THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST THOMAS WITH ALL SAINTS, LYMINGTON, WINCHESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1128119

Details

Other names	LYMINGTON PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-02-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Thomas Church St. Thomas Street Lymington SO41 9ND
Phone	01590676194
Email	office@lymingtonchurch.org
Website	www.lymingtonchurch.org

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Provides human resourcesProvides buildings/facilities/open spaceProvides servicesProvides advocacy/advice/information

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Hampshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£326,827	£258,212	-	-
2023-12-31	£272,085	£342,254	-	-
2022-12-31	£326,614	£337,154	-	-
2021-12-31	£211,695	£292,600	-	-
2020-12-31	£202,726	£228,965	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ann Louise Morrish		2025-05-07
Christopher Mark Stroud		2025-05-07
DAPHNE LORRAINE JOHNSTON		2025-05-07
David John Bridges		2025-05-07
Dr CELIA MARY SWAN BSc PhD		2025-05-07
Jeremy Vines MA MIChemE		2025-05-07
Joan Mary Horton-Fawkes		2025-05-07
Jonathan Richard Barker Cook		2023-03-29
Karen Jane Brett		2025-05-07
MALCOLM ANTHONY WARD		2023-03-29
MARY CATHERINE HILL		2024-04-17
Rev Lee Arun Thompson		2023-08-29
SYLVIA MARY PEPIN		2025-05-07
Sara Braxton		2025-07-24
Sheelagh Margaret Isobel Huddleston Hetherington		2025-05-07

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST THOMAS WITH ALL SA

England & Wales - Charity number 1128119

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS, LYMINGTON WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

2024 REPORT and ACCOUNTS for the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday May 7th 2025

7:30pm

St Thomas' Church

Registered Charity Number 1128119

AGENDA

PRAYERS.
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS.

1. Election of Churchwardens for 2025-2026.[1]

   All persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll of this Parish and all persons resident in the Parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence may participate in this election.

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parochial Church Council.
2. Approval of 2024 Minutes.
3. Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod.
4. Election of Parochial Church Council members.
5. Consideration of:
   a) The Electoral Roll.
   b) The Annual Report of the Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the Parish generally.
   c) Finance[3]:
      I. Examined accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2024.
      II. Statement of the funds and property of the PCC.
      III. To appoint independent examiners.
   d) The annual fabric report under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018.
   e) Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
   f) Other Reports.
6. Any other business of Parochial or general interest to be submitted in writing one week in advance of the APCM to the PCC Secretary via e-mail to the Secretary at pcc.secretary@lymingtonchurch.org

Mary Hill
Honorary Secretary, Lymington PCC.

[1] In accordance with the Churchwardens' Measure 2001.

[2] In accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020.

[3] Item 5 is presented in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, LYMINGTON
WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024.

Aims and Purposes.

The St Thomas' with All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for co-operation with the incumbent, the Revd. Lee Thompson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Church of St Thomas and the Chapel of Ease of All Saints.

Administrative Information.
The Parish of St Thomas, with All Saints, is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Parish Office, St Thomas' Church,
St Thomas Street, Lymington, SO41 9ND. Telephone: 01590 676194.
e-mail: office@lymingtonchurch.org website: www.lymingtonchurch.org

Personnel.

Incumbent:	The Revd. Lee Thompson
Churchwardens:	Chris Stroud, Daphne Johnston.
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus:	Malcolm Ward.
Parish Administrator:	Suzie Napleton.
Organist:	Peter Roper-Curzon.
Verger, Sacristan-St Thomas':	Helen Pocklington.
Treasurer:	Andrew Payne.
Inspecting Architect:	Ryan Bunce of Ryan Bunce & Co,
Independent Examiner:	Hope Jones, Chartered Accountant, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZG.

PCC Members who served from the APCM 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent	The Revd. Lee Thompson (Chairman)
Churchwardens	Chris Stroud (Vice-Chairman), Daphne Johnston.
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus	Malcolm Ward.
Deanery Synod Representatives:	
To APCM 2026	Pat Cashin, Sylvia Pepin, Celia Swan, Michael Standage.

Elected Members:

To APCM 2025	Maureen Harris, David Hanks.
To APCM 2026	Jonathan Cook, Malcolm Ward.
To APCM 2027	Sally Drury, Mary Hill.

Appointed under casual vacancy rules in 2024 for one year: David Bridges, Anne Morrish, Derek Scheffer.

The Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll stands at 204 with 164 being resident and 40 non-residents.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) requires "the Minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish" and requires the PCC to "co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The Church of England (Worship and Doctrine) Measure 1974 requires the Minister and PCC to agree jointly any decisions about which forms of service are to be used in any church in the Parish.

The PCC meets six times per year. Normally meetings are held in St Thomas' Church. Minutes of PCC meetings are made available in the Parish church office.

The Standing Committee of the PCC conducts the business of the PCC between meetings, is answerable to the PCC and submits to it proposals in connection with issues of Parish-wide significance. The *ex-officio* members in 2024 were the Vicar (Chairman), the Churchwardens, the Finance Officer, the chair of the Fabric Committee and the PCC Secretary.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Andrew Payne, prepares and monitors the annual budget and reports directly to the PCC.
The Fabric Committee, chaired by Michael Standage, provides support and guidance to the PCC on the appropriate maintenance and management of the church premises and grounds.
The Vicar and Churchwardens are *ex-officio* **Trustees of Lymington C of E Infant School** and of two Trusts associated with the Parish.

Objectives and Activities.

The Parish Vocation is "to be the town church in Lymington, offering prayer and hospitality in Jesus' name". Mindful of this and the charity's object to promote in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, the church seeks to become a church for all generations; holding the vision to be a church that is "Growing Younger Together." Accounting procedures are designed to identify clearly patterns of income and expenditure across the Parish, so that its resources may be deployed as appropriately as possible.

In their report below, the Trustees present a summary of the activities undertaken by the charity in the Parish for the benefit of the public. They confirm that they have had due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Many Parishioners who willingly undertake a wide variety of tasks with no thought of remuneration or other recognition have contributed to the life of the Parish. The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC are enormously grateful to them all.

REPORTS

Vicar's Report.

On Epiphany Sunday the church began exploring the vision to be a church that was "Growing Younger Together". The church already understood its vocation to be "the town church for Lymington" but was significantly under-represented in terms of younger generations. One particular challenge was the absence of children and youth in our Sunday worship and as a corollary, very few working age adults.

A feedback exercise was undertaken and the response was very encouraging with over 150 responses. In early April 2024, the PCC held an away day to consider the feedback and explore the primary themes and opportunities before us. These were provision for children & families, refreshing of worship, developing the choir and developing pastoral care.

I am grateful to the leaders of the "Life & Soul" service who have served this church with great generosity over many years. The service had become a much-cherished time of worship and place of lasting friendship. The retirement of this service created the time and space on Sunday mornings to open our doors to younger generations.

In June an enthusiastic team went to Ascension Balham to undertake training to become a "Bubble Church" – a church service for families with young children. In September, Bubble Church launched as a weekly service and quickly established itself as meeting the needs of families who were not attending churches elsewhere.

Throughout the year, there have been many signs of encouragement. Our links with Lymington Infant School provide a mutually supportive relationship through collective worship, monthly Messy Church, church visits of the LIS Robins Choir and the wisdom and discernment of the Foundation Governors who serve the school community. Attendance at church services showed continued signs of renewal and I must thank the many volunteers who so generously offer their gifts to make this possible.

I add to that the commitment of those who seek to contribute to our common life, through acts of compassion towards those in need, hospitality and outreach, stewardship and care for our buildings, environment and uplifting cultural and seasonal events. I am grateful to the Friends of St. Thomas for co-ordinating the provision of a concert grand piano, made possible through the generosity of supporters of the arts and grant-making trusts.

Our vision is to be a church "Growing" in number, as disciples and in confidence. It is to be a church growing "Younger" by nurturing links with families, our schools and a sense of joie de vivre. It is to be a church that is growing younger "Together" by serving through our gifts, serving the community and the wider church.

I commend to you the reports below.

Revd. Lee Thompson (Vicar)

Worship Services.

The Sunday services are: 8am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion, 9am Bubble Church for young children and parents, 10am Common Worship Holy Communion with the choir and organ. There is an opportunity to meet over coffee after the 10am. Service. There is a regular communion service on Wednesday mornings and a monthly choral Evensong.

The numbers of worshippers continued to increase during the year, especially at the 10.00 am service and are now close to pre-Covid levels.

Pastoral Report.

Pastoral support, both for parishioners as well as some members of the wider community, has continued and gradually increased (total 10, March '25) while the Pastoral Team remains at two. However, acknowledgement is due to the congregational support networks through the various home and interest groups within the church.

Frequency of visits to people either living at home or in residential care is dependent upon their situation; the aim is either weekly or at least monthly. Visits to three church members in residential care outside the parish has been necessary, along with visits to Lymington Hospital and very occasionally to Southampton General. Telephone calls and email are also used to keep in touch as and when appropriate. All visits and contacts adhere to the latest safeguarding guidelines.

Four nursing homes receive a monthly Holy Communion visit by three teams of two serving small groups of residents. Five housebound parishioners are also regularly served in this way.

Prayer requests are made to the parish office to be included on the confidential Prayer Chain.

Maureen Harris

Prayer Ministry Report.

Regular prayer activities have continued through the year. A prayer meeting, Morning Prayer, is held every weekday on Zoom. It is led by the regular members and they are joined by folk from St Mark's Pennington. Saturday Morning Prayers are held at St Thomas Church to pray for the work of the Parish, for projects and the people of the parish. Included are the prayer requests left on the Prayer Tree.

We give thanks for the many opportunities for prayer during our worship services and we thank those who faithfully lead our intersessions. Also, there are the small groups who pray together: House Groups, Messy Church, Bubble Church and all the other meetings which hold prayer foundational to their activities.

The prayer list on the Weekly New Sheet highlights prayer requests. Also, the Prayer Chain Team is alerted to prayer requests which are made through the Church Office and are prayed for in confidence. (Please contact the team if you know of people who would appreciate being held in prayer.)

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17).

Jane Cook

House/Home Group Report.

The Sunday worship and biblical teaching at St Thomas' is supported and strengthened by weekly House Group / Home Group study, where we explore God's Word and discuss the challenge of the application in relation to our daily lives. Topics for study are usually based on the sermon theme for the previous Sunday. St Thomas' currently has five groups with a total of around 40 members; most groups meet in each other's homes, with one group using the church as its venue.

Most groups meet weekly, with the usual calendar breaks for holidays. Each group provides an informal and a relaxed environment in which to study scripture and to listen to God and to share with each other. We seek to apply His Word to the realities of our lives, to care for each other and to pray for one another. Members will often take it in turns to lead or to host a group meeting. Are you part of a home group? If not, then please be encouraged to seriously consider joining one of the groups we have in church. Not only may you be missing out on belonging to a smaller 'family unit' within the larger family of St Thomas' Church, but a group is missing out on your friendship too. Please contact one of the home group leaders; you will be made very welcome and you will be both blessed and be a blessing! If you, or someone you know, would like to join a House/Home Group, please make contact and we'll put you in touch. Details appear regularly in the weekly news sheet.

Malcolm Ward

Deanery Synod.

The Lyndhurst Deanery Synod includes our Area Dean, clergy and elected representatives from each local parish. The number of elected representatives per parish is based on the size of the parish's electoral roll. We meet three times a year at various Parish churches within Lyndhurst Deanery. The meetings have included presentations and last year the subjects were about Eco Churches, Christian Fellowship and Lighthouse ministries. Plus, Deanery Mission, Pastoral Committee reports, General Synod News and the links with Rwanda.

There is currently a vacancy for a Deanery Synod Representative from St Thomas' Church.

Pat Cashin

Church Choir and Organist.

Music is at the heart of our worship at St Thomas', much of which is led by a regular choir of about 12 to 14 core members for Choral Communion each Sunday, with 20 to 30 for Choral Evensongs, festivals, Advent, and Christmas carol services. We are delighted to have welcomed several children to our team over the past year and are looking for opportunities to expand their number and involvement. We were joined by the Lymington Infants School Robins Choir for the Palm Sunday family communion service, with their music director Carole Dowding conducting and look forward to their return on occasions next year. In May, Peter Roper-Curzon was formally installed as our Organist, since when the choir's repertoire has been expanding and a greater variety of hymns, songs and tunes to which they are sung has been introduced. Music selection is undertaken by a small team including Anne Keir and Alison Towler, while Anne undertakes the huge task of ordering, coordinating, and managing the musical scores. For the Sunday morning services the focus is on the theme and readings, with inspiration from recommendations of the RSCM and the Anglican hymnaries, but requests are always welcome and met wherever possible. Fern Daish-Handy provides invaluable support as the choir conductor whenever available.

In 2024, the choir supported seven funerals and services of thanksgiving and a wedding, additional services for which Karen Brett coordinates the singers. In the spirit of wider outreach and visibility for the church, we also sang at the annual RNLI service at the Bath Road Bandstand and supported the blessing of the Town Crib when the Christmas lights were switched on in December. Regular choral evensongs, incorporating some more challenging as well as inspiring pieces, are well attended but also provide an opportunity for singers who do not regularly attend church to

experience formal worship and spiritual enlightenment beyond their involvement in other local choral groups. We are grateful for their support. The Advent Carol Service, which took place during the Christmas Tree Festival, was another successful opportunity for outreach, as was the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Both attracted significant support, not only from more local people but some travelling substantial distances to attend what have become "events" in people's calendars.

St Thomas's Church Choir is one of the few SATB (four voice parts) church choirs remaining in the Diocese, and sharing the opportunities available to present music in the Anglican choral tradition is important to us. We have particularly strong ties to St John's Church Boldre, and our choir members often support this neighbouring church as do their choir support us. In addition to the seven St Thomas' Church choral evensongs we also hosted a memorable Deanery Evensong in September at which choir members from St John's Boldre, St Mark's Pennington, St Luke's Sway, St Saviour's Brockenhurst, St Mary's South Baddersley and St Andrew's Tiptoe joined St Thomas' for a wonderful service of celebration, preceded by a super tea and the chance to share our experiences. We are a friendly and inclusive choir to which new members of any age and ability are welcome.

Organist Peter Roper-Curzon is an exceptionally talented musician and we have been blessed with virtuoso voluntaries on our much-loved historic organ brought to renewed life through his musicianship. His thoughtful direction of the choir is much appreciated. We practice most Monday evenings throughout the year with only a short break during the summer, preparing for the forthcoming Sunday services, learning new music and enjoying fellowship and fun.

Anne Keir and Alison Towler

Children and Families

Bubble Church.

Following 'Growing younger together' discussions at a PCC away day in early 2024, we launched a Bubble Church service at 9.00 on 15 September. A core team formed in June 2024 and we travelled to Ascension Church in Balham for a full day of training, discussion and practising with the puppets. Bubble Church is a Sunday church service, targeted at babies, toddlers and young families. It is a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-croissant fuelled, 30-minute kids and families' adventure. It has been encouraging to see the positive response to Bubble Church in Lymington and the service reached 30+ families between launch and Christmas.

The service requires a large team resource and lots of energy to deliver each week, but every service has encouragements and growth.

At Bubble church we welcome, pray, confess, learn from God's amazing true story the Bible and respond creatively with activities, games and more prayer, in way that engages young children and their grown-ups.

Messy Church

In 2024 Messy Church continued to grow in our host home, Lymington Infant school. The community has reached over 80 families to date and there have been some very busy sessions! Running monthly, this can mean that over school holidays we do not have sessions, so in 2024 we made some adjustments to our pattern to minimise the number of sessions we could miss.

In December, we hosted a Messy Church Christmas Crafternoon drop-in, in St Thomas hall, after school and had a great session creating Christmas themed crafts to keep and those that were edible!

We continue to live the values of Messy church by being Christ-centred, all ages; by providing hospitality, activities with creativity and a time of celebration to bring it all together – all in an hour! Numbers have been steadily increasing over the last year, as has engagement with the sessions. We are creative in our celebration time, inviting children and their families to show and tell their crafts that day, encourage them to help us tell their stories and to take part, being invitational in our times of prayer.

Glitter and Glue

This is a Friday lunch club launched in Lymington Infant school in 2023. The club continued in 2024 with 3 cohorts of children joining for a term. The club focuses on crafting with essential ingredients of glitter and glue. Together we get messy, get to know one another and explore who Jesus is. Sessions include "God Knows my name" where the children make a name bracelet and a name badge, God knows all about me and they decorate card people to make a group collage, to dream catchers where we explore our dreams for the future! Each cohort has 10-14 children that meets each week to create something to share at home and to remember their time in the club.

Experience Easter

In March 2024, we hosted each class at Lymington Infant school with their teachers to join an interactive Easter Experience! The children were welcomed with fanfare and palm leaves as they explored the events in Jesus' life that we call Holy week. From a triumphal entry to feet washing, to sharing a simple meal with Jesus, to the cross for a time of reflection; out to a garden to think about praying and then to the joy of the empty tomb. Across six stations, the children explore what happened at each stage of Jesus' week with an activity to join in with and things to see and explore. Adults and children together were taken on this journey and loved the opportunity to bring the easter story to life for some of our youngest children.

Helen Thompson

Deanery Synod.

The Lyndhurst Deanery Synod includes our Area Dean, clergy and elected representatives from each local parish. The number of elected representatives per parish is based on the size of the parish's electoral roll. We meet three times a year at various Parish churches within Lyndhurst Deanery.

The meetings have included presentations and last year the subjects were about Eco Churches, Christian Fellowship and Lighthouse ministries. Plus, Deanery Mission, Pastoral Committee reports, General Synod News and the links with Rwanda.

There is currently a vacancy for a Synod representative from St Thomas' Church.

Pat Cashin

Safeguarding.

The PCC is responsible for Safeguarding within the Parish. It has appointed a Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) and Safeguarding is a standing item on every PCC agenda. At the start of every year, the PSO writes a Safeguarding Action Plan for the PCC's approval. The Plan for 2024 covered three main areas. These were:

- Routine Activities
- Changes
- The Future.

Routine. 2024 was a busy year for all those involved with safeguarding. Staying on top of the routine activities of DBS checks, safer recruitment and training of our volunteers has remained a demanding constant. So too, was the need to ensure policies and safeguarding risk assessments were up to date. Additionally, the requirement to Back-Record missing recruitment details proved to be time-consuming and asking long-serving volunteers to provide referees could well have been upsetting to some. However, the vast majority of people were extremely understanding. Many more people are now aware of St Thomas' safeguarding practices and procedures and are supportive of the measures taken. This awareness has been helped by activities such as a safeguarding training morning and participation in Safeguarding Sunday.
Changes. It has been exciting to see the launch of Bubble Church with a number of new volunteers stepping forward to help. They have all been safer recruited and trained. Less exciting has been the steady stream of changes emanating from the National Safeguarding team. These have ranged from the micro – all churches have been told to move the Safeguarding button from the bottom of their website home pages to the top – to the macro and the arrival of the National Safeguarding Standards.
Future. The PCC has been briefed on two changes that will happen during 2025. The first concerns the need for new volunteers to undergo a more formal induction process. The second change will involve the PCC considering the requirements of the National Safeguarding Standards. These were published to parishes in the Autumn of 2024 and seek to encourage PCCs to stand back and consider the question "What difference is our safeguarding activity actually making to people's lives?" The PCC will be looking more closely at this during the coming year.
In conclusion, during 2024, the PCC has complied with its duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance.

Jonathan Cook
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Health and Safety.

The Health & Safety policy of St Thomas' with All Saints, Woodside, remained as updated in March 2023 during the period since the last APCM. The policy is to provide and maintain as far as is reasonably practicable, healthy and safe working conditions, equipment, and systems of work for all employees and voluntary helpers and provide such information as needed for this purpose, including supervision and training.

The Health and Safety Officer (HSO), through the PCC, endeavours to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all parishioners, visitors, contractors, and others who enter the churches, halls, churchyards, grounds, and associated buildings.

The policy is reviewed at regular intervals by the Incumbent, the Churchwardens and the PCC.

Public Liability Insurance.

Public Liability Insurance was in place at both St Thomas and All Saints Churches during the period to protect staff, volunteer workers and members of the public during activities for which the church was responsible, e.g., acts of worship and meetings. It is a requirement for all groups wishing to hire St Thomas Church or the Church Hall that they have their own Public Liability Insurance to cover the activity for which they are responsible. Applications to hire the church and/or the church hall are

validated by the Church Administrator to confirm that the applicant has this in place. The Certificate of Public Liability insurance held by 'Tops' nursery school, who lease All Saints Church and its Church Hall and grounds, is validated annually by the PCC member on the All Saint's Management Committee.

Chris Stroud

Risk Management.

The members of the PCC, as charity trustees, are responsible for identifying and managing the possible and probable risks that both St Thomas church and All Saints church may face. It is a key part of effective governance. The trustees also recognise that not all risks can be identified or eliminated. Over the past year, the trustees confirm that they have attempted to consider the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have sought to put in place systems or procedures to manage and mitigate these risks. Examples of actions that have taken place since the last APCM are:

- The implementation of video and recorded fire safety announcements for high attendance events.
- A review of our general fire safety arrangements that included an audit of our fire extinguishers, a half day fire warden training session and a timed evacuation of the building.
- A review of the appropriate capacity of the Church and hall for all services and events.
- The standardisation of risk assessments for all activities.
- First aid training for certain individuals.

We will continue in the coming year to be vigilant and work on enhancing our arrangements to manage additional risks as they become apparent.

Chris Stroud

Eco Church and Net Zero Carbon

Over the past year, our attention has moved towards Net Zero Carbon, in line with the Church of England's focus. Our carbon footprint for 2024 was 21.4 tonnes of CO_2 (gross). Our 2023 footprint was 20.4, so this year's is an increase which we believe is due to more use being made of the Church and Church Hall.

In January we carried out an IR survey of the Church Hall which pointed to the windows as a significant cause of heat loss. They are going to be replaced with the help of matched funding from the C of E "Give to go Green" project. In April, we had an ESOS energy survey and the report complimented us on the steps we have taken so far to reduce our Carbon footprint and gave us some pointers to future further reduction. We are looking at using IR panels and heated cushions as a way of heating small areas of the Church e.g. the Chapel and the servery. In October, three members of St Thomas attended a very useful day on Creation Care and Sustainable Building, held in Winchester. As one result, we have drafted a Net Zero plan for adoption by the PCC.

An Eco highlight of the year was our Wilder Lymington event in April, which we ran jointly with Transition Lymington. We were asked to trial the new Eco Church survey, and this presented us with new challenges, such as creating a procurement policy, reporting regularly to the PCC on progress towards net zero carbon, and engaging with issues arising from the climate and ecological crises. In September, we marked Creationtide with a sermon series on Rivers and Seas. During the

year we continued to work on conservation of grassland and swifts. The far end of the churchyard was well cut in July-August, ready for sowing wildflower seed. In April, we installed a swift caller, but we have not seen the boxes used yet.

Jeremy Vines and Rosie Ward

Community Action, Fellowship and Hospitality.

Good Samaritans.

During the past year, we have seen several members leave due to moving and the group currently only consists of the minimum number. More members are needed to enable it to function well and respond quickly when required.
The help needed remains *ad hoc* and unpredictable (the more members of the group, the more likely we are to be available).
Over the year we have provided material help in the form of meals and hot drinks and moral support to enable liaison with the Local Authority.
We look forward to the possibility of working more closely with other community groups over the next year.

Bronwen Bridges

Mission Links.

In 2024, the Church made gifts to the Leprosy Mission, the Mission to Seafarers, Mission Aviation Fellowship and the New Forest Food Bank. We enjoyed visits to Sunday services from representatives of all the charities who talked about the work of their charity.

Toddler Group.

The Toddler group continues to meet in the Church Hall every Tuesday morning during school term time and proves to be popular with local families. We have on average 16 families each morning and have had to put the “Full Sign” up several times in the last year when reaching 20 families.

First time parenting especially, can be a lonely experience - we provide friendly faces, encouragement and the opportunity to make new friends. We offer a safe space for the children to play with a wide selection of toys.

Many of the children who come will go on to attend Lymington Infant School and some have siblings already attending, this gives us the opportunity to publicise Church activities and events suitable for children and families. We have also introduced a new registration sheet where parents /carers can give permission to be contacted by the Church email about family and or Church events.

We have a small, dedicated team of helpers, we would love to have more! You don't have to come every week, or for a full session, you can help with the drinks for adults and children, be on the welcome desk, talk to the parents and carers or just sit and play with the children! We work on a half-termly rota so no long term planning / commitment is needed!

These families could be our future Church members and leaders, for many it is the first time they have come into contact with a Church. The Toddler group provides St. Thomas with a great opportunity for outreach and service to the local community.

Barbara Payne

Lymington Infants CE (Aided) School.

Last year we reported the highly complementary report by SIAMS in January 2024 (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). This was followed by an OFSTED inspection in March 2024 leading to an Outstanding overall grade for the school. It is gratifying that at an annual visit for external validation by Hampshire County Council in March 2025, the school was told that they had improved again since OFSTED's visit a year ago.

The majority of the governors are foundation governors, appointed by the diocese on the recommendation of the PCC. The following were foundation governors at the school for all or part of the year since the last report: Mary Hill, Sally Johnston, Tricia Owen, Tim Smit, Jacqui Stoneham, Jane Stroud, Helen Thompson and Revd. Lee Thompson. The Vicar is an *ex officio* foundation governor and supports worship at the school on a weekly basis . As well as general governor duties, foundation governors have a special role in monitoring the Christian and spiritual aspects of the school. If anyone is interested in becoming a foundation governor please do speak to one of the governors named above to find out more.

School children, including the Robins Choir, participate in services at St Thomas' at key times in the church year including Harvest, Christmas and Easter. For the first time all children attended an "Easter Experience" in the church during Holy Week 2024. Members of St Thomas Church, led by Helen Thompson, continue to facilitate the popular Messy Church at the school on a monthly basis. We look forward to continuing to develop the links between St Thomas and the school, collaborating closely with Julia Morris, the Head Teacher, and her team.

Jane Stroud

FairTrade

Trade craft has now finished trading but we, as a Fairtrade Church, continue to search, supply and use ethically traded items where possible.
We have a supplier for our filter coffee and hot chocolate. They buy Fairtrade coffee beans, blend, roast and grind them. We are given a discount for bulk buys. Since having a filter coffee machine installed in the church hall, most of the church groups use this coffee.
A new retailer True Origin Retail source ethical goods, working with small holders and farmers in Africa. We bulk buy teabags and biscuits from them. They also sell many other Fairtrade items of food and gifts.

Denise Dibb

New Forest Basics Bank.

The church has continued to support the New Forest Basics Bank and the congregation is kept up to date with the service that the Bank provides. Both the Church and the Infants School donated items to the NFBB at their Harvest Services.

Vistas Café including Stitch and Knit

Vistas Café is open every Thursday in the Church Hall from 10am until 12 noon. The Café is open to all and serves tea, coffee, home-made cakes, scones and flapjacks. There is a large table of Stitchers and Knitters each week and a craft group from the WI use the Bethune Room twice a month. During Summer of 2024, we bought new tablecloths and display boards and improved the signs both

on the High Street and on the pathway through the graveyard, resulting in an increase in visitors. The café uses FairTrade produce and the money raised is donated to charity as well as paying the PCC for the use of the hall (£800). This year, Vistas donated £400 to Ride and Stride Historic Churches in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Mary Hill

Monday Lunch Club.

Monday Lunch Club continues to thrive and flourish with forty to fifty guests each week. We have met some lovely new customers and are nearly at full capacity. The older customers have been very welcoming of newcomers and the hall is filled with laughter and chatter. We've also welcomed some new regular volunteers to help as well as saying thank you and a fond farewell to a couple of long-term helpers.

There is a fantastic community feeling, both cooking and serving – and even clearing up afterwards! The food continues to be seasonal and locally sourced as well as being Fairtrade and organic where possible. We also support Eco Church and reuse, recycle and compost. The cost of the meal has remained at £7 although we provide a free meal to those who are in need. We serve a hot lunch, pudding and tea/coffee, with a few special occasion lunches – one the Monday before Christmas, and one at Easter. We also managed to successfully work with the Christmas Tree Festival café on one Monday in November! We've held an informal raffle every few months - the prizes range from bottles of wine to scented candles (Prizes provided from volunteers and leftover wine from Christmas). This has proved to be very popular.

It is a wonderful and much needed service and I am very honoured to be part of it.

Mikki Willford.

Poetry Corner

This is a well-established group with 22 members and our average attendance each week at the poetry reading is twelve people. We meet at the back of church as the access is better. Sylvia Pepin leads the group and sends out the list of poems by email to all. It is a friendly group and we enjoy sharing poems, discussing them and learning facts about poets' lives and also swapping poetry books.

Sarah Standage

Stanza Group

Wendy Stickley and I observed that a number of people in Poetry Corner were writing and sharing their own poems and so we decided to set up a writing group and invited the members of Poetry Corner to join us. There was an enthusiastic response and we now have a small group of ten people who meet once a month in the Bethune room. We have been learning about different forms of poetry and sharing our homework. We were delighted when Damian Kelly-Basher (Hampshire's Poet Laureate) was able to join us and lead a session on Surrealist poetry.

Sarah Standage.

Flower Arrangers

When I first joined the flower ladies there were 10 members on the rota but over the years our numbers have dwindled to just 5, with expert help on big occasions from Carole Barnet. Whereas we used to be able to produce a font and altar arrangement every week, now we only do the font arrangement which we keep going for 2 weeks. With so few members this is more manageable and keeps costs down. Silk flowers have been purchased and the plan in the future is to use them in

conjunction with fresh foliage to produce an economical altar arrangement. We try to do a good job keeping the church looking beautiful and it is very rewarding when our efforts are acknowledged. Only this week when I was working at the pulpit a man and his father, who has dementia, came in and apparently they come specifically to see the flowers! Besides the enjoyment of doing the flowers, I have learnt a lot about the history of the church because of the questions asked by visitors.

Judy Martin

Bell Tower Report.

2024 was not a good year for us as a group as the number of changes impacted on our numbers of ringers. The change in times of the services being the first since four of our ringers ring at other towers before they come to us and this clashed with the service times of their churches. Secondly, some of our ringers considered giving up ringing altogether as they did not agree with the safeguarding policy adopted by the Church of England and the Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers. Thirdly, two of our ringers had to retire due to ill health.

The good news is we have a team of five very positive ringers, one being an experienced ringer who heard of our plight and has rejoined the band making our number up to five. We have all completed our safeguarding training and have been registered with both the Guild and Church. More good news is that our Guild secretary and three local churches ringers have supported us on practice nights and Church events.

Better news is that three new learners have started to learn bell handling on weekdays.

We attempt to ring as many bells for Sunday service as we can, mostly 3,4 or 5 and occasionally 6, with visitors helping.

Finally, our thanks to Lee for helping us through this awkward period and Jonathan Cook for guiding us through the safeguarding procedure.

The bells not only call us to worship but call out to many people that are unable to attend our services and tell them we are here and thinking of them.

Andy Dibb
Tower Captain

Communications/ChurchDesk

Social Media The Social Media Coordinator is a role approved by the PCC as part of its Safeguarding Action Plan.

ChurchDesk Throughout the year, the church adopted and then transitioned much of its record keeping and communications to ChurchDesk. This platform allows the church to store and process GDPR compliant information for the purposes of communications and record keeping. The church Weekly News Sheet migrated to ChurchDesk, followed by the church calendar, PCC documentation and the launch of our refreshed website.

Lee Thompson

The Weekly News Sheet, compiled by Parish Secretary Susie Napleton, is the most comprehensive, vital communication tool available to the Church community. It is an accurate source of information covering everything we do from our regular Church services and all our other activities.

Friends of St Thomas Church

A separate registered charity no 1166743.

The Friends have had a very successful year. In June they held a summer reception with the aim of raising the profile and gaining new members. The initial purpose was to say 'thank you' to our current membership in the form of a party. A magnificent raffle was organised by Joan Horton Fawkes. The musical entertainment was supplied by Reeds in Harmony.

At this time the **St Thomas Churchyard Memorials Project** was nearing completion. Sincere thanks go to Rosie Ward and Simon Bennett who edited the final details to get the first edition over the line in time for the reception.

The Memorials Project was the result of many years research by the late Nigel Mussett and a team of volunteers. It represents the most detailed record of all burials in St Thomas Churchyard and will be used for reference for many years to come.

This publication is available to buy and a copy is stored in the St Barbe Museum.

In collaboration with a group of local enthusiasts the Friends supported an appeal to replace the church piano. Tasked with raising £55.000, the **Piano Project** was a targeted appeal driven by a group of individuals with a shared vision to provide the finest concert grand piano. The piano arrived in September and The Friends supported the first Gala Recital given by Peter Roper-Curzon.

The AGM took place in November. Philip St Lawrence gave an interesting talk entitled "Alfred the first Christian King".

The **Christmas Tree Festival** remains the main fundraising event. This year the surplus raised was in excess of £13,000. Extending for five days, the start coincided with the town Christmas Lights switch-on. The festival was expanded to include sales tables and refreshments in the hall and trees in the courtyard garden.

Finally, the Friends supported the cost and served refreshments after the Carol Service.

Daphne Johnston.

Concerts

Live performance of music remains a vital part of the life of St Thomas Church. Concerts range from free small informal gatherings on Saturday mornings to more formal ticketed evening events.

Lymington Choral Society now rehearse in St Thomas' Church and under the baton of their music director, Philip Daish-Handy, and with the local professional orchestra Nova Foresta Philharmonic (NFP), they gave two memorable concerts to capacity audiences.

NFP returned to give further performances during the year, as did other local orchestras.

A firm fixture of the year is the Solent Music Festival (SMF). The Festival began with a Mozartfest, an orchestral concert with players selected from several renowned international orchestras. The week continued with daily evening chamber performances. Highlights included a piano recital given by Sam Haywood, the festival artistic director, and a choral concert by members of the Sixteen, directed by Harry Christophers. There were two free events, an organ recital given by Peter Roper-Curzon and an animal-themed children's concert with The Galliard Wind Ensemble.

It is privilege to welcome musicians to St Thomas Church in the knowledge that their usual performance venues include London's Wigmore Hall and Glyndebourne Opera.

Finally, a concert in February given by NFP and piano soloist Peter Roper- Curzon marked the arrival in St Thomas' Church of the Concert Grand Steinway piano.

Daphne Johnston

Buildings and Land Report.

The Quinquennial inspections in April were the primary focus for St Thomas' and All Saints Fabric consideration. Their reports indicated no new or unexpected major issues, but several action items were identified and activity to address these will be continued in 2025.

Due to its age and construction St Thomas' is always going to have issues with damp in the walls which could not be rectified without total reconstruction. We therefore must adopt a strategy of managing, rather than resolving, these problems to preserve the building for future generations. For example, a detailed investigation of the Narthex internal walls and external rendering on the West End will be started in 2025.

We have also carried out a Fire Risk assessment and this has resulted in improvements to our equipment and policies and procedures for Fire Safety. One result of this was a decision to trial moving the Parish Office down to the Hall building which has proved to be a success. The trial also indicated the need for some minor modifications to the new office and Bethune Room and these are in progress.

The All Saints long term tenancy by TOPS Day Nursery continues and ensures these buildings make an active contribution to the local community.

On behalf of the Fabric group, I would like to thank both the Friends of St Thomas' and members of our congregation and community for their continued financial support to help us both maintain and improve the fabric of our churches and halls.

Michael Standage

Finance Report 2024.

Finance Committee

St Thomas' Church Finance Committee members manage our church finances week by week on behalf of the PCC, meeting a minimum of six times a year. Our aim is to use our finances as effectively as possible to further the Christian work of our church.

Looking back to 2024

Committee members were Jonathan Cook, Daphne Johnston, Judy Martin (bookkeeper), Andy Payne, Chris Stroud, Lee Thompson, Malcolm Ward. We were ably assisted by, and most grateful to, Suzie Napleton and John Nivison along with those who make up the weekly counting teams organised by Peta Walmisley. All play important roles.

At the end of 2024 the financial assets controlled by the PCC totalled £609,438, which includes the net asset value of the donated Steinway piano amounting to £54,143.

Our income and expenditure during 2024 can be summarised as below.

2024	Income £	Expenditure £	Surplus £
Routine	255,204	238,167	17,037
Overall	326,827	258,212	68,615

Routine income includes that donated through Parish Giving Scheme and church offertories, along with the SumUp card reader and a small number of Standing Orders.

Routine expenditure includes donations of over £23,000 made to various causes including Leprosy Mission, Bible Society, Mission to Seafarers, New Forest Basics Bank, Mission Aviation Fellowship, DEC Middle East Appeal, Oakhaven Hospice, Royal British Legion, Children's Society, A Rocha.
Exceptional income includes legacies, for which we were most grateful. The PCC was also grateful to the Friends of St Thomas's Church, for the gift of a Steinway piano.
Exceptional expenditure includes repairs to the organ, along with an electrical inspection of our buildings with subsequent work carried out.
As can be seen, our routine income and expenditure returned a surplus of £17,037.
The overall surplus at £68,615 is significantly higher than this routine surplus as it includes the net effect of the above exceptional income and expenditure. The principal difference is the value of the Steinway piano at 31st December 2024 amounting to £54,143. This amount will be written down to nil over the estimated useful life of the piano.
In addition to our overall surplus of £68,615, our investments gained in value by £6,439, giving a total increase in Funds amounting to £75,054.
Not everyone appreciates that parish churches do not receive any funding from either the Government or the CofE, therefore our existence depends on the steadfast generosity of our church family. We look back with a sense of joy at the many ways in which, as a Christian church, we have been able to continue going forward together. The commitment and generosity evident at St Thomas' Church are a source of confidence. We sincerely thank everyone who has financially supported our church.

Reserves Policy

Our Reserves policy states:

- *It is the policy of the PCC to hold an Operational Reserve to cover routine expenditure for a period of three months.* Currently £60,000
- *In addition, the PCC has designated a Buildings Reserve to meet unplanned expenditure on the fabric of our buildings, recognising that the PCC is responsible for maintaining three Grade II* listed historic buildings. Currently £200,000.*

Looking Ahead

We intend to maintain our charitable donations to good causes and of course, to pay our Common Mission Fund, along with all our usual expenses. We look forward to meeting the financial challenges of our growing Christian church, including our Growing Younger Together initiative. However, our buildings are definitely not growing younger, so during the coming years the necessary maintenance and repairs identified through our Quinquennial Inspections will feature in our spending.

Andy Payne

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LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A C C O U N T S

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2024

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the Lymington Parochial Church Council

We report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees of the PCC and Examiner

As the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an Independent Examination is required.

As Independent Examiner it is our responsibilty to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

   a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

   b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

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

HOPE JONES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
4th April 2025

Suite 114, Lymington Town Hall,
Avenue Road,
LYMINGTON, Hants

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	2023
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	204,509	6,800	-	211,309	167,029
Activities for Generating Funds	2(b)	65,268	-	-	65,268	57,482
Investment Income	2(c)	18,251	3,871	704	22,826	21,759
Church Activities	2(d)	26,424	-	-	26,424	25,815
Other Income	2(e)	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
TOTAL INCOME		£315,452	£10,671	£704	£326,827	£272,085
EXPENDITURE						
Raising Funds	3(a)	6,312	-	-	6,312	11,254
Church Activities	3(b)	240,525	10,671	704	251,900	331,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£246,837	£10,671	£704	£258,212	£342,254
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		68,615	-	-	68,615	(70,169)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
On Revaluation		5,820	-	619	6,439	23,722
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		74,435	-	619	75,054	(46,447)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2024		508,975	638	24,771	534,384	580,831
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024		£583,410	£638	£25,390	£609,438	£534,384

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

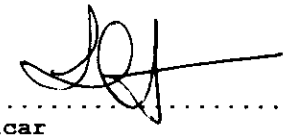
BALANCE SHEET 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Equipment					
As at 1st January 2024		4,345			
		4,345			
Less: Depreciation for the year		869			
			3,476		4,345
Steinway Piano					
Addition		55,248			
Less: Depreciation for the year		1,105			
			54,143		-
Investments					
Endowment Fund Investments					
Hapgood Bequest					
3,828 C.O.I.F. Charities Ethical Investment Fund		11,840		11,525	
Miss B Monk Fund					
586 C B F Investment Fund		13,550		13,246	
			25,390		24,771
Unrestricted Investments					
C.B.F. - Deposit Account		227,204		215,689	
10,030 C.B.F. Investment Fund Shares		231,921		226,731	
7,634 COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund		23,609		22,979	
			482,734		465,399
Current Assets					
Traidcraft Stock		-		124	
Debtors and Prepayments	5	6,968		25,728	
Cash at Bank - Treasurers Account		56,475		19,827	
Cash in Hand		1,650		353	
		65,093		46,032	
Less: Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year	6	21,398		6,163	
			43,695		39,869
			£609,438		£534,384

BALANCE SHEET (Continued) 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
FUNDS					
Unrestricted	7		583,410		508,975
Restricted					
Donations Fund	8		638		638
Endowment Funds					
Hapgood Bequest (Parish Church Fabric)		11,840		11,525	
Miss B. Monk (Youth Work)		13,550		13,246	
			25,390		24,771
			£609,438		£534,384

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
27th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Vicar



.....
Honorary Treasurer

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1(a) Accounting Conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1(b) Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the Financial Statements by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011, and no value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated at the rate of 20% on the reducing balance basis. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £3,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

The Steinway Piano is depreciated over its estimated useful life of fifty years on a straight line basis.

1(c) Investment Assets

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

1(d) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	2023
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid Donations	93,563	-	-	93,563	92,632
Income tax Recoverable	25,604	-	-	25,604	25,464
Other Planned Giving	5,800	-	-	5,800	6,167
Collections	9,486	-	-	9,486	9,545
Listed Places of Worship Grant	602	-	-	602	-
Friends of St Thomas	54,248	-	-	54,248	-
Donations	10,206	6,800	-	17,006	10,221
Legacies	5,000	-	-	5,000	13,000
	204,509	6,800	-	211,309	167,029
2(b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Hire - All Saints Church and Hall	50,000			50,000	45,000
Vistas Cafe	3,248	-	-	3,248	3,474
Traidcraft Sales	124	-	-	124	2,013
Other Fund Raising Events	3,801	-	-	3,801	2,107
Other Income	8,095	-	-	8,095	4,888
	65,268	-	-	65,268	57,482
2(c) Investment Income					
Miss Monk's Bequest	-	-	368	368	362
Hapgood's Bequest	-	-	336	336	330
Churchyard Maintenance	-	114	-	114	112
C.B.F. Interest	11,287	-	-	11,287	10,400
Dividends					
C. B. F. Investment Fund	6,294	3,757	-	10,051	9,898
C. O. I. F. Ethical Investment Fund	670	-	-	670	657
	18,251	3,871	704	22,826	21,759
2(d) Church Activities					
Parish Magazine	-	-	-	-	3,490
Monday Lunch	9,957	-	-	9,957	7,317
Hire - St. Thomas Hall	10,403	-	-	10,403	7,373
Fees	6,064	-	-	6,064	7,635
	26,424	-	-	26,424	25,815
2(e) Other Income					
Sale of Bluthner Piano	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
TOTAL INCOME	£315,452	£10,671	£704	£326,827	£272,085

3. EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	2023
3(a) Raising Funds					
All Saints Church and Hall Expenses	£6,312	-	-	£6,312	£11,254
3(b) Church Activites					
Missions and Charities	23,139	-	-	23,139	20,250
Good Samaritan Fund	2,130	-	-	2,130	581
Monday Lunch	10,895	-	-	10,895	10,902
Traidcraft Purchases	124	-	-	124	2,018
Ministry					
Diocesan Parish Share	110,356	-	-	110,356	126,085
Clergy Expenses	1,135	-	-	1,135	275
Worship and Services					
Cost of Services	3,060	-	-	3,060	2,835
Messy Church	165	-	368	533	-
Bubble Church	2,298	3,800	-	6,098	-
Organists	12,108	-	-	12,108	7,833
Organ Tuning and Repairs	1,258	-	-	1,258	1,124
Music and Choir Expenses	1,012	-	-	1,012	861
Church Maintenance and Expenses					
Light, Heat and Water	20,953	-	-	20,953	14,693
Insurance	6,968	-	-	6,968	5,946
Cleaning	3,538	-	-	3,538	4,157
Churchyard Expenses	254	114	-	368	1,007
Repairs and Renewals	3,802	-	336	4,138	6,171
St Thomas Major Works					
Organ Repair	2,268	-	-	2,268	-
Electrical Inspection and Works	3,900	-	-	3,900	-
Church Desk	428	3,000	-	3,428	-
Prior Year Expenditure	969	-	-	969	-
External Repairs	-	-	-	-	88,841
CCTV Upgrade	-	-	-	-	2,270
Heating Control System	-	-	-	-	2,605
Vacancy Expenses	-	-	-	-	1,802
St. Thomas Hall Expenses	194	-	-	194	715
Parish Magazine Expenses	-	-	-	-	1,314
Parish Administrator	13,174	3,757	-	16,931	15,563
Church Office	3,780	-	-	3,780	2,460
Examination and Accountancy Fees	3,923	-	-	3,923	3,752
Advertising and Leaflets	399	-	-	399	598
Miscellaneous expenses	6,321	-	-	6,321	5,222
Depreciation of Equipment	869	-	-	869	1,120
Depreciation of Steinway Piano	1,105	-	-	1,105	-
	240,525	10,671	704	251,900	331,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£246,837	£10,671	£704	£258,212	£342,254

4. Expenditure

Staff Costs	2024	2023
Salaries	26,202	17,184
Pension Costs	301	271
	£26,503	£17,455

During the year the Council employed a Parish Administrator, Verger and an Organist none of whom earned £60,000 or more. The average number of employees during the year was 3.

External Accountancy and Examination Fees	2024	2023
Accountancy and Examination Fees	£2,502	£2,298

5. Debtors and Prepayments

	2024	2023
Income Tax Recoverable	2,353	2,559
Other Debtors and Prepayments	4,615	23,169
	£6,968	£25,728

6. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

		2023
Creditors for Goods and Services	4,697	3,467
Mission	573	-
Accrued Expenses	16,128	2,696
	£21,398	£6,163

7. Unresticted Funds

During the year The Friends of St Thomas donated to the Parochial Church Council a Steinway piano, the net cost of which was £54,248. The piano is being depreciated over its estimated useful life of 50 years. The net asset value of the piano at 31st December 2024 amounted to £54,143, and this amount is included within Unrestricted Funds.

8. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds in the accounts are as follows:

Donations Fund

Amounts received for a specific purpose are credited to the Donations Fund. Expenditure incurred for these purposes are debited to the Donations Fund.

Assets relating to the Restricted Funds are as follows:

	2024	2023
Cash at Bank	£638	£638

9. Investment Assets

	Investments	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Endowment Fund Investments				
Hapgood Bequest				
As at 1st January 2024		11,525	11,525	10,494
Unrealised gain		315	315	1,031
As at 31st December 2024		11,840	11,840	11,525
Miss B Monk Fund				
As at 1st January 2024		13,246	13,246	12,107
Unrealised gain		304	304	1,139
As at 31st December 2024		13,550	13,550	13,246
Unrestricted Investments				
As at 1st January 2024	465,399		465,399	461,372
Withdrawn	-		-	(25,000)
Reinvested Income	11,515		11,515	7,475
Unrealised gain	5,820		5,820	21,552
	£482,734		£482,734	£465,399
Total Valuation at 31st December 2024	£482,734	£25,390	£508,124	£490,170
Total Unrealised Gains	£5,820	£619	£6,439	£23,722

10. Vicar and Churchwardens' Charitable Trust

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the following charitable Trust:

The Parish Hall Trust

The income and property of the Trust may be applied either towards the upkeep, repair and insurance of the fabric and contents of the Parish Church of Lymington, or in otherwise furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England.

Dividends on the Trust's investments are paid direct into the bank account of Lymington Parochial Church Council as a contribution to the cost of the Parish Administrator.

Investments of the Trust at 31st December 2024 amounted to £138,447. Investment income in the year to 31st December 2023 amounted to £3,757 all of which was donated to Lymington Parocial Church Council towards the cost of the Parish Administrator.

11. Charity Investments

Investment held by Charitable Trustees where the income arising is due to the Parish is as follows:

Miss E. Earley Bequest for Churchyard Maintenance

1,295.05 Income Units Charities Ethical Investment Fund
(Market Value 31st December 2024 £4,005)

12. Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Voluntary Income	156,625	10,404	-	167,029
Activities for Generating Funds	57,482	-	-	57,482
Investment Income	17,255	3,812	692	21,759
Church Activities	25,815	-	-	25,815
TOTAL INCOME	£257,177	£14,216	£692	£272,085
EXPENDITURE				
Church Activities	327,564	13,998	692	342,254
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£327,564	£13,998	£692	£342,254
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME	(70,387)	218	-	(70,169)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS				
On revaluation	21,552	-	2,170	23,722
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(48,835)	218	2,170	(46,447)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2023	557,810	420	22,601	580,831
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023	£508,975	£638	£24,771	£534,384

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST THOMAS WITH ALL SA

England & Wales - Charity number 1128119

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS, LYMINGTON WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

ST THOMAS | ALL SAINTS
LYMINGTON

2023 REPORT and ACCOUNTS for the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday April 17th, 2024

7:30pm

St Thomas' Church

Registered Charity Number 1128119

AGENDA

PRAYERS.
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS.

1. Election of Churchwardens for 2024-2025.[1]

All persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll of this Parish and all persons resident in the Parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence may participate in this election.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING.

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parochial Church Council.
2. Approval of 2023 Minutes.
3. Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod.
4. Election of Parochial Church Council members.
5. Consideration of:
   a) The Electoral Roll.
   b) The Annual Report of the Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the Parish generally.
   c) Finance[3]:
      I. Examined accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2023.
      II. Statement of the funds and property of the PCC.
      III. To appoint independent examiners.
   d) The annual fabric report under section 50 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018.
   e) Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
   f) Other Reports.
6. Any other business of Parochial or general interest to be submitted in writing one week in advance of the APCM to the PCC Secretary via e-mail to the Secretary at marychill45@gmail.com

Mary Hill
Honorary Secretary, Lymington PCC.

[1] In accordance with the Churchwardens' Measure 2001.

[2] In accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020.

[3] Item 4c is presented in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, LYMINGTON
WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023.

Aims and Purposes.

The St Thomas' with All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for co-operation with the incumbent, the Revd. Lee Thompson (from August 29th 2023), in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical as set out in the Core Values (see Appendix 1). The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Church of St Thomas and the Chapel of Ease of All Saints.

Administrative Information.

The Parish of St Thomas, with All Saints, is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Parish Office, St Thomas' Church, St Thomas Street, Lymington, SO41 9ND. Telephone: 01590 676194.
e-mail: office@lymingtonchurch.org website: www.lymingtonchurch.org

Personnel.

Incumbent:	The Revd. Lee Thompson (from August 29th 2023).
Churchwardens:	Chris Stroud, Daphne Johnston.
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus:	Malcolm Ward.
Parish Administrator:	Suzie Napleton.
Organist:	Peter Roper-Curzon.
Verger, Sacristan-St Thomas':	Helen Pocklington.
All Saints:	Tony Perry.
Treasurer:	Andrew Payne.
Inspecting Architect:	Ryan Bunce of Ryan Bunce & Co, 102 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZP.
Independent Examiner:	Hope Jones, 73 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZA.

PCC Members who served from the APCM 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent	The Revd. Lee Thompson (Chairman) from August 29th 2023.
Churchwardens	Chris Stroud (Vice-Chairman), Daphne Johnston.
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus	Malcolm Ward.
Deanery Synod Representatives:	
To APCM 2024	Marion Lewis, Sylvia Pepin, Celia Swan, Michael Standage.

Elected Members:

To APCM 2024	Pat Cashin, Jeremy Vines, Peta Walmisley.
To APCM 2025	Maureen Harris, David Hanks, Andrew Clapper.
To APCM 2026	Jonathan Cook, Clive Rigden, Malcolm Ward.

The Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll stands at 249 with 182 being resident and 67 non-residents.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) requires "the Minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish" and requires the PCC to "co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The Church of England (Worship and Doctrine) Measure 1974 requires the Minister and PCC to agree jointly any decisions on which forms of service are to be used in any church in the Parish.

The PCC meets six times per year. Normally meetings are held in St Thomas' Church. Minutes of PCC meetings are made available in the Parish church and on the church website.

The Standing Committee of the PCC conducts the business of the PCC between meetings, is answerable to the PCC and submits to it proposals in connection with issues of Parish-wide significance. The *ex-officio* members in 2023 were the Vicar from August 2023 (Chairman), the Churchwardens, the Finance Officer, the chair of the Fabric Committee and the PCC Secretary.

Other members who took responsibility in 2022 for promoting the six Core Values (see Appendix 1) were as follows:

- Leadership and Co-ordination: The Revd. Lee Thompson (from August 2023) and Chris Stroud .
- Worship Services: The Revd. Lee Thompson (from August 2023) and Chris Stroud.
- Prayer: Malcolm Ward.
- Community Action: David Fenton and Sylvia Pepin.
- Discipleship and Learning: Linda Lee.
- Fellowship and Mutual Support: Sarah Bunce .
- Communications: Daphne Johnston and Nigel Mussett.
- Buildings, Land and Equipment: Michael Standage, Bill Gulland, Jeremy Vines,.
- Finance: Andrew Payne.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Andrew Payne, prepares and monitors the annual budget and reports directly to the PCC.
The Fabric Committee, chaired by Michael Standage provides support and guidance to the PCC on the appropriate maintenance and management of the church premises and grounds.
The Vicar and Churchwardens are *ex-officio* **Trustees of Lymington C of E Infant School** and of two Trusts associated with the Parish as follows:
Fulford & Burrard Trust, which supports the Infant School and youth more generally (subject to specific criteria).
Parish Hall Trust, which supports the St Thomas site generally.
The Friends of St Thomas Church have continued to promote and support the restoration, preservation, repair and beautification of the building and surrounds of the church and church hall.

Objectives and Activities.

The Parish Vocation is "to be the town church in Lymington, offering prayer and hospitality in Jesus' name". Mindful of this and the charity's object to promote in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, the PCC has developed this objective and has published a statement of Core Values (Appendix 1). Nine areas of ministry and roles have been identified and leaders appointed to

further the realisation of these values. Accounting procedures are designed to identify clearly patterns of income and expenditure across the Parish, so that its resources may be deployed as appropriately as possible.

In their report below, the Trustees present a summary of the activities undertaken by the charity in the Parish for the benefit of the public. They confirm that they have had due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Many Parishioners who willingly undertake a wide variety of tasks with no thought of remuneration or other recognition, have contributed to the life of the Parish. The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC are enormously grateful to them all.

REPORTS

Leadership and Co-ordination, Incorporating Churchwarden's Report.

The period following the APCM of 2023 was starting to show that many of the challenges we had faced in the previous year were close to resolution. St. Thomas' was still in vacancy, but significant progress had been made in advancing the required process of recruiting a new Vicar. The PCC were a tower of strength during the vacancy as were our retired clergy and all the congregation. We should all feel very proud of how everything continued at St. Thomas' and, according to my observations, the numbers remained stable during that time.

I succeeded in recruiting Daphne Johnston as the second Churchwarden in early 2023 (formalised at Romsey Abbey in June 2023), which has worked out very well and I believe the partnership is a strong one. I am also extremely grateful to the Assistant Churchwardens, Maureen Harris and Malcolm Ward who gave me so much support during the time when I was the only Churchwarden.

I expect you recall that our organist Martin Penrose resigned his post at St. Thomas' in the first quarter of 2023 and we were concerned that a replacement (temporary or permanent) would be very hard to find. I asked for members of the PCC who were all choir members to assist in ensuring continuity as far as possible and I am glad to say that we never had a Sunday when we had no one to play either the organ or piano. I am very grateful to the team (David Hanks, Daphne Johnston, Sylvia Pepin and Celia Swan) for all their stalwart efforts and expertise.

The interviews for our new Vicar took place in April 2023 and I was proud to be one of the Parish representatives in that process along with Marion Lewis. I was certainly acutely aware of the gravity of the situation. Our successful candidate accepted the offer later in April.

The Vicar's Institution took place at the end of August 2023 and what a joyful occasion it was! The occasion formally marked the end of our vacancy and my role as Lay PCC Chair. I am proud to have fulfilled that role, thank you to every one of you for your support during the vacancy period.

Chris Stroud (Churchwarden)

Vicar's Report.

My time as vicar commenced in August with the collation service presided by the Bishop of Southampton alongside the Assistant Archdeacon of Bournemouth and Area Dean on Lyndhurst. It was a wonderful celebration of parish life; and a privilege to be welcomed by representatives from

the civic, cultural and congregational life of the town. It has been a pleasure to get to know the many and varied ways people contribute to the life of the church and support the local community. In these first months, I have been very encouraged by the sense of hopefulness within the church and the engagement of the wider community. Occasions such a Harvest Festival with Lymington Infant School, the Remembrance Day Service and Act of Remembrance, the Christmas Tree Festival; and of course, the much-loved celebrations over Advent and Christmas each in their own way demonstrated the richness and depth of our common life.

To be a parish church, is to be a church for all people. At the heart of the life of the church is the love of Christ, a love which extends to all generations. Looking ahead to next year, we will begin to reflect upon the ways in which we can welcome both the young, and those of riper years with open arms as we begin a journey of *'growing younger together.'*

I would like to thank the churchwardens and PCC for their welcome and counsel; Reverends Rosie , Richard and Ron and everyone who led worship, offered prayer, support and encouragement throughout the last year. Finally thank you to our dedicated staff team who do so much to keep our church a place of welcome.

Revd. Lee Thompson (Vicar)

Worship Services.

The Sunday services consist of the Book of Common Prayer Communion Service after which the choir and organ join the congregation for Choral Common Worship Communion. The St Thomas' worship Band lead the third service of the morning, Life and Soul, which is a more informal, interactive service. There is an opportunity for both congregations to meet over coffee between services. There is a regular communion service on Wednesday mornings and a full choral Evensong every six weeks.

The number of worshippers continued to increase during the year and, especially at the 9:15 service, are now close to pre-covid levels.

Average Attendance Oct/Nov/Dec	2019	2022	2023
8:00 Book of Common Prayer Communion	20	19	19
9:15 BCP Choral Communion	102	70	95
11:00 Life and Soul Informal Service	53	36	37

Pastoral Report.

Pastoral contact aims to offer support in various ways to members of the congregation as well as people of the wider community in either residential care or private homes. The number of people contacted regularly in some way is gradually increasing.

Pastoral support takes the form of telephone conversations, or an arranged visit to individuals in either private homes, or to one of several residential care homes. This might include helping more isolated people to keep in touch or offering, in confidence, a listening ear, general encouragement and discussion, or some practical help such as small amounts of shopping, or other simple assistance.

The small Home Communion team make visits to at least three housebound people as well as to residents of three residential care homes. All visits require two team members.

The parish office has received requests for visits to patients from both the local General Practice surgery as well as the Southampton General Hospital Chaplaincy Team. These were accepted and continue monthly.

There is room for more pastoral work though a larger team would be necessary. We are fortunate that within the church community there are good support links within the various activity groups and from regular Sunday encounters.

Maureen Harris

Prayer and Prayer Ministry Report.

Morning Prayer Is a joint prayer meeting on Zoom with St Marks, Pennington. It has continued this past year with its regular schedule of Monday to Friday and is led by several regular members.

Prayers for the Work of the Parish follow our custom of regular meetings in church on Saturday mornings commencing at 9am. It is a thirty minute time of prayer for local events and for people in need within the parish. The focus of our prayers during the first few months of the year was on God's provision of a new incumbent for St Thomas'; these prayers were answered with the selection of Revd. Lee Thompson to be our new vicar.

The **Prayer Tree at the Christmas Tree Festival** was decorated with a great many individual prayer cards, by parishioners and visitors alike, during the Festival.

The work of the **Parish Prayer Chain** continued, many requests were received for specific concerns and situations, to be held in our prayers. Prayer continues to underpin all of our work and mission in the Parish.

Malcolm Ward

House/Home Group Report.

The Sunday worship and biblical teaching at St Thomas' is strengthened and consolidated by House/Home Group study based on the topic for the previous Sunday. We currently have four groups comprising a total of 34 members. Most groups meet weekly, with breaks for holidays. Each group provides a mutually supportive and sharing environment for its members.

Study material for the groups was produced on a rota basis by Revd. William Cummins, Chris Stroud, Trish Bishop, and Malcolm Ward.

If you, or someone you know, would like to join a House/Home Group, please make contact and we'll put you in touch. Details appear regularly in the weekly news sheet.

Malcolm Ward

Parish Mission Action Plan (pMAP) Annual Report 2023.

The Parish Mission Action Plan had been rewritten in 2022 so that progress could continue through the vacancy, prior to a new plan when the new vicar arrived.

Objective 1: To build our links with younger people.

In January 2023 Messy Church was relaunched from Lymington Infants School in a midweek after-school slot, led by Andy Clapper, the worship band from Life and Soul and a large group of helpers. From the start, this proved a very positive move, with good numbers (children and their parents/carers) attending, often completely filling the school hall. Gradually, the parents as well as children became more engaged with the activities and worship. The seven members of the team continued to explore how to attract families and young people to church. It was hoped that, in the future, a specialist youth worker might be appointed.

Objective 2: To tell the Christian story through our land and buildings.

The original work agreed had mostly been achieved, but this remained part of the pMAP for possible development when there was a new incumbent.

Objective 3: To help people to discover their gifts and vocations.

This objective was not addressed during the vacancy as envisaged, but many volunteers had come forward to help maintain the life of the church.

Objective 4: To care for our church community.
While the envisaged pastoral care group had not yet been formed, Maureen continued to oversee pastoral care (See Pastoral Report).

Rosie Ward

Church Choir and Organist.

Martin Penrose retired in January after sixteen years as our organist. An accomplished musician with a lifetime of experience in the Anglican Choral Tradition, Martin came with his wife Maureen and three daughters who all sang in the choir. When the children were young, there were other junior members many of whom went on to achieve RSCM awards. He had experience in journalism as a young man and wrote an informative and amusing article " The Organist pipes up", in the Parish magazine.
In the absence of a Priest in Charge, we were advised not to appoint a replacement organist. We are very grateful to Birgit Beil, a choir member, who kindly took over until Easter when we established a rota of able retired organists every Sunday. The Choir was supported and encouraged by Phil Daish-Handy and his wife Fern who continued with several evensongs, and sustained by fortnightly rehearsals taken by Timothy Rice, organist at Boldre. Many thanks to them all; we had excellent music every Sunday and morale within the choir remained high.
In September, a temporary agreement was reached with a self-employed organist, Peter Roper-Curzon, and weekly choir practices were resumed.

Celia Swan

The Worship Band.

The Worship band provided contemporary worship music for the Life and Soul service every Sunday, choosing songs suitable for the changing themes and seasons. David Wansey retired from the band but only after leading it very ably through the period of Andy Clapper's recovery from a shoulder operation. That period also gave an opportunity for a keyboard to be introduced into the mix, albeit one-handed to begin with! Rosie Ward was a welcome addition at the end of the year to help with cover, playing guitar and singing.
As previously, Natalia Storta re-joined with her violin for special occasions such as Revd. Lee Thompson's institution service and the crib service. She has grown considerably, in her playing and her stature, since first joining us at Messy Church!
At Messy Church, the Band's focus was always on fun and participation with Barbara Clapper spending most of her time out in front vigorously leading the song actions.
Whilst adding beautiful violin accompaniment to our songs, Jeremy Bennett was also busy behind the scenes every week working up arrangements for new songs and ensuring everyone had musical scores. Annette Cox gave in and accepted a vocal microphone so she could share her vocal talent as well as her time-keeping skills! As ever it all would have come to nothing without the brilliant support of the audio-visual team.
We hope we succeeded in helping people feel closer to God through our music.

Andy Clapper

Messy Church.

Last year's Annual Report described 2022 as a year of transition and planning for the Messy Church Team as it reviewed its operation and sought prayers of support in preparation for its transformation in 2023. All prayers were answered in January 2023 when the Messy Church team set up for its first service to be held at Lymington Infants School, midweek after school. It rapidly became apparent, as children and carers streamed through the door, that the few tables and chairs we had set out would not be sufficient: it was all hands to the pump as we kept putting out more,

and more...and more. We had 38 children plus their carers join us that day and it has never felt so good to feel so overwhelmed! Lessons were learned and planning scaled up for future sessions which is just as well as numbers increased: 58 children in February and high numbers through the rest of the year.
But it wasn't just the numbers which were so special: it was the joy in the faces of the children as they took part in the craft activities, singing, stories and prayers and, increasingly through the year, the engagement of the adults who had brought them.
Who to thank for this success story? Too many people to name here but that would probably miss the point. Above all it was a fantastic team effort with everyone playing a starring role, whether presenting, operating sound and audio-visual, playing in the band, working in the kitchen, serving food, leading craft activity, meeting and greeting not forgetting of course all the preparation and review activity between sessions. And then, of course, there was the support from the school and particularly the Headteacher, Julia Morris.
A wonderful year for Messy Church. Above all, we thank God for listening to our prayers.

Andy Clapper

Children and Families.

Glitter and Glue

Glitter and Glue is a small lunch club that runs in Lymington Infant school on Friday lunchtimes – Helen Thompson started the club in October with a group of 14 children, after being invited to come and support the school.
The aim is to be creative and have fun – our key resources are glitter (biodegradable of course) and glue. The first cohort of children have been from years 1 and 2 and we have been on a journey of getting to know one another and getting to know more about Jesus. Together the children have explored how God knows their name and loves that they are perfectly who they have been created to be. They have celebrated Christmas with angels and bunting and thought about how they can use helping hands and following feet just like Jesus and his disciples.

Children's Area in church

Over the autumn and in preparation for Christmas, we have reviewed the provision in the "Children's Corner" in church to be able to make an accessible and attractive space for younger children and their parents to enjoy, during visits to the church and during services.
We are very thankful for the financial donations that were made to start this process!
The area has had a coat of paint to refresh and an influx of new books aimed at children aged 2-5 with some new toys and a lovely interactive play rug. The aim is to make the space meaningful with toys and books linked to Bible stories that can be shared.
The refresh will continue into 2024 as we look for ways to make this space inviting and a special place for young children and their families to use as well as looking into activity packs for older children to enjoy.

Revd. Lee Thompson and Helen Thompson

Deanery Synod.

The Lyndhurst Deanery Synod is a gathering in which we hear about the ways other churches in our area are tackling the same issues that we face here in Lymington, working together for the common good in the eastern half of the New Forest area. St Thomas Church has four representatives on the Deanery Synod.

Safeguarding.

During 2023, the PCC has complied with its duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. St Thomas' also took part in the National Safeguarding Sunday initiative in November.

The PCC is responsible for Safeguarding within the Parish and receives a report on it from the Parish Safeguarding Officer at every PCC meeting. The 2023 Safeguarding Audit identified three areas where further action was required. These were:

- Safer Recruitment of church volunteers.
- Safeguarding Training required by our volunteers.
- Safeguarding procedures for those hiring our church buildings.

Safer Recruitment.

The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy explains that a key way of protecting children and adults from harm is to ensure the careful recruitment of those working with them. The policy states: "*The Church will select and vet all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church*". For the past few years, all new volunteers have gone through what is known as a Safer Recruitment process, which involves a number of checks, including references, being sought and completed.

In 2023, the Church of England published new guidance on the recruitment of volunteers, which stated that: "*For volunteers where safer recruitment records are absent or incomplete, a parish process to 'back-record' these individuals should be instigated.*" The Diocesan Safeguarding Manager confirmed that this would mean that, for current volunteers, any missing bits from their Safer Recruitment process, such as references and Confidential Declaration Forms, had to be obtained. During the year, an audit of the recruitment records of all of our church volunteers was carried out and those whose records were found to be incomplete identified. The priority for 2023, and on-going into 2024, has been to ensure that, where necessary, the back-recording of missing recruitment details has been completed.

Safeguarding Training.

The House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy states that the Church "*will train and equip church officers to have the confidence and skills they need to care for and support children, young people and vulnerable adults and to recognise and respond to abuse.*" Depending on their role, all new volunteers have, as part of their recruitment process, to complete one or more on-line safeguarding courses. For those volunteers already in post, catching up on these courses forms part of the Safer Recruitment back-recording exercise. All volunteers have to complete, as a minimum, the on-line Safeguarding Basic Awareness course.

Hire Agreements.

During the course of the year, the Agreements used when a person/body wishes to hire the Church or Hall for activity that involves children, young people or vulnerable adults, have been revised to ensure details of current safeguarding requirements are included.

Jonathan Cook
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Health and Safety.

The Health & Safety policy of St Thomas' with All Saints, Woodside, remained as updated in March 2023 during the period to provide and maintain as far as was reasonably practicable, healthy and safe working conditions, equipment, and systems of work for all employees and voluntary helpers, and provided such information as was needed for this purpose, including supervision and training.

The HSO, through the PCC, also endeavoured to ensure, as far as was reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all parishioners, visitors, contractors, and others who entered the

churches, halls, churchyards, grounds, and associated buildings.
The policy should be reviewed at regular intervals by the Incumbent and the Churchwardens, aided by the HSO when in place, and the PCC.

Risk Assessments.
To November 2023, Risk Assessments were undertaken by the HSO for all relevant activities that took place at St Thomas' Church and Church Hall and for a proposed event at All Saints Chapel and Quiet Garden. Generally, such occasions may be delegated to an alternate competent person if appropriate. Risk assessments for regular activities e.g., worship and Vistas Café, were undertaken regularly and monitored for any necessary updates or changes. Risk assessments for less frequent activities e.g., the annual Remembrance Sunday service, concerts and events run by the Friends of St Thomas' Church and other groups, were undertaken or reviewed and updated as was appropriate before each event. Checks to confirm the safety of all St Thomas' church buildings e.g., fire hazards, trip hazards, and heating and lighting, were managed by the HSO on a regular basis and reported to the PCC.

Public Liability Insurance.
Public Liability Insurance was in place at both St Thomas and All Saints Churches during the period to protect staff, volunteer workers and members of the public during activities for which the church was responsible, e.g., acts of worship and meetings. It is a requirement for all groups wishing to hire St Thomas Church or the Church Hall that they have their own Public Liability Insurance to cover the activity for which they are responsible. Applications to hire the church and/or the church hall are validated by the Church Administrator to confirm that the applicant has this in place. The Certificate of Public Liability insurance held by 'Tops' nursery school, who lease All Saints Church and its Church Hall and grounds, is validated annually by the PCC member on the All Saint's Management Committee.

Clive Rigden

Risk Management.

The members of the PCC, as charity trustees, are responsible for identifying and managing the possible and probable risks that both St Thomas church and All Saints church may face. It is a key part of effective governance. The trustees also recognise that not all risk can be identified or eliminated. Over the past year, the trustees confirm that they have attempted to consider the major risks to which the charity is exposed and sought to put in place systems or procedures in order to manage and mitigate those risks. Four examples of where this has happened are: in March, an overhaul of the Fire Safety and Evacuation Procedures, in July, a review of the Financial risks the church faces, in September, the revision of the Safeguarding Action Plan and in November, the revision of all the various hire agreements used by the church.

Eco Church.

As we face ever-increasing climate and biodiversity crises, our response as a Church is more important than ever. In 2023, A Rocha started a Gold Eco Church Online Forum, to help Gold-awarded churches to be a resource for others and to help maintain momentum. During a session on 'Land' we were invited to commit to conserving a 'habitat' and a 'species'. Our habitat is grassland – in other words, the churchyard, where we are endeavouring to weaken tough grasses, see more flowers emerge, and in turn see increasing biodiversity. For our species we chose swifts and arranged for Hampshire Swifts to install a swift caller ready for 2024, as this will increase the chances of the boxes being used.

Over the year there were monthly 'Eco tips' in the news sheet, aluminium was collected in aid of Pennington Community Allotment, the Fabric group worked to reduce energy costs (and carbon), we held three environment-themed services during Creationtide and we organised another corporate Christmas card. Outside, we counted birds and butterflies. We trust that living and acting sustainably is gradually becoming part of our church's DNA.

Rosie Ward.

Community Action, Fellowship and Mutual Support.

Good Samaritans.

We have continued to support a number of homeless people over the year, some who are passing through and some who are long term . We were delighted when one young man was rehoused and now has some employment. When he is able, he comes to visit and, if it's a Monday, to help with the chairs as a way of saying thank you .We still support one couple who are vulnerable. We liaise with the homeless section if NFDC and sometimes the police .

However, we mainly offer a listening ear and give pointers towards other agencies who have more expertise and are in a better position to help .

We do not give cash but can assist with hot meals , sleeping bags and waterproof clothing if required . We are, however, in need of more people to join our depleting team .

Sylvia Pepin

Mission Links.

In 2023, the Church made gifts to the Leprosy Mission, the Mission to Seafarers, Mission Aviation Fellowship and the New Forest Food Bank. We enjoyed visits to Sunday services from representatives of the Leprosy Mission and the Mission to Seafarers who gave inspiring talks about the work of their charity. There was a splendid MAF Sunday in January when our local representative, Tim Cosby, spoke at our two main services, and also a Sunday afternoon event with the Sway Handbell Ringers and our own choir in March which raised almost £400 for Mission Aviation Fellowship.'

Toddler Group.

The Toddler Group continues to meet in the Church Hall every Tuesday morning during school term time from 10am to 11.30. It provides a very valuable link for the Church with the local community. Many of the children who come will go on to attend Lymington Infant school and some have siblings already attending. We have a mixture of parents, grandparents and carers who come with their children. We offer a safe space for the children to play and for the adults to socialize. We have a good selection of toys and play equipment along with craft activities, story time and singing. If you have friends or neighbours who care for pre-school children do encourage them to come. We have a small, dedicated team of helpers and we can always do with extra hands! You don't have to come every week or for the full session, you could help with the drinks for adults and children, be on the welcoming desk, talk to the parents and carers or just sit and play with the children! These families could be our future Church members and leaders and for many it is the first time they have come into contact with a Church.

Barbara Payne

Lymington Infants CE (Aided) School.

The school continues to thrive under the leadership of Headteacher Julia Morris. The spiritual leadership, and commitment of all staff to the school's vision and values, was recognised in the

glowing SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) report in January 2024. (https://www.lymingtoninf.hants.sch.uk/docs/SIAMS_report_Lymington_Church_of_England_Infant_School_116365_180124__1_.pdf) The report was very complimentary. One of the observations was that "The Christian vision, and its biblical underpinning, is fully embedded and understood".

The following were foundation governors at the school for all or part of the year: Karen Brett, Mary Hill, Tim Smit, Jacqui Stoneham (Baptist Church), Jane Stroud, Celia Swan, and Revd. Lee Thompson The Vicar is an *ex officio* governor. School children, including the Robins Choir, continue to participate in services at St Thomas' at key times in the church year including Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The school turned the year-long vacancy of a vicar into an opportunity, welcoming representatives of other Lymington Christian churches into the school to take worship sessions.

During the year, Messy Church transferred from St Thomas Church to the school under the leadership of a team from Life and Soul. The monthly activity has proved very popular with parents and children, also attracting attendees from outside the school. It is now led by Helen Thompson. As the school continues to develop during the coming years, we will continue to build on the links between it and St Thomas'.

Jane Stroud

Traidcraft.

Towards the end of January 2023, Traidcraft suddenly announced it was going into Administration and would stop trading. We continued to run our regular twice monthly stalls in Feb, March and April whilst we looked round for alternative suppliers.

It quickly became apparent that there were no other suppliers that could provide a 'One-stop Shop' for the sort of items we regularly sold. To continue the stall would have meant having to purchase from multiple suppliers all setting minimum order values. Reluctantly and sadly, we decided that there was not a viable way to continue to run the stall and we would have to close it.

With the help of contacts in the Fairtrade world we were able to identify a suitable supplier for the bulk coffee used by Vistas and the church, so continued to supply these items as required. This and the sale of the existing stock has enabled us to sell £2274 worth of Fairtrade goods during the year as we wound down the stall. We were finally left with £72 of stock we have not been able to sell so we will donate this to a local charity shop.

Over the last two years we have generated a profit of £2450. We will be donating £2000 to Transform Trade, for developing Fairtrade suppliers around the world, and £450 to church funds.

We are really sad to have had to close the stall and would like to thank our many customers for their support over the years.

Annette and Brian Cox

New Forest Basics Bank.

The church has continued to support the New Forest Basics Bank and the congregation is kept up to date with the service that the Bank provides. Both the Church and the Infants School donated items to the NFBB at their Harvest Services.

Vistas Café.

Vistas Café is open every Thursday in the Church Hall from 10am until 12 noon. The Café is open to all and serves tea, coffee, home-made cakes, scones and flapjacks. There is a large table of Stitchers and Knitters each week and a craft group from the WI meets in the Bethune Room fortnightly. We have regular customers but also welcome newcomers. The café is run entirely by volunteers who also provide the home-made goodies.

The takings are paid into the PCC account, some of which goes to the Church and some to the Hall. During the year, as well as contributing to the heating and lighting in the hall, Vistas donated £400 to the Monday Lunch Club and £500 to the Charity, Honeypot, which provides respite for young carers. Vistas also donated £100 to Crisis, the favourite charity of the last

Thanks must be given to Anne Keir who resigned from running the café in September. Her dedication to detail and her encouragement to all the helpers has been much appreciated. It is good to see her at the café, both as a visitor and a helper!

Mary Hill

Monday Lunch Club.

Monday Lunch Club continues to thrive and flourish. The number of guests has been steadily increasing since we started back this year. We have met some lovely new customers and are nearly at full capacity. The older customers have been very welcoming of newcomers and the hall is filled with laughter and chatter. We've also welcomed some new regular volunteers to help.

There is a fantastic community feeling, both cooking and serving – and even clearing up afterwards! The food continues to be seasonal and locally sourced as well as being Fairtrade and organic, if possible.

We had to increase the cost of the meal to £7 at the end of the year but everyone was very understanding and no one said they couldn't afford it. We do still, however provide a free meal to those who are in need.

We serve a hot lunch, pudding and tea/coffee, with a few special occasion lunches – one the Monday before Christmas, and one at Easter. We've also held an informal raffle every few months - the prizes range from bottles of wine to scented candles (Prizes provided from volunteers and leftover wine from Christmas). This has proved to be very popular.

It is a wonderful and much needed service and I am very honoured to be part of it.

Mikki Willford.

Poetry Corner

The group began in 2018 and has twenty members. We meet weekly at the back of church on a Wednesday morning to read and discuss poems - our own and other poets' work. For the last three years we have produced a free booklet for the Christmas tree festival and in 2023 our theme was 'Hope'.

Sarah Standage.

The Flower Guild.

Flowers in the church are arranged by a group of parishioners and friends on a weekly rota. Special events like Easter, Harvest and Christmas are celebrated with additional arrangements while the periods of Lent and Advent are marked by green arrangements without flowers.

Bell Tower Report.

The bells continue to be rung for Sunday worship and occasionally for weddings and special events. We have about nine regular ringers, many of whom go onto ring at other churches after ringing at St Thomas'. Many of them travel long distances to get to us and we very much appreciate their efforts. On average we ring six bells due to the ringers other engagements or illness. Recently we have been ringing on the full eight bells.

We have had a lot of praise for the sound of our bells from members of the congregation plus many accolades from visiting ringers.
The bells not only call us to worship but call out to those people who are unable to attend our services to tell them we are here and thinking of them.

Andy Dibb

Communications.

Social Media The Social Media Coordinator is Andy Clapper, a role approved by the PCC as part of its Safeguarding Action Plan. He also took on the administration of the church's Facebook page and posted regularly to try and develop its role as an effective part of the church's communications system.

The Weekly News Sheet, compiled by Parish Secretary Susie Napleton, is the most comprehensive, vital communication tool available to the Church community. It is an accurate source of information covering everything we do from our regular Church services and all our other activities.

The notice boards inside the narthex display posters advertising many different non church events. The diversity of opportunity including new clubs to join, outings and concerts to attend, illustrates so much about our busy town.

Parish News
It was sad to hear of the death of Nigel Mussett during the year. He had edited Parish News for many years and the magazine has continued to play its part in providing both a permanent record of much that goes on at St Thomas' and a platform for publishing items of a general as well as of a devotional nature.
The church has begun moving towards an online information system which will inform parishioners and the public about church activities.

Daphne Johnston

Friends of St Thomas Church. A separate registered charity no 1166743.
The Friends continue to support the PCC with the cost of repairs and maintenance. The Friends donated £10,000 towards the recent repairs to tower.
In March we were greatly saddened by the death of Nigel Mussett. Nigel was Membership Secretary of The Friends and was also the self-appointed Archivist of St Thomas Church. Through his interest in history, in church monuments and in churchyards Nigel had recorded all the plaques and memorials within the church and had almost completed a record of the gravestones and monuments in the churchyard. Just before his death The Friends agreed to publish his work. It is hoped that this can happen very soon.
At the AGM in November Barry Jolly, a local historian, gave an informative talk about the Funereal Hatchments stored in the gallery.
In December the annual Christmas Tree Festival was a huge success. The many hundreds of visitors enjoyed seeing the trees, shopping from stalls, listening to music performances and savouring delicious refreshments. All this is made possible by a huge number of generous volunteers.

Daphne Johnston.

Concerts
St Thomas church remains a venue of choice for local amateur and professional musicians. Lymington Choral Society enjoyed a capacity audience for both their concerts. The Nova Foresta

Orchestra under their musical director and conductor Phil Daish-Handy delighted audiences with their wide and varied programmes.
The musical highlight of the summer is the Solent Music Festival. www.solentmusicfestival World Class musicians performed a diverse and varied programme of classical favourites and newly commissioned works. It is not possible to list each concert here but the programme included pianist Sam Haywood playing the Chopin Piano Concerto in E minor, local violinist Rose Gosney playing the Sarasate Carmen Fantasy and concluded with a memorable performance by vocal group Tenebrae.

Daphne Johnston

Buildings and Land Report.

The St Thomas' Church major works in 2023 were the completion of the Tower external repairs. This included repointing of weathered mortar, stone repairs and replacement of displaced and cracked stones at parapet level and the repair of corroding iron work and fixings. The sundial face was repainted. Extensive exterior scaffolding was needed for these works and we used it to enable remedial timber repairs and repainting of the wooden support structure for the Cupola. We also started the repairs to the clock bell striking mechanism.
Internally we replaced the heat control system in both the church and hall with externally programmable devices to improve the performance, energy efficiency and flexibility of these systems. The CCTV system was upgraded and the Intruder alarm system replaced. The Quinquennial inspection will take place in April 2024.
The All Saints long term tenancy by TOPS Day Nursery continues but their Phase 2 internal office additions have been delayed by the economic conditions until 2024/2025. The Quinquennial inspection will take place in April 2024.
I would like to thank the Friends of St Thomas' and others for their continued financial support to help us both maintain and improve the fabric of our churches and halls.

Michael Standage

Finance Report 2023.

Finance Committee.

St Thomas' Church Finance Committee members manage our church finances week by week on behalf of the PCC, meeting a minimum of six times a year. Our aim is to use our finances as effectively as possible to further the Christian work of our church.
Committee members during 2023 were Jonathan Cook, Bill Gulland, Daphne Johnston, Judy Martin, Andy Payne, Chris Stroud, Revd. Lee Thompson Thompson, Malcolm Ward. We are ably assisted by, and most grateful to Suzie Napleton and John Nivison along with those who make up the weekly counting teams organised by Peta Walmisley. All play important roles.
Early in 2024 Bill Gulland decided that having been a member of the Finance Committee for twelve years, the time had come to stand down. His colleagues on the Committee wish to record their deep gratitude for his unstinting service, his attention to detail and his comradeship.

Balance Sheet.

At the end of 2023 the financial assets controlled by the PCC totalled £534,384.

Income.

During the year our total income was £272,085. This figure contains both our regular income and exceptional income of £23,000.
Regular income included £91,707 donated through the PGS on which Gift Aid to the value of £21,654 was claimed (a reduction of just over £2,000 on the previous year), Sunday and midweek collections amounting to £9,545 (again is just over £2,000 lower than the previous year), donations totalling £3,653 before Gift Aid via the card reader at the back of the church (just over £1,000 greater than for last year).

Exceptional income included donations and legacies totalling £23,000; £10,000 of this being in the form of a donation from the Friends of St Thomas' Church.

Expenditure.

During the year our total expenditure was £342,254. This figure contains both our regular expenditure and exceptional expenditure of £102,201.

Regular expenditure included donations totalling £20,250 made to various charities including DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal, A Rocha (Eco Church), Mission to Seafarers, New Forest Basics Bank, The Leprosy Mission, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Royal British Legion, The Children's Society, Médecins Sans Frontières, and, by the Vistas team, to Crisis, Honeypot and Mission to Seafarers, also Common Mission Fund (formally Parish Share) £126,085 through which we support the ongoing Christian work of Winchester Diocese, also Energy and water bills totalling £14,693.

Exceptional expenditure included £6,683, the final payment for the building work carried out at All Saints' Church and £88,841, for work at St Thomas' Church including the major works carried out on the tower.

Overview of the year

We were able once again to make significant charitable donations and paid in full our Common Mission Fund. Our regular income finished the year with a surplus of £9,032 whilst our overall deficit of £70,169 was reduced by the unrealised gains on our investments amounting to £23,722. We look back with a sense of joy at the many ways in which, as a Christian church, we have been able to continue going forward together. The commitment and generosity evident at St Thomas' Church are a source of confidence. We sincerely thank everyone who has financially supported our church.

Looking Ahead.

We intend to maintain our charitable donations to good causes, and, of course, pay our Common Mission Fund, along with all our usual expenses. During the coming year two Quinquennial Inspections will be carried out (St Thomas' Church and All Saint's Church). These will identify necessary maintenance and repairs, with costs yet unknown, which will need to be addressed over the next few years.

Reserves Policy.

The PCC Reserves policy states:

- *It is the policy of the PCC to hold an Operational Reserve to cover routine expenditure for a period of three months.* Currently £60,000.
- *In addition, the PCC has designated a Buildings Reserve to meet unplanned expenditure on the fabric of our buildings, recognising that the PCC is responsible for maintaining three Grade II listed historic buildings: St Thomas Church, All Saints Church, and All Saints Hall.* Currently £200,000.

Andy Payne

APPENDIX 1 - CORE VALUES.

Guided and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, we are part of the Christian Community in Lymington and District who are called to love God and all people. Therefore we:

1. Pray and Worship. Our worship:
   - Includes a variety of styles and traditions.
   - Is relevant to the people and issues of today Attracts and welcomes newcomers and visitors.
   - Has something for all ages.
   - Includes bible-based preaching.
   - Encourages spiritual growth within our congregations.

2. Grow as disciples of Christ. Every person is called to follow Christ and be a good steward of God's creation. We offer support in this through:
   - Teaching and nurture Learning from one another.
   - Prayer and study groups for all ages Identifying and training successors for all roles.
   - Identifying and developing quality leadership; both lay and ordained.

3 Are committed to one another. Because of this we offer:
   - Mutual support and encouragement.
   - A positive, generous and forgiving attitude Opportunities to learn from one another.
   - An attractive and welcoming community.

4 Reach out and share our faith. To do this we:
   - Talk about our faith (gossip the good news) with all ages Support worldwide missionary activities.
   - Invite people to learn about the Christian faith (e.g. Alpha and Lent Course) Respect and value people's individuality.

5 Are here to serve others, both locally and globally. We do this:
   - By using our gifts in leadership and service in both voluntary and paid work.
   - By supporting those in need.
   - By supporting external organisations.
   - By challenging injustice and inequality of opportunity for all people regardless of social or cultural issues.

6 Value our Anglican inheritance. In particular we value:
   - Our tradition of critical thinking.
   - The Parish system.
   - The scriptural basis for matters of faith.
   - Our adaptability to our cultural context.

ST THOMAS | ALL SAINTS
LYMINGTON

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A C C O U N T S

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2023

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the Lymington Parochial Church Council

We report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees of the PCC and Examiner

As the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an Independent Examination is required.

As Independent Examiner it is our responsibilty to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

   a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

   b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

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

Hope Jones

HOPE JONES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
22nd April 2024

Suite 114, Lymington Town Hall,
Avenue Road,
LYMINGTON, Hants

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	2022
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	156,625	10,404	-	167,029	236,425
Activities for Generating Funds	2(b)	12,482	-	-	12,482	16,151
Investment Income	2(c)	17,255	3,812	692	21,759	13,739
Church Activities	2(d)	70,815	-	-	70,815	60,299
TOTAL INCOME		£257,177	£14,216	£692	£272,085	£326,614
EXPENDITURE						
Church Activities	3(a)	325,144	13,998	692	339,834	334,856
Governance Costs	3(b)	2,420	-	-	2,420	2,298
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£327,564	£13,998	£692	£342,254	£337,154
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(70,387)	218	-	(70,169)	(10,540)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
On Disposal		-	-	-	-	(15)
On Revaluation		21,552	-	2,170	23,722	(33,721)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(48,835)	218	2,170	(46,447)	(44,276)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2023		557,810	420	22,601	580,831	625,107
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023		£508,975	£638	£24,771	£534,384	£580,831

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET — 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Equipment					
As at 1st January 2023		479			
Additions		4,986			
		5,465			
Less: Depreciation for the year		1,120			
			4,345		479
Investments					
Endowment Fund Investments					
Hapgood Bequest					
3,828 C.O.I.F. Charities Ethical Investment Fund		11,525		10,494	
Miss B Monk Fund					
586 C B F Investment Fund		13,246		12,107	
			24,771		22,601
Unrestricted Investments					
C.B.F. - Deposit Account		215,689		233,214	
10,030 C.B.F. Investment Fund Shares		226,731		207,234	
7,634 COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund		22,979		20,924	
			465,399		461,372
Current Assets					
Traidcraft Stock		124		1,056	
Debtors and Prepayments	5	25,728		4,361	
Cash at Bank - Treasurers Account		19,827		125,627	
Cash in Hand		353		242	
		46,032		131,286	
Less: Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year	6	6,163		34,907	
			39,869		96,379
			£534,384		£580,831

BALANCE SHEET (Continued) 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			508,975		557,810
Restricted					
Donations Fund	7		638		420
Endowment Funds					
Hapgood Bequest (Parish Church Fabric)		11,525		10,494	
Miss B. Monk (Youth Work)		13,246		12,107	
			24,771		22,601
			£534,384		£580,831

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
17th April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Vicar

.....
Honorary Treasurer

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1(a) Accounting Conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1(b) Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the Financial Statements by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011, and no value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated at the rate of 20% on the reducing balance basis. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £3,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

1(c) Investment Assets

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

1(d) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	2022
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid Donations	92,632	-	-	92,632	93,421
Income tax Recoverable	25,464	-	-	25,464	25,552
Other Planned Giving	6,167	-	-	6,167	7,396
Collections	9,545	-	-	9,545	11,653
Grants	-	-	-	-	2,825
Friends of St Thomas	-	10,000	-	10,000	20,000
The Parish Hall Trust	-	-	-	-	16,223
Bellringers	-	-	-	-	1,934
Donations	9,817	404	-	10,221	7,321
Legacies	13,000	-	-	13,000	50,100
	156,625	10,404	-	167,029	236,425
2(b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Vistas Cafe	3,474	-	-	3,474	3,118
Traidcraft Sales	2,013	-	-	2,013	5,635
Other Fund Raising Events	2,107	-	-	2,107	1,542
Other Income	4,888	-	-	4,888	5,856
	12,482	-	-	12,482	16,151
2(c) Investment Income					
Miss Monk's Bequest	-	-	362	362	360
Hapgood's Bequest	-	-	330	330	327
Churchyard Maintenance	-	112	-	112	111
C.B.F. Interest	10,400	-	-	10,400	3,166
Dividends					
C. B. F. Investment Fund	6,198	3,700	-	9,898	8,927
C. O. I. F. Ethical Investment Fund	657	-	-	657	652
M & G Charifund	-	-	-	-	196
	17,255	3,812	692	21,759	13,739
2(d) Church Activities					
Parish Magazine	3,490	-	-	3,490	4,438
Monday Lunch	7,317	-	-	7,317	7,522
Hire - St. Thomas Hall	7,373	-	-	7,373	7,049
Hire - All Saints Church and Hall	45,000	-	-	45,000	35,000
Fees	7,635	-	-	7,635	6,290
	70,815	-	-	70,815	60,299
TOTAL INCOME	£257,177	£14,216	£692	£272,085	£326,614

3. EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	2022
3(a) Church Activites					
Missions and Charities	20,250	-	-	20,250	21,400
Good Samaritan Fund	581	-	-	581	761
Monday Lunch	10,902	-	-	10,902	8,848
Traidcraft Purchases	2,018	-	-	2,018	5,003
Ministry					
Diocesan Parish Share	126,085	-	-	126,085	130,188
Clergy Expenses	275	-	-	275	2,419
Worship and Services					
Cost of Services	2,835	-	-	2,835	1,550
Organists	7,833	-	-	7,833	9,128
Organ Tuning and Repairs	1,124	-	-	1,124	70
Music and Choir Expenses	861	-	-	861	1,120
Church Maintenance and Expenses					
Light, Heat and Water	14,693	-	-	14,693	8,598
Insurance	5,946	-	-	5,946	5,365
Cleaning	4,157	-	-	4,157	3,045
Churchyard Expenses	895	112	-	1,007	504
Repairs and Renewals	5,841	-	330	6,171	2,736
All Saints Major Works					
Project Costs	6,683	-	-	6,683	17,566
Door Repair	-	-	-	-	3,540
Treework	-	-	-	-	864
Legal Fees	-	-	-	-	540
St Thomas Major Works					
External Repairs	78,841	10,000	-	88,841	74,624
CCTV Upgrade	2,270	-	-	2,270	-
Heating Control System	2,605	-	-	2,605	-
Glass Door Repair	-	-	-	-	2,217
Vacancy Expenses	1,802	-	-	1,802	-
St. Thomas Hall Expenses	715	-	-	715	1,330
All Saints Church and Hall Expenses	4,571	-	-	4,571	3,913
Parish Magazine Expenses	1,314	-	-	1,314	3,474
Parish Administrator	11,863	3,700	-	15,563	15,873
Church Office	2,460	-	-	2,460	2,035
Accountancy	1,332	-	-	1,332	1,272
Advertising and Leaflets	598	-	-	598	427
Miscellaneous expenses	4,674	186	362	5,222	6,326
Depreciation of Equipment	1,120	-	-	1,120	120
	325,144	13,998	692	339,834	334,856
3(b) Governance Costs					
Accountancy and Examination Fees	2,420	-	-	2,420	2,298
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£327,564	£13,998	£692	£342,254	£337,154

4. Expenditure

Staff Costs	2023	2022
Salaries	17,184	16,394
Pension Costs	271	170
	£17,455	£16,564

During the year the Council employed a Parish Administrator and a Verger neither of whom earned £60,000 or more. The average number of employees during the year was 2.

External Accountancy and Examination Fees	2023	2022
Accountancy and Examination Fees	£2,420	£2,298

5. Debtors and Prepayments

	2023	2022
Income Tax Recoverable	2,559	2,459
Other Debtors and Prepayments	23,169	1,902
	£25,728	£4,361

6. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
Creditors for Goods and Services	3,467	3,469
Mission	-	1,105
Wedding Deposits	-	500
Accrued Expenses	2,696	29,833
	£6,163	£34,907

7. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds in the accounts are as follows:

Donations Fund

Amounts received for a specific purpose are credited to the Donations Fund. Expenditure incurred for these purposes are debited to the Donations Fund.

Assets relating to the Restricted Funds are as follows:

	2023	2022
Cash at Bank	£638	£420

8. Investment Assets

	Investments	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
Endowment Fund Investments				
Hapgood Bequest				
As at 1st January 2023		10,494	10,494	11,982
Unrealised (loss)/gain		1,031	1,031	(1,488)
As at 31st December 2023		11,525	11,525	10,494
Miss B Monk Fund				
As at 1st January 2023		12,107	12,107	13,722
Unrealised (loss)/gain		1,139	1,139	(1,615)
As at 31st December 2023		13,246	13,246	12,107
Unrestricted Investments				
As at 1st January 2023	461,372		461,372	547,305
Withdrawn	(25,000)		(25,000)	(50,000)
Disposal Proceeds	-		-	(8,466)
Reinvested Income	7,475		7,475	3,166
Realised loss	-		-	(15)
Unrealised gain/(loss)	21,552		21,552	(30,618)
	£465,399		£465,399	£461,372
Total Valuation at 31st December 2023	£465,399	£24,771	£490,170	£483,973
Total Unrealised Gains	£21,552	£2,170	£23,722	£(33,721)

9. Vicar and Churchwardens' Charitable Trust

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the following charitable Trust:

The Parish Hall Trust

The income and property of the Trust may be applied either towards the upkeep, repair and insurance of the fabric and contents of the Parish Church of Lymington, or in otherwise furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England.

Dividends on the Trust's investments are paid direct into the bank account of Lymington Parochial Church Council as a contribution to the cost of the Parish Administrator.

Investments of the Trust at 31st December 2023 amounted to £135,349. Investment income in the year to 31st December 2023 amounted to £3,700 all of which was donated to Lymington Parocial Church Council towards the cost of the Parish Administrator.

10. Charity Investments

Investment held by Charitable Trustees where the income arising is due to the Parish is as follows:

Miss E. Earley Bequest for Churchyard Maintenance

1,295.05 Income Units Charities Ethical Investment Fund
(Market Value 31st December 2023 £3,895)

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

11. Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS				
Voluntary Income	213,347	23,078	-	236,425
Activities for Generating Funds	16,151	-	-	16,151
Investment Income	10,177	2,875	687	13,739
Church Activities	60,299	-	-	60,299
TOTAL INCOME	£299,974	£25,953	£687	£326,614
EXPENDITURE				
Church Activities	308,022	26,147	687	334,856
Governance Costs	2,298	-	-	2,298
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£310,320	£26,147	£687	£337,154
NET EXPENDITURE	(10,346)	(194)	-	(10,540)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS				
On Disposal	(15)	-	-	(15)
On revaluation	(30,618)	-	(3,103)	(33,721)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(40,979)	(194)	(3,103)	(44,276)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2022	598,789	614	25,704	625,107
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022	£557,810	£420	£22,601	£580,831

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST THOMAS WITH ALL SA

England & Wales - Charity number 1128119

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS, LYMINGTON WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

2022 REPORT and ACCOUNTS for the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday March 29th, 2023

7:30pm

St Thomas' Church

Registered Charity Number 1128119

AGENDA

PRAYERS
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

1. Election of Churchwardens for 2023-2024.[1]

   All persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll of this Parish and all persons resident in the Parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence may participate in this election.

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parochial Church Council.
2. Approval of 2022 Minutes.
3. Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod
4. Election of Parochial Church Council members
5. Consideration of:
   a) The Electoral Roll.
   b) The Annual Report of the Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the Parish generally.
   c) Finance[3]:
      I. Examined accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2022.
      II. Statement of the funds and property of the PCC.
      III. To appoint independent examiners.
   d) Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches.
   e) Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
   f) Other Reports.
6. Any other business of Parochial or general interest to be submitted in writing one week in advance of the APCM to the PCC Secretary via e-mail to the Secretary at marychill45@gmail.com

Mary Hill
Honorary Secretary, Lymington PCC.

[1] In accordance with the Churchwardens' Measure 2001.

[2] In accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020.

[3] Item 4c is presented in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, LYMINGTON
WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022.

Aims and Purposes.

The St Thomas' with All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for cooperation with the incumbent, the Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury (until July 3rd), in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical as set out in the Core Values (see Appendix 1). The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Church of St Thomas and the Chapel of Ease of All Saints.

Administrative Information.

The Parish of St Thomas, with All Saints, is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Parish Office, St Thomas' Church, St Thomas Street, Lymington, SO41 9ND. Telephone: 01590 676194.
e-mail: office@lymingtonchurch.org website: www.lymingtonchurch.org

Personnel.

Incumbent:	The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury (until July 3rd.)
Churchwardens:	Chris Stroud, Maureen Penrose.
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus:	Malcolm Ward.
Parish Administrator:	Gillian Maunder/Suzie Napleton.
Organist:	Martin Penrose.
Verger, Sacristan-St Thomas':	Helen Pocklington
Treasurer:	Andrew Payne.
Inspecting Architect:	Ryan Bunce of Ryan Bunce & Co, 102 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZP.
Independent Examiner:	Hope Jones, 73 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZA.

PCC Members who served from the APCM 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent	The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury (Chairman) until July3rd 2022
Churchwardens	Chris Stroud (Vice-Chairman), Maureen Penrose (Elected Ex Officio),
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus	Malcolm Ward.
Deanery Synod Representatives:	
To APCM 2023	Daphne Johnston, Sylvia Pepin, Celia Swan, Michael Standage.

Elected Members:

To APCM 2023	Bronwen Bridges, Brian Cox, David Wansey.
To APCM 2024	Pat Cashin, Jeremy Vines, Peta Walmisley.
To APCM 2025	Maureen Harris, David Hanks, Andrew Clapper.

The Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll stands at 244.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) requires "the Minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish" and requires the PCC to "co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The Church of England (Worship and Doctrine) Measure 1974 requires the minister and PCC to agree jointly any decisions on which forms of service are to be used in any church in the Parish.

The PCC meets six times per year. Normally meetings are held in St Thomas' Church. Agendas and Minutes of PCC meetings are made available in the Parish church and on the church website.

The Standing Committee of the PCC conducts the business of the PCC between meetings, is answerable to the PCC and submits to it proposals in connection with issues of Parish-wide significance. The *ex-officio* members in 2022 were the Vicar (Chairman), Churchwardens and two elected members (Andrew Payne and Michael Standage).

Other members who took responsibility in 2022 for promoting the six Core Values (see Appendix 1) were as follows:

- Leadership and Co-ordination: The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury/ Chris Stroud/ Maureen Penrose.
- Worship Services: The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury/ Chris Stroud.
- Prayer: Sarah Salisbury/Malcolm Ward.
- Community Action: David Fenton and Sylvia Pepin.
- Discipleship and Learning: Linda Lee.
- Fellowship and Mutual Support: Sarah Bunce and Pauline Lightbody.
- Communications: Daphne Johnston and Nigel Mussett.
- Buildings, Land and Equipment: Bill Gulland, Jeremy Vines, Michael Standage.
- Finance: Andrew Payne.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Andrew Payne, prepares and monitors the annual budget and reports directly to the PCC.
The Fabric Committee, chaired by Michael Standage provides support and guidance to the PCC on the appropriate maintenance and management of the church premises and grounds.
The Vicar and Churchwardens are *ex-officio* **Trustees of Lymington C of E Infant School** and of two Trusts associated with the Parish as follows:
Fulford & Burrard Trust, which supports the Infant School and youth more generally (subject to specific criteria).
Parish Hall Trust, which supports the St Thomas site generally.
Sub-committees manage the St Thomas' Church Hall, mission giving and social events. All meet as required and report directly to the PCC or to the Standing Committee as appropriate.
The Friends of St Thomas Church have continued to promote and support the restoration, preservation, repair and beautification of the building and surrounds of the church and church hall.

Risk Management.

Risk Management in respect of St Thomas Church (STC) and Church Hall (STH) and curtilage and All Saints Church (ASC) and Hall (ASH), and curtilage.[4]

Risk	Probability	Impact	Management Action
An incident requiring Emergency Evacuation	Low	Medium/High	Evacuation procedure published; announcement of procedure when building(s) full on non-routine occasions.
Fire in Church including Sacristy/Vestry	Low	High	Fire Risk Assessments carried out for both churches. Equipment provided; standing instructions issued/reissued to clergy and staff. Fire extinguisher training undertaken.
Fire in Church Halls	Low	Medium/High	Fire Risk Assessments carried out. Equipment provided; standing instructions issued/reissued to clergy and staff.
Fire in Boiler Rooms	Low	High	Fire Risk Assessment carried out. Flammable gas detector/alarm installed in STC boiler room. Equipment in hall - ASH.
Carbon Monoxide in Boiler Rooms	Low	High	Carbon Monoxide detector/alarm installed in STC boiler room.
Financial	Low	Low/Medium	Monthly bank statements; quarterly budgetary review by Finance Committee; cash collections counted by teams of at least two, with signed record.
Statutory & Legal including Health & Safety (H&S) and Safeguarding	Low	Medium/High	H&S checks; safeguarding policy of children and vulnerable adults in place. DBS checking. Disabled access reviewed. Risk assessment sheets prepared for use with individual events (e.g., Concerts and Festivals). H&S Policy revised.
Operational Damage/Loss of Property	Low	Medium/High	Continuous security video (STC) has remained a deterrent. Smartwater applied to precious metals.
Personal	Low	Low	Attention to H&S of workers; restricted child access to gallery STC; handrails; white edges to steps.
Reputational	ST Low	ST Low	Covered by above precautions.
	AS Low	AS Medium	Covered by above precautions. Regular meetings with the Tenant to ensure problems are addressed early.
Shortage of Volunteers	High	High	Combining resources across the parish, succession planning and prioritization of what we do.
Damage to the external fabric of ASC. Financial risk if Tops became unable to meet their commitment to pay rent or fail to look after the interior of the buildings.	Low	Low/Medium	Company vetted by ST and Church Commissioners. Management Committee set up to ensure regular dialog between PCC reps and Tops. Appropriate legal protections and insurance in place.
Pandemics & Epidemics	Low	High	Incidents of possible contagion, such as Covid-19 or major outbreaks of influenza. The church will act on advice and restrictions from government and relevant authorities

The regulations require risk to be assessed and managed. A risk is a contingency that would adversely affect the PCC's ability to pursue its objectives, as expressed in its statement of Core Values (see Appendix 1)

Objectives and Activities

The Parish Vocation is "to be the town church in Lymington, offering prayer and hospitality in Jesus' name". Mindful of this and the charity's object to promote in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, the PCC has developed this objective and has published a statement of Core Values (Appendix 1). Nine areas of ministry and roles have been identified and leaders appointed to further the realisation of these values. Accounting procedures are designed to identify clearly patterns of income and expenditure across the Parish, so that its resources may be deployed as appropriately as possible.

In their report below, the Trustees present a summary of the activities undertaken by the charity in the Parish for the benefit of the public. They confirm that they have had due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Many Parishioners who willingly undertake a wide variety of tasks with no thought of remuneration or other recognition, have contributed to the life of the Parish. The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC are enormously grateful to them all.

REPORTS

Leadership and Co-ordination, Incorporating Churchwarden's Report

The period prior to the 2022 APCM was marked by personnel considerations. The Vicar (Peter Salisbury) confirmed his intention to retire on the 3rd of July 2022. The two Churchwardens both indicated that they would be standing down at the forthcoming APCM and the Parish office administrator resigned after many years of dedicated service.

The office administrator position was filled by Suzie Napleton after several weeks of searching and activities in the Church office continue to flourish under Suzie's control, ably assisted by Colin (her dog!).

The Salisburys' retirement celebration was a great success with drinks and canapes in the Church following an extended service incorporating music from our 9:15 and 11:00 am services.

Mo Penrose and I volunteered to fill the Churchwarden posts prior to the 2022 APCM and this was formalised at Christchurch Priory in June.

A vacancy team was formed to work on all aspects of recruiting a new Vicar which initially involved working on our parish profile. Bishop Debbie met with the PCC at the end of September to discuss the vacancy and the recruitment process in general. The suggested collaboration between St. Thomas' and St. Marks' Pennington was reviewed, the PCC having already agreed in principle to explore collaboration possibilities but to leave further action until the new incumbent was recruited. The situation has not changed at the time of writing.

How are we bearing up during our vacancy period? Pretty well I would say. Services have been uninterrupted thanks to the stalwart efforts of our retired clergy. Our regular annual activities were all as successful as ever, namely, the Solent Music Festival, the Christmas tree festival (more trees than ever before!), our carol and crib services, our Christmas lunch. The passing of Queen Elizabeth 2nd created additional challenges such as an additional service the day after the event, ably presided

over by Rosie Ward at very short notice. Bells were rung and flags were raised and lowered according to the prescribed protocol. A memorial service and a public showing of the funeral in the Church were other successful occasions. The events all went off without a hitch which was quite inspirational considering that everyone involved was a volunteer.

What challenges did we face? My churchwarden colleague resigned in November 2022 leaving a significant gap to fill. I chose to appoint two Assistant Churchwardens, Maureen Harris and Malcolm Ward to work with me which has worked extremely well. The second challenge was in February when our organist of nearly 25 years retired from his duties as organist at St. Thomas'. We are currently relying on temporary help from Birgit Beil as our organist and Phil Daish - Handy as choir leader. Consultation with the diocese of Winchester has revealed that it would be extremely unwise of us to attempt to appoint a replacement organist during the vacancy period so we will be relying on temporary resources until our new Vicar arrives. Our advertisement for a new Vicar will be published for at least 4 weeks, starting at the beginning of March. Hopefully the post will be filled quickly. Thank you to all who have contributed so much to the Parish during what has been a productive and challenging year.

Chris Stroud (Churchwarden)

Worship Services.

The church resumed its normal pattern of services at the beginning of the year after the disruption of the pandemic. The choir at first sang in the gallery at the 9:15 service but returned to the choir stalls during the year. The 9:15 service continued to be streamed during the year either with pictures and sound or latterly with sound only.

The number of worshippers gradually increased during the year but are not yet at pre-covid levels (see below).

Average Attendance Oct/Nov/Dec	2019	2022
8:00 Book of Common Prayer Communion	20	19
9:15 BCP Choral Communion	102	70
11:00 Life and Soul Informal Service	53	36

Pastoral Report

The gradual return of the congregation following the Covid 19 pandemic has restored the supportive direct contact between the congregation, as well as enabling more relaxed introductions to new members.

There is an acknowledged 'Pastoral Lead' though as yet no formal pastoral team. Well-formed links between church members are largely maintained by a network of the six home groups, the weekly Vistas Café, or other teams involved with e.g. building structure, or provision of parish outreach activities e.g. 'Parents and Toddlers' or 'Monday Lunches'.

Pastoral support to those either unwell or bereaved is also maintained by 'phone contact or occasional visits. Other pastoral support includes visits to the local hospital (chaplain aware) and two private homes, combined with a Holy Communion - one is at the request of a local GP surgery. A small Home Communion team visits three other nursing homes.

Maureen Harris

Prayer and Prayer Ministry Report: A Praying Community

Morning Prayer is a joint prayer meeting with St Marks, Pennington on Zoom. It has continued this last year with its regular schedule of Monday to Friday and is led by several regular members.

Prayers for the Work of the Parish follow our custom of regular meetings in church on Saturday mornings. It is a thirty minute time of prayer for local events, and for people in-need within the parish.

The **Prayer Tree at the Christmas Tree Festival** was decorated with a great many individual prayers, which were added by visitors, during the Festival.

The Ignatian Spirituality meditation group **TakeTime Together** continued post 2021 and ran from January to September'22 led by Jane Nicholson and Rina Miles. The Ignatian group provided an opportunity for participants to be still and focus on God through a guided meditation on a Bible story. The group ceased meeting in September '22 because of other activities. It had proved to be a very helpful time up until then, equipping group members with new skills in meditation.

The work of our **Parish Prayer Chain** has continued, many requests were received for specific concerns and situations to be held in our prayers. Prayer continues to underpin all of our work and mission in the Parish.

Malcolm Ward

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Parish Mission Action Plan (pMAP)

Early in the year, the 2019 pMAP was discussed at PCC, and it was agreed that the 3rd objective should be divided into two, making the revised objectives:

1. To build our links with younger people
2. To tell the Christian story through our land and buildings
3. To help people to discover their gifts and vocations
4. a) To care for our church community (headed by Maureen Harris) and b) To ensure that the gifts and vocations area is rewritten to focus making the most of the vacancy.

A new team was formed in June 2022 to progress ***Objective 1*****:** It has 7 members and has met 5 times. Following a review session with the Messy Church Volunteer Team it decided, with support from Julia Morris, Head Teacher, to pilot a relocation of Messy Church services to Lymington Infants School in a midweek after-school slot, starting in January 2023.
The team has also begun to address the question of how friendly our church-based services are to children and those not used to attending church. It looks forward to sharing proposals with a new incumbent when in place. At that point, it also hopes that the appointment of a specialist worker to facilitate engagement of young people and families can be progressed and it is currently working on the drafting of a job description.
The team has availed itself of development opportunities in the children and family work field including Deanery networking sessions. Andy Clapper has completed the BCM course on Children and Youth Ministry. The Team has also contacted other Lymington churches and registered interest in collaborative working on children and family ministry.

The original steps agreed for ***Objective 2*** had mostly been achieved, but this remained on the pMAP for new plans when we have a new incumbent.

Objective 3**:** While 'gifts and vocations' were not handled as envisaged, the goal of seeing 'more people volunteering for kingdom roles in and outside the life of the church' was largely achieved

during the year. We have had an extraordinary number of contributions from all sorts of people as needs have arisen.

Objective 4 aimed to ensure that every member would feel connected to and cared for by the church community. This would be particularly important during the vacancy. Maureen has ensured that absences were noted and followed up, people in need were visited, and newcomers welcomed (see Pastoral report). A small group is being convened to continue working on this objective into 2023.

Rosie Ward, Andrew Clapper, Maureen Harris.

Choir Report

It was business as usual for St Thomas' Choir in 2022, with the restrictions placed on singing in the previous two years fully lifted.

The choir provided music for the weekly 9.15am Eucharists and regular Choral Evensongs – including joining the choir of St John's Boldre for their Patronal Festival Evensong in June. Choristers also attended the Royal School of Church Music Festival at Winchester Cathedral in October, at which we were very proud to see our youngest member, Magdalena Beil Harvey, presented with her Gold Award – the top chorister medal awarded by the RSCM.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Fern Daish-Handy for all her help with directing the choir.

Martin Penrose

The Worship Band continues to provide music to lead the worship at Life and Soul every Sunday and, in its alter ego, for the monthly Messy Church services. It flexes its music with the various themes through the year and, of course, its songs for Messy Church are about fun and participation. One of its highlights in 2022 was kicking off the Woodside Jubilee Concert in June providing the music for an al fresco Life & Soul service. It also enjoyed sharing the music with the choir at the joint service to say Goodbye to Peter and Sarah Salisbury though we were very sad to lose them as accomplished members of the Band.

Annette Cox has now taken over the percussion and is providing the invaluable, and often challenging, role of keeping us all in time! We are also lucky in having Natalia Storta re-join us with her violin for occasional events.

Anyone with musical aptitude and a Christian faith is welcome to audition for the band.

Andy Clapper

Messy Church

As with all things in the church, 2022 was a year of transition for Messy Church. Sarah Salisbury had taken over the coordinator responsibility from Penni Jolly in January but Sarah herself led her last Messy Church in July. To keep things going Andy Clapper then took on the interim coordinator role sharing the leadership task with Jonathan Cook and David Wansey. Whilst throughout the year, the sessions had remained Jesus-centred and joyous, with the usual songs stories, craft activities and refreshments, attendance numbers had not recovered since the Covid lockdown, although an Easter Saturday event brought in a number of visiting families to swell the numbers.

In reviewing its activity as part of the PMAP children and families objective the Messy Church team decided it needed to take itself to where the children and families are and at a time suitable to them. So in November it began to plan its move from January 2023 to Lymington Infants School taking up the kind invitation of its Headteacher, Julia Morris. How that went is a matter for next year's Report!

Andy Clapper

Deanery Synod.

The Lyndhurst Deanery Synod is a gathering in which we hear about the ways other churches in our area are tackling the same issues that we face here in Lymington, working together for the common good in the eastern half of the New Forest area. St Thomas Church has four representatives on the Deanery Synod.

House Group Report

St Thomas' Sunday worship and teaching is supported and strengthened by House (Home) Group study. We currently have six groups comprising a total of 44 members. Five of the groups meet weekly and one fortnightly, each group providing a mutually supportive and sharing environment for its members.

Study material for the House (Home) Groups is produced on a rota basis by Revd William Cummins, Chris Stroud and Trish Bishop, and Malcolm Ward

Some comments from a couple of the groups:

- Our House group has been following the House Group notes. In the summer we all got together for afternoon tea, the plan was for tea in the garden but the weather wasn't kind. At the end of our meetings our prayers are usually for members of the parish who are unwell etc.
- Ours is a new group started last September with seven members, but sadly Derek Mills is no longer with us. The group is going well with friendly members, good attendance, and a lot of interest in the studies. We have used the house group notes each week and started to pray for each other's needs as well as general topics.

If you, or someone you know, would like to join a House (Home) Group, please make contact and we'll put you in touch.

*Malcolm Ward***.**

Safeguarding.

The PCC are responsible for Safeguarding within the Parish and receive a report on it at every PCC meeting. In 2022, they approved the appointment of a new Safeguarding team, with Jonathan Cook as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Barbara Payne taking the lead with all DBS clearances. The team's focus in 2022 was twofold. Firstly, they carried out a full audit of the three main areas of safeguarding namely DBS clearances, training and policies. Secondly, following on from this, they sought to bring all the records, practices and processes up to date. Individuals have been approached to ensure they hold the correct DBS clearances; the PCC has approved a number of revised Safeguarding policies; and lots of people who so generously give of their time and volunteer to help with church activities have completed the requisite on-line safeguarding courses. This has helped to raise the importance of Safeguarding in our church community. It is, though, an on-going process with much still to be done to ensure the standards required by the Church of England are met.

Jonathan Cook

Health and Safety.

Health and Safety Policy

The Health & Safety policy of St Thomas' church and the chapel at All Saints, Woodside, is to provide

and maintain as far as is reasonably practicable, healthy, and safe working conditions, equipment, and systems of work for all our employees and voluntary helpers, and to provide such information as they need for this purpose, which may include supervision and training.
We also endeavour to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all parishioners, visitors, contractors, and others who may enter the churches, halls, churchyards, grounds, and associated buildings.
The policy is reviewed at regular intervals by the Incumbent and the Churchwardens, aided by the Health & Safety Officer (HSO) and the Parochial Church Council.
A copy of the H&S Document is available in the St Thomas' church office for reference.

Risk Assessments
Risk assessments are usually undertaken by the HSO for activities that take place in St Thomas' Church and Church Hall, or in All Saints Chapel and Quiet Garden; these may be delegated to an alternate competent person if appropriate. Risk assessments for regular activities e.g., worship and Vistas café, are undertaken regularly and monitored for any necessary updates or changes. Risk assessments for less frequent activities e.g., the annual Remembrance Sunday service, concerts and events run by the Friends of St Thomas' Church and other groups, are undertaken or reviewed and updated as appropriate before each event. Checks to confirm the safety and comfort of all aspects of St Thomas' church buildings e.g., fire hazards, trip hazards, and heating and lighting, are managed by the HSO on a regular basis and reported to the PCC

Public Liability Insurance
Public Liability Insurance is in place at both St Thomas and All Saints Churches to protect staff, volunteer workers and members of the public during activities for which the church is responsible, e.g., acts of worship and meetings. It is a requirement for all groups wishing to hire St Thomas Church or the Church Hall that they have their own Public Liability Insurance to cover the activity for which they are responsible. Applications to hire the church and/or the church hall are validated by the Church Administrator to confirm that the applicant has this in place. The Certificate of Public Liability insurance held by 'Tops' nursery school who lease All Saints Church and its Church Hall and grounds, is validated annually by the PCC member on the All Saints Management Committee.

Health and Safety in 2022
During 2022 restrictions concerning the Corona-19 virus were relaxed by the government but the church continues to offer masks, hand sanitiser and social distancing for those who continue to consider themselves at risk and respects their wishes.
Should further incidents of possible contagion, such as Covid-19 or major outbreaks of influenza occur, the church will abide by the advice and restrictions demanded by national government and local authorities. In such circumstances the Churchwardens and HSO will implement necessary actions and inform the congregation and visitors via appropriate notices and the church web-site.

Clive Rigden.

Eco Church

Following our Gold Eco Church award in 2021, we continued in 2022 to ensure that we go green in every aspect of church life. Annette Cox collected all the material to measure the church's complete carbon footprint, to provide comparison for future years, and we added an 'eco' clause to the Hall letting form. We held two environment-themed services and at harvest explored food issues. In November we hosted Transition Lymington's home energy table, we prayed for COP27, and for Christmas organised another corporate Christmas card.

An important part of our role as a 'Gold' church is spreading the word and encouraging other churches. Our 'story' was made into a 4-minute presentation for the church website. Rosie Ward and Maureen Harris spoke about Eco Church at a u3a meeting, and Rosie preached at the URC and St Saviour's Brockenhurst.
Outside, we did the Big Garden Birdwatch in January, Simon Quincey recorded butterflies over the summer, and Nigel Mussett kept the flora list up to date. The churchyard mowing schedule was revised, and volunteers Phil and Andrew spent many hours strimming the 'long grass' area. New fritillary bulbs were planted and yellow rattle sown. Many thanks to all involved!

Rosie Ward.

Community Action, Fellowship and Mutual Support

Since Covid the Church fellowship has not been able to do much as many people are still reluctant to gather for social events. However the catering at The Blessing and Handover of All Saints Church and at the retirement celebration for Peter Salisbury were successfully organised by a committee of parishioners. In December they organised a very enjoyable Christmas Celebration lunch at Lanes.

Good Samaritans

2022 has been an active year for the Good Samaritans with more help being needed during the winter months. Contact was made with the new team of homelessness workers at NFDC and they have been able to rehouse some of our " customers ".
We have continued to work with those who prefer living rough, allowing them use of some electricity in return for helping move tables and chairs at Monday lunch . One being so grateful for the help we have given him that he still comes to help, even though he has now been housed.
We have also been able to help one couple return to their homeland after being abandoned in this country .
We feel that there is still a need for the group to continue but we are short of people on the ground so would eagerly welcome more if they have the calling to do this work

David Fenton and Sylvia Pepin

Mission Links.

In 2022 the Church made gifts to the Leprosy Mission, the Mission to Seafarers, Restored Lives and Mission Aviation Fellowship. We enjoyed visits to Sunday services from representatives of the Leprosy Mission, the Mission to Seafarers and Mission Aviation Fellowship who all gave inspiring talks about the work of their charity. The church also donated money to Ukraine via the national appeal.

Traidcraft

We've continued with the pattern of stalls on the 1st Thursday of the month, at Vistas Café, and in church on the 3rd Sunday of the month. It's been a real pleasure serving and chatting to our customers and we are very grateful for your continued support. The total value of sales for 2022 was £5675, an increase of 24% on 2021 which is a really pleasing result.
Our focus is not so much on making a profit (currently just under 10 %) but rather that we are providing a market for the various producers to sell their goods. After all the clue is in the name 'Fairtrade'. Fair because the producers get a good price for their goods (and a premium on top to support their local community) and Trade because without our purchases their marketing options would be more limited.
After our running costs have been met, we aim to send donations to Transform Trade (re-branded from Traidcraft Exchange) as and when we can. Transform Trade is the charity that works to support and develop farmers, producers and artisans in third world countries. This work is even more vital at the moment as small third world farmers are more impacted by climate change.

We also took the stall to a clothes swap event at the Community Centre organised by the Lymington Transition group and also to Wallhampton School to support their day focussing on ECO and Sustainability issues.

Brian & Annette Cox.

Toddler Group

Whilst it has not yet returned to its pre-Covid attendance numbers, St Thomas Toddlers Group continues to provide a valuable outreach from the church to the community. Every Tuesday morning, during school terms, we welcome on average 12 children plus carers in the church hall. There are toys, play equipment, craft activities and singing for the children and opportunities for carers to socialise over a tea or coffee: and a warm space in the winter months!
We remain very grateful for the contributions of our volunteers working in the kitchen and with the carers and children.
If you are interested in joining the team, or know someone who is, please phone Barbara Clapper on 01590 678193. We have a rota so your commitment could be weekly, monthly or as and when convenient to you.

Barbara Clapper

Lymington Infants CE (Aided) School

The majority of the Governors at the Infants School are Foundation Governors who are appointed through the PCC and meet regularly at Governors' meetings. They support the school in fulfilling its Christian values of Love, Courage and Respect. It has been a great pleasure to see the children in church during the year for the Mothers' Day Service, the Nativity Play and for the Christingle Service. The children and teachers said a fond farewell to Peter Salisbury at the end of the Summer Term and they have missed his weekly Worship Visits. However, Worship in the Autumn term has continued very successfully and has been led by the Headteacher and staff and also by members of local churches.

Mary Hill.

New Forest Basics Bank The church has continued to support the New Forest Basics Bank and the congregation is kept up to date with the service that the Bank provides. Both the Church and the Infants School donated items to the NFBB at their Harvest Services.

Vistas Café

Vistas continued to open every Thursday in the Church Hall from 10am until 12 noon. Building on our experiences in 2021, we kept table service and four volunteers for each session. With preparation and clearing up this does need quite a lot of commitment, and I am grateful to all our volunteers for this and especially to our regular volunteers who get out tables and chairs on a Wednesday evening. At times we have been quite stretched with illness or other problems.
There is a large table of Stitchers and Knitters each week and a craft group from the WI meets in the Bethune Room fortnightly. Before Christmas they met each week producing many wonderful decorations for the Christmas Tree festival. During the year we have had many guests to our café who enjoy coffee and cheese scones, flapjacks or homemade cakes. Thank you too, to all those expert bakers. Brian and Annette Cox have their Fairtrade stall on the first Thursday in the month, the magazine distributors have also met twice during the year and the Missions to Seafarers in October for Woolly hat day.
We were very sad to hear of Jenny Stott's death in May. It was her idea to start the Vistas Café just over 10 years ago. She worked very hard to establish the café and to keep it going. She would turn her hand to anything. We owe her a great deal. We gave £500 to Oakhaven in her memory.

The Inspectors paid us a visit in June and looked carefully at our paperwork and asked some searching questions. We were very pleased to emerge with a 5 Star rating. Some suggestions were made, and we have responded to these. However we have to work hard to maintain our high standard.
We now pay our financial proceeds into the PCC account, some of which goes to the Church and some to the Hall. In December 2022 we were able to give £500 to our local Basics Bank.
We are so glad that we can continue to open each week and provide a place for happy fellowship and fruitful activity. We are most grateful to our band of volunteers without whom we could not open.

Anne Keir.

Monday Lunch Club

Monday Lunch Club continues to thrive, and the number of guests has been steadily increasing since lockdown We have welcomed lovely new members and are nearly at full capacity. We have also welcomed new regular volunteers to help. There is a fantastic community feeling with those involved in both cooking and serving with clearing up afterwards.
The food continues to be seasonal and locally sourced. We also use Fairtrade products. We have managed to keep the cost of the meal at £5 as we know that the rise in the cost of living has been a worry for some of the lunch guests.
We provide a hot lunch, pudding and tea/coffee each Monday with a few special occasion lunches including one at Christmas and one at Easter.
It is a wonderful and much needed service for the people of Lymington and I am very honoured to be part of it.

Mikki Willford.

Communications

Social Media Andy Clapper has become Social Media Coordinator, a role required by the Use of Social Media Policy as approved by the PCC as part of its Safeguarding Action Plan. Following Maureen Penrose's departure he has also taken on the administration of the church's Facebook page and has been posting regularly to try and develop its role as an effective part of the church's communications system.

Parish News
The magazine has continued to play its part in providing both a permanent record of much that goes on at St Thomas' and a platform for publishing items of a general as well as of a devotional nature. We have been able to include both occasional features and long-running series on specific subjects, all submitted by a wide range of talented authors. The readership has remained steady throughout the year and, thanks in no small measure to our generous advertisers, our income has once again managed to cover the expenses involved in producing a monthly magazine in full colour.

Nigel Mussett

The Weekly News Sheet, compiled by Parish Secretary Susie Napleton, is the most comprehensive, vital communication tool available to the Church community. Thank you Suzie for this accurate source of information covering everything we do from our regular Church services and all our other activities.
The notice boards inside the narthex display posters advertising many different non church events. These are arranged, kept tidy and topical by Rina Miles. The diversity of opportunity including new clubs to join, outings and concerts to attend, illustrates so much about our busy town.

Daphne Johnston

Friends of St Thomas Church.

Reg Charity No: 1166743.

The Friends of St Thomas Church continue to support the PCC with the costs of repair and maintenance of the buildings and of the immediate surroundings. The sum of 20,000 pounds was donated towards the repairs to the west end of the church.

The Christmas Tree Festival in December is the main Friends fund raising event. This year was the most successful to date. The church contained 70 decorated trees, a café facility and a sales table of pre-loved Christmas items. Throughout every day local musicians entertained the many hundreds of visitors and there were two formal evening concerts. An Artisan market in the church hall on the Saturday added a further dimension and diversity, demonstrating inclusive use of the entire footprint of the church and illustrating the wide community involvement of the event.

Daphne Johnston.

Solent Music Festival.

The tenth Solent Music Festival was held in St Thomas Church in September. The opening concert was scheduled for the same day as the state funeral of HRH Queen Elizabeth. The period of national mourning was ending at 7pm so it was deemed appropriate for the concert to go ahead with reference made to the solemnity and significance of the day.

The Festival programme was diverse and original featuring six concerts from the Baroque to Jazz, each attracting a wide audience from our local community and from further afield. Such is the reputation of the festival that it has become a feature of the year for many people.

Highlights this season included the performances from Red Priest, from international accordionist Djordie Gajic, and from pianist Sam Haywood. The most ambitious concert to date was on Saturday evening and featured the SMF orchestra performing two well-known pieces by Beethoven. Under the baton of conductor Rebecca Tong and with Sam Haywood, the full house audience enjoyed the Piano Concerto No 5, The Emperor, followed by the Symphony No 7. The excitement during the final bars of the symphony, when the entire wind section stood to play, (to the surprise of the conductor), and the standing ovation from the audience at the end of the concert was testament to the truly thrilling performance.

The Festival Directors and Trustees are grateful to the Church Wardens and PCC for their generous agreement for the use of St Thomas Church.

Further details of the 2023 festival, to be held at the end of May, can be found at www.solentmusicfestival.com

Daphne Johnston

Buildings and Land.

The gradual recovery in use of our buildings through 2022 has been welcome and we are on track to complete all the significant works that were recommended items in our November 2018 Quinquennial report. The next Quinquennial inspection will be in autumn 2023 and will indicate our major work requirements for the period 2023 to 2028.

Our primary objective was the completion of the West End works to the roof, walls and guttering. This inevitably disclosed some unexpected additional items, including a bees' nest in the West End wall, but all is now complete, and the bees are happy.

Our Tower & Clock works are currently in the planning stage and should start in the summer. That will complete the major project work before the next Quinquennial.

The Energy price increases led to a major review of energy use in the church and hall. We had already completed a major replacement of most of our lighting with LED equipment some time ago that assisted the Eco Church award. We have now identified the few remaining non-energy efficient lighting and control systems for replacement.

In addition, we are working on a more flexible heating control system to minimise our energy costs.

We have also carried out a survey with our architect of all problems that are caused by damp and water ingress with the intention of eliminating or minimising the damage.
On completion of the Tower and Clock works the next major project will focus on the West End.
I would like to thank the Friends of St Thomas' for their financial support to help us maintain and improve the fabric of the church and hall.

All Saints, Woodside

The completion of Phase 1 of the TOPS Day Nursery works at the end of 2021 means that most of the work at All Saints is now mainly normal maintenance.
Phase 2 which includes additional work in the grounds and renewal of the Quiet Garden will probably start later in 2023 as economic conditions allow.

Michael Standage

The Flower Guild.

Flowers in the church are arranged by a group of parishioners and friends on a weekly rota. Special events like Easter, Harvest and Christmas are celebrated with additional arrangements while the periods of Lent and Advent are marked by green arrangements without flowers.

Bells and Flags.

Some small repairs were needed to the hinges on the top hatch leading to the roof to ensure a waterproof seal. The bells were silent during lockdown but Larry Stace, the Tower Captain, and his team of bellringers started ringing again in the autumn. Practice has resumed on Wednesdays with District Doubles practice night on the second Wednesday of each month. In part to signal that our church had re-opened for worship, we now fly a pennant with diocesan crest from the flagpole on the Tower when the diocesan flag (for religious holidays), the Union Jack (for national holidays) and the flags for our four national saints are not in use.

Allan Hill

St Thomas Church Lymington Finance Report 2022

Finance Committee

St Thomas' Church Finance Committee members manage our church finances week by week on behalf of the PCC, meeting a minimum of six times a year. Our aim is to use our finances as effectively as possible to further the Christian work of our church.
I am grateful to our committee members Jonathan Cook, Bill Gulland, Judy Martin (bookkeeper), Chris Stroud and Malcolm Ward, also to Suzie Napleton and John Nivison along with those who make up the weekly counting teams organised by Peta Walmisley. All play important roles.

Balance Sheet

At the end of 2022 the financial assets controlled by the PCC totalled £580,831.

Income

During the year our total income was £326,614 of which the Parish Giving Scheme played a most important part; total PGS donations were £93,507 on which Gift Aid to the value of £21,993 was claimed. In addition to our regular income we were most grateful to receive significant legacies and donations.
Our Sunday and midweek collections amounted to £7,828 which is some £2,000 higher than the previous year, probably reflecting an increase in people returning after the pandemic. Further to

this, donations totalling £2,626 before Gift Aid were received via the card reader at the back of the church. Some of these donations were made at services, others by visitors to the church.
I sincerely thank all of you who have financially supported St Thomas' Church and continue to do so. Without you we would not exist.

Expenditure
During the year our expenditure totalled £337,154. Included in this figure is our regular expenditure, the costs of major works carried out at the east end of St Thomas' Church, at All Saints' Church, and the charitable donations we made.

During the year
The Finance Committee continued with all its routine duties and provided regular updates to the PCC, seeking its formal approval of all major decisions.
We continued to close and merge existing HSBC bank accounts and promoted the use of bank transfers rather than cheques, in order to reduce bank fees. With the closure of our local branch, we used the Post Office for depositing cash and cheques.
We made donations totalling £21,400 to various charities including DEC Ukraine, Mission to Seafarers, Restored Lives, The Leprosy Mission, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Royal British Legion, The Children's Society, Médecins Sans Frontières, and, by the Vistas team, to Oakhaven Hospice and the New Forest Basics Bank.

Overview of the year
We finished the year with an overall deficit £10,540. However, during the year we received exceptional income totalling £90,082 and made exceptional expenditure totalling £99,251, together resulting in a deficit of £9,169 which pretty much accounts for our overall deficit. Thus our regular income and regular expenditure very nearly balanced. We look back with a sense of joy at the many ways in which, as a Christian church, we have been able to continue onwards together. The commitment and generosity evident at St Thomas' is a source of confidence.

Looking Ahead
We intend to maintain our charitable donations to good causes.
Our project to repair and maintain the high level masonry and roofs of St Thomas' Church building continues. We will expect to be funding work on the tower and west end, in order to keep them in good repair and reduce the damp which is evident in the building. Similar maintenance at All Saint's Church is also due. The PCC has the means to meet the costs of this expensive, necessary work and intends to address as much of it as is possible during the coming year.

Reserves Policy
The PCC reserves policy states:

- *It is the policy of the PCC to hold an Operational Reserve to cover routine expenditure for a period of three months.* Currently £60,000
- *In addition, the PCC has designated a Buildings Reserve to meet unplanned expenditure on the fabric of our buildings, recognising that the PCC is responsible for maintaining three Grade II listed historic buildings: St Thomas Church, All Saints Church, and All Saints Hall.* Currently £200,000.

Andy Payne

APPENDIX 1 - CORE VALUES.

Guided and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, we are part of the Christian Community in Lymington and District who are called to love God and all people. Therefore we:

1. Pray and Worship. Our worship:
   - Includes a variety of styles and traditions.
   - Is relevant to the people and issues of today Attracts and welcomes newcomers and visitors.
   - Has something for all ages.
   - Includes bible-based preaching.
   - Encourages spiritual growth within our congregations.

2. Grow as disciples of Christ. Every person is called to follow Christ and be a good steward of God's creation. We offer support in this through:
   - Teaching and nurture Learning from one another.
   - Prayer and study groups for all ages Identifying and training successors for all roles.
   - Identifying and developing quality leadership; both lay and ordained.

3 Are committed to one another. Because of this we offer:
   - Mutual support and encouragement.
   - A positive, generous and forgiving attitude Opportunities to learn from one another.
   - An attractive and welcoming community.

4 Reach out and share our faith. To do this we:
   - Talk about our faith (gossip the good news) with all ages Support worldwide missionary activities.
   - Invite people to learn about the Christian faith (e.g. Alpha and Lent Course) Respect and value people's individuality.

5 Are here to serve others, both locally and globally. We do this:
   - By using our gifts in leadership and service in both voluntary and paid work.
   - By supporting those in need.
   - By supporting external organisations.
   - By challenging injustice and inequality of opportunity for all people regardless of social or cultural issues.

6 Value our Anglican inheritance. In particular we value:
   - Our tradition of critical thinking.
   - The Parish system.
   - The scriptural basis for matters of faith.
   - Our adaptability to our cultural context.

ST THOMAS | ALL SAINTS
LYMINGTON

THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS, LYMINGTON WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

2022 REPORT and ACCOUNTS for the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday March 29th, 2023

7:30pm

St Thomas' Church

Registered Charity Number 1128119

AGENDA

PRAYERS
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

1. Election of Churchwardens for 2023-2024.[1]

   All persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll of this Parish and all persons resident in the Parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence may participate in this election.

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parochial Church Council.
2. Approval of 2022 Minutes.
3. Election of Representatives to the Deanery Synod
4. Election of Parochial Church Council members
5. Consideration of:
   a) The Electoral Roll.
   b) The Annual Report of the Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the Parish generally.
   c) Finance[3]:
      I. Examined accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2022.
      II. Statement of the funds and property of the PCC.
      III. To appoint independent examiners.
   d) Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches.
   e) Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
   f) Other Reports.
6. Any other business of Parochial or general interest to be submitted in writing one week in advance of the APCM to the PCC Secretary via e-mail to the Secretary at marychill45@gmail.com

Mary Hill
Honorary Secretary, Lymington PCC.

[1] In accordance with the Churchwardens' Measure 2001.

[2] In accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020.

[3] Item 4c is presented in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, LYMINGTON
WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022.

Aims and Purposes.

The St Thomas' with All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for cooperation with the incumbent, the Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury (until July 3rd), in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical as set out in the Core Values (see Appendix 1). The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Church of St Thomas and the Chapel of Ease of All Saints.

Administrative Information.

The Parish of St Thomas, with All Saints, is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Parish Office, St Thomas' Church, St Thomas Street, Lymington, SO41 9ND. Telephone: 01590 676194.
e-mail: office@lymingtonchurch.org website: www.lymingtonchurch.org

Personnel.

Incumbent:	The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury (until July 3rd.)
Churchwardens:	Chris Stroud, Maureen Penrose.
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus:	Malcolm Ward.
Parish Administrator:	Gillian Maunder/Suzie Napleton.
Organist:	Martin Penrose.
Verger, Sacristan-St Thomas':	Helen Pocklington
Treasurer:	Andrew Payne.
Inspecting Architect:	Ryan Bunce of Ryan Bunce & Co, 102 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZP.
Independent Examiner:	Hope Jones, 73 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZA.

PCC Members who served from the APCM 2022 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent	The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury (Chairman) until July3rd 2022
Churchwardens	Chris Stroud (Vice-Chairman), Maureen Penrose (Elected Ex Officio),
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus	Malcolm Ward.
Deanery Synod Representatives:	
To APCM 2023	Daphne Johnston, Sylvia Pepin, Celia Swan, Michael Standage.

Elected Members:

To APCM 2023	Bronwen Bridges, Brian Cox, David Wansey.
To APCM 2024	Pat Cashin, Jeremy Vines, Peta Walmisley.
To APCM 2025	Maureen Harris, David Hanks, Andrew Clapper.

The Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll stands at 244.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) requires "the Minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish" and requires the PCC to "co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The Church of England (Worship and Doctrine) Measure 1974 requires the minister and PCC to agree jointly any decisions on which forms of service are to be used in any church in the Parish.

The PCC meets six times per year. Normally meetings are held in St Thomas' Church. Agendas and Minutes of PCC meetings are made available in the Parish church and on the church website.

The Standing Committee of the PCC conducts the business of the PCC between meetings, is answerable to the PCC and submits to it proposals in connection with issues of Parish-wide significance. The *ex-officio* members in 2022 were the Vicar (Chairman), Churchwardens and two elected members (Andrew Payne and Michael Standage).

Other members who took responsibility in 2022 for promoting the six Core Values (see Appendix 1) were as follows:

- Leadership and Co-ordination: The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury/ Chris Stroud/ Maureen Penrose.
- Worship Services: The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury/ Chris Stroud.
- Prayer: Sarah Salisbury/Malcolm Ward.
- Community Action: David Fenton and Sylvia Pepin.
- Discipleship and Learning: Linda Lee.
- Fellowship and Mutual Support: Sarah Bunce and Pauline Lightbody.
- Communications: Daphne Johnston and Nigel Mussett.
- Buildings, Land and Equipment: Bill Gulland, Jeremy Vines, Michael Standage.
- Finance: Andrew Payne.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Andrew Payne, prepares and monitors the annual budget and reports directly to the PCC.
The Fabric Committee, chaired by Michael Standage provides support and guidance to the PCC on the appropriate maintenance and management of the church premises and grounds.
The Vicar and Churchwardens are *ex-officio* **Trustees of Lymington C of E Infant School** and of two Trusts associated with the Parish as follows:
Fulford & Burrard Trust, which supports the Infant School and youth more generally (subject to specific criteria).
Parish Hall Trust, which supports the St Thomas site generally.
Sub-committees manage the St Thomas' Church Hall, mission giving and social events. All meet as required and report directly to the PCC or to the Standing Committee as appropriate.
The Friends of St Thomas Church have continued to promote and support the restoration, preservation, repair and beautification of the building and surrounds of the church and church hall.

Risk Management.

Risk Management in respect of St Thomas Church (STC) and Church Hall (STH) and curtilage and All Saints Church (ASC) and Hall (ASH), and curtilage.[4]

Risk	Probability	Impact	Management Action
An incident requiring Emergency Evacuation	Low	Medium/High	Evacuation procedure published; announcement of procedure when building(s) full on non-routine occasions.
Fire in Church including Sacristy/Vestry	Low	High	Fire Risk Assessments carried out for both churches. Equipment provided; standing instructions issued/reissued to clergy and staff. Fire extinguisher training undertaken.
Fire in Church Halls	Low	Medium/High	Fire Risk Assessments carried out. Equipment provided; standing instructions issued/reissued to clergy and staff.
Fire in Boiler Rooms	Low	High	Fire Risk Assessment carried out. Flammable gas detector/alarm installed in STC boiler room. Equipment in hall - ASH.
Carbon Monoxide in Boiler Rooms	Low	High	Carbon Monoxide detector/alarm installed in STC boiler room.
Financial	Low	Low/Medium	Monthly bank statements; quarterly budgetary review by Finance Committee; cash collections counted by teams of at least two, with signed record.
Statutory & Legal including Health & Safety (H&S) and Safeguarding	Low	Medium/High	H&S checks; safeguarding policy of children and vulnerable adults in place. DBS checking. Disabled access reviewed. Risk assessment sheets prepared for use with individual events (e.g., Concerts and Festivals). H&S Policy revised.
Operational Damage/Loss of Property	Low	Medium/High	Continuous security video (STC) has remained a deterrent. Smartwater applied to precious metals.
Personal	Low	Low	Attention to H&S of workers; restricted child access to gallery STC; handrails; white edges to steps.
Reputational	ST Low	ST Low	Covered by above precautions.
	AS Low	AS Medium	Covered by above precautions. Regular meetings with the Tenant to ensure problems are addressed early.
Shortage of Volunteers	High	High	Combining resources across the parish, succession planning and prioritization of what we do.
Damage to the external fabric of ASC. Financial risk if Tops became unable to meet their commitment to pay rent or fail to look after the interior of the buildings.	Low	Low/Medium	Company vetted by ST and Church Commissioners. Management Committee set up to ensure regular dialog between PCC reps and Tops. Appropriate legal protections and insurance in place.
Pandemics & Epidemics	Low	High	Incidents of possible contagion, such as Covid-19 or major outbreaks of influenza. The church will act on advice and restrictions from government and relevant authorities

The regulations require risk to be assessed and managed. A risk is a contingency that would adversely affect the PCC's ability to pursue its objectives, as expressed in its statement of Core Values (see Appendix 1)

Objectives and Activities

The Parish Vocation is "to be the town church in Lymington, offering prayer and hospitality in Jesus' name". Mindful of this and the charity's object to promote in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, the PCC has developed this objective and has published a statement of Core Values (Appendix 1). Nine areas of ministry and roles have been identified and leaders appointed to further the realisation of these values. Accounting procedures are designed to identify clearly patterns of income and expenditure across the Parish, so that its resources may be deployed as appropriately as possible.

In their report below, the Trustees present a summary of the activities undertaken by the charity in the Parish for the benefit of the public. They confirm that they have had due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Many Parishioners who willingly undertake a wide variety of tasks with no thought of remuneration or other recognition, have contributed to the life of the Parish. The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC are enormously grateful to them all.

REPORTS

Leadership and Co-ordination, Incorporating Churchwarden's Report

The period prior to the 2022 APCM was marked by personnel considerations. The Vicar (Peter Salisbury) confirmed his intention to retire on the 3rd of July 2022. The two Churchwardens both indicated that they would be standing down at the forthcoming APCM and the Parish office administrator resigned after many years of dedicated service.

The office administrator position was filled by Suzie Napleton after several weeks of searching and activities in the Church office continue to flourish under Suzie's control, ably assisted by Colin (her dog!).

The Salisburys' retirement celebration was a great success with drinks and canapes in the Church following an extended service incorporating music from our 9:15 and 11:00 am services.

Mo Penrose and I volunteered to fill the Churchwarden posts prior to the 2022 APCM and this was formalised at Christchurch Priory in June.

A vacancy team was formed to work on all aspects of recruiting a new Vicar which initially involved working on our parish profile. Bishop Debbie met with the PCC at the end of September to discuss the vacancy and the recruitment process in general. The suggested collaboration between St. Thomas' and St. Marks' Pennington was reviewed, the PCC having already agreed in principle to explore collaboration possibilities but to leave further action until the new incumbent was recruited. The situation has not changed at the time of writing.

How are we bearing up during our vacancy period? Pretty well I would say. Services have been uninterrupted thanks to the stalwart efforts of our retired clergy. Our regular annual activities were all as successful as ever, namely, the Solent Music Festival, the Christmas tree festival (more trees than ever before!), our carol and crib services, our Christmas lunch. The passing of Queen Elizabeth 2nd created additional challenges such as an additional service the day after the event, ably presided

over by Rosie Ward at very short notice. Bells were rung and flags were raised and lowered according to the prescribed protocol. A memorial service and a public showing of the funeral in the Church were other successful occasions. The events all went off without a hitch which was quite inspirational considering that everyone involved was a volunteer.

What challenges did we face? My churchwarden colleague resigned in November 2022 leaving a significant gap to fill. I chose to appoint two Assistant Churchwardens, Maureen Harris and Malcolm Ward to work with me which has worked extremely well. The second challenge was in February when our organist of nearly 25 years retired from his duties as organist at St. Thomas'. We are currently relying on temporary help from Birgit Beil as our organist and Phil Daish - Handy as choir leader. Consultation with the diocese of Winchester has revealed that it would be extremely unwise of us to attempt to appoint a replacement organist during the vacancy period so we will be relying on temporary resources until our new Vicar arrives. Our advertisement for a new Vicar will be published for at least 4 weeks, starting at the beginning of March. Hopefully the post will be filled quickly. Thank you to all who have contributed so much to the Parish during what has been a productive and challenging year.

Chris Stroud (Churchwarden)

Worship Services.

The church resumed its normal pattern of services at the beginning of the year after the disruption of the pandemic. The choir at first sang in the gallery at the 9:15 service but returned to the choir stalls during the year. The 9:15 service continued to be streamed during the year either with pictures and sound or latterly with sound only.

The number of worshippers gradually increased during the year but are not yet at pre-covid levels (see below).

Average Attendance Oct/Nov/Dec	2019	2022
8:00 Book of Common Prayer Communion	20	19
9:15 BCP Choral Communion	102	70
11:00 Life and Soul Informal Service	53	36

Pastoral Report

The gradual return of the congregation following the Covid 19 pandemic has restored the supportive direct contact between the congregation, as well as enabling more relaxed introductions to new members.

There is an acknowledged 'Pastoral Lead' though as yet no formal pastoral team. Well-formed links between church members are largely maintained by a network of the six home groups, the weekly Vistas Café, or other teams involved with e.g. building structure, or provision of parish outreach activities e.g. 'Parents and Toddlers' or 'Monday Lunches'.

Pastoral support to those either unwell or bereaved is also maintained by 'phone contact or occasional visits. Other pastoral support includes visits to the local hospital (chaplain aware) and two private homes, combined with a Holy Communion - one is at the request of a local GP surgery. A small Home Communion team visits three other nursing homes.

Maureen Harris

Prayer and Prayer Ministry Report: A Praying Community

Morning Prayer is a joint prayer meeting with St Marks, Pennington on Zoom. It has continued this last year with its regular schedule of Monday to Friday and is led by several regular members.

Prayers for the Work of the Parish follow our custom of regular meetings in church on Saturday mornings. It is a thirty minute time of prayer for local events, and for people in-need within the parish.

The **Prayer Tree at the Christmas Tree Festival** was decorated with a great many individual prayers, which were added by visitors, during the Festival.

The Ignatian Spirituality meditation group **TakeTime Together** continued post 2021 and ran from January to September'22 led by Jane Nicholson and Rina Miles. The Ignatian group provided an opportunity for participants to be still and focus on God through a guided meditation on a Bible story. The group ceased meeting in September '22 because of other activities. It had proved to be a very helpful time up until then, equipping group members with new skills in meditation.

The work of our **Parish Prayer Chain** has continued, many requests were received for specific concerns and situations to be held in our prayers. Prayer continues to underpin all of our work and mission in the Parish.

Malcolm Ward

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Parish Mission Action Plan (pMAP)

Early in the year, the 2019 pMAP was discussed at PCC, and it was agreed that the 3rd objective should be divided into two, making the revised objectives:

1. To build our links with younger people
2. To tell the Christian story through our land and buildings
3. To help people to discover their gifts and vocations
4. a) To care for our church community (headed by Maureen Harris) and b) To ensure that the gifts and vocations area is rewritten to focus making the most of the vacancy.

A new team was formed in June 2022 to progress ***Objective 1*****:** It has 7 members and has met 5 times. Following a review session with the Messy Church Volunteer Team it decided, with support from Julia Morris, Head Teacher, to pilot a relocation of Messy Church services to Lymington Infants School in a midweek after-school slot, starting in January 2023.
The team has also begun to address the question of how friendly our church-based services are to children and those not used to attending church. It looks forward to sharing proposals with a new incumbent when in place. At that point, it also hopes that the appointment of a specialist worker to facilitate engagement of young people and families can be progressed and it is currently working on the drafting of a job description.
The team has availed itself of development opportunities in the children and family work field including Deanery networking sessions. Andy Clapper has completed the BCM course on Children and Youth Ministry. The Team has also contacted other Lymington churches and registered interest in collaborative working on children and family ministry.

The original steps agreed for ***Objective 2*** had mostly been achieved, but this remained on the pMAP for new plans when we have a new incumbent.

Objective 3**:** While 'gifts and vocations' were not handled as envisaged, the goal of seeing 'more people volunteering for kingdom roles in and outside the life of the church' was largely achieved

during the year. We have had an extraordinary number of contributions from all sorts of people as needs have arisen.

Objective 4 aimed to ensure that every member would feel connected to and cared for by the church community. This would be particularly important during the vacancy. Maureen has ensured that absences were noted and followed up, people in need were visited, and newcomers welcomed (see Pastoral report). A small group is being convened to continue working on this objective into 2023.

Rosie Ward, Andrew Clapper, Maureen Harris.

Choir Report

It was business as usual for St Thomas' Choir in 2022, with the restrictions placed on singing in the previous two years fully lifted.

The choir provided music for the weekly 9.15am Eucharists and regular Choral Evensongs – including joining the choir of St John's Boldre for their Patronal Festival Evensong in June. Choristers also attended the Royal School of Church Music Festival at Winchester Cathedral in October, at which we were very proud to see our youngest member, Magdalena Beil Harvey, presented with her Gold Award – the top chorister medal awarded by the RSCM.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Fern Daish-Handy for all her help with directing the choir.

Martin Penrose

The Worship Band continues to provide music to lead the worship at Life and Soul every Sunday and, in its alter ego, for the monthly Messy Church services. It flexes its music with the various themes through the year and, of course, its songs for Messy Church are about fun and participation. One of its highlights in 2022 was kicking off the Woodside Jubilee Concert in June providing the music for an al fresco Life & Soul service. It also enjoyed sharing the music with the choir at the joint service to say Goodbye to Peter and Sarah Salisbury though we were very sad to lose them as accomplished members of the Band.

Annette Cox has now taken over the percussion and is providing the invaluable, and often challenging, role of keeping us all in time! We are also lucky in having Natalia Storta re-join us with her violin for occasional events.

Anyone with musical aptitude and a Christian faith is welcome to audition for the band.

Andy Clapper

Messy Church

As with all things in the church, 2022 was a year of transition for Messy Church. Sarah Salisbury had taken over the coordinator responsibility from Penni Jolly in January but Sarah herself led her last Messy Church in July. To keep things going Andy Clapper then took on the interim coordinator role sharing the leadership task with Jonathan Cook and David Wansey. Whilst throughout the year, the sessions had remained Jesus-centred and joyous, with the usual songs stories, craft activities and refreshments, attendance numbers had not recovered since the Covid lockdown, although an Easter Saturday event brought in a number of visiting families to swell the numbers.

In reviewing its activity as part of the PMAP children and families objective the Messy Church team decided it needed to take itself to where the children and families are and at a time suitable to them. So in November it began to plan its move from January 2023 to Lymington Infants School taking up the kind invitation of its Headteacher, Julia Morris. How that went is a matter for next year's Report!

Andy Clapper

Deanery Synod.

The Lyndhurst Deanery Synod is a gathering in which we hear about the ways other churches in our area are tackling the same issues that we face here in Lymington, working together for the common good in the eastern half of the New Forest area. St Thomas Church has four representatives on the Deanery Synod.

House Group Report

St Thomas' Sunday worship and teaching is supported and strengthened by House (Home) Group study. We currently have six groups comprising a total of 44 members. Five of the groups meet weekly and one fortnightly, each group providing a mutually supportive and sharing environment for its members.

Study material for the House (Home) Groups is produced on a rota basis by Revd William Cummins, Chris Stroud and Trish Bishop, and Malcolm Ward

Some comments from a couple of the groups:

- Our House group has been following the House Group notes. In the summer we all got together for afternoon tea, the plan was for tea in the garden but the weather wasn't kind. At the end of our meetings our prayers are usually for members of the parish who are unwell etc.
- Ours is a new group started last September with seven members, but sadly Derek Mills is no longer with us. The group is going well with friendly members, good attendance, and a lot of interest in the studies. We have used the house group notes each week and started to pray for each other's needs as well as general topics.

If you, or someone you know, would like to join a House (Home) Group, please make contact and we'll put you in touch.

*Malcolm Ward***.**

Safeguarding.

The PCC are responsible for Safeguarding within the Parish and receive a report on it at every PCC meeting. In 2022, they approved the appointment of a new Safeguarding team, with Jonathan Cook as the Parish Safeguarding Officer and Barbara Payne taking the lead with all DBS clearances. The team's focus in 2022 was twofold. Firstly, they carried out a full audit of the three main areas of safeguarding namely DBS clearances, training and policies. Secondly, following on from this, they sought to bring all the records, practices and processes up to date. Individuals have been approached to ensure they hold the correct DBS clearances; the PCC has approved a number of revised Safeguarding policies; and lots of people who so generously give of their time and volunteer to help with church activities have completed the requisite on-line safeguarding courses. This has helped to raise the importance of Safeguarding in our church community. It is, though, an on-going process with much still to be done to ensure the standards required by the Church of England are met.

Jonathan Cook

Health and Safety.

Health and Safety Policy

The Health & Safety policy of St Thomas' church and the chapel at All Saints, Woodside, is to provide

and maintain as far as is reasonably practicable, healthy, and safe working conditions, equipment, and systems of work for all our employees and voluntary helpers, and to provide such information as they need for this purpose, which may include supervision and training.
We also endeavour to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all parishioners, visitors, contractors, and others who may enter the churches, halls, churchyards, grounds, and associated buildings.
The policy is reviewed at regular intervals by the Incumbent and the Churchwardens, aided by the Health & Safety Officer (HSO) and the Parochial Church Council.
A copy of the H&S Document is available in the St Thomas' church office for reference.

Risk Assessments
Risk assessments are usually undertaken by the HSO for activities that take place in St Thomas' Church and Church Hall, or in All Saints Chapel and Quiet Garden; these may be delegated to an alternate competent person if appropriate. Risk assessments for regular activities e.g., worship and Vistas café, are undertaken regularly and monitored for any necessary updates or changes. Risk assessments for less frequent activities e.g., the annual Remembrance Sunday service, concerts and events run by the Friends of St Thomas' Church and other groups, are undertaken or reviewed and updated as appropriate before each event. Checks to confirm the safety and comfort of all aspects of St Thomas' church buildings e.g., fire hazards, trip hazards, and heating and lighting, are managed by the HSO on a regular basis and reported to the PCC

Public Liability Insurance
Public Liability Insurance is in place at both St Thomas and All Saints Churches to protect staff, volunteer workers and members of the public during activities for which the church is responsible, e.g., acts of worship and meetings. It is a requirement for all groups wishing to hire St Thomas Church or the Church Hall that they have their own Public Liability Insurance to cover the activity for which they are responsible. Applications to hire the church and/or the church hall are validated by the Church Administrator to confirm that the applicant has this in place. The Certificate of Public Liability insurance held by 'Tops' nursery school who lease All Saints Church and its Church Hall and grounds, is validated annually by the PCC member on the All Saints Management Committee.

Health and Safety in 2022
During 2022 restrictions concerning the Corona-19 virus were relaxed by the government but the church continues to offer masks, hand sanitiser and social distancing for those who continue to consider themselves at risk and respects their wishes.
Should further incidents of possible contagion, such as Covid-19 or major outbreaks of influenza occur, the church will abide by the advice and restrictions demanded by national government and local authorities. In such circumstances the Churchwardens and HSO will implement necessary actions and inform the congregation and visitors via appropriate notices and the church web-site.

Clive Rigden.

Eco Church

Following our Gold Eco Church award in 2021, we continued in 2022 to ensure that we go green in every aspect of church life. Annette Cox collected all the material to measure the church's complete carbon footprint, to provide comparison for future years, and we added an 'eco' clause to the Hall letting form. We held two environment-themed services and at harvest explored food issues. In November we hosted Transition Lymington's home energy table, we prayed for COP27, and for Christmas organised another corporate Christmas card.

An important part of our role as a 'Gold' church is spreading the word and encouraging other churches. Our 'story' was made into a 4-minute presentation for the church website. Rosie Ward and Maureen Harris spoke about Eco Church at a u3a meeting, and Rosie preached at the URC and St Saviour's Brockenhurst.
Outside, we did the Big Garden Birdwatch in January, Simon Quincey recorded butterflies over the summer, and Nigel Mussett kept the flora list up to date. The churchyard mowing schedule was revised, and volunteers Phil and Andrew spent many hours strimming the 'long grass' area. New fritillary bulbs were planted and yellow rattle sown. Many thanks to all involved!

Rosie Ward.

Community Action, Fellowship and Mutual Support

Since Covid the Church fellowship has not been able to do much as many people are still reluctant to gather for social events. However the catering at The Blessing and Handover of All Saints Church and at the retirement celebration for Peter Salisbury were successfully organised by a committee of parishioners. In December they organised a very enjoyable Christmas Celebration lunch at Lanes.

Good Samaritans

2022 has been an active year for the Good Samaritans with more help being needed during the winter months. Contact was made with the new team of homelessness workers at NFDC and they have been able to rehouse some of our " customers ".
We have continued to work with those who prefer living rough, allowing them use of some electricity in return for helping move tables and chairs at Monday lunch . One being so grateful for the help we have given him that he still comes to help, even though he has now been housed.
We have also been able to help one couple return to their homeland after being abandoned in this country .
We feel that there is still a need for the group to continue but we are short of people on the ground so would eagerly welcome more if they have the calling to do this work

David Fenton and Sylvia Pepin

Mission Links.

In 2022 the Church made gifts to the Leprosy Mission, the Mission to Seafarers, Restored Lives and Mission Aviation Fellowship. We enjoyed visits to Sunday services from representatives of the Leprosy Mission, the Mission to Seafarers and Mission Aviation Fellowship who all gave inspiring talks about the work of their charity. The church also donated money to Ukraine via the national appeal.

Traidcraft

We've continued with the pattern of stalls on the 1st Thursday of the month, at Vistas Café, and in church on the 3rd Sunday of the month. It's been a real pleasure serving and chatting to our customers and we are very grateful for your continued support. The total value of sales for 2022 was £5675, an increase of 24% on 2021 which is a really pleasing result.
Our focus is not so much on making a profit (currently just under 10 %) but rather that we are providing a market for the various producers to sell their goods. After all the clue is in the name 'Fairtrade'. Fair because the producers get a good price for their goods (and a premium on top to support their local community) and Trade because without our purchases their marketing options would be more limited.
After our running costs have been met, we aim to send donations to Transform Trade (re-branded from Traidcraft Exchange) as and when we can. Transform Trade is the charity that works to support and develop farmers, producers and artisans in third world countries. This work is even more vital at the moment as small third world farmers are more impacted by climate change.

We also took the stall to a clothes swap event at the Community Centre organised by the Lymington Transition group and also to Wallhampton School to support their day focussing on ECO and Sustainability issues.

Brian & Annette Cox.

Toddler Group

Whilst it has not yet returned to its pre-Covid attendance numbers, St Thomas Toddlers Group continues to provide a valuable outreach from the church to the community. Every Tuesday morning, during school terms, we welcome on average 12 children plus carers in the church hall. There are toys, play equipment, craft activities and singing for the children and opportunities for carers to socialise over a tea or coffee: and a warm space in the winter months!
We remain very grateful for the contributions of our volunteers working in the kitchen and with the carers and children.
If you are interested in joining the team, or know someone who is, please phone Barbara Clapper on 01590 678193. We have a rota so your commitment could be weekly, monthly or as and when convenient to you.

Barbara Clapper

Lymington Infants CE (Aided) School

The majority of the Governors at the Infants School are Foundation Governors who are appointed through the PCC and meet regularly at Governors' meetings. They support the school in fulfilling its Christian values of Love, Courage and Respect. It has been a great pleasure to see the children in church during the year for the Mothers' Day Service, the Nativity Play and for the Christingle Service. The children and teachers said a fond farewell to Peter Salisbury at the end of the Summer Term and they have missed his weekly Worship Visits. However, Worship in the Autumn term has continued very successfully and has been led by the Headteacher and staff and also by members of local churches.

Mary Hill.

New Forest Basics Bank The church has continued to support the New Forest Basics Bank and the congregation is kept up to date with the service that the Bank provides. Both the Church and the Infants School donated items to the NFBB at their Harvest Services.

Vistas Café

Vistas continued to open every Thursday in the Church Hall from 10am until 12 noon. Building on our experiences in 2021, we kept table service and four volunteers for each session. With preparation and clearing up this does need quite a lot of commitment, and I am grateful to all our volunteers for this and especially to our regular volunteers who get out tables and chairs on a Wednesday evening. At times we have been quite stretched with illness or other problems.
There is a large table of Stitchers and Knitters each week and a craft group from the WI meets in the Bethune Room fortnightly. Before Christmas they met each week producing many wonderful decorations for the Christmas Tree festival. During the year we have had many guests to our café who enjoy coffee and cheese scones, flapjacks or homemade cakes. Thank you too, to all those expert bakers. Brian and Annette Cox have their Fairtrade stall on the first Thursday in the month, the magazine distributors have also met twice during the year and the Missions to Seafarers in October for Woolly hat day.
We were very sad to hear of Jenny Stott's death in May. It was her idea to start the Vistas Café just over 10 years ago. She worked very hard to establish the café and to keep it going. She would turn her hand to anything. We owe her a great deal. We gave £500 to Oakhaven in her memory.

The Inspectors paid us a visit in June and looked carefully at our paperwork and asked some searching questions. We were very pleased to emerge with a 5 Star rating. Some suggestions were made, and we have responded to these. However we have to work hard to maintain our high standard.
We now pay our financial proceeds into the PCC account, some of which goes to the Church and some to the Hall. In December 2022 we were able to give £500 to our local Basics Bank.
We are so glad that we can continue to open each week and provide a place for happy fellowship and fruitful activity. We are most grateful to our band of volunteers without whom we could not open.

Anne Keir.

Monday Lunch Club

Monday Lunch Club continues to thrive, and the number of guests has been steadily increasing since lockdown We have welcomed lovely new members and are nearly at full capacity. We have also welcomed new regular volunteers to help. There is a fantastic community feeling with those involved in both cooking and serving with clearing up afterwards.
The food continues to be seasonal and locally sourced. We also use Fairtrade products. We have managed to keep the cost of the meal at £5 as we know that the rise in the cost of living has been a worry for some of the lunch guests.
We provide a hot lunch, pudding and tea/coffee each Monday with a few special occasion lunches including one at Christmas and one at Easter.
It is a wonderful and much needed service for the people of Lymington and I am very honoured to be part of it.

Mikki Willford.

Communications

Social Media Andy Clapper has become Social Media Coordinator, a role required by the Use of Social Media Policy as approved by the PCC as part of its Safeguarding Action Plan. Following Maureen Penrose's departure he has also taken on the administration of the church's Facebook page and has been posting regularly to try and develop its role as an effective part of the church's communications system.

Parish News
The magazine has continued to play its part in providing both a permanent record of much that goes on at St Thomas' and a platform for publishing items of a general as well as of a devotional nature. We have been able to include both occasional features and long-running series on specific subjects, all submitted by a wide range of talented authors. The readership has remained steady throughout the year and, thanks in no small measure to our generous advertisers, our income has once again managed to cover the expenses involved in producing a monthly magazine in full colour.

Nigel Mussett

The Weekly News Sheet, compiled by Parish Secretary Susie Napleton, is the most comprehensive, vital communication tool available to the Church community. Thank you Suzie for this accurate source of information covering everything we do from our regular Church services and all our other activities.
The notice boards inside the narthex display posters advertising many different non church events. These are arranged, kept tidy and topical by Rina Miles. The diversity of opportunity including new clubs to join, outings and concerts to attend, illustrates so much about our busy town.

Daphne Johnston

Friends of St Thomas Church.

Reg Charity No: 1166743.

The Friends of St Thomas Church continue to support the PCC with the costs of repair and maintenance of the buildings and of the immediate surroundings. The sum of 20,000 pounds was donated towards the repairs to the west end of the church.

The Christmas Tree Festival in December is the main Friends fund raising event. This year was the most successful to date. The church contained 70 decorated trees, a café facility and a sales table of pre-loved Christmas items. Throughout every day local musicians entertained the many hundreds of visitors and there were two formal evening concerts. An Artisan market in the church hall on the Saturday added a further dimension and diversity, demonstrating inclusive use of the entire footprint of the church and illustrating the wide community involvement of the event.

Daphne Johnston.

Solent Music Festival.

The tenth Solent Music Festival was held in St Thomas Church in September. The opening concert was scheduled for the same day as the state funeral of HRH Queen Elizabeth. The period of national mourning was ending at 7pm so it was deemed appropriate for the concert to go ahead with reference made to the solemnity and significance of the day.

The Festival programme was diverse and original featuring six concerts from the Baroque to Jazz, each attracting a wide audience from our local community and from further afield. Such is the reputation of the festival that it has become a feature of the year for many people.

Highlights this season included the performances from Red Priest, from international accordionist Djordie Gajic, and from pianist Sam Haywood. The most ambitious concert to date was on Saturday evening and featured the SMF orchestra performing two well-known pieces by Beethoven. Under the baton of conductor Rebecca Tong and with Sam Haywood, the full house audience enjoyed the Piano Concerto No 5, The Emperor, followed by the Symphony No 7. The excitement during the final bars of the symphony, when the entire wind section stood to play, (to the surprise of the conductor), and the standing ovation from the audience at the end of the concert was testament to the truly thrilling performance.

The Festival Directors and Trustees are grateful to the Church Wardens and PCC for their generous agreement for the use of St Thomas Church.

Further details of the 2023 festival, to be held at the end of May, can be found at www.solentmusicfestival.com

Daphne Johnston

Buildings and Land.

The gradual recovery in use of our buildings through 2022 has been welcome and we are on track to complete all the significant works that were recommended items in our November 2018 Quinquennial report. The next Quinquennial inspection will be in autumn 2023 and will indicate our major work requirements for the period 2023 to 2028.

Our primary objective was the completion of the West End works to the roof, walls and guttering. This inevitably disclosed some unexpected additional items, including a bees' nest in the West End wall, but all is now complete, and the bees are happy.

Our Tower & Clock works are currently in the planning stage and should start in the summer. That will complete the major project work before the next Quinquennial.

The Energy price increases led to a major review of energy use in the church and hall. We had already completed a major replacement of most of our lighting with LED equipment some time ago that assisted the Eco Church award. We have now identified the few remaining non-energy efficient lighting and control systems for replacement.

In addition, we are working on a more flexible heating control system to minimise our energy costs.

We have also carried out a survey with our architect of all problems that are caused by damp and water ingress with the intention of eliminating or minimising the damage.
On completion of the Tower and Clock works the next major project will focus on the West End.
I would like to thank the Friends of St Thomas' for their financial support to help us maintain and improve the fabric of the church and hall.

All Saints, Woodside

The completion of Phase 1 of the TOPS Day Nursery works at the end of 2021 means that most of the work at All Saints is now mainly normal maintenance.
Phase 2 which includes additional work in the grounds and renewal of the Quiet Garden will probably start later in 2023 as economic conditions allow.

Michael Standage

The Flower Guild.

Flowers in the church are arranged by a group of parishioners and friends on a weekly rota. Special events like Easter, Harvest and Christmas are celebrated with additional arrangements while the periods of Lent and Advent are marked by green arrangements without flowers.

Bells and Flags.

Some small repairs were needed to the hinges on the top hatch leading to the roof to ensure a waterproof seal. The bells were silent during lockdown but Larry Stace, the Tower Captain, and his team of bellringers started ringing again in the autumn. Practice has resumed on Wednesdays with District Doubles practice night on the second Wednesday of each month. In part to signal that our church had re-opened for worship, we now fly a pennant with diocesan crest from the flagpole on the Tower when the diocesan flag (for religious holidays), the Union Jack (for national holidays) and the flags for our four national saints are not in use.

Allan Hill

St Thomas Church Lymington Finance Report 2022

Finance Committee

St Thomas' Church Finance Committee members manage our church finances week by week on behalf of the PCC, meeting a minimum of six times a year. Our aim is to use our finances as effectively as possible to further the Christian work of our church.
I am grateful to our committee members Jonathan Cook, Bill Gulland, Judy Martin (bookkeeper), Chris Stroud and Malcolm Ward, also to Suzie Napleton and John Nivison along with those who make up the weekly counting teams organised by Peta Walmisley. All play important roles.

Balance Sheet

At the end of 2022 the financial assets controlled by the PCC totalled £580,831.

Income

During the year our total income was £326,614 of which the Parish Giving Scheme played a most important part; total PGS donations were £93,507 on which Gift Aid to the value of £21,993 was claimed. In addition to our regular income we were most grateful to receive significant legacies and donations.
Our Sunday and midweek collections amounted to £7,828 which is some £2,000 higher than the previous year, probably reflecting an increase in people returning after the pandemic. Further to

this, donations totalling £2,626 before Gift Aid were received via the card reader at the back of the church. Some of these donations were made at services, others by visitors to the church.
I sincerely thank all of you who have financially supported St Thomas' Church and continue to do so. Without you we would not exist.

Expenditure
During the year our expenditure totalled £337,154. Included in this figure is our regular expenditure, the costs of major works carried out at the east end of St Thomas' Church, at All Saints' Church, and the charitable donations we made.

During the year
The Finance Committee continued with all its routine duties and provided regular updates to the PCC, seeking its formal approval of all major decisions.
We continued to close and merge existing HSBC bank accounts and promoted the use of bank transfers rather than cheques, in order to reduce bank fees. With the closure of our local branch, we used the Post Office for depositing cash and cheques.
We made donations totalling £21,400 to various charities including DEC Ukraine, Mission to Seafarers, Restored Lives, The Leprosy Mission, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Royal British Legion, The Children's Society, Médecins Sans Frontières, and, by the Vistas team, to Oakhaven Hospice and the New Forest Basics Bank.

Overview of the year
We finished the year with an overall deficit £10,540. However, during the year we received exceptional income totalling £90,082 and made exceptional expenditure totalling £99,251, together resulting in a deficit of £9,169 which pretty much accounts for our overall deficit. Thus our regular income and regular expenditure very nearly balanced. We look back with a sense of joy at the many ways in which, as a Christian church, we have been able to continue onwards together. The commitment and generosity evident at St Thomas' is a source of confidence.

Looking Ahead
We intend to maintain our charitable donations to good causes.
Our project to repair and maintain the high level masonry and roofs of St Thomas' Church building continues. We will expect to be funding work on the tower and west end, in order to keep them in good repair and reduce the damp which is evident in the building. Similar maintenance at All Saint's Church is also due. The PCC has the means to meet the costs of this expensive, necessary work and intends to address as much of it as is possible during the coming year.

Reserves Policy
The PCC reserves policy states:

- *It is the policy of the PCC to hold an Operational Reserve to cover routine expenditure for a period of three months.* Currently £60,000
- *In addition, the PCC has designated a Buildings Reserve to meet unplanned expenditure on the fabric of our buildings, recognising that the PCC is responsible for maintaining three Grade II listed historic buildings: St Thomas Church, All Saints Church, and All Saints Hall.* Currently £200,000.

Andy Payne

APPENDIX 1 - CORE VALUES.

Guided and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, we are part of the Christian Community in Lymington and District who are called to love God and all people. Therefore we:

1. Pray and Worship. Our worship:
   - Includes a variety of styles and traditions.
   - Is relevant to the people and issues of today Attracts and welcomes newcomers and visitors.
   - Has something for all ages.
   - Includes bible-based preaching.
   - Encourages spiritual growth within our congregations.

2. Grow as disciples of Christ. Every person is called to follow Christ and be a good steward of God's creation. We offer support in this through:
   - Teaching and nurture Learning from one another.
   - Prayer and study groups for all ages Identifying and training successors for all roles.
   - Identifying and developing quality leadership; both lay and ordained.

3 Are committed to one another. Because of this we offer:
   - Mutual support and encouragement.
   - A positive, generous and forgiving attitude Opportunities to learn from one another.
   - An attractive and welcoming community.

4 Reach out and share our faith. To do this we:
   - Talk about our faith (gossip the good news) with all ages Support worldwide missionary activities.
   - Invite people to learn about the Christian faith (e.g. Alpha and Lent Course) Respect and value people's individuality.

5 Are here to serve others, both locally and globally. We do this:
   - By using our gifts in leadership and service in both voluntary and paid work.
   - By supporting those in need.
   - By supporting external organisations.
   - By challenging injustice and inequality of opportunity for all people regardless of social or cultural issues.

6 Value our Anglican inheritance. In particular we value:
   - Our tradition of critical thinking.
   - The Parish system.
   - The scriptural basis for matters of faith.
   - Our adaptability to our cultural context.

ST THOMAS | ALL SAINTS
LYMINGTON

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A C C O U N T S

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2022

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the Lymington Parochial Church Council

We report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees of the PCC and Examiner

As the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an Independent Examination is required.

As Independent Examiner it is our responsibilty to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

   a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

   b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

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

Hope Jones

HOPE JONES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
5th April 2023

Suite 114, Lymington Town Hall,
Avenue Road,
LYMINGTON, Hants

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	2021
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	213,347	23,078	-	236,425	152,456
Activities for Generating Funds	2(b)	16,151	-	-	16,151	10,231
Investment Income	2(c)	10,177	2,875	687	13,739	7,953
Church Activities	2(d)	60,299	-	-	60,299	41,055
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£299,974	£25,953	£687	£326,614	£211,695
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3(a)	308,022	26,147	687	334,856	290,415
Governance Costs	3(b)	2,298	-	-	2,298	2,185
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£310,320	£26,147	£687	£337,154	£292,600
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		(10,346)	(194)	-	(10,540)	(80,905)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
On Disposal		(15)	-	-	(15)	-
On Revaluation		(30,618)	-	(3,103)	(33,721)	36,371
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(40,979)	(194)	(3,103)	(44,276)	(44,534)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2022		598,789	614	25,704	625,107	669,641
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022		£557,810	£420	£22,601	£580,831	£625,107

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022		2021	
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Equipment					
As at 1st January 2022		599			
Less: Depreciation for the year		120			
			479		599
Investments					
Endowment Fund Investments					
Hapgood Bequest					
3,828 C.O.I.F. Charities Ethical Investment Fund		10,494		11,982	
Miss B Monk Fund					
586 C B F Investment Fund		12,107		13,722	
			22,601		25,704
Unrestricted Investments					
C.B.F. - Deposit Account		233,214		280,048	
10,030 C.B.F. Investment Fund Shares		207,234		234,884	
7,634 COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund		20,924		23,892	
545 M & G Charifund		-		8,481	
			461,372		547,305
Current Assets					
Traidcraft Stock		1,056		976	
Debtors and Prepayments	5	4,361		4,369	
Cash at Bank - Treasurers Account		125,627		59,161	
Cash in Hand		242		205	
		131,286		64,711	
Less: Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year	6	34,907		13,212	
			96,379		51,499
			£580,831		£625,107

LYMINGTON PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET (Continued) 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022		2021	
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			557,810		598,789
Restricted					
Donations Fund	7		420		614
Endowment Funds					
Hapgood Bequest (Parish Church Fabric)		10,494		11,982	
Miss B. Monk (Youth Work)		12,107		13,722	
			22,601		25,704
			£580,831		£625,107

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 23rd March 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Churchwarden

.....
Honorary Treasurer

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1(a) Accounting Conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1(b) Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the Financial Statements by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011, and no value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated at the rate of 20% on the reducing balance basis. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £3,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

1(c) Investment Assets

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

1(d) Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	2021
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid Donations	93,421	-	-	93,421	92,651
Income tax Recoverable	25,552	-	-	25,552	25,662
Other Planned Giving	7,396	-	-	7,396	7,105
Collections	11,653	-	-	11,653	8,344
Grants	-	2,825	-	2,825	2,000
Listed Places of Worship Grant	-	-	-	-	686
Friends of St Thomas	-	20,000	-	20,000	-
St. Thomas Renewal Appeal	-	-	-	-	2,555
The Parish Hall Trust	16,223	-	-	16,223	-
Bellringers	1,934	-	-	1,934	-
Donations	7,068	253	-	7,321	13,053
Good Samaritan Fund	-	-	-	-	400
Legacies	50,100	-	-	50,100	-
	213,347	23,078	-	236,425	152,456
2(b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Vistas Cafe	3,118	-	-	3,118	1,522
Traidcraft Sales	5,635	-	-	5,635	4,404
Other Fund Raising Events	1,542	-	-	1,542	771
Other Income	5,856	-	-	5,856	3,534
	16,151	-	-	16,151	10,231
2(c) Investment Income					
Miss Monk's Bequest	-	-	360	360	348
Hapgood's Bequest	-	-	327	327	322
Churchyard Maintenance	-	111	-	111	109
C.B.F. Interest	3,166	-	-	3,166	167
Dividends					
C. B. F. Investment Fund	6,163	2,764	-	8,927	5,961
C. O. I. F. Ethical Investment Fund	652	-	-	652	643
M & G Charifund	196	-	-	196	403
	10,177	2,875	687	13,739	7,953
2(d) Church Activities					
Parish Magazine	4,438	-	-	4,438	3,216
Monday Lunch	7,522	-	-	7,522	3,613
Hire - St. Thomas Hall	7,049	-	-	7,049	4,708
Hire - All Saints Church and Hall	35,000	-	-	35,000	22,800
Fees	6,290	-	-	6,290	6,718
	60,299	-	-	60,299	41,055
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£299,974	£25,953	£687	£326,614	£211,695

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	2021
3(a) Church Activites					
Missions and Charities	21,400	-	-	21,400	16,660
Good Samaritan Fund	761	-	-	761	559
Monday Lunch	8,848	-	-	8,848	5,832
Traidcraft Purchases	5,003	-	-	5,003	3,993
Ministry					
Diocesan Parish Share	130,188	-	-	130,188	131,236
Clergy Expenses	2,419	-	-	2,419	2,188
Worship and Services					
Cost of Services	1,550	-	-	1,550	741
Organists	9,128	-	-	9,128	8,042
Organ Tuning and Repairs	70	-	-	70	484
Music and Choir Expenses	1,120	-	-	1,120	450
Church Maintenance and Expenses					
Light, Heat and Water	6,773	1,825	-	8,598	5,556
Insurance	5,365	-	-	5,365	5,170
Cleaning	3,045	-	-	3,045	420
Churchyard Expenses	393	111	-	504	1,170
Repairs and Renewals	2,409	-	327	2,736	1,624
All Saints Major Works					
Project Costs	17,566	-	-	17,566	-
Door Repair	3,540	-	-	3,540	-
All Saints Heating	-	-	-	-	40,408
Floor Screeding	-	-	-	-	5,279
Moving Font	-	-	-	-	2,796
Cleaning Altar Stonework	-	-	-	-	2,688
Treework	864	-	-	864	2,160
Legal Fees	540	-	-	540	6,180
St Thomas Major Works					
Roofing and Guttering Work	54,624	20,000	-	74,624	8,080
Tree Pollarding	-	-	-	-	11,566
Glass Door Repair	2,217	-	-	2,217	-
St. Thomas Hall Expenses	1,330	-	-	1,330	271
All Saints Church and Hall Expenses	3,913	-	-	3,913	5,499
Parish Magazine Expenses	3,474	-	-	3,474	3,101
Parish Administrator	12,109	3,764	-	15,873	12,601
Church Office	2,035	-	-	2,035	895
Accountancy	1,272	-	-	1,272	1,234
Advertising and Leaflets	427	-	-	427	298
Miscellaneous expenses	5,519	447	360	6,326	3,084
Depreciation of Equipment	120	-	-	120	150
	308,022	26,147	687	334,856	290,415
3(b) Governance Costs					
Accountancy and Examination Fees	2,298	-	-	2,298	2,185
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£310,320	£26,147	£687	£337,154	£292,600

4. Expenditure

Staff Costs	2022	2021
Salaries	16,394	13,274
Pension Costs	170	-
	£16,564	£13,274

During the year the Council employed a Parish Administrator and a Verger neither of whom earned £60,000 or more. The average number of employees during the year was 2.

External Accountancy and Examination Fees	2022	2021
Accountancy and Examination Fees	£2,298	£2,185

5. Debtors and Prepayments

	2022	2021
Income Tax Recoverable	2,459	3,133
Other Debtors and Prepayments	1,902	1,236
	£4,361	£4,369

6. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
Creditors for Goods and Services	3,469	1,770
Mission	1,105	300
Wedding Deposits	500	-
Accrued Expenses	29,833	11,142
	£34,907	£13,212

7. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds in the accounts are as follows:

Donations Fund

Amounts received for a specific purpose are credited to the Donations Fund. Expenditure incurred for these purposes are debited to the Donations Fund.

Assets relating to the Restricted Funds are as follows:

	2022	2021
Cash at Bank	£420	£614

8. Investment Assets

	Investments	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
Endowment Fund Investments				
Hapgood Bequest				
As at 1st January 2022		11,982	11,982	10,560
Unrealised (loss)/gain		(1,488)	(1,488)	1,422
As at 31st December 2022		10,494	10,494	11,982
Miss B Monk Fund				
As at 1st January 2022		13,722	13,722	12,005
Unrealised (loss)/gain		(1,615)	(1,615)	1,717
As at 31st December 2022		12,107	12,107	13,722
Unrestricted Investments				
As at 1st January 2022	547,305		547,305	563,906
Withdrawn	(50,000)		(50,000)	(50,000)
Disposal Proceeds	(8,466)		(8,466)	-
Reinvested Income	3,166		3,166	167
Realised loss	(15)		(15)	-
Unrealised (loss)/gain	(30,618)		(30,618)	33,232
	£461,372		£461,372	£547,305
Total Valuation at 31st December 2022	£461,372	£22,601	£483,973	£573,009
Total Unrealised Gains	£(30,618)	£(3,103)	£(33,721)	£36,371

9. Vicar and Churchwardens' Charitable Trust

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the following charitable Trust:

The Parish Hall Trust

The income and property of the Trust may be applied either towards the upkeep, repair and insurance of the fabric and contents of the Parish Church of Lymington, or in otherwise furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England.

During the year the bank account of the Trust was closed and the closing balance amounting to £16,223 was donated to Lymington Parochial Church Council. Dividends on the Trust's investments are now paid into the bank account of Lymington Parochial Curch Council as a contribution to the cost of the Parish Administrator.

Investments of the Trust at 31st December 2022 amounted to £123,710. Investment income in the year to 31st December 2022 amounted to £3,679 all of which was donated to Lymington Parocial Church Council towards the cost of the Parish Administrator.

10. Charity Investments

Investment held by Charitable Trustees where the income arising is due to the Parish is as follows:

Miss E. Earley Bequest for Churchyard Maintenance

1,295.05 Income Units Charities Ethical Investment Fund
(Market Value 31st December 2022 £3,549)

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

11. Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2021

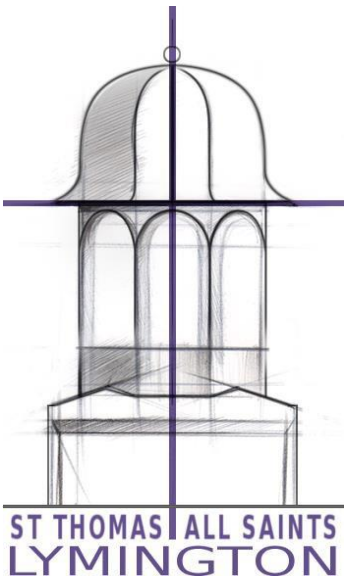
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary Income	147,235	5,221	-	152,456
Activities for Generating Funds	10,231	-	-	10,231
Investment Income	7,174	109	670	7,953
Church Activities	41,055	-	-	41,055
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£205,695	£5,330	£670	£211,695
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Church Activities	284,256	5,489	670	290,415
Governance Costs	2,185	-	-	2,185
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£286,441	£5,489	£670	£292,600
NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES	(80,746)	(159)	-	(80,905)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS				
On revaluation	33,232	-	3,139	36,371
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(47,514)	(159)	3,139	(44,534)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2021	646,303	773	22,565	669,641
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021	£598,789	£614	£25,704	£625,107

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST THOMAS WITH ALL SA

England & Wales - Charity number 1128119

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS, LYMINGTON WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.



2021 REPORT and ACCOUNTS for the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday March 30th, 2022

7:30pm

St Thomas' Church

Registered Charity Number 1128119

AGENDA

PRAYERS
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

1. Election of Churchwardens for 2022-2023.[1]

   All persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll of this Parish and all persons resident in the Parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence may participate in this election.

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parochial Church Council.
2. Approval of 2021 Minutes.
3. Election of Parochial Church Council members.[2]
4. Consideration of:
   a) The Electoral Roll.
   b) The Annual Report of the Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the Parish generally.
   c) Finance[3]:
      I. Examined accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2021.
      II. Statement of the funds and property of the PCC.
      III. To appoint independent examiners.
   d) Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches.
   e) Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
   f) Other Reports.
5. Any other business of Parochial or general interest to be submitted in writing one week in advance of the APCM to the PCC Secretary via e-mail to the Secretary at marychill45@gmail.com

Mary Hill
Honorary Secretary, Lymington PCC.

[1] In accordance with the Churchwardens' Measure 2001.

[2] In accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020.

[3] Item 4c is presented in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, LYMINGTON
WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021.

Aims and Purposes.

The St Thomas' with All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for cooperation with the incumbent, the Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury, in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical as set out in the Core Values (see Appendix 1). The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Church of St Thomas and the Chapel of Ease of All Saints, Woodside.

Administrative Information.
The Parish of St Thomas, with All Saints, Woodside, is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Parish Office, St Thomas' Church,
St Thomas Street, Lymington, SO41 9ND. Telephone: 01590 676194.
e-mail: office@lymingtonchurch.org website: www.lymingtonchurch.org

Personnel.

Incumbent:	The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury.
Churchwardens:	David Bridges, Maureen Harris.
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus:	Malcolm Ward.
Parish Administrator:	Gillian Maunder.
Organist:	Martin Penrose.
Verger, Sacristan-St Thomas':	Amanda Dawson/Helen Pocklington
Janitor, All Saints:	Tony Perry.
Treasurer:	Andrew Payne.
Inspecting Architect:	Ryan Bunce of Ryan Bunce & Co, 102 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZP.
Independent Examiner:	Hope Jones, 73 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZA.

PCC Members who served from the APCM 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent	The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury (Chairman).
Churchwardens	David Bridges, (Vice-Chairman), Maureen Harris (Elected Ex Officio),
Licensed Lay Minister Emeritus	Malcolm Ward.
Deanery Synod Representatives:	
To APCM 2024	Daphne Johnston, Sylvia Pepin, Celia Swan, Michael Standage.

Elected Members:

To APCM 2022	Barbara Clapper, Ray Shepherd, Malcolm Haigh.
To APCM 2023	Bronwen Bridges, Brian Cox, David Wansey.
To APCM 2024	Pat Cashin, Jeremy Vines, Peta Walmisley.

The Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll stands at 237 with 174 being resident and ?63 non-resident.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) requires "the Minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish" and requires the PCC to "co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The Church of England (Worship and Doctrine) Measure 1974 requires the minister and PCC to agree jointly any decisions on which forms of service are to be used in any church in the Parish.

The PCC meets six times per year. Normally meetings are held in St Thomas' Church, with one meeting being held in the Lymington C of E Infant School but in 2021, some PCC meetings have been held virtually via Zoom because of the restrictions on meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Agendas and Minutes of PCC meetings are made available in the Parish church and on the church website.

The Standing Committee of the PCC conducts the business of the PCC between meetings, is answerable to the PCC and submits to it proposals in connection with issues of Parish-wide significance. The *ex-officio* members in 2021 were the Vicar (Chairman), Churchwardens, one of whom acts as Secretary, and two elected members (Andrew Payne and Michael Standage).

Other members who took responsibility in 2021 for promoting the six Core Values (see Appendix 1) were as follows:

- Leadership and Co-ordination: The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury.
- Worship Services: The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury.
- Prayer: Sarah Salisbury.
- Community Action: David Fenton and Sylvia Pepin.
- Discipleship and Learning: Linda Lee.
- Fellowship and Mutual Support: Sarah Bunce and Pauline Lightbody.
- Communications: Daphne Johnston and Nigel Mussett.
- Buildings, Land and Equipment: Bill Gulland, Jeremy Vines, Michael Standage.
- Finance: Andrew Payne.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Andrew Payne, prepares and monitors the annual budget and reports directly to the PCC.
The Fabric Committee, chaired by Bill Gulland/Michael Standage provides support and guidance to the PCC on the appropriate maintenance and management of the church premises and grounds.
The Vicar and Churchwardens are *ex-officio* **Trustees of Lymington C of E Infant School** and of two Trusts associated with the Parish as follows:
Fulford & Burrard Trust, which supports the Infant School and youth more generally (subject to specific criteria).
Parish Hall Trust, which supports the St Thomas site generally.
Sub-committees manage the St Thomas' Church Hall, mission giving and social events. All meet as required and report directly to the PCC or to the Standing Committee as appropriate.
The Friends of St Thomas Church have continued to promote and support the restoration, preservation, repair and beautification of the building and surrounds of the church and church hall.

Risk Management.

Risk Management in respect of St Thomas Church (STC) and Church Hall (STH) and curtilage and All Saints Church (ASC) and Hall (ASH), and curtilage.[4]

Risk	Probability	Impact	Management Action
An incident requiring Emergency Evacuation	Low	Medium/High	Evacuation procedure published; announcement of procedure when building(s) full on non-routine occasions.
Fire in Church including Sacristy/Vestry	Low	High	Fire Risk Assessments carried out for both churches. Equipment provided; standing instructions issued/reissued to clergy and staff. Fire extinguisher training undertaken.
Fire in Church Halls	Low	Medium/High	Fire Risk Assessments carried out. Equipment provided; standing instructions issued/reissued to clergy and staff.
Fire in Boiler Rooms	Low	High	Fire Risk Assessment carried out. Flammable gas detector/alarm installed in STC boiler room. Equipment in hall - ASH.
Carbon Monoxide in Boiler Rooms	Low	High	Carbon Monoxide detector/alarm installed in STC boiler room.
Financial	Low	Low/Medium	Monthly bank statements; quarterly budgetary review by Finance Committee; cash collections counted by teams of at least two, with signed record.
Statutory & Legal including Health & Safety (H&S) and Safeguarding	Low	Medium/High	H&S checks; safeguarding policy of children and vulnerable adults in place. DBS checking. Disabled access reviewed. Risk assessment sheets prepared for use with individual events (e.g., Concerts and Festivals). H&S Policy revised.
Operational Damage/Loss of Property	Low	Medium/High	Continuous security video (STC) has remained a deterrent. Smartwater applied to precious metals.
Personal	Low	Low	Attention to H&S of workers; restricted child access to gallery STC; handrails; white edges to steps.
Reputational	ST Low	ST Low	Covered by above precautions.
	AS Low	AS Medium	Covered by above precautions. Regular meetings with the Tenant to ensure problems are addressed early.
Shortage of Volunteers	High	High	Combining resources across the parish, succession planning and prioritization of what we do.
Damage to the external fabric of ASC. Financial risk if Tops became unable to meet their commitment to pay rent or fail to look after the interior of the buildings.	Low	Low/Medium	Company vetted by ST and Church Commissioners. Management Committee set up to ensure regular dialog between PCC reps and Tops. Appropriate legal protections and insurance in place.

[4] The regulations require risk to be assessed and managed. A risk is a contingency that would adversely affect the PCC's ability to pursue its objectives, as expressed in its statement of Core Values (see Appendix 1)

Objectives and Activities

The Parish Vocation is “to be the town church in Lymington, offering prayer and hospitality in Jesus’ name”. Mindful of this and the charity’s object to promote in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, the PCC has developed this objective and has published a statement of Core Values (Appendix 1). Nine areas of ministry and roles have been identified and leaders appointed to further the realisation of these values. Accounting procedures are designed to identify clearly patterns of income and expenditure across the Parish, so that its resources may be deployed as appropriately as possible.

In their report below, the Trustees present a summary of the activities undertaken by the charity in the Parish for the benefit of the public. They confirm that they have had due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Many Parishioners who willingly undertake a wide variety of tasks with no thought of remuneration or other recognition, have contributed to the life of the Parish. The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC are enormously grateful to them all.

REPORTS
Leadership and Co-ordination.

2021 began with a COVID lockdown as cases surged in the winter. As increasing numbers of people were vaccinated and the weather warmed, the wave faded. By the autumn, the third, “booster” jabs were being rolled out so that the winter surge in late 2021 did not cause the same severe outcomes as in 2020.

As with 2021, it has been a very trying year for the PCC as we have had to make very difficult decisions without the luxuries of complete information or time to take stock. I would like to express my thanks to all those involved for the way in which we have faced these challenges together in a spirit of openness and mutual respect.

We were able to hold the Solent Music Festival, the Christmas Tree Festival, our Carol Service and Crib Service and, thanks to a last-minute knight-in-shining-armour intervention by Nigel Lang, we were even able to have our Christmas Day lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own. Things were definitely coming back to life.

We were able to celebrate the completion of the Phase 1 works at All Saints in December, inviting all those many people who had been instrumental in getting to that point, and especially members of the steering committee whose dogged determination and attention to detail carried us over the line. The PCC commended unanimously the absolutely essential role that Jonathan and Jane Cook played in that effort.

All-in-all a year of significant challenges and triumphs which we met together as a team and we fully intend to use what we have learnt to build up the life of the church for the future.

Very slightly encroaching onto next year's territory I would like to record that in early January 2022, I gave notice of my retirement from the parish, as from St. Thomas' Day, 3rd July 2022. It will mark just over thirty very happy years in ordained ministry and nearly seventeen in Lymington. Thank you all for your love and support through that time; it has been a joy, a delight and a privilege.

Peter Salisbury.

Worship Services.

Due to the lockdown at the start of the year, we continued to work with Pennington producing pre-recorded Sunday services week by week up to the end of June when we had sufficient services in the building. Although this marked the end of that particular joint venture with Pennington, we continued with shared Morning Prayer during the week on Zoom.

Our Messy Church service also continued online until July, led by the energy and commitment of Penni Jolly and Sue Blunt and rewarded by excellent engagement statistics. After the August break, Messy Church returned home to the hall to the delight of the whole team.

From late March onwards, we were able to respond to the changing health data first by re-introducing worship in the building in a socially distanced manner, and then relaxing restrictions in July replacing all the chairs and returning to our three-services pattern. We still required people to wear masks in worship, the choir sang upstairs and the communion was distributed as pre-intincted wafers rather than bread and wine separately. These restrictions held right to the end of the year and well into 2022, as cases of COVID increased due to a series of increasingly contagious variants.

To keep in touch with those too vulnerable, or too distant, to join us in the building, we used some of the expertise we had gained during lockdown to live-stream our 9.15am. communion services. To help with this we invested in some new technology and are beginning to train people in its use. The engagement statistics show that it is joined by about fifteen people live, and then watched later by a further fifteen to thirty people. Certainly, well worth the effort involved.

It is worth recording that the number of people in church for our Sunday services was significantly down on pre-pandemic levels, mirroring fairly accurately the national estimate of a 30% reduction.

Peter Salisbury.

Deanery Synod.

The Lyndhurst Deanery Synod is a gathering in which we hear about the ways other churches in our area are tackling the same issues that we face here in Lymington, working together for the common good in the eastern half of the New Forest area. In this final year of my term as Area Dean, we were able to recruit to the remaining five vacant parishes, creating a new and energetic clergy chapter.

Peter Salisbury.

Safeguarding.

Following a period of relative inactivity due to lockdown, the return of Parish Services and associated activities has meant that there have been some modifications of the Diocesan Safeguarding requirements.

As from Spring 2022, all DBS checks will need to be repeated every 3 years starting with all members of the PCC. In future anyone employed by the parish and volunteers filling specific roles will need to be DBS certified before they start, with identification of their role recorded. The parish must have a current Safeguarding statement, a Child Protection Policy statement, a Domestic Abuse policy and a Vulnerable Adult policy. All members of the PCC will need to complete a C1 safeguarding course and Church Wardens and Safeguarding Reps will need to complete a C3 course. There will be new training opportunities in the coming months in order that these requirements can be met. All future PCC meetings will need to include an item on Safeguarding and it is made clear that the final responsibility for Safeguarding rests with the PCC.

Anthea MacAlister

Health and Safety.

Health and Safety Policy

The Health and Safety policy of St Thomas' Church is to provide and maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, healthy and safe working conditions, equipment, and systems of work, for all employees and voluntary helpers, and to provide such information as they need for this purpose; this may include supervision and training. We also endeavour to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all parishioners, visitors, contractors, and others who may enter the church, hall, churchyard, grounds, and associated buildings. Overall responsibility for Health and Safety rests with the Incumbent and the Churchwardens. It is usual practice to delegate this to the Health and Safety Officer(s) (HSO(s)). The HSOs ensure that arrangements are in place to satisfy all relevant Health and Safety Regulations and Codes of Practice.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are usually undertaken by a HSO for activities that take place in St Thomas' Church or Church Hall, or in All Saints Chapel or Quiet Garden; these may be delegated to an alternate competent person if appropriate. Risk assessments for regular activities e.g., worship and Vistas café, are undertaken once and then monitored for any necessary updates or changes. Risk assessments for less frequent activities e.g., the annual Remembrance Sunday service, or a concert run by the Friends of St Thomas' Church, are reviewed and updated as appropriate before each event. Checks to confirm the safety and comfort of all aspects of St Thomas' church buildings e.g., fire hazards, trip hazards, and heating and lighting, are managed by the HSO(s) on a regular and frequent basis.

Public Liability Insurance

Public Liability Insurance is in place at both St Thomas and All Saints Churches to protect staff, volunteer workers and members of the public during activities for which the church is responsible, e.g., acts of worship and meetings. It is a requirement for all groups wishing to hire St Thomas Church or the Church Hall that they have their own Public Liability Insurance to cover the activity for which they are responsible. Applications to hire the church and/or the church hall are validated by the Church Administrator to confirm that the applicant has this in place. The Certificate of Public Liability insurance held by 'Tops' who lease All Saints Church and its Church Hall and grounds, is validated annually by the PCC member on the All Saints Management Committee.

Health and Safety in 2021

During 2021 the Corona Virus continued to have a negative impact on the operation of St Thomas' Church. The year started with the third National Lockdown in the beginning of January. This was followed a month later by the government publishing a 'roadmap' for a proposed way out of the lockdown. The parish received regular updates of both national and local Covid guidelines from Winchester Diocese. This helped to ensure that St Thomas' Church continued to be a safe place for clergy, employees, volunteers and for public worship. Face coverings continued to be worn by all and safe-spacing remained a constraint. These restrictions remained extant during the whole of 2021.

Malcolm Ward.

Churchwardens' Report 2021

The April 2021 APCM was held in church with a sense of relief that meeting in person was possible, though with awareness that the pandemic was far from over. There was recognition of the sadness

and difficulties we had all experienced, as well as a feeling of optimism along with acknowledgment of the challenges of our responsibilities towards the restoration of our community.
Regular letters of news and encouragement from suffragan bishops Debbie and David continued throughout the year. Their words and prayers have been appreciated as we have sought ways to both remain connected and to encourage our church community and those in the wider parish. Despite continued precautions during services, the church attendance, initially low, increased gradually though not to original numbers; we are still some 40% down. Many of the congregation, even now wary of gatherings of people, prefer to continue viewing our 'streamed' services on-line, though most of our previously large congregation is over 60 years of age, and not all have internet access. Maintaining contact through pre-existing groups and other established links has proved helpful, with telephone conversations also appreciated. Meanwhile the church building is frequently used by both reticent church members and members of the wider parish for private prayer during the week. Our large church building continues to be well ventilated and mask-wearing remained mandatory until the end of February 2022. Chair seating once restored to the original arrangement, allowed attendees to meet their own spacing preferences.

Service 'streaming', which began in order to facilitate the safe sharing of funerals and weddings is now a routine procedure and generates a welcome fee payment. Much is owed to our technically gifted vicar, Peter Salisbury, for the previous, much valued 'on-line' services and the current weekly service-streaming.

The external fabric repairs and restoration works to the east end of St Thomas' church identified at the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection should begin in early summer 2022. The process and contracts are being overseen by our architect Ryan Bunce and the fabric committee with a faculty being applied for in December. Works comprise repair and restoration of walls, roofs and rainwater goods. This includes structural repairs to the East End gables, isolated replacement and repair of stonework and the removal of cementitious mortar and re-pointing in lime mortar. Apart from preserving the fabric, this work should help alleviate the problem of damp in the chancel walls.
The West End project, where the flower bed outside the west doors needs to be removed to solve the damp problem in the wall, presents an opportunity to improve the welcome area outside our doors. We have been working with the charity SPUD to come up with some ideas for this public space. Because of Covid the consultation process was taken online with the next stage of development due in 2022. The upper part of the churchyard, beyond the line of horse chestnut trees, remains our responsibility and in February we had the lime avenue re-pollarded to ensure the safety of those using the popular footpath. The missing trees in the avenue were replaced with native small leaved lime.

The Eco Church Gold Award was achieved in August following inspection of our buildings and churchyard by A Rocha representatives who interviewed our small Eco Team. At the presentation in October we were urged to continue building on that achievement.

Work on All Saints Church identified in the March 2019 QI report along with the alterations required for adaptation of the church to accommodate Tops Nursery were finally completed in 2021. The rededication of the chapel of All Saints Church, and formal re-opening of TOPS Children's Day Nursery on 10th December by the town mayor marked the culmination of nine years dedicated work of a very small team led by Jonathan Cook, whose tenacity and graciousness carried the project through many difficulties to achieve the excellent result. The combined benefits are a much needed, high quality full day-care facility for very young children, along with a chapel suitable for baptisms, smaller weddings and funerals. While the fabric of the quality grade II listed building has been beautifully preserved for excellent combined use, it could, in the unlikely event of such a

necessity, be reversed for use as a church building. Careful records of each stage, along with detailed photographs are stored with the church archives.

In our main church building other encouraging and well-attended events took place including the Solent Music Festival, the All Souls Day Service, Remembrance Sunday Service, a special Remembrance Day Concert and the Christmas Tree Festival. With Covid numbers rising once more the Carol Service had a depleted congregation though fifty-five watched 'on-line'. Each occasion was welcomed and appreciated by both church members and the wider community.
Continued uncertainly around Covid restrictions resulted in cancellation of the Christmas Day Lunch. However, with just three weeks in hand a gallant parishioner offered to organise the event enabling thirty-six people who would otherwise have been alone to enjoy the excellent event together.

Maureen Harris and David Bridges.

Prayer and Prayer Ministry Report: A Praying Community

Morning Prayer is joint with St Marks Pennington on Zoom and has expanded this year to Monday through to Friday, led by several regular members. **Saturday morning prayers** for our Parish work continued also on Zoom. The **prayer tree at the Christmas Tree Festival** was decorated with over 240 individual prayers which were added by visitors over the Festival.

The Ignatian meditation group ***Taketime Together*** continued through the year led also by Jane Nicholson and Rina Miles who have now completed the training course to become practitioners. This is an opportunity to be still and focus on God through a guided meditation on a Bible story. We decided to continue meeting via Zoom as this enables each of us to be in our relaxed space and yet linked together. Also, we do have participants from other parishes and even other countries. It works well. Everyone is welcome, do join us and give it a try.

The work of our **parish prayer chain** continued and many requests were received for specific concerns and situations to be held in our prayers. We have also brought our **parish prayer board** back into operation as the church has opened up again to visitors. This is overseen by Shelah Payne. Prayer continues to underpin all of our work and mission in the Parish.

Sarah Salisbury.

Choir Report

2021 was very much a year of two halves for St Thomas' Choir. From just after Christmas until the end of June, due to Covid restrictions, the choir was silent except for the recordings made for the weekly online services. Practices recommenced on June 25th and the choir, still socially distanced in the gallery, began singing again for the 9.15am service until our usual summer break in August.
In September the choir was soon preparing for the Advent and Christmas carol services. These two services were held with the singers back in the choir-stalls downstairs However the first occasion the stalls were used since the beginning of lockdown was the All Souls' service on Sunday November 7th.

For the Advent carol service on Sunday November 28th, we were lucky enough to be able to give the first performance of a new carol set to the text of the well-known hymn 'Come thou long expected Jesus' written especially for the occasion by one of our former choristers Thomas Daish, now living and working in Japan. I am very grateful to Thomas for his skill and kindness in writing such wonderful music for our choir to sing.
The Christmas carol service was also the last occasion on which one of our longest serving and loyal choristers, Sheila Pugh, was able to sing with the choir – as sadly she died just a few weeks later.

Sheila had been a soprano in St Thomas' Choir since she and her late husband moved to Lymington in the early 1970s and, as our wardrobe mistress, made great use of her sewing skills. She will be sorely missed.

As I write (early 2022) the choir has just sung its first Choral Evensong since March 2020, and we look forward to many more now that the pandemic has begun to ease. Thanks are due to all our choristers for their loyalty and adaptability during a very challenging period in the choir's history.

Martin Penrose.

St Thomas Church Worship Band

The Worship Band continues to provide music to lead the worship at Life and Soul every Sunday, adapting the songs weekly to the themes chosen by the planning groups, mostly modern worship songs with some original material composed by Andy Clapper with arrangements by Jeremy Bennett. Occasionally there are old classics with new twists! In its alter ego it also provides the music for the monthly Messy Church services where the emphasis is on participation and fun: who can resist a smile when the ukuleles come out? They even featured this year in a well-attended crib service where the band all showed their versatility by taking on acting roles! The band remained busy through the lockdowns recording songs for the joint service with St Marks, Pennington and for the Messy Church videos.

Currently the band is comprised of Barbara Clapper(vocals), Andy Clapper and David Wansey (both vocals and guitar), Jeremy Bennett (violin and vocals), Sarah Salisbury (percussion) and Peter Salisbury (bass). Jonathan Cook joins us on ukulele at Messy Church. Sadly, we have said goodbye to Paul Wood and Natalia Storta due to other commitments. Anyone with musical aptitude and a Christian faith is welcome to audition if they are interested in joining.

Andy Clapper

Parish Mission Action Plan (pMAP)

Our pMAP priorities have once again been mainly on the backburner this year as we've struggled with the pandemic and the process of relaxing the various restrictions. The one area that suffered least was that of our work with our buildings and land. This was partly because outdoor activities were always possible, and mainly due to Rosie Ward's energy and enthusiasm. The crowning achievement was the receipt of a Gold Eco-Church award in November, only the twentieth one awarded. At the end of the year we picked up the pMAP again and are now in the process of bringing it up to date with our current situation.

Peter Salisbury.

Discipleship and Learning. The past year has seen change to the way in which House Group Notes are written. I handed over this task to a Team of people who will be writing the Notes to further reflect our Teaching Themes from Advent 2021. House Groups have continued to meet, either via Zoom or in person where possible and in accordance with current Covid-19 guidelines. Topics covered have included 'Encouragement', 2 Kings, Resurrection Appearances and the Book of James. Notes have been emailed to all House Group Leaders and there continues to be a personal emailing list for those who wish to sign up to receive them, now held by the church Office. Rina Miles continues to coordinate the Groups and I along with the Vicar & others help decide the ongoing preaching / teaching programme.

Linda Lee.

Mission Links.

In 2021 the Church made gifts to the Leprosy Mission, the Church Missionary Society and the Mission for Seafarers. We enjoyed visits from representatives of both the Leprosy Mission and the Mission for Seafarers who both gave inspiring talks about the work of their charity. Parishioners continued to knit woolly hats for seafarers and a special Woolly Hat Day was held during Vistas Café

in October. The Church also gave money to the local branch of the charity 'Restored Lives' which aims to help people who are recovering from the breakdown of relationships.

Eco Church report

The highlight of the year was gaining our Gold Eco Church award in August, only the 20th church in England and Wales to do so! The award was formally presented by Brother Hugh SSF from Hilfield Friary, at a special service in November.

Early in 2021, the PCC agreed a policy of using only environmentally friendly cleaning products, and that in the case of a building project, the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) would be used. We put two water butts at the back of the hall and three bat boxes on a tree in the churchyard. Annette Cox put a considerable amount of work into exploring installing solar panels on the hall roof , but after speaking to two different companies it was agreed that solar panels were not appropriate for our situation.

In June we held a Bug Hunt as part of 'Churches Count on Nature'. In July we held a Climate Sunday service and gave church members a lifestyle audit to complete. In October we hosted an Eco Fair as part of the town's first Green Week, and some church groups also 'greened' their regular meetings. We were sorry to lose one of our most faithful churchyard volunteers, John Morley, who had cut the grass at the far end for several years. We welcomed several new volunteers to help with both grass-cutting and gardening/ weeding. The long grass remained uncut for the summer, and the work of strimming and cutting was done in September by David Bridges, ably aided by Andrew Foster. Work continues to enhance the biodiversity.

Rosie Ward.

Community Action, Fellowship and Mutual Support

Good Samaritans

During the past year we have continued to support the homeless and the needy in our parish - some of whom have been with us for some time. We provide ongoing, practical help for a long-standing homeless person and his friend who are often seen outside the church - allowing them easy access to a power point in the narthex for their mobile phones and their kettle. We also offer support to them during church hours. This extends to the Monday Lunch Club where they are welcomed and often help with the arranging and the putting away of chairs for other guests. As far as we are aware, both are known to the homelessness team at New Forest District Council. We have also been able to continue to support one couple who had to be rehoused because of serious underlying health conditions. In addition to this, we have offered help and support to the family and young child of a man who recently died in tragic circumstances.

The group continues its work on a voluntary basis, funded and supported by the PCC, but in the last year we have lost a few members as people moved out of the area. If anyone wishes to learn more about the work of the Good Samaritans or feels they may wish to help please feel free to contact David Fenton, either by email - davidfenton60@gmail.com - or drop a note into the church office. Many thanks

David Fenton and Sylvia Pepin

Traidcraft

This has been a much better year than 2020! After a slow start due to the Covid restrictions we have been able to hold regular stalls on the 1st Thursday of the month at Vistas Café and in church on the 3rd Sunday of the month. It has been a real pleasure serving and chatting to our customers and we are very grateful for your continued support. The total value of sales for 2021 was £4574. A real benefit of using the PCC bank account has been the ability to use the church bank card reader. 70% of our sales are now transacted using bank cards rather than cash. This is more efficient, requiring a lot less time handling cash/banking, although we do have to pay a small transaction fee. The small profit we make helps to cover the costs of running the stall, including card transaction fees and items that go out of shelf-life. After these costs have been met, we aim to send donations to Traidcraft Exchange as and when we can.

Traidcraft Exchange is the charity that works to support and develop farmers, producers and artisans in third world countries. This work is even more vital now as small third world farmers are more impacted by climate change. During the year we were able to donate £100 to Traidcraft Exchange and timed our donation to take advantage of a government scheme to double charity donations. Thanks go to Denise Dibb and Angela Norman for their help in running the stall especially for the Green Fair event for Lymington Green Week in October.

Brian & Annette Cox.

Toddler Group

As with all other church activities, St Thomas Toddler Group closed its doors in March 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. Little did we realise that we would not be opening them again for another 18 months! Sadly, this meant the loss of a cohort of toddlers and carers without an opportunity to say farewell. With joy, albeit tinged with a little anxiety, we opened up again in September 2021 to find that, happily, our service was still in demand. The social impact of the pandemic was evident with COVID parents and babies not used to socialising and not used to the usual noise levels. Hopefully we have helped with their adjustment.

We still operate at reduced numbers but will keep this under review as restrictions ease and confidence levels rise. As ever, we would welcome additional helpers and operate with a rota that can adapt to the varying levels of commitment which people are able to offer. Please phone Barbara Clapper on 01590 678193, or have a word in person, if you are interested.

Barbara Clapper.

Lymington Infants CE (Aided) School

The majority of the Governors at the Infants School are Foundation Governors who are appointed through the PCC and meet regularly at Governors' meetings. They support the school in fulfilling its Christian values of Love, Courage and Respect. The Vicar is an ex-officio member of the Governing Body and leads worship in the school each week. The Headteacher, Julia Morris, and her dedicated group of teachers, have led the school through another disrupted year by working simultaneously with those children who were in school and with those who had to learn remotely at home. All the children returned to school in September and it was encouraging to see them in Church for the Harvest Festival service and for their Nativity Play in December.

Mary Hill.

New Forest Basics Bank

The church has continued to support the New Forest Basics Bank throughout the pandemic and the congregation is kept up to date with the service that the Bank provides. Both the Church and the Infants School donated items to the NFBB at their Harvest Services.

Fellowship and Mutual Support

During the first half of 2021, the Covid regulations meant that there was little chance for members of the congregation to meet physically as the Church was closed and all services were streamed. During this time, those who were unable to access the streamed services and/or who were living alone were contacted by phone and asked if they had any needs that could be met by other members of the congregation. Maureen Harris and the pastoral team continued this system of phone calls even after services resumed as many were reluctant to enter the Church due to health reasons. The Book Club and Prayer groups continued to meet on Zoom but it was not until the late Autumn that Sunday coffee between the 9:15 am. and 11:00 am. services returned.

Vistas Café

Vistas resumed in June 2021. We meet each week on a Thursday from 10am until 12 noon in the Parish Hall. We have kept table service for our customers as this seems a safer way of proceeding, and our helpers remain masked. A happy group comes weekly to Stitch and Knit and drink coffee and now a craft group from the WI comes fortnightly to the Bethune Room. We are pleased to welcome other people too and have many regulars. Brian and Annette Cox bring their Fairtrade stall to the Café on the first Thursday in the month. We have also provided space for the Magazine distributors to meet twice this year, and the Mission to Seafarers came in October to collect woolly hats. In August 2021 we were able to send £500 to Jeel al Amal, a school and home in Bethany which we had hoped to support prior to lockdown. We were also able to make a significant donation to the PCC. In December 2021 we gave £400 to our local Basics Bank. We have now arranged for the finances and banking to be managed through the PCC account.

We are so glad that we can open each week and provide a place for happy fellowship and fruitful activity. We are most grateful to our band of volunteers without whom we could not open.

Anne Keir.

Monday Lunch Club

The Monday Lunch club re-opened on June 17th, 2021, and it was lovely to see everyone again. I had met with Maureen and Andy beforehand to see what procedures we needed to put in place to make it as safe and reassuring as possible for both visitors and helpers. Initially the number of lunchers was encouraging but there were a few familiar faces missing, and we had a moment of silence to remember them at the first meeting before we served lunch. Since then, MLC has continued to grow, and we have had several new members join us. Currently we are serving about 50 meals each Monday.

There is a wonderful sense of community amongst the lunchers – the noise level rises each week and every table fills steadily as people come to terms with the impact of the pandemic and learn how to live with the virus. We had a lovely big Christmas lunch and although it wasn't quite like it had been previously (no choir for example) we still served up turkey and Christmas pudding, with plenty of mince pies and Bucks Fizz. The local Co-op supermarket was very generous and donated Christmas pudding, nuts and crisps and orange juice. The sense of community extends to the volunteers as well. They are a fantastic group who turn up every Monday and MLC would not exist without them. We have lost a few and gained a few helpers this year and although we have a good

team who cook and who serve we need someone to come and help clear up afterwards! Please get in contact with us if you can help in this way.

Mikki Willford.

Communications

Communication remains key to sharing the Good News of our Faith. So much that is good happens at St Thomas Church and to this end we all share the responsibility of chatting, inviting and generally sharing with our friends and neighbours. The Weekly News Sheet remains an important source of information about the Church and the activities that occur both in the Church and in the wider community. The Church Administrator, Gill Maunder ensures that it is accurate and up to date. St Thomas Church website is the key for information about the different Church services and all the details of Church activities in the Parish. The Sunday services continue to be live streamed and can be viewed at any time on the Church's YouTube channel. There is also a St Thomas Facebook page for additional information.

Please keep in mind that communication is on-going. We can all play a part.

Daphne Johnston

Parish Magazine

Throughout the past year the magazine has continued with its coverage of the increasing number of events being held at church as we have moved out of the severe lockdown restrictions. It has regular monthly features, both secular and devotional. The readership has increased slightly and the inclusion of a .pdf version on the church website has now become a permanent feature, with the potential for increasing our readership still further.

Contributions to the recording of the church's heritage and local history have been made by the completion of the heraldic features on the memorials and hatchments and by the extension of the Churchyard Memorials Project to include a check on half of the existing cremation plaques by an enthusiastic group of young people during the summer holidays. The large area of the churchyard to the north of the chestnut avenue has now been mapped in detail in preparation for the detailed recording of inscriptions planned for the coming year. The magazine affords an effective medium for the dissemination of information on these aspects of the overall activity at St Thomas'.

Nigel Mussett

Friends of St Thomas Church.

Reg Charity No: 1166743.

The Friends of St Thomas Church (FSTC) continue to grow their funds to support the PCC with the repair and maintenance of the fabric and fixtures of the Church and of the surrounding environs. The last year has seen inevitable delays in building projects actually starting, it is to be hoped that some of the outstanding works can actually now begin and that the Friends can contribute in some way. During the summer FSTC supported the Young People's Activity Day organised by Nigel Mussett. As part of Nigel's project to map and record the inscriptions on the headstones in the churchyard, the young people were asked, in competition, to see how many names they could record from the Cremation Plaques.

FSTC committee were delighted to be able to stage the Christmas Tree Festival in December which is now recognised as an important community event in the lead up to Christmas. We welcomed several hundreds of visitors. The church was filled with sixty real trees, each decorated by different children's groups, local charities, shops and businesses. The Friends added a Prayer Tree that was laden with messages from the visitors who numbered several hundred during the days of the Festival. The Prayer Tree proved so popular that it was left in place until after Christmas.

There were several informal musical performances during the Festival including a recital from local tenor Colin Judson with children from Walhampton School, a concert of seasonal classics from the Cantaras Ladies Choir and carols from the Robins Choir at Lymington Infants School. Throughout the Festival refreshments were served and final funds were boosted by a successful sales table of second-hand Christmas decorations and trivia.

The Friends have a loyal committee who support events. There is one new member, Mrs Lynne Bennett and one departure, Mrs Judith Jupp.

Daphne Johnston.

Solent Music Festival. September 20th-26th 2021

Artistic Director Sam Haywood produced a sensational and varied programme of six concerts for the 2021 Festival. This year the pandemic restrictions allowed normal audience numbers who were encouraged to wear masks and to socialise outside during the intervals. Drinks were served in the courtyard garden, with the added interest of the Lady's-tresses wild orchids!

The week began with a return visit from The Kings Singers. This popular 'a capella' group drew a full house and their varied programme entitled "Songbirds", included works from early composers, Thomas Tallis and William Byrd through to The Beetles and Fleetwood Mac. The Steinway concert grand piano arrived on Day 2 and the concert that evening was called "Chopin the Poet" and featured lyric soprano Ilona Domnich singing Chopin songs and Sam Haywood playing Chopin's Sonata in B flat minor, the famous Funeral March . This was received with acclaim by the audience and was a performance that would have graced any international stage. The Russian violinist Aleksey Semenenko, the Canadian 'cellist Christian Elliott, the clarinettist Katherine Spencer and Sam Heywood joined forces for the next day's programme which included works by Beethoven and Brahms.

The festival also included two premier performances. The SMF composition competition winner, a work called Qebui, by Eduardo Soutullo and a piece by Huw Watkins.
The concert on Saturday was the Serenade for Winds by Antonin Dvorak with 'cello and double bass. This is a rarely programmed piece because it requires a rare combination of wind instruments i.e.: two clarinets, two horns, two oboes and two bassoons plus the strings. The festival concluded on Sunday afternoon with a folk music concert from Kathryn Tickell and the sound of Northumbrian Pipes and clog dancing.

The SMF has grown to become an important annual cultural focus for Lymington. The Directors and Trustees are grateful to St Thomas PCC for the generous, accommodating welcome given to all the musicians and audience members.

Daphne Johnston.

Buildings and Land.

The continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic during 2021 restricted most construction activity this year. All our work for both the St Thomas's and All Saints churches and halls is divided into three groups, Quinquennial, Special Projects, and Regular Maintenance.

St Thomas, Lymington

Following the 2018 Quinquennial report we prioritised our activity at St Thomas's into three major projects to enable us to manage the finance and resource availability. These are 1. East End High Level stonework, Roof and Guttering, 2. Tower and Clock, 3. West End. The current Special Projects in our agenda are the Hall Courtyard and West End Development.

We have now been able to move beyond the planning stage for the East End works into the tender and contracting stage, with the intention of completing the work by the end of Autumn 2022. The other works will follow.
The Hall Courtyard and West End Development Special Projects need PCC detail confirmation before work will commence.

Michael Standage

All Saints, Woodside

2021 has seen the PCC's vision for the future use of All Saints church become reality. Eight years after services ceased to be held there, and five years after the PCC resolved that the buildings and grounds should not be allowed to stand idle but should be used for the benefit of the local community, the building's future has now been secured. The key moment came in October 2020 when the NFDC granted planning permission and listed building consent for several changes to the buildings and grounds. This permission enabled a Church Commissioners' Scheme to be made, formally closing the church for regular public worship, and permitting the buildings to be used as a children's nursery and pre-school, with the Chancel area being retained as a Chapel for occasional Christian worship.

On 1st January 2021, the Scheme came into effect and 30-year leases were signed with Tops Day Nurseries Limited, enabling them to use the Nave, Hall and grounds as a nursery and pre-school. Plans were then made for the necessary building work to facilitate this change of use and, between July and September the Nave resembled a building site. The first change saw the font being moved from the Nave to the Chancel area. This was followed by the removal of the parquet floor from the central part of the Nave and the south aisle to enable an underfloor heating system to be installed; this involved nine different layers being laid. This work brought the floor level up to the level of the first step into the Chancel area. In parallel with this, new heating boilers were fitted together with both high and low temperature radiators. In the north aisle, an office, children's toilets and washbasins, and an accessible toilet were installed. The remaining areas of the old parquet floor, by the entrance doors and in the Vestry have been restored and the whole building has been redecorated and LED bulbs fitted. Finally, the reredos has been refurbished and cleaned. Outside, an acoustic fence has been built along the southern and western boundaries, hedges have been planted and various fences and gates put up.

During the building work, Tops continued to run their nursery from the Hall, but the pre-school children re-located to the Pennington Guide Hut. The building work was completed by mid-September, a remarkable achievement, and the pre-school children, their parents and visitors have been hugely impressed by the new look Nave. In December, the Mayor of Lymington and Pennington attended a small reopening ceremony at which the Vicar was able to announce that the relicensing of the Chapel had been approved by the Diocese.
Apart from the major building project in the Nave, there has been a considerable amount of routine maintenance carried out at All Saints throughout the year including the internal redecoration of the Hall. Outside, part of the drive has been resurfaced, the Bell Tower has been checked, gutters have been cleared, diseased ash and oak trees have been removed and a team of volunteer ladies have kindly started to bring the Quiet Garden back under control.

But a lot remains to be done. A new path across the entrance verge is planned to allow members of the public to have direct access to the Quiet Garden and a new entrance is required to enable fire appliances to get onto the site. Inside, the upper floor of the structure in the north aisle has still to be fitted out.

These are exciting times for All Saints. 112 years on from being consecrated as a Chapel of Ease, All Saints continues to have a Chapel that is available for occasional Christian worship whilst alongside it, in the Nave and Hall, there is a thriving nursery and pre-school. For the time being, the future of All Saints is secure, and it continues to be of value, both on religious and educational grounds, to the local community.

Jonathan Cook

The Flower Guild.

Flowers in the church are arranged by a group of parishioners and friends on a weekly rota. Special events like Easter, Harvest and Christmas are celebrated with additional arrangements while the periods of Lent and Advent are marked by green arrangements without flowers. Members of the Guild participated in the Christmas Tree Festival in December.

Bells and Flags.

Some small repairs were needed to the hinges on the top hatch leading to the roof to ensure a waterproof seal. The bells were silent during lockdown but Larry Stace, the Tower Captain, and his team of bellringers started ringing again in the autumn. Practice has resumed on Wednesdays with District Doubles practice night on the second Wednesday of each month. In part to signal that our church had re-opened for worship, we now fly a pennant with diocesan crest from the flagpole on the Tower when the diocesan flag (for religious holidays), the Union Jack (for national holidays) and the flags for our four national saints are not in use.

Allan Hill

St Thomas Church Lymington Finance Report 2021

Finance Committee

St Thomas Church Finance Committee members manage our church finances week by week throughout the year, on behalf of the PCC. The Committee usually meets six times a year, however during the year it met more frequently, using Zoom.

Committee members: David Bridges, Bill Gulland, Maureen Harris, Judy Martin, Andy Payne, Peter Salisbury, Malcolm Ward.

We wish to record our gratitude to three people, namely our bookkeeper Judy Martin for her many hours of work throughout the year, on which our quarterly and end of year account sheets are based, also Gill Maunder and John Nivison who both play key roles in the management of our finances.

Balance Sheet

At the end of 2021 the financial assets controlled by the PCC totalled £625,107.

Income

During the year our total income was £211,695 of which the Parish Giving Scheme played a most important part; total PGS donations were £91,846 on which we claimed Gift Aid to the value of £21,709. We were grateful to receive generous donations totalling £13,053 which helped significantly to offset the negative effects of the pandemic on our finances.

Our income during 2021 was £8,969 greater than that for the previous year.

As the number of people attending our services remained lower than that before the pandemic, so did our collection income. This, along with our general reduced use of cash prompted us to introduce a card reader at the back of the church, in August. By the end of the year it had received donations totalling £1,761 on which we claimed Gift Aid where appropriate.

Expenditure

Our expenditure, including our charitable donations, totalled £292,600. Included in this figure are £59,511 for the major works carried out at All Saints' Church and £19,646 for major works on St Thomas' Church and graveyard.

Result for the year

Excluding the major works, we finished the year with a deficit of just £1,748. Considering all that we faced over the year this seems a good result. We look back with a sense of joy at the many ways in which, as a Christian church, we have been able to continue onwards together. The commitment and generosity evident at St Thomas is a source of confidence.

When we include the major works, the year ended with a deficit of £80,905 but taking the gains in our investments into account this was reduced to £44,534.

During the year

The finance committee continued with all its routine duties and provided regular updates to the PCC, seeking its formal approval of all major decisions.

During August HSBC closed its counters and announced that it was making changes to its business accounts to the effect that charities such as St Thomas' Church would have to pay charges as from November. HSBC thus fell into line with pretty much all high street banks, which now use the Post Office for handling cash on their behalf. Lymington PO, often being busy and set up for quick transactions at its counter, is not ideal for handling our weekly cash deposits. Further to this, the monthly charge on each of our HSBC accounts along with further charges for depositing both cash and cheques caused us to reduce the number of our HSBC accounts and, where possible, work towards replacing our cash/cheque transactions with online transactions, for which there is no charge. Thus, the finance committee spent much of its time towards the end of the year working to find the best way forward. This will remain an ongoing task in 2022.

Reserves Policy

The PCC reserves policy states:

- *It is the policy of the PCC to hold an Operational Reserve to cover routine expenditure for a period of three months.* Currently £60,000
- *In addition, the PCC has designated a Buildings Reserve to meet unplanned expenditure on the fabric of our buildings, recognising that the PCC is responsible for maintaining three Grade II listed historic buildings: St Thomas Church, All Saints Church, and All Saints Hall.* Currently £200,000.

Looking Ahead

During the year expert advice was sought concerning the problems with St Thomas' Church roofs, rainwater goods and walls, these contributing to the damp which is evident in our walls and is causing damage to them. The PCC has the means to meet the costs of the expensive, necessary work required and intends to address as much of it as is possible during the coming year.

Andy Payne

APPENDIX 1 - CORE VALUES.

Guided and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, we are part of the Christian Community in Lymington and District who are called to love God and all people. Therefore we:

1. Pray and Worship. Our worship:
   - Includes a variety of styles and traditions.
   - Is relevant to the people and issues of today Attracts and welcomes newcomers and visitors.
   - Has something for all ages.
   - Includes bible-based preaching.
   - Encourages spiritual growth within our congregations.

2. Grow as disciples of Christ. Every person is called to follow Christ and be a good steward of God's creation. We offer support in this through:
   - Teaching and nurture Learning from one another.
   - Prayer and study groups for all ages Identifying and training successors for all roles.
   - Identifying and developing quality leadership; both lay and ordained.

3 Are committed to one another. Because of this we offer:
   - Mutual support and encouragement.
   - A positive, generous and forgiving attitude Opportunities to learn from one another.
   - An attractive and welcoming community.

4 Reach out and share our faith. To do this we:
   - Talk about our faith (gossip the good news) with all ages Support worldwide missionary activities.
   - Invite people to learn about the Christian faith (e.g. Alpha and Lent Course) Respect and value people's individuality.

5 Are here to serve others, both locally and globally. We do this:
   - By using our gifts in leadership and service in both voluntary and paid work.
   - By supporting those in need.
   - By supporting external organisations.
   - By challenging injustice and inequality of opportunity for all people regardless of social or cultural issues.

6 Value our Anglican inheritance. In particular we value:
   - Our tradition of critical thinking.
   - The Parish system.
   - The scriptural basis for matters of faith.
   - Our adaptability to our cultural context.

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A C C O U N T S

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2021

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	2020
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	147,235	5,221	-	152,456	153,870
Activities for Generating Funds	2(b)	10,231	-	-	10,231	4,211
Investment Income	2(c)	7,174	109	670	7,953	8,899
Church Activities	2(d)	41,055	-	-	41,055	35,746
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£205,695	£5,330	£670	£211,695	£202,726
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3(a)	284,256	5,489	670	290,415	226,853
Governance Costs	3(b)	2,185	-	-	2,185	2,112
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£286,441	£5,489	£670	£292,600	£228,965
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		(80,746)	(159)	-	(80,905)	(26,239)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
On Revaluation		33,232	-	3,139	36,371	14,294
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(47,514)	(159)	3,139	(44,534)	(11,945)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2021		646,303	773	22,565	669,641	681,586
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021		£598,789	£614	£25,704	£625,107	£669,641

BALANCE SHEET **31ST DECEMBER 2021**

	Note		2021			2020	
FIXED ASSETS							
Tangible Fixed Assets							
Equipment							
As at 1st January 2021			749				
Less: Depreciation for the year			150				
				599			749
Investments							
Endowment Fund Investments							
Hapgood Bequest							
3,828 C.O.I.F. Charities Ethical Investment Fund			11,982			10,560	
Miss B Monk Fund							
586 C B F Investment Fund			13,722			12,005	
				25,704			22,565
Unrestricted Investments							
C.B.F. - Deposit Account			280,048			329,881	
10,030 C.B.F. Investment Fund Shares			234,884			205,488	
7,634 COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund			23,892			21,057	
545 M & G Charifund			8,481			7,480	
				547,305			563,906
Current Assets							
Traidcraft Stock			976			-	
Debtors and Prepayments	5		4,369			2,891	
Cash at Bank -							
Treasurers Account		59,161			81,012		
St. Thomas Renewal Account		-			2,068		
St. Thomas Hall Account		-			2,539		
			59,161			85,619	
Cash in Hand			205			1,546	
			64,711			90,056	
Less: Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year	6		13,212			7,635	
				51,499			82,421
				£625,107			£669,641

BALANCE SHEET (Continued) — 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			598,789		646,303
Restricted	7				
St. Thomas Renewal Appeal Fund		-		425	
Donations Fund		614		348	
			614		773
Endowment Funds					
Hapgood Bequest (Parish Church Fabric)		11,982		10,560	
Miss B. Monk (Youth Work)		13,722		12,005	
			25,704		22,565
			£625,107		£669,641

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Vicar

.....
Honorary Treasurer

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1(a) Accounting Conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1(b) Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the Financial Statements by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011, and no value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated at the rate of 20% on the reducing balance basis. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £3,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

1(c) Investment Assets

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	2020
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid Donations	92,651	-	-	92,651	91,338
Income tax Recoverable	25,662	-	-	25,662	23,173
Other Planned Giving	7,105	-	-	7,105	7,723
Collections	8,344	-	-	8,344	5,136
Grants	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Listed Places of Worship Grant	686	-	-	686	581
Friends of St Thomas	-	-	-	-	2,000
St. Thomas Renewal Appeal	-	2,555	-	2,555	2,585
Donations	12,787	266	-	13,053	9,334
Good Samaritan Fund	-	400	-	400	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	10,000
	147,235	5,221	-	152,456	153,870
2(b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Vistas Cafe	1,522	-	-	1,522	1,605
Traidcraft Sales	4,404	-	-	4,404	-
Other Fund Raising Events	771	-	-	771	668
Other Income	3,534	-	-	3,534	1,938
	10,231	-	-	10,231	4,211
2(c) Investment Income					
Miss Monk's Bequest	-	-	348	348	336
Hapgood's Bequest	-	-	322	322	314
Churchyard Maintenance	-	109	-	109	106
C.B.F. Interest	167	-	-	167	1,395
Dividends					
C. B. F. Investment Fund	5,961	-	-	5,961	5,756
C. O. I. F. Ethical Investment Fund	643	-	-	643	627
M & G Charifund	403	-	-	403	365
	7,174	109	670	7,953	8,899
2(d) Church Activities					
Parish Magazine	3,216	-	-	3,216	3,877
Monday Lunch	3,613	-	-	3,613	2,555
Hire - St. Thomas Hall	4,708	-	-	4,708	4,313
Hire - All Saints Church and Hall	22,800	-	-	22,800	21,355
Fees	6,718	-	-	6,718	3,646
	41,055	-	-	41,055	35,746
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£205,695	£5,330	£670	£211,695	£202,726

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	2020
3(a) Church Activites					
Missions and Charities	16,660	-	-	16,660	14,600
Good Samaritan Fund	159	400	-	559	1,302
Monday Lunch	5,832	-	-	5,832	3,378
Traidcraft Purchases	3,993	-	-	3,993	-
Ministry					
Diocesan Parish Share	131,236	-	-	131,236	131,236
Clergy Expenses	2,188	-	-	2,188	2,252
Worship and Services					
Cost of Services	741	-	-	741	335
Organists	8,042	-	-	8,042	7,786
Organ Tuning and Repairs	484	-	-	484	730
Music and Choir Expenses	450	-	-	450	431
Church Maintenance and Expenses					
Water Rates	58	-	-	58	71
Lighting and Heating	5,498	-	-	5,498	5,147
Insurance	5,170	-	-	5,170	5,130
Cleaning	420	-	-	420	345
Churchyard Expenses	1,061	109	-	1,170	1,716
Repairs and Renewals	1,302	-	322	1,624	5,227
All Saints Major Works					
All Saints Heating	40,408	-	-	40,408	550
Floor Screeding	5,279	-	-	5,279	1,971
Moving Font	2,796	-	-	2,796	-
Cleaning Altar Stonework	2,688	-	-	2,688	-
Treework	2,160	-	-	2,160	-
Legal Fees	6,180	-	-	6,180	7,150
St Thomas Major Works					
Roofing and Guttering Work	5,100	2,980	-	8,080	-
Tree Pollarding	11,566	-	-	11,566	-
Website Development	-	-	-	-	300
St. Thomas Hall Expenses	271	-	-	271	1,382
All Saints Church and Hall Expenses	5,499	-	-	5,499	15,092
Parish Magazine Expenses	3,101	-	-	3,101	3,359
Parish Secretary	10,601	2,000	-	12,601	12,352
Church Office	895	-	-	895	789
Accountancy	1,234	-	-	1,234	907
Advertising and Leaflets	298	-	-	298	215
Miscellaneous expenses	2,736	-	348	3,084	2,913
Depreciation of Equipment	150	-	-	150	187
	284,256	5,489	670	290,415	226,853
3(b) Governance Costs					
Accountancy and Examination Fees	2,185	-	-	2,185	2,112
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£286,441	£5,489	£670	£292,600	£228,965

4. Expenditure

Staff Costs	2021	2020
Salaries	13,274	12,793

During the year the Council employed a Parish Secretary and a Verger, neither of whom earned £60,000 or more. The average number of employees during the year was 2.

External Accountancy and Examination Fees	2021	2020
Accountancy and Examination Fees	£2,185	£2,112

5. Debtors and Prepayments

	2021	2020
Income Tax Recoverable	3,133	1,777
Other Debtors and Prepayments	1,236	1,114
	£4,369	£2,891

6. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
Creditors for Goods and Services	1,770	2,613
Mission	300	600
Wedding Deposits	-	500
Accrued Expenses	11,142	3,922
	£13,212	£7,635

7. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds in the accounts are as follows:

1. St. Thomas Renewal Appeal Fund

   This appeal was launched to raise funds for the refurbishment of St. Thomas Church. Income and expenditure relating thereto is credited or charged to this Fund. This Fund was closed during the year.

2. Donations Fund

   Other amounts received for a specific purpose are credited to the Donations Fund. Expenditure incurred for these purposes are debited to the Donations Fund.

Assets relating to the Restricted Funds are as follows:

	2021	2020
Cash at Bank	£614	£773

8. Investment Assets

	Investments	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
Endowment Fund Investments				
Hapgood Bequest				
As at 1st January 2021		10,560	10,560	9,935
Unrealised gain		1,422	1,422	625
As at 31st December 2021		11,982	11,982	10,560
Miss B Monk Fund				
As at 1st January 2021		12,005	12,005	11,233
Unrealised gain		1,717	1,717	772
As at 31st December 2021		13,722	13,722	12,005
Unrestricted Investments				
As at 1st January 2021	563,906		563,906	549,614
Withdrawn	(50,000)		(50,000)	-
Reinvested Income	167		167	1,395
Unrealised gain	33,232		33,232	12,897
	£547,305		£547,305	£563,906
Total Valuation at 31st December 2021	£547,305	£22,565	£573,009	£586,471
Total Unrealised Gains	£33,232	£3,139	£36,371	£14,294

9. Vicar and Churchwardens' Charitable Trusts

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the following charitable Trust:

The Parish Hall Trust

The income and property of the Trust may be applied either towards the upkeep, repair and insurance of the fabric and contents of the Parish Church of Lymington, or in otherwise furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England.

Investments and balance at bank of the Trust at 31st December 2021 amounted to £156,559. Investment income in the year to 31st December 2021 amounted to £3,558 of which £2,000 was donated to Lymington Parochial Church Council towards the cost of the Parish Secretary.

10. Charity Investments

Investment held by Charitable Trustees where the income arising is due to the Parish is as follows:

Miss E. Earley Bequest for Churchyard Maintenance

1,295.05 Income Units Charities Ethical Investment Fund
(Market Value 31st December 2021 £4,053)

11. Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary Income	147,255	6,615	-	153,870
Activities for Generating Funds	4,211	-	-	4,211
Investment Income	8,143	106	650	8,899
Church Activities	35,746	-	-	35,746
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£195,355	£6,721	£650	£202,726
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Church Activities	219,937	6,266	650	226,853
Governance Costs	2,112	-	-	2,112
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£222,049	£6,266	£650	£228,965
NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES	(26,694)	455	-	(26,239)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS				
On revaluation	12,897	-	1,397	14,294
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(13,797)	455	1,397	(11,945)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2020	660,100	318	21,168	681,586
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020	£646,303	£773	£22,565	£669,641

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A C C O U N T S

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2021

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	2020
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	147,235	5,221	-	152,456	153,870
Activities for Generating Funds	2(b)	10,231	-	-	10,231	4,211
Investment Income	2(c)	7,174	109	670	7,953	8,899
Church Activities	2(d)	41,055	-	-	41,055	35,746
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£205,695	£5,330	£670	£211,695	£202,726
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3(a)	284,256	5,489	670	290,415	226,853
Governance Costs	3(b)	2,185	-	-	2,185	2,112
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£286,441	£5,489	£670	£292,600	£228,965
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		(80,746)	(159)	-	(80,905)	(26,239)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
On Revaluation		33,232	-	3,139	36,371	14,294
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(47,514)	(159)	3,139	(44,534)	(11,945)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2021		646,303	773	22,565	669,641	681,586
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021		£598,789	£614	£25,704	£625,107	£669,641

BALANCE SHEET **31ST DECEMBER 2021**

	Note		2021			2020	
FIXED ASSETS							
Tangible Fixed Assets							
Equipment							
As at 1st January 2021			749				
Less: Depreciation for the year			150				
				599			749
Investments							
Endowment Fund Investments							
Hapgood Bequest							
3,828 C.O.I.F. Charities Ethical Investment Fund			11,982			10,560	
Miss B Monk Fund							
586 C B F Investment Fund			13,722			12,005	
				25,704			22,565
Unrestricted Investments							
C.B.F. - Deposit Account			280,048			329,881	
10,030 C.B.F. Investment Fund Shares			234,884			205,488	
7,634 COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund			23,892			21,057	
545 M & G Charifund			8,481			7,480	
				547,305			563,906
Current Assets							
Traidcraft Stock			976			-	
Debtors and Prepayments	5		4,369			2,891	
Cash at Bank -							
Treasurers Account		59,161			81,012		
St. Thomas Renewal Account		-			2,068		
St. Thomas Hall Account		-			2,539		
			59,161			85,619	
Cash in Hand			205			1,546	
			64,711			90,056	
Less: Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year	6		13,212			7,635	
				51,499			82,421
				£625,107			£669,641

BALANCE SHEET (Continued) — 31ST DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			598,789		646,303
Restricted	7				
St. Thomas Renewal Appeal Fund		-		425	
Donations Fund		614		348	
			614		773
Endowment Funds					
Hapgood Bequest (Parish Church Fabric)		11,982		10,560	
Miss B. Monk (Youth Work)		13,722		12,005	
			25,704		22,565
			£625,107		£669,641

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on
and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Vicar

.....
Honorary Treasurer

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1(a) Accounting Conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1(b) Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the Financial Statements by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011, and no value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated at the rate of 20% on the reducing balance basis. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £3,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

1(c) Investment Assets

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	2020
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid Donations	92,651	-	-	92,651	91,338
Income tax Recoverable	25,662	-	-	25,662	23,173
Other Planned Giving	7,105	-	-	7,105	7,723
Collections	8,344	-	-	8,344	5,136
Grants	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Listed Places of Worship Grant	686	-	-	686	581
Friends of St Thomas	-	-	-	-	2,000
St. Thomas Renewal Appeal	-	2,555	-	2,555	2,585
Donations	12,787	266	-	13,053	9,334
Good Samaritan Fund	-	400	-	400	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	10,000
	147,235	5,221	-	152,456	153,870
2(b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Vistas Cafe	1,522	-	-	1,522	1,605
Traidcraft Sales	4,404	-	-	4,404	-
Other Fund Raising Events	771	-	-	771	668
Other Income	3,534	-	-	3,534	1,938
	10,231	-	-	10,231	4,211
2(c) Investment Income					
Miss Monk's Bequest	-	-	348	348	336
Hapgood's Bequest	-	-	322	322	314
Churchyard Maintenance	-	109	-	109	106
C.B.F. Interest	167	-	-	167	1,395
Dividends					
C. B. F. Investment Fund	5,961	-	-	5,961	5,756
C. O. I. F. Ethical Investment Fund	643	-	-	643	627
M & G Charifund	403	-	-	403	365
	7,174	109	670	7,953	8,899
2(d) Church Activities					
Parish Magazine	3,216	-	-	3,216	3,877
Monday Lunch	3,613	-	-	3,613	2,555
Hire - St. Thomas Hall	4,708	-	-	4,708	4,313
Hire - All Saints Church and Hall	22,800	-	-	22,800	21,355
Fees	6,718	-	-	6,718	3,646
	41,055	-	-	41,055	35,746
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£205,695	£5,330	£670	£211,695	£202,726

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	2020
3(a) Church Activites					
Missions and Charities	16,660	-	-	16,660	14,600
Good Samaritan Fund	159	400	-	559	1,302
Monday Lunch	5,832	-	-	5,832	3,378
Traidcraft Purchases	3,993	-	-	3,993	-
Ministry					
Diocesan Parish Share	131,236	-	-	131,236	131,236
Clergy Expenses	2,188	-	-	2,188	2,252
Worship and Services					
Cost of Services	741	-	-	741	335
Organists	8,042	-	-	8,042	7,786
Organ Tuning and Repairs	484	-	-	484	730
Music and Choir Expenses	450	-	-	450	431
Church Maintenance and Expenses					
Water Rates	58	-	-	58	71
Lighting and Heating	5,498	-	-	5,498	5,147
Insurance	5,170	-	-	5,170	5,130
Cleaning	420	-	-	420	345
Churchyard Expenses	1,061	109	-	1,170	1,716
Repairs and Renewals	1,302	-	322	1,624	5,227
All Saints Major Works					
All Saints Heating	40,408	-	-	40,408	550
Floor Screeding	5,279	-	-	5,279	1,971
Moving Font	2,796	-	-	2,796	-
Cleaning Altar Stonework	2,688	-	-	2,688	-
Treework	2,160	-	-	2,160	-
Legal Fees	6,180	-	-	6,180	7,150
St Thomas Major Works					
Roofing and Guttering Work	5,100	2,980	-	8,080	-
Tree Pollarding	11,566	-	-	11,566	-
Website Development	-	-	-	-	300
St. Thomas Hall Expenses	271	-	-	271	1,382
All Saints Church and Hall Expenses	5,499	-	-	5,499	15,092
Parish Magazine Expenses	3,101	-	-	3,101	3,359
Parish Secretary	10,601	2,000	-	12,601	12,352
Church Office	895	-	-	895	789
Accountancy	1,234	-	-	1,234	907
Advertising and Leaflets	298	-	-	298	215
Miscellaneous expenses	2,736	-	348	3,084	2,913
Depreciation of Equipment	150	-	-	150	187
	284,256	5,489	670	290,415	226,853
3(b) Governance Costs					
Accountancy and Examination Fees	2,185	-	-	2,185	2,112
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£286,441	£5,489	£670	£292,600	£228,965

4. Expenditure

Staff Costs	2021	2020
Salaries	13,274	12,793

During the year the Council employed a Parish Secretary and a Verger, neither of whom earned £60,000 or more. The average number of employees during the year was 2.

External Accountancy and Examination Fees	2021	2020
Accountancy and Examination Fees	£2,185	£2,112

5. Debtors and Prepayments

	2021	2020
Income Tax Recoverable	3,133	1,777
Other Debtors and Prepayments	1,236	1,114
	£4,369	£2,891

6. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
Creditors for Goods and Services	1,770	2,613
Mission	300	600
Wedding Deposits	-	500
Accrued Expenses	11,142	3,922
	£13,212	£7,635

7. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds in the accounts are as follows:

1. St. Thomas Renewal Appeal Fund

   This appeal was launched to raise funds for the refurbishment of St. Thomas Church. Income and expenditure relating thereto is credited or charged to this Fund. This Fund was closed during the year.

2. Donations Fund

   Other amounts received for a specific purpose are credited to the Donations Fund. Expenditure incurred for these purposes are debited to the Donations Fund.

Assets relating to the Restricted Funds are as follows:

	2021	2020
Cash at Bank	£614	£773

8. Investment Assets

	Investments	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
Endowment Fund Investments				
Hapgood Bequest				
As at 1st January 2021		10,560	10,560	9,935
Unrealised gain		1,422	1,422	625
As at 31st December 2021		11,982	11,982	10,560
Miss B Monk Fund				
As at 1st January 2021		12,005	12,005	11,233
Unrealised gain		1,717	1,717	772
As at 31st December 2021		13,722	13,722	12,005
Unrestricted Investments				
As at 1st January 2021	563,906		563,906	549,614
Withdrawn	(50,000)		(50,000)	-
Reinvested Income	167		167	1,395
Unrealised gain	33,232		33,232	12,897
	£547,305		£547,305	£563,906
Total Valuation at 31st December 2021	£547,305	£22,565	£573,009	£586,471
Total Unrealised Gains	£33,232	£3,139	£36,371	£14,294

9. Vicar and Churchwardens' Charitable Trusts

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the following charitable Trust:

The Parish Hall Trust

The income and property of the Trust may be applied either towards the upkeep, repair and insurance of the fabric and contents of the Parish Church of Lymington, or in otherwise furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England.

Investments and balance at bank of the Trust at 31st December 2021 amounted to £156,559. Investment income in the year to 31st December 2021 amounted to £3,558 of which £2,000 was donated to Lymington Parochial Church Council towards the cost of the Parish Secretary.

10. Charity Investments

Investment held by Charitable Trustees where the income arising is due to the Parish is as follows:

Miss E. Earley Bequest for Churchyard Maintenance

1,295.05 Income Units Charities Ethical Investment Fund
(Market Value 31st December 2021 £4,053)

11. Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2020

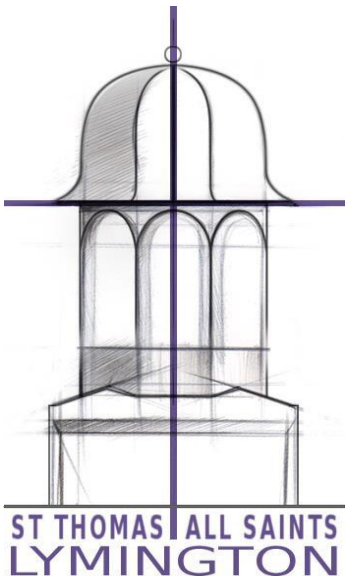
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary Income	147,255	6,615	-	153,870
Activities for Generating Funds	4,211	-	-	4,211
Investment Income	8,143	106	650	8,899
Church Activities	35,746	-	-	35,746
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£195,355	£6,721	£650	£202,726
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Church Activities	219,937	6,266	650	226,853
Governance Costs	2,112	-	-	2,112
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£222,049	£6,266	£650	£228,965
NET (OUTGOING)/ INCOMING RESOURCES	(26,694)	455	-	(26,239)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS				
On revaluation	12,897	-	1,397	14,294
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(13,797)	455	1,397	(11,945)
Fund Balances at 1st January 2020	660,100	318	21,168	681,586
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020	£646,303	£773	£22,565	£669,641

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST THOMAS WITH ALL SA

England & Wales - Charity number 1128119

Accounts

THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS, LYMINGTON WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.



2020 REPORT and ACCOUNTS for the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday April 21st 2021

7:30pm

Registered Charity Number 1128119

AGENDA

PRAYERS
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

1. Election of Churchwardens for 2021-2022.[1]

   All persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll of this Parish and all persons resident in the Parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence may participate in this election.

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parochial Church Council.
2. Approval of 2020 Minutes.
3. Election of Parochial Church Council members.[2]
4. Consideration of:
   a) The Electoral Roll.
   b) The Annual Report of the Proceedings of the PCC and activities of the Parish generally.
   c) Finance[3]:
      I. Examined accounts of the PCC for the year ending 31 December 2020.
      II. Statement of the funds and property of the PCC.
      III. To appoint independent examiners.
   d) Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches.
   e) Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
   f) Other Reports.
5. Any other business of Parochial or general interest to be submitted in writing one week in advance of the APCM to the PCC Secretary via e-mail to the Secretary at marychill45@gmail.com

Mary Hill
Honorary Secretary, Lymington PCC.

[1] In accordance with the Churchwardens' Measure 2001.

[2] In accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2020.

[3] Item 6c is presented in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, LYMINGTON
WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020.

Aims and Purposes.

The St Thomas' with All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility for cooperation with the incumbent, the Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury, in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical as set out in the Core Values (see Appendix 1). The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Church of St Thomas and the Chapel of Ease of All Saints, Woodside.

Administrative Information.

The Parish of St Thomas, with All Saints, Woodside, is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Parish Office, St Thomas' Church, St Thomas Street, Lymington, SO41 9ND. Telephone: 01590 676194.
e-mail: office@lymingtonchurch.org website: www.lymingtonchurch.org

Personnel.

Incumbent:	The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury.
Churchwardens:	David Bridges, Maureen Harris.
Licensed Lay Ministers:	Douglas Marcuse, Malcolm Ward.
Parish Administrator:	Gillian Maunder.
Organist:	Martin Penrose.
Verger, Sacristan-St Thomas:	Amanda Dawson.
Janitor, All Saints:	Tony Perry.
Treasurer:	Andrew Payne.
Inspecting Architect:	Ryan Bunce of Ryan Bunce &Co.
Bankers:	HSBC, 102 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZP.
Independent Examiner:	Hope Jones, 73 High Street, Lymington, Hants, SO41 9ZA.

PCC Members who served from the APCM 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent	The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury (Chairman).
Churchwardens	David Bridges, (Vice-Chairman), (Elected Ex Officio), Maureen Harris.
Licensed Lay Minister	Malcolm Ward.
Deanery Synod Representatives:	
To APCM 2023	Daphne Johnston, Sylvia Pepin, Celia Swan.
Elected Members:	
To APCM 2021	William Gulland, Mary Hill, Michael Standage.
To APCM 2022	Barbara Clapper, Ray Shepherd, Malcolm Haigh.
To APCM 2023	Bronwen Bridges, Brian Cox, David Wansey.

The Electoral Roll: The Electoral Roll stands at 255 with 189 being resident and 66 non-resident.

Structure, Governance and Management.

The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 (as amended) requires "the Minister and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish" and requires the PCC to "co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The Church of England (Worship and Doctrine) Measure 1974 requires the minister and PCC to agree jointly any decisions on which forms of service are to be used in any church in the Parish.

The PCC meets six times per year. Normally meetings are held in St Thomas' Church, with one meeting being held in the Lymington C of E Infant School but in 2020, PCC meetings have been held virtually via Zoom because of the restrictions on meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Agendas and Minutes of PCC meetings are made available in the Parish church and on the church website.

The Standing Committee of the PCC conducts the business of the PCC between meetings, is answerable to the PCC and submits to it proposals in connection with issues of Parish-wide significance. The *ex-officio* members in 2020 were the Vicar (Chairman), Churchwardens, one of whom acts as Secretary, and two elected members (Andrew Payne and Michael Standage).

Other members who took responsibility in 2020 for promoting the six Core Values (see Appendix 1) were as follows:

- Leadership and Co-ordination: The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury.
- Worship Services: The Revd. Canon Peter Salisbury.
- Prayer: Sarah Salisbury.
- Community Action: David Fenton and Sylvia Pepin.
- Discipleship and Learning: Linda Lee.
- Fellowship and Mutual Support: Sarah Bunce and Pauline Lightbody.
- Communications: Daphne Johnston and Nigel Mussett.
- Buildings, Land and Equipment: Bill Gulland, Jeremy Vines, Michael Standage.
- Finance: Andrew Payne.

The Finance Committee, chaired by Andrew Payne, prepares and monitors the annual budget and reports directly to the PCC.
The Fabric Committee, chaired by Bill Gulland, provides support and guidance to the PCC on the appropriate maintenance and management of the church premises and grounds.

The Vicar and Churchwardens are *ex-officio* **Trustees of Lymington C of E Infant School** and of two Trusts associated with the Parish as follows:
Fulford & Burrard Trust, which supports the Infant School in particular and youth more generally (subject to specific criteria).
Parish Hall Trust, which supports the St Thomas site generally.

Sub-committees manage the St Thomas' Church Hall, mission giving, and social events. All meet as required and report directly to the PCC or to the Standing Committee as appropriate.
The Friends of St Thomas Church have continued to promote and support the restoration, preservation, repair and beautification of the building and surrounds of the church and church hall.

Risk Management.

Risk Management in respect of St Thomas Church (STC) and Church Hall (STH) and curtilage and All Saints Church (ASC) and Hall (ASH), and curtilage.[4]

Risk	Probability	Impact	Management Action
An incident requiring Emergency Evacuation	Low	Medium/High	Evacuation procedure published; announcement of procedure when building(s) full on non-routine occasions.
Fire in Church including Sacristy/Vestry	Low	High	Fire Risk Assessments carried out for both churches. Equipment provided; standing instructions issued/reissued to clergy and staff. Fire extinguisher training undertaken.
Fire in Church Halls	Low	Medium/High	Fire Risk Assessments carried out. Equipment provided; standing instructions issued/reissued to clergy and staff.
Fire in Boiler Rooms	Low	High	Fire Risk Assessment carried out. Flammable gas detector/alarm installed in STC boiler room. Equipment in hall - ASH.
Carbon Monoxide in Boiler Rooms	Low	High	Carbon Monoxide detector/alarm installed in STC boiler room.
Financial	Low	Low/Medium	Monthly bank statements; quarterly budgetary review by Finance Committee; cash collections counted by teams of at least two, with signed record.
Statutory & Legal including Health & Safety (H&S) and Safeguarding	Low	Medium/High	H&S checks; safeguarding policy of children and vulnerable adults in place. DBS checking. Disabled access reviewed. Risk assessment sheets prepared for use with individual events (e.g., Concerts and Festivals). H&S Policy revised.
Operational Damage/Loss of Property	Low	Medium/High	Continuous security video (STC) has remained a deterrent. Smartwater applied to precious metals.
Personal	Low	Low	Attention to H&S of workers; restricted child access to gallery STC; handrails; white edges to steps.
Reputational	ST Low	ST Low	Covered by above precautions.
	AS Low	AS Medium	Covered by above precautions. Regular meetings with the Tenant to ensure problems are addressed early.
Shortage of Volunteers	High	High	Combining resources across the parish, succession planning and prioritization of what we do.
Damage to the external fabric of ASC. Financial risk if Tops became unable to meet their commitment to pay rent or fail to look after the interior of the buildings.	Low	Low/Medium	Company vetted by ST and Church Commissioners. Management Committee set up to ensure regular dialog between PCC reps and Tops. Appropriate legal protections and insurance in place.

[4] The regulations require risk to be assessed and managed. A risk is a contingency that would adversely affect the PCC's ability to pursue its objectives, as expressed in its statement of Core Values (see Appendix 1)

Objectives and Activities

The Parish Vocation is “to be the town church in Lymington, offering prayer and hospitality in Jesus’ name”. Mindful of this and the charity’s object to promote in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church, the PCC has developed this objective and has published a statement of Core Values (Appendix 1). Nine areas of ministry and roles have been identified and leaders appointed to further the realisation of these values. Accounting procedures are designed to identify clearly patterns of income and expenditure across the Parish, so that its resources may be deployed as appropriately as possible.

In their report below, the Trustees present a summary of the activities undertaken by the charity in the Parish for the benefit of the public. They confirm that they have had due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission and the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Many Parishioners who willingly undertake a wide variety of tasks with no thought of remuneration or other recognition, have contributed to the life of the Parish. The Vicar, Churchwardens and PCC are enormously grateful to them all.

REPORTS

Leadership and Co-ordination.

2020 was the year of the COVID-19 pandemic and that affected everything we do, especially those things which involved the building and meeting together. The building was completely closed for several months at the start of the pandemic and then closed again for public worship during the winter lockdown.

We have leant heavily on the expertise and dedication of our Health and Safety team as we have tried to keep up with the ever-changing laws and guidelines governing what we were able to offer. Similarly, it has been a very trying year for the PCC as we have had to make very difficult decisions without the luxuries of complete information or time to take stock. I would like to express my thanks to all those involved for the way in which we have faced these challenges together in a spirit of openness and mutual respect.

We were immensely relieved when finally, the requisite permissions were granted for the fitting out of All Saints as a nursery and pre-school. I am so grateful to the steering committee whose dogged determination and attention to detail brought us to this point, and I know the members of the committee would all point to the absolutely essential role that Jonathan Cook has played and continues to play.

The voice of prayer has not been silent in the parish, in fact there have been far more people joining in the daily worship of the church since we went online.

We decided from the word go that we would collaborate with our neighbouring parish of Pennington in the provision of online worship and that has been a boon in terms of the effort involved being shared and also in the breadth of voices we have heard. I am very grateful to Paul Young for his tireless work pulling together all the disparate contributions to each Sunday's worship to make them into a seamless whole. It is very time-consuming work.

We have been aware from the start of the pandemic that the online world is not accessible to everyone, whether due to lack of technological resources or simply finding it hard to engage with what we have offered. For this reason, a team of people under the direction of our churchwardens has been making regular contact with those who would otherwise be

left out. Our thanks go especially to Maureen Harris who has taken this forward in such a committed and caring way.

All-in-all a year of significant challenges which we have met together as a team and we fully intend to use what we have learnt to build up the life of the church for the future.

Peter Salisbury.

Worship Services.

The vast majority of our worship services were online. We tried various formats from live broadcasts to fully pre-recorded and settled on pre-recorded as offering the best balance of quality and flexibility. The drawback of that approach is that it takes many times longer to prepare than does a live service.

As well as the technical team we also relied on our musicians and readers, all of whom had to learn new techniques and technology to allow their contributions to be recoded. Our choir and worship band were, during the summer months, doing all this while also providing music for the services in St Thomas.

The benefits we found in online worship were the flexibility of recording video in various locations; the potential to mix different styles of music; the ability to include people who are not normally available on a Sunday morning and the convenience of meeting together socially on Zoom following the services. We also found ourselves getting to know people from the Pennington congregations as we worked and worshipped together.

When we were able to worship in the building, we found that the wearing of masks and prohibition on congregational singing made worship a very strange experience, compounded by the fact that we could not chat to one another before or after the services. However, we did evolve a relatively safe way of conducting the services and for many people it was a rare opportunity to meet with other people in a common endeavour.

Our Messy Church service also moved online, led by the energy and commitment of Penni Jolly who adapted to the new medium with gusto. We are grateful to Sue Blunt who learnt all the necessary skills from scratch to edit the various contributions into a monthly “Messy Church Movie”.

Peter Salisbury.

Deanery Synod.

The Lyndhurst Deanery Synod is a gathering in which we hear about the ways other churches in our area are tackling the same issues that we do here in Lymington and work together for the common good in the eastern half of the New Forest area. This year we have been sharing with one another our approaches to the pandemic and consulting on the redeployment of ministry around the diocese in response to a severe shortfall in income.

Peter Salisbury.

Safeguarding.

St Thomas continues with the adopted policy and procedures as recommended by the C of E and Winchester Diocese. Unfortunately, the Diocesan Safeguarding Office has been shut due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Sonia Jeffery (the Diocesan Safeguarding Administrator) is working from home. Anthea MacAlister is continuing as Parish Safeguarding Officer and has forwarded further safeguarding applications from the Parish and is now awaiting a response from Winchester.

Anthea MacAlister.

Health and Safety.

The **Health and Safety policy** of St Thomas' Church is to provide and maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, healthy and safe working conditions, equipment, and systems of work for all employees and voluntary helpers, and to provide such information as they need for this purpose, which may include supervision and training.

We also endeavour to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all Parishioners, visitors, contractors, and others who may enter the church, hall, churchyard, grounds, and associated buildings.

Overall responsibility for Health and Safety rests with the Incumbent and Churchwardens and is delegated to the Health and Safety Officers (HSOs). They ensure that arrangements are in place to satisfy relevant Health and Safety Regulations and Codes of Practice.

Risk Assessments are undertaken for all activities that take place in St Thomas' Church and Church Hall and in All Saints Chapel and Quiet Garden. Risk Assessments for frequent, regular activities e.g., worship and Vistas café, are undertaken once and then monitored for any updates or changes that might be required. Risk Assessments for less frequent activities e.g., Remembrance Sunday services and concerts run by St Thomas' Church, are reviewed, and updated, as appropriate, before each event.

Checks to confirm the safety and comfort of all aspects of St Thomas' church buildings e.g., fire hazards, trip hazards, heating and lighting etc. are carried out on a regular and frequent basis.

Public Liability Insurance is in place at both St Thomas and All Saints Churches to protect staff, volunteer workers and members of the public during activities for which the church is responsible e.g., worship, meetings etc.

It is a requirement for all groups wishing to hire St Thomas Church or the Church Hall that they have their own Public Liability Insurance to cover the activity for which they are responsible. Applications to hire are checked by the Church Administrator to confirm that the applicant has this in place.

The Public Liability insurance of 'Tops', who lease All Saints Church and the Church Hall and grounds, is checked annually by the PCC members on the All Saints Management Committee.

Health and Safety in 2020 became somewhat extra-ordinary and unconventional in March 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic gave us a new set of responsibilities. Much time and effort were utilised following government and Church of England guidelines to help make St Thomas church building safe for private prayer and, when permitted by the authorities to be open, limited public worship. Sadly, the church had to be closed for many weeks during 2020.
Most chairs were moved to storage, and the remaining ones spaced the required two metres apart to create safe distancing between worshippers. Instructions were provided for the need to use hand sanitisation during entry and exit to and from the church; and close attention was paid to hygiene and to regular cleaning of the church and potentially contaminated surfaces.

Malcolm Ward.

Churchwarden's Report.

The national lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic from March 2020 drastically altered life for everyone. Restrictions of distancing and hygiene led to complete closure of the building for three months. The church office was closed but the administrator, Gill Maunder, worked tirelessly from home. The churchwardens, the Vicar and the H&S team scrutinized the regular government guidelines along with those from the Church of England. Letters containing advice, encouragement and spiritual support from our two Bishops and the Archdeacons were received. Our Archdeacons gave permission for all parishes to postpone the April 2020 APCM until October. They were also notified regarding all necessary annual servicing visits. In July the church, well-ventilated, opened for private prayer with rules regarding distancing and hygiene in place, followed a few weeks later with carefully prepared weekly 8:00am small scale communion services. Two events took place before the next lockdown – a very reduced but uplifting Solent Festival in September and on 30th October a much needed All Souls Day service.

With little chance for learning or preparation, online worship began on Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday), has continued for over a year and was made possible by gifted adaptation to the possibilities of modern technology. The majority of parishioners in both parishes along with others from farther afield have been able to join together in weekly worship. We are indebted to our Vicar Peter Salisbury for his dedication throughout, and to those who have collaborated with and supported him.

A link with St Mark's parish had already begun and plans for a shared Palm Sunday 2020 service were in place. With all the challenges this year has brought our shared link, skills and prayers have strengthened us for the future work for the parishes we serve. Our Messy Church Team maintained good links with the families and being online we were able to successfully involve all the children even more.

Anyone involved with church meetings and groups quickly became familiar with discussions on 'Zoom'. Meanwhile, maintaining a link with ***all*** parishioners during lockdown was paramount. The church group-leaders and volunteers were organised to connect with everyone on the electoral roll, especially covering those with no email, to check everyone's well-being or possible need of assistance. A 'Lockdown Letter' containing both spiritual content and important parish news was delivered twice a month to those without online access. Our magazine editor Nigel Mussett provided regular LPN recipients with brief news updates between monthly publications.

Both hall bookings and church rental ceased for the year, which reduced cash donations and resulted in a significant fall of income; see Finance Report. All being well, there are sufficient funds to cover foreseen expenditure. Church building repairs detailed in the STC quinquennial inspection (Dec 2018) addressing the problems of damp at the east end and in the tower and requiring adjustment to rainwater furniture and repointing of stonework are planned for 2021. Repairs needed on the roof identified more recently have already begun. The removal of damp in the narthex walls is still linked with the proposed redesigning of the western approach to church integrated with plans from SPUD (*Space, Place making & Urban Design)* facilitating involvement of local young people. Designs are ready to display as soon as possible and will demonstrate the aim to visibly increase the link between St Thomas' and the wider community.

A need for replacement of the cladding around the base of the cupola and the cabinets behind the clock faces was identified recently. The clock belongs to the town so the Town Council has been approached for a contribution to the less expensive repair of the clock itself, though responsibility for any larger repairs of the surrounding structure will be for the church account.

Work on All Saints Church identified in the March 2019 QI report, along with the alterations already required for adaptation of the church to accommodate Tops Children's Nursery, is much delayed. After four years, planning permission was finally given in October 2020. We are grateful to the patience of Jonathan Cook, and his small team who continue to steer this project.

St Thomas' Churchyard continues to be well maintained to 'Eco Church' standards, thanks to volunteers and the guidance of Rosie Ward. Our remaining lime trees were finally re-pollarded in early March, the longer logs carefully left in piles for colonisation by fungi, lichen and insects. Continued small adjustments along with many small changes in church and congregation lead to the possibility of attaining the Gold Award. Work on the Courtyard project has been on hold, although strong edge weeds were cleared and the mower shed relocated to a less prominent position. This has already improved the area ready for plans, within a budget, to be considered when possible. In late summer, a species of orchid not usually seen in Lymington was noticed for the first time.

As we consider the past year, we recognise that God has worked in and through our clergy and congregation to inspire and strengthen us to be adaptable for ministry within the challenges of a post locked-down community.

Maureen Harris and David Bridges.

Prayer and Prayer Ministry Report: A Praying Community

A call from the Archbishops to pray together on Thursday mornings during lockdown led to **Morning Praye**r being developed on Zoom. This continues and has expanded to every weekday morning and is led jointly by Jane Nicholson from St Mark's Pennington and me.
Saturday morning prayers for our Parish work continued on Zoom.
We started a ***Taketime Together*** group on Zoom to offer an Ignatian meditation. This is an opportunity to be still, to relax together and focus on God through a guided meditation on a Bible story.
The work of our **parish prayer chain** has continued and many requests were received for specific concerns and situations to be held in our prayers.
Prayer is foundational at all of our church meetings which have continued on Zoom through lockdown, in particular our PCC and house groups. Prayers have been led on our YouTube services which have provided the opportunity to explore different ways to pray at home.
Prayer continues to underpin all of our work and mission in the Parish.

Sarah Salisbury.

Choir Report

Due to Covid, the past year has been a quiet one from a musical point of view. We have been without the choir and there have been no concerts in the church for much of the time. However, it has certainly been a year of musical firsts. Last March, I found myself recording music at home with my wife Mo for the online services broadcast in conjunction with St Mark's, Pennington.
Then, we were lucky enough to have an offer from former chorister Thomas Daish, who now lives in Japan, to help us record a 'virtual' choir. His musical and computer know-how produced some amazing results – and thanks must also go to Phil and Fern Daish-Handy, my

daughter Katie and Thomas' brothers who took on the demanding task of recording their individual parts to a 'click track'. Mo and I also sang in the group.
When the choir came back in the autumn, they were faced with having to sing under conditions of strict social distancing, including being about three metres apart from each other. But they produced some lovely singing despite the difficulties. They also contributed some recorded items for the online services - thanks to our resident recording expert Brian Cox. And we were lucky enough to have them sing at two carol services and provide the music for the Christmas services before the New Year lockdown came along.

Martin Penrose.

Parish Mission Action Plan (pMAP)

Although progress has been difficult this year due to the various COVID restrictions, we have nonetheless done some important work on two of our three pMAP priorities. You will find details in this report of how our prayer life has moved largely online, with some important benefits in accessibility which we hope to maintain into the future. We have also achieved some good things in the churchyard, reaping the benefit of it being outdoors and so less restricted. You can read about this in the Eco Church report which continues to be an important ingredient of our pMAP priority to tell the gospel through our buildings and land. Our March PCC addressed the issue of the pandemic directly and we compiled a set of important questions that we need to answer as we consider the longer term implications of the pandemic for our priorities. These questions and their answers will feed into a review of our pMAP priorities.

Peter Salisbury.

Discipleship and Learning

Theme Programme.

The past year has been challenging in delivering our usual teaching & discipleship programme. There was a period of change and adaptation as we all adjusted to Online Services, joint working relationships with St Mark's, Pennington and the restarting of House Groups via Zoom. We have, however, recommenced Themed Services and House Group Notes and have covered such diverse topics as the HeartEdge Initiative and Forgiveness and Paths to Spiritual Growth.
Notes have been emailed to all House Group Leaders and there continues to be a personal e-mailing list for those who wish to sign up to receive them.
Rina Miles continues to coordinate the Groups and I along with the Vicar & others help decide the ongoing preaching / teaching programme.

Linda Lee.

Mission Links.

In 2020 the Church made gifts of £2,500 to the Bible Society, The Leprosy Mission and the Church Missionary Society, the latter supporting Andrew and Lisa Peart and their family in Bolivia. £2500 was also given to the Southampton Branch of the Mission to Seafarers and formed part of the £66,000 raised by that branch. John Attenborough, the Mission's Southampton Port Chaplain was given several awards for his fundraising and charitable efforts. Much of the fundraising from Southampton was used to purchase SIM cards for seafarers who were unable to go ashore because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Parishioners have also continued to knit woolly hats and other items for seafarers during the pandemic, which have also been well received and thanks are expressed to them all

Peta Walmisley.

Eco Church report

Our Eco Church journey is a small but important contribution to the twin challenges of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Having already gained Bronze and Silver we are slowly making progress towards a Gold Eco Church award. January saw a group doing the RSPB Big Birdwatch and in Lent the church used Ruth Valerio's book *Saying Yes to Life*, based around the days of creation. When shops were closed, our compost was much appreciated by Pennington Community Allotment – and we continued to help them raise funds through our aluminium recycling. A hedgehog box was added to the churchyard and we worked on how to reduce the carbon footprint of the church building. We kept the congregation informed through 'Eco Church Updates', the Parish News and notice sheet. In December, we organised a communal Christmas card and Annette Cox completed her studies for a BCM (Bishops Commission for Mission) in Creation Care. By then we were at Gold level or nearly there in 4 of the 5 Eco Church areas, with more progress needed in the area of Buildings.

Rosie Ward.

Community Action

Good Samaritans

It has been a difficult year and, as with everything, social distancing has hampered our work, most of which is carried out face to face with the people we help. That said, the Good Samaritans has still been able to offer support to the relatively few homeless people who have come to Lymington from elsewhere and of course we always give a listening ear. In most cases our help has involved liaising with the local council housing department to make sure they are aware of any homeless visitors. We also refer people in need to the Basics Bank and help pay for public transport tickets if any homeless individuals have to move on. Prayer of course has continued for the homeless and especially the local man who we have been working with for a long time. We pray that he may have a change of heart and accept at least some of the help that he has been offered. In the meantime, the church itself continues to be a refuge and place of warmth at times for some of the homeless. We have asked them all to abide by the COVID rules - whether inside the church or boiling a kettle in the Narthex - for their own safety and the safety of others.

David Fenton and Sylvia Pepin

Traidcraft

We had an event for Fairtrade Fortnight from the 29th February with a baking competition, games, awareness videos, tombola and Vistas Café which made for a successful and fun morning for all. Little did we know that this would be the last big event of the year as within three weeks the country was in lockdown! With no prospect of sales, we donated items that were going to go out of date (e.g. biscuits, Easter eggs) to the Foodbank rather than waste them. In the late autumn, with the lifting of restrictions and the opening of Vistas Café one day a week, we decided to run a stall each Monday in parallel with the café. After the first stall in December, however, lockdown 2 was imposed and that curtailed any further activity for the year.

We owe a huge thanks to Maureen Harris for setting up and running the stall for many years and Denise Dibb for all her meticulous administration. Brian and Annette Cox have now taken over the coordination and have arranged for the finances and banking via the PCC account. We have also introduced the use of the church bank card reader for payments.

We are hoping for a brighter and more active year in 2021 when Brian, Annette, Denise and Angela Norman will be able to welcome you to our stall and sell you lots of lovely Fairtrade products!

Brian and Annette Cox.

Toddler Group

Sadly, The Toddler Group, as a result of COVID, had to close its doors to our parents, carers and children almost a year ago. With the national road map now in place, we can start the task of preparing to reopen. We recognise there will be quite a lot of preparation and work involved but we have commenced work on our own road map to get this under way. We look forward to welcoming toddlers and carers again as soon as we are able.

Barbara Clapper.

Lymington Infants CE (Aided) School

The majority of Governors at the Infants School are Foundation Governors who are appointed through the PCC and meet regularly at Governors' meetings. They support the school in fulfilling its Christian values of Love, Courage and Respect. The Vicar is an ex-officio member of the Governing Body and leads worship in the school each week. Julia Morris, the current headteacher, was appointed in December 2019 and has guided the school through 2020 and the difficulties of Covid-19 with calmness and competence. Normally Governors are able to visit the school and meet with children and teachers but this has not been possible since March 2020 when all meetings migrated online or on the phone. The Vicar has continued his weekly Worship sessions online and these have proved to be very popular with the children and their parents. It is hoped that visits to the Church by the children for major festivals will be able to continue soon.

Mary Hill.

New Forest Basics Bank

St Thomas' continues to support the work of the NFBB and made a substantial donation in 2020, which was gratefully acknowledged by the chairman, shortly after the pandemic started. Services had resumed at the time of the Harvest Festival and donations were received meeting the NFBB's detailed requirements and passed on to the NFBB. Church members are kept informed electronically by way of a weekly NFBB news sheet which is circulated with the Church's newsletter.

Barbara Clapper.

Fellowship and Mutual Support

Sadly, it was a very quiet year for Fellowship and Mutual Support within the church. This we are quite sure has been missed by many people. We are very much looking forward to events that we hope to be able to hold for everyone over the next year. These include the Harvest church supper and mulled wine and mince pies after the Carol Service as well as a Christmas meal at a local restaurant and a summer pub meal. We look forward to the time when we can all be together again.

Vistas Café

Vistas Café has had a very disrupted year. We met as usual for 3 days each week until March when the whole country experienced the first lockdown for the pandemic. As the lockdown ended in July we began to think about reopening and under the guidance of Sarah Salisbury met to plan Risk Assessments and how we could safely open again.

In September 2020 we opened each Monday for 2 hours with waitress service and tables 2 metres apart, hand sanitiser, masks and name taking for track and tracing. Whilst quite difficult to organise safely, the people who came were hugely grateful for the social contact again. Unfortunately, the country went into a further lockdown at the beginning of November and Vistas has not been able to meet since. In fact, we have met just nine times since 23 March 2020.

The amount of money taken has been very small and having been banked, all details have been passed to Andy Payne, Church Treasurer. Nothing has been distributed to our chosen charities this year. As of 31/01/21 there was a balance of £2,538.81 of which only £200.05 was taken in the present financial year.

Anne Keir

Monday Lunch Club

We had to close MLC in March last year and, at the time, fondly imagined we would be returning within a few weeks, but unfortunately, we have had to remain shut for the year. We managed to contact most of the customers by phone last year to explain the situation. The volunteers have all kept in touch with a WhatsApp group, sharing funny videos and various bits of news.

We did manage to meet for an afternoon cup of tea in the summer last year in Sarah's lovely flower filled garden and it was so heart-warming for everyone to see each other. Sarah and Mikki made the decision to empty the freezers and pantry last year and we disposed of everything that was out of date and donated in date non-perishables to the Food Bank.

We are all looking forward very much to be able to return and start the lunch club up as soon as we are able. Not only does it provide nourishment for the elderly and vulnerable in our society but it also provides friendship and people contact which is so vital for mental as well as physical health.

Mikki Willford.

Communications

Considering communication during a National Lockdown presented a challenge for those with responsibilities at St Thomas Church. Those with internet connection were able to receive the Weekly News Sheet and be kept in touch with information about church services and closures. There may have been much frustration and failure as we learned to master Zoom communication, but it did keep us in touch with each other. Churchwardens Maureen and David realised a large group of parishioners had no electronic link, could not come to church and meet friends and were totally cut off, thus was born the Lockdown Letter. Full of information about what was happening with online services and with comforting spiritual guidance, the letter became a lifeline for this group. Often living alone and feeling very isolated, the recipients were encouraged to use the telephone to keep in touch. There was benefit from the brief doorstep delivery chat! Maureen and David also arranged for a further group of willing volunteers to make regular telephone contact with those living alone

Daphne Johnston.

We were fortunate that the printers of our parish magazine were able to continue working throughout the pandemic in 2020. We quickly adapted to the church being locked and, by recruiting more volunteers, were able to deliver the magazine to about 130 households around the town. In addition, a supplementary Bulletin was sent out to over 70 people by email between April and August to help disseminate up-to-the-minute changes in the emergency arrangements as well as provide some light-hearted material to read during lockdown. Magazine Editor, Nigel Mussett, completed his survey of the memorials inside the church and because of the church receiving more external enquiries, this research has been extended to a full survey of memorials in the churchyard. Contact has been established with local historians and the St Barbe Museum; a wide correspondence has developed and a small team has been assembled to help with the survey. We hope that this project will

continue to develop further and provide a useful point of contact with the community. Another spin-off is that we have been able to share quite a lot of information with our own pMAP group as they have produced a short guide to the windows at St Thomas'.

Nigel Mussett.

Friends of St Thomas Church Annual Report.

Reg Charity No: 1166743.

The Friends of St Thomas Church (FSTC), maintain a close link with the PCC. Under separate management, the Friends was established to promote and support the restoration and preservation of the buildings and immediate surroundings of the church.

The FSTC activities have been somewhat curtailed this year due to lockdown restrictions. Unable to plan any social event or the Christmas Tree Festival (CTF), the Friends have made only one donation to the PCC to support the cost of repairing the hinges of the glass door. Vice Chairman Janice Viveash and Charles Oswin have both retired from office. Three new members have joined the Committee, including Nigel Mussett in the role of Membership secretary, Joanna Oswin who will look after the sale of cards and Joan Horton-Fawkes who brings particular skills to the CTF.

It was not possible to hold a Christmas Tree Festival this year, but the Friends supplied a very large tree by the main altar and a second large 'Prayer Tree'. Visitors to the church throughout the festive season wrote messages of hope and sympathy to hang on the tree. We hope for a more active year to come and to be able to contribute to the benefit of St Thomas Church.

Daphne Johnston.

Solent Music Festival. September 17th-19th

Against all the odds and notwithstanding the possibility of a last-minute cancellation, the Trustees of the SMF were delighted to offer a much reduced Covid 19 compliant series of concerts. The Festival Directors, Sam Haywood and Sophia Pagoni are to be congratulated for their determination to achieve a result.

As always, the standard of performance was outstanding. World class performers in St Thomas Church, were all delighted to be able to share their art with an appreciative audience at a time when attendance in concert halls and theatres had been curtailed. There was a palpable joy during each concert from both audience and performer.

To allow for necessary social distancing and for track and trace purposes, tickets were not available at the door and audience numbers were significantly reduced. Each programme was performed twice without an interval.

The first concert, a nod to Beethoven's 250 , included performances from renowned violinist Jack Liebeck and cellist Jesper Swedberg from the BSO. The second programme was entirely French, starting with Poulenc's sonata for Clarinet and Piano. It was a delight to welcome clarinettist Katherine Spencer, a regular performer in every SMF. Katherine is passionate about trying to recreate the sound intended by composers and to this end always travels with a selection of modern and period instruments.

The highlight of the festival was Sam Haywood's performance of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. ' Pictures ' was originally inspired by a visit to a retrospective art exhibition of Mussorgsky's friend Victor Hartmann. Sam had the idea of asking an artist friend, Jessica Efezeybek, to produce a new series of paintings. These were displayed on screen while Sam played and later were to be auctioned for musical charities.

The SMF relies on generous local sponsorship and from the loyal support of Festival Friends. The Directors are grateful to St Thomas Church PCC for their encouragement.

Daphne Johnston.

Buildings and Land.

The Covid-19 pandemic during most of 2020 caused a hiatus in activities related to our buildings and land, with the exception of All Saints which is reported separately below.

St Thomas Quinquennial Inspection Report

James Lunn-Rockliffe who had been our church architect, with responsibility for Quinquennial Inspections since 2009 retired in November 2019 and handed over to Ryan Bunce of Ryan Bunce & Co (https://www.ryanbunce.co.uk/) at a meeting with David Bridges as churchwarden and Richard Streatfield of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to discuss a number of issues in the QI report of 2018. These issues particularly relate to structural problems with the gables and damp problems at the east end of St. Thomas church. Plans are now being developed to rectify these problems. With regard to the damp problems, initial investigations have been made and it is clear that at the east end the guttering is not configured to effectively divert all rainwater into the drains and that the gutters need to be reconfigured. Elsewhere, tiles have been displaced and need to be replaced and other points of potential leakage need to be investigated and fixed as necessary.

St Thomas Hall Courtyard

Work on this project has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions on meetings and by the effect on the finances of the PCC. It is proving difficult to settle on a design which satisfies the aspirations of the project team within the financial limits set by the PCC.

Bill Gulland

All Saints Church

2020 was an extraordinarily difficult year for many due to the coronavirus pandemic and the consequential Government restrictions and lockdowns. Despite this, considerable progress was made towards turning the PCC's vision of using the All Saints Nave, Hall and grounds as a nursery and pre-school whilst retaining the Chancel area as a Chapel, into reality. Frustratingly, at the start of 2020, a change of NFDC conservation officer followed by the first lockdown meant that the PCC's applications for planning permission and listed building consent to refurbish the Nave and grounds, submitted in July 2019, were delayed. It took until October 2020 for them to be approved. Following this approval, the leases were finalised and, at the beginning of December, the Church Commissioners' Scheme was made with the buildings and grounds being leased to Tops Day Nursery Ltd as from 1 January 2021. One of the conditions attached to the planning permission is that a temporary toilet block must be removed from the site by 1 October 2021. The intention is to have the new central heating system, the new floor in the Nave, the mezzanine steel frame and new toilets and sinks in place before then.

Whilst waiting for planning permission, an application was prepared for an acoustic fence, required by NFDC Environmental Health following neighbours' complaints, to go on part of the southern and western boundaries. This application was submitted in November 2020 and approval was received in February 2021. We are hugely grateful to those who registered their support for these projects on the NFDC website. The intention is for the new fence to be in place shortly after Easter 2021.

During the course of the year, routine repair and maintenance of the All Saints buildings has continued, including such things as repairs to the tiles on the Hall roof, the external oak door into the choir lobby, the priest's chair and the filigree carving around the organ.

During the course of what has been a very difficult 12 months for Tops, the nursery and pre-school have been visited by the Hampshire County Council Childcare Development and Business Officer and by Ofsted and received glowing reports from both. With the exception

of two weeks in October, when a member of Tops staff tested positive for Covid-19 necessitating the site to close, the nursery and pre-school have remained open throughout the year. During the lockdowns they continued to provide care for the children of key workers.

Jonathan Cook.

The Flower Guild

It has been my privilege to provide a floral arrangement in the church during this testing time. My hopes are that we can resume normal service soon providing more arrangements with the help of the flower team and offering floral tributes in memory of loved ones.
I have now sourced totally biodegradable foam thus supporting our eco church policies.

Amanda Dawson.

Bells and Flags

Everyone has missed the resounding chimes from our belfry but Larry Stace and his team of bellringers have been silent during all our prolonged lockdowns. We hope they will re-start in the near future.
The absence of bell ringing has meant we can leave the heavy sound-proofing hatches open, allowing the Vicar easier access to our clock and our flag-raiser a less arduous climb to hoist the appropriate flag for our flag days. In the last year, despite the lockdown, there have been 23 occasions when flags flew from our flagstaff on the top of the tower, a feature appreciated by many townsfolk. We now have a flag for each of the four national saints (we still fly the saltire for St. Andrew not the SNP). Most of the occasions are ecclesiastical feasts but on seven occasions, we fly the Union Jack for our national holidays such as Coronation Day, the Queen's Birthday and Remembrance Sunday. In October, we fly the UN flag for their day. These traditions continued unaltered.
Some churches have adopted the Scandinavian and naval habit of flying a pennant when no other flag is flown indicating that the building is occupied, or the ship is in commission - maybe a matter for review in future?

Allan Hill

St Thomas Church Lymington Finance Report 2020

Finance Committee

St Thomas Church Finance Committee members manage our church finances week by week throughout the year, on behalf of the PCC. The Committee usually meets six times a year, however, during March 2020 it started meeting weekly by zoom.
Committee members are David Bridges, Bill Gulland, Maureen Harris, Judy Martin, Andy Payne, Peter Salisbury, Malcolm Ward. During this year we were pleased to accept Barbara Payne's offer of assistance with encourage giving through wills and legacies. We wish to record our gratitude to Gill Maunder and John Nivison who both play key roles in the management of our finances.

Balance Sheet

At the end of 2020 the financial assets controlled by the PCC totalled £669,641.

Income

During the year our total income was £202,726, the Parish Giving Scheme playing an important part; total PGS donations were £90,243 on which we claimed Gift Aid to the value of £21,157. During the year we were grateful to receive a grant of £2,000 for repairs to the glass entrance doors, from the Friends of St Thomas, also generous donations from church members and a legacy of £10,000.
This additional income helped significantly to offset the negative effects of the pandemic on the last nine months of the year. Our total income during 2020 was some £40,000 less than that for 2019.

Expenditure
During the year our total expenditure was £228,965, this being some £16,000 less than in 2019. This reflects the lack of church activities during the greater part of the year and the fact that the only major work carried out on St Thomas' Church buildings was the repair to the glass entrance doors. This expenditure figure includes our charitable donations made during the year.

Result for the year
The year ended with a deficit of £26,239, however this was reduced by the gains on our investments amounting to £14,294. The decrease in the PCC's funds over the year therefore amounted £11,945

The Pandemic
This most unusual year has been a challenge to us all. We have been running on reserves, as have most, almost certainly all, of our Diocesan churches. There is, obviously, a limited time for which any parish church can continue like this. At least one parish has ruled out any buildings maintenance or repair and some cannot contribute in full their Common Mission Fund (Parish Share). Despite all, I look back with a sense of joy at the many ways in which, as a Christian church, we have been able to continue onwards together. The commitment and generosity evident at St Thomas has been outstanding and is a source of confidence. During 2020 the PCC was asked by the Diocese if we were able and willing to overpay our Common Mission Fund during 2021, which was unanimously agreed. Thus, we are privileged to be able to play this small part in helping those around us.

During this year
As from mid-March our in-church services were either closed down completely or at best were severely restricted. The church office was closed for most of the year. With annual outgoings normally close to a quarter of a million pounds, our financial wheels had to keep turning so for several months the finance committee met weekly.
During the year the Finance Committee, as a sub-committee of the PCC, provided regular updates to the PCC and sought its formal approval of all major decisions. Amongst the many routine activities, the committee has:

- tidied up its investment accounts, including some merging of funds.
- set up cloud access for committee members to key finance files – N.B. personal details concerning donations, regular giving etc are not shared with committee members.
- liaised with the All Saints Steering Group concerning All Saints expenses and insurance.
- set up online banking for our main HSBC PCC account – enabling bill payments and wages to be made electronically.
- continued to encourage regular giving to St Thomas Church.
- set up, through stewardship.org.uk, a 'donate' facility on St Thomas' website.
- made donations to our four good causes, plus Lymington Basics Bank and the Government's DEC Coronavirus Appeal.

Reserves Policy
The PCC reserves policy states:

- *It is the policy of the PCC to hold an Operational Reserve to cover routine expenditure for a period of three months.* Currently £60,000

- *In addition, the PCC has designated a Buildings Reserve to meet unplanned expenditure on the fabric of our buildings, recognising that the PCC is responsible for maintaining three Grade II listed historic buildings: St Thomas Church, All Saints Church, and All Saints Hall.* Currently £200,000.

Future Expenses

Towards the end of the year expert advice was sought concerning the high-level problems with St Thomas' Church roofs, rainwater goods and walls, these contributing to the damp which is evident in our walls and is causing damage to them. In due course, we will also need to take advice and act concerning damp lower down our walls. It is the PCC's intention to address as much of this work as we can during the coming year.

Our contracts with Tops Nursery were signed in late December; the PCC also intends to carry out work on the heating system at All Saints Church during 2021.

In due course we hope to be able to take on further work to the courtyard and the area to the west of the church.

The PCC is anticipating the following capital expenditure (figures here are estimates)

All Saints Church	
Heating	£100,000
Chancel and Groundwork for Quiet Garden	£50,000
Architect's Fees	£5,000
Total for All Saints Church	£155,000
St Thomas' Church	
Narthex	£40,000
Courtyard	£25,000
Replacement of Church gutters, downpipes and re-pointing walls	£150,000
Tree pollarding	£12,000
Total for St Thomas' Church	£227,000
Total for All Saints and St Thomas'	**£382,000**

The PCC being already committed to the All Saints Church items and tree pollarding, the Finance Committee recommended to the PCC at its November meeting that it should address the remaining capital spend items in order of importance, i.e. starting with necessary buildings repairs and maintenance.

Andy Payne.

APPENDIX 1 - CORE VALUES.

Guided and empowered by God's Holy Spirit, we are part of the Christian Community in Lymington and District who are called to love God and all people. Therefore we:

1. Pray and Worship. Our worship:
   - Includes a variety of styles and traditions.
   - Is relevant to the people and issues of today Attracts and welcomes newcomers and visitors.
   - Has something for all ages.
   - Includes bible-based preaching.
   - Encourages spiritual growth within our congregations.

2. Grow as disciples of Christ. Every person is called to follow Christ and be a good steward of God's creation. We offer support in this through:
   - Teaching and nurture Learning from one another.
   - Prayer and study groups for all ages Identifying and training successors for all roles.
   - Identifying and developing quality leadership; both lay and ordained.

3 Are committed to one another. Because of this we offer:
   - Mutual support and encouragement.
   - A positive, generous and forgiving attitude Opportunities to learn from one another.
   - An attractive and welcoming community.

4 Reach out and share our faith. To do this we:
   - Talk about our faith (gossip the good news) with all ages Support worldwide missionary activities.
   - Invite people to learn about the Christian faith (e.g. Alpha and Lent Course) Respect and value people's individuality.

5 Are here to serve others, both locally and globally. We do this:
   - By using our gifts in leadership and service in both voluntary and paid work.
   - By supporting those in need.
   - By supporting external organisations.
   - By challenging injustice and inequality of opportunity for all people regardless of social or cultural issues.

6 Value our Anglican inheritance. In particular we value:
   - Our tradition of critical thinking.
   - The Parish system.
   - The scriptural basis for matters of faith.
   - Our adaptability to our cultural context.

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A C C O U N T S

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2020

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the Lymington Parochial Church Council

We report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 2 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees of the PCC and Examiner

As the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an Independent Examination is required.

As Independent Examiner it is our responsibilty to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

   a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

   b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

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

Hope Jones

HOPE JONES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
21st April 2021

73, High Street,
LYMINGTON, Hants

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	2019
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	147,255	6,615	-	153,870	151,988
Activities for Generating Funds	2(b)	4,211	-	-	4,211	13,609
Investment Income	2(c)	8,143	106	650	8,899	9,842
Church Activities	2(d)	35,746	-	-	35,746	66,944
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£195,355	£6,721	£650	£202,726	£242,383
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3(a)	219,937	6,266	650	226,853	242,862
Cost of Generating Funds	3(b)	-	-	-	-	409
Governance Costs	3(c)	2,112	-	-	2,112	2,070
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£222,049	£6,266	£650	£228,965	£245,341
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		(26,694)	455	-	(26,239)	(2,958)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
On Revaluation		12,897	-	1,397	14,294	37,957
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(13,797)	455	1,397	(11,945)	34,999
Fund Balances at 1st January 2020		660,100	318	21,168	681,586	646,587
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020		£646,303	£773	£22,565	£669,641	£681,586

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET — 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Equipment					
As at 1st January 2020		936			
Less: Depreciation for the year		187			
			749		936
Investments					
Endowment Fund Investments					
Hapgood Bequest					
3,828 C.O.I.F. Charities Ethical Investment Fund		10,560		9,935	
Miss B Monk Fund					
586 C B F Investment Fund		12,005		11,233	
			22,565		21,168
Unrestricted Investments					
C.B.F. - Deposit Account		329,881		328,487	
10,030 C.B.F. Investment Fund Shares		205,488		192,266	
7,634 COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund		21,057		19,810	
545 M & G Charifund		7,480		9,051	
			563,906		549,614
Current Assets					
Debtors and Prepayments	5	2,891		5,845	
Cash at Bank -					
Treasurers Account	81,012		110,508		
St. Thomas Renewal Account	2,068		2,571		
St. Thomas Hall Account	2,539		934		
		85,619		114,013	
Cash in Hand		1,546		-	
		90,056		119,858	
Less: Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year	6	7,635		9,990	
			82,421		109,868
			£669,641		£681,586

BALANCE SHEET (Continued) 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			646,303		660,100
Restricted	7				
St. Thomas Renewal Appeal Fund		425		-	
Donations Fund		348		318	
			773		318
Endowment Funds					
Hapgood Bequest (Parish Church Fabric)		10,560		9,935	
Miss B. Monk (Youth Work)		12,005		11,233	
			22,565		21,168
			£669,641		£681,586

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 25th March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Vicar

.....
Honorary Treasurer

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1(a) Accounting Conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1(b) Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the Financial Statements by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011, and no value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated at the rate of 20% on the reducing balance basis. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £3,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

1(c) Investment Assets

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	2019
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid Donations	91,338	-	-	91,338	88,796
Income tax Recoverable	23,173	-	-	23,173	25,199
Other Planned Giving	7,723	-	-	7,723	7,482
Collections	5,136	-	-	5,136	17,685
Grants	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Listed Places of Worship Grant	581	-	-	581	-
Friends of St Thomas	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
St. Thomas Renewal Appeal	-	2,585	-	2,585	2,885
Donations	9,304	30	-	9,334	7,671
Good Samaritan Fund	-	-	-	-	270
Legacies	10,000	-	-	10,000	-
	147,255	6,615	-	153,870	151,988
2(b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Vistas Cafe	1,605	-	-	1,605	6,827
Other Fund Raising Events	668	-	-	668	683
Other Income	1,938	-	-	1,938	6,099
	4,211	-	-	4,211	13,609
2(c) Investment Income					
Miss Monk's Bequest	-	-	336	336	327
Hapgood's Bequest	-	-	314	314	307
Churchyard Maintenance	-	106	-	106	104
C.B.F. Interest	1,395	-	-	1,395	2,450
Dividends					
C. B. F. Investment Fund	5,756	-	-	5,756	5,589
C. O. I. F. Ethical Investment Fund	627	-	-	627	613
M & G Charifund	365	-	-	365	452
	8,143	106	650	8,899	9,842
2(d) Church Activities					
Parish Magazine	3,877	-	-	3,877	5,925
Monday Lunch	2,555	-	-	2,555	8,563
Hire - St. Thomas Hall	4,313	-	-	4,313	12,537
Hire - All Saints Church and Hall	21,355	-	-	21,355	32,133
Fees	3,646	-	-	3,646	7,786
	35,746	-	-	35,746	66,944
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£195,355	£6,721	£650	£202,726	£242,383

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	2019
3(a) Church Activites					
Missions and Charities	14,600	-	-	14,600	19,282
Good Samaritan Fund	1,302	-	-	1,302	1,767
Monday Lunch	3,378	-	-	3,378	8,243
Ministry					
Diocesan Parish Share	131,236	-	-	131,236	126,585
Clergy Expenses	2,252	-	-	2,252	3,228
Worship and Services					
Cost of Services	335	-	-	335	1,394
Organists	7,786	-	-	7,786	7,970
Organ Tuning and Repairs	730	-	-	730	1,472
Music and Choir Expenses	431	-	-	431	419
Church Maintenance and Expenses					
Water Rates	71	-	-	71	37
Lighting and Heating	5,147	-	-	5,147	7,112
Insurance	5,130	-	-	5,130	4,980
Cleaning	345	-	-	345	1,815
Churchyard Expenses	1,610	106	-	1,716	1,786
Repairs and Renewals	753	4,160	314	5,227	5,589
All Saints Major Works					
All Saints Heating	-	-	-	-	1,551
St Thomas Major Works					
Roofing and Guttering Work	-	-	-	-	9,940
Website Development	300	-	-	300	200
St. Thomas Hall Expenses	1,382	-	-	1,382	2,115
All Saints Church and Hall Expenses	24,763	-	-	24,763	15,301
Parish Magazine Expenses	3,359	-	-	3,359	4,711
Parish Secretary	10,352	2,000	-	12,352	12,085
Church Office	789	-	-	789	1,355
Accountancy	907	-	-	907	1,185
Advertising and Leaflets	215	-	-	215	273
Miscellaneous expenses	2,577	-	336	2,913	2,233
Depreciation of Equipment	187	-	-	187	234
	219,937	6,266	650	226,853	242,862
3(b) Costs of Generating Funds					
Fund raising costs	-	-	-	-	409
3(c) Governance Costs					
Accountancy and Examination Fees	2,112	-	-	2,112	2,070
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£222,049	£6,266	£650	£228,965	£245,341

4. Expenditure

Staff Costs	2020	2019
Salaries	12,793	13,350

During the year the Council employed a Parish Secretary, a Verger and a Janitor, none of whom earned £60,000 or more. The average number of employees during the year was 2.

External Accountancy and Examination Fees	2020	2019
Accountancy and Examination Fees	£2,112	£2,070

5. Debtors and Prepayments

	2020	2019
Income Tax Recoverable	1,777	4,172
Other Debtors and Prepayments	1,114	1,673
	£2,891	£5,845

6. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
Creditors for Goods and Services	2,613	3,545
Mission	600	3,000
Wedding Deposits	500	250
Accrued Expenses	3,922	3,195
	£7,635	£9,990

7. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds in the accounts are as follows:

1. St. Thomas Renewal Appeal Fund

   This appeal was launched to raise funds for the refurbishment of St. Thomas Church. Income and expenditure relating thereto is credited or charged to this Fund.

2. Donations Fund

   Other amounts received for a specific purpose are credited to the Donations Fund. Expenditure incurred for these purposes are debited to the Donations Fund.

Assets relating to the Restricted Funds are as follows:

	2020	2019
Cash at Bank	£773	£318

8. Investment Assets

	Investments	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
Endowment Fund Investments				
Hapgood Bequest				
As at 1st January 2020		9,935	9,935	8,398
Unrealised gain		625	625	1,537
As at 31st December 2020		10,560	10,560	9,935
Miss B Monk Fund				
As at 1st January 2020		11,233	11,233	9,463
Unrealised gain		772	772	1,770
As at 31st December 2020		12,005	12,005	11,233
Unrestricted Investments				
As at 1st January 2020	549,614		549,614	497,649
Transfer St Thomas Hall	-		-	14,865
Reinvested Income	1,395		1,395	2,450
Unrealised gain	12,897		12,897	34,650
	£563,906		£563,906	£549,614
Total Valuation at 31st December 2020	£563,906	£22,565	£586,471	£570,782
Total Unrealised Gains	£12,897	£1,397	£14,294	£37,957

9. Vicar and Churchwardens' Charitable Trusts

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the following charitable Trust:

The Parish Hall Trust

The income and property of the Trust may be applied either towards the upkeep, repair and insurance of the fabric and contents of the Parish Church of Lymington, or in otherwise furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England.

Investments and balance at bank of the Trust at 31st December 2019 amounted to £137,452. Investment income in the year to 31st December 2020 amounted to £3,436 of which £2,000 was donated to Lymington Parochial Church Council towards the cost of the Parish Secretary.

10. Charity Investments

Investment held by Charitable Trustees where the income arising is due to the Parish is as follows:

Miss E. Earley Bequest for Churchyard Maintenance

1,295.05 Income Units Charities Ethical Investment Fund
(Market Value 31st December 2020 £3,572)

11. Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary Income	146,515	5,473	-	151,988
Activities for Generating Funds	13,609	-	-	13,609
Investment Income	9,104	104	634	9,842
Church Activities	66,944	-	-	66,944
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£236,172	£5,577	£634	£242,383
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Church Activities	235,054	7,174	634	242,862
Cost of Generating Funds	409	-	-	409
Governance Costs	2,070	-	-	2,070
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£237,533	£7,174	£634	£245,341
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	(1,361)	(1,597)	-	(2,958)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS On revaluation	34,650	-	3,307	37,957
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	33,289	(1,597)	3,307	34,999
Fund Balances at 1st January 2019	626,811	1,915	17,861	646,587
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019	£660,100	£318	£21,168	£681,586

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A C C O U N T S

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2020

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the Lymington Parochial Church Council

We report on the accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 2 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees of the PCC and Examiner

As the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the 2011 Act and that an Independent Examination is required.

As Independent Examiner it is our responsibilty to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Parochial Church Council and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

(1) which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

   a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

   b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

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

Hope Jones

HOPE JONES
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
21st April 2021

73, High Street,
LYMINGTON, Hants

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	2019
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	2(a)	147,255	6,615	-	153,870	151,988
Activities for Generating Funds	2(b)	4,211	-	-	4,211	13,609
Investment Income	2(c)	8,143	106	650	8,899	9,842
Church Activities	2(d)	35,746	-	-	35,746	66,944
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		£195,355	£6,721	£650	£202,726	£242,383
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Church Activities	3(a)	219,937	6,266	650	226,853	242,862
Cost of Generating Funds	3(b)	-	-	-	-	409
Governance Costs	3(c)	2,112	-	-	2,112	2,070
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		£222,049	£6,266	£650	£228,965	£245,341
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES		(26,694)	455	-	(26,239)	(2,958)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS						
On Revaluation		12,897	-	1,397	14,294	37,957
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(13,797)	455	1,397	(11,945)	34,999
Fund Balances at 1st January 2020		660,100	318	21,168	681,586	646,587
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020		£646,303	£773	£22,565	£669,641	£681,586

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET — 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Equipment					
As at 1st January 2020		936			
Less: Depreciation for the year		187			
			749		936
Investments					
Endowment Fund Investments					
Hapgood Bequest					
3,828 C.O.I.F. Charities Ethical Investment Fund		10,560		9,935	
Miss B Monk Fund					
586 C B F Investment Fund		12,005		11,233	
			22,565		21,168
Unrestricted Investments					
C.B.F. - Deposit Account		329,881		328,487	
10,030 C.B.F. Investment Fund Shares		205,488		192,266	
7,634 COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund		21,057		19,810	
545 M & G Charifund		7,480		9,051	
			563,906		549,614
Current Assets					
Debtors and Prepayments	5	2,891		5,845	
Cash at Bank -					
Treasurers Account	81,012		110,508		
St. Thomas Renewal Account	2,068		2,571		
St. Thomas Hall Account	2,539		934		
		85,619		114,013	
Cash in Hand		1,546		-	
		90,056		119,858	
Less: Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year	6	7,635		9,990	
			82,421		109,868
			£669,641		£681,586

BALANCE SHEET (Continued) 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			646,303		660,100
Restricted	7				
St. Thomas Renewal Appeal Fund		425		-	
Donations Fund		348		318	
			773		318
Endowment Funds					
Hapgood Bequest (Parish Church Fabric)		10,560		9,935	
Miss B. Monk (Youth Work)		12,005		11,233	
			22,565		21,168
			£669,641		£681,586

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 25th March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Vicar

.....
Honorary Treasurer

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1(a) Accounting Conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (FRS102).

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the valuation of investment assets which are shown at market value.

1(b) Fixed Assets

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the Financial Statements by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011, and no value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated at the rate of 20% on the reducing balance basis. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £3,500 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

1(c) Investment Assets

Investments are valued at market value at 31st December.

2. INCOMING RESOURCES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	2019
2(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid Donations	91,338	-	-	91,338	88,796
Income tax Recoverable	23,173	-	-	23,173	25,199
Other Planned Giving	7,723	-	-	7,723	7,482
Collections	5,136	-	-	5,136	17,685
Grants	-	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Listed Places of Worship Grant	581	-	-	581	-
Friends of St Thomas	-	2,000	-	2,000	-
St. Thomas Renewal Appeal	-	2,585	-	2,585	2,885
Donations	9,304	30	-	9,334	7,671
Good Samaritan Fund	-	-	-	-	270
Legacies	10,000	-	-	10,000	-
	147,255	6,615	-	153,870	151,988
2(b) Activities for Generating Funds					
Vistas Cafe	1,605	-	-	1,605	6,827
Other Fund Raising Events	668	-	-	668	683
Other Income	1,938	-	-	1,938	6,099
	4,211	-	-	4,211	13,609
2(c) Investment Income					
Miss Monk's Bequest	-	-	336	336	327
Hapgood's Bequest	-	-	314	314	307
Churchyard Maintenance	-	106	-	106	104
C.B.F. Interest	1,395	-	-	1,395	2,450
Dividends					
C. B. F. Investment Fund	5,756	-	-	5,756	5,589
C. O. I. F. Ethical Investment Fund	627	-	-	627	613
M & G Charifund	365	-	-	365	452
	8,143	106	650	8,899	9,842
2(d) Church Activities					
Parish Magazine	3,877	-	-	3,877	5,925
Monday Lunch	2,555	-	-	2,555	8,563
Hire - St. Thomas Hall	4,313	-	-	4,313	12,537
Hire - All Saints Church and Hall	21,355	-	-	21,355	32,133
Fees	3,646	-	-	3,646	7,786
	35,746	-	-	35,746	66,944
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£195,355	£6,721	£650	£202,726	£242,383

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	2019
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Good Samaritan Fund	1,302	-	-	1,302	1,767
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Ministry					
Diocesan Parish Share	131,236	-	-	131,236	126,585
Clergy Expenses	2,252	-	-	2,252	3,228
Worship and Services					
Cost of Services	335	-	-	335	1,394
Organists	7,786	-	-	7,786	7,970
Organ Tuning and Repairs	730	-	-	730	1,472
Music and Choir Expenses	431	-	-	431	419
Church Maintenance and Expenses					
Water Rates	71	-	-	71	37
Lighting and Heating	5,147	-	-	5,147	7,112
Insurance	5,130	-	-	5,130	4,980
Cleaning	345	-	-	345	1,815
Churchyard Expenses	1,610	106	-	1,716	1,786
Repairs and Renewals	753	4,160	314	5,227	5,589
All Saints Major Works					
All Saints Heating	-	-	-	-	1,551
St Thomas Major Works					
Roofing and Guttering Work	-	-	-	-	9,940
Website Development	300	-	-	300	200
St. Thomas Hall Expenses	1,382	-	-	1,382	2,115
All Saints Church and Hall Expenses	24,763	-	-	24,763	15,301
Parish Magazine Expenses	3,359	-	-	3,359	4,711
Parish Secretary	10,352	2,000	-	12,352	12,085
Church Office	789	-	-	789	1,355
Accountancy	907	-	-	907	1,185
Advertising and Leaflets	215	-	-	215	273
Miscellaneous expenses	2,577	-	336	2,913	2,233
Depreciation of Equipment	187	-	-	187	234
	219,937	6,266	650	226,853	242,862
3(b) Costs of Generating Funds					
Fund raising costs	-	-	-	-	409
3(c) Governance Costs					
Accountancy and Examination Fees	2,112	-	-	2,112	2,070
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£222,049	£6,266	£650	£228,965	£245,341

4. Expenditure

Staff Costs	2020	2019
Salaries	12,793	13,350

During the year the Council employed a Parish Secretary, a Verger and a Janitor, none of whom earned £60,000 or more. The average number of employees during the year was 2.

External Accountancy and Examination Fees	2020	2019
Accountancy and Examination Fees	£2,112	£2,070

5. Debtors and Prepayments

	2020	2019
Income Tax Recoverable	1,777	4,172
Other Debtors and Prepayments	1,114	1,673
	£2,891	£5,845

6. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
Creditors for Goods and Services	2,613	3,545
Mission	600	3,000
Wedding Deposits	500	250
Accrued Expenses	3,922	3,195
	£7,635	£9,990

7. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds in the accounts are as follows:

1. St. Thomas Renewal Appeal Fund

   This appeal was launched to raise funds for the refurbishment of St. Thomas Church. Income and expenditure relating thereto is credited or charged to this Fund.

2. Donations Fund

   Other amounts received for a specific purpose are credited to the Donations Fund. Expenditure incurred for these purposes are debited to the Donations Fund.

Assets relating to the Restricted Funds are as follows:

	2020	2019
Cash at Bank	£773	£318

8. Investment Assets

	Investments	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
Endowment Fund Investments				
Hapgood Bequest				
As at 1st January 2020		9,935	9,935	8,398
Unrealised gain		625	625	1,537
As at 31st December 2020		10,560	10,560	9,935
Miss B Monk Fund				
As at 1st January 2020		11,233	11,233	9,463
Unrealised gain		772	772	1,770
As at 31st December 2020		12,005	12,005	11,233
Unrestricted Investments				
As at 1st January 2020	549,614		549,614	497,649
Transfer St Thomas Hall	-		-	14,865
Reinvested Income	1,395		1,395	2,450
Unrealised gain	12,897		12,897	34,650
	£563,906		£563,906	£549,614
Total Valuation at 31st December 2020	£563,906	£22,565	£586,471	£570,782
Total Unrealised Gains	£12,897	£1,397	£14,294	£37,957

9. Vicar and Churchwardens' Charitable Trusts

The Vicar and Churchwardens are trustees of the following charitable Trust:

The Parish Hall Trust

The income and property of the Trust may be applied either towards the upkeep, repair and insurance of the fabric and contents of the Parish Church of Lymington, or in otherwise furthering the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England.

Investments and balance at bank of the Trust at 31st December 2019 amounted to £137,452. Investment income in the year to 31st December 2020 amounted to £3,436 of which £2,000 was donated to Lymington Parochial Church Council towards the cost of the Parish Secretary.

10. Charity Investments

Investment held by Charitable Trustees where the income arising is due to the Parish is as follows:

Miss E. Earley Bequest for Churchyard Maintenance

1,295.05 Income Units Charities Ethical Investment Fund
(Market Value 31st December 2020 £3,572)

11. Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary Income	146,515	5,473	-	151,988
Activities for Generating Funds	13,609	-	-	13,609
Investment Income	9,104	104	634	9,842
Church Activities	66,944	-	-	66,944
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	£236,172	£5,577	£634	£242,383
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Church Activities	235,054	7,174	634	242,862
Cost of Generating Funds	409	-	-	409
Governance Costs	2,070	-	-	2,070
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	£237,533	£7,174	£634	£245,341
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	(1,361)	(1,597)	-	(2,958)
GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS On revaluation	34,650	-	3,307	37,957
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	33,289	(1,597)	3,307	34,999
Fund Balances at 1st January 2019	626,811	1,915	17,861	646,587
FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019	£660,100	£318	£21,168	£681,586