-year strategy. At the end of 2021 our part-time Project Manager retired and our part-time Assistant Manager chose to resign at the same time. These staffing changes enabled us to re-visit the roles and skills we needed within the organisation and re-design our staffing structure. We created the new role of Charity

Manager, and set the hours and salary for this role. This role was a leadership role with defined financial and impact targets. We recruited to this role in January 2022 and appointed Liz McMeekin. This role was pivotal in ensuring we delivered our strategic aims during 2022 and rebuilding the foundations of our charity to ensure our future sustainability. Supporting this role was our committed volunteering team of 20 active volunteers, and one-off volunteers. They volunteered 2272.35 hours during 2022, equivalent to £21,587.32. We acknowledged once again that without our volunteers none of what we deliver would be possible. We reflected on this, and reframed how we thought about our service delivery. Our delivery model now better reflects this. We are delivered by the community, for the community, and we have a key role in bringing together people who need help with people who want to help. This enables us to engage with people in our community so they are able to have a greater impact than we could ever have with a delivery model which was wholly staff delivered.

We also have our board of Trustees. Together they contribute a wide range of skills, experience and connections that will help us to deliver these plans. Among our Trustees we have people who have worked in nursing, social work, senior level charity work, and in business and many of our board and our team have lived experience of the issues we are addressing as a charity. These skills and experience mean there is good understanding of the needs and issues as well as of how to help and to manage this project. We recruited a new Trustee in September 2022 and our Treasurer stepped down at the end of 2022 due to relocation. A summary of our Trustee Board during 2022 is below.

Name	Position	Status changes
Nikki-Dee Haddleton	Chair	None
Pete Brentall	Secretary	None
Keith Capp	Treasurer	Resigned Dec 2022
Marlene Bradburn	Trustee	None
Paul Bradburn	Trustee	New recruit – September 2022

In 2023 we will replace the role of Treasurer and increase the size and skills of our Trustee Board.

What we delivered in 2022

For our community...

For our community, our aim was to reduce loneliness and to provide a community where people feel welcome, safe and ultimately feel that they are a functioning part of that community. In order to reduce loneliness in people and get them together and help them to network and socialise with others we delivered a number of activities. We know from our previous delivery of services that our role in bringing people together is valued by our beneficiaries and that we are able to do this well. We also believe in the wider social value that is created by bringing communities together.

We know that loneliness and isolation has a negative impact on people's health and wellbeing. According to the Office for National Statistics feeling lonely frequently is linked to early deaths. Research shows that loneliness is associated with a greater risk of inactivity, smoking and risk-taking behaviour; increased risk of coronary heart disease and stroke; an

increased risk of depression, low self-esteem, reported sleep problems and increased stress response; and with cognitive decline and an increased risk of Alzheimer's. Feeling lonely can make a person more likely to perceive, expect and remember others' behaviour to be unfriendly. This can increase social anxiety and cause them to withdraw further, creating a vicious cycle. Feeling lonely frequently has a direct impact on individuals and can have wider effects for society. For example, lonely people are more likely to be readmitted to hospital or have a longer stay. There is also evidence that lonely people are more likely to visit a GP or A&E and to enter local authority funded residential care.

[For those in need...](#)

In order to reduce the impact of economic, fuel and food poverty in people's lives we began to increase our offer of practical help. We know that Aldridge has significant isolated pockets of deprivation which struggle to access support due to the overall indices of deprivation ratings. We also support many people who are from an older demographic and the cost of living crisis and the ongoing impact of COVID in 2022 was having a significant impact on these individuals, due to factors such as pension shortfall and underemployment, and health issues and isolation. By supporting people in need we aimed to reduce the impact of social and economic inequality. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation 'UK Poverty 2022' report, shows that, within the UK, 22% of the population are living in poverty, equating to approximately 14.5 million people and of these 8.1 million are working age adults and with the highest rate of child poverty in twenty-five years.

The effects of poverty and inequality are far reaching and can be long term. The British Medical Association (BMA) reported that although poverty can have a negative impact upon the health of people of all ages it can be distinct in relation to infants and children as it is associated with low birth weights, higher risk of deaths within the first year of life and shorter life expectancy. Children living in poverty are also more likely to suffer from chronic diseases such as asthma, have issues with cognitive development and are three times more likely to suffer from mental health issues. All of these issues can have long term consequences on the life chances of children and on their health once adults. The Mental Health Foundation states that poverty produces a harmful environment in relation to individuals, families and communities' mental health and increases the risk of mental health problems and that people with no previous history of mental health issues may develop them as a result of becoming impoverished. Adults within food insecure households are more likely to develop chronic diseases such as asthma, arthritis, diabetes and mental health issues alongside lower life expectancy.

Whilst we had our foodbank already well-established, the dependency upon food banks from those living in poverty and crises, has continued to increase at a rapid rate. Trussell Trust report that between April 2020 and March 2021, across the UK, they distributed 2.5 million emergency food parcels a 33% increase on the previous year and by 128% over the previous five years. We found that demand is increasing at our food bank too. Statistics for our foodbank show increases each year since 2018, with the number of people provided with food and the amount of food doubling in 2021 compared with 2020.

[For people who want spiritual support...](#)

According to statistics published by Statista, church attendance in England has fallen by approximately 300 thousand since 2009 up to 2019, with the average weekly attendance of



the Church of England being just 854.3 thousand in 2019. In the same year, just over a third of people in the United Kingdom identified as being Christian compared with two-thirds in 1983. Although there are several churches in the area served by The Thomas Project, attendance is falling and many of the people we provide services to do not attend any church. One of our core charity aims is to promote the Christian Faith. We know that this work is needed because we work with people at The Thomas Project on a daily basis who often open up and talk to us about their hopelessness, their difficult life circumstances and their needs and more often than not, they tell us that they do not have any faith nor do they attend a church. We have in place, some Christian volunteers who, alongside the Charity Manager, talk to people, and more importantly listen to them and build up relationship and trust with them. We began to see a need for specific activities and meetings for some of these people who were hungry for the love of God but just didn't know it yet. Many of them told us that they did not want to attend a church. Our community hub is in a neutral location in a building which is part of a group of small local shops where people come regularly to visit the hairdresser, buy fish and chips, buy groceries etc and also to come to our activities. Because of this they are happy to attend courses etc here. Although there are Alpha Courses running in some of the local churches, these people did not want to attend them, however they are happy to attend in our community hub as it is familiar territory and with people they already know and trust. In 2022 we piloted our first Alpha Course.

Commencing in May 2022 we ran an Alpha Course for people we were connecting with who attend various activities in our premises who we found were showing an openness to/interest in exploring faith. We had five people sign up to it and attended regularly. Of those five people four were 'unchurched' and one attended church occasionally and wanted to increase her faith. At the end of the course three of them had made a first time commitment to follow Jesus. One of these three was baptised and is now attending regularly and helping out in a local Anglican church, is currently a helper on our second Alpha course, is sharing his faith with others and is volunteering regularly at our foodbank where he has opportunities to have conversations with people who attend about his faith and he tells them about our Alpha course. Another one of these three people attend a local Anglican church regularly but only to specific meetings due to her family circumstances. She is in regular contact with members of the church and has support from them.

The other of the three attends her local Anglican church occasionally and is happy to have connected with Christ. She attends The Thomas Project regularly and we continue to have conversations with her about her faith. The person who wanted to increase her faith is now attending her local Anglican church regularly and is happier with her relationship with Christ. The fifth person decided that he did not want to pursue a life of faith in Christ. However, he is still a regular attender at The Thomas Project, engaging with other activities and participating in events. After the Alpha course ended three of the people mentioned above wanted to continue as a group and be supported by us. We worked through an eight week discipleship course together which stretched out over 11 weeks. The outcome of this was a deepening of their faith and understanding of their new relationship with Christ. After this course we encouraged them all to look to their local church for further courses.

[For our future...](#)

In 2022 we had a team of 20 dedicated volunteers who, together provided 2272.35 hours of service to the work of The Thomas Project. This equates to an approximate value of £21,587.32 going by the national minimum wage in 2022 of £9.50. In October 2022 we held

a Volunteers Day to recognise and thank our faithful volunteers for the work they had done. We provided a lunch and had a visiting speaker. This gave them the opportunity to get together as a group, as many of them volunteer on different shifts so don't always get to see all of the other volunteers. In November we provided a Fire Safety Training session for them carried out by a professional fire safety instructor. We cannot deliver our services without the support of our volunteers and we want to increase the ways in which they can volunteer and the skills they can both offer and learn.

In our strategic plan we aimed to recruit four new trustees between 2021 and 2023. This will provide increased skills sets within the board, and a greater diversity of experiences, knowledge and perspectives which we hope will increase our innovation and resilience. To support recruitment of Trustees, in 2022 we created and implemented a Buddy role and Induction Process for new Trustees. We also re-drafted the Trustee Role description to provide greater clarity to potential Trustees about the role and the expectations regarding time commitment. We used this when recruiting our newest Trustee, Paul Bradburn, in 2022.

We recruited a Charity Manager for 25hrs per week over 5 days per week (flexible to meet with needs of service), redefining the role and reviewing the salary scale based on the new role description. The Charity Manager has been supported by the Trustees and been provided with direct training, and access to training relevant to their ongoing continuous professional development such as diversifying your income, Growing in resilience, fundraising, safeguarding, finance and fundraising, introduction to adverse childhood experiences and fire safety. The Chair of the Board provided line-management support to the Charity Manager, meeting with them fortnightly, and a formal supervision process and annual review was conducted. KPI's, performance indicators and progress reporting mechanisms were formalised in line with the Strategic Plan and Impact Reporting requirements.

We continued to increase our impact, diversifying what we do and increased the number of people we help. We raised our profile in our community and beyond and built strong relationships with key stakeholders and partners. We updated our social media and website and have more actively promoted who we are and what we offer, and defined our key messages and communication routes which support our Strategic Plan. Our Charity Manager has been crucial in identifying stakeholders and other interested parties, and connecting with them.

Regular activities

We delivered the following activities:

Activity name: Place of Welcome

Number of sessions: **43** Number of visitors: **189**

Description of service: Providing a warm welcome and a warm space, serving refreshments and light snacks. Tackles loneliness and isolation and fuel poverty where people can make new friends, chat, relax and keep warm.

Quote: I really enjoy coming to The Thomas Project Place of Welcome. The people

always have time for me to chat and listen to me. I've made some new friends here.

Activity name: IT Cafe

Number of sessions: **43** Number of visitors: **113**

Description of service: Providing a warm, welcoming space for internet access with gentle guidance from an IT expert. IT equipment, printing and internet access provided.

Quote: It's been very helpful in giving me time and space to do job searches and complete job applications. And I've had help with any problems or errors in online applying.

Activity name: Walsall Workstations

Number of sessions: **43** Number of visitors: **47**

Description of service: Practical support for those seeking employment. Participants must be unemployed and over 25

Quote: I receive help and support getting myself ready to get into work.

Where we ended 2022

2022 overall was a great year for our charity and we have been blessed to have such wonderful support throughout the year from our community and the communities we support. Financially, we were able to stabilise our income and expenditure, generating sufficient income to cover our financial costs, whilst ensuring our reserves remained static. We have steady staff and volunteer resources to enable us to deliver our charitable aims, and have begun to recruit new Trustees. We know that 2023 will be challenging due to the ongoing cost of living crisis and the longer-term impacts of COVID but we have a strong team, and detailed plans in place to ensure 2023 is a successful and impactful year.

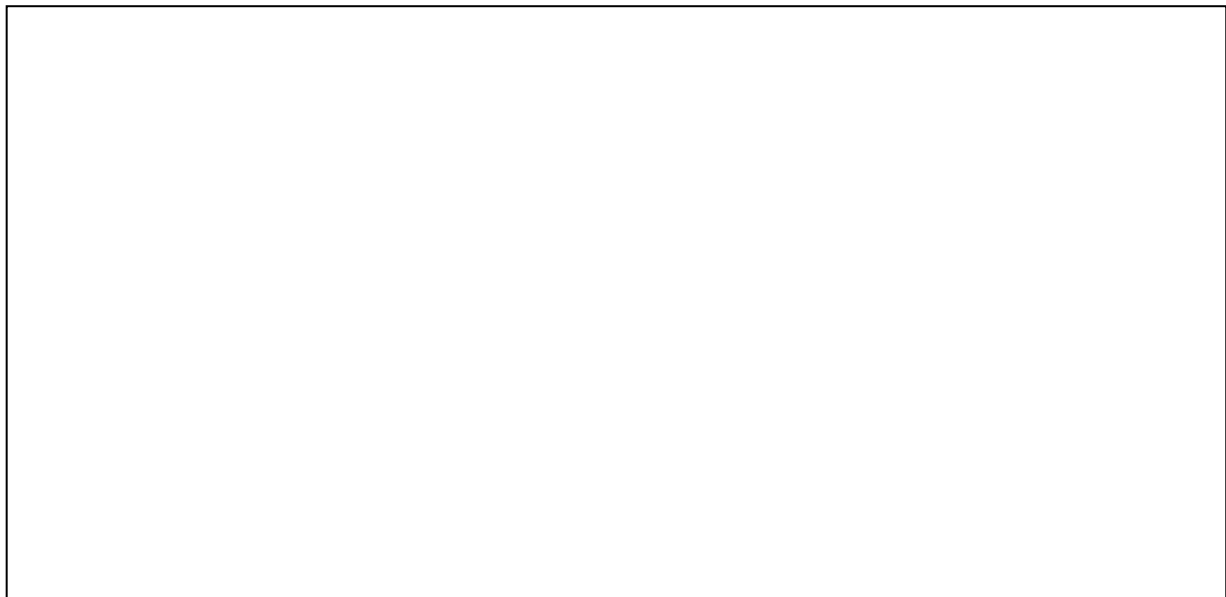
Financial Review

Our financial period runs from 1st January to 31st December each year. At the beginning of 2022 we held £23,631.42 in reserves. At the end of 2022 we were pleased that our ongoing work to improve our stability and sustainability resulted in our income of £37,545 being slightly more than our outgoings (£37,343). The end of year balance was £23,873. The trustees aim to maintain cash reserves at no less than the equivalent of 3 months average expenditure and this was met. The income received in 2022 is 23% higher than the previous year, reflecting two main changes: increased income received from donations, fundraising events and charitable trading activities, and reduced cost by 8% due to the staffing changes at the beginning of 2022 as outlined in this report.

As a charity we raise funds from the public to enable us to deliver our charitable aims. The main source of income for the charity during 2022 was through personal and corporate donations. During 2022 our focus was on increasing our financial stability, exploring new income sources and increasing our engagement with our supporters and stakeholders. In 2022, volunteers formed a fundraising committee made up of interested volunteers. We have not worked with any professional fundraisers, nor paid for work delivered by professional fundraisers. Our volunteer fundraising committee worked together to plan and deliver fundraising events throughout the year, including our annual 'Quiz and Chips' night, a Greek BBQ and our Christmas Concert.

Grants are applied for when appropriate and required. We received a final payment from our grant funding from the National Lottery Community Fund during 2022.

- We did not receive any income from government grants during 2022.
- We did not receive any income from other countries and our charity does not operate outside England and Wales.
- No trustees received any remuneration, payments or benefits from the charity other than refunds of legitimate trustee expenses.
- None of our charity's staff receive total employee benefits of £60,000 or more.
- We do not operate an employee benefits scheme.
- We are a 'living wage employer' and our salaries exceed the minimum living wage requirements.
- We contribute towards the employee pension scheme through payroll.
- We had 20 regular volunteers, excluding trustees, during 2022.
- We obtain the appropriate level DBS check on all trustees, employees and volunteers who are in roles that are eligible for these checks as defined by the guidelines for these checks.



Trading of "The Thomas Project "

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

		2022	2022
		£	£
Receipt	Note	Restricted	Unrestricted
<u>Donations</u>			
General fund			27,088
Fundraising			2,418
<u>Trading</u>			
Gift aid claims			1,815
Room Hire			1,250
Refunds			
Sundry income			223
<u>Restricted income</u>			
Morrisons vouchers			
Sundry sanitary products			
Main Grant income			4,750
Total Receipts		-	37,545
Payments			
Wages and expenses			19,995
Training			210
Voluntary cost			54
Insurance			917
Rent			9,500
Rates			555
Heat and light			2,364
Pastoral items			239
Food bank and outreach	1		501
Cleaning materials			858
Postage and stationery			277
Repairs and maintenance			938
Tools and equipment			317
Sudries			619
Total Payments			37,343
Surplus/Deficit			201
Transfer of funds			0
Cash & Bank deposits at 1st January 2021		5508	18164
Cash & Bank deposits at 1st January 2022		5,508	18,365

1. Foodbank and outreach

Foodbank
Helping hands - Shop
Gift shop stock
Bedding for child
Evangelism resources
IT club
Craft items
Gift - services for clients
Volunteer project
Furniture etc for clients
Artist for mosaic funding
Other items including bags of joy

Restricted fund	Foodbank
Balance brought forward as 1st January 2021	4
Income	1000
Payments	-358
Balance carried forward as 31st December 2021	<u><u>646</u></u>

Restricted fund	Foodbank
Balance brought forward as 1st January 2022	646
Income	
Payments	
Balance carried forward as 31st December 2022	<u><u>646</u></u>

Cash funds

Bank current account
Petty cash

Total cash

Assets retained for the charity own use

Computers and equipment

Photocopier

2022 £ Total	2021 £ Restricted	2021 £ Unrestricted	2021 £ Total
27,088		17,898	17,898
2,418		1,061	1,061
-			
-			
1,815		1,410	1,410
1,250		995	995
-		100	100
223		135	135
-			
-			
-			
-			
4,750	5,490	3,450	8,940
-			
37,545	5,490	25,049	30,539

19,995		20,132	20,132
210			
54		596	596
917		885	885
9,500		9,500	9,500
555		620	620
2,364		1,803	1,803
239		183	183
501	1,481	1,365	2,846
858		308	308
277		22	22
938		1,919	1,919
317		970	970
619		632	632
37,343	1,481	38,935	40,416

0

201	4,009 -	13,886 -	9,877
0	-	-	-
23672	1,499	32,050	33,549
23,873	5,508	18,164	23,672

£	2022	£	2021
			377
			124
			37
			53
			374
			24
			64
			16
			308
			190
			671
			608
			<u>2846</u>

Grant for toys	Total
188	192
	0
	1000
	0
	-358
	0
188	834

Grant for toys	Total
188	834
	0
	0
	0
	0
	0
188	834

£	2022	£	2021
	23,833		23631
	40		41

23,873

23672

restricted
unrestricted

The Thomas Project

Analysis of income and expenditure Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	General	Designated	Restricted
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies			
101 - Standing Order Donations	5,678.49 -	-	-
102 - Cash Donations	1,748.77 -	-	-
104 - Fund Raising Events	2,418.42 -	-	-
105 - One Off Donations	6,026.79 -	-	-
107 - Corporate Donations	680 -	-	-
108 - Community Donations	11,939.38 -	-	-
111 - Endowments	1,015.00 -	-	-
Donations and legacies Totals	29,506.85 -	-	-
Income from charitable activities			
109 - Grants and Trust - Unrestricted	4,750.00 -	-	-
112 - The National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-
Income from charitable activities Totals	4,750.00 -	-	-
Other trading activities			
103 - Room Hire	1,250.00 -	-	-
Other trading activities Totals	1,250.00 -	-	-
Investments			
Investments Totals	-	-	-
Other income			
106 - Gift Aid Claims	1,814.52 -	-	-
110 - Sundry Income	223.21 -	-	-
113 - Grants and Trusts - Restricted	-	-	-
Other income Totals	2,037.73 -	-	-
Income and endowments Grand totals	37,544.58 -	-	-

Expenditure on:

Raising funds

Raising funds Totals - - -

Expenditure on charitable activities

201 - Salaries	19,995.24 -	-	-
202 - Rent	9,500.00 -	-	-
203 - Utilities	1,602.87 -	-	-
204 - Phone and Broadband	760.72 -	-	-
205 - Council Tax	555.07 -	-	-
206 - Cleaning	857.78 -	-	-
207 - Repairs and Maintenance	983.57 -	-	-
208 - Equipment	317.09 -	-	-

209 - Subscriptions	475.19 -	-
210 - Sundries	618.65 -	-
211 - Printing & Stationery	277.31 -	-
212 - Foodbank	25.78 -	-
213 - Pastoral	76.34 -	-
214 - Volunteer Costs	53.59 -	-
215 - Insurance	916.84 -	-
216 - Christian Outreach	162.63 -	-
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	37,178.67 -	-
Other expenditure		
217 - Training	210 -	-
Other expenditure Totals	210 -	-
Expenditure Grand totals	37,388.67 -	-

Endowment	Total	
	This year	Last year
-	5,678.49 -	
-	1,748.77 -	
-	2,418.42 -	
-	6,026.79 -	
-	680 -	
-	11,939.38 -	
-	1,015.00 -	
-	29,506.85 -	27,088.43

-	4,750.00 -	
-	-	-
-	4,750.00 -	
-	1,250.00 -	
-	1,250.00 -	
-	-	-
-	1,814.52 -	
-	223.21 -	
-	-	-
-	2,037.73 -	
-	37,544.58 -	

-	-	-
-	19,995.24 -	
-	9,500.00 -	
-	1,602.87 -	
-	760.72 -	
-	555.07 -	
-	857.78 -	
-	938 -	
-	317.09 -	

- 475.19 -
- 618.65 -
- 277.31 -
- 25.78 -
- 76.34 -
- 53.59 -
- 916.84 -
- 162.63 -
- 37,178.67 -

- 210 -
- 210 -
- 37,388.67 -

155.91

ie latest



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Thomas Project

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st December 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1082423

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022 which are set out on the attached pages.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

24/10/2023

Name:

Mrs Joanne Hunt

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

FMAAT

Address:

184 Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace,

Burntwood, Staffs

WS7 1NT

The Thomas Project

England & Wales - Charity number 1082423

Accounts



The THOMAS Project Trustees Annual Report For the Period of 01 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2021

Registered Office: 196H Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge, West Midlands, WS9 8HB



Mission Statement

To relieve hardship, need and distress; and for the advancement of the Christian religion.

Introduction

We are a Christian charity in Walsall that serves our local community, helping those in hardship, need and distress. From our community hub in Aldridge, we work alongside other local charities and community partners, to offer a range of activities and support services to everyone in our community, regardless of faith, and bring people together.

During 2021 we continued to be impacted by the global pandemic, COVID 19, and the effects this had on being able to deliver services and activity for people in need. In response to the pandemic we increased our foodbank provision to support the vulnerable and those in food poverty, but some other services reduced during national lock-downs and as a result of the tier systems in place.

Structure, Governance and Management

During the accounting period the Trustees were:

Elizabeth Jones (Resigned)

Keith Capp - Treasurer

Clive Thomas (Resigned)

Marlene Bradburn

Peter Brentnall - Minutes Secretary

Nikki-Dee Haddleton – Chair (Appointed in May 2021)

The Charity governing document is a Trust Deed and is constituted as a Trust. During this reporting period two Trustees resigned after a long period of service. Following completion of a Trustee skills analysis we began a new period of Trustee recruitment starting with recruitment of a new Chair of Trustees who was formally appointed in May 2021.

We also updated our Declaration of Trust through a SPECIAL RESOLUTION passed at a General Meeting of the Trustees and Staff on 13th September 2021. The changes permit the body of Trustees to consist of a minimum of 4 trustees up to a maximum of 8 trustees (which may include co-opted trustees). The updated Declaration of Trust allows for Trustees to be recruited as and when required as agreed by the Trustee Board and Trustees are appointed by a vote of the Trustee Board. The updates also specify now that Trustees will be appointed for a term of 4 years, and are eligible for re-appointment at that point for a further 4 years serving up to a maximum term of 8 years.

It was also agreed that the Chair of the Trustee Board will be recruited as and when required as agreed by the Trustee Board and may be an existing Trustee or a wholly new appointment and that they are subject to the same appointment process and length of service restrictions as other Trustee Board members. In addition, if there is a gap in the role of the Chair of the Trustee Board an interim Chair of the Trustee Board may be appointed from the existing Trustees for a maximum term of 1 year.

Due to the changes in the minimum Trustee Board membership number the Trust Declaration was amended to show that 'There shall be a quorum when at least three trustees, are present at a meeting'. The purpose of these changes were to support us in recruiting new members of the Trustee Board to meet with identified skills gaps and to ensure we open up board membership to new recruits regularly to support the growth and

development of the charity. The changes also addressed some minor areas where clarification was required.

Trustees held standard quarterly meetings in-person or via zoom which are minuted. Frequency of meetings increased during the second half of 2021 to support the induction of the new Chair of the Trustee Board and in response to the necessity for more frequent meetings to support the Project Manager and Deputy Project Manager in re-opening services following COVID-19 restrictions being lifted. Following the appointment of the new Chair of the Board of Trustees a consultation process took place to enable Trustees, Staff, Volunteers and beneficiaries of the charity to contribute to the development of a new Strategic Plan for the charity. The Strategic Plan was developed and finalised by late 2021 for delivery during 2022-23.

The Trustees appoint members of staff through the application process. During 2021 there were 2 members of staff; Project Manager (21 hours per week) Deputy Project Manager (12 hours a week). The Deputy Project Manager post was a 3 year funded post by the National Lottery Community Fund. In December 2021 the Project Manager formally retired and the Deputy Project Manager resigned their post. As a result the organisational structure was re-designed and a new post was created to support the successful delivery of the charities future aims and activities and outlined in the Strategic Plan developed in the second half of 2021. Recruitment for this post began in December 2021.

Volunteers were recruited by the Project Manager through the application process. There were 20 Volunteers registered with the project in 2021.

The Thomas Project aims to ensure policies and procedures exist where they are required or add value, and that they are fully integrated and implemented throughout the organisation. To ensure high standards and consistency across the organisation, robust and up to date policies and

procedures are required to give clear definitions, boundaries and guidance for all aspects of our services and service delivery. We have clarified and defined the criteria for policies and procedures, how they are developed and approved, how they are communicated and implemented, what they should include and how compliance is monitored. We have created a schedule that allows us more stringently ensure appropriate review dates for policies and procedures are set and met.

During this review we updated some key policies to ensure they comply with up-to-date requirements, including our Data Protection policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Confidentiality Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy.

All Trustees, staff and volunteers have appropriate DBS clearance for their roles.

The THOMAS Project is a member of The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS).

All Trustees have regard to Public Benefit (PB1,PB2,PBS) and annually update this knowledge and policies.

Financial Review

The trustees aim to maintain cash reserves at no less than the equivalent of 3 months average expenditure.

The main source of income for the charity is through personal and corporate donations.

Grants are applied for when appropriate and required.

Fundraising activities were again restricted during 2021 as a result of government restrictions.

Although the pandemic restricted most activities the foodbank remained open throughout the period. Therefore fixed costs remained in place and in many areas increased. Income reduced as the covid grants available during 2020 were no longer on offer. Also donations reduced from £26k to £19k.

This led to a shortfall of £10k for 2021 which was funded from reserves.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

During 2021 while Covid 19 restrictions were in place, our main objective was to remain open and support people in food poverty, especially those who were isolated. When restrictions ended we reinstated activities within the project including an arts and crafts project, computer club, job club, Citizens Advice Family Matters sessions, Walsall Workstations and a walking group. In 2022 we aim to promote our current activities and start new ones as we identify specific needs within the community and we plan to increase our reach and our impact.

The THOMAS Project is a member of the Black Country Foodbank (BCFB). We work closely with other food banks in the network. As members of the Black Country Foodbank we are part of the FareShare with Aldridge Co-op, and Aldridge Greggs. We are extremely grateful for the weekly donations of produce we receive from these establishments and from other community groups, churches and individuals.

The THOMAS Project is a member of Transforming Communities Together and Places of Welcome. Unfortunately due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions the Places of Welcome weekly meetings did not take place at our premises.

We work with Walsall Workstations, a Bridges Project offering support for the unemployed. In 2021 due to Covid 19 restrictions in person sessions were not

able to recommence until later in the year, however, Walsall Workstations did offer our users support over the telephone.

The THOMAS Project works closely with local churches, schools, business and charitable organisations to ensure the local community and our users receive the most appropriate support when needed. Working with these organisations increases the benefit to the public. By working together we build a network of support which ensures those that come to us in crisis receive the best and most appropriate support.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In the early part of the year most of the usual activities we provide were suspended due to the government restrictions and the unsuitability of the premises for group activities to maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule. When restrictions eased and lifted we reinstated activities that were suitable.

Despite many of our usual volunteers being unable to volunteer, due to shielding or illness, we were still able to operate the twice weekly food bank. During 2021 the foodbank had an increase in demand over the previous year.

The figures for 2021 are:

- Number of vouchers received = **457** - 48.9% more than 2020
- Amount of food given out = **10197.15 Kgs** - 75.4% more than 2020
- Amount of non-food items given out eg toiletries and cleaning products = **2185.28 Kgs** - 79.7% more than 2020
- Number of adults and children worked with **1359** - which comprises of **744** adults and **615** children - which is 65.3% more than 2020 (51.2% and 86.4% higher for adults and children)

The increase in need has been provided for by the incredible acts of generosity from the local community and beyond that has ensured our foodbank never went short of anything.

With the help of volunteers we were able to offer a local delivery service of food parcels which has been much appreciated, not only by the people receiving a food parcel, but also by the professionals who support those in crisis. This is not a service currently offered by other food banks in the area. We aim to continue to offer this service in the future provided we have the volunteers.

Support to our users was maintained by regular telephone calls by Trustees and staff to ensure they were safe and well and to offer food parcels to those self isolating or vulnerable.

Thanks to Tesco Community Fund we were able to provide **70** children with Bags of Joy through December. Each bag contained art or crafts, books, chocolate and a fleece blanket/throw. Some bags also contained gloves and scarves, kindly knitted by members of the community.

The contribution made by volunteers has been sacrificial this year. They have continued to risk their own health by volunteering at the Food Bank, their hours amounting to over **1283** hours. In monetary terms this is worth **£12,188** (at the living wage rate of £9.50 per hour). We are very grateful to them for the wonderful work and support they have given, we literally could not provide the service we do without them.

2021 has seen us come out of the pandemic and the challenge has been to recommence regular activities from the Thomas Project premises. We are thankful to God and proud to have been able to maintain a good level of support to local people during this challenging year and we are committed to rebuilding and growing in the years ahead.

.....

Keith Capp

Trustee - Treasurer

.....

Nikki-Dee Haddleton

Trustee - Chair



**CHARITY OF FAMILY GUIDANCE &
COMMUNITY WELFARE
trading as the 'THOMAS PROJECT'**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

trading as 'THE THOMAS PROJECT'
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
December 31, 2021

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		£	£
	<u>Note</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
<u>RECEIPTS:-</u>			
Donations			
General Fund			17,898
Fundraising			1,061
Gift Shop			
Gift Aid claims			1,410
Room hire			995
Refunds			100
Sundry Income			135
<u>Restricted income:-</u>			
Morrisons Voucher			
Sundry Sanitary products			
Main Grant income		5,490	3,450
TOTAL RECEIPTS		5,490	25,048

PAYMENTS

Wages and Expenses	(+/- £1,666.67 x 12)		20,132
Volunteer costs			596
Activities			
-Guys and Gals	2		
Clients Gifts & Loans	3		
Client group trips (coach)			
<u>Walsall Wood:-</u>			
-Insurance			885
-Rent			9,500
-Rates			620
-Telephone			
-Heat and Light			1,803
-Pastoral Items			183
Advertising/Signage			
Food Bank + Outreach		1,481	1,365
-Cleaning + Materials			308
-Postage + Stationery			22

Decorating/Maintenance		1,919
Worldpay/bank charges (incl hand held device)		0
Licenses		
And tools + Capital Equipment		970
CCPAS		
-Sundries		632
TOTAL PAYMENTS	1,481	38,935
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PMTS	4,009	-13,887
TRANSFER OF FUNDS	0	0
CASH & BANK DEPOSITS at 1 January 2021	1,499	32,052
at 31 December 2021	5,508	18,165

CHARITY OF FAMILY GUIDANCE & COMMUNITY WELFARE

trading as 'THE THOMAS PROJECT'

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31st DECEMBER 2020

£
2021

1) FOODBANK AND OUTREACH

Foodbank	377
Helping Hands - Shop	124
Gift Shop - Stock	37
Bedding for Child	53
Evangelism Resources	374
IT Club	24
Craft items	64
Gift - services for clients	16
Volunteer Project	308
Furniture etc for Clients	190
Artisit for Mosaic funding	671
Other incl items for Bags of Joy	608
	<u>2,845</u>

2) RESTRICTED FUNDS

Main bank:- **Grant for**
Foodbank **Toys**

Funds

Balance b/f	4	188
Income	1,000	
Payments	-358	
Funds Balance c/f @ 31/12/20	<u>646</u>	<u>188</u>

CHARITY OF FAMILY GUIDANCE & COMMUNITY WELFARE
trading as 'THE THOMAS PROJECT'
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

£
2021

CASH FUNDS:-

Bank Current account	23,631
Petty Cash	41
Less:- Grants refundable West Midlands Police	
TOTAL CASH	<u>23,673</u>

ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE:-

	<u>Fund</u>
Computers and other equipment	Restricted
Photocopier	Unrestricted

Nikki-Dee Haddleton

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE:-

<u>£</u> <u>2021</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>£</u> <u>2020</u> <u>Total</u>
17,898		24,794
1,061		1,006
0		34
1,410		3,297
995		420
100		0
135		0
0		0
0		0
8,940		25,262
30,538		54,813
20,132		12,158
596		0
0		0
0		608
0		0
885		1,196
9,500		7,125
620		424
0		730
1,803		1,505
183		132
0		0
2,845		1,275
308		380
22		574

1,919	1,226
0	1
0	0
970	852
0	273
632	467
<hr/>	<hr/>
40,416	28,926
<hr/>	<hr/>
-9,878	25,887
0	0
33,551	7,664
<hr/>	<hr/>
23,673	33,551
<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

£
2020

88
304
451
432

1,275

Mrs P Toulouse
For refugees

Rosie's Hhands
Bursary

Bishops Lent
Appeal
Asylum Seekers

Shenstone
relief- carpets

100	689	108	410
-----	-----	-----	-----

-207

100	482	108	410
-----	-----	-----	-----

£
2020

36,356

115

-2,920

33,551

Cost

Value

1,048

1

875

1

Arnold Clark

Tesco
Bags for Life

Arts &
Crafts

Total

		0	1,499
1,000	1,000	2,490	5,490
	-916		-1,481
<u>1,000</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>2,490</u>	<u>5,508</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Charity of Family Guidance & Community Welfare

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 149(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- * examine the accounts (under section 149(3)(a) of the 2011 Act);
- * follow the procedures laid down in the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 149 (5) of the 2011 Act); and
- * state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directives given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the account's and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

* to keep accounting records in accordance with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

* to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

2 - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

MAS JOANNE HUNT FMAAT

Name of Independent Examiner

13th September 2022

Examination Date

The Thomas Project

England & Wales - Charity number 1082423

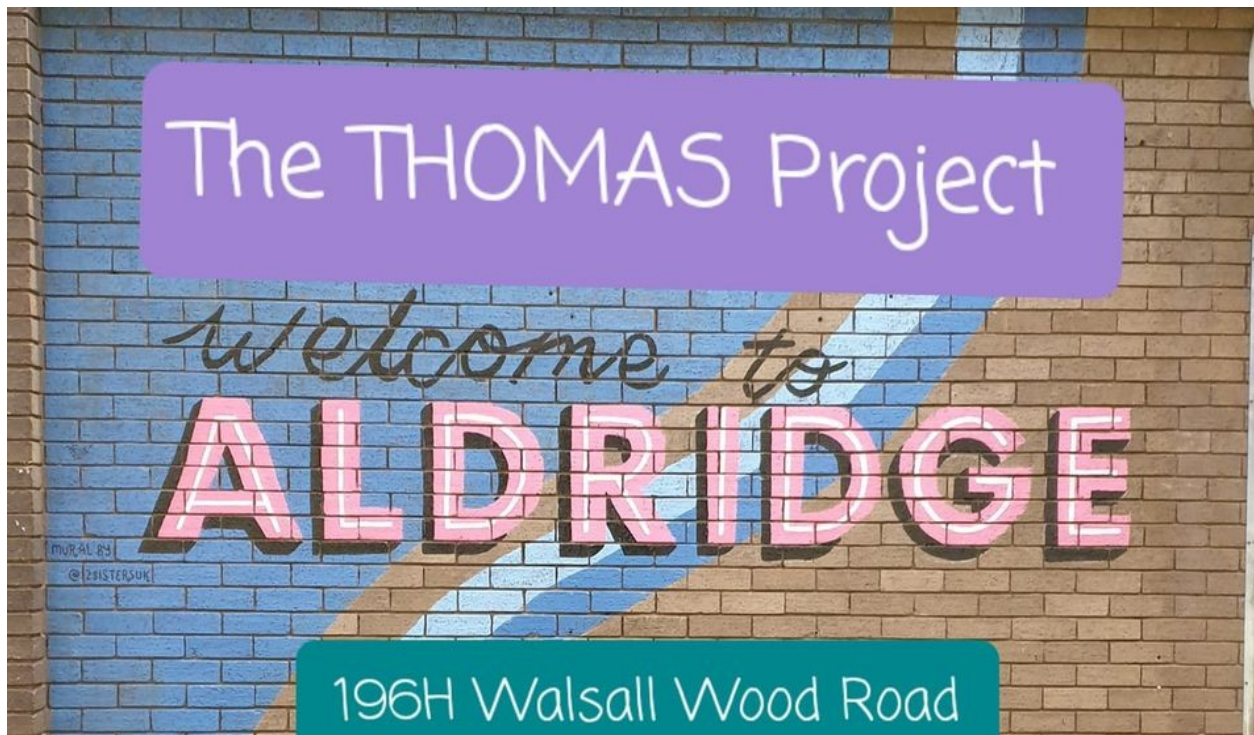
Accounts



Family Welfare & Community Guidance
Reg Charity Number 1082423

The THOMAS Project Trustees Annual Report For the Period of 01 Jan 2020 to 31 Dec 2020

Registered Office: 196H Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge, West Midlands, WS9 8HB



Mission Statement

The THOMAS Project is a faith based charity that aims to relieve hardship, need and distress in the community of Aldridge, by providing opportunities and activities to all, to improve confidence, social connections, well being, and purpose.

Introduction

The THOMAS Project is the working name for Family Welfare and Community Guidance.

Structure, Governance and Management

During the accounting period the Trustees were:

Keith Farquhar (Chair) - Resigned October 2020

Elizabeth Jones - Secretary

Keith Capp - Treasurer

Clive Thomas - Vice Chair

Tim Wilson - Fundraising Coordinator - Resigned November 2020

Marlene Bradburn - Fundraising coordinator

Peter Brentnall - Minutes Secretary

The Charity governing document is a Trust Deed and is constituted as a Trust with 7 Trustees elected by the Trustees.

Trustees hold quarterly meetings which are minuted. During 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions these meetings took place via Zoom.

The Trustees appoint members of staff through the application process. Currently there are 2 members of staff; Project Manager (21 hours per week) Deputy Project Manager (12 hours a week). The Deputy Project Manager post is a 3 year funded post by the National Lottery Community Fund.

Volunteers are recruited by the Project Manager through the application process. There are currently 20 Volunteers registered with the project.

The THOMAS Project is committed to promoting fairness and eliminating discrimination and bringing people together to bridge the gap across social, generational, digital and cultural divides.

Financial Review

The Trustees aim to maintain cash reserves at no less than the equivalent of 3 months average expenditure.

The main source of income for the charity is through personal and corporate donations.

Fundraising has not been as active this year due to the government restrictions, but some fundraising was undertaken in January and by supporters taking part in personal sponsorship challenges.

Grants are applied for when appropriate and required.

A major risk to the charity would be loss of public donations. During this accounting period public donations have increased by £9036 to £27,984

Policies and Procedures

The THOMAS Project has relevant equality and safeguarding policies in place to cover trustees, staff, volunteers and users of the project. The project is Christian based but welcomes people of all faiths and no faith, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, ability or age.

All Trustees, staff and volunteers (18 years of age and over) who are involved in regulated activities have DBS clearance.

The THOMAS Project is a member of The Churches Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS).

All Trustees have regard to **Public Benefit** (PB1,PB2,PBS) and annually update this knowledge and policies.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Wider Network/Partnerships

The THOMAS Project is a member of the Black Country Foodbank (BCFB). We work closely with food banks in the network, especially Ablewell Advice Services, who are able to offer our users debt and benefit advice. As members of the Black Country Foodbank we are part of the FareShare and FoodCloud with Aldridge Co-op, Tesco store at Brownhills and Aldridge store of Greggs. We are extremely grateful for the weekly donations of produce we receive from these establishments.

The THOMAS Project is a member of Transforming Communities Together and Places of Welcome. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions the Places of Welcome weekly meetings have not taken place at our premises, but Places of Welcome did make an online platform available for people to join in virtual coffee mornings and prayer.

We work with Walsall Workstations, a Bridges Project offering support for the unemployed. Again due to the unprecedented year the weekly sessions at the project have not been as regular, but we hope to resume these in 2021. Walsall Workstations did offer our users support over the telephone.

The THOMAS Project works closely with local churches, schools, business and charitable organisations to ensure the local community and our users receive the most appropriate support when needed. Working with these organisations increases the benefit to the public. By working together we build a network of support which ensures those that come to us in crisis receive the best and most appropriate support.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

2020 has been one of change for the THOMAS Project, with new staff appointments and volunteers, due in most part to the effects of COVID-19. Most of the usual

activities we provide were suspended due to the government restrictions and the unsuitability of the premises for group activities to maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule.

Despite many of our usual volunteers being unable to volunteer, due to shielding or illness, we were still able to operate the twice weekly food bank with a handful of volunteers, some new, who risked their own health to ensure the needs of the community were met.

During 2020 we distributed 5,874kg of food and 1,223 kg of non food (e.g. toiletries and cleaning products) this went out in 330 food parcels for children (an increase of 58% on 2019) and 492 food parcels for adults (an increase of 66% on 2019). The increase in demand began in March 2020, when COVID-19 pandemic first took hold in England. The demand remained high to the end of December. The increase in need has been more than matched by the incredible acts of generosity from the local community and beyond that has ensured our foodbank never went short of anything.

With the help of volunteers we were able to offer a local delivery service of food parcels which has been much appreciated, not only by the people receiving a food parcel, but also by the professionals who support those in crisis. This is not a service currently offered by other food banks in the area. We aim to continue to offer this service in the future provided we have the volunteers.

During the first lockdown of Spring 2020 it became clear that home schooling was a challenge for some families; children became bored and parents frustrated by the demands of working from home whilst trying to care for a number of children. We responded by providing craft and activity packs containing age appropriate items. These went out with food parcels to those in crisis. Parents were very grateful to have extra supplies to help with the home schooling. We contacted local schools to offer the packs to families the schools knew were struggling. We put out appeals on Social Media for the items we needed and were astonished by the amount donated. Over 200 packs were given out, including those over Christmas which contained small gifts and a fleece blanket. One school head teacher wrote to say ' The gratitude of families was palpable'.

Support to our users was maintained by regular telephone calls by Trustees and staff to ensure they were safe and well and to offer food parcels to those self isolating or vulnerable. Eighty Christmas gift bags containing festive and essential food were delivered to the most isolated elderly residents, either known to us or identified by Walsall Council Housing Officers.

Forty bags containing essential toiletries such as shower gel and shampoo were distributed to the COVID-19 recovery Ward at Walsall Manor Hospital - these were gratefully received at a time when visitors, who would normally bring these items, were not allowed.

The contribution made by volunteers has been especially outstanding this year. Not only have they risked their own health by volunteering at the Food Bank but between them they have clocked up over 38,000 hours. In monetary terms this is worth £361,000 (at the living wage rate of £9.50 per hour) in this financial period. We are immensely grateful and proud of the wonderful work and support of our volunteers, we literally could not provide the service we do without them.

2020 has brought about much change to many lives and to the THOMAS Project. We are thankful to God and proud to have been able to support local people during this challenging and unprecedented year. We look towards the future as we evolve and endeavour to continue to support the needs of our local community and fulfil our commitment to serve our local community.

K Capp

K Ross

Keith Capp

Trustee - Treasurer

Karen Ross M.B.E.

Charity Project Manager

**CHARITY OF FAMILY GUIDANCE &
COMMUNITY WELFARE
trading as the 'THOMAS PROJECT'**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

trading as 'THE THOMAS PROJECT'
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
December 31, 2020

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

		£	£
	<u>Note</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>
<u>RECEIPTS:-</u>			
Donations			
General Fund			24,794
Fundraising			1,006
Gift Shop			34
Tear Fund Sales			
Gift Aid claims			3,297
Room hire			420
<u>Restricted income:-</u>			
Morrisons Voucher			
Sundry Sanitary products			
Main Grant income			25,262
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>		0	54,813

PAYMENTS

Wages and Expenses		2,075	10,083
Courses - Training for Staff			
Activities			
-Guys and Gals	2		
Clients Gifts & Loans	3		608
Client group trips (coach)			
<u>Walsall Wood:-</u>			
-Insurance			1,196
-Rent			7,125
-Rates			424
-Telephone			730
-Heat and Light			1,505
-Pastoral Items			132
Advertising/Signage			
Food Bank + Outreach		367	909
-Cleaning + Materials			380
-Postage + Stationery			574
Decorating/Maintenance			1,226

Worldpay/bank charges (incl hand held device)		1
Licenses		
And tools + Capital Equipment		852
CCPAS		273
-Sundries		466
TOTAL PAYMENTS	2,442	26,484
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PMTS	-2,442	28,329
TRANSFER OF FUNDS	0	0
CASH & BANK DEPOSITS		
at 1 January 2020	3,941	3,723
at 31 December 2020	1,499	32,052

CHARITY OF FAMILY GUIDANCE & COMMUNITY WELFARE

trading as 'THE THOMAS PROJECT'

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31st DECEMBER 2020

£
2020

1) FOODBANK AND OUTREACH

Foodbank	88
Helping Hands - Shop	304
Gift Shop - Stock	451
Donations : Bible Society	
Evangelism Resources	432
Fundraising - skittles evening	
Room hire, food/drink - LP	
ACM - Food, stamps	
Lichfield Gospel Choir	
Tearfund cards	
Shoebox appeal	
Spring Stall (market)	
Christmas tree festival, Lantern Parade	
Cook School, Film Faith & Food, Pancakes	
Trivial costs	
	1,275

2) RESTRICTED FUNDS

Main bank:-
Foodbank

Grant for
Toys

Funds		
Balance b/f	67	188
Income		
Payments	-63	
Funds Balance c/f @ 31/12/20	4	188

CHARITY OF FAMILY GUIDANCE & COMMUNITY WELFARE
trading as 'THE THOMAS PROJECT'
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

£
2020

CASH FUNDS:-

Bank Current account	36,356
Petty Cash	115
Less:- Grants refundable West Midlands Police	-2,920
TOTAL CASH	<u>33,551</u>

ASSETS RETAINED FOR THE CHARITY'S OWN USE:-

	<u>Fund</u>
Computers and other equipment	Restricted
Photocopier	Unrestricted

Nikki-Dee Haddleton
ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE:-

<u>£</u> <u>2020</u> <u>Total</u>	<u>Note</u>	<u>£</u> <u>2019</u> <u>Total</u>
24,794		18,948
1,006		2,437
34		1,071
0		44
3,297		0
420		1,640
0		20
0		30
25,262		2,450
54,813		26,640

12,158		7,447
0		0
0		0
608		500
0		0
1,196		487
7,125		13,375
424		642
730		607
1,505		1,334
132		553
0		0
1,275		1,976
380		248
574		677
1,226		387

1	34
0	268
852	0
273	274
466	481
<hr/>	<hr/>
28,926	29,290
<hr/>	<hr/>
25,887	-2,650
0	0
7,664	10,314
<hr/>	<hr/>
33,551	7,664
<hr/>	<hr/>

£
2019

241
105
641
75
221

72
100
330
24
20
25
63
58
1

1,976

Mrs P Toulouse Rosie's Hhands Bishops Lent Shenstone
For refugees Bursary Appeal relief- carpets
Asylum Seekers

100

993

108

410

-304

100

689

108

410

£
2019

6,653

1,011

7,664

Cost

Value

1,048

1

875

1

Grant Income-
Salary

Total

2,075 3,941

0

-2,075 -2,442

0 0 1,499



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Thomas Project (Family Guidance & Community Welfare)

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2020

Charity no
(if any)

1082423

Set out on pages

1 - 7 attached.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

20/10/2021

Name:

CHRISTOPHER LENG

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

27 JORDAN WAY, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL
WEST MIDLANDS WS9 8SB

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.