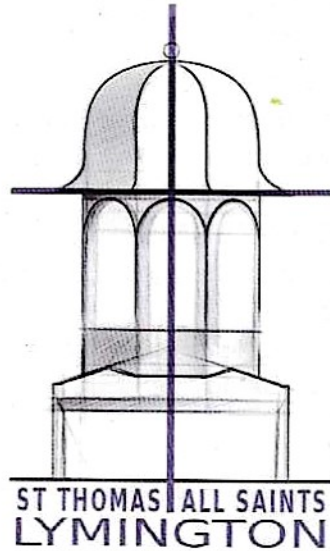


**THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS, LYMINGTON
WITH ALL SAINTS, WOODSIDE.**



**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) Finance³:
 - 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 29 th 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 29 th 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 as 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:

- o Safer Recruitment of church volunteers.
- o Safeguarding Training required by our volunteers.
- o 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 of 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:

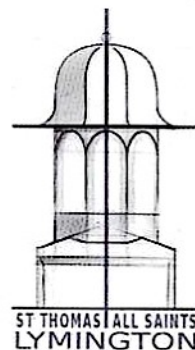
- *It is the policy of the PCC to hold an Operational Reserve to cover routine expenditure for a period of three months. Currently £60,000.*
 - *In addition, the PCC has designated a Buildings Reserve to meet unplanned expenditure on the fabric of our buildings, recognising that the PCC is responsible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



LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

A C C O U N T S

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2023

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 responsibility 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
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	Funds 2022
<u>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</u>						
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
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>		<u>£257,177</u>	<u>£14,216</u>	<u>£692</u>	<u>£272,085</u>	<u>£326,614</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>						
Church Activities	3 (a)	325,144	13,998	692	339,834	334,856
Governance Costs	3 (b)	2,420	-	-	2,420	2,298
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>		<u>£327,564</u>	<u>£13,998</u>	<u>£692</u>	<u>£342,254</u>	<u>£337,154</u>
<u>NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME</u>		<u>(70,387)</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(70,169)</u>	<u>(10,540)</u>
<u>GAINS AND LOSSES ON INVESTMENTS</u>						
On Disposal		-	-	-	-	(15)
On Revaluation		21,552	-	2,170	23,722	(33,721)
<u>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</u>		<u>(48,835)</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>2,170</u>	<u>(46,447)</u>	<u>(44,276)</u>
Fund Balances at 1st January 2023		557,810	420	22,601	580,831	625,107
<u>FUND BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023</u>		<u>£508,975</u>	<u>£638</u>	<u>£24,771</u>	<u>£534,384</u>	<u>£580,831</u>

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET

31ST DECEMBER 2023

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
<u>Tangible Fixed Assets</u>			
<u>Equipment</u>			
As at 1st January 2023		479	
Additions		4,986	
		<u>5,465</u>	
Less: Depreciation for the year		1,120	
		<u>4,345</u>	479
<u>Investments</u>			
<u>Endowment Fund Investments</u>			
<u>Hapgood Bequest</u>			
3,828 C.O.I.F. Charities		11,525	10,494
Ethical Investment Fund			
Miss B Monk Fund			
586 C B F Investment Fund		13,246	12,107
		<u>24,771</u>	<u>22,601</u>
<u>Unrestricted Investments</u>			
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
		<u>465,399</u>	<u>461,372</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>			
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
		<u>46,032</u>	<u>131,286</u>
Less: Liabilities - amounts			
falling due within one year	6	6,163	34,907
		<u>39,869</u>	<u>96,379</u>
		<u>£534,384</u>	<u>£580,831</u>

BALANCE SHEET (Continued)LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL31ST DECEMBER 2023

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

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.

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

<u>2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Funds</u>
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
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
	<u>156,625</u>	<u>10,404</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>167,029</u>	<u>236,425</u>
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
	<u>12,482</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,482</u>	<u>16,151</u>
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
	<u>17,255</u>	<u>3,812</u>	<u>692</u>	<u>21,759</u>	<u>13,739</u>
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
	<u>70,815</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>70,815</u>	<u>60,299</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£257,177</u>	<u>£14,216</u>	<u>£692</u>	<u>£272,085</u>	<u>£326,614</u>

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

3. EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Funds 2022
3(a) Church Activities					
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
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>£327,564</u>	<u>£13,998</u>	<u>£692</u>	<u>£342,254</u>	<u>£337,154</u>

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

4. Expenditure

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

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.

<u>External Accountancy and Examination Fees</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Accountancy and Examination Fees	£2,420	£2,298

5. Debtors and Prepayments

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

6. Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year

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

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:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Cash at Bank	£638	£420

LYMINGTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

8. Investment Assets

	<u>Investments</u>	<u>Endowment Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>	
			<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Endowment Fund Investments</u>				
<u>Hapgood Bequest</u>				
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		<u>11,525</u>	<u>11,525</u>	<u>10,494</u>
<u>Miss B Monk Fund</u>				
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		<u>13,246</u>	<u>13,246</u>	<u>12,107</u>
<u>Unrestricted Investments</u>				
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)
	<u>£465,399</u>		<u>£465,399</u>	<u>£461,372</u>
Total Valuation at 31st December 2023	<u>£465,399</u>	<u>£24,771</u>	<u>£490,170</u>	<u>£483,973</u>
Total Unrealised Gains	<u>£21,552</u>	<u>£2,170</u>	<u>£23,722</u>	<u>£(33,721)</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

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 Parochial 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

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