

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST THOMAS' AND ST MARY MAGDALENE STOCKTON HEATH, CHESHIRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1131459

Details

Other names ST THOMAS AND ST MARY MAGDALENE PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-09-02

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address St Thomas Church
London Road
Stockton Heath
Warrington
Cheshire
WA4 6HJ

Phone 07504982478

Email dorothyvernoncarter@virginmedia.com

Website www.stthomasandstmarymagdalene.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Furthering the worship of the congregation and reaching out to the whole community to support and nurture. Holding religious services. Providing buildings for the same and for community activities

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£230,909	£227,003	-	-
2023-12-31	£288,140	£298,513	-	-
2022-12-31	£200,926	£159,068	-	-
2021-12-31	£189,165	£156,071	-	-
2020-12-31	£187,196	£169,327	-	-

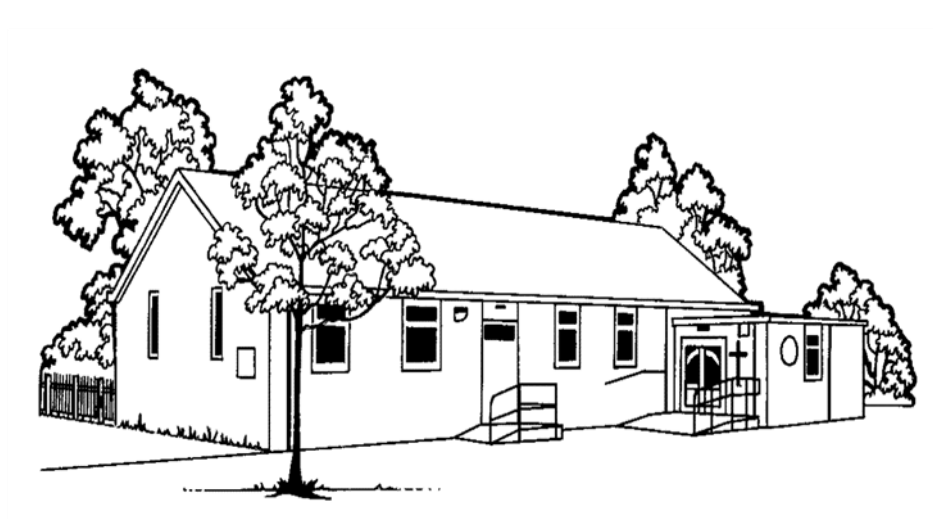
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REVEREND MICHAEL LAURENCE RIDLEY	Chair	
DOROTHY CARTER		
DR PETER BANYARD		
David Whalley		2010-04-10
Dr Simon Geoffrey Goodchild		2025-05-11
Dr Susan Lesley Burke		
Elaine Smith		2022-04-28
Irene Fitzgerald		2023-04-23
Jacqueline Shaw		2022-04-28
Janice Rowland		2023-04-23
Jenny Corroboy		2014-04-16
Julie Brown		2018-04-22
Katharine Jane Emery		2025-05-11
Kirsty Gill		2014-02-07
Kristofer Bradshaw		2023-04-23
Lee Marsh		2023-04-28
Lynda Heesom		2013-04-10
Melanie Wilson Mrs		2018-04-24
PETER SIMPSON SPEED		
Rev Ruth Michelle Gray		2023-07-20
Sarah Downes		2022-04-28
Sheila Barton		2015-04-18
Stuart Marley		2021-02-21

Accounts

**The Parochial Church Council
of
St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Churches
Stockton Heath**

**Annual and Financial Reports
for the Year Ending
31st December 2024**



Introduction

This information is published as part of the requirements of the Church of England Regulations and Requirements of the Charities Commissioners.

The Parish of St Thomas, Stockton Heath is in the Deanery of Great Budworth and is a part of the Diocese of Chester. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered Charity (Charity no. 1131459). St Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Revd. Michael Ridley, in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Thomas' Church, London Road, Stockton Heath; St Thomas' Church Hall, Ellesmere Road, Stockton Heath; St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingleway/Bridge Lane, Appleton and 8 St Monica's Close, Appleton.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Vicar,
St Thomas' Vicarage
12 Melton Avenue. Walton
Warrington WA5 6PQ
Tel: 01925 261396

Parochial Church Council 2023

Vicar
Curate

Revd. Michael Ridley
Revd Ruth Gray

Ex Officio Members

Lay Reader

Lee Marsh

Pastoral Workers

Claire Hutt
Julie Brown

Deanery Synod

Dorothy Carter
Sue Burke
Jenny Corroboy

Church Wardens

Sheila Barton
Melanie Wilson

Elected Members

Peter Speed	Peter Banyard	Irene Fitzgerald
Kirsty Gill	Lynda Heesom	
David Whalley	Dorika Roxby	
Stuart Marley	James Thornton	
Jacqueline Shaw	Sarah Downes	
Elaine Smith	Joe Roxby	

Officers

<i>Secretaries</i>	Kirsty Gill, Kris Bradshaw
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sue Burke
<i>Safeguarding</i>	Dorothy Carter

Lay Readers

Christine Chapman
Lee Marsh

In 2024 the Parochial Church Council met in January, March, April (AGM and an Extraordinary Meeting), May, July, September and November with Standing Committee meetings generally two weeks beforehand. Standing Committees are comprised of the Vicar (who also Chairs the PCC), the Church Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer and these people prepare for the PCC meeting, and make emergency decisions, which are ratified by the PCC at the following PCC Meeting. PCC members are also Charity Trustees and are recruited from and voted for by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll. PCC members are elected for three-year terms after which they must stand down, but can stand for re-election.

The PCC adheres to its aims and principles concerning outreach and mission, whilst managing the finances and the running of and safety of both Churches. Action groups hold their own meetings but refer to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions. Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission.

The PCC works extremely hard on the many aspects of running a successful Church and thanks go to all who attend regularly with a cheerful willingness and enthusiasm.

New faces and talents are always welcome and anyone who feels that they can contribute should speak to the Secretaries or a Church Warden.

Kirsty Gill & Kris Bradshaw - PCC Secretaries

A Word from Your Vicar

Dear Friends,

St. Paul begins his letter to the Philippians with these words: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now". These words are the backdrop to what I want to say about our Church fellowship in the last year, and also a motivation to how we should be in the next year.



First I want to say that I am so thankful for St. Thomas' and St. Mary Magdalene's and all that we do together. I am fortunate indeed to minister in such a loving parish where the Gospel message is lived and proclaimed. While I pray for you every day, I am strengthened in the knowledge that you pray for me too, and it is only through our mutual love for Jesus that we continue to flourish and to grow. Paul also talks about the joy he has in the partnership in the Gospel: I too know that the Good News which Jesus brings is only effective if it is proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit. Not surprising then, that one of the fruits of the Spirit, namely joy, wells up in our hearts and in our church fellowship as we work together.

Finally, as Paul talks about partnership, this is something which I know exists in our Churches but we must increase our partnership too. Life is very busy and young families especially are feeling the strain of child-rearing in a hostile world where Gospel truths are ignored. Older families are also overstretched, looking after elderly parents and grandchildren. Within this context we need committed folk to take leadership roles in partnering in the Gospel: let's not be afraid to be members of the PCC, volunteer to be sidespeople, Ventry helpers, bell ringers, Sunday School teachers, choir members, Bible Study leaders, worship leaders, flower arrangers, cleaners, pray-ers and preachers and so many other jobs. There's a story about the president of the USA visiting the space centre at Houston in the 60s during the race to the moon. Meeting scientists and managers he also shook the hand of a janitor who was sweeping the floor. The president asked him what his job was and he replied, "I'm here to send men to the moon." Despite his lowly occupation he was fully committed to the idea that he was part of something

bigger. Each of us, great or small, are part of the salvation history which is brought about through our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus. We can only make Christ known if we work together. Let us all pray about where we fit into our churches and how we can do the Lord's work together.

Yours as always, Michael.

Some words from Revd. Ruth Gray, Assistant Curate

Around ten years ago I found myself praying a simple prayer at a time when I had come to a spiritual crossroads in my life. That prayer was simply 'Use me Lord'. Little did I know that ten years down the line it would lead to me being a priest in the Church of England, and a Curate here in the Benefice of St Thomas'. It just goes to show the power of prayer, and that God has a plan for each one of us which is far beyond our own imaginations!



I am forever thankful that God has equipped me for the many changes that have happened over the past ten years and in particular that he called me here. There is a saying that 'it takes a village to raise a child', well I think there could be a case in point to say 'it takes a church community to *raise* a priest'.

From childhood I have always felt cared for, encouraged, supported and surrounded by prayer by my church community in Crewe, and over the almost two years of my curacy here I have felt that same care, encouragement, support and prayer; so a heartfelt thank you from me to you all.

It is hard to believe that I am almost two years into my curacy, and that it has been nearly a year since my ordination as a priest in Chester Cathedral. That day was one filled with a range of emotions, from a sense of disbelief that God had really called me to be a priest, which then led to elation during and after the ordination itself.

As I have grown in confidence into my priestly ministry I would like to share how good and beautiful it is to serve as a priest. However, I am a passionate believer that ministry belongs to everyone, that through baptism we all have a share in the ministry of Jesus. Therefore as his disciples we have a responsibility to live our lives for him and to play our part in

following his great commission to 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...' Matthew 28.19. This means sharing our love for Jesus through our words and actions within our daily lives and within our roles at church. There are many ways you can do this, from actively praying from home, volunteering within church on the Open church team, the cleaning team, at the Vantry, at the Hangout Hub, through Praise and Play or Little Sunbeams, or being on the welcome team on a Sunday morning, the list goes on and on.

Or you may wish to take it a step further. In this Diocese there is a vision to build up more leaders within our churches through a range of opportunities such as Children's and Family ministry or through the OWLs (Occasional Worship Leaders) a four-session course on how to lead parts of a service and worship. There is also the opportunity to learn more about the vocations of becoming a Reader, Pastoral Worker or training for ordained ministry. The two-part Foundations for Ministry course helps with this discernment.

Several years ago my old Sunday school teacher shared his wise words on leadership through his knowledge of geese, explaining that as they fly in the 'V' formation the lead bird only does so for a while. As it tires there is always another bird within that 'V' that can step in and lead, this continues with each bird playing their part in leading within that group.

Sometime next year I will be flying to pastures new and my time as being part of that 'V' will come to an end, but it would be wonderful to leave knowing that there are some of you who feel ready to take flight and help lead worship and services at both churches.

Perhaps my main message is to encourage you to pray earnestly about how you can live your life as a disciple of Jesus as you are sent out to make more disciples, and perhaps the simplest prayer to pray is 'Use me Lord' then wait to see where it leads.

Yours in Christ, Ruth.

Financial Review of the Year 2024

Dear Friends,

The 2024 Accounts have been prepared on an Accruals basis so that income or expenses are recorded when the transaction occurs rather than when payment is made or received. As our total income is less than £250,000, we are not required legally to produce Accruals Accounts but have done so as it allows for more accurate comparisons month on month with the previous year. There are some categories where having prepared Accrual Accounts for the first year in 2023 there remains a distortion, for example in 2023 Hall Hire at both sites contained 13 months of receipts, in 2024 there are 12 months receipts and consequently it appears reduced in 2024. There have been no major works in the Parish in 2024 in contrast to the major St Mary Magdalene car park refurbishment in 2023, but we continue to be impacted by rising running costs largely related to energy costs.

Our total receipts are £230,909 and total expenses are £227,003 with an overall surplus of £3,905 compared to a deficit of £10,373 in 2023, resulting from the Car Park refurbishment at St Mary Magdalene which continues to be an asset for our Parish and the local community.

Parish Finances are a team effort. Linda Latham continues as Bookkeeper maintaining all the computerised Finance Coordinator records and provides a 'second authority' for all our financial transactions. Joanne Ridley, Reg Pritchard, Jackie Cole and Christine Bradshaw assist with the money counting every week, Simon Hutt takes the weekly banking to the Post Office and the Parish Office team provide invaluable admin support. Joanne Ridley is our Gift Aid Secretary and together we ensure we claim every penny of eligible tax recovery on donations. I am grateful for the dedicated work of the team and personally appreciate their support.

Geoff Bruce BSc. FCA has now completed 5 years as our Independent Examiner providing this service free of charge and we remain most grateful to Geoff for his time, guidance, and expertise. I am particularly pleased that he has agreed to 'one more year.' In addition, Geoff provides oversight of our financial processes. He is keen to ensure that our PCC members are



fully aware of their responsibilities as Charity Trustees and informed about all the financial matters relating to the Parish. I produce and present a formal report to every PCC meeting updating the financial position, and these full reports are incorporated into the PCC minutes as Appendices. There is an induction process for all new PCC members detailing the responsibilities of Trustees, we adhere to our Standing Financial Instructions which are reviewed annually, and I undertake the Charity Commission Internal Financial Controls Self-Assessment Checklist presenting the findings to the PCC annually to ensure we have robust processes in place.

The format of the accounts presented is unchanged from 2023. We continue to use the Finance Coordinator computerised accounts system and operate 'fund accounting.' You will note headings of general fund, designated funds and restricted funds on the statement of Financial Activities, and on the Balance Sheet these funds and their values are detailed. We have three designated funds set aside for a particular purpose: Visranthi Trust, a charity in India which supports victims of domestic abuse to which a group of regular donors contribute; Mission Project fund for our outreach work like the Christmas and Easter bags for vulnerable families and the holiday fun lunches and St Mary Magdalene Car Park fund which continues to operate a small deficit. There are five active restricted funds, donations into these funds must be used for the sole purpose of that fund: Parish Family fund for youth and family work; Grants fund holding money given annually by the War Graves Commission for us to use to maintain the graves of the fallen in the churchyard; Bells fund to manage and maintain the bell tower and ringing band; the Parish Charities fund is used for our annual charitable outward giving; and St Mary Magdalene Flower Fund is self-explanatory. The movement in these funds can be seen in detail on page 3 of the accounts. We have also agreed to manage the finances of the Little Sunbeams toddler group within the accounts as a restricted fund going forward to 2025. Agency funds, also detailed on page 3, relate to money we receive on behalf of a third party: it is not our money and is managed separately within the accounts but forms part of our creditors figure. Examples include fees we receive and pay to the Diocese, vergers or organist from weddings and funerals and charity donations such as the Children's Society Christingle candles, proceeds from 'noisy collections,' Macmillan Coffee morning and Present Aid.

Our total receipts for 2024 are £230,909 compared to £288,139 in 2023 a reduction of £57,230. However, in 2023 we received grants to the Car Park Fund of £66,800 and specific donations for this project of £9,485, when these are taken into consideration our general receipts have actually increased. Following the annual Thanksgiving Sunday Appeal 2023, we received pledged increases to Planned Giving from both congregations totalling £6,805. In effect Planned Giving has increased by £4,343 and although less than the amount pledged, each year we sadly lose generous donors from our congregations.

In 2024, without any specific major works, donations are increased by £5,251. We have received two large donations: £5,000 towards the repair of the clock at St Thomas' Church, Warrington Borough Council contributing a further £5000 making the project cost neutral to the Parish and £5000 towards the cost of a new piano in St Thomas' Church, we received a further £1500 towards the piano again making the purchase cost neutral. We have also benefitted from an increase in use of the Card Reader being available for donations accounting for £3030 in 2024 compared to £1862 in 2023 which may also explain cash Plate Collections being reduced by £1,470.

There has been a corresponding increase in Recovered Tax receipts. We make considerable effort within the Parish to ensure that all giving is tax efficient wherever possible. If you are a UK taxpayer giving to the Parish and have not completed a Gift Aid declaration, please contact me. In 2023 our total Gift Aid claimed was £30,904 which, due to the introduction of the Accruals Accounting system was for 5 quarters. It is noteworthy that in 2024 with only 4 quarters of Gift Aid our total receipts are £33,757. A successful Listed Places of Worship VAT repayment claim for eligible works to the clock and in the Tower of £2834 contributes to this.

Investment income is increased by £2136 entirely due to favourable Bank Interest rates and we continue to benefit from a previous decision to move funds into CCLA (CBF) Deposit Account where we receive a higher interest rate. Total interest on this account alone in 2024 is £4611.

Although Hall hire at both St Thomas' Church Hall and St Mary Magdalene are reduced by £1805 and £1185 respectively as I have alluded to above, this is due to a distortion of 2023 Hall Hire income where, because of the introduction of Accrual Accounting system, we received 13 months of Hall Hire income and in 2024 we received 12 months. The PCC reviews hall hire rates annually

introducing small rental rate increases and both venues are very busy with bookings. Thanks are due to Peter Speed, St Thomas Church Hall Booking Secretary and Julie Bennion, Booking Secretary for St Mary Magdalene who work hard to ensure our halls are busy, safe and welcoming.

We raised £8247, after costs, through various fundraising Fund-raising events. Highlights in 2024 were an Evening with the Violin featuring Simon Coombs with Cheese and Wine in February; a catered fun quiz in April set by Julie Bennion; Pick a Prize raffle on the Festival field; Music for a Summer's evening concert with Melody Makers and young people from Sixpence Voice Studio; Afternoon Tea in July, Harvest Supper with Ceilidh in October; a very successful Christmas Fair collaborating and sharing profits with our Church School; A Musical Soiree featuring the Warrington String Quartet and members of our church in November and Golborne brass concert welcoming Christmas. Fund raising proceeds were reduced after costs, in 2024 by £2626, there have not been any 'Parish wide' fundraising events in 2024 like the Parable of the Talents event in 2023 or Vicar Michael's sponsored abseil. In addition to Fundraising, the FRASM team also work hard providing refreshments (cake in particular!) for celebrations like Ruth's first Holy Communion Service and Michael's 40th Anniversary Celebration. FRASM team members also hosted a free Pancake Party for children and families and the Macmillan Coffee morning raising £1143 in 2023. We are also grateful to Ann and Mick Jackson, Julie Bennion and all supporters of the Parish 100 club for donations of £1,500 in 2024.

Grants are reduced by £64,454 entirely due to the large car park grants received in 2023.

We did receive a grant from 'Brakes' via Transforming Lives Together of £2496 for the Mission projects we undertake: fun lunches, Christmas and Easter bags. Our collaboration with local schools is now well established and we provided 149 Easter gift bags and 137 Christmas bags of food with 2 full days of food providing 2620 meals plus fruit, fresh vegetables and treats. A total of 8 free fun lunches in school holidays took place providing over 289 hot meals all freely produced by members of the FRASM team. These are lunch events with Christian themed activities, Bible stories, videos, songs and crafts, we are grateful to Ruth for her help. With the Pastoral Care Team 60 Easter and 60 Christmas Cheer bags were distributed to older vulnerable or isolated people within our congregation and community. In addition to the grant of £2496 from Brakes we received donations from our congregations of £1254 attracting £331 in Gift Aid Tax recovery to support the Mission Project work. The church 'Kindness Group' is also part of the mission work of the church and in 2024 we took 18 floral gifts /plants, 18 cakes and 2 meals to members of our congregations and community – showing and sharing God's love.

In 2023 our total expenditure was £298,513, however £118,395 related to St Mary Magdalene Car park costs leaving £180,118 as general Parish expenditure. In 2024 our total expenditure is £227,003 without any major works. In effect therefore our general Parish expenditure has increased. Before we consider any other costs, we are obliged to pay £75,344 Diocesan Parish Share to Chester Diocese. This is our contribution for the cost of our Vicar-including his stipend and pension contributions, and training for future clergy. This increased by £3588 from £71,756 in 2023 to £75,344. We also paid £30 to Bridgewater Churches Together, no Deanery Contribution was required in 2024.

Running costs have increased across both churches by £8562 the major contribution to this is from increased gas costs following the end of 3-year fixed rate gas contracts in both churches during 2023. In 2023 the cost of gas, electricity and water across both churches was £16,626 in 2024 it is £25,027. Gas costs alone have increased by £8,740. St Thomas Church Hall has continued to benefit from a 4-year fixed rate gas contract which ends in 2025, and gas costs have been stable £2876 in 2023 and £2957 in 2024 contributing to comparatively stable running costs in the Church Hall.

General 'cost of living' and inflationary increases account for the increases in Support costs and some of the increase in Church Maintenance and Repairs costs. In addition, the PCC elected to contribute £5000 from General Fund towards the restricted Bells Fund to facilitate the installation of heating in the ringing chamber and an upgrade to the Tower Electrics, the Bells Fund meeting the remaining costs to a total of £5,904. Similarly Worship costs are affected by inflationary pressures although we have also seen increased music costs to support the development of the Choir and music within St Thomas' Church from £998 in 2023 to £1,725 in 2024. The increase in Church equipment costs relates to the purchase of the new piano for St Thomas' church costing £7,699 which was supported by the donations mentioned previously. Vicarage costs are increased by £1,648 these are due to general inflationary pressures, rise in council tax and water rates and a PCC decision to support some kitchen refurbishment to the value of £1000. St Mary's house expenditure is reduced as there has not been any significant work undertaken following the complete redecoration in 2023

The PCC again fulfilled the obligation to Christian outreach in our 'Outward Giving' Parish Policy which is to give away 10% of our disposable income. We allocated £11,936 based on our disposable income into General fund in 2024. This was distributed between Overseas Mission, Home Mission, and Secular Charities.

£10,875 in donations are as follows: £2000 to the Church Missionary Society, £2000 to USPG, £500 to Visranthi Trust, £500 to St David's Nigeria, £500 to Christchurch Latchford, £500 to Ascension Trust for Street Pastors, £400 to the Prison Fellowship, £1000 to Broomfield's Youth Project, £500 to St Joseph's Family Centre, £750 to St Rocco's and £700 to St Thomas' School of which £500 was towards distinctiveness, £800 to Warrington Youth for Christ, and £200 to support the Creamfields Church tent, £270 to the Christian Aid Gaza appeal and £250 to Warrington Foodbank and a small amount of bank charges. A further £500 was given to the church Mission Project. Listed in the Memorandum Analysis - Charity Agency Summary are all the other collections or donations received and paid out to charities throughout 2023.

We have maintained a healthy cash at bank and in hand figure of £133,800 unrestricted funds, £3413 designated funds and £11,506 restricted funds. Following our annual Thanksgiving Sunday appeal we have received increased regular planned giving pledges of £5000 and £2,400 in new pledges. This increased income will help sustain us through the price increases in 2025, particularly the energy costs. Last year I mentioned that St Thomas' Church being a Grade II listed building remains on the Heritage England 'Churches at Risk' register with two outstanding phases of renovation identified in previous Quinquennial Inspections still to be completed. Some progress has been made during 2024 with digital surveys, heating appraisals, Architect and Quantity Surveyor input. Having had an initial unsuccessful 'Expression of Interest' to National Heritage Lottery Fund we have since had encouraging conversations with them and hope to resubmit in June 2025. This work will only be able to be undertaken with successful Grant Applications and funding as it is likely to cost £1,600,000 and we will be required to find 10% of these costs. Consequently, your PCC has already allocated £80,000 of unrestricted funds for this work. Other grant applications and major fundraising will also be required.

It is a privilege to serve as your Treasurer and be part of the leadership team of the church both in Standing Committee and PCC. I have worked very closely with both our Church Wardens, and it feels pertinent to acknowledge here the tremendous contribution they have made over the last six years to the life of our Parish and thank them personally for their support to me in my role, I am sure we all wish them well for the future. Finally, without financial stability we would not be able to do most of the things mentioned in this review to further the Kingdom in Stockton Heath and Appleton. Thank you to everyone who gives sacrificially to the work of our Parish, financially and through giving of their time and talents.

Sue Burke
Parish Treasurer

Church Wardens' Report

St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on 2024, it seems to have been a busy year again for both of our churches of St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's. Spring cleaning started early at St Thomas with a tidy up of the choir vestry; choir robes were donated to a church on the Wirral and the



cupboard space was rationalised using donated cupboards from the food bank. We also welcomed a team of volunteers from Capula in March who spent a day, tidying the graveyard and cleaning all the high awkward places including the clock housing in the tower. At St Mary's we've had several Saturday morning clean ups to mend chairs, scrub skirting boards (and share cakes!)

Music has played a large part in 2024, in February we welcomed Simon Coombs from Capula, who gave us all a wonderful insight into the history and versatility of the violin. The choir led by Keiko and assisted by Ian has meant an added dimension to the worship and special occasions like the Carol Service. We have also been fortunate in acquiring through a donation a new piano.

Mission always remains central to our church fellowship and many attended 'Growing Good' in the spring led by the Rev Ruth. The course encouraged us to evaluate what we do and could be doing and its action plan formed the basis of new initiatives especially our mission with children and young people.

They bring their differing perspectives to our deepening knowledge of God and how He is working in our day to day lives. At St Thomas's the family-focused 'Come to the Table' services have provided a brilliant avenue for some of our wonderful young people to take responsibility for leading and teaching our grown ups – learning together has been a real privilege in our church family. And as ever, the tech is both a blessing and a curse at both churches as we continue to try and make our worship and services as accessible as we can. We are really grateful to everyone who helps in preparing power point slide decks, streaming, 'clicking' and keeping us sane as we deal with the quirks and foibles of our systems.

Maintaining the fabric of St Thomas is an ongoing process. Unfortunately, in April we had a break-in, the alarm saved us but we did need a new window which thanks to some skilled workmanship matches the current glass. New electrics were installed in the Tower so our bell ringers are secure and warm and in October the clock was finally returned after an extensive repair- how good it was to hear its chime.

Whilst not as 'challenging' as St Thomas's, at St Mary Magdalene's we've had a few plumbing related challenges this year, from frozen pipes and occasionally reluctant heating to a significantly blocked drain due tree roots. The SMAG team have been amazing in stepping in and getting things done when Mel has been unable to due to work commitments. What a team.

Every year brings some cause to celebrate and this year was no exception, in June a number went to support the Rev Ruth when she was priested at the Cathedral and a few weeks later we celebrated with some of his former parishioners, the Rev Michael's 40th anniversary as a priest – a lot of cake was consumed during those weeks!

Thanks to a kind offer from Capula, we edited and upgraded the booklet showing the war graves in the churchyard and the local Brownies used these to place wooden crosses on these graves for Remembrance Sunday. The Eco team has continued to work with WASH, (Wild about Stockton Heath) and is accruing evidence to apply for the Rocha Gold Award.

Finally we cannot finish without saying what a huge privilege it has been to serve you all for the last 6 years as churchwardens. Change can be unsettling but we are confident that you will continue to support with your prayers and time the incoming people who will take over the roles.

With thanks,

Melanie and Sheila, Church Wardens

Action Groups

Action groups hold their own meetings but refer back to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions. Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission.

The groups who meet regularly are:

ST Thomas Action Group (STAG)
St Mary's Action Group (SMAG)
Church Hall Action Group (CHAG)
Fundraising, Social and Mission Group (FRASM)
Tech Team
Pastoral Group
Deanery
Synod
Bridgewater Churches Together

Outreach

A word of thanks go to all to who work so hard to organise or help with the groups that our Church community provides.

It was stated a while ago in Parliament that "Without volunteers this country would grind to a halt" and our wonderful group of volunteers certainly lays testimony to that statement. A heartfelt thanks goes to all who work so hard to make our Church the warm, welcoming and safe haven that it is.

Apart from the support listed in other parts of the report, volunteers are responsible for the success of the following really well loved and important parts of our Churches:

Sunday School	The Choir
Bellringing	Open Church
Eco Church	Cleaning
Church Duties	Office work
Home Visits	Praise and Play

Annual Report of the Safeguarding Officer 2024

The safeguarding policy for the Parish of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene Churches is the Church of England Policy – “Promoting a Safer Church”, which promotes safety for children, young people, vulnerable adults and adults.

Advice leaflets are available for all volunteers and, where appropriate, volunteers receive basic awareness training.

Our Churches continue to comply with the Diocesan guidelines on Disclosure and Barring Service checks. DBS clearance is required every three years and on election to the PCC or when taking on any of the roles listed below.

In line with the more stringent policy adopted, it is now mandatory that all PCC members have the appropriate Church of England DBS clearance, regardless of any other checks they may have undertaken. Sunday School Teachers and Group Leaders, who work regularly on a one-to-one basis with children, young people and vulnerable people must also have this DBS clearance. This is an ongoing process and is monitored regularly.

The Diocesan requirement that safeguarding training should also be undertaken by PCC Members, Sunday School Teachers and Group Leaders continues. PCC members must also undertake Safer Recruiting and Domestic Abuse Training. This too is mandatory, and the training will take place after the APCM to allow for any changes on the PCC. This is also an ongoing process and is monitored regularly. This will apply to anyone taking on one of these or other appropriate roles in the future.

No issues were reported during 2024 but advice and support has been readily available whenever required.

Thanks go to everyone who has willingly complied to the regulations and guidelines, thus helping to keep our Congregations, volunteers and friends safe.

The Safeguarding Officers are:

St Thomas': Dorothy Carter



St Mary's: Julie Bennion



Both have up-to-date DBS clearance and training.

Anyone having any concerns about people of any age within our Churches should contact their Safeguarding Officer. There are posters in both Churches with the contact information displayed. Safeguarding is a regular item on all PCC agendas.

Church employees who work regularly with children or vulnerable adults currently have valid and satisfactory DBS disclosures. This also applies to Lay Readers and Pastoral workers.

The aims of these measures are:

- to ensure a safe environment for all who attend our Churches to worship, work, volunteer or visit.
- to promote safe practice by raising awareness of safeguarding issues by offering training to church volunteers.
- to ensure all church activities and church groups have a recent risk assessments which are reviewed annually and risk assessments for all church trips and events are completed.

Dorothy Carter.
Julie Bennion.

Lead Recruiter/Safeguarding Officer—St. Thomas'
Safeguarding Officer - St Mary Magdalene's

Great Budworth Deanery Synod

The aims of the Deanery Synod are:

- To consider matters concerning the Church of England.
- To bring together the views of the parishes of the Deanery.
- To act as the channel of communication between the parishes of the Deanery and the Diocesan Synod.
- To effect decisions made by the diocesan Synod.
- To raise matters with the Diocesan Synod.
- To elect representatives to the Diocesan and General Synods.

In 2024 meetings were held at Christ Church Latchford, Lymm St Mary's, St Thomas's Stockton Heath and St Matthew's Stretton. At each meeting the treasurer gave a brief finance report.

Meetings outlined updates on 'The vision and strategy for the Diocese of Chester.' Funding for 2025 is being looked into. Initially trials in 4 areas are being led by Mike Gilbertson for which funding became available.

Meetings are an opportunity for Parish sharing e.g mental health training provision. The deanery successfully take a collaborative approach.

Synod allows us to hear how other churches are reacting to these challenges and to share ideas.

The Revd Bev Jameson of St Mary's Lymm is the rural dean.

St Thomas' and St Mary's representatives for 2024 were Dorothy Carter, Jenny Corroboy and Sue Burke. Deanery Synod representatives attend meetings on behalf of the Parish and report back to PCC. The Parish is represented by Julie Brown, pastoral worker. Because of the numbers on our electoral roll, we are eligible to elect four members for the Deanery Synod. It is a three-year election process and there is a place for one more representative. If anyone would like to learn more about this role, please talk to a Church Warden or one of the representatives.

Dorothy Carter & Jenny Corroboy ***Deanery Synod Representatives***

Electoral Roll

A completely new Electoral Roll has been generated in 2025.

Congregation members are encouraged to have their names added to give them voting rights at general meetings.

Should anyone wish to be entered on the electoral roll, application forms are available at the Church Office or ask one of the Church Wardens.

Simon Hutt
Electoral Roll Officer

Reserve Policy

It is the aim of the PCC to hold £22,000 in unrestricted reserves to enable cover for three months' running costs in the event of a major problem, and/or to provide additional support for some unforeseen repairs. Having considered outgoings, the PCC deems this to be a reasonable amount to hold in reserve to maintain an adequate cash flow. This policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time by the PCC, who will consider the viability of this amount.

Risk report

The major risks to which the PCC are exposed are reviewed regularly and systems and procedures are in place to ensure that those are in place.

Major risks identified are:

Adverse publicity
Demographic change
Dependency on income
Disaster issues
Fund raising
Governance
Security
Volunteering
Vulnerable people
Pandemic

Risk assessments are stored at a central point and can be viewed on request.

St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
Planned Giving	88,090	475	1,117	0	89,682	85,339
Plate Collections	17,192	0	0	0	17,192	18,662
Recovered tax	32,485	1,068	202	0	33,757	30,904
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donations	26,777	4,189	904	0	31,870	26,619
Income from charitable activities						
Fund Raising	14,360	0	0	0	14,360	16,607
Other trading activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Investments	4,704	0	15	0	4,720	2,584
Other income	2,916	0	0	0	2,916	2,483
St Mary's House Rent	0	0	0	0	0	2,600
St Thomas' Church Hall Hire	14,789	0	0	0	14,789	16,594
St Mary's Hall Hire	11,253	0	0	0	11,253	12,438
PCC Fees	7,655	0	0	0	7,655	6,140
Grants	0	2,496	217	0	2,713	67,167
Diocesan fees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total income	220,224	8,228	2,456	0	230,909	288,139
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	5,732	0	381	0	6,113	5,734
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Diocesan Parish Contribution and Deanery	75,374	0	0	0	75,374	71,786
Clergy Costs	2,807	0	0	0	2,807	2,810
Youth Worker Costs	63	0	1,409	0	1,472	1,934
Church Running costs	42,421	0	117	0	42,538	33,976
Church Maintenance / Repairs	11,599	0	6,048	0	17,647	8,904
Church equipment purchase	10,454	0	0	0	10,454	1,340
Church Hall Running Costs	17,235	0	0	0	17,235	15,123
Church Hall Maintenance / repairs	2,025	0	0	0	2,025	1,496
Mission Giving and donations	0	0	10,870	0	10,870	10,200
Worship Costs	10,312	0	385	0	10,698	7,597
Churchyard costs	0	0	0	0	0	60
Support Costs	7,018	2,356	0	0	9,375	6,895
Vicarage costs	5,303	0	0	0	5,303	3,655
Other expenditure	254	4,242	64	0	4,561	4,570
St Mary's House	3,155	0	0	0	3,155	4,366
Major works	7,370	0	0	0	7,370	118,060
Total expenditure	201,129	6,598	19,275	0	227,003	298,513
Gains / losses on investment assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	19,094	1,630	(16,819)	0	3,905	(10,373)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	638	500	18,074	0	19,213	56,420
Gross transfers between funds - out	(18,074)	0	(1,138)	0	(19,213)	(56,420)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds	1,658	2,130	116	0	3,905	(10,373)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	132,141	1,283	11,390	0	144,814	155,187

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

17 March 2025 Page 1

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Total funds carried forward	133,800	3,413	11,506	0	148,720	144,814

St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath

Balance sheet (Summary)

As at: 31 December 2024

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
	£ ½	£ ½
Current assets		
Debtors	11,561	6,991
Cash at bank and in hand	149,176	145,586
	<u>160,737</u>	<u>152,577</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	12,016	7,762
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>148,720</u>	<u>144,814</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>148,720</u>	<u>144,814</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>148,720</u>	<u>144,814</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	133,800	132,141
Designated		
Designated - ST MM Car Park	(465)	(746)
Designated - Mission Projects	3,879	1,654
Designated - Visranthi Trust	0	376
Restricted		
Restricted - Bells fund	1,632	2,413
Restricted - Grants Fund	1,148	1,312
Restricted - Little Sunbeams	0	0
Restricted - St Mary's Flower Fund	307	323
Restricted - Parish Charities fund	1,331	270
Restricted - Parish Family Fund	7,086	7,070
Restricted - Prom Praise	0	0
Restricted - Agency collection	0	0
Funds of the church	<u>148,720</u>	<u>144,814</u>

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Notes to Accompany the Accounts 2024

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Regulations 2006 and Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

Agency monies held are also shown as a creditor. These are detailed below for information.

2. The PCC holds 199.49 CBF accumulation shares whose market value was £12,520.43 for December 2024 (£11912.31 for December 2023)

3. In addition the PCC own the following non sacred buildings: St Mary's house Insurance valuation January 2025 £263,603 & St Thomas Church Hall Insurance valuation January 2024, £1,176,437

5. The PCC has a Reserves Policy and held £22,000 reserves in 2024

5. The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal C/fwd
Designated fund (unrestricted)	£	£	£	£	£
Visranthi Trust	376	3866	4242	0	0
Mission Project fund	1654	4081	2356	500	3879
St Mary Magdalene Car Park fund	-746	281	0	0	-465
Total	2030	8228	6598	500	3414
Restricted Funds					
Charities	270	0	10875	11936	1331
War graves	1312	217	381	0	1148
Flowers	323	370	386	0	307
Parish Family fund	7070	1485	1469	0	7086
Gain on investment asset					
Bells Fund	2413	384	6165	5000	1632
Total	11388	2456	19276	16936	11504
Memorandum analysis					
Church acting as an agent		Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal C/ fwd
Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals		360	7923	7448	835
Other fees- vergers/ organist/choir		525	4060	4370	215
Retired/visitng clergy fee		0	0	0	0
Total		885	11983	11818	1050
Charity Agency Summary					
Christian Aid Gaza		0	625	619	6
Children's society		1042	792	1042	792
foodbank		0	226	3	223
Present Aid		300	580	0	880
Warrington Youth For Christ		0	98	98	0
Macmillan Cancer Support		0	1143	1143	0
USPG		25	555	580	0
DEC Earthquake		56	0	56	0
Total		1423	4019	3541	1901
Total Agency fund					2951



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene
Stockton Heath

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1131459

Set out on pages

1 - 5

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

25/3/2025,

Name:

Geoff Bruce

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

FCA

Address:

31 Bristow Close, Warrington, WA5 8EU

**The Parochial Church Council
of St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Churches**
Charity Number 1131459

**DRAFT —Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
For the year January 1st to December 31st 2023
Held on Sunday 21st April 2024 at St Thomas' Church
10:45am**

The number present at the meeting was 73

The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held in 2023 had been circulated and were accepted

Election of Church Wardens:

Nominated	Proposed	Seconded	Approved
Sheila Barton	Sue Burke	L Heesom	Unanimously
Melanie Wilson	Lee Marsh	Carol Bridger	Unanimously

Church Warden Remarks (Sheila Barton)

Sheila spoke and expressed the Wardens' grateful thanks to everyone who had supported them through the year. Highlighted was the hard work done by all and time and talents given so willingly, with thanks to all of those who are on the church rota.

Sheila also thanked Michael for all his support, Carol Bridger and Joanne for all their work in the Church Office, Sue Burke for all her efforts as our hard-working Treasurer. She also thanked Simon Hutt for his work in revising of the Electoral Roll.

Sheila said that both her and Mel are looking forward to the next year in role and that it's a real joy and privilege to serve as Church Warden.

The Terriers and Log Books were presented to be signed after the meeting

The Vestry meeting closed at 11:15am.

DRAFT—Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
For the year January 1st to December 31st 2023
Held on Sunday 21st April 2024 at St Thomas' Church
at 11:15am

The number present at the meeting was 73

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in 2023 had been circulated and were accepted.

Chairs Remarks: (Rev. Michael Ridley)

Michael thanked the congregation and noted what a great joy it is to be Vicar here, as he is approaching his 40th year in service, and that he is looking forward to becoming a grandfather. Michael talked about how well the Churches were doing and thanked everyone concerned for all of their hard work.

Michael mentioned the Growing Good course that is starting, as a great opportunity to get involved with the work of the church and to further develop God's presence in the community. He encouraged people to get involved.

He said how fantastic it had been to have Ruth Gray with us and how much we are all looking forward to her Ordination at Chester Cathedral in June. Michael noted the importance of succession planning and is looking to the congregation to become the next Readers and Church Wardens.

Electoral Roll.

The previous electoral roll had closed and a revised one created for 2024/2025. At the time of this meeting there were 217 names on the roll.

Annual Reports.

The Annual Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Sue Burke explained the financial accounts and both reports were formally accepted.

Election to Deanery Synod

On this occasion there were no elections to Deanery Synod. Jenny Corroboy gave a brief update on Deanery Synod meetings attended within the year.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council.

Thanks were expressed to all members of the PCC for their loyal input. Elections were as follows. There was just one place to be filled, as a re-election because of three-year rotation rule.

Nominated		Proposed	Seconded	Approved
James Thornton	Re-election	Kris Bradshaw	Dorothy Carter	Unanimously

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Geoff Bruce was thanked for all his hard work on the accounts and re-appointed for the year 2024

Proposed S Burke. **Seconded** D Carter. **Voted** Unanimously

Safeguarding

Dorothy Carter gave a short update on safeguarding, noting that advice and training on safeguarding is available to all volunteers in the church. Dorothy asked for the congregation to let us know if they feel anyone is at risk of safeguarding issues, but that there had been no areas of concern during 2023.

The meeting closed at 12:00 Noon

**The first PCC Meeting will be at St Thomas' Church, Tuesday 21st May 2024
at 7:30 pm**

Kris Bradshaw (PCC Secretary)

Signed Rev. M L Ridley.....

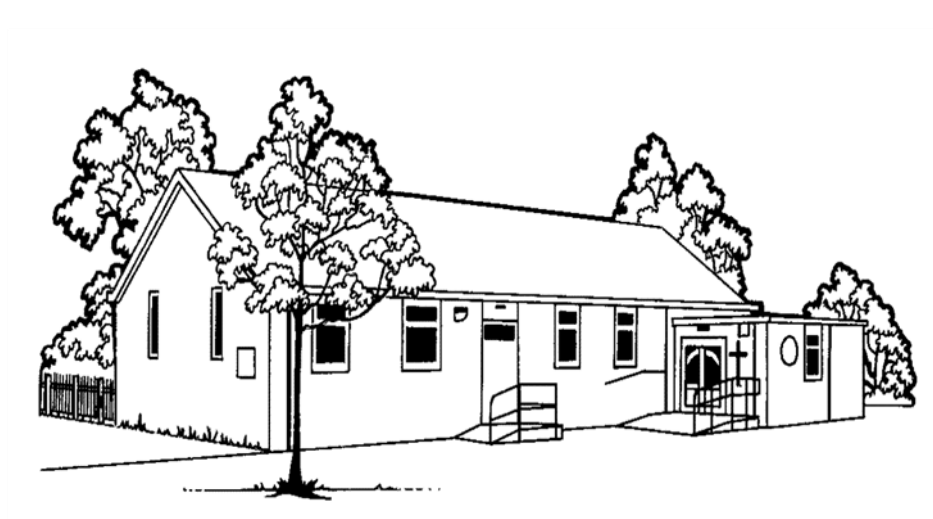
Date 21st April 2024

Date 21st April 2024

Accounts

**The Parochial Church Council
of
St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Churches
Stockton Heath**

**Annual and Financial Reports
for the Year Ending
31st December 2023**



Introduction

This information is published as part of the requirements of the Church of England Regulations and Requirements of the Charities Commissioners.

The Parish of St Thomas, Stockton Heath is in the Deanery of Great Budworth and is a part of the Diocese of Chester. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered Charity (Charity no. 1131459).

St Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd. Michael Ridley, in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Thomas' Church, London Road, Stockton Heath; St Thomas' Church, Ellesmere Road, Stockton Heath; St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingleway/Bridge Lane, Appleton and 8 St Monica's Close, Appleton.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Vicar,
St Thomas' Vicarage
12 Melton Avenue. Walton
Warrington WA5 6PQ
Tel: 01925 261396

Parochial Church Council 2022

Vicar Revd. Michael Ridley

Ex Officio Members

Lay Reader Lee Marsh

Pastoral Workers Claire Hutt
Julie Brown

Deanery Synod Dorothy Carter
Sue Burke
Jenny Corroboy

Church Wardens Sheila Barton
Melanie Wilson

Elected Members

Peter Speed	Peter Banyard
Kirsty Gill	Lynda Heesom
David Whalley	Dorika Roxby
Stuart Marley	James Thornton
Jacqueline Shaw	Sarah Downes
Elaine Smith	

Officers

Secretary Dorothy Carter

Treasurer Sue Burke

Safeguarding Dorothy Carter

Lay Readers Christine Chapman
Lee Marsh

Resigned Jul 2023 : Joanna Woodward

In 2023 the Parochial Church Council met in January, March, April (AGM), May, July, September and November with Standing Committee meetings generally two weeks beforehand. Standing Committees are made up of the Vicar (who also Chairs the PCC), the Church Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer and these willing people prepare for the PCC meeting, and make emergency decisions, which are ratified by the PCC at the next PCC Meeting.

PCC members are also Charity Trustees and are recruited from and voted for by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll. PCC members are elected for three-year terms after which they must stand down, but can stand for re-election.

The PCC adheres to its aims and principles concerning outreach and mission, whilst managing the finances and the running of and safety of both Churches. Action groups hold their own meetings but refer to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions. Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission.

The PCC works extremely hard on the many aspects of running a successful Church and thanks go to all who attend regularly with a cheerful willingness and enthusiasm. Dorothy Carter stepped down as PCC Secretary in September 2023, after 18 years of exceptional contribution. Kirsty Gill and Kris Bradshaw have taken on the role as a 'job share'.

New faces and talents are always welcome and anyone who feels that they can contribute should speak to the Secretary or a Church Warden. **Kirsty Gill & Kris Bradshaw - PCC Secretaries**

A Word from Your Vicar



Dear Friends

*'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'
Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me!'
Isaiah 6:8*

This year I will celebrate the fortieth year since I was ordained priest in Chester Cathedral on 1st July 1984. Before that, on 15th June, Ruth our curate will be ordained priest at the same cathedral and on Sunday 16th she will preside at Holy Communion for the first time. Both these occasions will be days of joy and thanksgiving for God's calling to ministry for both of us and will celebrate the calling of all disciples to follow Jesus.

So why mention these forthcoming events in the annual report? Mainly because I want to emphasise the need for all of us to respond to Jesus' call, "Come follow Me." This is shown in the wonderful hymn 'I, the Lord of sea and sky': we are asked by God, "Who will bear My light to them, whom shall I send?" The answer comes in the chorus, "Here I am Lord, is it I Lord?... I will go Lord, if You lead me." What you may not have noticed is that the final chorus doesn't ask a question but rather declares, "Here I am Lord, it is I Lord." As in the quotation from Isaiah above, we, like the prophet, eventually respond with the words, "Here I am, send me."

Now I want to ask you a personal question: "To what do you think God is calling you?" I believe God has got a job for every one of us, and if we can each work out our task then we can ask the bigger question of what God is calling St. Thomas' & St. Mary Magdalene's to do and to be in 2024. In April we will go through a period of discernment to find out God's will for our parish: a course called, 'Growing Good' will begin on Tuesday April 16th at 12pm and Wednesday 17th at 7.30pm and together we are going to see where God is leading us. To say that there will be a three-line whip for participation is too strong, but I hope that you will respond to the invitation which will go out after Easter. At a time when the Church of England is declining, I pray that our discussions and prayers in this course will lead us into growth.

Yours as always, Michael

Report from Revd. Ruth Gray, Assistant Curate



Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the warm welcome that I received when I arrived to begin my Curacy here last July, including the preparation and decoration of the Curacy house before I moved in. That alone demonstrated to me the loving service that I see in abundance, on a daily basis from both church communities at St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's. Now nine months on I think it is fair to say that I feel fully integrated into the life of both church families and this community, and I am hugely grateful for all the prayers, support and encouragement that I receive as I continue to learn and develop in my ministry.

The past nine months have taught me a great deal about myself, my journey with God, and his calling of me to ordained ministry. As a deacon I come to serve the community in which I am placed, and what a wonderfully loving, giving, friendly and faithful community this is. I feel blessed to have been placed here and seek to serve to the best of my gifts and abilities. It has been a joy to be an active member of the ministry team as we work together to lead worship, preach and teach as well as develop mission and outreach to the schools and care homes within the parish. However, the ministry team are but a small part of this church community and it would be remiss of me to not give thanks and praise for all within our churches, who through their own loving service and gifts spread the love and compassion of Jesus and prayerfully work together to grow God's kingdom. So, thank you.

In my recent end of year review for my curacy training I was asked to answer two questions – What has gone well this year? And what has been difficult?

Well with regards to what has gone well, I am not a person who likes to blow my own trumpet, it does not come naturally to me but I would hope that the compassionate, nurturing and creative side of me has shone through into my ministry. Being able to sit alongside someone who is feeling lost, lonely, sad or ill, and to pray with them is a beautiful and often heart-wrenching privilege. And equally to nurture the faith of all ages through a range of

encounters and worship styles brings me great joy. From baptism prep, to 'Sing a new song', to confirmation classes, to the Experience Christmas, to the 'Come to the table' all-age service and the Holy week services I hope that I have played my part in shining the light of Christ into the lives of those I have encountered and built relationships with.

With regards to difficulties, I think the greatest one for me was adjusting to a new rhythm of life. Having been a teacher for 24 years prior to ordained ministry, as well as juggling my three years of theology studies and church placement I had become very much a 'Martha' like character; always 'doing' to the detriment of 'being', therefore not taking the right amount of time to be still in the presence of Jesus. It took me a couple of months to unknit all of that when I first arrived, as well as come to terms with the emotional changes that ending one chapter and beginning another brings. However, throughout that and my occasional wobbles of confidence I have been hugely thankful for the nurturing and supportive guidance of Michael. He has been generous with his time, knowledge and patience as I have learnt about parish life and leading parts of ministry that I have not led before, such as funerals.

I am thankful that I still have over two years left in this parish to learn and grow in my ministry and eagerly await the many encounters yet to come. I know that where I am today is not by my doing and I look forward to seeing where God continues to guide and use me as I minister in this community over the coming weeks, months and years.

Financial Review of the Year 2023

Dear Friends,

For the first time in a few years, I hardly feel the need to mention Covid from a financial perspective and 2023 saw very much financial 'business as usual' in



our Parish although we continue to be sensitive to people's health concerns, especially during Holy Communion. Inevitably new challenges have arisen, our churches are not immune to rising prices and most particularly rising energy costs with both St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene churches having to negotiate new

and much higher prices for gas than we had been accustomed to, the previous 3-year fixed rate contracts expiring. Your PCC stepped out in faith in January 2023 voting to proceed with St Mary Magdalene's car park renewal and committing £35,000 of general church funds to this project complementing the £66,800 in grants successfully secured by Julie Bennion who Project Managed this work expertly and the £9485 in donations which attracted a further £1,695 in recovered tax through Gift Aid. Our total income is £288,139.99 and total expenses are £298,513.02 giving an overall deficit this year of income over expenditure, the first during my six years as Treasurer, of £10,373.03. With the car park renewal this was expected and does not cause me concern, it is a 'one-off' expenditure and if I remove all income and expenditure relating to the car park, we would have had a healthy surplus despite cost of living and energy challenges.

Geoff Bruce BSc. FCA has continued as our Independent Examiner for a fourth year in 2023 again providing this service free of charge and we remain most grateful to Geoff for his time, guidance, and expertise. In addition, Geoff is keen to ensure that our PCC members are fully aware of their responsibilities as Charity Trustees and informed about all the financial matters relating to the Parish. I report to every PCC meeting updating the financial position, and these full reports are incorporated into the PCC minutes as Appendices. There is an induction process for all new PCC members, we adhere to our Standing Financial Instructions which are reviewed annually, and I undertake the Charity Commission Internal Financial Controls Self-Assessment Checklist presenting the findings to the PCC annually to ensure we have robust processes in place.

Linda Latham is an invaluable support as bookkeeper, she maintains all the Finance Coordinator records and is a 'double check' for all our financial activity. The finance team also comprises Joanne Ridley, Gift Aid Secretary and Joanne with Reg Pritchard and Jackie Cole assist with the money counting every week with Peter Speed as back up when required, Simon Hutt takes the weekly banking to the Post Office and Carol Bridger provides admin support and banking back up. I am most grateful to all the Finance Team for their invaluable service.

As our gross income is in excess of £250,000, we must prepare our accounts on an Accruals basis to satisfy Charity Commission legal requirements, another first for me. Previously, I have prepared the accounts using the receipts and payments basis except for the following:

-any invoice raised and not settled before 31/12 is included as a debtor
-any cheque issued but not cashed or services received but not paid for before 31/12 are included as creditors, both only if they materially affect the accounts.

However, in preparing the accounts on an Accruals basis income or expenses are recorded when the transaction occurs rather than when payment is made or received. You will note as an example an apparent large increase in Gift Aid – this is mainly due to claiming 5 quarters instead of the usual 4 with an estimated amount for Quarter 4 2023 included in these accounts for Accruals purposes as it is the Gift Aid due on donations received in October, November and December 2023.

The format of the accounts presented is unchanged from 2022. We continue to use the Finance Coordinator computerised accounts system and operate 'fund accounting'. You will note headings of general fund, designated funds and restricted funds on page one of the accounts and on the Balance Sheet these funds and their values are detailed. We have three Designated Funds set aside for a particular purpose: Visranthi Trust, a charity in India which supports victims of domestic abuse to which a group of regular donors contribute; Mission Project fund for our outreach work like the Christmas and Easter bags for vulnerable families and the holiday fun lunches and St Mary Magdalene Car Park fund which has kept monies received for this work separate. There are five active restricted funds, donations into these funds must be used for the sole purpose of that fund: Parish Family fund for youth and family work, Grants fund holding money given annually by the War Graves Commission for us to use to maintain the graves of the fallen in the churchyard, Bells fund to manage and maintain the bell tower and ringing band, the Parish Charities fund is used for our annual charitable outward giving, and St Mary Magdalene Flower Fund is self-explanatory. The movement in these funds can be seen in detail on page 4 of the accounts. Agency funds, also detailed on page 4, relate to money we receive on behalf of a third party: it is not our money and is managed separately within the accounts but forms part of our creditors figure. Examples include fees we receive and pay to the Diocese, vergers or organists from weddings and funerals and charity donations such as the Children's Society Christingle candles, Macmillan Coffee morning and Present Aid.

Our total income is £288,139.99 an increase of £87,213.87 compared to 2022 largely due to the £66,800 in grants secured for and £9,485 donations towards, the renewal of St Mary Magdalene's car park. Hall hire has been robust at both sites due to the efforts of both Julie Bennion (St Mary Magdalene) and Peter Speed (St Thomas Church Hall) our Hall Booking Secretaries with a significant increase at St Thomas' however, some of this increase again relates to the switch to Accruals Accounting and there being 13 months of hall hire recorded in these accounts. It is noteworthy that the income from St Thomas' Church Hall hire more than covers the hall running costs and we have the advantage of the building for our personal use and for the benefit of the community. It is pertinent to note that our Planned Giving and Plate Collections increased by £6,797.52 with associated additional Gift Aid payments. This increase is, in the main, the response to our Annual Thanksgiving Sunday 2022 appeal from which we received pledged increases of £6,268. Rental income from St Mary's house is reduced by £5,080 reflecting the fact that the house was only let for 4 months in 2023 being vacated for the arrival of our new Curate, Ruth in May. Investment income has increased this year from £707 in 2022 to £2,584.67 in 2023 relating to bank interest rates and our decision to move funds into CCLA (CBF) Deposit Account where we receive a more favourable interest rate.

Fund raising receipts, after costs, are £10,873.06 compared to £5,877.54 in 2022, a significant increase and thanks go to the entire Fundraising, Social and Mission Project team. Fundraising and social highlights in 2023 included a Pancake Party, a very challenging quiz set by Adam Bennion, a Car Treasure Hunt, 'Pick a Prize Raffle' and 'Music for a Summer's Evening' concert during Stockton Heath Festival, the Parable of the Talents Summer Challenge in which many members of our congregations participated, including Michael's abseil, Harvest Supper and Ceilidh, Macmillan Coffee Morning, The Abbarettes Concert, Christmas Fair with our Church School and finally the Golborne Brass Christmas concert. We are also very grateful to Ann and Mick Jackson, Julie Bennion and all supporters of the Parish 100 club for donations of £2,000 in 2023.

Our total expenditure is £298,513.02, an increase of £139,444.64 compared to 2022. £118,395.41 is accounted for by St Mary Magdalene car park costs, £118,060.30 major works and £335.11 car park fundraising costs. The second major contributing factors are energy costs, these are ongoing liabilities and of more concern. During 2023 St Mary Magdalene's three-year fixed rate contract for Gas came to an end in October and St Thomas' three-year fixed rate contract for gas ended in June. In addition, Electricity for St Thomas' Church and Church hall is via the Parish Buying Energy basket and is reviewed annually with consequent rises in electricity for both sites, although the

electricity provided is 100% green energy generated by Hornsey 1 wind farm. In 2022 utilities – gas, electricity and water across all three sites cost £12,857.39 in 2023 the same utilities cost £22,503.06 an increase of £9645.67 and whilst some of this increase relates to the switch in accounting practice a comparable figure for the energy cost increase is still over £7,000. Additionally, these gas price rises were not for the entire year as will be the case in 2024. Parish Share increased by £2,090. Parish share is the money we pay to the Diocese for Clergy stipend, pensions and training, in the accounts it forms the major part of the 'Diocesan Parish Contribution and Deanery' category. The total Parish Share paid in 2023 is £71,756.64 and we have paid our full Parish Share throughout the year, many Parishes are in arrears.

St Mary's house expenditure increased by £3,593.51 as the house needed considerable refurbishment, decorating, replacement of flooring and installation of a Burglar Alarm the costs of which were significantly mitigated by the hard work of members of the congregation who undertook cleaning, decorating and gardening tasks on a voluntary basis. We are also now responsible for Council Tax and water payments. Church maintenance costs have increased by £3,817.28, whilst these do vary year on year this large increase relates to the necessary removal of a disused oil tank in St Thomas' Church Cellar identified at the Quinquennial Inspection costing £3,732 and a significant repair to St Thomas' Church boiler costing £1,762.52. Most other costs have increased in line with inflation.

Although we have our own financial challenges your PCC fulfilled the obligation to Christian outreach in our 'Outward Giving' Parish Policy which is to give away 10% of our disposable income. We allocated £10,969 based on our disposable income 2022, which was distributed between Overseas Mission, Home Mission, and Secular charities. £10,200 in donations were as follows: £2000 to the Church Missionary Society, £2000 to USPG, £500 to Visranthi Trust, £500 to St David's Nigeria, £500 to Christchurch Latchford, £500 to Ascension Trust for Street Pastors, £400 to the Prison Fellowship, £800 to Broomfield's Youth Project, £500 to St Joseph's Family Centre, £500 to St Rocco's and £1000 to St Thomas' School - £500 towards distinctiveness and £500 towards a Language and Phonics course, £800 to Warrington Youth for Christ, and £200 to support the Creamfields Church tent. A further £500 was given to the church Mission Project and as in previous years a small sum of £269 has been retained for 'in year' emergency appeals. Listed in the Memorandum Analysis - Charity Agency Summary are all the other collections or donations received and paid out to charities throughout 2023.

Community outreach via the Mission Project work progressed in 2023 collaborating with local schools to provide 150 Easter gift bags, 153 Christmas bags of food with 2 full days of food for 206 adults and 236 children. A total of 8 free fun lunches in school holidays took place providing over 270 hot meals all freely produced by members of the FRASM team. These are Christian lunch events with themed activities -all the summer lunches were themed on 'Creation', videos, stories and crafts. We have been treated to Ruth's guitar playing, some popular new songs and imaginative crafts and are grateful to Ruth for her support and input. With the Pastoral Care Team 50 Easter and 50 Christmas Cheer bags were distributed to older vulnerable or isolated people within our congregation and community. We have worked with Transforming Lives Together for the last three years and in 2023 were fortunate to receive a donation from their funders of £1,646 and donations from our congregations of £1045.10 to support the Mission Project work.

Despite our year end deficit of income over expenditure we continue to maintain a healthy Cash at Bank and in hand figure of £132,141.42 unrestricted funds, £11390.13 restricted funds, and £1283.20 designated funds. The response to the Thanksgiving Sunday Appeal in November 2023, for 2024 giving, yielded pledges of £6320 increase in Planned Giving with an estimated increase of £1500 additional Gift Aid. These figures will help us withstand the economic buffeting, particularly energy costs through 2024. We have another major challenge ahead in 2024/25. St Thomas' Church a Grade II listed building remains on the Heritage England 'Churches at Risk' register with two outstanding phases of renovation identified in previous Quinquennial Inspections still to be completed. This work will only be able to be undertaken with successful Grant Applications and funding, but it is likely that we will need to contribute approximately £60,000 towards the works.

It is a privilege to serve God and our churches as your treasurer. In my role I am humbled by God's loving faithfulness and the generosity I encounter within our congregations. A sincere thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of the church both financially and through giving of their time or talents. The financial health and stability of the Parish underpins all we do and all we aspire to do to show and share God's amazing love in our churches and the community.

Sue Burke

Parish Treasurer

Church Wardens' Report

St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on 2023 it seemed like a full and busy year (again!) across our churches of St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's. We've faced challenges and opportunities to extend our support to the community especially in the face of the continuing rise in the cost of living. Consequently, St Thomas joined the Warm Welcome Spaces initiative, opening its doors from 10-1 during the colder months. This involved joining with volunteers from Bridgewater Churches Together and despite the logistical nightmares of allocating people to time slots it helped forge valuable and lasting friendships. And our ongoing support to the foodbank seemed more important than ever.

This year brought the Quinquennial inspections for both churches. As St Thomas' is a listed building, we are only too aware of our responsibility to maintain such a beautiful building but the task is onerous. We anticipate further initiatives to widen our community links and encourage more of the village into our buildings. At St Mary Magdalene's the task is not quite as daunting but our focus is to maintain the warm and welcoming space that is so well used by the local community to a high standard into the future.

There have been a number of little tweaks which help keep us in touch, we have refurbished the notice boards in the porch of St Thomas and now have photo record of 'who's who' on display so newcomers can identify church leaders. This was one of the outcomes from our Vision Day, which helped us to focus on what we do well and where we can accentuate this, as well as where we need to develop further to bring God's Kingdom to this place.

The Easter Experience in 2023 showcased the artistic and creative talents of our members, tableaux of the Passion Story were spread throughout the church, while hundreds of school children were guided through the Easter Story. It was a huge success and all the effort was well rewarded by the children's natural interest and candid questions: 'Did Jesus have a surname?' And so, all the energy was summoned again to recreate the Christmas Story in December.

Your Churchwardens Mel and Sheila waited in some trepidation for the Archdeacon's Visitation in May - this is basically a triennial inspection to check all records and procedures are being adhered to. We are pleased to report that we 'passed' with flying colours and it was noted how well organised the parish office is. Huge thanks go to all our volunteers that help to make that so, but most especially to Carol for all she does so efficiently behind the scenes.

Having achieved the Silver Eco award at the end of 2022, we have made modest progress in consolidating our eco initiatives to strive to gain the Gold. We welcomed Year 1 from St Thomas school in May to make bird feeders and survey our flora in the churchyard. In June we entered our churchyard in 'Caring for God's Acre' - counting flora digitally which all fed into a national data base.

After an amazing effort of cleaning, painting, and generally refurbishing, in June we were delighted to welcome Ruth Gray our new curate as she moved to Appleton and took up residence in St Mary's House. She has blended in so easily and we are hugely blessed by her cheerfulness, tuneful voice, honesty and special skills with children and little ones.

It was a huge honour for us all when St Thomas' 'stood in' for Chester Cathedral which was unavailable to host the ordination of Ruth and three other deacons on July 1st. Awash with Bishops, visiting clergy and technical support, the service was packed, magnificent and showed off our beautiful church at its best. The wonderful voices of Melody Makers, our baking, hospitality and our well-oiled organisation all contributed to make this a wonderful celebration - we even had the added benefit of the Stockton Heath Art festival adorning our walls.

In July we finally 'took delivery' of a new car park at St Mary Magdalene's. Whilst she's too modest to say so, this would not have been possible without the energy and tenacity of Julie Bennion who corralled grant applications, plans and surveys with such expertise. We are so grateful to everyone who played a part in the fundraising, and for the patience of everyone who has ruined a pair of heels on the previous surface! The Bishop again joined us to bless the endeavour and really brought home to us all what a tremendous community asset we have in our custodianship.

Also in July, we formally said thank you to two faithful servants, firstly Joanna Woodward, who has given devoted years of service to our church community as a reader; we are delighted that she still offers to contribute to our services especially at the Thursday morning communion service. Secondly,

at the PCC meeting in July we formally said thank you to Dorothy Carter who had given many, many years of trusty service as our PCC secretary – she was escorted home with a trolley full of plants for her garden. We are fortunate that Dorothy has agreed to stay on as our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

During the summer Keiko Tanaka introduced herself and we quickly embraced her enthusiasm and musical talent to take a lead role in leading St Thomas Choir. With Ian as organist and Keiko, the singing has really enhanced our services, culminating in a wonderful Carol Service in December. Thank you Keiko and Ian.

Our Parish supplied a number of volunteers and lots and lots of Jammy Dodgers to the church tent at Creamfields in Daresbury over the August Bank Holiday weekend. This outreach to the sometimes tired and emotional party goers is a brilliant example of our mission to the extended community.

The Summer brought the Talents Challenge and the congregation rose admirably to the challenge of increasing their £10 stake. There were raffles, quizzes, bakes, afternoon teas and all manner of sponsored activities including the Vicar's momentous abseil down the tower at Weaverham. Thank you to all who took part and gave so freely.

We look ahead to 2024 when we hope the Church clock will finally be chiming (though muted during the night hours) and the War graves in the churchyard more formally recognised.

Finally we cannot conclude our report without saying thank you to all those who freely help with keeping our churches clean and welcoming. We look forward to serving with you all for another year.

With thanks

Melanie and Sheila

Church Wardens



Action Groups

Action groups hold their own meetings but refer back to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions. Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission.

The groups who meet regularly are:

ST Thomas Action Group (STAG)
St Mary's Action Group (SMAG)
Church Hall Action Group (CHAG)
Fundraising, Social and Mission Group (FRASM)
Tech Team
Pastoral Group
Deanery
Synod
Bridgewater Churches Together

Outreach

A word of thanks go to all to who work so hard to organise or help with the groups that our Church community provides.

It was stated a while ago in Parliament that "Without volunteers this country would grind to a halt" and our wonderful group of volunteers certainly lays testimony to that statement.

A heartfelt thanks goes to all who work so hard to make our Church the warm, welcoming and safe haven that it is.

Apart from the support listed in other parts of the report, volunteers are responsible for the success of the following really well loved and important parts of our Churches:

Sunday School
Bellringing
Eco Church
Church Duties
Home Visits

The Choir
Open Church
Cleaning
Office work
Praise and Play

Annual Report of the Safeguarding Officer 2023

The PCC of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene adheres to the Church of England principles and has adopted their Policy – “Promoting a Safer Church”, which promotes safety for children, young people, vulnerable adults and adults.



Advice leaflets are available for all volunteers and where appropriate volunteers receive basic awareness training.

Our Churches endeavour, at all times, to comply with the Diocesan guidelines on Disclosure and Barring Service checks. DBS clearance is required every three years and on election to the PCC or when taking on any of the roles listed below.

In line with the more stringent policy adopted, it is now mandatory that all PCC members have the appropriate Church of England DBS clearance, regardless of any other checks they may have undertaken. Sunday School Teachers and Group Leaders, who work regularly on a one-to-one basis with children, young people and vulnerable people must also have this DBS clearance. This is an ongoing process and is monitored regularly.

The Diocese has ruled that safeguarding training should also be undertaken by PCC Members, Sunday School Teachers and Group Leaders. This is also an ongoing process and is monitored regularly. This will also apply to anyone taking on one of these roles in the future

The Safeguarding Officers are:

St Thomas - Dorothy Carter
St Mary's - Julie Bennion

Both are up-to-date with DBS clearance and training.

Anyone having any concerns about people of any age within our Churches should contact their Safety Officer. There are posters in both Churches with the contact information displayed.

Safeguarding is a regular item on all PCC agendas.

Church employees who work regularly with children or vulnerable adults currently have valid and satisfactory DBS disclosures

This also applies to Lay Readers and Pastoral workers.

The aims of these measures are:

- To ensure a safe environment for all who attend our Churches to worship, work, volunteer or visit.
- to promote safe practice by raising awareness of safeguarding issues by offering training to church volunteers.
- to ensure all church activities and church groups have a recent risk assessments which are reviewed annually, and risk assessments for all church trips and events are completed.

There were no issues or causes for concern reported in 2023.

Dorothy Carter - Lead Recruiter / Safeguarding Officer - St. Thomas'
Julie Bennion - Safeguarding Officer - St Mary Magdalene's

Great Budworth Deanery Synod

The aims of the Deanery Synod are:

- To consider matters concerning the Church of England
- To bring together the views of the parishes of the Deanery
- To act as the channel of communication between the parishes of the Deanery and the Diocesan Synod
- To effect decisions made by the Diocesan Synod
- To raise matters with the Diocesan Synod
- To elect representatives to the Diocesan and General Synods

In 2023, two meetings of Deanery Synod were hosted by St Matthew's, Stretton, with one at St Wilfrid's, Grappenhall and one at Christ Church, Latchford. At each meeting the treasurer gives his finance report. Guest speakers have been reporting on the drive for green energy, stressing the deadlines for churches to make this happen. Focus by speakers has concentrated on "The Vision and Strategy for the Diocese of Chester". John Pocock came from Chester, raising lots of questions as to how we can reach out to the one and a half million people in Chester Diocese who don't come to church. Synod allows us to hear how other churches are reacting to these challenges and to share ideas.

Following the appointment of Revd Jane Proudfoot to the role of Archdeacon of Macclesfield, Revd Bev Jameson of St Mary's, Lymm is our new rural dean for Great Budworth deanery.

St. Thomas' And St. Mary's representatives for 2023 were Dorothy Carter, Jenny Corroboy and Sue Burke. Deanery Synod representatives attend meetings on behalf of the Parish and report back to the PCC. The Parish is also represented by Pastoral Workers Claire Hutt and Julie Brown. Because of the numbers on our electoral roll, we are eligible to elect four members for the Deanery Synod. It is a three-year election process and there is a place for one more representative. If anyone would like to learn more about this role, please talk to a Church Warden or one of the representatives.

Dorothy Carter & Jenny Corroboy

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll closed on March 31st to allow time for revision and a new version will be instated. The Electoral Roll will be opened on April 21st and the final number of applicants will be announced at the AGM on that day.

Congregation members are encouraged to have their names added to give them voting rights at general meetings.

Should anyone wish to be entered on the electoral roll application forms are available at the Church Office or ask one of the Church Wardens.

Simon Hutt
Electoral Roll Officer

Reserve Policy

It is the aim of the PCC to hold £20,000 in unrestricted reserves to enable cover for three months' running costs in the event of a major problem, and/or to provide additional support for some unforeseen repairs. Having considered outgoings, the PCC deems this to be a reasonable amount to hold in reserve to maintain an adequate cash flow. This policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time by the PCC, who will consider the viability of this amount.

Risk report

The major risks to which the PCC are exposed are reviewed regularly and systems and procedures are in place to ensure that those are in place.

Major risks identified are:

- Adverse publicity
- Demographic change
- Dependency on income
- Disaster issues
- Fund raising
- Governance
- Security
- Volunteering
- Vulnerable people
- Pandemic

Risk assessments are stored at a central point and can be viewed on request.

St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies						
Planned Giving	82,694.62	420.00	2,224.50		85,339.12	79,772.39
Plate Collections	18,662.94				18,662.94	17,432.15
Recovered tax	27,844.60	2,690.85	368.75		30,904.20	24,629.18
Legacies						2,000.00
Donations	11,499.62	14,466.10	653.50		26,619.22	18,675.51
Income from charitable activities						
Fund Raising	14,132.17	2,475.02			16,607.19	10,766.56
Investments	2,570.26		14.41		2,584.67	707.00
Other income	1,375.65		1,108.00		2,483.65	2,321.06
St Mary's House Rent	2,600.00				2,600.00	7,680.00
St Thomas' Church Hall Hire	16,594.00				16,594.00	12,480.00
St Mary's Hall Hire	12,438.00				12,438.00	11,079.50
PCC Fees	6,140.00				6,140.00	6,480.00
Grants	150.00	66,800.00	217.00		67,167.00	6,902.77
Diocesan fees						
Total income	196,701.86	86,851.97	4,586.16		288,139.99	200,926.12
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	5,399.02	335.11			5,734.13	4,889.02
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Diocesan Parish Contribution and Deanery	71,786.64				71,786.64	69,746.60
Clergy Costs	2,810.79				2,810.79	2,681.54
Youth Worker Costs			1,934.25		1,934.25	533.60
Church Running costs	33,068.36		908.00		33,976.36	21,111.06
Church Maintenance / Repairs	8,904.73				8,904.73	5,087.45
Church equipment purchase	1,340.82				1,340.82	2,920.69
Church Hall Running Costs	15,123.43				15,123.43	13,839.93
Church Hall Maintenance / repairs	1,496.63				1,496.63	730.00
Mission Giving and donations			10,200.00		10,200.00	10,100.00
Worship Costs	7,229.81		367.20		7,597.01	6,252.32
Churchyard costs	60.00				60.00	239.44
Support Costs	4,810.58	2,085.28			6,895.86	6,520.27
Vicarage costs	3,655.30				3,655.30	4,552.67
Other expenditure	1,476.86	3,044.00	49.50		4,570.36	3,828.89
St Mary's House	4,366.41				4,366.41	772.90
Major works		118,060.30			118,060.30	5,262.00
Total expenditure	161,529.38	123,524.69	13,458.95		298,513.02	159,068.38
Gains / losses on investment assets						
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	35,172.48	(36,672.72)	(8,872.79)		(10,373.03)	41,857.74
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	4,975.99	40,395.99	11,049.00		56,420.98	10,681.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	(50,944.99)	(4,895.99)	(580.00)		(56,420.98)	(10,681.00)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use						
Net movement in funds	(10,796.52)	(1,172.72)	1,596.21		(10,373.03)	41,857.74
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	142,937.94	2,455.92	9,793.92		155,187.78	113,330.04

26 March 2024 Page 1

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Total funds carried forward	132,141.42	1,283.20	11,390.13		144,814.75	155,187.78

St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath

Balance sheet (Summary) As at: 31 December 2023

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Current assets		
Debtors	6,991	1,575
Cash at bank and in hand	145,586	162,758
	<u>152,577</u>	<u>164,333</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	7,762	9,145
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>144,814</u>	<u>155,187</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>144,814</u>	<u>155,187</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>144,814</u>	<u>155,187</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	132,141	142,937
Designated		
Designated - ST MM Car Park	(746)	2,193
Designated - Mission Projects	1,654	262
Designated - Visranthi Trust	376	?
Restricted		
Restricted - Bells fund	2,413	1,963
Restricted - Grants Fund	1,312	1,095
Restricted - St Mary's Flower Fund	323	276
Restricted - Parish Charities fund	270	5
Restricted - Parish Family Fund	7,070	6,452
Restricted - Prom Praise	?	?
Restricted - Agency collection	?	?
Funds of the church	<u>144,814</u>	<u>155,187</u>

Notes to Accompany the Accounts 2023

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Regulations 2006 and Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

Agency monies held are also shown as a creditor. These are detailed below for information.

2. The PCC holds 199.49 CBF accumulation shares whose market value was £11,912.31 for December 2023 (£11650.52 for December 2022)

3. The PCC decided at a meeting in January 2023 to proceed with the renewal of St Mary Magdalene Church Car Park. The costs were met by grants, donations and use of PCC approved Parish funds and was managed via a designated fund within the accounts.

4. In addition the PCC own the following non sacred buildings: St Mary's house Insurance valuation January 2024 £257,174 & St Thomas Church Hall Insurance valuation January 2024, £1,146,633

5. The PCC has a Reserves Policy and held £20,000 reserves in 2023

5. The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal C/fwd
Designated fund (unrestricted)	£	£	£	£	£
Visranthi Trust	0.00	3,420.00	3,044.00	0.00	376.00
Mission Project fund	262.45	2,976.95	2,085.28	500.00	1,654.12
St Mary Magdalene Car Park fund	2,193.47	80,455.02	118,395.41	35,000.00	-746.92
Total	262.45	86,851.97	123,524.69	35,500.00	907.20
Restricted Funds					
Charities	5.00	0.00	10,203.75	10,469.00	270.25
War graves	1,095.77	217.00	0.00	0.00	1,312.77
Flowers	276.81	413.50	367.20	0.00	323.11
Parish Family fund	6,452.76	2,597.66	1,980.00	0.00	7,070.42
Gain on investment asset					
Bells Fund	1,963.58	1,358.00	908.00	0.00	2,413.58
Total	9,793.92	4,586.16	12,550.95	10,469.00	12,298.13
Memorandum analysis					
Church acting as an agent		Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal C/ fwd
Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals		1,255.68	5,914.00	6,809.68	360.00
Other fees- verger/ organist/choir		540.00	3,935.00	3,950.00	525.00
Retired/visitng clergy fee		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		1,795.68	9,849.00	10,759.68	885.00
Charity Agency Summary					
Chester Clergy families		0.00	543.05	543.05	0.00
Children's society		825.76	1,045.97	829.71	1,042.02
foodbank		673.32		673.32	0.00
Present Aid		421.30	324.34	446.00	299.64
Macmillan Cancer Support		0.00	475.34	475.34	0.00
USPG		1.05	550.66	526.33	25.38
DEC Earthquake		0.00	712.05	656.00	56.05
Total		1,921.43	3,651.41	4,149.75	1,423.09
Total Agency fund					2,308.09



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene
Stockton Heath

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1131459

Set out on pages

1 - 5

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

2/4/2024

Name:

Geoff Bruce

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

FCA

Address:

31 Bristow Close, Warrington, WA5 8EU

**The Parochial Church Council
of St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Churches**
Charity Number 1131459

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
For the year January 1st to December 31st 2022
Held on Sunday 23rd April 2023 at St Thomas' Church
10:45am**

The number present at the meeting was 58

The Minutes of the Vestry Meeting for the year 2022 had been circulated and were accepted

Election of Church Wardens:

Nominated	Proposed	Seconded	Approved
Sheila Barton	Dorothy Carter	Lynda Heesom	Unanimously
Melanie Wilson	Michael Jackson	Linda Lathom	Unanimously

Church Warden Remarks (Sheila Barton and Melanie Wilson)

The Wardens expressed their grateful thanks to everyone who had supported them through the year. Highlighted was the hard work done by all and time and talents given so willingly.

They thanked Michael for all his support, Carol Bridger for all her work in the Church Office, Sue Burke for all her work as Treasurer and Dorothy Carter for all her work as Secretary.

Both said that they were looking forward to the next two years and welcomed all the positive changes that were happening.

Electoral Roll. The previous electoral roll had closed and a revised one created for 2023/2024. At the time of this meeting there were 222 names on the Roll.

The Terriers and Log Books were presented to be signed after the meeting

The Vestry meeting closed at 11:25am

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
For the year January 1st to December 31st 2022
Held on Sunday 23rd April 2023 at St Thomas' Church
at 11:30am**

The number present at the meeting was 58

The Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Year 2022 had been circulated and were accepted.

Chairs Remarks: (Rev. Michael Ridley)

Michael talked about how well the Churches were doing and thanked everyone concerned for all their hard work.

He asked people to read his letter in the annual report. He talked about the changes and difficulties facing the Church of England. He expressed concern about the lack of older children and the importance of all-round succession management.

Election to Deanery Synod

The role and importance of Deanery Synod was explained. Because of the numbers on our Electoral Roll, we are able to appoint four lay members to Deanery Synod, but at present there are only three. Because of three-year rotation all lay members must stand down in 2023. All three members are to stand for re-election. No fourth member came forward.

Nominated		Proposed	Seconded	Approved
Sue Burke	Re-election	Brenda Speed	Dorothy Carter	Unanimously
Dorothy Carter	Re-election	Sue Burke	Sheila Barton	Unanimously
Jenny Corroboy	Re-election	Dorothy Carter	Sheila Barton	Unanimously

Annual Reports

The Annual Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Sue Burke explained the accounts and both reports were formally accepted.

Elections to the Parochial Church Council

Thanks were expressed to all members of the PCC for their loyal input. Elections were as follows.

There were 7 places to be filled (three people were standing for re-election because of three-year rotation rule and four new members).

Nominated		Proposed	Seconded	Approved
David Whalley	Re-election	Dorothy Carter	Lynda Heesom	Unanimously
Dorika Roxby	Re-election	Sheila Barton	Peter Speed	Unanimously
Stuart Marley	Re-election	Carol Bridger	Joanne Ridley	Unanimously
Joe Roxby		Warren Whalley	Sheila Barton	Unanimously
Irene Fitzgerald		Dorothy Carter	Sheila Barton	Unanimously
Janice Rowland		Sue Burke	Reg Pritchard	Unanimously
Kris Bradshaw	Co-opted	Sue Burke	Carol Bridger	Unanimously

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Geoff Bruce was thanked for all his hard work on the accounts and re-appointed for the year 2023

Proposed S Burke **Seconded** J Benson **Voted** Unanimously

The meeting closed at 12:25am

The first PCC Meeting will be at St Thomas' Church, Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7.30pm

Dorothy Carter (PCC Secretary)

Signed Rev. M L Ridley.....

Date 8th April 2024

Date 21st April 2024

Accounts

**The Parochial Church Council
of
St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Churches
Stockton Heath**



**Annual and Financial Reports
for the Year Ending
31st December 2022**

Introduction

This information is published as part of the requirements of the Church of England Regulations and Requirements of the Charities Commissioners.

The Parish of St. Thomas, Stockton Heath is in the Deanery of Great Budworth and is a part of the Diocese of Chester. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered Charity (Charity No.1131459)

St Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd. Michael Ridley, in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Thomas' Church, London Rd., Stockton Heath, St. Thomas Church Hall, Ellesmere Rd. Stockton Heath, St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingleway/Bridge Lane Appleton and 8 St. Monica's Close Appleton.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Vicar,

St. Thomas' Vicarage, 12 Melton Avenue,
Walton, Warrington, WA4 6PQ.

Tel:01925 261396

Parochial Church Council 2021

Vicar

Rev. Michael Ridley

Ex Officio Members

Lay Reader (Licenced Oct 2022) Lee Marsh

Pastoral Workers (Resigned) Olu Olojugba
Claire Hutt
Julie Brown

Deanery Synod Dorothy Carter
Susan Burke
Jenny Corroboy

Church Wardens Sheila Barton
Melanie Wilson

Elected Members

Peter Speed	Peter Banyard
Kirsty Gill	Lynda Heesom
David Whalley	Dorika Roxby
Stuart Marley	James Thornton
Jacqueline Shaw	Sarah Downes
Elaine Smith	
(Resigned)	Sarah Gibbons
(Resigned)	Joanne Benson

Officers

Secretary	Dorothy Carter
Treasurer	Sue Burke
Safeguarding	Dorothy Carter

Lay Readers	Christine Chapman
	Joanna Woodward
Licenced October 2022	Lee Marsh

In 2022 the Parochial Church Council met in January, March, April, June, September and November with Standing Committee meetings generally two weeks beforehand. Face to face meetings had resumed, following the easing of Covid restrictions, although the PCC did proceed with caution in all areas.

Standing Committees are made up of the Vicar (who also Chairs the PCC), The Church Wardens, The Secretary and the Treasurer and these willing people prepare for the PCC meeting, and make emergency decisions, which are ratified by the PCC at the next PCC Meeting.

PCC members are also Charity Trustees and are recruited from and voted for by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll. PCC members are elected for three-year terms after which they must stand down, but can stand for re-election.

The PCC adheres to its aims and principles concerning outreach and mission, whilst managing the finances and the running of and safety of both Churches.

Action groups hold their own meetings but refer to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions.

Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission.

The PCC works extremely hard on the many aspects of running a successful Church and thanks go to all who attend regularly with a cheerful willingness and enthusiasm.

New faces and talents are always welcome and anyone who feels that they can contribute should speak to the Secretary or a Church Warden.

Dorothy Carter/PCC Secretary

Great Budworth Deanery Synod

The aims of the Deanery Synod are:

- To consider matters concerning the Church of England.
- To bring together the views of the parishes of the Deanery,
- To act as the channel of communication between the parishes of the Deanery and the Diocesan Synod.
- To effect decisions made by the Diocesan Synod.
- To raise matters with the Diocesan Synod.
- To elect representatives to the diocesan and General Synods.

St. Thomas' And St. Mary's representatives for 2022 were Dorothy Carter, Jenny Corroboy and Susan Burke. Deanery Synod representatives attend meetings on behalf of the Parish and report back to the PCC. The Parish is also represented by Pastoral Workers Olu Olojugba, Claire Hutt and Julie Brown.

Because of the numbers on our electoral roll, we are eligible to elect four members for the Deanery Synod. It is a three-year election process and there is a place for one more representative. If anyone would like to learn more about this role, please talk to a Church Warden or one of the representatives.

Dorothy Carter

Deanery Synod Representative

Risk report

The major risks to which the PCC are exposed are reviewed regularly and systems and procedures are in place to ensure that those are in place.

Major risks identified are:

- Adverse publicity
- Demographic change
- Dependency on income
- Disaster issues
- Fund raising
- Governance
- Security
- Volunteering
- Vulnerable people
- Pandemic

Risk assessments are stored at a central point and can be viewed on request.

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll closed on April 19th to allow time for revision for revision and a new version will be instated. The electoral roll will be opened on April 23rd and the final number of applicants will be announced at the AGM on that day.

Congregation members are encouraged to have their names added to give them voting rights at general meetings.

Should anyone wish to be entered on the electoral roll application forms are available at the Church Office, or ask one of the Church Wardens.

Simon Hutt.

Electoral Roll Officer

A Message to All Our Volunteers

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who volunteers and does such amazing things to make our Church such a wonderful place. Thanks to all who have so eagerly returned after the pandemic and thanks to all the new ones who have done so much to help.

Some volunteers underwent safeguarding training and DBS checks to comply with The Diocesan Policies and we thank you for the extra effort.

Thanks go to all who work so hard to make our Church the warm, welcoming and safe haven that it is.

Reserve Policy

It is the aim of the PCC to seek to hold £18,000 in unrestricted reserves to enable cover for three months' running costs in the event of a major problem, and/or to provide additional support for some unforeseen repairs. Having considered the out-goings the PCC deems this to be a reasonable amount to hold in reserve to maintain an adequate cash flow. This policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time by the PCC, who will consider the viability of this amount.

A Word from Your Vicar

Dear Friends

The last year has seen an incredible change in the world: slowly we limped out of the Covid years with all the ongoing consequences - war erupted in Europe in Ukraine, our long-serving Queen died, we had three Prime Ministers, everything went up in price, especially food and fuel and strikes broke out everywhere.

The Church of England had a pretty turbulent time as well: Covid affected so many congregations, numbers fell and so did income.

Living in Love and Faith discussions were a blessing to some and a curse to others, causing division and resentment.

Historic safeguarding issues continued to cause sadness and hurt to survivors and reputational damage to our Church as a whole.

Many Churches found fuel bills beyond their reach.

So how have we at St. Mary's and St. Thomas weathered all of the above? Without sounding complacent I believe that with God's help we have done well. We have maintained ministry in all forms, our ministry and outreach programmes have continued and, in some cases increased. Our finances, through your generosity, are in a good state, so much so that we can afford to have a new Curate and match fund the grants for car park project at St. Mary's, as well as fund ministry and maintenance and continue our policy of giving away 10% to charities at home and abroad.

It would be very easy to sit on our hands and do nothing new, but the nature of our mission is "to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation". Our Vision Day and subsequent meetings have highlighted issues which need to be addressed.

Worship.

- more lay people involvement and leadership with the development of variety in worship for all ages.
- an emphasis on music and making services more worshipful and accessible to all, re-introducing prayer and ministry in and after services.

Young People.

- development of children's ministry.
- growing Sunday School, Praise and Play, and Story Church.
- re-introducing Sunday School to St. Mary's. soon.
- concentrate on Youth Ministry after Junior Church.
- post Confirmation courses.

Succession Management

- emphasis needs to be given to key roles being filled in the future and how new people can be trained.
- lay people need to be encouraged to go forward for training at the diocese to be Readers, Pastoral Workers and Youth Workers.
- people should not be expected to hold roles for ever, sometimes carrying a "gatekeeper attitude" which sometimes stops growth.
- a thorough review of roles and responsibilities needs to be undertaken.

Ministry and Social

- the need for all activities in our Church life to be seen as mission opportunities - from Grace being said at Fun Lunches to Harvest Suppers, with a message of helping the hungry.
- art exhibitions with a well-presented book stall with evangelistic pamphlets.
- everything we do should draw people to the life of God's Love.

So much more to be done in the next year – let us pray for growth, deeper commitment and a willingness to change so Jesus will be known in this generation.

Yours as always

Michael

Financial Review of the Year 2022

2022 saw the eventual lifting of all Covid 19 restrictions as the Government announced it's 'Living with Covid Plan'. Our churches continued to be careful particularly relating to events, regular services, and the giving and receiving of Holy Communion, being sensitive to those within our church family who remained anxious about the risk of Covid. There was however a gradual confidence and 'opening up' with increased attendance at services, fundraising events taking place, study groups, and hall hire in both halls returning strongly with what felt like 'parties galore'! Following my submission of the Culture Recovery Fund Grant Final Evaluation report in January 2022 we received £1,960 the final instalment of the grant. As I said in my 2021 Financial Review this grant had been instrumental in ensuring that we ended the year in a much stronger financial position ready for 2022 and I was able to report that all our recovery indicators had been met.

Geoff Bruce BSc. FCA has continued as our Independent Examiner for a third year in 2022 again providing this service free of charge and we remain most grateful to Geoff for his time, guidance, and expertise. Over the last two years with the PCC, I have developed a set of Standing Financial Instructions which are reviewed annually by the PCC in conjunction with the Charity Commission Internal Financial Controls Self-Assessment Checklist which I undertake annually. I also participated in an online Treasurer training course organised by Chester Diocese. The Parish Accounts have been produced on a Receipts and Payments basis on the Finance Coordinator computerised system that we use to keep our accounts and are in the same format as 2021 but this year we have an additional column for 'designated' funds for total transparency. You will note from the Balance Sheet section of the accounts the separate 'funds' we manage within the accounts. There is one unrestricted General Fund used for any ordinary church expense. There are now three designated funds where the funds are set aside for a particular purpose: Visranthi Trust, a charity in India which supports victims of domestic abuse to which a group of regular donors contribute; Mission Project

fund established to direct donations towards projects like the Christmas and Easter bags for vulnerable families and the holiday fun lunches; St Mary Magdalene Car Park fund established in 2022, through which I will manage the donations, grants and costs of the renewal of St Mary Magdalene's Car Park. There are five active restricted funds, donations into these funds must be used for the sole purpose of that fund. This year with PCC approval we have incorporated the Bell Ringers' monies into the Parish bank and computerised accounts and the £1,963 reflects new money transferred in when they closed their own bank account. The Grants Fund holds money given annually by the War Graves Commission for us to use to maintain the graves of the fallen in the churchyard. The Parish Charities fund is used for our annual charitable outward giving, St Mary Magdalene Flower Fund and Parish Family Fund are self-explanatory.

Our total receipts for 2022 were £200,926 an increase of £11,761 compared to 2021, much of this reflects the increased activity and relaxation of Covid restrictions and the £1,963 new money transferred in from the Bellringers account. In particular Planned Giving and Plate Collections increased (£6,318 and £4,951 respectively) with a consequent increase in Gift Aid Tax Recovery. Fund raising has increased by £5,152, we held more fundraising events in 2022 and for the first time since pre-pandemic times held a joint Christmas Fair with our faith School. Hall hire has increased in both venues but noticeably at St Mary Magdalene, £5,043 –due to a proactive Hall Booking Secretary. St Thomas has increased to a lesser extent £2,005 but was already booked at near maximum capacity with less opportunity for increase. Thanks are due to Julie Bennion and Peter Speed for their hard work and commitment.

Donations are reduced by £4,154 but one off random donations are variable year on year. Grants income is markedly reduced because the majority of the Culture Recovery Fund Grant (£17,640) was paid in 2021 with only the final instalment of £1,960 being received in 2022. So far £72,000 of grants have been secured thanks to the efforts of Julie Bennion towards St Mary Magdalene's car park renewal and are starting to trickle in as

reflected in the £3,000 of designated grants income.

Total expenditure for the year is £159,068 an increase of £3,997 on 2021. Whilst some of this reflects our increased opening times and increased use of our buildings, the main increase is in Diocesan Parish Share which has increased by £15,316 in recognition of Michael no longer being Priest in Charge at St James' and the 20% reduction in Parish Share that attracted. Without this Parish Share increase our overall expenses would have decreased which considering the cost of living and energy crisis is very encouraging and reflects the good stewardship within the Parish. In November 2022 I received an e mail from the Diocese of Chester Finance Department thanking us for our *'continued commitment to the Diocese this year'* and requesting that *'you take a moment at your next PCC meeting to share my thanks with your committee as a whole and thank them for their continued efforts to maintain their Parish Share payments. Parish Share payments while challenging are what enables the Diocese to keep parish ministry functioning and growing in parishes.'* It seems that some Parishes are finding regular payments of the Parish Share a challenge.

Despite increased opening Church running costs have reduced by £4,291. We have been fortunate to be on fixed energy contracts for all our gas contracts throughout 2022. St Thomas Church and Church Hall electricity is reviewed and increased annually under the Parish Buying Scheme and St Mary Magdalene embarked on a new Electricity contract in late 2021 hence we have a full year of that price increase. St Thomas Church Hall is on a fixed contract until 2025 but the gas contracts for both churches expire in 2023 and it is anticipated that costs will quadruple from the current prices we are accustomed to. During 2022 your PCC agreed to two 'midterm' replacement gas contracts which fixed the price at 2022 levels with the option to renegotiate if energy prices fall. This gives us a degree of budgetary certainty and the reassurance that if global prices fall, we can renegotiate.

St Thomas' Church hall running costs have increased by £4,557, this again reflects increased opening in 2022 with cleaning and cleaning materials increasing from £3,144 in

2021 to £4,694 in 2022, electricity from £459 to £1,354, gas from £2,310 to £2,841 and gardening costs from £420 to £1,020. Insurance, water, and other costs have increased by approximately 10%.

Most of the other expenditure is comparable: the situations where maintenance costs are higher one year compared to the next are usually because we have had a boiler repair, or for example we had a major organ repair in 2021 not repeated in 2022. In 2021 we also had the 5-yearly statutory electrical checks on St Thomas' Church and Church Hall, and St Mary's house hence the Church Hall and St Mary's house expenses particularly are reduced in 2022. The restricted 'major works' expense of £5,262 includes the £5,000 we are required to pay as third-party funding for the £50,000 Valencia Grant secured for St Mary Magdalene's car park renewal.

Youth, Family, and children's work expense from the restricted Parish Family Fund have reduced notably by £4,599 as we no longer have an employed Youth Worker. The Parish Family Fund has consequently increased from £3545 in 2021 accounts to £6452 with fourteen people giving regularly to this fund totalling £224 per month. The Parish Vision Day highlighted this area of our church life as requiring considerable input, prayer and work and it is hoped that the newly formed Youth Action Group will address and invigorate this area of mission in our church reassured that there are funds to support it.

Our Mission Project work continued through 2022 with strengthening relationships with local schools to provide 140 Easter bags, 150 Christmas bags of food, and 8 free fun lunches in school holidays providing 150 hot meals, Christian themed activities including videos, stories, crafts, and games. We also provided 50 Christmas Cheer bags for distribution to older vulnerable or isolated people within our congregation and community. We received £803 in donations from our congregations towards the cost of this work and the PCC allocated £500 from Outward Giving, with members of the parish Fund Raising Social and Mission team willingly providing all the food, crafts and help for the fun lunches and who also undertake most of the Christmas and Easter bag packing.

In line with our 'Outward Giving' Parish Policy to give away 10% of our disposable income we allocated £10,151 based on our disposable income 2021, distributed between Overseas Mission, Home Mission, and Secular charities. Donations were as follows: £2000 to the Church Missionary Society, £2000 to USPG, £500 to Visranthi Trust, £500 to St David's Nigeria, £500 to Christchurch Latchford, £500 to Ascension Trust for Street Pastors, £400 to the Prison Fellowship, £50 to National Churches Trust, £800 to Broomfield's Youth Project, £500 to St Joseph's Family Centre, £500 to St Rocco's and £500 to St Thomas' School towards distinctiveness, £800 to Warrington Youth for Christ, £500 to the church Mission project and £50 to support the Creamfields tent. Listed in the Memorandum Analysis - Charity Agency Summary are all the other collections or donations received and paid out to charities throughout 2022 totalling £4,063 paid out including £938 to the Disaster Emergency Fund to support the situation in Ukraine.

I am pleased and thankful to be able to serve God and the Parish as your Treasurer and fortunate to be supported by an ever willing and dedicated team. In September 2022 Nat West Bank closed in the village and we now bank the weekly receipts via the Post Office, this produced challenges which all members of the team helped to address. My thanks to those who count the money on a Sunday morning – Joanne Ridley, Peter Speed, Jackie Cole and Reg Pritchard; Simon Hutt who takes it to the Post Office; Carol Bridger who provides admin support and banking back up; Joanne Ridley our Gift Aid Secretary; all who operate the card reader at Baptisms and promote online giving and my particular thanks to Linda Latham who is our Bookkeeper maintaining our computerised financial records.

Overall, we have a £41,857 surplus for 2022 which leaves the Parish in a healthy financial position from which to face the current cost of living issues, which I do not think have significantly impacted us so far, and the forthcoming energy contract renewal with increased costs. 2023 will be an exciting year for our Parish and this financial position gives us confidence to go forward in faith. St Mary Magdalene's Car park renewal has been

approved by the PCC with an allocation of £35,000 from General Fund to supplement the grant and fundraising monies already secured and will take place in the summer 2023. In June we will welcome our new Curate, Ruth who will live in St Mary's house. Whilst there will be financial implications – loss of house rental income for example, this is a wonderful opportunity for new ministry, challenge, and growth and we are fortunate to be chosen to receive a Curate in Training. Thank you to everyone who contributes financially and 'in kind' to the work of our churches, it is God's grace and faithfulness with your faith, dedication and love which underpins the whole life of the church in Stockton Heath and Appleton of which financial commitment is a significant part.

Sue Burke
Parish Treasurer

Fund Raising, Social and Mission Project Group Report 2022.

Our team grew in numbers over 2022 and it is a joy to work together. We are always ready to welcome new people and much of what we do is fun and enjoyable if hard work. I am so grateful to the entire team for their commitment, generosity, and support. With the relaxing of all Covid 19 restrictions we embarked on a full plan of activities during 2022. We supported Julie Bennion's Car Treasure Hunt in February and hosted a well-attended Pancake Party in March. Also in March, the team put on tea, coffee and cake as our congregations met to watch the joyful occasion of Michael marrying Gregory and Abi streamed from Bath. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend was marked by a 'Best of British' concert with Golborne Brass and a Civic Service followed by lunch in the hall. Stockton Heath Festival weekend saw us on the Festival field for two days with our 'pick a prize raffle' raising £575 for church funds and £439 for the Ukraine appeal and hosting a 'Music for Summer's evening concert' with 'Melody Makers' and young people from 'Sixpence' performing. Refreshments for Walking Day and an Afternoon Tea with Prosecco and Tower Tours by members of the Bellringers occupied us in July. In September a Tabletop and Car Boot Sale was held at St Mary Magdalene's to raise funds for the car park

and a Macmillan Coffee morning raising £459 for this amazing charity, followed by a traditional Harvest Supper with hot pot and apple crumble at St Thomas' Church Hall in October. Finally, we were able to work with St Thomas' School, our faith school, on a joint Christmas Fair in November which was very successful raising £3,765 which was shared equally with school. Our year ended with a wonderful Christmas Concert with Golborne Brass getting everyone in the mood for Christmas. Total fund-raising profit after expenses for 2022 was £4,443.

Our Mission Project work is a really important part of our role, and we are fortunate to have developed good links with local schools who support this vital work. We packed and distributed 210 Easter bags each containing an Easter egg, fruit, craft activity and card and 150 Christmas bags of food containing 3 meals per day for 2 days for a family of 4 with additional fresh fruit, farm potatoes, carrots and parsnips, and a Christmas treat. This is a huge operation, and our thanks go to Morrison's supermarket who provided free carrier bags, gave us a 10% discount on our Christmas food purchases and the wonderful team of volunteers who helped shop, pack, and deliver. Working with the Pastoral Care Team we also produced 50 Christmas Cheer bags for them to distribute to older, isolated, or vulnerable members of our community. These activities of course are not possible without the generosity both financial and in donations of food and gifts of our congregations across both churches, thank you all so much!

We also hosted free fun lunches weekly in the school holidays providing an estimated 150 hot meals for children and families with Christian themed activities including videos, stories, crafts, and games – all provided by members of the FRASM team. These have become really popular, and the charity 'Transforming Lives Together' are holding an event in October 2023 to celebrate a decade of their operations and have asked me to facilitate a 'Filling the Gap' theme-based discussion table to share our experience and learning from the fun lunches and other mission project activities. I hope to take other members of our team along for support and to extend our own learning.

Two new 'mission' activities commenced in 2022. With friends from 'Stitch and Chat' - Sarah Downes, Lynda Heesom, Joanne Ridley, and Sarah Walton producing beautiful, embroidered 'Noah hoops' personalised with their name and a Christian message as a keepsake gift for all babies baptised in our churches. These have been so appreciated by our Baptism families, we hope they will display them on their bedroom wall as a reminder of their Baptism. We have also set up the 'Church Kindness Group'. Receiving names of people who are having memorable birthdays, new babies, or going through tough times with illness, hospital stays, operations, or bereavement our happy band of bakers have taken cakes, meals, or if more appropriate flowers and plants with a card extending the love and prayers from both our congregations showing that their church family are supporting and praying for them. We were delighted to make a total of 35 deliveries during 2022.

We have a full programme of activities planned for 2023 and I hope we can rely on your support to make 2023 as successful.

Sue Burke
Parish Treasurer

Church Wardens' Report

St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene

Dear Friends

After two years of 'getting by' through the weirdness and scariness of covid regulations, 2022 has felt like a year where we have started to really think about what we are here to do, although we know that covid or flu viruses can easily change our plans at short notice. We have had to really think about our stewardship of our resources, financial and otherwise, as we have faced the consequences of the war in Ukraine, questioning our response as a church to the humanitarian calamity as well as the consequential spiralling cost of living and its impact upon those struggling in our own community. Thinking about our stewardship has been the backdrop to many of our plans and decisions this year as we have had to think about the changes we need to make to play our role in God's plan for an inclusive, sustainable and growing future.

The year started with some challenging explorations about the Christian perspective on identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Our two churches joined with members from the parishes of St. John's Walton, Latchford St. James and Christ Church to follow the Living in Love and Faith course. Each of the five sessions of the course explored one key topic, with an opening reflection, followed by teaching, time for discussion and Bible study. It was a great opportunity to meet with other church members and discuss topics which many of us might shy away from. Attendees were invited to respond to a national consultation and a report was published by the church of England later in the year.

In March Vicar Michael took a weekend off! Fair enough it was the wedding of his son Gregory to Abi and many watched the happy event live streamed from Bath. While in May we witnessed an even rarer event: Michael took a week off to holiday in Derbyshire. We hope that he continues to take time off for himself and Joanne. This concern for our vicar's well-being has also jump-started the revival of our Word services once a month in both churches, by starting to develop our role as lay people in leading services. We are really excited about how this is developing and we are grateful to Michael

for the support he has offered to enable us to hear from other members of our church community. We are delighted that so many people have volunteered to try this out and want to re-assure you that it's not too late to get involved – either in leading at the front or by volunteering to do 'the talkie bit' (or sermon if you like) in either church (or both). And, as part of strengthening the ministry team, we were pleased to officially welcome Lee as another of our licensed readers. Despite some teething troubles with the tech at St Mary Magdalene's, we now have a team of folks in both churches who are able to share our services with those who are unable to attend by streaming the service on YouTube. We are incredibly grateful to those who have volunteered, as we know it makes a difference to many who cannot get there in person to feel they are included in what we do on a Sunday. Once again, this is not a closed shop so if you fancy giving it a try, learning a new skill or helping us with your existing skills please speak to Mel or Sheila. At Easter Katie Bridger stepped back from her role as a faithful cleaner and 'welcomer' at St Thomas's on Thursday mornings. We also said goodbye to the last of the banks in the village causing yet another change in the modus operandi of the church treasurer and her team. We know as Wardens that this role is absolutely critical to the work we do ensuring we are good stewards of the donations we are entrusted with to enable us to do the things we are called to do. In terms of sustainability and being good stewards of our planet, last spring the Vicar encouraged us to grow sunflowers from seeds and these were staked out last summer creating an army of yellow around St Thomas'. The 'green eco team' have continued to tend the garden beds, while the bell ringers' vegetable plot produced a glut of beans, tomatoes, peas, and herbs. The wooden plant shelves were a welcome new addition to the plot. In September planning to achieve the Silver Eco award involved working with several churches. We joined a joint open meeting with partner Eco churches to share money saving energy tips. A church member who works for United Utilities shared ideas about

how we can save water and a couple who both work in sustaining energy, highlighted how we can make little changes to save energy when using our electronic devices. The Eco team has continued to work with the local community group, WASH – Wild About Stockton Heath; having obtained a grant from Warrington Borough Council we have purchased and planted flowering fruit trees which will hopefully blossom on the churchyard border with Ellesmere Road. Our parish joined the country in celebrating the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in early June: We planted a tree and there was a rousing medley of voices singing to Abba's best hits with the Golborne brass band on the Saturday evening. Bishop Willie led our Jubilee service the following day, crowning our rose queen and afterwards we all ate together in the bring and share lunch in the church hall.

After a three-year gap, Stockton Heath Festival 'happened' this July and a noble team were up at the crack of dawn battling with erecting gazebos at our 'pick a prize' stall. Our churches led the village Walking Day procession helped by the choir from St Thomas school. It was good to welcome back the annual witness to our community in the sunshine, indeed during the summer heat wave St Thomas church was a sanctuary from the blistering temperatures.

So that was a review of 2022; what of the future? In October all were invited to contribute to our Vision planning morning at St Mary Magdalene's. We were encouraged to be brave and think outside the box. We know that if we focus on worshipping the Lord, the rest will follow. We drew up plans to refresh our music and renew emphasis on youth work and mission in the community, building on the Mission projects you'll read about in the FRAS report. Alongside that, we will also continue to think about how we use our physical resources to serve our communities, hopefully moving forward with the St Mary Magdalene's car park project. These plans are ongoing so please continue to pray for them and for the new people we will welcome into our midst as a result in the coming year.

As always, the year ended with Christmas and Bishop Mark led our well attended community Carol service. We held Christingle

and other Christmas services that had attendances approaching 2019 levels. It was great to be back.

We can't end our report without saying thank you to all those who help with keeping our churches clean, the servers, sidespeople, welcomers, power-pointers, sacristans, intercessors, pray-ers, supporters, musicians, hymn choosers, minute takers, children's groups leaders, the endless tea and coffee providers and the techie team. What a team – we are so grateful to be a part of this fabulous community.

With thanks

Melanie and Sheila
Church Wardens

Action Groups

Action groups hold their own meetings but refer back to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions. Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission.

The groups who meet regularly are:

- ST Thomas Action Group (STAG)
- St Mary's Action Group (SMAG)
- Church Hall Action Group (CHAG)
- Fundraising And Social and Mission Group (FRASM)
- Tech Team
- Pastoral Group
- Deanery
- Synod
- Bridgewater Churches Together

Outreach

A word of thanks go to all to who work so hard to organise or help with the groups that our Church community provides.

It was stated a while ago in Parliament that "Without volunteers this country would grind to a halt" and our wonderful group of volunteers certainly lays testimony to that statement.

A heartfelt thanks goes to all.
Apart from the support listed in other parts of the report, volunteers are responsible for the success of the following really well loved and important parts of our Churches:

Sunday School	The Choir	Bellringing
Open Church	Eco Church	Cleaning
Church Duties	Office work	Home Visits
Praise and Play		

Annual Report of the Safeguarding Officer 2022

The PCC of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene adheres to the Church of England principles and has adopted their Policy – “Promoting a Safer Church”, which promotes safety for children, young people, vulnerable adults and adults. Advice leaflets are available for all volunteers and where appropriate volunteers received basic awareness training.

The Diocese has reviewed its guidelines on Disclosure and Barring Service checks and the PCC will endeavour to comply with these. DBS clearance is required every three years and not the five years as was the case previously.

In line with the more stringent policy adopted, it is now mandatory that all PCC members have the appropriate Church of England DBS clearance, regardless of any other checks they may have undertaken. Sunday School Teachers and Group Leaders, who work regularly on a one-to-one basis with children, young people and vulnerable people must also have this DBS clearance.

The said DBS clearance has now been processed for all to whom it applies, within our Churches and all new PCC members or volunteers who must have clearance will be expected to apply on joining.

The Diocese has ruled that safeguarding training should also be undertaken by PCC Members, Sunday School Teachers and Group Leaders. All to whom this currently applies have undergone The Church Of England approved Foundation or Leadership training as appropriate. This will also apply to anyone taking on one of these roles in the future

The Safeguarding Officer/Lead Recruiter (Dorothy Carter) also underwent the three-day Lead Recruiter Training with the Diocese and also achieved certificates for on-line training in awareness of, domestic Abuse, Human Trafficking and Slave Trading.

The Safeguarding Officers are:
St Thomas -Dorothy Carter
St Mary's - Julie Bennion

Anyone having any concerns about people of any age within our Churches should contact their Safety Officer. There are posters in both Churches with the contact information displayed.

Safeguarding is a regular item on all PCC agendas.

Church employees who work regularly with children or vulnerable adults currently have valid and satisfactory DBS disclosures This also applies to Lay Readers and Pastoral workers.

The aims of these measures are:

- To ensure a safe environment for all who attend our Churches to worship, work, volunteer or visit.
- to promote safe practice by raising awareness of safeguarding issues by offering training to church volunteers.
- to ensure all church activities and church groups have a recent risk assessments which are reviewed annually and risk assessments for all church trips and events are completed.

There were no issues or causes for concern reported in 2022.

Dorothy Carter
Safeguarding Office/Lead Recruiter

St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Income and endowments from:</i>						
Donations and legacies						
Planned Giving	76,698	420	2,654	0	79,772	73,454
Plate Collections	17,432	0	0	0	17,432	12,481
Recovered tax	22,921	982	724	0	24,629	23,383
Legacies	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	1,354
Donations	11,818	6,268	588	0	18,675	22,829
Income from charitable activities						
Fund Raising	9,762	1,003	0	0	10,766	5,614
Investments	704	0	2	0	707	18
Other income	357	0	1,963	0	2,321	1,031
St Mary's House Rent	7,680	0	0	0	7,680	8,330
St Thomas' Church Hall Hire	12,480	0	0	0	12,480	10,115
St Mary's Hall Hire	11,079	0	0	0	11,079	6,395
PCC Fees	6,480	0	0	0	6,480	6,301
Grants	3,445	3,000	457	0	6,902	17,857
Diocesan fees	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total income	182,860	11,674	6,390	0	200,926	189,165
<i>Expenditure on:</i>						
Raising funds	4,634	0	254	0	4,889	1,479
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Diocesan Parish Contribution and Deanery	69,746	0	0	0	69,746	54,545
Clergy Costs	2,681	0	0	0	2,681	3,733
Youth Worker Costs	0	0	533	0	533	5,132
Church Running costs	21,111	0	0	0	21,111	25,402
Church Maintenance / Repairs	5,087	0	0	0	5,087	4,348
Church equipment purchase	2,920	0	0	0	2,920	3,921
Church Hall Running Costs	13,839	0	0	0	13,839	9,282
Church Hall Maintenance / repairs	730	0	0	0	730	9,391
Mission Giving and donations	0	0	10,100	0	10,100	10,145
Worship Costs	5,888	0	364	0	6,252	4,364
Churchyard costs	239	0	0	0	239	1,357
Support Costs	4,218	2,301	0	0	6,520	4,891
Vicarage costs	4,552	0	0	0	4,552	4,826
Other expenditure	583	3,244	1	0	3,828	5,085
St Mary's House	772	0	0	0	772	1,495
Major works	0	5,262	0	0	5,262	5,670
Total expenditure	137,007	10,808	11,252	0	159,068	155,071
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	45,853	866	(4,862)	0	41,857	34,094
<i>Transfers</i>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	81	500	10,100	0	10,681	10,906
Gross transfers between funds - out	(10,100)	0	(581)	0	(10,681)	(10,906)
<i>Other recognised gains / losses</i>						
Gains / losses on investment assets	0	0	0	0	0	(123)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds	35,834	1,366	4,656	0	41,857	33,970
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>						
Total funds brought forward	107,103	1,089	5,137	0	113,330	79,359
Total funds carried forward	142,937	2,455	9,793	0	155,187	113,330

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath

Balance sheet (Summary)

As at: 31 December 2022

	As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
	£	£
Current assets		
Debtors	1,575	1,475
Cash at bank and in hand	162,758	115,235
	<u>164,333</u>	<u>116,710</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	9,145	3,380
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>155,187</u>	<u>113,330</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>155,187</u>	<u>113,330</u>
Total net assets less liabilities	<u>155,187</u>	<u>113,330</u>
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	142,937	107,103
Designated		
Designated - ST MM Car Park	2,193	0
Designated - Mission Projects	262	1,089
Designated - Visranthi Trust	0	0
Restricted		
Restricted - Bells fund	1,963	0
Restricted - Grants Fund	1,095	825
Restricted - St Mary's Flower Fund	276	260
Restricted - Parish Charities fund	5	506
Restricted - Parish Family Fund	6,452	3,545
Restricted - Prom Praise	0	0
Restricted - Agency collection	0	0
Funds of the church	<u>155,187</u>	<u>113,330</u>

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Notes to Accompany the Accounts 2022

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Regulations 2006 and Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 using the receipts and payments basis, except for the following:
any invoice raised and not settled before 31/12 is included as a debtor
any cheque issued but not cashed or services received but not paid for before 31/12 are included as creditors if they materially affect the accounts
Agency monies held are also shown as a creditor. These are detailed below for information.

2. The PCC holds 199.49 CBF accumulation shares whose market value was £10582.55 at 31st December 2021 (£11650.52 for 2021)

3. At a PCC meeting in November 2022 it was decided to manage the funds of the Bell ringers within the PCC accounts as a restricted fund with the introduction of £1963.58

4. In addition the PCC own the following non sacred buildings: St Mary's house Insurance valuation 2023, £247,754 & St Thomas Church Hall Insurance valuation 2023, £1,125,247

5. The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal C/fwd
Designated fund (unrestricted)	£	£	£	£	£
Visranthi Trust	0.00	3,235.00	3,235.00		0.00
Mission Project fund	1,089.37	974.63	2,301.55	500.00	262.45
St Mary Magdalene Car Park fund		7,465.22	5,271.75		2,193.47
Total	1,089.37	11,674.85	10,808.30	500.00	2,455.92
Restricted Funds					
Charities	506.00	0.00	10,101.00	9,600.00	5.00
War graves	825.02	457.00	186.25	0.00	1,095.77
Flowers	260.94	380.00	364.13	0.00	276.81
Parish Family fund	3,545.36	3,589.99	601.59	-81.00	6,452.76
Gain on investment asset					
Bells Fund	0.00	1,963.58	0.00	0.00	1,963.58
Total	5,137.32	6,390.57	11,252.97	9,519.00	9,793.92
Memorandum analysis					
Church acting as an agent		Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal C/ fwd
Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals		362.00	6,903.20	6,009.52	1,255.68
Other fees- verger/ organist/choir		155.00	3,175.00	2,790.00	540.00
Retired/visiting clergy fee		0.00	140.80	140.80	0.00
Total		517.00	10,219.00	8,940.32	1,795.68
Charity Agency Summary					
BCT		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Children's society		528.08	1,140.27	842.59	825.76
foodbank		0.00	941.46	268.14	673.32
Present Aid		416.00	435.30	430.00	421.30
Christian Aid		0.00	320.00	320.00	0.00
Home Start		-0.79	0.79	0.00	0.00
Parish Family Fund		120.91	0.00	120.91	0.00
Macmillan Cancer Support		5.00	459.64	464.64	0.00
USPG		0.00	679.81	678.76	1.05
DEC Ukraine		0.00	938.00	938.00	0.00
Total		1,069.20	4,915.27	4,063.04	1,921.43
Total Agency fund					3,717.11



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene
Stockton Heath

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1131459

Set out on pages

1 - 5

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:

Date: 18 March 2023

Name:

Geoff Bruce

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

FCA

Address:

31 Bristow Close, Warrington, WA5 8EU

Accounts

**The Parochial Church Council
of
St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Churches
Stockton Heath**



**Annual and Financial Reports
for the Year Ending
31st December 2021**

Introduction

This information is published as part of the requirements of the Church of England Regulations and Requirements of the Charities Commission. The Parish OF Stockton Heath is in the Deanery of Great Budworth and is part of the Diocese of Chester. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measures 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered charity (Charity Number 1131459). St Thomas PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Rev. Michael Ridley in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of St Thomas' Church, London Rd. Stockton Heath, St Thomas' Church Hall, Ellesmere Rd, Stockton Heath, St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingleway, Appleton and 8, St Monica's Close, Appleton. Correspondence should be addressed to The Vicar, St Thomas' Vicarage, 12, Melton Avenue. WA4 6PQ Tel: 01925 261396



Parochial Church Council 2021

Vicar

Rev. Michael Ridley

Ex Officio Members

Pastoral Workers	Olu Olojugba Claire Hutt Julie Brown
Deanery Synod	Dorothy Carter Susan Burke Jenny Corroboy
Church Wardens	Sheila Barton Melanie Wilson
Elected Members	Peter Speed Peter Banyard Kirsty Gill Warren Whalley Michael Jackson Lynda Heesom David Whalley Richard Emery Dorika Roxby Stuart Marley James Thornton Sarah Gibbons Melanie Girdharry Joanne Benson

Officers

Secretary	Dorothy Carter
Treasurer	Sue Burke
Safeguarding	Dorothy Carter

Associate Minister

Monica Thomson

Lay Readers

Christine Chapman

Joanna Woodward

In 2021 the Parochial Church Council met in January, March, May, July, September and November with Standing Committee meetings generally two weeks beforehand. However, because of the Covid Crisis, extra Standing Committee meetings were held. Standing Committees are made up of the Vicar (who also Chairs the PCC), The Church Wardens, The Secretary and the Treasurer and these prepare for the PCC meeting and set the agenda.

PCC members are also Charity Trustees and are recruited from and voted for by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll. The PCC adheres to its aims and principles concerning outreach and mission, whilst managing the finances, safety and everyday affairs of both Churches. Action groups hold their own meetings but refer back to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions.

Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities, finance and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission.

The PCC works extremely hard on the many aspects of running a successful Church and thanks go to all who attend regularly with a cheerful willingness.

New faces and talents are always welcome and anyone who feels that they can contribute should speak to the Secretary or Church Wardens.

Dorothy Carter/PCC Secretary

Great Budworth Deanery Synod

The aims of the Deanery Synod are:

- To consider matters concerning the Church of England.
- To bring together the views of the parishes of the Deanery,
- To act as the channel of communication between the parishes of the Deanery and the Diocesan Synod.
- To effect decisions made by the Diocesan Synod.
- To raise matters with the Diocesan Synod.
- To elect representatives to the diocesan and General Synods.

St. Thomas' and St. Mary's representatives for 2021 were Dorothy Carter, Jenny Corroboy and Susan Burke. Deanery Synod representatives attend meetings on behalf of the Parish and report back to the PCC. The Parish is also represented by Pastoral Workers Olu Olojugba, Claire Hutt and Julie Brown. Because of the COVID pandemic there have not been as many meetings and some were on Zoom.

Because of the numbers on our electoral roll we are able to elect four members for the Deanery Synod. It is a three year election process and there is a place for one more representative. If anyone would like to learn more about this role please talk to a Church Warden or one of the representatives

Dorothy Carter

Deanery Synod Representative

Risk report

The major risks to which the PCC are exposed are reviewed regularly and systems and procedures are in place to ensure that they are followed.

Major risks identified are:

- Adverse publicity
- Demographic change
- Dependency on income
- Disaster issues
- Fund raising
- Governance
- Security
- Volunteering
- Vulnerable people
- Pandemic

Risk assessments are stored at a central point and can be viewed on request.



Electoral Roll

On December 31st 2021 there were 222 names on the Electoral Roll - 121 within the Parish and 101 outside. The electoral roll closed on April 17th and a new version will be instated. The number of applicants will be announced at the AGM on May 15th 2022.

Congregation members are encouraged to have their names added to give them voting rights at general meetings.

Forms are available at the Church Office.

Frances Mountain

Electoral Roll Officer



We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who volunteers and does such amazing things to make our Church such a wonderful place. It has been especially hard over the last two years. Many people went the extra mile and we really thank you. For those who could not join us during the pandemic we look forward to seeing you soon.

Reserve Policy

It is the aim of the PCC to seek to hold £18,000 in unrestricted reserves, in order to cover three months' running costs in the event of a major problem and/or to provide additional support for any unforeseen repairs. Having considered the outgoings the PCC deems this to be a reasonable amount to hold in reserve so maintaining an adequate cash flow. This policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time.



A Word from Your Vicar

“To live is to change and to be perfect is to change often.” So said John Henry Newman. Change is at the heart of the Gospel of Jesus. As a Eucharistic Prayer says “To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.”

The Church of Jesus is in the business of change too - through nurture, mission and prayer we want to be channels of God’s peace and love, and we have seen that in the last year in so many ways in our Churches. Continuous prayer for those in need of healing, the mission project for children and families in our area providing food and lunches made St Thomas’ a place of welcome and peace: all our buildings staying open and safe and “there” for our community, pastoral work for the isolated and vulnerable, not to mention worship continuing behind masks. We have weathered the changes in our world and responded to them.

We are fortunate, indeed, to have congregations who are generous and outward looking - not a cosy club which just wants to look after its own. We are a movement which wants to change the world! We want to say to Mr Putin there is a better peaceful way: we want to look after the vulnerable in our society with kindness and respect, we want to challenge government about how adequate food and fuel should be given for all, we want to look after refugees and welcome them into our community: we want to show our community that St Thomas’ and St Mary’s are sharers of hope and love, our prayerfulness is transformed into love and action.

Above all we want to share Jesus, his message of redemption bought for us on the cross and revealed in his victorious resurrection.

This year I have a simple message- 2 Peter 3:18
“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...To Him be glory both now and forever!” Amen.

Financial Review of the Year 2021

In my Financial review 2020 I was pleased to report that we had financially weathered the effects of the Covid pandemic albeit somewhat financially 'bruised'. We had hoped that 2021 would be a year of less restrictions and less impact and, of course, eventually it was. However, there was still about 2 months when our churches were closed, ongoing restrictions meant that some groups could not meet in their usual venue prior to July.

We were extremely fortunate, as St Thomas' Church is a Grade 2 Listed building, to receive a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund for £19,600, to cover running costs for 3 months at St Thomas' Church and Church Hall, 'opening up' costs, training for volunteers including the successful CPR Training event, costs of publicity, heritage events helping to celebrate the heritage at St Thomas' Church, St Thomas' organ repair and essential electrical work identified by the statutory Electrical Installation and Circuit Report (EICR) in both St Thomas' Church and the Church Hall. We received £17,640 of this in year and this grant has been instrumental in ensuring that we ended the year in a much stronger financial position ready for challenges in 2022.



You will notice a slight change to the appearance of the accounts this year as they are now prepared on the Finance Coordinator computerised system that we use to keep our accounts. Geoff Bruce BSc. FCA has continued as our Independent Examiner for 2021 and it is pertinent to note that this service has again been provided free of charge and we are most grateful to Geoff for his time, guidance, and expertise.

Our total receipts for the year 2021 were £189,165 compared to £168,988 in 2020 an increase of £20,177, hence without the grant, receipts across the two years would have been more comparable. Planned Giving has remained robust at £73,454 although reduced slightly from 2020 £74,211. A most encouraging 'Thanksgiving' response indicates increases to pledged giving of approximately £4000 for 2023, thank you very much to all who can increase their giving especially in the current cost of living crisis. As we noted at Thanksgiving, God gives to us so we can give to others, **'Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!'** It is really pleasing to see all the income streams dependent on our being 'open' have picked up through 2021: Plate Collections £12,481 compared to £6,299 in 2020; Fund Raising £5614 compared to £1,822 in 2020, Church Hall and St Mary Magdalene's Hire jointly £16,510 in 2021 increasing from £11,061 in 2020; PCC fees £6301 compared to £4257 – more weddings and funerals in church. Julie Bennion and Peter Speed remain as Booking Secretaries for St Mary Magdalene and St Thomas' Hall hire, respectively. They work tirelessly to increase bookings and maintain high standards within our buildings to ensure the hire experience for our customers is the best it can be. A huge thank you to them for all their hard work and dedication in these roles. St Mary's house has been tenanted for the entire year with an income of £8330. The expenses against this are higher in 2021 at £1495 compared to £232 in 2020 and are attributed to insurance, a new washing machine, Landlord annual Gas Safety checks, statutory EICR checks, and essential electrical works identified. Management and general maintenance of the house continues to be undertaken for us by Ian Burke, for which we are grateful. Tax Recovery via the Gift Aid scheme remains strong £23,383 compared to £22,396 in 2020. Joanne Ridley has completed her first full year as Gift Aid Secretary, together we have streamlined this process and improved our efficiency. I am very grateful to Joanne for restrictions in place until July led to reduced activities. This affected income streams including Fund Raising and Hall Hire although groups for children were allowed to meet and with strict risk assessments, cleaning, and sanitising regimes we were even able to accommodate hard work, support and skill ensuring we maximise our Tax Recovery receipts.

Our total expenditure in 2021 was £155,071 although apparently slightly less than in 2020 £157,340, it must be remembered we spent £28,351 on the AV equipment at St Thomas' in 2020 which explains the large difference in the Church equipment cost category. I am pleased to report that gas and electricity utility services for all our buildings are on fixed rate contracts in place before the current fuel crisis, the first is due to terminate in June 2023 but others are later. Youth worker costs have continued to reduce reflecting Adam Post's reduced hours and then his leaving at the end of 2021. The Parish needs to review Youth and Children's work afresh and build on any legacy foundations. There remains £3,545 within the restricted Parish Family Fund at the end of 2021 with 13 people continuing to support this work with total monthly donations of £224. Many categories of expenditure are similar for 2021 compared to 2022- running costs, clergy costs, support costs etc. Vicarage costs were increased by some much needed decoration of our Vicarage. The Church Hall Maintenance and Repairs £9391 increase from £662 in 2020 is explained almost entirely by the EICR identified essential electrical safety works and the installation of new LED ceiling lighting replacing the old fluorescent tubes and repairs to safety lighting in the hall. The Major Works expenditure of £5670 relates entirely to the preparatory works and surveys undertaken to date for the planned refurbishment of St Mary Magdalene's carpark enabling Planning Permission to be sought. It is pertinent to note that our Parish Share will increase by £15,264 to a total of £69,667 in 2023. As Michael is no longer 'Priest in Charge' of St James' Latchford the 20% reduction in Parish Share previously afforded to us to reflect his reduced time in our Parish, ceased on the 31st of December 2021.

Mission is very much the 'raison d'être' for our churches. This is both 'mission' to spread the good news of Jesus within our community and beyond and also 'mission' to care for and support those within our community who are vulnerable. During 2021 through the Mission Project we provided 210 Easter bags, distributed through local schools each containing an Easter egg, craft activity, card and sunflower seeds to plant; we held a clothes swap in June where we were inundated with donations of good quality clothes and around 25 people came to swap items the remainder of the clothes being distributed to the local night shelter who took items for the homeless, we took the remaining to The Salvation Army, James Leigh House and a local charity working at home and with refugees; throughout the summer holidays a free fun lunch was held weekly and during the year we served approximately ninety-eight hot meals with pudding, fruit, and snacks for children and 80 hot meals or sandwiches to adults; at Christmas we distributed 155 bags of food sufficient for a family of 4 for 3 meals per day for two full days. To help with this vital work we received a grant of £500 from the charity Transforming Lives Together and the response to my Completion Report for the grant from the charity was *'What a brilliant couple of years with a lot of hard work and commitment. You and your team will have made a massive difference to the lives of people in your community and are continuing to do so. Thank you so much, I'm glad we were able to contribute something towards it all.'* In addition, the work has been supported by donations of food and monetary donations totalling £1595 from our generous congregations and community.

In line with our 'Outward Giving' Parish Policy to give away 10% of our disposable income we allocated £9,495 based on our disposable income 2020, distributed between Overseas Mission, Home Mission and Secular charities with the total amount given away being £10,145 in year. Donations were as follows: £745 to USPG India Appeal, £2000 to the Church Missionary Society, £2000 to USPG, £650 to Visranthi Trust, £500 to St David's Nigeria, £500 to Christchurch Latchford, £500 to Ascension Trust for Street Pastors, £400 to the Prison Fellowship, £50 to

National Churches Trust, £800 to Broomfield's Youth Project, £1000 to St Joseph's Family Centre, £500 to St Rocco's and £500 to St Thomas' School towards distinctiveness. Listed in the Memorandum Analysis - Charity Agency Summary are all the other collections or donations received and paid out to charities throughout 2021 most notably the Tear Fund initiative to twin all our toilets.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to serve God and the Parish as your Treasurer, however, Church finances are multifaceted, and management of them is achieved with the support of a dedicated team: those who count the money on a Sunday morning, Simon Hutt who takes it to the bank, Carol Bridger who provides admin support and banking back up, Joanne Ridley as Gift Aid Secretary, all who operate the card reader at Baptisms and promote online giving and my particular thanks to Linda Latham who acts as our Bookkeeper maintaining our financial records.



In conclusion, we have recorded a healthy surplus of £34,094 as mentioned previously greatly assisted by the Culture Recovery Grant which will help us to cover the increased Parish Share costs, at least in 2023, and enable us to be a viable, active, responsive Church bringing and spreading God's love within our community. This positive situation is largely due to **you** – all who give so generously of their finances to support the work of the Kingdom in Stockton Heath and Appleton. Thank you for your generosity, your steadfast faith, and your love for God demonstrated by this commitment. By God's grace we will continue to be a community of faith, caring, supporting, and upholding each other in His love.

Sue Burke

Parish Treasurer

Fundraising and Social and Mission Group

FRASM - The Fund Raising Social and Mission group organised several events following the lifting of lockdown commencing with a Parish Party in July where it was lovely to be able to meet each other socially again after such a long time. We celebrated the heritage at St Thomas' Church with an open day on Heritage Day with a Cheese and Wine evening and Macmillan Coffee Morning over 2 days in September. Our Harvest Supper in October was a popular evening for children, with fun and games, and adults with a Ceilidh not to mention the delicious hot pot and fruit crumbles provided by the team. The Christmas Fair was held in the Church Hall in November, an Elvis tribute night in December and the Golborne Brass Band Christmas concert was as popular as ever.

To promote the 'ministry of mission' within the Parish the team put together Easter bags for more vulnerable families, in collaboration with local schools, held a 'clothes swap', free Fun Lunches weekly throughout the summer holidays and November half term and again in collaboration with local schools provided Christmas bags of food for vulnerable families and Christmas Cheer bags for older isolated members of our community.

A huge thank you to everyone on the FRASM team and members of the congregation who helped support any of these events.

Church Wardens' Report

St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene

Though we started 2021 in a lockdown the churches remained open and we adjusted to the 'hybrid' way of ministry and mission. Our numbers were somewhat reduced and people were understandably cautious, which was why it was so good to be granted funds from the CRF fund to help support our full opening. Electrical checks, new lighting, first aid training and some deep cleaning and a cheese and wine evening ensured we were back in business. We are also expecting the delivery and installation of a defibrillator which will be most welcome but hopefully not needed too often.



Hopefully we are back on track to normality but it would be insensitive to ignore the many repercussions and ripples incurred while several of our church family have been rocked by bereavements, deferred plans and cancellations. Indeed a 'Lament to Thanksgiving' service was held in November to prayerfully remember all those who had lost loved ones recently and for many without the consolation of a proper goodbye or funeral.

Our church choir was one of the casualties of the pandemic but gradually over the year members of the congregation, many from 'Melody Makers' have stepped up to the plate and helped to swell the -singing in our Sunday Services and at weddings – more voices are most welcome.

It has been just over a year since our new screen was put in position at St Thomas and the skill set of an increasing number from our Techie Team is improving as we become more confident with clicking, streaming and controlling the sound, though new volunteers would be most welcome. We are getting a steady number of hits on YouTube. St Thomas has definitely embraced the new technology. Plans are afoot too to remove the back pew in the north aisle and install a mixing desk with room for all the techie equipment to be stored securely out of the way of the crèche area.

As ever there were a variety of 'goodbyes' over the year – we wished Robert Icke well, as he gradually took over the reins of St James, Christchurch and St Hilda's; we said goodbye to Eventbrite and the need to book in to attend services; finally the toilet block was demolished in the now re modelled community carpark- they wont be missed!

Talking of toilets the congregation from St MM and St T generously contributed in November to sponsoring 12 twinned toilets to fund world wide projects in poor communities enabling families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives. Photos of our twinned toilets are now in position on our church toilets in all our buildings,

Come the warmer weather a small team looked to improving the environs of the church and the churchyard. Three new benches for the churchyard were purchased through generous donations and have been well used by people who choose to take a break and a chance to reflect in a more peaceful atmosphere. Family groups and individuals have committed themselves to maintain and cultivate areas of garden round the church. The cultivation of a community vegetable plot managed by our Bell Captain was a real example of how we can look after God's creation and share it with others. These initiatives married very well with the work done by a team to work towards the Bronze Eco award –an A Rocha UK Project. The award scheme is granted to churches who prove they are working to care for God's world.

St Thomas' has worked closely with Wild About Stockton Heath (WASH) to cultivate a barren piece of banking on the margins of the graveyard to plant wild flowers and climbers that attract insects. Two hedgehog houses have been built in the churchyard from recycled materials and a discarded wooden pallet has been transformed into a compost bin for leaves. The church and local guiding associations have also planted scores of daffodil bulbs around the churchyard and notably near the war graves; hopefully they will bloom this spring.



There is still much to do and as winter ends, St Thomas' plans to keep the area tidier by having regular clean ups to remove branches and clean up the paths. It is hoped to build on our strong links with St Thomas primary school to encourage more children to visit and take part in eco projects within the churchyard.

Mission remains high on our priorities and the FRASM team took a lead role in providing lunches and family activities on Tuesdays during the school summer holidays and again the congregation provided bags of meals and a few luxuries for over 150 local families delivered just before Christmas.

As the year drew to a close tentative steps were made to resume our fundraising and social events. These included a smaller scale but very successful Church Christmas Fair and an Elvis Tribute night which was enjoyed by many. How good it was too, to welcome back the Golborne Brass Band into church for Carols and a concert.

Melanie and Sheila
Church Wardens

Action Groups

Action groups hold their own meetings but refer back to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions. Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission.

The groups who meet regularly are:

ST Thomas Action Group (STAG)

St Mary's Action Group (SMAG)

Church Hall Action Group (CHAG)

Fundraising And Social and Mission Group (FRASM)

Pastoral Group

Deanery Synod
Churches Together

Bridgewater

Grateful thanks go to all who attend these groups either to represent the Churches or to assist with all the hard work that goes on within.



Outreach

Grateful thanks go to all to who work so hard to organise or help with the groups that our Church community provides.

As the slogan says "Volunteers are the backbone of communities" Without the help and support of our volunteers there is so much that would not happen.



There are so many and it would be impossible to thank everyone by name but a heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who gives up so much time, energy and expertise to ensure that our Churches can offer so much extra to the community.

Apart from the support listed in other parts of the report, volunteers are responsible for the success of the following really well loved and important parts of our Churches.

Sunday School

The Choir

Bellringing

The Ark

Open Church

Technical Support

Cleaning

Ecco Church

Church Duties

Office work

Home visits

Bible Bubbles

Christian Aid

100 Club

Praise and Play

Little Sunbeams

Story Church

Support during the pandemic



Annual Report from the Safeguarding Officer 2021

The PCC of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene adhere to the Church of England principles and has adopted their Policy – “Promoting a Safer Church”, which promotes safety for children, young people and adults

Advice leaflets are to be available for all volunteers.

The diocese has reviewed its guidelines on Disclosure and Barring Service checks and the PCC will endeavour to comply with these. DBS clearance will now be required every three years and not the five years as was the case previously .

The Safeguarding Officers are:

St Thomas - Dorothy Carter

St Mary's - Julie Bennion.

Anyone having any concerns about anyone within our Churches should contact the Safety Officer. there are posters in both Churches with the contact information displayed.

Safeguarding is a regular item on PCC agendas.

Those of our church members and employees who work regularly with children or vulnerable adults have currently valid and satisfactory DBS disclosures (i.e. processed within the last five years).

The aims are:

- to ensure all church activities and church groups have a recent risk assessment which are reviewed annually and risk assessments for church trips and events are completed.
- to promote safe practices and raising awareness of safeguarding issues by offering training to church volunteers.

There were no issues or causes for concern reported in 2021.

Dorothy Carter

Safeguarding Officer



St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies					
Planned Giving	69,145	4,309	0	73,454	74,211
Plate Collections	12,481	0	0	12,481	6,299
Recovered tax	22,196	1,187	0	23,383	22,396
Legacies	1,354	0	0	1,354	17,000
Donations	22,394	435	0	22,829	19,997
Income from charitable activities					
Fund Raising	5,614	0	0	5,614	1,822
Investments	18	0	0	18	121
Other income	1,031	0	0	1,031	2,306
St Mary's House Rent	8,330	0	0	8,330	7,297
St Thomas' Church Hall Hire	10,115	0	0	10,115	5,010
St Mary's Hall Hire	6,395	0	0	6,395	6,051
PCC Fees	6,301	0	0	6,301	4,257
Grants	17,640	217	0	17,857	2,217
Diocesan fees	0	0	0	0	0
Total income	183,017	6,148	0	189,165	168,988
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	1,399	79	0	1,479	561
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Diocesan Parish Contribution and Deanery	54,545	0	0	54,545	54,129
Clergy Costs	3,733	0	0	3,733	3,842
Youth Worker Costs	0	5,132	0	5,132	8,586
Church Running costs	25,402	0	0	25,402	25,144
Church Maintenance / Repairs	4,348	0	0	4,348	2,983
Church equipment purchase	3,921	0	0	3,921	29,544
Church Hall Running Costs	9,282	0	0	9,282	7,273
Church Hall Maintenance / repairs	9,391	0	0	9,391	642
Mission Giving and donations	0	10,145	0	10,145	8,624
Worship Costs	4,063	300	0	4,364	4,897
Churchyard costs	1,357	0	0	1,357	0
Support Costs	4,891	0	0	4,891	4,158
Vicarage costs	4,826	0	0	4,826	3,218
Other expenditure	5,085	0	0	5,085	3,500
St Mary's House	1,495	0	0	1,495	232
Major works	5,670	0	0	5,670	0
Total expenditure	139,413	15,658	0	155,071	157,340
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	43,603	(9,509)	0	34,094	11,647
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	1,000	9,906	0	10,906	9,495
Gross transfers between funds - out	(9,906)	(1,000)	0	(10,906)	(9,495)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	0	(123)	0	(123)	123
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	0	0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds	34,697	(727)	0	33,970	11,771

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath

Balance sheet (Summary)

As at: 31 December 2021

As at 31/12/2021 As at 31/12/2020

Current assets

Debtors	1,475	0
Cash at bank and in hand	115,235	82,472
	<u>116,710</u>	<u>82,472</u>

Liabilities

Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	3,380	3,112
--	-------	-------

Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>113,330</u>	<u>79,360</u>
--	-----------------------	----------------------

Total assets less current liabilities	<u>113,330</u>	<u>79,360</u>
--	-----------------------	----------------------

Total net assets less liabilities	<u>113,330</u>	<u>79,360</u>
--	-----------------------	----------------------

Represented by

Unrestricted

Unrestricted - General fund	107,103	73,456
-----------------------------	---------	--------

Designated

Designated - Mission Projects	1,089	(329)
Designated - Visranthi Trust	0	368

Restricted

Restricted - Bells fund	0	0
Restricted - Grants Fund	825	688
Restricted - St Mary's Flower Fund	261	319
Restricted - Parish Charities fund	506	1,745
Restricted - Parish Family Fund	3,545	2,989
Restricted - Prom Praise	0	0
Restricted - Agency collection	0	124

Funds of the church	<u>113,330</u>	<u>79,360</u>
----------------------------	-----------------------	----------------------

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Notes to Accompany the Accounts 2021

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Regulations 2006 and Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 using the receipts and payments basis, except for the following: any invoice raised and not settled before 31/12 is included as a debtor

any cheque issued but not cashed or services received but not paid for before 31/12 are included as creditors if they materially affect the accounts

Agency monies held are also shown as a creditor. These are detailed below for information.

2. The PCC holds 199.49 CBF accumulation shares whose market value was £11650.52 at 31st December 2021 (£9918 for 2020)

3. During the year the PCC received a grant from the Culture Recovery Fund to financially assist opening up and undertaking essential safety and maintenance works and 3 months' running costs £17640 of the total award of £19600 was received in year.

4. in addition the PCC own the following non sacred buildings: St Mary's house Insurance valuation 2022, £219,641 & St Thomas Church Hall Insurance valuation 2022, £997,567

5. The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal C/fwd
Designated fund (unrestricted)	£	£	£	£	£
Visranthi Trust	367.50	3,263.75	3,631.25		0.00
Mission Project fund	-328.91	2,209.90	1,791.62	1,000.00	1,089.37
Total	38.59				1,089.37
Restricted Funds					
Charities	1,745.00		10,145.00	8,906.00	506.00
War graves	688.00	217.00	79.98		825.02
Flowers	319.10	242.50	300.66		260.94
Parish Family fund	2,989.00	5,689.25	5,132.89		3,545.36
Gain on investment asset					
Total	5,741.10	6,148.75	15,658.53	8,906.00	5,137.32
Memorandum analysis					
Church acting as an agent		Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal C/ fwd
Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals		863.00	8,259.00	8,760.00	362.00
Other fees- verger/ organist/choir		-45.00	2,885.00	2,685.00	155.00
Retired/visitng clergy fee		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		818.00	11,144.00	11,445.00	517.00
Charity Agency Summary					
BCT		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Children's society		78.96	453.07	3.95	528.08
foodbank		25.00	30.00	55.00	0.00
Present Aid		1,005.85	471.00	1,060.85	416.00
Christian Aid		0.00	587.53	587.53	0.00
Home Start		0.00	343.91	344.70	-0.79
Parish Family Fund		100.68	123.87	103.64	120.91
Macmillan Cancer Support		0.00	581.93	576.93	5.00
USPG		101.79		101.79	0.00
Water Aid		-18.44	18.44		0.00
Tear Fund		0.00	724.00	724.00	0.00
Total		1,293.84	3,333.75	3,558.39	1,069.20
Total Agency fund					1,586.20



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene
Stockton Heath

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1131459

Set out on pages

1 - 5

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Date: 30 April 2022

Name:

Geoff Bruce

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

FCA

Address:

31 Bristow Close, Warrington, WA5 8EU

Accounts

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ST. THOMAS' AND ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S
CHURCHES
STOCKTON HEATH**



**ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER 2020**

Introduction

This information is published as part of the requirements of the Church of England Regulations and Requirements of the Charities Commissioners.

The Parish of St. Thomas, Stockton Heath is in the Deanery of Great Budworth and is a part of the Diocese of Chester. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and is a registered Charity (Charity No.1131459)

St Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd. Michael Ridley, in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Thomas' Church, London Rd., Stockton Heath, St. Thomas Church Hall, Ellesmere Rd. Stockton Heath, St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingleway/Bridge Lane Appleton and 8 St. Monica's Close Appleton.

Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Vicar, St. Thomas' Vicarage, 12 Melton Avenue,
Walton, Warrington, WA4 6PQ.
Tel:01925 261396



The Parochial Church Council 2020

Vicar	Rev. Michael Ridley
Curate	Rev. Robert Icke
Ex- Officio	
Pastoral Workers	Olu Olojugba Claire Hutt Julie Brown
Deanery Synod	Dorothy Carter Jenny Corroboy Sheila Barton Susan Burke
Church Wardens	Sheila Barton Melanie Wilson
Elected Members	Warren Whalley Kirsty Gill Peter Speed Melanie Girdharry James Thornton Sarah Gibbons Michael Jackson Lynda Heesom Peter Banyard
Re-Elec Oct 18th 2020	David Whalley
Re-Elec Oct 18th 2020	Richard Emery
Elec. Oct 18th 2020	Dorika Roxby
Elec. Oct 18th 2020	Stuart Marley
Res. Oct 18th 2021	Lynn Tidd
Officers	
Secretary	Dorothy Carter
Treasurer	Susan Burke
Safeguarding	Dorothy Carter
Emeriti	Christine Chapman
Readers.	Joanna Woodward
Minister with permission to officiate	Rev. Monica Thomson

The Work of the Parochial Church Council

In 2020 The Parochial Church Council met in January for the only face to face PCC Meeting of the year. Zoom meetings took place in March, May, September and November. Special Meetings were held in April, June and August, to deal with the issues arising from the pandemic. The Standing Committee usually meets two weeks before a PCC Meeting, when agendas are devised and a wide variety of matters are discussed in preparation for the PCC Meetings. The PCC gave authority to the Standing Committee to make urgent decisions during the crisis and extra meetings were held for this purpose with details being relayed to the PCC.

PCC members who are also Trustees are recruited from and voted for by members of the congregation who are on the Parish electoral roll. The PCC adheres to its aims and principles concerning outreach and mission, whilst managing the finances and the running of both Churches.

Action Groups hold their own meetings and report back to the PCC for further discussion and approval of plans and spending.

Issues addressed include worship, fundraising, social activities, groups, ecumenical services, and all possible ways of improving outreach and mission. Each meeting includes a safeguarding report

The PCC works exceptionally hard on the many aspects of Church business and thanks go to all who attend regularly and cheerfully. New faces would be really welcome on the PCC and anyone who would like to be involved should speak to the Church Wardens or Secretary. **Dorothy Carter, (PCC Secretary)**

Great Budworth Deanery Synod

The aims of the Deanery Synod are:

- To consider matters concerning the Church of England.
- To bring together the views of the parishes of the Deanery.
- To act as the channel of communication between the parishes of the deanery and the Diocesan Synod.
- To effect decisions made by the Diocesan Synod.
- To raise matters with the Diocesan Synod.
- To elect representatives to the Diocesan and General Synods.

St Thomas' representatives for 2020 were Jenny Corroboy and Dorothy Carter. Sheila Barton was a representative until October 18th 2020 when she stood down and Sue Burke was elected. Deanery Synod representatives attend meetings on behalf of the Parish and report back to the PCC.

The Parish is also represented by Pastoral Workers Olu Olojugba, Claire Hutt and Julie Brown. Because of the numbers on our electoral roll we are able to elect 4 Deanery Synod Members so there is one place available should anyone wish to be elected at the APCM.

Meetings are normally held at different parishes throughout the Deanery but because of Covid-19 restrictions this has not been possible. Once again Zoom meetings were the order of the day and these were very well attended, and matters reported back to the PCCs. At one meeting the Diocesan Missioner talked about vocation and in November there was a breakout and report session on challenges faced by Parishes during the current crisis.

Dorothy Carter

Risk Report

Major risks identified are:

- Adverse publicity
- Demographic change
- Dependency on income
- Disaster recovery
- Employment issues
- Fund raising
- Governance
- Security
- Volunteering
- Vulnerable people.

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed are regularly reviewed and the procedures and systems to manage those risks have been established. The full returns are stored at a central point and can be viewed on request.



The Electoral Roll

On December 31st 2020 there were 200 names on the electoral roll. The electoral roll closes on April 4th 2021 and a revised Electoral Roll will be instated. The number of applicants will be announced at this year's Annual General Meeting. Members of the congregation are encouraged to have their names on the electoral roll to give them voting rights at general meetings. Forms are available in the Church Office.

Frances Mountain

We would like to thank all those who volunteer and do so many wonderful things to further the mission of both our Churches. This year, has been such a difficult year because of the pandemic. We are so grateful to those who stepped up to the mark and went the extra mile during these really trying times, often outside comfort zones. Many volunteers were unable to continue for the full year, because of lockdown and self isolation, but we look forward to welcoming them back as soon as it is safe to do so.

Volunteers



Reserves Policy

It is the aim of the PCC to seek to hold £18,000 in unrestricted reserves in order to cover three months' running costs, in the event of a major problem, and/or to provide additional support for some unforeseen repairs.

Considering the outgoings, the PCC deems this to be a reasonable amount to hold in reserves to maintain adequate cash flow. This policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time.

A Word From The Vicar

If the last year has taught us anything, it is that “being church” is not just about “coming to church”. Even as I write there are many who are still isolating and unable to come out into normal life, and yet we are still together, still the family of God, still one in Christ! This hasn’t happened by magic: through doorstep deliveries throughout the year; pastoral phone calls; streaming on YouTube and Zoom for Sunday worship; daily thoughts for the day on YouTube; meetings, Daily Prayer, Bible Studies, nurture courses, coffee mornings, Stitch and Chat all on Zoom; weekly email bulletins; outreach efforts to families in need in our local area: we have continued to BE church. I am so grateful to so many people who have worked behind the scenes in carrying out the ministry of the church in really hard times! Underpinning all our efforts has been prayer: praying and worshipping together via YouTube and Zoom; praying for our community, for each other and for our world. So, what happens now that we ease out of lockdown and get back to a new normal? Here are some thoughts.

For many, life will never be the same again. The devastating effect of COVID19 on society will be analysed for years, and as a church we need to take time to think and reflect. Sometime over the summer we hope to have a day of prayer of sorry and thanksgiving. We need to rebuild many of the activities we have lost at the moment especially in-person children’s, youth work and Bible Studies, social gatherings, Open Church and fundraisers, concerts, singing in worship, bell ringing. To restart all these

activities will involve sensitivity, planning and hard work.

Now is the time to review what we’ve done in lockdown and learn lessons about what we’ve discovered that can enhance our church. A good example is our streaming of worship: this will continue, so that anybody who is housebound can keep in touch with the worshipping community and ‘go’ to church each Sunday from the comfort of home. Our PCC will be undergoing a thorough analysis of past activities so we can build stronger foundations for the future.

Finance is a real issue for the Church of

England as a whole, and many churches will struggle after lockdown eases. As you can see from Sue’s financial report and accounts, we have more than survived



and through good stewardship look set fair for 2021 / 2022. However, there is much to be done, so I urge you to give generously and sacrificially in the coming months.

Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to our Wardens, Standing Committee, PCC, Ministry, Pastoral and Social Action teams for their leadership of our churches over the last twelve months. It has been a huge joint effort. However, through God’s grace and their faithful ministry we can look to a good future ahead.

May God bless you all.

Michael.

St. Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Church Warden's Report

What a poignant and strange year 2020 was; a whole new vocabulary appeared, zoom, tiers, social distancing, shielding, to name but a few, but through it all with Christian prayer and hope, the churches of St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's continued.

Just before the first lockdown we held a thank you and training session for all sides people letting them know how much their role of welcome is valued in our church. We've needed them more than ever this year. We have had to adhere to what seemed rather bizarre one-way systems, social distancing, track and trace and cleaning regimes. What a team! Special

thanks to Julie and Dorothy for their ability to wade through the guidance and help us put safe systems in place for all of our church buildings and it is noteworthy that no cases of Covid have been traced back to

any of our churches or church buildings

As ever there were a few goodbyes - the year began with a farewell to Adam Post who though still working with our Pathfinders and the Ark went onto work in a near full time capacity with Warrington Youth for Christ. We said goodbye to our ordinand Phil Bishop in May when he moved to nearby Weaverham - not the good 'send-off' we would have wished but he was inundated with good luck cards.

With the church closed for a considerable part of the year, many new innovations came into being; considerable thanks are due to those who were forced into a steep learning curve. Zoom became the new byword for connecting with each other - meetings, quizzes and coffee mornings all through the wonders of technology and our Parish Whats App group became the link where all was shared - inspirational snippets, reminders, and prayer points while the thought for the day slot led by

our ministry team helped to keep our church community together.

From April Pathfinders and the Ark moved to weekly zoom meetings, Pathfinders led by Adam and assisted by Sheila was regularly attended by half a dozen children who will hopefully decide on confirmation later; ingenious online games and activities were thought of including quizzes, kim's game and getting to know your Bible.

Rob, our Curate was priested in October, again this was a Zoom experience.

As once technically-challenged church wardens, both Sheila, Mel and a willing band of

supporters across both churches (thank you!) had to quickly learn a new vocabulary and skill set. The updated screen and new AV kit at St Mary Magdalene's which was installed in 2019 allowed us to go paperless straight away, and was quickly supplemented with a

basic web-camera to allow us to progress from 'zoomed' services to YouTube broadcasts - though with mixed success until our very basic laptop decided it was all a bit too much for it. Fortunately, the wheels set in motion to install our new glass screen at St Thomas' and after a great deal of patience, the screen was hoisted above the chancel steps in November - what a beautiful piece of tech' it is. Then came the challenge of learning how to operate it and thanks to Peter Speed and a few 'techie' experts we were able to stream and take part in paperless services from early December.

Although we have been denied the joy of lifting our collective voices in worship, we have been really blessed with the talents of Gillian, Sarah Simon and the Emery's, as they have all sung on our behalf during services in person and when streamed. Thanks also to Ian and Ted for their wonderful accompaniment. Such beautiful 'real' live singing made such a difference.



In the mini 2nd lockdown in November a group of young families joined together to form Bible Bubbles – a sort of Messy Church across St Thomas', St Mary Magdalene's and St James 'and St Hilda's, using the fabulous space at St James when they could meet in person, and on-line when not. It's been a great innovation and a style of worship that we hope to continue when we are able to get back to normal – whatever that will look like. They have since met regularly and this is much anticipated by our little ones.

We embraced the technology around Eventbrite and from November our congregations were encouraged to book seats for each service – thanks to Julie King for teaching us through the various screens.

Many of the previous year's activities were denied us – no auctions, Stockton Heath Festival, Brass Band concerts, Cheese and Wine or Summer and Christmas Fairs.

However with a bit of ingenuity the Lady Chapel at St Thomas and the whole of St Mary Magdalene's were bedecked with sponsored stars and the churches

looked especially lovely this last Christmas.

Christmas also encouraged a wave of generosity extended towards our community and for a few days in mid-December our church resembled a food warehouse; with many volunteers well over a hundred bags of groceries were packaged and delivered to our local schools to be distributed to those who faced a more difficult than normal Christmas. Hyacinth bulbs and little gifts were distributed also to folk in need of some Christmas joy and hope.

So now it is spring again and we are daring to look forward, tempered by the knowledge that

one day at a time is probably the only safe way to proceed. However, as a Parish, there has been a real sense of togetherness over the last twelve months, a willingness to reach out and help and no matter where we normally worship. Our Parish has demonstrated that together we can rise to the challenges we

face, playing to our strengths and praying and caring for each other as we go. We definitely plan to keep that as part of our 'new normal' in the future.

Melanie and Sheila



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SAFEGUARDING OFFICER 2020

The Parish has adopted and adheres to all Church of England policies and practice guidance on safeguarding, which can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/policy/and/practice-guidance> Safeguarding is now a regular item on every PCC agenda.

Dorothy Carter (St Thomas) with Melanie Wilson (St Mary Magdalene) and Kirsty Gill are the Parish's safeguarding officers and work closely with all church groups and leaders to ensure that the health and safety of all is paramount.



Our churches have two children's advocates, these are individuals whom children know they could talk to about any problems, if they so wish. These are Brenda Speed at St. Thomas' and Jenny Corroboy at St. Mary Magdalene's.

There is a link to the safeguarding policy on the church website.

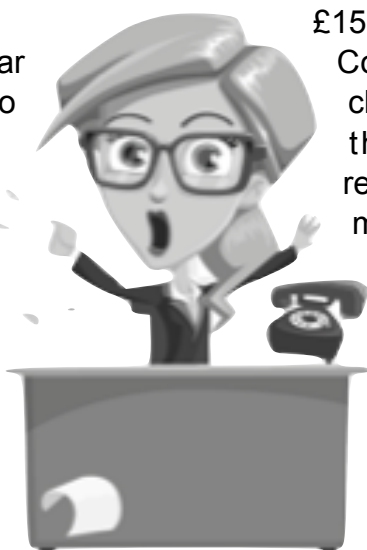
Those of our church members and employees who work regularly with children or vulnerable adults have currently valid and satisfactory DBS disclosures (i.e. processed within the last five years). During the course of the last year no reports of concern of harm or potential harm to a child or vulnerable adult have been reported to the safeguarding officer.

Dorothy Carter

Financial Review of the Year

In my financial review last year, I alluded to the severe financial challenges to church finances posed by the Covid pandemic. As your Treasurer it is my responsibility to report these to you. However, in doing so I am mindful of the serious impact of the pandemic on the lives of many people in our Parish and Community through Covid related illness and death, social and emotional isolation, job losses and personal financial challenges, immense work pressures for others and the effects on the NHS' ability to respond to non-Covid related illness. Your Churches have made extensive efforts to be 'present' in these situations, showing God's love in practical and prayerful ways and have proved that 'we are and can be Church' in many different modalities and respond with agility to changing and unprecedented situations. This is our real 'mission' and 'raison d'être' but to achieve and maintain this we need financial sustainability.

In 2020 our total receipts for the year were £169,385 compared to £187,196 in 2019, a reduction of £17,811. Despite this we have still have a surplus of £12,744 which is positive considering the challenges of the year. It is no surprise to note that every income stream dependent upon us being 'open' has been seriously affected: collections at services reduced from £14,599 in 2019 to £6,423 in 2020; no Summer or Christmas fairs and general fundraising reduced from £10,319 in 2019 to £1,017 in 2020 an almost 90% reduction; limited funerals in church and only one wedding has resulted in reduced fee income from £6,228 in 2019 to £4,257 in 2020; hall hire reduced from £19,863 in 2019 to £11,145 in 2020. As St Thomas' Church Hall was not in use, we made it freely available to Stockton Heath Medical Centre to allow them to increase their capacity to deliver the seasonal flu vaccination campaign, this year being necessary under Government guidelines, for larger cohorts of patients. The Parish 100 Club, led by Ann and Mick Jackson



and Julie Bennion continued throughout 2020 though with fewer monthly coffee mornings income has been affected, with donations of £750 to church funds in 2020 compared to £1250 in 2019. Planned Giving has remained relatively robust at £74,212 compared with £75,288 in 2019, this pandemic has demonstrated the value in regular giving through the bank to ensure dependable cash flow and I would like to encourage anyone not giving in this way to please do so. We were able to open early following the lifting of restrictions due to the production of numerous detailed risk assessments by Julie Bennion, Hall Booking Secretary at St Mary Magdalene's and Dorothy Carter our Parish Safeguarding Lead, with rigorous booking, cleaning and sanitising routines, this clearly helped minimise our loss of related income.

Our receipts were significantly boosted by two legacies: one from the late David Wilcox for £15,000 and £2,000 from the late Noreen Cowking both faithful members of our churches. We are extremely grateful for these legacies, which are largely responsible for the surplus. Many people made donations during the year with donations increasing from £12,169 in 2019 to £16,271 in 2020, we received £1,912 in 'one off' Thanksgiving donations of which £1,887 was eligible for Gift Aid. Despite a reduction in receipts Gift Aid has remained strong at £22,397 compared with £23,695 in 2019. We make every effort to ensure our giving is tax efficient with 95% of Planned Giving through regular envelopes or by standing order being eligible for Gift Aid. Chester Diocese awarded us a grant of £2,000 to assist the costs of opening after the first lockdown. St Mary's house remains tenanted and has been fully let this year giving a total income of £7,297. This year we reduced the rent by 20% during the first lockdown to ease any potential financial challenges for our tenant. Again, the only expense against this income was £233 for insurance as the house continues to be managed and generally maintained for us, thanks to Ian Burke for this work.

To mitigate the financial losses caused by the Covid Pandemic we have taken all possible steps to reduce our running costs. Total payments were reduced in 2020 to £156,641 from £169,327 in 2019 a reduction of £12,686. Church utilities are reduced from £8,249 in 2019 to £7,737 and Church Hall from £4548 in 2019 to £3408 – heating switched to 'frost save' etc. Printing and postage have reduced from £4597 in 2019 to £3,522 at least in part, relating to printing of service sheets which will be an ongoing saving with screens and power points available to enhance worship now in both churches. We have however, kept in touch with our congregations during closures both electronically with the Parish Bulletin and by direct and postal communication so no one was left out. Costs for upkeep of services has reduced to £4,897 in 2020 compared with £7,423 in 2019, understandably as we have had fewer services and been closed for long periods. However, many of our large expenses notably Parish Share, Licences, Security and Insurance costs were unchanged. We continue to benefit from the 20% reduction in Parish Share to reflect Vicar Michael's time commitment as Vicar to St James and St Hilda, a cautionary note – this will not continue indefinitely, and we will then have to find an additional £1200 per calendar month.

Extraordinary expenses have arisen this year relating to additional costs for 'Covid Secure' precautions – sanitiser, masks, aprons; our historic Pipe Organ needed a new humidifier at a cost of £3,566; and the purchase of the screen, projector and streaming equipment at St Thomas' at a total cost of £28,351. This large expense at a time of relative austerity deserves further comment. The decision to purchase this was made pre pandemic, however, your PCC reviewed this purchase very carefully throughout 2020. We did apply for a grant but were unsuccessful though a gift-aided donation of £8000 from a member of our congregation reduced the overall costs by £10,000. It was decided that in addition to the benefits of enhancing worship without detracting from the heritage of our church and the AV system being a long-term asset for the Church and Community, the short-term effects on our covid security – no books

or printed materials in use and the ability to stream main services during the latest lockdowns were an added reason to proceed. There will be ongoing savings in printing and paper, and it will help us in our efforts to becoming an Eco church, caring for the whole of God's creation.

Youth, family and children's work has continued this year in partnership with Warrington Youth for Christ, who employ Adam Post on a full-time basis, and we contract with them for two days per week of his time to be spent in our Parish under a 'Memorandum of Understanding' arrangement. This has reduced our costs from £22,920 in 2019 to £8014 in 2020 whilst preserving this important part of our church mission. Your PCC has recently approved this ongoing for 2021.

Whilst facing our own financial challenges your PCC was conscious of the serious impact of the pandemic on many charities both at home and Christian Mission abroad. We have therefore honoured our 'Outward Giving' parish policy to give away 10% of our disposable income, for 2020 (based on 2019 accounts) this was £9,874. We also had £874 left over from 2019 which we had set aside for 'urgent appeals' which may arise in 2020 – little did we know! We donated this to Warrington Food-bank. Recipients were USPG, CMS, Visranthi Trust, St David's Nigeria, Street Pastors, Broomfield's Youth Project, Prison Fellowship, St Joseph's Family Centre, St Rocco's Hospice, and St Thomas' School. Your PCC also agreed to allocate £500 of this towards our own mission projects whereby, with involvement of some other churches within Bridgewater Churches Together, we distributed 190 Christmas food bags for vulnerable families in partnership with local schools, 58 Christmas Cheer gifts to vulnerable or isolated older members of our community and a hyacinth plant and Christmas greeting to an additional 150 members of our congregations and community. The hyacinth plants were all donated by a member of our congregation for which we are most grateful. Again, we have reserved an amount - £1,245 of this money for urgent appeals which may arise in 2021. You will again notice in the accounts a 'Memorandum Analysis'

representing monies for which the church acts as an agent. These include fees we collect on behalf of the Diocese, Organists and Verger but also a Charity Agency summary. This includes collections we take specifically for various charities including for example the Christingle candles and Christian Aid Present Aid donations. We have also supported Christian Aid this year through sponsorship of Rob's 5k run.

John Hankey has been our Gift Aid Secretary for over ten years helping us reclaim thousands of pounds in Gift Aid. He retired in September 2020 and I am grateful to John for all his hard work, patience, help and guidance. We have welcomed Joanne Ridley to the Finance Team taking over this role as our new Gift Aid Secretary. Brian Heesom also retired as Church Hall Booking Secretary in May this year and we are indebted to him for his hard work for over seven years. Brian worked tirelessly to facilitate the letting of the hall and so maximise our income, to oversee the cleaning and maintenance of the hall and ensure it was always kept to a high standard for church activities, the local community and our customers. Peter Speed has kindly taken on this role on an interim basis. Julie Bennion continues to be the Hall Booking Secretary for St Mary Magdalene and her efforts to raise the profile of and success increasing the use of St Mary Magdalene's for private hire and community activities are much appreciated.

We have appointed Geoff Bruce BSc. FCA as our new Independent Examiner this year. I would like to record my thanks to Geoff for his efforts to familiarise himself and use our

Church Accounting Package, understand our church procedures, provide appropriate scrutiny and challenge and offer his help and advice. It is pertinent to note that this service has again been provided free of charge and we are most grateful. Church finances run smoothly due to the efforts of a whole team who I would like to thank for their support. Those who count the money on Sunday mornings, take the money to the bank, undertake the Gift Aid claims, and again special thanks to Linda Latham who acts as our Bookkeeper maintaining our financial records.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to each one of **you**, who give generously both of money and time, making the work we do for the Kingdom in this place possible, the people of God truly doing and paying for the work of God. This year has been especially challenging as we have noted, those giving regularly through the bank have helped me sleep at night! The bundles of envelopes faithfully filled at home during times of closure arriving each time we reopened, the cheques posted to me or dropped though my letterbox at regular intervals, the additional donations which 'might help' have been humbling and so very encouraging. Many organisations, including churches have suffered to the extent that their future is uncertain, not so for us we are and will remain financially viable and sustainable, we have weathered this maelstrom albeit somewhat financially 'bruised'. By God's grace we emerge with hope as a community of faith stronger, more versatile and adaptive, having learned lessons, having loved, supported and cared.

Sue Burke
Treasurer



Financial statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2019

St Thomas & St Mary's churches Stockton Heath

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019
Receipts					
Voluntary Receipts:					
Planned Giving		65,200	9,012	74,212	75,288
Collections at services		6,423	0	6,423	14,599
Gift Aid recovered		20,002	2,395	22,397	23,695
Grants		0	217	217	217
All other giving/voluntary receipts	4a)	38,746	441	39,187	20,857
Activities for generating funds	4b)	6,054	0	6,054	24,899
Investment income -rent, interest		7,419	0	7,419	7,778
Church & Parish Hall activities	4c)	11,145	0	11,145	19,863
Other Income	4d)	2,331		2,331	
Total receipts		<u>157,320</u>	<u>12,065</u>	<u>169,385</u>	<u>187,196</u>
Payments					
Church activities:					
Diocesan parish contribution and deanery		54,129	0	54,129	52,840
Clergy and staffing costs	4d)	7,294	8,014	15,308	31,165
Church running costs	4e)	36,529	628	37,157	41,001
Church repairs	4f)	29,544	0	29,544	8,528
Hall running costs	4g)	7,916	0	7,916	12,371
Mission giving and donations	4h)		8,524	8,524	11,300
Cost of generating funds	4i)	561	0	561	7,136
Other	4j)	3,501	0	3,501	4,986
Total payments		<u>139,476</u>	<u>17,166</u>	<u>156,641</u>	<u>169,327</u>
Surplus (-deficit) before transfers		17,845	-5,101	12,744	17,869
Transfer between funds		-9,495	9,495	0	0
Surplus (-deficit)		<u>8,350</u>	<u>4,394</u>	<u>12,744</u>	<u>17,869</u>
Cash at bank and in hand at 1st January		65,268	1,447	66,715	48,846
Cash at bank and in hand at 31st December		<u>73,618</u>	<u>5,841</u>	<u>79,459</u>	<u>66,715</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<i>Cash Funds</i>				
Bank Current Account	44,823	5,826	50,649	38,023
Cash		15	15	20
CBF Deposit Fund	25,220		25,220	25,098
CBF Accumulation shares at cost note 2	3,574		3,574	3,574
Total cash and bank funds	<u>73,618</u>	<u>5,841</u>	<u>79,459</u>	<u>66,715</u>

Other Monetary Assets

Other debtors	1,470			2,556
---------------	-------	--	--	-------

Liabilities

Creditors	3,127			2,195
-----------	-------	--	--	-------

Notes

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Regulations 2006 and Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 using the receipts and payments basis.

Monies received as an agent are excluded . These are detailed on page 4 for information.

2. The PCC holds 199.49 CBF accumulation shares whose market value was £9.918 at 31st December 2020 (£8.980 for 2019)

3. During the year the PCC purchased an Audiovisual system and screen at the cost of £28,351

4. in addition the PCC own the following non sacred buildings: St Mary's house Insurance valuation 2021, £200,768 & St Thomas Church Hall Insurance valuation 2021, £911,848

5. The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Bal C/fwd £
Designated fund (unrestricted)					
Visranthi Trust	186.25	3,245	3,064	0	367
Restricted Funds					
Charities	874.00		8,524	9,495	1,845
War graves	471.00	217	0	0	688
Flowers	105.12	269	55		319
Parish Family fund	0.96	11,575	8,587	0	2,989
Total	<u>1451.08</u>	<u>12,061</u>	<u>17,166</u>	<u>9,495</u>	<u>5,841</u>

4. Further analysis of Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Receipts				
All other giving/voluntary receipts 4a)				
Donations church	16,271	0	16,271	12,169
Donations hall	0	0	0	0
Legacy	17,000	0	17,000	0

Receipts continued

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Donations for Visranthi trust	2,255		2,255	2,280
Grants non recurring	2,000	0	2,000	0
Donations received for Mission project	1,035	0	1,035	0
Donations received for parish families	0	257	257	5,884
Donations for flower fund		180	180	399
Insurance claim	0		0	125
other income	185	4		
	<u>38,746</u>	<u>441</u>	<u>41,018</u>	<u>22,876</u>

Activities for generating funds 4b)

PCC fees and charges	4,257		4,257	6,228
Summer fair	0		0	1,859
Christmas fairs	0		0	2,694
Open Church	717		717	1,713
Churches other fundraising	1,017		1,017	10,319
Visranthi Trust	0		0	1,090
Bookstall	63		63	994
	<u>6,054</u>		<u>6,054</u>	24,899

Church & Hall activities 4c)

Church hall hire	5,124		5,124	10,650
St Mary's hall hire	6,021		6,021	9,213
	<u>11,145</u>		<u>11,145</u>	<u>19,863</u>

Payments**Church activities 4****Clergy and staffing 4d)**

Salaries and wages of parish staff		8,014	8,014	22,920
Clergy expenses	3,842		3,842	2,799
Vicarage council tax, water, other	3,219		3,219	5,220
Parsonage house expenses	233		233	226
	<u>7,294</u>	<u>8,014</u>	<u>15,308</u>	<u>31,165</u>

Church running costs 4e)

Insurance	7,200		7,200	7,059
Electric, gas, water	7,737		7,737	8,249
Telephone church office	925		925	1,330
Printing, postage and stationery church office	3,552		3,552	4,597
Cleaning materials	95		95	231
Organ/piano tuning	3,686		3,686	1,223
Upkeep of services	4,842	55	4,897	7,423
Support costs	4,159		4,159	4,298
Parish Family worker expenses		573	573	1,379
Church maintenance	2,984		2,984	5,212
Churchyard maintenance	0		0	0
other running costs	1,349		1,349	
	<u>36,529</u>	<u>628</u>	<u>37,157</u>	<u>41,001</u>

Church repairs 4f)

Equipment purchases, repairs	29,544	0	29,544	8,528
------------------------------	--------	---	--------	-------

Payments Continued

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Major repairs St Thomas	0	0	0	0
Major repairs St Mary Magdalene	0	0	0	0
	<u>29,544</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,564</u>	<u>8,528</u>
Hall running costs 4g)				
Electric,gas,water	3,408		3,408	4,548
Insurance	1,535		1,535	1,500
Other running costs	2,330		2,330	5,563
Major repairs, refurbishment, replacements	643		643	760
	<u>7,916</u>		<u>7,916</u>	<u>12,371</u>

Mission giving and donations 4h)*Donations to charities:*

Oversees Missionary		3,600	3,600	5,300
Christian Relief		0	0	0
Home Missions		2,150	2,150	3,100
Secular charities		1,624	1,624	1,250
St Thomas School		500	500	1,000
Visranthi Trust		650	650	650
	<u>0</u>	<u>8,524</u>	<u>8,524</u>	<u>11,300</u>

Cost of generating funds 4i)

Fund raising events	400		400	6,294
Bookstall	141		141	417
Other	20		20	425
	<u>561</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>7,136</u>

All other payments 4j)

Loan repayments			0	0
Bank and Online giving charges	181		180	230
Other	256		256	0
Visranthi Trust payments	3,064		3,064	4,756
	<u>3,501</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>4,986</u>

Memorandum analysis

Church acting as an agent	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal C/ fwd
Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals	302	9,263	8,702	863
Other fees- verger/ organist/choir	-45	1,780	1,780	-45
Retired/visitng clergy fee	0	123	123	0
Total	<u>257</u>	<u>11,166</u>	<u>10,605</u>	<u>818</u>

Charity Agency Summary

BCT	0	179	179	0
Children's society	1,151	538	1,610	79
foodbank	70	20	65	25
Present Aid	403	603	0	1,006
Parish Family Fund	101	0	0	101

Charity Agency Summary Contd

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Bal C/ fwd
USPG	0	425	324	102
Water Aid	12	0	30	-18
Total	<u>1,736</u>	<u>1,765</u>	<u>2,207</u>	<u>2,112</u>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene
Stockton Heath

On accounts for the year
ended

31 st December 2020

Charity no
(if any)

1131459

Set out on pages

1 - 3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

6 APRIL 2021

Name:

Geoff Bruce

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

FCA

Address:

31 Bristow Close, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 8EU

Section B

Disclosure

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

Give here brief details of
any items that the