

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST THOMAS GARSTANG

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Charity Commission Registration Number 1131324

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS GARSTANG

Administrative Information

The parish church of St Thomas Garstang is situated in Church Street, Garstang. It is part of the Diocese of Blackburn within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:-

St Thomas Parish Hall, Church Street, Garstang, Preston, PR3 1PA

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) registered with the Charity Commission on 24th August 2009. PCC members who have served during the year are:-

Vicar of St Thomas Garstang
Diocese of Blackburn
Rev. M Hutchinson

Churchwardens
J Allsop
M H Allsop

Deputy Warden
D Holmes

Diocesan Synod Representatives
J Matthew

Deanery Synod Representatives
J Matthew

Elected Members

L Bantleman
N B Brown
C Bull
C Cunnane
J Gray
M Grimsey
J Hewitt
J Matthew
J Osborne
S Perkins

Rev. E Gray

S Gornall

By Invitation

Appointed 28 April
Resigned 28 April

Treasurer

Appointed 28 April
Resigned 28 April

Reappointed 20 May
Resigned 28 April

Appointed 19 November

Structure and Governance

The method of appointment of members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens and members elected by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the parish. All members of the congregation are encouraged to be listed on the electoral roll. The Standing Committee consists of the incumbent, the churchwardens, the treasurer and the secretary.

The PCC met 10 times in the year including the Annual Parochial Council Meeting (APCM) The Standing Committee met 9 times.
All the PCC meetings this year were in person, with an average attendance of eleven members per meeting. The Standing committee meet on Zoom.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding.

Aims and Purposes

St Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Michael Hutchinson. Together they promote the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical, in the ecclesiastical parish.

The PCC aims to maintain a close relationship with Garstang St Thomas' school. The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of St Thomas Parish church, St Thomas' Parish and Community hall and the car park in Church Street Garstang.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Thomas'. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, The PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance for the advancement of religion.

In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:
Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
Missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Thomas, the community hall and the car park. It is also important that we maintain a close relationship with St Thomas' school.

Worship and Prayer

This year the church has focussed on working together to reach out into the community to welcome new people into the church and tailoring our services to meet the needs of our diverse congregation. This has been brought about by continuing strong links with local schools, encouraging parents and children to attend church and the Sunday School and by listening to people. The heating project was successfully completed making the church a more comfortable environment. We are planning to live stream our Sunday morning service to meet the need to worship of those who are unable to attend church due to sickness, infirmity and being away from Garstang. This work is underway and we have raised the funds but implementation is not yet complete. We are also looking at the Choir Church initiative, with a view to creating a new congregation of children, worshipping through singing.

This year there has been a traditional choral communion service on Sunday mornings, a spoken communion service for market day on Thursday mornings and a contemporary worship service on Sunday afternoons. This service includes all age worship once a month and communion twice a month. Sunday School is available during both of the Sunday services, except during the all age services when the children are included and involved in the worship. In addition to the regular services, there have been special services at the major festivals of Easter and Christmas and other occasions such as on Civic Sunday and during baby loss awareness week. These have been of both a traditional and contemporary style, the intention being to meet the diverse needs of the wide age range of our congregation and to reach out to the people of Garstang. The church has continued to serve the community and parishioners with 2 weddings, 21 funeral services, 4 separate burials, 13 burials of ashes and 23 Baptisms. Baptisms take place during our Sunday morning worship, welcoming the child into the family of the church.

All are welcome to attend our services. After reviewing the figures, there are 198 (198 - 2023) parishioners on the church electoral roll.

Attendance has risen gradually over the year with an increase of 8% for adults and 13% for children. Weekly average attendance was 154 (142 - 2023) adults and 41 (32 - 2023) children. Weekly attendance figures were adversely affected by bad weather and boosted by Baptisms during services and additional attendance for Christian festivals. Numbers from special additional services held mid week are not included in the figures. Our Carol and Christmas services were exceptionally well supported. We are not currently live streaming our services but hope to do so in early 2025. A small group meet for Morning Prayer in church on two mornings per week. There is an occasional Deanery Evensong where churches in the Deanery come together at a different church each month.

Details of services in church are advertised on the church website and notice boards, in social media and the Parish Magazine which is on sale through subscription or in church.

In addition to worship and prayer in church, there are three home groups where members of the congregation meet regularly for bible study and prayer. There has been a confirmation service with preparation sessions before, which continued into a youth study group afterwards. There is also a group of church members who pray confidentially for the sick.

Deanery and Synod

One member of the PCC sat on the Deanery Synod this year and the same member sat on the Diocesan Synod. This provides an important link between the Parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Church and the St Thomas Parish and Community Hall

We like our church to be open to our community for private prayer where possible. It is generally open during school hours and for special events. The Mothers' Union held a cake stall after our Sunday services to raise funds for the Fylde Women's refuge. We aim to be involved in our local community, so we hosted a Christmas tree festival providing teas and a craft stall for visitors.

There is a hall committee who organise bookings and maintenance of the community hall and make sure things run smoothly for the many groups which hire the hall. These groups organise a range of activities including a lunch club, youth club, dance classes and interest groups, helping to cater for the needs of the people of Garstang, both young and old. Several fund raising events have taken place in the hall this year, which brought in revenue for the church and welcomed people from the wider community. There were also community fund raising events which benefited both church and the town and a local exhibition for which the church provided refreshments.

Church groups such as PCC, Sunday Club, Mothers Union and the Second Wednesday (ladies fellowship) make use of the hall for meetings. The exterior of the hall has been decorated this year and some of the lighting in the main hall has been upgraded to be more energy efficient. Other minor repairs have been completed by volunteers whose contribution is greatly appreciated.

In 2024 St Thomas Church Food Bank received approximately 684 visits from around 45 households in need of help with food. It is estimated that about 225 items of food were distributed each week (approximately 10,800 in the year). This food included ambient goods, fresh fruit, vegetables, eggs, cheese and margarine. The weekly 'Best To Buy' email has a circulation of over 230 people, meaning that Food Bank collection points are busy. Over the course of a month 44 volunteers, from across Garstang, help at the Food Bank. Food and cash are donated by individuals, groups and local supermarkets. The Food Bank also received £18750 from the Household Support Fund via Wyre Council, as well as £2000 from the Mrs. West Trust.

The church and Hall have also provided a warm space over the winter months, which was supported by grant funding from Lancashire County Council.

Pastoral Care

Those who are sick in the parish can request a visit from the Reverend Michael Hutchinson or a member of his team, who will celebrate communion with them. A small team also take communion to the household.

Garstang St Thomas School

Garstang St Thomas school has continued to thrive and the work of the school was judged to be outstanding in the OFSTED inspection report published in January 2025. The strong working relationship between school and church has been maintained. Children from the school have taken an active part in the contemporary service on Sunday afternoons. They also held their nativity plays and carol services in the church. The Open the Book team have continued to go into school on Wednesday afternoons. Bible stories are read involving costumes, drama and participation by the children, to give a better understanding of the Bible.

Ecumenical Relationships

The church is a member of Garstang and District Christians Together. The church bank account is still holding in trust the funds belonging to the group. The St Thomas Foodbank depends on the support of the other churches in Garstang for financial support and volunteers. Our vicar, Revd. Michael Hutchinson maintains contact with our neighbouring churches and clergy.

Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Officer is David Holmes and the Deputy Safeguarding Officer is Liz Campbell. They are responsible for working with the PCC to ensure that the church follows the Safeguarding Policy, in line with Diocesan guidelines.

Financial Review

This year, we completed the heating project commenced in 2023 and everyone is benefiting from having a warm church. We have moved on to explore the options to expand our outreach into the Garstang community. We have been awarded grants by the diocese of Blackburn and the Benefact Trust to finance the live streaming of some of our services and successfully fund raised to meet the sum needed to purchase equipment and upgrade our sound desk

Take up and income from the Parish Giving Scheme has grown steadily this year, due to new people coming to the church and existing donors increasing their giving. This, in addition to Standing orders, envelopes, cash and contactless giving have enabled the church to offer a diverse range of giving opportunities to the existing and new congregations and to visitors.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £160360 including designated food bank funds of £11107. We have received restricted funds of £31479, giving a total income of £191839 (2023 - £177255). The increase is £14584 or 8%. The restricted funds include a £10000 legacy for children's work and grants from Wyre Borough Council to support the foodbank. The voluntary receipts including gift aid totalled £94771 (2023- £77649) an increase of 22 percent. The church foodbank received grants of £20750 to support their work in the community.

The income from the Parish and Community hall increased by almost 10 percent this year, while expenses increased by 37 percent due to decorating the exterior and upgrading the lighting to a more energy efficient form. It made a small loss this year, but cash was set aside in earlier years in anticipation of work needing doing. The Hall continues to be available for use by the church and church groups as well as by the local community.

A total of £176360 (2023-£162967) was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Thomas Church, an increase of 8%. This includes restricted funds of £17133 and designated funds of £650. These funds were spent on children's work, the food bank and the churchyard.

In this accounting period, £82000 (2023 - 78741) was paid to the Diocese in respect of Parish Share. We were awarded £5430 in Parish Share Support so fully met the amount requested by the Diocese again this year.

The diocesan Parish Share mainly provides the stipends and housing for clergy, training and support for parishes in lower income areas.

The net result for the year based on cash receipts and cash payments was an excess of income over expenditure of £15479 (2023-£14288). This excess includes restricted funds of £15270 belonging to the children's fund, the foodbank and a grant for our Live Streaming project, all received this year.

The total cash at bank and held as cash at 31st December 2024 (note 13) was £68320 (2023-£52841), which includes reserves of £39973 (2023 - £24692) held in Natwest PCC Building Fund and the CBF Church of England deposit Fund. £9079 of the reserve is restricted funds.

Reserves Policy

We aim to keep approximately £11350 in the Building Fund account for repairs and other unexpected expenditure. We also keep a float of about £2000 in the Churchwardens account, £3600 in the hall account and £1750 in the CBF fund, which is our only interest earning account at the present time. We also have £5000 raised for the Live streaming project. We are not currently saving.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS GARSTANG

We aim to hold:-

Three times the average hall income - £3600

Three times the regular out goings from the Churchwardens account - £9000

Three times the average sum for regular maintenance bills - £3600

Outstanding items from the quinquennial report - £1000

£1500 for contingencies.

In addition to the above we have the sum of about £5000 raised to pay for work already commissioned but not yet carried out. Work on the live streaming project is scheduled for February 2025. There is also another £500 for urgent work on trees in the churchyard and any surplus is being retained for the hole in the chancel roof.

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2024

Approved by the PCC on *17th March 25* and signed on their behalf by

Rev. M Hutchinson (Vicar)



M Grimsey (Treasurer)



*** Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of
St Thomas's Church, Garstang, Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St Thomas's Church, Garstang, Parochial
Church Council (PCC)**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Thomas's Church, Garstang,
Parochial Church Council (the Trust) for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on
pages 9 to 14

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

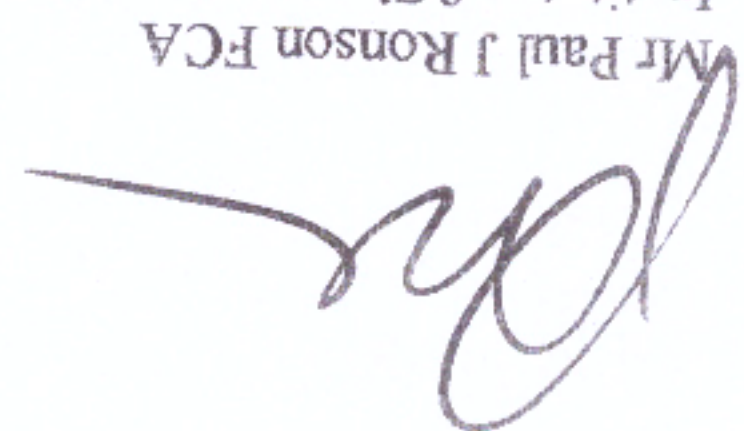
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act
and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity
Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

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.



Mr Paul J Ronson FCA

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

CCW Limited

Chartered Accountants

295/297 Church Street

Blackpool

Lancashire

FY13PJ

17th March 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS GARSTANG

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

Receipts and Payments Account

Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts					
Planned Giving	62102				62102
Collection at Services	7931				7931
All other voluntary giving	7434				7434
Gift Aid Recovered	17054		250		17304
Legacies	94521				94521
Sale of Assets/Investments	0		10000		10000
Activities for generating funds	111		400		511
Investment Income	16042				16042
Church Activities	89		79		16042
Other Receipts	31114				31114
Mission	4192				4192
Grants received	634	9107			9741
Total receipts	2550	2000	20750		25300
Payments					
Church Activities	82000				82000
Parish Share	6158				6158
Other ministry costs	43433		2017		45450
Parish Hall running costs	17532				17532
Mission giving and donations	1988	650	15116		17754
Other payments	7466				7466
Capital Expenditure					
Total	0	650	17133		17783
Excess of income over payments	15479				15479
Cash at bank and in hand 1 January 2024	52841				52841
Excess of receipts over payments	15479				15479
Cash at bank and in hand 31 December 2024	68320				68320

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17th March 25

Revd. M Hutchinson (Vicar)

Mrs M Grimsey (Treasurer)

The notes on pages 11-14 form part of these accounts.

and signed on its behalf by

M. Grimsey
M. Hutchinson

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS GARSTANG

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Garstang

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Note	Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
13	16122	6034	6191	28347	28149	24692
	20894	10000	9079	39973		
					0	494
14	0	0	0			
					801751	801751
15	801751					
					5316	6231
16	5316					
					13638	16018
17	7638	6000				

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17th March 25 and signed on its behalf by

Michael Hoob
M Grimsey

Revd. M Hutchinson (Vicar)
 Mrs M Grimsey (Treasurer)

The notes on pages 12-14 form part of these accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and the Charities Act 2011

The financial statements have been prepared on a cash basis and providing a statement of assets and liabilities as at the 31st December 2024. The financial statements include all cash transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body.

Funds.

Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained until the capital project for which the endowment was donated is complete. The income arising from the investment may be used as unrestricted income as required.
Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund.
Unrestricted Funds are general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purpose.

Incoming resources.

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds from gift aid are recognised when received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when received and only included in the Statement of Assets when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Dividends and interest is accounted for when received. All other income is accounted for when received. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended.

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid. In the Statement of Liabilities significant expenditure is recognised when due and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with the Charities Act.
Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected at any reasonable time.
Valuations have been included as at 31st December 2024. (Note 15)

Investments are valued as at market value at 31st December 2024 and are listed in note 14.

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS GARSTANG

Financial Statement for the year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Accounts		Receipts	
		2024	2023
1 All other Voluntary Giving	£	2603	3476
Donations		1368	575
Churchyard Fund		3713	0
Live Streaming project		7684	4051
2 Activities for generating funds		1661	1376
Parish Magazine		6695	42110
Fundraising Events		7265	6110
Car Park receipts		421	0
Wall Safe miscellaneous sales		0	100
Sale of surplus equipment		16042	49696
3 Investment Income		168	65
Bank Interest		168	65
4 Church Activities		15204	11223
PCC Fees (net of BDBF Fees)		15910	14504
Parish Hall Lettings		31114	25727
5 Other Receipts		466	131
Flower Fund		160	58
Flowers cash		2938	2968
Church Groups		628	652
Miscellaneous		0	0
Garstang Christians Together		0	0
6 Mission		500	504
Bishops Harvest Appeal		0	298
Earthquake appeal		406	0
Childrens Society		634	0
Sponsored child Affinspire		8201 Designated	9535 Designated
Foodbank		0	80 Designated
Foodbank Cash		9741	10417
7 Grants received		0	500
Warm Space grant duplicate		1000	0
Warm Space grant		0	795
LCC Food Grant		18750 Restricted	5000
Wyre Household Support foodbank		2000 Designated	0
Mrs West Trust foodbank grant		1000	0
Benefact Trust for Live Streaming		2550	3597
Listed P of W		25300	9892

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS GARSTANG

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Garstang

Financial Statement for the year Ended 31st December 2024

Notes to the Accounts

Payments

2024	2023	
£	£	
647	146	Other Fees
315	185	Organist
3201	3054	Vicarage Costs:- Council Tax
678	551	Water
477	385	Telephone/broadband
840	996	Travel Costs: Clergy
6158	5317	9 Church Running Costs
1857	1733	Electricity
3712	3466	Gas
830	876	Water
2724	2650	Insurance
1125	532	WIFI
80	0	Cleaning
17965	26303	Repairs and Maintenance
650	0	Live Streaming project
171	140	Equipment
773 inc 650 R	8320	Churchyard Maintenance
2933	2571	Upkeep of Services
1367 R	inc above	Children's work
61	90	Safeguarding
4202	1758	Car Park
45450	48439	10 Parish Hall Running Costs
10277	12242	Running Costs
7255	513	Repairs and Maintenance
17532	12755	11 Mission Giving and Donations
500	505	Bishops Harvest Appeal
312	196	Affinspire
406	0	Childrens Society
12	0	Garstang Deanery
350	373	Other Charities
12041 R	7451 Designated	Foodbank payments
3725 R	2305 Designated	Foodbank cash payments
408	745	Various outreach/Alpha
0	0	Christians Together payments
17754	11575	12 Other Payments
1028	843	Parish Magazine
561	216	Stationary and Consumables
1222	353	Fund Raising Costs
1530	1886	Sundries
327	167	Flowers cash
2798	2675	Church Groups
7466	6140	

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS GARSTANG

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Garstang

Financial Statement for the year Ended 31st December 2024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Notes to the Accounts

13 Cash and Bank Funds		2024		2023	
PCC St Thomas Churchwardens Account		21397		22572	
PCC St Thomas Parish Hall Account		4876		3802	
Royal Bank of Scotland – Second Wednesday		1543		1437	
Foodbank Cash		200		125	
Mens Fellowship – cash		143		109	
Flower Fund – cash		188		104	
Sub Total		28347		28149	
PCC St Thomas Building Fund		20145		23030	
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund		19828		1662	
Total		68320		52841	
14 Investments at Market value		2024		2023	
Held by Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance					
CCLA CBF deposit fund (Bennet C&CY)	Closed 8/24	400		385	
St Thomas Sunday School 75 Shares	Closed 8/24	111		109	
Value of Investments at 31 December 2024		0		494	
15 Assets Retained for Church use		801751		801751	
Book value at 1 January 2024					
Additions					
Written Down					
Book value at 31 December 2024		801751		801751	
Freehold Land and Buildings comprise		801751		801751	
New Parish Hall					
Cost of Land in 2010					
Cost of Construction completed 2016					
Cost					
Car Park					
At Book value since 2010					
16 Debtors		2024		2023	
HMRC re Gift Aid submitted		£ 5316		£ 6231	
17 Liabilities		2024		2023	
Audioworks outstanding work		10330		16018	
Davdson Cabinet work		1100		0	
Enterprise North Plastering Ltd		2208		0	
Total Liabilities		13638		16018	