



**Annual Report
and Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
of the Ecclesiastical Parish of
St Thomas the Apostle, Hanwell
for the Year Ended
31st December 2024**



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Thomas Church is situated in Boston Road, Hanwell. It is part of the Diocese of London within the Church of England. Within the Diocese, St Thomas' comes under the pastoral care of the Area Bishop of Willesden. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 182 Boston Road, Hanwell, London W7 2AD. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as Charity No 1130519.

Aims and purposes

St Thomas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar, Revd Julia Palmer, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Public Benefit

In managing and overseeing the affairs of St Thomas the Apostle, Hanwell during 2024, the PCC, as trustees of the Charity have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC has responsibility for both the pastoral and social mission of the Church within the Parish. Up It is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and continues to maintain access to our main Eucharist service on Sunday mornings and some weekday services via Facebook. It also has responsibility for the maintenance of the Church building and the Church Hall.

Structure, governance and management

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2022. At St Thomas' the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC

Risk Assessment

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed; they must ensure that appropriate controls are in place to avoid or mitigate the impact of hazards that might be regarded as reasonably possible.

Safeguarding

The PCC, pursuant to §5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, has had due regard to guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

PCC Members

The PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex officio members

Interim Priest: Revd Dean Ayres until 14th April 2024 (Chair)

Vicar: Revd Julia Palmer from 18th April 2024 (Chair)

Church Wardens: Steve Purcell and Fade Solanke-Mitterer,

Deanery Synod Representatives: Charlotte Carotenuto, and Nicholas Robinson.

Elected PCC members:

Served until APCM 2024: Bev Tremayne.

To Serve until APCM 2025: Roger Grange, Alison Baxendale and Kirsten Allen

To serve until APCM 2026: Annabel Crowe, Pauline Britton, Gill Shaw and Colin Lomas.

To serve until APCM 2027: David Gilbert and Sue Cunningham.

Co-opted PCC members:

Caroline Lumb (Treasurer) was a co-opted member throughout 2024

Robert Pearce (Treasurer designate) was co-opted on 24th September 2024

Stephen Brooks (Parish Administrator) resigned from the PCC on March 19th 2024 and was co-opted as a non-voting member on the same date.

PCC Committees

Standing Committee

This committee is required by law and has powers to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to the directions given by the Council.

Fabric Committee

The Fabric Committee provide support and guidance to the PCC on matters affecting the maintenance and management of the church premises and grounds. It has delegated responsibility to ensure that necessary maintenance needs are identified, and regular statutory tests are carried out, so that compliance with relevant regulatory standards is maintained.

Mission Committee

The committee continues to look at matters relating to the financial support of ministry within the local church, to the community and the world.

Worship and Music Committee

The committee facilitates detailed and focused discussion on matters of forms of worship, Church year and liturgy. It provides oversight and guidance in matters relating to music at St Thomas', and actively promotes a strong culture of music-making in the Church.

Finance Committee

This was established during 2024 to provide support to the incoming Treasurer on matters of financial governance, and to assist the PCC in its accountability for ensuring good standards of financial governance.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Mission Statistics

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Electoral Roll	132	138	142	142	128	128	128	128	128	129
Weddings/blessings	3	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Baptisms	12	6	7	7	3	0	0	6	1	0
Confirmations	9	6	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	8
Funerals, total	4	4	4	6	8	3	11	3	1	6
Funerals in church	4	4	1	4	4	0	9	3	1	4

PARISH PRIEST'S REPORT

I was appointed parish priest at St Thomas in April 2024 and have had the privilege of serving this community in many ways.

Worship

The worshipping life of the church is vibrant and well organised. The main parish Mass is 10am on a Sunday morning and this is a main point of gathering for the church community. The altar is now westward facing and we have one main order of service with everything in it needed for the service. This makes it easier for any newcomers to the church to follow the service. The choir enhances the worship and has grown in size. We regularly have young people singing in the choir.

A new format for a family Mass has been developed, with the young people regularly helping with the service. This has proved to be popular, attracting more families. We had a very special Confirmation service in September, taken by Bishop Lusa, where eight of our young people were confirmed. The Remembrance service in November was very well attended as was the Christingle service. The unformed organisations of the parish supported both of these. At Christmas we had a very successful Carol service where the local primary school took part.

On a Sunday evening we continue to have 6.30 Evening Prayer using the Book of Common Prayer order as well as a midweek Mass at 12 on Tuesday which is generally well attended. The 'Creation Care' Sunday service was very successful which we held outside in the vicarage Garden. This was the launch of the 'Eco Group' which meets regularly to consult on environment issues linked to the church.

Children and young People

This was identified as an important area to develop in the Parish profile and we have looked to enhance this ministry. The Junior Church has grown in numbers and now has a rota of leaders who help with this. The Junior Church comes into the main service towards the end and they share what they have been learning with the adult congregation.

We have also started a new youth group. This meets on a Sunday afternoon, 4-5.30 term time, and has proved to be an important time for the young people. This is a mixture of learning about the faith and having fun, with activities like ten pin bowling.

St Thomas Tots group meets on a Wednesday morning from 10-11.30 and regularly has over 25 preschool children attending with their parents/carers. There is a very good team of leaders and helpers who provide a welcoming, nurturing and safe space for the children and their parents/carers.

Fabric

In terms of the building we have had the electrics in the church upgraded and have updated the microphone system, which now works. There has also been a lot of planning for the roof on the south side of the church. The copper roof tiles need replacing and this work will start in April 2025.

Much energy has gone into the hall renovation project. A small team have put together a plan for the development of the hall to include the renovating of the stage area, the development of a community café and the refurbishment of the north side of the hall to be made into meeting rooms, to include the provision of a counselling rooms. Grants have been applied for and we await decisions. Fund raising activities are planned to help raise the money.

The hall presently is used by many community groups and the refurbishment will make it even more available for community use.

Pastoral work

I have taken home communion to those who are housebound and we have a regular service in Hanwell House, a local home for those with Dementia. Funerals have increased in number and we have had one wedding. These provide many pastoral opportunities. The over 50's group meets once a month, over a meal and often has an after lunch speaker. This provides a much valued social opportunity.

This year we supported the Ealing Winter Night Shelter by using the hall to provide beds for the homeless for four Sundays in December. This was supported by a large team of volunteers and was much appreciated by the clients who used the service.

Mission

Many of our activities provide opportunity for mission. Making the church more accessible for worship, supporting Thomas tots, having a well organised Junior Church all make the church welcoming and friendly to newcomers. We also have 'Pictures by the Park' which attracts people who don't normally attend church.

Christian education

Over the year we ran a Confirmation course for young people and we also had an advent course called Journey to the Manger, which was popular.

This has been a good year with several new things starting. I look forward to an exciting 2025.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The income for 2024 proved to be higher than expected as noted below and expenditure was controlled against budget, leading to a welcome surplus of £10,667 for the year in Unrestricted Funds.

Income

The main source of income for the Church remains stewardship and this increased in the final few months of the year, to from just over £41,000 to £45,781. The total number of stewards was 61, down from 63 in 2023. Much of this income is gift-aided, enabling recovery of more than £10,000 from HMRC. The Church also takes advantage of the GASDS scheme to recover tax on smaller cash donations.

The next biggest source of income comes from the lease of the bell tower for public telecommunications purposes. This income was unchanged at £32,770 and is not expected to change for the next few years.

Interest rates increased further in 2024 and the effect was an increase in income from £11,500 to £14,800. Interest rates are now, however, gradually reducing.

Income for use of the Hall continued to improve during 2024 and, boosted by 2 Elections, increased from £18,345 to £23,934. The hall continues to be offered at discounted rates for local charities and church sponsored organisations. The surplus funds of £12,750 have been set aside in the fund designated for maintenance and improvement of the hall.

General fundraising efforts in 2024 included a well-received relaunch of our Pantomime as well as our Quiz Night in November and the Christmas Fair.

The Church is most grateful to all in our congregation and wider community who contribute financially or give their time and talents to help with fundraising.

Expenditure

As in many years, the most significant expenditure item was the Parish's payment to the London Diocesan Common Fund, this being a contribution towards the overall cost of clergy stipends, clergy housing and administration. Our pledged Common Fund contribution for 2024 was £69,660 including the discretionary 1% donation to the Bishop of Willesden charitable fund and this was paid in full. The PCC has pledged to increase its contribution to £73,143 for 2025.

The Church and Hall continue to benefit from fixed price energy contracts agreed before prices rose in 2022. Work continues to upgrade lighting in both Church and Hall to improve energy efficiency and reduce running costs.

Church & Hall running costs are kept low thanks to the efforts of many of our congregation to help with maintenance and administration tasks without charge and we are most grateful to them.

In line with Church policy, £4,578 being 10% of our stewardship income has been set aside for general Church maintenance such as regular safety inspections and general upkeep.

Expenditure on missionary and charitable giving from unrestricted funds was £4,510 as shown in note 10 to the Annual Accounts. In line with church policy, 10% of our stewardship income during 2024 has been added to funds available from 2025 onwards.

The Fabric committee has been working with our Architect on preparatory work for essential repairs to the south roof of the Church. This work is expected to commence early in 2025.

Summary

Net current assets (money in current and deposit accounts, allowing for amounts owed to and by the Parish) total £336,871. The comparative figure for 2023 was £325,783. This is a good position to be in, however, there will be significant expenditure on the Church in 2025 and the Hall is also in great need of improvement work.

The PCC considers that St Thomas the Apostle, Hanwell is a going concern since we have prepared what we consider to be a viable budget showing that at the current level of unrestricted reserves there is adequate support for the general activities planned for 2025 and for the foreseeable future.

A major fundraising campaign has been launched to refurbish the Church Hall and major improvement work will only take place if and when sufficient funding has been secured.

Therefore these accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds, if possible, to cover 6 months of church expenditure, including the Common Fund payments. This balance is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet unforeseen circumstances. The required figure was around £50,000 for 2024 and will increase to at least £52,000 from 2025 to allow for the increased Common Fund pledge.

At £304,773 the total sum in the unrestricted funds remains considerably higher than the minimum reserves, however, the PCC is aware that the Church and Hall both require significant repairs and essential maintenance work to ensure their continued use by the local community.

**Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29th April 2025
and signed on its behalf by**



The Reverend Julia Palmer (PCC Chair)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE HANWELL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas the Apostle Church Hanwell for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of St Thomas the Apostle Church you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Maria Bob

Maria Bob, FCCA
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
15 Beaconsfield Road
London
W5 5JE

Date: 30th of April 2025

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, HANWELL

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
	Note	£	£	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME					
Donations & legacies	2a	61,220	258	61,478	56,079
Income from charitable activities	2b	57,728		57,728	51,316
Other trading activities	2c	5,938	1,950	7,888	8,363
Investments	2d	13,627	1,210	14,837	11,549
TOTAL INCOME		138,512	3,418	141,930	127,307
EXPENDITURE					
Raising Funds	3a	2,439	71	2,510	2,902
Church activities	3b	125,406	2,926	128,332	125,254
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		127,845	2,997	130,842	128,157
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		10,667	421	11,088	(850)
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	9	0	0	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		10,667	421	11,088	(850)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	9	294,106	31,677	325,783	326,633
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	10	<u>304,773</u>	<u>32,098</u>	<u>336,871</u>	<u>325,783</u>

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these accounts

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, HANWELL

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	6	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors and Prepayments	7	11,419	9,002
Short Term Deposits		301,183	256,556
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>35,896</u>	<u>69,415</u>
		348,498	334,973
LIABILITIES			
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(11,627)</u>	<u>(9,190)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>336,871</u>	<u>325,783</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		336,871	325,783
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year			
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>336,871</u>	<u>325,783</u>
PARISH FUNDS			
Unrestricted	9 & 10	304,773	294,460
Restricted	9 & 10	32,098	31,323
		<u>336,871</u>	<u>325,783</u>

The notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these accounts

**Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29th April 2025
and signed on its behalf by**

Rev. J. Palmer

The Reverend Julia Palmer (PCC Chair)

R. J. Pearce.

Robert Pearce (Treasurer)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE, HANWELL

Notes to the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

Note 1 – Accounting Policies

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of the Charities Act. The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) second edition – October 2019, and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Trustees (PCC) are responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor to those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Incoming Resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the PCC becomes legally entitled to the use of the resources and the inflow of economic benefit is probable and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Fundraising Costs - Funds raised from events and trading activities are reported gross in the SOFA, i.e. before any related costs that may have been deducted from the gross proceeds.

Grants and Donations - These are included in the SOFA when any preconditions preventing their use by the PCC have been met. For collections and planned giving this is when the funds are received.

Gift Aid Tax claims - income for the financial year includes tax reclaimable on all qualifying stewardship income received during the year together with tax reclaimed under the GASDS scheme at the end of the relevant tax year.

Volunteer help - the value of voluntary help received is not included in the accounts.

Rental income for the use of the Hall is recognised when received. Rental for use of the Church tower is paid quarterly in advance but recognised in the year for which it is due.

Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition – Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

Assets

Consecrated and benefice property – In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of “charity” by Section 10 (2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. The PCC considers the church hall building to be an inalienable property and therefore it has not been capitalised nor included in the balance sheet.

Moveable church furnishings - All items are included in the Church inventory.

Tangible Fixed Assets for use by the charity – These are capitalised if they can be used for more than a year and cost at least £1,000. They are valued at cost. Depreciation is calculated over four years.

Short Term Deposits – Includes cash held on deposit with the CBF Church of England Funds.

Funds

Unrestricted Funds – These represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC.

Designated Funds —These are general funds set aside by the trustees for use in the future.

Designated funds remain unrestricted, and the trustees may move any surplus to other unrestricted funds.

Restricted Funds – These are income funds that must be spent on restricted purpose and details of the funds held are shown in the notes to the accounts.

Note 2 - Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	2023 £
2a Donations & legacies				
Stewardship	45,781		45,781	41,108
Collections at services	3,645	245	3,891	2,201
Other donations	1,645		1,645	1,617
Income Tax recoverable	10,149	13	10,161	10,283
Grants	0	0	0	870
	<u>61,220</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>61,478</u>	<u>56,079</u>
2b Income from charitable activities				
Fees	1,024		1,024	201
Church Income	32,770		32,770	32,770
Hall income	23,934		23,934	18,345
	<u>57,728</u>		<u>57,728</u>	<u>51,316</u>
2c Other trading activities				
Trident	392		392	468
Fundraising	5,545	1,950	7,496	7,895
	<u>5,938</u>	<u>1,950</u>	<u>7,888</u>	<u>8,363</u>
2d Income from Investments				
Interest	13,627	1,210	14,837	11,549
	<u>13,627</u>	<u>1,210</u>	<u>14,837</u>	<u>11,549</u>
Total Income	138,512	3,418	141,930	127,307

Note 3 - Expenditure

3a Expenditure on raising funds				
Stewardship/digital collections	214		214	238
Cost of fundraising events	2,225	71	2,296	2,664
	<u>2,439</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>2,510</u>	<u>2,902</u>
3b Expenditure on charitable activities				
Home Mission	50		50	800
Donations to secular charities	4,460	1,059	5,519	6,576
Costs of ministry				
- Diocesan parish contribution	69,660		69,660	66,660
- Other clergy expenses	2,159		2,159	2,599
Gifts and Honoraria			0	0
Director of music & other music costs	330	1,368	1,698	3,330
Insurance	4,532		4,532	4,380
Church running costs	6,301		6,301	4,751
Church maintenance & repairs	2,258		2,258	6,876
Church office costs/Parish Administrator	16,438		16,438	1,832
Garden maintenance	97		97	90
Hall running costs	5,565	499	6,064	6,040
Hall maintenance & repairs	1,633		1,633	8,178
Education & Mission	479		479	0
Website	800		800	0
Independent Examination fee	260		260	260
Church major repairs - structure	10,385		10,385	12,882
Depreciation			0	0
	<u>125,406</u>	<u>2,926</u>	<u>128,332</u>	<u>125,254</u>
Total Expenditure	127,845	2,997	130,842	128,157

Note 4 Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Note 4a Payments to Parish Administrator		
Wages and salaries (Gross)	12,468	0
Employer social security costs (Gross)	472	0
Employer social security costs (Net)	0	0
Employer pension contributions	168	0

The Net employer social security cost is the cost after deduction of the Government's NICs Employment Allowance.
For the whole of 2024 there was one employee, a Parish Administrator (part time; 0.37 full time equivalent)

Note 5 Related Parties

Mr Stephen Brooks, a co-opted member of the PCC, was employed as Parish Administrator (part-time) during the year. No other payments or expenses were paid to any PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

Note 6 Fixed assets

Church Buildings	Insurance Value	£
		16,630,000
Equipment comprises	£	
	3,208 Printer	
	1,259 Digital Piano	
	5,320 Humidifier	
	1,600 Candle Votive	
	2,553 CCTV	
	<u>13,941</u>	

All equipment had been fully depreciated in the accounts as at 1st January 2024

Note 7 Current assets

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	1,808	808
Other debtors and accrued income	9,611	8,194
	<u>11,419</u>	<u>9,002</u>

Note 8 Liabilities

	£	£
Amounts falling due in one year		
Deferred Income	7,960	7,900
Other Creditors	3,667	1,290
	<u>11,627</u>	<u>9,190</u>

Note 9 Fund movements

	Balance b/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Funds transfers £	Balance c/fwd £
Unrestricted funds					
General Fund	48,115	128,528	(108,951)	(21,421)	46,271
Designated funds					
Church Maintenance	23,603		(12,751)	4,578	15,430
Hall Maintenance	26,170		(1,633)	12,265	36,802
Legacies	193,955	9,985			203,939
Mission Fund (see note 11)	2,263		(4,510)	4,578	2,331
Total unrestricted and designated	294,106	138,512	(127,845)	0	304,773
Restricted funds					
Dalmatics	98				98
Hall Improvements	4,448	1,259	(500)		5,206
Hearing Loops	1,301	67			1,368
Mission donations	2,254	949	(1,129)		2,075
Organ Fund	7,823	377	(1,368)		6,832
Reredos	14,887	766			15,653
St Thomas' Players	866				866
Total restricted funds	31,677	3,418	(2,997)	0	32,098

Note 10 Summary of assets by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Current Assets	316,400	32,098	348,498
Liabilities - amounts falling due in one year	(11,627)	0	(11,627)
	<u>304,773</u>	<u>32,098</u>	<u>336,871</u>

Note 11 Mission and charitable giving

	2024 £	2023 £
Donations from designated mission funds		
Home mission		
Church Website		374
Internet		176
Tots Group	50	250
Local charities		
Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter (2024/25)	400	
Ealing Street Pastors (closed 31.12.23)		120
Ealing Food Bank	240	240
Boston Manor Pop-in	200	200
A Rocha	200	200
Mayor of Ealing charities	200	
UK and worldwide charities		
British Legion	20	20
Ethiopaïd	200	200
Feed The Minds	200	200
Five Talents	200	200
Mission Aviation Fellowship	200	200
Mission to Seafarers	200	200
Mothers Union	200	200
British Red Cross	200	200
Self Help Africa	200	200
St Mungo's	200	200
The Leprosy Mission	200	200
USPG	400	400
VSO	200	200
Wellfound	200	200
Wycliffe Bible Translators	200	200
Responses to emergencies		
Grenada Disaster appeal	200	
DEC (Pakistan)		200
Ukraine (via St Martin's Acton)		200
Christian Aid (Libya floods)		200
British Red Cross (Israel & OPT)		200
Total from designated mission funds	4,510	5,380