THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, STOURBRIDGE

England & Wales · Charity number 1134825

Details

Other names	ST THOMAS'S PCC, STOURBRIDGE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Parish Church of St Thomas Market Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1AG
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Activities

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

Activities: Holding of Church of England services.

Classification

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

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Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£84,250	£116,855	-	-
2023-12-31	£68,637	£119,433	-	-
2022-12-31	£88,507	£86,422	-	-
2021-12-31	£244,458	£68,363	-	-
2020-12-31	£62,966	£71,526	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Andrew Sillis	Chair	2015-09-24
Alastair Leopold Greeves		2020-10-25
JANET TAYLOR		2018-04-22
JANETTE MARY GRIFFITHS		2018-04-22
Rev Paul Latham		2025-07-01
SUSAN MARKS		2018-04-22
Valerie Lynn Charles		2020-10-25
WENDY HEMMING		

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Accounts

Parish Church of St Thomas

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Administrative Information

The church of St Thomas is situated in Stourbridge, West Midlands. It is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

St. Thomas' Church Office
St. Thomas' Church Hall
Market Street
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY8 1AG

Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity. The Charity Number is 1134825.

PCC members who served from 3rd April 2022 to 26th March 2023 were:

Ex officio Members

Vicar and Chair Reverend Andrew Sillis
Curate Reverend Sarah Roberts-Malpass

Elected Members

Churchwardens Val Charles, Daphne Darlington
Deanery Synod Members Alastair Greeves, Wendy Hemming

Jannette Griffiths
Susan Marks
Janet Taylor
Jessica Warburton
Caroline Haycock
David Hawkins

Ther were three vacancies for church councillors throughout 2024

The Church of St Thomas Stourbridge

Annual Report of The Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St. Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Thomas' Church Hall.

Public Benefit

The public benefit is served by enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Thomas' and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning its charitable activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

The number of people registered on the church Electoral Roll is 89

0 people left the Electoral Roll and 0 people joined in the period up to the revision of the roll begun on 31st March 2024.

Incumbent

Dear Friends,

2024 was something of a frustrating year. After the optimism I shared with you at this time last year, many of the promised developments failed to be realised and I soon lost count of the number of times that I was asked, “When are the builders coming?”. Please do not lose heart. Whereas we are still waiting for the necessary permission to carry out the building works that we have planned, and for which we even have funding, senior people within the diocese are saying to me, ‘We have to win this’. It is still a battle to be won, but throughout the frustrations of this past year, ground has been taken. Wendy Hemming has been an absolute star this year in managing not just piles of work in managing the building side of the Renewal Project, but also with the complex and equally frustrating problems we’ve been having on the church hall’s heating system. The Fabric Committee have been exceptionally challenged this past year, and Wendy’s leadership has been of incalculable value. “When will the builders be coming to fix the church?” Honestly, we will be doing well if it is this year, but that is not unrealistic. We will keep you informed if you keep praying! However, let me move on to more positive matters.

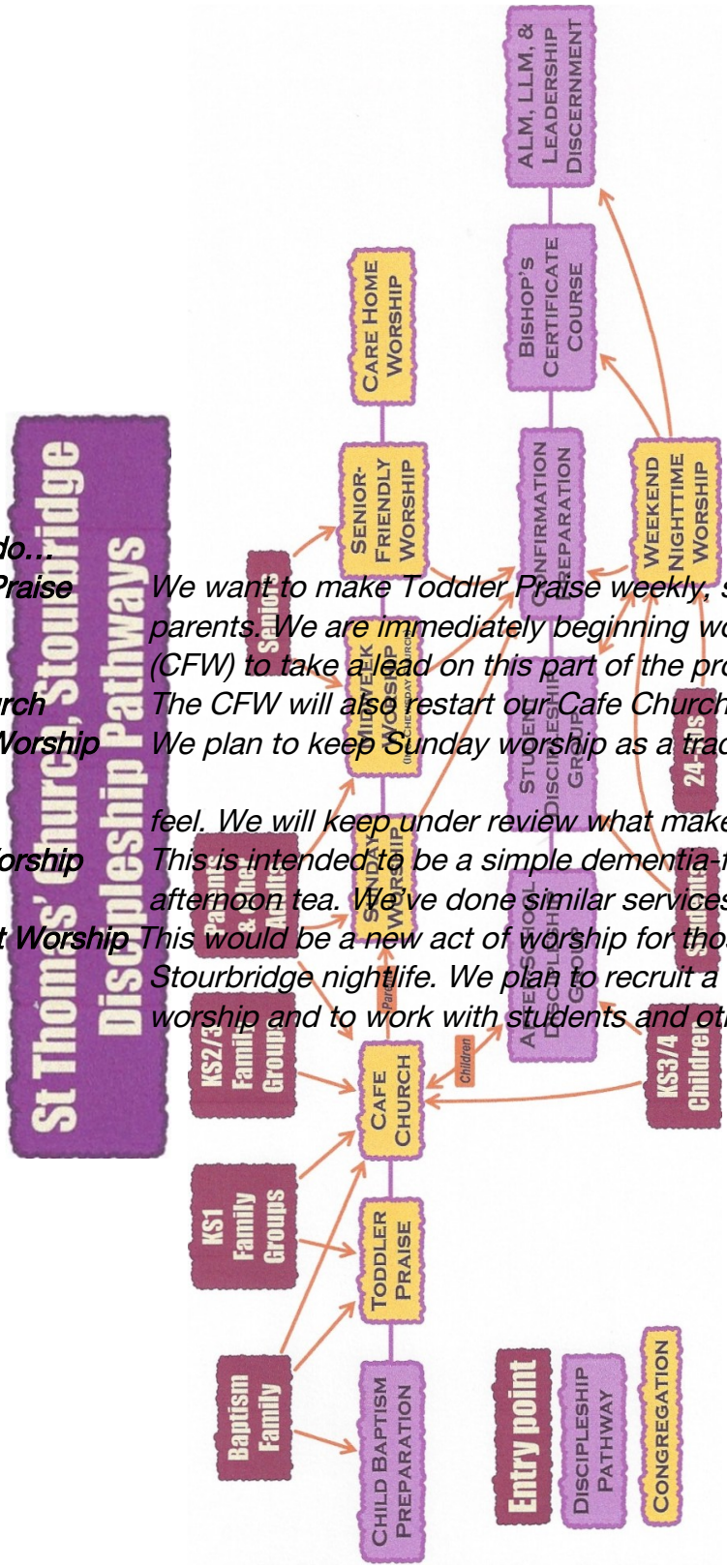
Last year, I set out some of the realities of our church’s financial position. The picture was very poor indeed last year, and although from some perspectives it’s still very poor, there are improvements. The first, and very major improvement, was that David Hawkins agreed to act as the church’s treasurer. Not only has this lifted an administrative headache from Val Charles and myself, David quickly set about finding money we didn’t know we were owed, and rearranging the figures so that it was much clearer what we had, and didn’t have.

Secondly, planned giving increased by around 12.5% and cash donations more than doubled. Don’t get me wrong, the church still spent more than it received, and we are still in financial trouble, but we are all grateful to those who reviewed their giving to the church and increased their gifts which support ministry among us. Of particular importance has been the increase in people using the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). PGS is the most secure, most confidential and most easily managed stewardship scheme the church has ever had, and we do recommend that you use the scheme instead of cash gifts or bank standing orders. Thank you for your contributions.

There are endless other thanks to give, and I could thank every one of you, because you are all incredibly generous with your time, skills, and energies, but that might make for a very tedious annual report.
However, I do want to pay tribute to Sarah, our curate, to whom we bade farewell in January. We’ve already seen the massive hole that Sarah has left in our community, but I am personally so grateful for all she did, especially during that time when my mother was ill and following her death.
My thanks are also due to our churchwardens in this past year: Val C. whose dedication and commitment to our community is beyond measure; and Daphne, whose deep wisdom and calm makes her a perfect support. Daphne also works as our parish safeguarding officer, a role which involves more training than you might imagine, but which helps us to rebuild the church’s reputation as a safe place, and protects the vulnerable of our community. Val and Daphne have each faced significant personal and family challenges this year and yet have been steadfast in their service.
Everything you do, from the tidying up, contributing to services, visiting the sick, joining in mission and ministry in any and every way; everything you do is seen, and valued.
If ever you think the church is ungrateful, try this - thank someone for what they are doing, and listen for what they say to you.

Our financial planning had anticipated that by now our renewal plans would be well underway. That the building work is not underway, yet; that our plans for discipleship and worship haven't started, yet; that our church is not experiencing rapid growth, yet; all means that we've some catching up to do. There's a lot to do, but the catching up has already started.

The chart shows our plan for discipleship pathways, i.e. how anyone, entering the church for the first time, is served by a community of similar people to themselves and served in their journey from unbeliever to devoted disciple of Jesus.



Work to do…

Toddler Praise *We want to make Toddler Praise weekly, so that it fits better into the weekly patterns of parents. We are immediately beginning work to recruit a Children and Families Worker (CFW) to take a lead on this part of the project.*

Cafe Church *The CFW will also restart our Cafe Church, and plan after-school clubs and worship.*

Sunday Worship *We plan to keep Sunday worship as a traditional format service, but with a contemporary feel. We will keep under review what makes it feel 'contemporary'.*

Senior Worship *This is intended to be a simple dementia-friendly service with hymns, followed by afternoon tea. We've done similar services to this in the past.*

LateNight Worship *This would be a new act of worship for those who might later enjoy the delights of the Stourbridge nightlife. We plan to recruit a Town-Centre Missioner to take a lead in this worship and to work with students and other young adults.*

You'll see that we have some of the pieces in place. Some of the pieces need development. Some of the pieces need to be created by those we will recruit using the Renewal Project funding. Some if the pieces are not really part of the Renewal Project and we just need to be getting on with the job.

When you contribute to the church, whether practically, spiritually or financially, this is what your contribution is helping to build. New disciples will continue the mission of the church, sharing the good news of Jesus, and ensure its sustaining presence at the heart of our community. When all that is left to you is prayer, I hope you will be able to look on the church with satisfaction and gratitude and be able to say, I gave my life to building this glorious family of God.

Although 2024 proved to be something of a false dawn,
let us not lose hope, but continue to build for the future.
In Jesus' name
With every blessing

Andrew Sillis
Vicar, St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge

Churchwardens

We thank Revd. Andrew for leading our Worship here at St Thomas'. We also realise that he has a heavy workload in his new post as Dean of the Greater Dudley Deanery.

Our Curate Sarah continued her training with us during 2023/24 and will be seeking her next ministry towards the end of 2024. Her Family have been involved in many of our musical events including being part of our Choir which adds immense joy to our Church services – singing, conducting etc. This has again continued to be encouraged our own Music Department to give a musical recital by members of our Choir (singing, and playing various instrument,) highlighting the various talents they are all gifted with.

We thank our Administrator Emma for the work she carries out in the Church Office. Bookings of the church hall have remained constant. We must not forget Gary, who continues to provide us with the production of our Magazine, ensures our IT systems are fully up to date and checks all our Heating requirements are covered to keep within a very tight budget, which helps to keep costs down where possible. With the help of Andrew and Gary a new photocopying machine has been supplied by a local Halesowen employee-owned firm, Copywise, who have now taken on our Contract requirements successfully and this move has proved to be a lot cheaper too with the machine much more user friendly for those requiring copies.

We are pleased to announce that David Hawkins has now agreed to become our Treasurer. Welcome on board David. Our thanks to Andrew and Val for providing cover to at least enable our bills to be paid on time.

We are extremely grateful to all the various Committees that often work behind the scenes throughout the year, giving their time freely and tirelessly to ensure our Church Buildings, Worship, and Community Garden are well kept. Thanks go to our PCC, the Standing Committee, the Fabric Committee, the Safeguarding Officer, Mission Group, Worship Committee, Music Dept., Pastoral Team, the History/Tours Group, Bell Ringers, Flower Guild, Welcome Team, Refreshments Team, Cleaners, Gardeners, (we received a very well deserved "Gold" by the Stourbridge Flowers in Bloom Committee for 2024.) The list is endless, so a big Thankyou to all who play very important roles here at St Thomas's. Naturally, "Newcomers" to any of these Committees are always welcome to join or to lend a hand when able.

We have had numerous Baptisms and a Wedding on Boxing Day. On Sunday 1st December to mark the start of Advent we enjoyed a meal together after the morning service.

Our Project 300 (Renewal Project) has taken a few setbacks, but we continue to persist with small amendments and maybe a few compromises. We expect a lot more work and patience along the way. Meetings have taken place to try to help the time frame of this ongoing project to continually move forward. For now, our vision remains steadfast we must be positive and pray for continuity with all involved so that this Project can then finally be given the "go ahead", hopefully sooner rather than much later.

As Wardens and representing the whole of our Congregation let us give "Thanks and Praise" to everyone involved here at St Thomas's and the Dudley Deanery.

Finally, let us Pray with hope for the future as we move forward into 2025.

Val Charles and Daphne Darlington

Safeguarding

(Working with children & adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect)

I commenced the voluntary role of Parish Safeguarding Officer on 13.11.2014.

I took over the role at St. Thomas' Church in April 2023.

During the last 12 months DBS renewals have been completed together with the relevant training. This is ongoing.

I have attended Network Team Meetings on Zoom. These meetings are an opportunity to meet with other Parish Safeguarding Officers, as well as hear from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team including updates from the National Team and how these updates will impact upon local churches and the support which can be offered. It is also an opportunity to ask questions.

Relevant information from these meetings was passed to the PCC.

Dashboard

The Dashboard is an ongoing document which is updated during the year. This replaced the Toolkit which was prepared once a year for the Archdeacons Visitation in May. NO CONFIDENTIAL/PERSONAL DATA IS ENTERED.

All policies have been adopted and are reviewed annually. Copies of the policies are kept in the Parish Office. They are also available on the Diocesan website. The Parish Safeguarding Handbook is also available in the Parish Office.

The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops "Safeguarding Policy & Practice Guidance".

Parish Policy on Handling, Use and Storage of Disclosure information has been complied with.

Daphne Darlington
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Toddler Praise

Toddler Praise continues to have ups and downs. As the children grow up and move on to school, we hope that they are replaced, and every family coming to us for Baptism, is invited to join the Toddler Praise congregation.

The Toddler Praise team also changes. Sarah left us at the end of the year, and Ellie has joined the fun. Judy continues to imagine ingenious and creative ways to add to the worship with art and crafts; and the children always enjoy the fruit and snacks that Jeannie puts together.

We know that one limitation of Toddler Praise is that we can only have it monthly (third Tuesdays). Parents order their days in a weekly schedule - play group on Monday, swimming on Tuesday... So having only monthly gatherings means that we're always having to advertise the services, and of course if you miss one, the habit of attending is easily lost. We're looking forward to increasing our frequency with the recruitment of a new leader, but in the meantime, would value additional volunteers to set up, put away, and generally get involved. Please pray for more volunteers and for new members of the congregation.

Please bring along any tiny relatives or friends you might have, and let them know about Toddler Praise - Third Tuesday afternoons from about 1:45pm

Andrew Sillis

Fabric

During the year we have undertaken many and various small jobs, but our main focus has been on:

- **Replacing the Church Hall gas heating system** after it was condemned. Installing an electric heating system has been problematical because of the installers wrongly saying the system would not need a 3-phase power supply. The 3-phase power supply has now been installed by National Grid and our electrician has added new wiring and equipment to complement it but our Utility company need to change their meter before the 3-phase can be used. Once this is installed the new heating installation can be fully turned-on and tested.
- **Facilitating a Quinquennial Inspection** by our Architect. Various minor issues were highlighted, and these have been or will be dealt with by our handyman. Other issues are part of the Project 300 scheme and will be attended to then. There were no major issues.
- **Tower Clock**. A new survey of the work required on the Tower Clock was undertaken so that funding could be obtained to make the repairs. The cost including VAT will be approximately £12k. A crowd funding appeal has been set up to raise funds.

(VAT payback for Listed Places of Worship has now been restricted for 2025/26 to £25,000 and is only funded until March 2026. This will impact Project 300).

- **Project 300**. Progress stalled in Summer 2024 when the Diocesan appointed Project Manager left. Since when we have been in regular discussions with a Diocesan appointed Heritage Management company. Fortunately, the Church of England's funding board SMMIB has been persuaded to allow us to be reimbursed for preparation work for the Project and to backdate this for Project items that had previously been paid from the Fabric Fund. This has enabled more detailed preparatory work to take place. At the time of writing the Churches Conservation Trust has agreed to support the project but the other amenity societies including Historic England need further persuasion.

THE FUTURE

- We need to get more help for the Community Garden. If you can weed, plant, tidy we need you. Sections of the garden can be allocated so you only take on a small part.
- We want to improve the Church Hall facilities.
- We want to find funds to tarmac areas of the car park and mark it out.
- Fabric Meetings are held once a month, usually on Monday evenings. What about joining us? It's interesting and challenging making improvements to our buildings and surroundings and you will definitely be helping St. Thomas' Community and members of the local community who use them. JOIN US!

Wendy Hemming

Director of Music

St Thomas' Church choir has continued to flourish this year, singing at many services, some of them a little different! We have attracted new members and helped with worship outside of the parish too.

Our first Choral Evensong of the year was at the beginning of March, in which we sang a new-to-us Preces and Responses by Nardone. One of our favourite Anthems Mathias' Lift Up Your Heads O Ye Gates was the Anthem for our next Choral Evensong in May. Both services had good size congregations who appreciated the choir's efforts.

The ever-popular choir concert was in July, in which they showcased both vocal and instrumental skills, ending the concert with an alternative version of Immortal Invisible (Immoral Impossible) which was difficult to perform whilst keeping a straight face.

The highlight of the year for the choir is always the Nine Lessons & Carols and this year we were privileged to be invited to All Saints Church in Sedgley to sing for their service. They must have liked what we did (the choir sang beautifully) as they asked us back for 2025 before the end of December!

Our own Nine Lessons & Carols service followed a week later. With a choir of 26 and an almost full church, it was a wonderful service, with many congratulatory comments, even several days after the event.

Boxing Day was a little different, with the choir singing for a wedding. The requested repertoire wasn't our usual style, but we had great fun, especially singing the 12 "silly" days of Christmas, complete with actions.

We look forward to continued growth, both in size and musically, and supporting services at St Thomas'.

Edward Roberts-Malpass, Director of Music

Pastoral

We visit three care homes and make two visits as one to one. The present team consists of Revd Andrew, Val Homer, Val Charles, Rose Hoey and myself and we would welcome any members of the congregation who would like to join us. The services all follow a form of worship that is very prayerful, and which addresses the needs of the residents. We ensure that we informally chat to every person before the service. Each service lasts for about 20 minutes.

PARKFIELD GRANGE is a large care home on the Hagley Road, and it is well attended by residents, staff and visiting friends & family members. Generally, a group of about 15 will join us in worship. At the Christmas visit last December, our Choir joined us, and we sang Carols accompanied on the piano by Sarah.

TUDOR MANOR is a smaller service, and the residents are quite elderly. The staff are very welcoming and will join in the service.

COMBERTON HOUSE Val Homer and I regularly visit one resident who very much looks forward to our visit. She is a retired nurse and has much in common with Val, so we do feel that it is a visit we enjoy.

If anyone would like to join us, please speak to Revd Andrew, Val Homer, Val Charles, Rose or myself

Jeannie Rogers

Mission and Social Concern

All are welcome to join us at any time. During the past year, we have discussed ways in which the smaller group can grow and involve our whole church community more. New ideas and better communication are essential to continue this work in our church. Having a focused service with follow up discussion might be one way to begin this process? We would welcome other suggestions too. Please talk to Andrew if you have any good ideas or an interest in this.

The group aims to provide support to many different charity organisations and communities both locally and across the wider world, and to join members of Churches Together for local events and awareness raising.

- In March 2024 the group hosted and joined in a Fairtrade coffee morning.
- During May some members took part in the Christian Aid sponsored “70K in May” fund raiser, as well as assisting in door to door collections.
- Some members joined the “Oh My Dog” walking group to mark the parish boundary, stopping for readings, prayer and a drink at Judi’s house along the way.
- We continue to add to our Eco status, and focus was on wildlife in the garden. Scouts provided a bug hotel; U3A contributed bird nesting boxes and Rainbows made winter fat and seed balls to hang in the trees.
- Andrew and Rose attended a “Three Confessions” conference with our partners in Magdeburg, Germany, focused on sharing different ways of utilising church buildings.
- The annual Garden party was organised for early September, and help jointly with heritage weekend when the church and tower were open too. The focus was on Fairtrade to celebrate their anniversary. Over £500 was raised to donate to “Transform Trade”(a business supporting and providing Fairtrade goods).
- Harvest goods were again donated to the local food bank, and generous gifts went to the Halesowen Refugee support group from Toy Sunday in December.

Rose Hoey, Chair

Belfry (St Thomas' Society of Change Ringers)

Formally The Stourbridge Society of Chapel Youths, founded prior to 1771.

A very progressive year for the technical abilities of members but also an advancement in the numbers attending the practices. We regularly get 6 or more visitors attending the Monday night practices. We've continued to hold an extra practice on a Friday evening on the simulator for the new recruits and this also continues to be well attended including visitors. Unfortunately, the 2 new recruits we had during the course of the year only stayed for a few weeks.

There were a number of notable events during the course of the year.

- 3 quarter peals were rung on St Thomas's bells during the year – one open and 2 half-muffled viz Stourbridge carnival, In memoriam Chris Kippin and the Service of the departed. (Chris Kippin was a very talented ringer who gave St Thomas's bellringers a lot of support over many years).
- 2 St. Thomas's ringers rang their first quarter peal on the bells at Amblecote
- 2 ringers rang their first quarter peal on 8 bells for Stourbridge Carnival.
- One ringer rang their 1st quarter peal of Grandsire Triples on an inside bell.
- Also, we rang quarter peals at Clent (Single Oxford Bob Triples) and Halesowen (Grandsire Triples)
- A group visited the bellringing teaching centre at Worcester Cathedral
- We rang for a wedding at Hanley Swan followed by ringing at Hanley Castle
- Went on a ringing outing organised by the Halesowen ringers (April 13th) which involved ringing at 4 towers including Tamworth, St Editha.
- St Thomas's started hosting a monthly higher numbers practice for the local branch of the Worcestershire Association. This involves any ringing on 10 or 12 bells.
- Scout group visited the tower for an open evening.
- Hung new peal board and quarter peal boards in the belfry to mark various historical events viz The Platinum Jubilee, The death of Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of King Charles III.
- We continued supporting St Mary's Oldswinford practice every week giving help with teaching their new ringers.
- One of our ringers was elected as the Association Branch Ringing Master.

Ringing provides physical and intellectual challenges as well as a social and group activity. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to visit the tower on any practice night or just get in touch. Our intention is to recruit new ringers to train over the next few months and years. We need to continue the tradition of ringing within the church.

Richard Hurst, Tower Captain

History Group

We are a small enthusiastic group who promote the fascinating history of St Thomas' and its place in Stourbridge. We welcome anyone interested in the historical aspect. Last September we welcomed Kathy into our team. We meet fairly regularly to keep abreast of any changes and are still available to do church or specialist tours on request until the church alterations no longer make this possible. If you know of anyone who would like a tour, please see one of the team – Wendy Hemming or Rose Hoey. We are always delighted to tell the St Thomas' story.

We welcomed the Victorian Society last year who were interested in the adapted chancel and our mention in 'Buildings of Birmingham and The Black Country' was updated as we were able to add extra information found through our research at The Hive Archive in Worcester. We are continuing to develop our own archive material which is available to anyone interested and this is now catalogued. Should you have anything that you would like to donate to it, we would be delighted to add it to that which we already have.

We have decided on the format of the new updated flier and guide to the church replacing the 'Journey Through Time' which is still on sale, but we await the changes which can then be included.

We had a successful Heritage Day that included the popular Tower Tours, and we are inviting Richard Hurst Captain of our bells or one of his team to give us an accurate talk on their history ready for inclusion in the proposed new guidebook.

Our coffee and book mornings, every 2nd Saturday of the month are very popular, but more people would be most welcome – a cup of coffee or drink of your choice with a slice of vegan, gluten-free or homemade fresh cake and a book or two for just a donation is always available, and a tour of the church or your questions answered included. We have an attractive large poster which is put out the front as a welcome invitation and we hope this notifies and draws people outside in. The donations at our coffee mornings have gone towards our future flower festival, the Church Fabric fund and last year to Transform Trade, a Fairtrade organisation.

We are developing specialist talks such as the special stained-glass windows, our organ and its music and of course the history of our bells. We will be planning a special evening event in the future similar to our successful 'Journey Through Time' but will be entitled 'Change Over Time' to include the proposed alterations when completed and other changes St Thomas' has experienced since the beginning hopefully in our new space. This will include the changes in vicars over the time as well as characters who influenced our church and not just the building itself!

Watch out for posters and fliers and events published in the weekly church bulletin or on the noticeboard in the porch.

Caroline Haycock, on behalf of the team.

Flower Guild

We started our year with our input of greenery for the Maundy Thursday evening service then 'All Hands on Deck' on the Saturday for the addition of flowers (usually lilies) for the Easter Sunday celebrations. The fragrances that met you on entering into the unlit church at the early morning vigil was an experience not to be missed. We thank you all for the generous donations given to us which enables the church to look so glorious for our services and special occasions.

Harvest Festival again found the church adorned with yellow and orange flowers along with the addition of fruits and groceries gave a plentiful and bounteous feeling.

Our Remembrance Sunday saw the church filled with red poppies and this last year a cascade of poppies down from the balcony to behind the Pulpit. We are still making poppies for the displays pending. Poppies were also added to the lawn in front of the church. Much fun in collecting and making and to the children who I am told ran around in between them.

Christmas was a very busy time, and I personally thank the guild members who turned out for 'all hands on deck' on the Monday 22nd December. I am grateful for all support as I was just out of hospital and not fit to help and again a wonderful display was given by the ladies who helped. Thank you.

The flowers were appreciated by the Wedding Party which was held on Boxing Day.

Unfortunately, two members have retired Margaret Bowley and Brenda Wilshire and we thank them for their time and help.

We welcome two new members Elizabeth Allport and Jean Bradshaw.

Anyone who would like to join us would be welcome or if you could help with Easter, Harvest and Christmas preparations they would be most be most welcome. Please see me. Any help would be welcome it may not be arranging flowers but in preparation and clearing so the church is beautiful for our celebrations.

Donations to the office for the remembrance of a loved one or a celebration of a birth, birthday, marriage or anniversary or own personal reason would be appreciated.

Thank you, ***Judi Davies***

Chewsday Church

This group meet every 3rd Tuesday of the Month in the Church Hall Meeting Room between 12 noon and 2.00 p.m. various crafts are available (freestyle art, creative lettering, knitting, crochet, lace making, bead art, candle making, clay pot making, card making, creative colouring Mixed conversations move freely amongst those attending. Topics involving the past and present. An appropriate Bible verse is read, and open Prayers are spoken. Finally, a shared lunch is enjoyed concluding this much enjoyed Community Church Service.

Val Charles & Jean Evans

Rainbows

Our Rainbow Unit continues to thrive, we have a great group of girls who each week make never fail to make us smile. Each term we try and complete one Skills Builder, and an Interest Badge.

During the Spring term Rainbows really enjoyed making dragon masks to celebrate Chinese New Year and had great fun with lots of cotton wool and glue when they made sheep Easter cards.

The Summer Term started a little different as both leaders for different reasons were absent. It was with the help of our District Commissioner Sarah Fletcher and the Stourbridge Trefoil Guild our meetings were able to continue during our absence. The Rainbows completed an Unofficial Challenge Badge – A Journey to Australia, they did lots of activities including making Fairy Bread, Thong (Flip-Flops) Tossing and making Duck-Billed Platypus bookmarks. The Rainbows also started their Animal Lover interest badge and made sock bunnies to look after. These proved to be very popular with one bunny being a regular visitor to our meetings.

The summer term ended with a Beach Party, the Brownies invited the Rainbows to join them at the beach, we wore beach clothes and made paper plate fish. Despite the awful weather all the girls got into the beach spirit with two even wearing their swimming costumes!

During the summer holiday we held a four-hour session for both Rainbows and Brownies, the girls completed another unofficial challenge badge the Fairy Challenge. The girls each made a Fairy Garden's, a Peg Fairy, Fairy Cakes, and we played Fairy themed games.

In the Autmn term we had lots of fun with many activities. We had a busy session planting daffodil bulbs in the church garden and we also had a lot of fun making and launching our own rockets. As we reached December, we joined Rainbows and Brownies from around the Midlands Region at a take-over event at Black Country Living Museum – A Festive Journey Through Time.

As we started 2025, we have lots of fun planned including a Sparkle Party. We also have a trip planned at Bodenham Arboretum in the Easter Holidays when we will be off to Hunt for the Golden Egg.

I wish to thank Nicola Hill my joint leader, Helen Bloomfield DuRose and Hannah Morgan our unit helpers for all their support, hard work and enthusiasm. I also wish to thank Sarah Fletcher, all the Stourbridge Trefoil Guild members and Sally Mosznyski from Amblecote Brownies who helped us during my absence and enabled our meetings to continue.

Emma Leek, Leader in Charge

Brownies

After much consideration we decided that we would like to reopen the Brownie group at St Thomas' Church. We started the unit up in the Spring term with only 4 girls who had all been Rainbows at St Thomas'.

Our first meeting coincided with World Thinking Day. We thought this was the ideal opportunity to talk to the girls about their place in Girl Guiding and to see what they hoped our Brownies meetings would be like. We also made Pasta and decorated Elephants.

The rest of Spring term was filled with lots of cooking and eating as the girls decided that they would like to do an interest badge and chose Baking.

Both leaders were absent at the start of the summer term but with the help of our District Commissioner Sarah Fletcher, Sally Mosznyski from Amblecote Brownies and our unit helper Helen the meetings were able to go ahead. The Brownies completed an Unofficial Challenge Badge-A Journey to Australia, they did lots of activities including making Fairy Bread, Thong (flip-flop) Tossing, making the Sydney Harbour Bridge, making a Koala from newspaper and finished with a Barbecue.

We rounded the summer term of with a Beach Party. The Brownies planned the theme of the party, making invitations to give to their parents and to the Rainbows. They also made some Bunting to decorate the hall. We finished our Beach Party with the girls (we now have 6) making their Promise.

We have a summer holiday date planned in August, a four-hour session when we will be doing another unofficial challenge badge which is a Fairy Challenge.

We started the Autumn term with 12 girls, and the Brownies decided to complete their Local History Badge. Part of the badge was to explore your local area; we spent an evening going out and looking at the history of Stourbridge. We finished off with tea at McDonalds. We rounded off the year a trip with Girl Guiding Midlands to the Black Country Museum for a Festive Journey Through Time, and a Christmas party at Ronnie's Pizza restaurant making our own pizza's.

2025 we are hoping to welcome some more girls, we have lots planned including badges celebrating disability, Thinking Day and to visit a few more local attractions.

I wish to thank Emma Leek my fellow leader and Helen Bloomfield DuRose our unit helper for all their support and hard work. I also wish to thank Sarah Fletcher and Sally Mosznyski for helping us to continue running the meetings during my absence.

Lastly, we are so proud of all the girls who are always very enthusiastic, and we know we made the right decision to reopen Brownies so that the girls can continue their Guiding journey.

Nicola Hill, Leader in Charge

Cubs

Our Cub Scouts Section continues to thrive with youngsters hailing from Oldswinford, Greenfield and Gigmill Primary schools. It is wonderful to see how participation in our weekly activities helps the children integrate constructively and form new friendship groups.

Our Highlights from 2024 were:

Our weekend visit to Burwarton Cottage, a Scout facility in the Shropshire Hills, 1/2 mile from the nearest neighbours and the perfect spot for den building, tree swings and basic living - a true breath of fresh air. Nothing beats the outdoor life, open fire cooking, the smell of wood smoke and bringing home a dozen grubby, tired but delighted 8–10-year-olds.

We participated in the whole district Scouts camp at Blackwell Court, Bromsgrove, stuffed with adventurous activities for the children and for the adults, dealing with the challenges of that wild September storm! Plenty of wet tents to drape out on our return.

There was something new every week with a Bat Detection Walk at Saltwells Nature reserve among the favourites, along with den building at Lickey Hills visitor centre, and the craft and skills activities which from the core of our program each year.

2025 for the Cubs will bring Road Safety, Emergency Aid, meeting the PCSO's, creative and local history activities along with our varied evenings out in our local beauty spots including a Clent Hills bluebell walk in May.

For our older Cubs and Scouts, a Scouting trip of a lifetime to Kandersteg International Scout Camp in August - a truly memorable experience.

The enthusiasm of the young people never ceases to impress us and it is what keeps us enjoying Scouting leadership long after our own children have passed through. We love to be able to share this experience with other parents and adult helpers who, we hope, find it equally rewarding.

Graeme Lowcock

Community Groups

HAPPY HOURS (charity no. 1161030)

Happy Hours is a social club for adults with learning difficulties. We meet Tuesday evenings at the church hall from 7.00pm - 9.00pm.

Last year, 2024 was a really busy year for us. On average we have close to 50 members attending each week, plus carers and volunteers. We provide many activities. Included in these are games, art and craft, pool, a disco and a raffle. We have had visiting guests to entertain our members such as African drummers and 'Popdance' and evening trips out such as a canal boat trip from the Bonded Warehouse and a visit to the pantomime at Stourbridge Town Hall. Our Christmas party with a surprise visit from Santa in 2024 was a huge success!

Next year 2025 we would like to invite more groups in to help entertain our members. We aim to invite a choir in for a Disney night, a pop duo, the African drummers again as well as 'Pop Dance.' There will also be our Christmas Party with a visit from Santa (or The Grinch!) as usual. We welcome new ideas!

We really are one big happy family. Visitors always comment on what a great atmosphere it is and what a happy community we have created for our group. New volunteers are always needed as the demand for a social club such as Happy Hours continues to grow. It is fun and extremely rewarding!

For further details about volunteering please contact us:

Call 07473 873677 or email happyhoursstourbridge@outlook.com. Or check out and message us on Facebook – @HappyHours2008

PD PALADINS AND LIVE WELL WITH PARKINSONS

The exercise class was started in 2019 when I a qualified nurse was diagnosed with Parkinson's. So we started as one class a week and have gone from strength to strength and now have four classes a week. We meet on a Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10-11 and 11.30-12.30, the second class on Thursday is a seated class.

It became evident that we needed to have a support group which aims to help empower people to live the best possible life with Parkinson's. This group is still in its infancy and only began in 2024 and any volunteers would be very welcome. We have a committee and we aim to bring a social aspect as well as information. We aim to have speakers from various medical aspects but we also encourage crafts and really anything that our members would like.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 11.00-13.00, and we encourage family involvement. Some of the activities we are planning is a seated yoga session, canal boat ride, another vintage tea, speakers to include Janine Barnes, a Parkinson's Nurse, and some quiz sessions and some craft sessions.

You can contact us via social media or by calling myself Wendy Barnett on 07775874893 if you would like to help or volunteer your help at events or perhaps you have a job or craft that you could share. This group is very fulfilling and you can make a huge difference to peoples lives. You would be made very welcome. May I add that St Thomas' Church has been very supportive to both groups and is a wonderful social community space.

Wendy Barnett RGN

REPAIR CAFÉ

Stourbridge Repair Cafe meets once a month in St Thomas' church hall.

We offer a repair service and advice for anyone who comes along with a broken item, electrical, mechanical, clothing, artwork – you name it, if it is damaged or not working, we will try and mend it. We are in a consumer society where we are encouraged to throw it away and buy a new one, but quite often a simple repair will considerably extend the expected lifespan. Thus saving, money, resources, and energy, all important in a time of climate instability.

Our services are free but we do ask for donations to cover our running costs.

In 2024 we had 11 repair sessions with over 400 items brought in for us to have a look at. Of these around 60% were successfully repaired. Even when an item is not repairable it is usually appreciated that we have had a go, "I can now throw it away with a good conscience" is something we often hear.

We are a group of friendly volunteers who are more than happy to share their skills and experience to help others and save things being thrown away unnecessarily. We are always looking for new people to join the team. If you have a particular skill you may want to join our repairers. We also need people who can help with the admin, checking jobs in and out, dealing with customers. Or maybe you would like to help in the kitchen, serving tea and cakes to people as they wait their turn for a repair.

If you are interested, come along to one of our repair sessions, see what we do and have a chat.

We are at St Thomas' church hall every 4th Saturday of the month, 10am to 2pm. Or you can send an email to repaircafe.stourbridge@gmail.com.

Treasurer

The following are draft end-of-year financial statements.

We have been unable to present fully examined statements at this time; because as David Hawkins, our previous independent examiner, became our Treasurer during the year, we have had to appoint a new independent examiner of accounts. That appointment has been made, but only recently, and the year-end accounts are, at time of printing, with the independent examiner.

Fully examined accounts, together with the Treasurers report will be made available in time for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

The Church Council has had the opportunity to review the draft financial statements.

Andrew Sillis
21st March 2025

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge
Receipts and Payments Account
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
Receipts						
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	-	355.00
Voluntary income	44,278.01	-	297.50	-	44,575.51	33,321.61
Activities for generating funds	-	-	675.40	-	675.40	180.00
Investment income	588.96	-	9,153.91	-	9,742.87	6,388.86
Incoming resources from charitable activities	29,024.26	-	232.26	-	29,256.52	23,981.95
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	-	-	4,409.19
Total Receipts	**73,891.23**	**-**	**10,359.07**	**-**	**84,250.30**	**68,636.61**
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-	15.00
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	74,553.68	586.82	40,558.90	-	115,699.40	118,536.07
Governance costs	1,155.91	-	-	-	1,155.91	881.96
Other resources used	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	**75,709.59**	**586.82**	**40,558.90**	**-**	**116,855.31**	**119,433.03**
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	**(1,818.36)**	**(586.82)**	**(30,199.83)**	**-**	**(32,605.01)**	**(50,796.42)**
Transfers:						
Gross transfers between funds - in	25,195.48	9,856.07	72,292.25	-	107,343.80	1,097.32
Gross transfers between funds - out	(25,011.22)	(11,401.53)	(70,931.05)	-	(107,343.80)	(1,097.32)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	(1,634.10)	(2,132.28)	(28,838.63)	-	(32,605.01)	(50,796.42)
Net movement in funds	**(1,634.10)**	**(2,132.28)**	**(28,838.63)**	**-**	**(32,605.01)**	**(49,799.20)**
Reconciliation of funds						
Excess of receipts over payments at beginning of the year	**2,041.17**	**4,396.13**	**180,105.35**	**10,599.30**	**197,141.95**	**246,941.15**
Excess of receipts over payments for the year	**407.07**	**2,263.85**	**151,266.72**	**10,599.30**	**164,536.94**	**197,141.95**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS, STOURBRIDGE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

I report to the charity Trustees ('the PCC Members') on my examination of the Receipts and Payments Statement, Assets and Liabilities Statement and Treasurer's Report, together rereferred to as 'the accounts', of the charity ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Respective Responsibilities of PCC Members and Examiner

The PCC Members of The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas, Stourbridge are responsible for the preparation of the accounts for the period ended 31 December 2024 in accordance with the Charities Act 2022.

As the PCC Members have opted to prepare receipts and payments accounts, I have been appointed as an independent examiner to review these accounts under the terms of Charities Act 2022. My responsibility is to:

- Examine the accounts and consider whether they are consistent with the records kept by the PCC.
- Review whether the accounts comply with the applicable regulations.
- Assess whether any matters have come to my attention that require further explanation or clarification.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

I have carried out my examination in accordance with the guidance provided by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. My examination included a review of the accounting records maintained by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also involved considering any unusual items or disclosures within the accounts.

The nature of an independent examination is substantially less detailed than a full audit. Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' but instead provide an independent report on whether any material issues have come to my attention.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention that give me cause to believe that:

1. Proper accounting records have not been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2022.
2. The accounts do not agree with the underlying records.
3. There are material concerns that should be drawn to the attention of the PCC Members or the Charity Commission.

I confirm that, in my opinion, the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the applicable requirements and provide an accurate reflection of the receipts and payments made during the period.

Shaun Mooney FCCA, DChA, BA(Hons)

For and on behalf of **The M & C Partnership Limited**
10 Wilson Gardens
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 3FE

Date: 27 March 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, STOURBRID

England & Wales - Charity number 1134825

Accounts

ST THOMAS
parish church stourbridge

St Thomas' Church, Parish of Stourbridge

Annual Report & Financial Statements 2023

St Thomas' Church, Market Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1AG

www.stthomasstourbridge.org

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Vicar:
The Reverend Andrew Sillis

Bankers: HSBC Ltd, High Street, Stourbridge

Independent Examiner: Mr David Hawkins of Jaderock Ltd

The Parochial Church Council is a registered charity. No. 1134825

The Parochial Church Council & Trustees of the charity

	Name	Elected at APCM in	Re-election year
Clergy	Andrew Sillis	Ex-officio	
	Sarah Roberts-Malpass	Ex-officio	
Churchwardens	Val Charles	2023 (1st elected in 2020)	2024
	Tom Ruff	2023 (1st elected in 2022)	2024
Deanery Synod Representatives	Alastair Greeves	2023	2026
	Wendy Hemming	2023	2026
Church Councillors	Janette Griffiths	2021	2024
	Jo Bond	2021	2024
	Janet Taylor	2022	2025
	Caroline Haycock	2023	2026
	Susan Marks	2023	2026
	Jessica Warburton	2023	2026

There were three vacancies for church councillors throughout 2023

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas, Stourbridge
Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2023

Aim & Purpose

Saint Thomas' Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has responsibility for cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Andrew Sillis, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As well as the church itself, which is a grade one listed building, the PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church hall and church grounds.

Conscious of the foundation of the Church by the people of Stourbridge, the PCC seeks to enable the Church to be a spiritual, cultural, and historic asset for the people of Stourbridge, in this generation and for all generations to come.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (2022). All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll, to stand for election to the PCC, and to play a full part in the life of the church community.

Public Benefit

The public benefit is served by enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Thomas' and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. The facilities of the church are made available freely or at reasonable cost to the community for secular activity. When planning its charitable activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Church attendance

The average weekly attendance at worship during the year was 54 adults and 7 children (under 16).

Electoral roll

The number of people registered on the church Electoral Roll is 89
1 person left the Electoral Roll and 5 joined in the period up to the revision of the roll begun on 31st March 2024.

Incumbent's report

When I wrote in advance of the 2023 Annual Meetings, we were beginning to move from recovery, following the Covid pandemic, and into a period of long-hoped-for development. Just before Easter this year, the Diocese submitted a 29 page document on our behalf; a mission plan for St Thomas' Church, which we hope will release funding for a significant part (but not all!) of our plans. We expect, with this funding, to bring other investors in mission into the project, because we now have a phase two as well as the plans extensively shared with you. In the past twelve months, the vision which you shared with me at the beginning of my time as your vicar, has been filled out, grown, and been made possible. The dream is becoming real. The prayers are being answered.

So throughout 2023, my time has been substantially spent on developing our plans, meeting with experts, and writing and refining reports, with the sole intention of ensuring that St Thomas' Stourbridge is a force for the mission of the Kingdom of God for decades to come. We all need to express our deepest gratitude to Wendy and Val for the part that they have played, working with architects and various experts, in pulling together information about our building and plans. Massively important too has been the work that Caroline and Judi and others in the history group have done in researching elements of our church history. A lot has come to light in the past twelve months which had eluded previous attempts to document our community's story. Others, too many to name, have also helped, often simply by being present at key moments, demonstrating that our plans are a vision shared by the whole community of St Thomas, and that it's not just an ambitious vicar's pipe-dream (!).

I am ambitious, not for myself, but for our church community. My family will tell you that I have the most extreme abhorrence of broken things. I will fix, immediately replace, or do without, rather than manage with something that is broken. I'm often in trouble for having replaced something that might have served as a Christmas gift, had I not already acquired it. The feeling is especially acute for things that I care about the most. The thought of having an unhealthy and unsustainable church in the heart of our community is unbearable, and I'm doing my utmost to ensure that it never happens. The reality is (and you will know this if you have ever spent a moment imagining how we will all be faring in perhaps a decade's time) that without significant change and growth and new additions to our community, our ministry will be unsustainable within a few years time. Add ten years to everyone's lives, and we find we will have run out of the energy and capacity to turn around the fortunes of our church community. It will quickly become too late. Now, is the only moment when we can act effectively.

At the end of 2023, I was appointed the Area Dean for Greater Dudley Deanery. It is quite a lot of additional work, but it is work that I mostly enjoy. Having a greater overview of the church locally actually gives me hope and the picture is optimistic. The challenges are great in our deanery. Of all the deaneries in the Church of England, Dudley has one of the lowest per capita weekly attendances by children. Relatively speaking, St Thomas does rather well in terms of under 16 membership, but I don't think any of us would be satisfied with things as they are. Raising the numbers of children participating in the life of our church community is a key priority for the diocese and for us. In order to do that we start young, with Toddler Praise, and the mission plan details how, as the children grow, we will support them and develop their faith as they progress through new congregations for family worship, for teenagers, and young adults. It is an ambitious programme, and one which, I hope, answers your hopes and dreams even if it doesn't speak to your personal needs at this time. This, though, is the essence of our faith. We believe in the God who gives wholly and unconditionally for the love of others; and our witness is seen in the love

we have, not just for one another, but for those future members of our community which we shall never see.

A particular challenge for everyone at this time is finance. The cost of living is widely described as being a crisis, and this is unlikely to change any time soon. It is true for business and for charities as well as for individuals. Last year, our fixed price contract for gas and electricity came up for renewal and was over almost three times as expensive. There is more to read about this in the Finance Report and in the formal Accounts. The bottom line is that the church is struggling. The Churchwardens and PCC do their best to ensure the work of the church is financially 'frictionless'; but the cracks will be showing before long. If I may, I'd just like to put to rest a couple of financial myths, which I know have been shared amongst members.

The first myth is that the church is 'rich'. Each year, newspapers publish figures that appear to show that the church has a lot of money in reserve. Figures in newspaper stories are designed to tell the story that the editor wants to tell, and that is about all. The church does have money that it can use to invest in parish churches - that is where our renewal project money is coming from. However, most of what you see announced in the newspapers, is the value of the church's pension fund, which it would be illegal to spend; or the value of vicarages, which are bought and sold as required, but you can't simply sell them all - I do need somewhere to live. So strategic investments are being made to promote growth in churches, but it's not going to pay all the everyday bills.

The second myth is that, 'with the big investment in St Thomas, I don't need to give as much'. This couldn't be further from the truth. Giving at St Thomas, it seems to me, is sacrificial and generous amongst those whose incomes are greatest (we're all super grateful); and it is sacrificial amongst those whose incomes are the least (we can only guess how hard it is, we're in awe of your generosity); but those who are 'average' are giving quite significantly below 'average'. The average giving per giver in Greater Dudley Deanery is currently £14.85 per week, or £63 per month. You probably have an idea about where you are in terms of average incomes, and you'll know how much you currently give. Please can you review your giving to ensure it is appropriate.

The development funding we expect to receive this year will pay for the modifications and reequipping of the church building; some renovation work in the church hall kitchen and toilets; for two new ministers and a member of support staff. Working with members of the enlarged team we hope…

- Toddler Praise will become weekly, rapidly increasing the numbers of new parents and families joining the church (because toddlers' diaries work weekly, not monthly)
- There'll be a provision for the children from Redhill and Ridgewood who come into town after school.
- We'll start having family worship, cafe-style, in church on Sunday afternoons - a fun and informal community, growing in faith and supporting family life
- Students will have someone to help lead and build community with them whilst they engage with the challenges of study at King Edward VI College.
- We can start evening worship for young adults on Fridays and Saturdays, in a style which will feed them spiritually and encourage them to serve their peers as they enjoy the sights and sounds of late-night Stourbridge.
- Our existing worship congregations will continue to undergird this vision for the new with our traditionally generous hospitality and prayer.

There is initial support for our church to grow, from the national church, but gradually we will need to take over resourcing our growing church. We'll never do that from a standing start. We need to build momentum right away. As the church grows, new members will come into regular giving, but that won't happen immediately. Those coming into the

church need to see, from the outset, what a generous stewardship culture looks like. Your generosity now, will grease the wheels of the church for a long time to come. Your giving to the church is going to be more effective today, than it has ever been. Enough of that, you know what to do.

So here's my expectations for the next 12 months…

- You'll all be falling over yourselves in an attempt to join the PCC
- We'll hear shortly that the money for our project has been released so that we can carry out all we've described in our mission plan
- An operations manager will be appointed to oversee the renewal project
- Building work will begin and we'll spend a few months worshipping in the church hall
- We'll be recruiting a Children and Family Worker, and a Pioneer Youth Minister; and
- All the regular functions of the church will carry on - hundreds of different ways in which you can volunteer, give, help and pray.

We've been praying for this renewal, talking about it, dreaming about it, for years.
Now it is time for us all to step up and make it happen.
For Stourbridge, for the Kingdom, for St Thomas, and in Jesus' name.

Thanks for all you do and give and pray for.

Andrew Sillis
Vicar

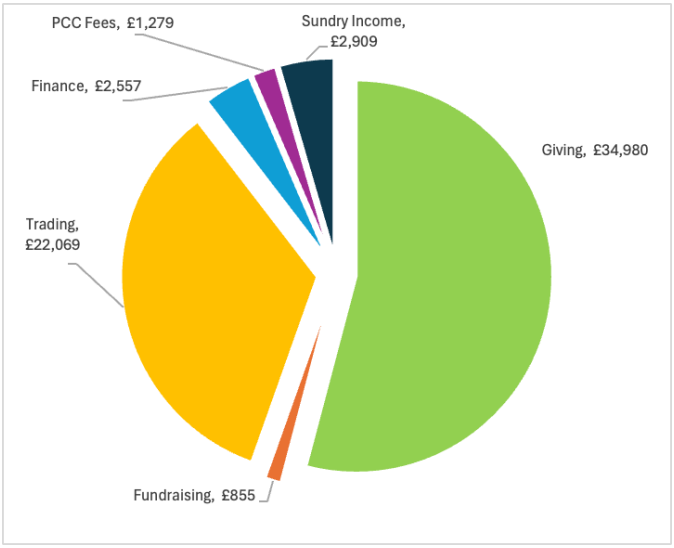
Finance Report

Official copies of the independently examined accounts are available separately, but for those who find the numbers difficult, what follows are ‘illustrated highlights’.

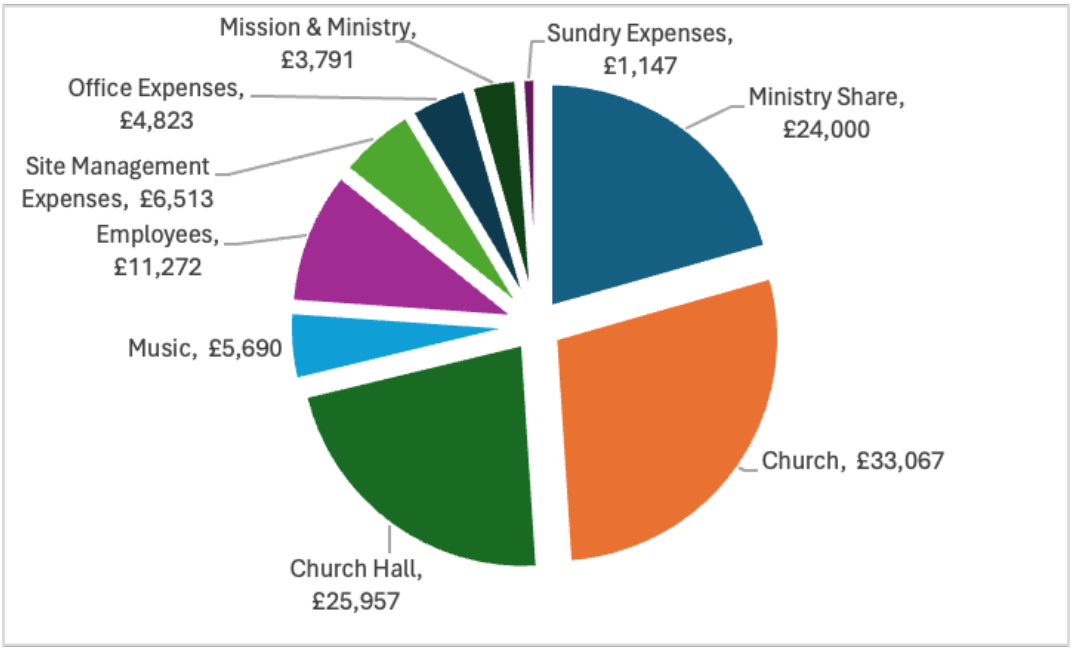
The Headlines

- Regular Income in 2023 was roughly as it had been in the previous year, but all our regular expenditure went up in line with inflation, and there were some considerable exceptional expenses. This has left us significantly worse off.
- Expenditure in 2023 was considerably greater than it had been in 2022. A key reason for this was that we had to spend money repairing the Boundary Wall and to put a new flat roof on the Youth Room extension of the Church Hall. Although it was argued that the wall was not essential maintenance, as it counts as part of the church, and so carries a Grade 1 listing, we are legally obliged to look after it.
- In 2022 we were somewhat protected from rises in energy bills as we had a fixed rate contract. This year, however, that contract ended and we were exposed to energy cost increases of over 260%. Gas and Electricity cost us £11,600 more in 2023 compared with 2022.
- Occasional hire of the Church Hall dropped a little during the year, but regular hirers have remained loyal. We increased the cost of hiring the hall, to compensate for increases in energy costs, so overall income from the hall has remained steady.
- Levels of giving are very concerning. Average giving, per giver, per week in the Greater Dudley Deanery is about £14.85 (about £63 per month). Regular giving from members of St Thomas’ is an average of less than £12 per giver, per week.
  We don’t think that majority of our members have below average incomes for the area, and we urge all members to consider whether their giving really reflects their relative income and regard for the church and its mission. We know that some members are giving with sacrificial generosity, but ask everyone to give real thought and prayer to their giving to the church.
- The Parish Giving Scheme is working exceptionally well, providing givers with greater security, flexibility, and anonymity; and reducing the administrative burden on the parish office and volunteers. Members are urged to sign up to the scheme, with Membership Packs available from the back of church.

Sources of Income in 2023



Expenditure in 2023



Note that Ministry Share was actually £67070 in 2023, but was offset by two grants. The Low Income Communities Fund provided £18089 and support of this order is expected to continue for some time. The Diocesan Ministry Support Fund provided £24981 in 2023, but this fund is expected to run out within the next two years.

By coincidence, in the Diocese of Worcester, historic income from endowments is almost exactly that required to pay the running costs of the Diocese; but it doesn't provide for parish ministry. Ministry Share is our contribution towards the cost of providing clergy for every parish in the diocese, and for training new clergy. Parishes which cannot pay their ministry share in full are increasingly being asked to share clergy with other parishes - which is another reason why we need to put all our support behind the Transformation and Renewal Project and growing our church community.

Churchwardens' Report

This past year has flown so quickly, with all our services, and new ones, receiving good attendances. Both the Christingle (for families, to join in with the Christmas festivities) and the Walk of Witness (where we provided refreshment in the church hall) were well attended.

We thank Andrew for leading our worship here at St Thomas'. He has a heavy workload within the Greater Dudley Deanery as Area Dean. We've had a wedding blessing, a number of baptisms, and a confirmation. Our Curate, Sarah is into her second year and was ordained in the Summer, with many members of the congregation travelling to Worcester Cathedral to show support, and then having a wonderful cold buffet back at our church hall that afternoon.

Sarah's husband, Ed has taken on the post of Director of Music, and this has had a very positive effect for our choir. The choir gave an informal concert showcasing their versatility, not only singing but also playing a variety of instruments – there is incredible talent within the department. We look forward to other such musical extravaganzas coming along soon, giving a taste of what St Thomas' will be like once the Renewal Project is complete. We had a wonderful professional choir give an evening concert, and a Brass Orchestra performed with zest, bringing a mesmerising sound within the church building.

We thank Emma our Administrator for the work she does in the church office, and hiring of the church hall is at its all-time best. We thank Gary, who provides us with the production of our quarterly magazine, ensures our IT systems are fully up to date, and monitors our utilities to ensure we obtain value for money.

We are extremely grateful to all committees working behind the scenes throughout the year, giving their time freely and tirelessly to ensure our buildings, community garden and our worship are maintained. We thank the individual chairpersons and ALL members of our committees and groups, including…

The PCC	History	Finance	Gardeners*
Fabric Committee	Bell Ringers	Mission Group	Flower Guild
Worship Team	Welcome Team	Pastoral Team	Hospitality Team
Musicians	Cleaners		

*Our gardeners again received a very well-deserved Silver Award from the Stourbridge Flowers in Bloom Committee in 2023. A huge thank you to everyone involved as all play very important roles in our church community. As ever, we encourage newcomers to any of above, anyone is very welcome to join or just to lend a hand when able. We do have current vacancies in the Welcome, Refreshments and Gardeners teams. We also require Servers to help during services. Please come forward if you feel able to give a little of your time to any of these.

Without a Treasurer we have relied on the churchwardens and parish administrator to get to grips with the finance software and input all figures to enable us to maintain our budgets and provide required reports. The vacant post has meant we have only been able to provide summary figures in reports we publish at finance meetings. We thank everyone for being patient with us while we work with the system and devise simpler and clearer ways to manage our finances.

Finally, we pray for the future as we move forward in 2024. Our Renewal Project is progressing, sometimes a little slow, but the journey is well under way and will ensure St Thomas' becomes a beacon of light, hopefully well into the 22nd century, for all to worship and participate within the community of Stourbridge and beyond. As Wardens we give "Thanks and Praise" to all involved here at St Thomas' and the Greater Dudley Deanery.

Val Charles and Thomas Ruff

Safeguarding Report

The role of Safeguarding Officers involves working with children and adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect. I commenced the voluntary role of Parish Safeguarding Officer for St James', Wollaston in November 2014, taking over the post at St Thomas' in April 2023.

During the last 12 months DBS renewals have been completed, together with the relevant training.

I have attended Network Team Meetings on Zoom. These meetings are an opportunity to meet with other parish safeguarding officers, as well as hear from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, including updates from the national team, how these impact upon local churches and the support which can be offered. It is also an opportunity to ask questions. Relevant information from these meetings was passed to the PCC.

Dashboard

The Dashboard is an ongoing document for monitoring progress which is updated during the year. NO CONFIDENTIAL OR PERSONAL DATA IS INCLUDED IN THE DASHBOARD.

All policies have been adopted and are reviewed annually, copies are kept in the parish office and on the diocesan website. The Parish Safeguarding Handbook is also available in the parish office. The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops "Safeguarding Policy & Practice Guidance". Parish Policy on Handling, Use and Storage of Disclosure information has been complied with.

Daphne Darlington, Parish Safeguarding Officer

PCC Activity

The Church Council met five times during 2023.

During 2023, the Church Council considered the following major items of business

- Finance was discussed at every meeting. In particular management issues concerning how to keep records up to date in the absence of a full-time treasurer.
- Safeguarding was discussed at every meeting. PCC Members have all undertaken safeguarding training as it became due. The Council is grateful to Daphne Darlington for her dedicated and sensitive work as our Parish Safeguarding Officer.
- There were considerable challenges regarding the maintenance and repair of the fabric of the buildings. The Council is very grateful to Wendy Hemming for her efficient leadership of the Fabric sub-committee
- Development of the church's Mission Plan was discussed throughout the year as we carefully set out the aims and expectations of the renewal plan for St Thomas.
- Preparations for the application for faculty permission to carry out the extensive work on the church have involved every member of the PCC.

There have been three vacancies for church councillors throughout this year. The role of church councillor is not difficult, but vacancies do place additional pressure on those who accept the responsibility to lead in our community. Please prayerfully consider whether you might be able to serve the church in this way.

Fabric

Since the April 2023 APCM we have:

- Completed repairs to the youth room roof and redecorated the ceiling.
- Dealt with the damp in the song room.
- Made improvements to the lighting in the song room.
- Continued to press the Planning Enforcement Department of DMBC (PED) and were pleased when The Bell apartment flats were restored to their previously approved design and appearance. However, there has been no response to our concerns about the gate and other items being secured to our Grade I listed wall.
- Added clips and cable ties to the church hall lighting to avoid more lights slipping down. We also had the lights cleaned.
- Repaired and repainted the fire escape.
- Worked with the Bell Ringers on their project for a new Peal Board, moving one existing Peal Board to make space (at the time of writing this report the Peal Boards are displayed in church, prior to installation).
- Carried out extra repairs to the boundary wall.
- Submitted a new application for Home Office funding for security gates around the church hall and have been shortlisted.
- Made repairs to the church hall lobby floor.
- Made improvements to the wall surface and painted part of the ladies' cloakroom in the church hall, following water damage and removal of asbestos.
- Arranged a Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) Survey of the youth room roof, at the request of the Scout Association. No RAAC was discovered but we were advised that, because of the construction of the roof, we needed to display "Fragile Roof" notices. This has been done.
- Installed new lighting in the youth room at the request of, and paid for by, our uniformed organisations.
- Had discussions with Nexus Communication about a digital noticeboard outside the church. This will now be included in Project 300.

During 2024-25 we hope to:

- Obtain quotations and replace the church hall heating boiler.
- Work with the architect on the outstanding quinquennial inspection.
- Look into the possibility of installing acoustic paneling in the church hall to reduce sound reverberation.

Project 300

Two members of the Fabric Committee have worked with the diocesan appointed Project Manager, Jim Grevatte, our architect John Middleton, and Andrew on refining and extending our plans.

A number of meetings have been held with the interested parties, for example Historic England, the Victorian Society, The Georgian Society. Their reports have been received and considered by the project committee.

An analysis of the Public Consultation has been undertaken.

We welcome new members to the Fabric Committee who are able to offer their skills toward our many projects.

Wendy Hemming

Director of Music

St Thomas' Church Choir has flourished this year. Since my appointment as Director of Music in the past year, we have had open rehearsals, numerous care home visits, welcomed new members and seen the reintroduction of Choral Evensong.

Guest singers joined us for the Sunday morning parish eucharist for the celebration of the coronation of King Charles 3rd on 7th May to sing the wonderful and rousing anthem Zadoc the Priest.

The first Choral Evensong for quite some time took place on 11th June, with the choir plus guests. It was a huge success with the choir performing and leading worship extremely well.

In September the choir held an informal concert to showcase instrumental talents, as well as vocal soloists from the choir. The concert finished with a rendition of "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life", complete with choreography.

They worked hard for their favourite service of the year - Nine Lessons & Carols. This included the wonderful Darke arrangement of In The Bleak Midwinter, as well as some wonderful playing by organist Matt Davies in Rutter's Shepherd's Pipe Carol.

Another Choral Evensong took place on 3rd March with a larger than expected and very appreciative congregation, the choir coping well with much new repertoire thrown at them and again leading worship extremely well. Music by Charles Stanford was featured in recognition of 100 years this year since his death.

The choir has learned much new repertoire with different mass settings, many new anthems, several Psalms and even some Taize chants too.

Looking forward, we hope to continue with quarterly Choral Evensong services, more open rehearsals and continuing to recruit new choir members, especially children.

We also hope to take the choir out and about to lead worship at other churches.

Edward Roberts-Malpass, Director of Music

Belfry (St Thomas' Society of Change Ringers)

Formally The Stourbridge Society of Chapel Youths, founded prior to 1771.

At the beginning of the year we placed a recruitment poster on Facebook. The numbers that responded to this was so great that it had to be taken down after only two days. From the response we took on 10 new ringers and sent 3 over to learn to ring at St Mary's, Old Swinford. To teach them, we held an extra practice every Friday throughout the year. Not all stayed the course but of those that started we still have about half.

Other events that occurred during the year include:

· Two open evenings for Norton Brownies. These lasted approximately 1.5 hours. It gave them the opportunity to see the bells, have a go at ringing a bell, and try out simulated change ringing. There were about 20 brownies altogether, all of whom wrote cards to thank us for their visit.

· On Saturday May 6th we rang for the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The recruitment poster earlier in the year had referred to the Coronation as the incentive to recruit. After months of hard work, all the new ringers were able to ring for the coronation.

· On Sunday May 7th we rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples to mark the Coronation. This was for the more established ringers.

· On Sunday 2nd July we ran Tower Tours on the day of the Coronation Carnival. Approximately 20 visitors were taken up the tower.

· One ringer rang their first peal and one ringer conducted their first peal. Both were part of a peal rung at Belbroughton.

· We rang 5 quarter peals during the year.

· We bought a complete set of new bell ropes. The old ropes were constantly in need of repair and rope grades were not always matched to the bells they were on.

· We received delivery of a new peal board, recording ringing to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II and two quarter peal boards, recording ringing to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee and the Coronation. These will ultimately be hung in the belfry along with the existing boards that record other ringing events.

Richard Hurst, Tower Captain

Mission Group

The group has been busy throughout the past year. Our aim is to provide support to many different organisations and communities, both locally and across the world, who need help. We also work to develop and raise our Eco-church status, and join members of Churches Together for local events and awareness raising.

During this year the group have worked to develop as an Eco-church, and have successfully reached Bronze level in all areas required. Our Bronze plaque was presented by the local MP at the Christmas Tree festival in December. In the second half of last year work focused on outdoor space, involving uniformed groups in making a bug hotel, fat balls and bird feeders for the garden. The U3A donated several bird nesting boxes which are also now in place, and wildflowers are being planted. To help with our goals, all parishioners and visitors are encouraged to be aware of and use Fairtrade and Eco-products whenever possible on church and hall premises.

Several fund-raising activities took place throughout 2023/24 including Fairtrade coffee mornings, plant and book sales, and a piano recital by Michael Jones. The annual Garden Party took place in September, and a quiz & pigeon pea supper in October. The gifts of food for harvest festival and toys for the toy service added to the generous donations – thank you for all your help. More than £2000 was raised in total, with the funds donated to Christian Aid, the Black Country Food Bank, the Halesowen Welcome group, Brierley Hill Baby Bank, and the Bishop's Lent fund 2024 for "Friends of the Holy Land", providing help to those most in need in that area.

During last summer a huge Churches Together project called "Love Stourbridge" was planned for the local community in Mary Stevens Park. St Thomas' was to provide cream teas for over 600 people. As you may know, due to extreme weather, this event was cancelled. We therefore provided free cream teas in the church hall for all comers in the local community. Many could not believe we were offering this for free!

We continue our links with the diocese of Magdeburg in the state of Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, and are discussing next steps to develop this. Andrew and Rose will attend the Three Confessions conference there in early May 2024.

Anyone who wishes may join these meetings (about 5 a year) and we would be pleased to see more new ideas coming through, with new members joining the group.

Rose Hoey, Chair

History Group

The group has a regular team who began by developing church history and tour guides but has evolved and developed over time. The group hold regular meetings throughout the year, and provide church tours and, when requested, a speaker with a photo presentation to local groups. Last year Caroline spoke to a meeting of 42 members of Walsall U3A, and a generous donation to the church was received.

The past year has been one of research into more details of church history, visits to The Hive archives in Worcester, and sorting out and organising material gathered at St Thomas' into a local archive. This work continues and any interesting photos or information to add to this is always gratefully received. Much of the research has been into the origins and installation date of the Font – information required for Project 300.

During last year the QR code project was completed and we now have short descriptions of important features of the church recorded and linked by QR codes around the church. A trolley and mirror have also been added to allow easy viewing of the Holy Ghost plaque on the ceiling in the chancel.

Plans to make the church accessible and interesting continue. The opening of the tower throughout the year has been a very popular event. Links with local schools and uniformed groups has been developed. St Thomas' Rainbow group had a church visit, as did Rufford Primary school and Greenfield Primary school before Christmas.

A regular feature of the group has been our monthly coffee & cake mornings on every second Saturday from 10am until midday. Visitors can visit the church and have cake & coffee, with donations raised funding maintenance of our lovely church building. This has seen people welcomed from the local community, including some newly arrived to the area. A book sale is always available too.

If anyone has an interest in local history, you would be welcome to join the group. Please speak to Wendy or Rose.

Wendy Hemming

Rainbows

2023 was another busy and successful year at 4th Stourbridge (St Thomas) Rainbows, with lots of badges and activities. Most of all, lots of fun.

During the spring term we welcomed 2nd Amblecote Brownies for a takeover, they taught us some new games and we did a Valentine craft. During the term we did our Drawing badge, having great fun drawing round the Rainbows and using fabric and craft items to create clothes and wool for hair on their life-sized pictures.

During the summer term we welcomed Reverend Sarah to one of our meetings, she helped us make musical instruments and sing campfire songs. We held a 'Princess Party' to celebrate the King's birthday and Coronation. We made our own little kings, princess fairy cakes and held our own Coronation, and we crowned our eldest Rainbow as Queen.

During the summer holidays we held two extra afternoon sessions – a Teddy Bear Picnic themed session with lots of teddy inspired activities and crafts, and an Around The World themed session where we made passports and flew round the world, visiting the Girlguiding World Centre's in London, Mexico, India, Africa and Switzerland.

During the autumn term we held a lovely visit to church, organised by St Thomas' History Team, where we made stained glass windows and learnt lots of interesting facts about our church. We took part in the St Thomas' Christmas Tree Festival and made Christmas decorations for our tree. We rounded off the year with a Christmas party, which we ended with a very noisy snowball fight (using scrunched up newspaper).

Our Rainbows continues to thrive and we always try to offer every new enquiry a place but, after spending a term with 25 Rainbows, we realised this was too many to manage and now maintain around 20 Rainbows at each session.

I am very grateful to my team – leader Nicola Hill and unit helper Helen Bloomfield Du Rose – for their continued help and support. For 2024 we are delighted to say that, after sadly closing in early 2023, 4th Stourbridge St Thomas Brownies has reopened and is being run by Nicola and myself. Our first session on 19th February had just 4 Brownies (girls who had moved up from our Rainbows) but we're sure it will continue to grow – most of our current Rainbows are now on the waiting list. Along with Helen's help we have had fun getting to know how to be a Brownie and the girls have certainly enjoyed the experience.

Emma Leek, Leader in Charge

Cubs

2023 was a tremendously busy year for the Cubs, with something constructive or challenging every week.

Amongst other things, Cubs learned about safe use of camp stoves and fire lighting and then achieved their Emergency Response (First Aid) award.

We had a recycling theme and energy saving project and also made bird feeders for our gardens.

We ran a Stourbridge History theme, starting with the legend of St Kenelm and the source of the River Stour at Clent. We visited the location of the original Stour bridge and learned about the historical significance of Stourbridge and its famous buildings.

We visited all our favourite places, like Clent and Kinver, in the dark for astronomy and wildlife spotting, pond dipping and Bunkers Hill woods for wide games.

Our whole group camp in June was a wonderful and rewarding event which the Cubs absolutely loved.

Cubs have surprised us with their blanket-stitching proficiency for Mothering Sunday craft. and their determined industry in making Christmas tree decorations from recycled materials for the Church Christmas Tree Festival.

Cubs also delighted in being part of the Remembrance Sunday parade in the park, despite the awful weather.

Our Cubs' enthusiasm to 'join in' and experience new challenges is always a pleasure to behold, and the forthcoming year will provide many more rewarding opportunities, with a Cub weekend in Shropshire in May, a whole District camp in September, and all our usual opportunities to embrace the outdoors and adventure together.

Graeme Lowcock

ST THOMAS
parish church stourbridge

The Parish Church of St Thomas, Stourbridge

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st December 2023

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	355.00	-	-	355.00	-
Voluntary income	33,321.61	-	-	33,321.61	58,125.29
Activities for generating funds	180.00	-	-	180.00	1,715.45
Investment income	238.60	6,150.26	-	6,388.86	3,064.58
Incoming resources from charitable activities	23,661.95	320.00	-	23,981.95	22,096.09
Other incoming resources	4,409.19	-	-	4,409.19	3,506.00
Total income	**62,166.35**	**6,470.26**	**-**	**68,636.61**	**88,507.41**
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	-	-	-	-	731.26
Cost of generating voluntary income	-	15.00	-	15.00	461.40
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	87,546.89	30,989.18	-	118,536.07	85,229.51
Governance costs	881.96	-	-	881.96	-
Other resources used	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	**88,428.85**	**31,004.18**	**-**	**119,433.03**	**86,422.17**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(26,262.50)**	**(24,533.92)**	**-**	**(50,796.42)**	**2,085.24**
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	-	1,097.32	-	1,097.32	11,731.90
Gross transfers between funds - out	(153.22)	(944.10)	-	(1,097.32)	(11,731.90)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	997.22	-	-	997.22	(1,398.08)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**(25,418.50)**	**(24,380.70)**	**-**	**(49,799.20)**	**687.16**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**31,855.80**	**204,486.05**	**10,599.30**	**246,941.15**	**246,253.99**
Total funds carried forward	**6,437.30**	**180,105.35**	**10,599.30**	**197,141.95**	**246,941.15**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	2,041.17	-	-	2,041.17	21,264.02
Designated					
Church Hall Improvements	-	-	-	-	-
Fabric Reserve	3,534.35	-	-	3,534.35	10,000.00
Friends of the Music	861.78	-	-	861.78	591.78
Guttering Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted					
Agency collection	-	-	-	-	-
Church Hall Improvements	-	-	-	-	7.81
Church Improvement Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Development Fund	-	104.70	-	104.70	2,088.60
Fabric Appeal Fund	-	178,135.49	-	178,135.49	200,480.46
Flower Festival	-	95.08	-	95.08	95.08
Flower Guild	-	310.00	-	310.00	285.59
Mission Social Concerns	-	79.56	-	79.56	147.99
Organ Improvement Fund	-	1,306.69	-	1,306.69	1,306.69
St Thomas Gardening Fund	-	73.83	-	73.83	73.83
Endowment					
Gallimore Burton Trust	-	-	10,599.30	10,599.30	10,599.30
Total funds	**6,437.30**	**180,105.35**	**10,599.30**	**197,141.95**	**246,941.15**

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge

Balance Sheet (Separate funds)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/12/2023 £	At 31/12/2022 £
Fixed assets						
Investments	997.22	-	-	10,599.30	11,596.52	10,599.30
	997.22	**-**	**-**	**10,599.30**	**11,596.52**	**10,599.30**
Current assets						
Debtors	2,156.37	-	-	-	2,156.37	2,024.27
Cash At Bank And In Hand	(295.46)	4,396.13	181,823.13	-	185,923.80	236,499.86
	1,860.91	**4,396.13**	**181,823.13**	**-**	**188,080.17**	**238,524.13**
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	816.96	-	1,717.78	-	2,534.74	2,182.28
	816.96	**-**	**1,717.78**	**-**	**2,534.74**	**2,182.28**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**1,043.95**	**4,396.13**	**180,105.35**	**-**	**185,545.43**	**236,341.85**
Total assets less current liabilities	**2,041.17**	**4,396.13**	**180,105.35**	**10,599.30**	**197,141.95**	**246,941.15**
Liabilities						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets less liabilities	**2,041.17**	**4,396.13**	**180,105.35**	**10,599.30**	**197,141.95**	**246,941.15**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
Unrestricted - General Fund	2,041.17	-	-	-	2,041.17	21,264.02
Designated						
Designated - Fabric Reserve	-	3,534.35	-	-	3,534.35	10,000.00
Designated - Friends of the Music	-	861.78	-	-	861.78	591.78
Restricted						
Restricted - Development Fund	-	-	104.70	-	104.70	2,088.60
Restricted - Fabric Appeal Fund	-	-	178,135.49	-	178,135.49	200,480.46
Restricted - Flower Festival	-	-	95.08	-	95.08	95.08
Restricted - Flower Guild	-	-	310.00	-	310.00	285.59
Restricted - St Thomas Gardening Fund	-	-	73.83	-	73.83	73.83
Restricted - Church Hall Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	7.81
Restricted - Mission Social Concerns	-	-	79.56	-	79.56	147.99
Restricted - Organ Improvement Fund	-	-	1,306.69	-	1,306.69	1,306.69
Endowment						
Endowment - Gallimore Burton Trust	-	-	-	10,599.30	10,599.30	10,599.30
Fund Totals	**2,041.17**	**4,396.13**	**180,105.35**	**10,599.30**	**197,141.95**	**246,941.15**

Note		From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
Hall - Church Hall Improvements (Designated) Fund				
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		-	-
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
FOM - Friends of the Music (Designated) Fund				
	Incoming resources			
	Incoming resources from generated funds			
	Friends of the Music		355.00	-
	Total Incoming resources from generated funds		355.00	-
	Total Incoming resources		**355.00**	**-**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Piano Tuning		85.00	-
	Total Charitable activities		85.00	-
	Total Resources used		**85.00**	**-**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		270.00	-
	Brought forward balance		591.78	591.78
	Total carried forward balance		**861.78**	**591.78**
FABdes - Fabric Reserve (Designated) Fund				
	Incoming resources			
	Incoming resources from charitable activities			
	Heritage Books		164.35	-
	Total Incoming resources from charitable activities		164.35	-
	Total Incoming resources		**164.35**	**-**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Major repairs - Church Hall		6,630.00	-
	Total Charitable activities		6,630.00	-
	Total Resources used		**6,630.00**	**-**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(6,465.65)	-
	Brought forward balance		10,000.00	-
	Transfers to/(from)		-	10,000.00
	Total carried forward balance		**3,534.35**	**10,000.00**
Guttering - Guttering Maintenance (Designated) Fund				
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Minor repairs and maintenance - Church		-	580.00
	Total Charitable activities		-	580.00
	Total Resources used		**-**	**580.00**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	(580.00)
	Brought forward balance		-	580.00
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
GBT - Gallimore Burton Trust (Endowment) Fund				
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		10,599.30	11,997.38
	Adjustments		-	(1,398.08)
	Total carried forward balance		**10,599.30**	**10,599.30**
Garden - St Thomas Gardening Fund (Restricted) Fund				
	Incoming resources			
	Voluntary income			
	Donations		-	1.50

Note		From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
		Total Voluntary income	-	1.50
	Total Incoming resources		**-**	**1.50**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	1.50
	Brought forward balance		73.83	72.33
	Total carried forward balance		**73.83**	**73.83**
CIF - Church Improvement Fund (Restricted) Fund				
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		-	-
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
Organ - Organ Improvement Fund (Restricted) Fund				
	Incoming resources			
	Voluntary income			
	Donations		-	60.06
		Total Voluntary income	-	60.06
	Investment income			
	Interest received		-	0.12
		Total Investment income	-	0.12
	Total Incoming resources		**-**	**60.18**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	60.18
	Brought forward balance		1,306.69	1,246.51
	Total carried forward balance		**1,306.69**	**1,306.69**
DVP - Development Fund (Restricted) Fund				
	Incoming resources			
	Other incoming resources			
	Grants received		-	50.00
		Total Other incoming resources	-	50.00
	Total Incoming resources		**-**	**50.00**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Architects and Chartered Surveyors Fees		1,968.90	-
		Total Charitable activities	1,968.90	-
	Cost of generating voluntary income			
	Giving Station		15.00	461.40
		Total Cost of generating voluntary income	15.00	461.40
	Total Resources used		**1,983.90**	**461.40**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(1,983.90)	(411.40)
	Brought forward balance		2,088.60	2,500.00
	Total carried forward balance		**104.70**	**2,088.60**
MSC - Mission Social Concerns (Restricted) Fund				
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Social Mission Concerns		68.43	-
		Total Charitable activities	68.43	-
	Total Resources used		**68.43**	**-**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(68.43)	-
	Brought forward balance		147.99	147.99
	Total carried forward balance		**79.56**	**147.99**
FF - Flower Festival (Restricted) Fund				
	Incoming resources			
	Activities for generating funds			
	Flower Festival		-	1,715.45
		Total Activities for generating funds	-	1,715.45
	Total Incoming resources		**-**	**1,715.45**
	Resources used			
	Cost of generating funds			
	Flower Festival expenses		-	731.26
		Total Cost of generating funds	-	731.26

Note		From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
	Charitable activities			
	Stationery,Printing & Postage		-	38.92
		Total Charitable activities	-	38.92
	Total Resources used		-	770.18
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	945.27
	Brought forward balance		95.08	881.71
	Transfers to/(from)		-	(1,731.90)
	Total carried forward balance		**95.08**	**95.08**

FG - Flower Guild (Restricted) Fund

	Incoming resources			
	Incoming resources from charitable activities			
	Flowers		320.00	167.98
		Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	320.00	167.98
	Voluntary income			
	Donations		-	255.00
		Total Voluntary income	-	255.00
	Total Incoming resources		**320.00**	**422.98**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Flowers		448.81	569.88
		Total Charitable activities	448.81	569.88
	Total Resources used		**448.81**	**569.88**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(128.81)	(146.90)
	Brought forward balance		285.59	432.49
	Transfers to/(from)		153.22	-
	Total carried forward balance		**310.00**	**285.59**

Hall - Church Hall Improvements (Restricted) Fund

	Incoming resources			
	Investment income			
	Interest received		-	0.21
	Dividends received		0.09	-
		Total Investment income	0.09	0.21
	Total Incoming resources		**0.09**	**0.21**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Major repairs - Church Hall		952.00	-
		Total Charitable activities	952.00	-
	Total Resources used		**952.00**	**-**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(951.91)	0.21
	Brought forward balance		7.81	7.60
	Transfers to/(from)		944.10	-
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**7.81**

Fabric - Fabric Appeal Fund (Restricted) Fund

	Incoming resources			
	Voluntary income			
	Donations		-	1,173.53
	Legacies received		-	18,871.75
		Total Voluntary income	-	20,045.28
	Investment income			
	Interest received		-	2,749.00
	Dividends received		6,150.17	-
		Total Investment income	6,150.17	2,749.00
	Total Incoming resources		**6,150.17**	**22,794.28**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Major repairs -Church		13,756.38	8,184.00
	Major repairs - Church Hall		9,120.00	5,520.00
	Minor repairs and maintenance - Church		1,544.09	4,204.37
	Minor repairs and maintenance-Church hal		3,130.57	2,510.33
	Stationery,Printing & Postage		-	42.00

Note		From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
	Sundry expenses		-	32.14
	Architects and Chartered Surveyors Fees		-	2,991.30
		Total Charitable activities	27,551.04	23,484.14
	Total Resources used		**27,551.04**	**23,484.14**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(21,400.87)	(689.86)
	Brought forward balance		200,480.46	209,438.42
	Transfers to/(from)		(944.10)	(8,268.10)
	Total carried forward balance		**178,135.49**	**200,480.46**
	General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
	Incoming resources			
	Incoming resources from charitable activities			
	Sundry sales		365.00	11.40
	Church hall lettings		20,448.90	20,598.00
	Fees - weddings		-	112.00
	Fees - funerals		680.00	48.00
	Collections - weddings		-	41.35
	Collections - Baptisms		25.70	283.86
	Photocopying fees received		40.00	-
	Worcs Diocesan Board of Finance		1,092.00	-
	PCC Fees: Funeral		791.00	249.70
	PCC Fees: Weddings		55.00	583.80
		Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	23,497.60	21,928.11
	Other incoming resources			
	Sundry income		2,909.19	357.00
	Grants received		1,500.00	3,099.00
		Total Other incoming resources	4,409.19	3,456.00
	Voluntary income			
	Planned giving		23,653.24	24,259.40
	Loose cash		2,126.25	1,440.47
	Gift Aid Recovered		6,053.86	10,149.34
	Donations		1,488.26	1,914.24
		Total Voluntary income	33,321.61	37,763.45
	Activities for generating funds			
	Table Top Event		180.00	-
		Total Activities for generating funds	180.00	-
	Investment income			
	Interest received		238.60	-
	Dividends received		-	315.25
		Total Investment income	238.60	315.25
	Total Incoming resources		**61,647.00**	**63,462.81**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Ministry share		24,000.00	21,000.00
	Insurance - Church		5,024.51	5,156.20
	Insurance - Church Hall		2,512.24	1,695.73
	Severn Trent Water: Church		151.62	111.83
	Severn Trent Water: Church Hall		149.81	190.74
	Gas - Church		9,234.86	2,711.97
	Electricity- Church		1,960.08	1,282.84
	Gas- Church Hall		5,355.32	1,738.45
	Electricity-Church Hall		2,191.67	1,381.67
	Director of Music		1,045.58	-
	Choir expenses		169.00	1,005.99
	Organists fees		3,330.00	2,705.00
	Choristers fees		114.80	169.40
	Cost of services		979.71	1,771.55
	Fire Extinguisher Maintenance		729.12	716.45
	Secretary's salary		7,639.40	4,976.50
	Cleaners - Church Hall		3,535.06	2,962.22
	Gardener		155.50	165.00
	Church Cleaner		2,068.46	1,683.53
	Stationery,Printing & Postage		944.31	970.61
	Telephone		484.75	449.00
	Hire of photocopier		2,514.87	4,417.34
	Hygiene Services Church hall		1,335.32	1,279.16
	Sundry expenses		1,147.44	719.70
	Cleaning & toilet requirements		59.92	167.02
	Bank charges		191.43	166.32
	Visiting clergy		79.48	78.96

Note		From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
	Vicar's expenses		447.41	432.87
	Curates Expenses		509.98	167.32
	Vergers fees		30.00	-
	Organ repairs & tuning		865.00	265.00
	Heritage Books and Leaflets		300.00	-
	PAYE		68.40	-
	Funeral fees		95.53	-
	Grants		19.99	-
	Donations		48.23	-
	Advent Books		-	18.20
	Mission and Evangelism Costs		1,063.38	-
	Hospitality		279.71	-
		Total Charitable activities	80,831.89	60,556.57
	Governance costs			
	Subscriptions and Registrations		881.96	-
		Total Governance costs	881.96	-
	Total Resources used		**81,713.85**	**60,556.57**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(20,066.85)	2,906.24
	Brought forward balance		21,264.02	18,357.78
	Transfers to/(from)		(153.22)	-
	Adjustments		997.22	-
	Total carried forward balance		**2,041.17**	**21,264.02**

Notes to the Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

1.1 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections and donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC
- Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid schemes is recognised only when received.
- Income tax recovered from Parish Giving Scheme donations is recognised only when received from the PGS scheme. This is received monthly.
- Income tax on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the parish becomes entitled to make a claim from HMRevenue &Customs. This is ordinarily done on a quarterly basis.
- Grants and legacies to the PC are accounted for when received.
- Funds raised by book fairs and similar fund-raising events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of cards and any other sundry sales are accounted for gross.

Other Income

Rental income from the letting of the church hall is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends are accounted for when receivable and interest is accounted for when received.

Gains and losses on investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments every December.

1.2 Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

Ministry Share (previously parish/fairer share) is a voluntary obligation of the PCC to the Diocese. For 2023 this was £67,070, these accounts show the amount paid, and agreed by the PCC, during the year of £24,000. The difference of £43070 is not reflected in these accounts. The parish was successful in 2023, in obtaining a Ministry Support Fund Grant of £24981 and support from the Low Income Communities Fund of £18089.

1.3 Fixed Assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1,000, or on the repair of movable church furnishings is written off.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are writen off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.4 Funds

Unrestricted funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 2.

Endowment funds

Endowment funds are those funds where the capital must be retained and details of these funds are provided in note 2.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2. Funds

Restricted funds

Fabric Fund

The Fabric Account represents grants and amounts donated for the purposes of the repair, upkeep, and renovation of the church buildings.

Church Hall Fund

This fund represents a grant and money donated to be used towards refurbishments in the church hall.

Organ Fund

The organ fund represents donations made for the refurbishment of the organ.

Gardening Fund

The Gardening Fund represents grants and amounts donated for the purposes of benefit of The Community Garden

Mission Social Concerns Fund

The MSC fund retains a modest amount of money for any future projects of the MSC.

Flower Festival Fund

Flower Festivals take place biannually, the last being in 2022. The proceeds of Flower Festivals are transferred to the Fabric Fund. Money in the fund is from Fund raising towards the cost of producing the next Flower Festival.

Flower Guild Fund

The Flower Guild Fund is to provide flowers for the decoration of the church. Money is often donated for flowers to be placed in memoriam as well as other occasions.

Development Fund

This is a new restricted fund created to enable devices or activities for the improvement of donations or other income streams.

Endowment Fund - Gallimore Burton Trust

This consists of 513 Income Shares in the CBFChurch of England Investment Fund, the income from which is for the upkeep of a grave and the dividends generated for the general purposes of the PCC.

3 Salaries

During the year the PCC employed a secretary and a cleaner. National Insurance and PAYE payments have been made as appropriate. Salaries fall below the threshold requiring contributions to a pension scheme.

4 Payments to PCC members

No expenses or payments were paid to any PCC member, or persons connected to them, in relation to their participation in church governance. PCC members and others were, of course, reimbursed the cost of any purchases made on behalf of the PCC.

5 Investment Assets

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Market Value at 1st January	10599	11997
Revaluation (loss)/gain	997	(1398)
Market value at 31st December	11596	10599

6 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Unrestricted Funds	2534	2182

7 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year other than those explained in note 4

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

Rev A Sillis
Vicar

Mrs V Charles Churchwarden
(Acting *pro tempere* Treasurer)

21st April 2024

Independent Examiner's report to the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Thomas' Stourbridge.

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the associated notes as set out on pages 1 to 14

Respective responsibilities of the members of the PCC and the examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of the Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the members of the PCC concerning any such matters. Their procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with s. 130 of the 2011 Act; or
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to complete with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

   have been met.
2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature: D. Oliver on behalf of Tadcroft Ltd

Address: 17 Vicarage Road
Ambleside
DY8 4JD

Date: 22/04/24

Independent Examiner's report to the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Thomas' Stourbridge.

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Signature: D. Oh on behalf of Tadcroft Ltd

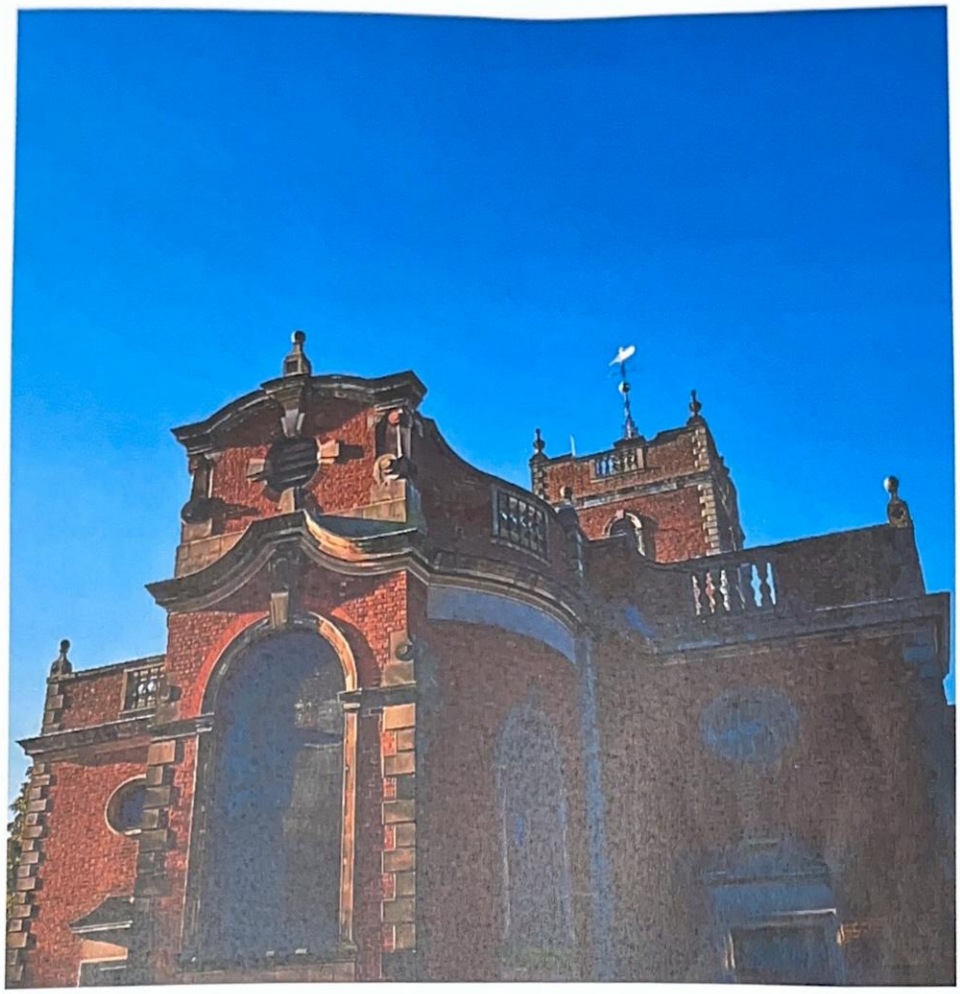
Address: 17 Vicarage Road
Amblecote
DY8 4JD

Date: 22/04/24

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, STOURBRID

England & Wales - Charity number 1134825

Accounts



Parish Church of St Thomas

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Administrative Information

The church of St Thomas is situated in Stourbridge, West Midlands. It is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

St. Thomas' Church Office
St. Thomas' Church Hall
Market Street
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY8 1AG

Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity. The Charity Number is 1134825.

PCC members who served from 23rd May 2021 to xxxx April 2022 were:

Ex officio Members
Vicar and Chair Reverend Andrew Sillis
Churchwardens Val Charles, Jess Warburton
Deanery Synod Members Andrew Harding, Wendy Hemming, Gary Leek

Elected Members
Jannette Griffiths
Kathryn Harding
Wendy Hemming
Kathy Knight (Treasurer)
Gary Leek (Lay Vice-Chair)
Susan Marks
Janet Taylor
Esky Wood (Secretary)
Alistair Greeves
Joy Baylis
Jo Bond (Safeguarding)
Independent Examiner to the PCC, David Hawkins

The Church of St Thomas Stourbridge

Annual Report of The Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St. Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Thomas' Church Hall.

Public Benefit

The public benefit is served by enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Thomas' and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning its charitable activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Church attendance

The average total attendance at Sunday worship during the year was 48 adults and 2 children (under 16).

Electoral roll

3 people have left the Electoral Roll and 0 have joined between May 2021 and April 2022. Total number of people on the roll stands at 82.

Incumbent's Report

Dear Friends,

When inviting contributions for our Annual Report, I ask contributors to celebrate the past year and to look forward to the next. We have to produce this document each year, so it makes sense to ensure that it is something more than just reminding you of events past.

2021 was an exceptional year. Painfully slowly, and with a number of false starts, we moved away from a pandemic virus, to an endemic one. A pandemic virus must be fought, but endemic viruses must be 'lived with'. Vaccinations have been essential in this, as have the various controls we have put in place to reduce infections. That the Covid generating viruses became weaker is likely due to the uptake of vaccinations and the precautions we took to reduce infections. Although many were infected with the virus, I am grateful to you all for being patient with all our precautions, such that St Thomas' was never the host of a super-spreader event; indeed, we were never contacted by NHS Track and Trace. Thank you. Equally we continue to thank God for the wisdom, dedication and expertise of the scientists who developed vaccines, years before the Covid virus emerged; and for the unstinting labours of those who laboured in our National Health Service.

In spite of the disruption, we managed not just to carry on almost as normal, but to hold significant events and celebrations. There have been some wonderful moments this past year. We said 'farewell' to Adam as he was licensed as the Priest-in-Charge at Kingswinford and Wall Heath; and the Pastoral Team were kept busy throughout the autumn as many families brought children to be baptised. Also in the Autumn was our amazing Climate Festival bringing together Environmental Groups to inspire and encourage our community to engage with the issues of climate change.

Sadly, amid the celebrations, we also said farewell to good friends of the church, amongst them David Stroyd, Olive Dukes and Christine Corker; others have moved away, and, wonderfully, others have joined in their place. Such is the way with church communities.

We should look forward.

During 2021 I worked with the PCC to examine the ways in which the Church operates and what we aim to achieve. Given that the demands of ministry shift from season to season, it is important to review our hopes and expectations, to define our goals and priorities, and to ensure that those priorities are adequately resourced.

Long before my arrival as your Vicar, there was a vision for a remodeling of the nave, removing the pews to create a more flexible space for both the church and local community. During the year we received generous legacies which make it credible for us to plan this work. Before embarking on such a project, we need to consider, not just what needs to be done, but also how we will maximise the opportunities afforded by the new layout. This means we must think about the expectations we have for the church's life in worship and community, and about how we can make the building available to the local community for cultural and heritage events. This is an exciting opportunity for the church, and it is important that every member gets involved and shares their dreams for the future of our church.

Whereas legacy income allows us to maintain and develop our built inheritance, it doesn't pay for the day-to-day expenses of mission and ministry. That relies on our regular income. In addition to the regular bills, clergy must be paid. A new scheme called Ministry Share comes into operation this year which pays for clergy. Ministry Share works on the basis of each parish paying the average cost of a clergy person, for each clergy person they have (excluding curates in training). The cost to St

Thomas' this year is over £65000*. Kathy and I have had to apply to the Diocesan Ministry Support Fund for additional support so that we can balance the budget, because our income will fall far short of our expected expenditure in 2022.

There are only two ways that we can change from being in need of support from the wider church to standing on our own feet. One is for existing members to give more - but please only give in line with what we have always taught - 5% of your income for the church and 5% to other Christian charities (poorer folk should aim to give from their disposable income - giving should never put you in difficulty). The other way is to grow the church numerically.

As part of its review, the PCC decided to reinstate the Worship Committee, with a view to creating more and more diverse opportunities to worship. The committee will be looking for non-PCC members, so come when meetings are advertised; but we'll also need people to consider helping to lead worship or support services (which might be different from the worship they personally prefer). To put it bluntly, we all need to 'muck in'.

So we have vision, for a church which better serves the community, growing in diversity and number, providing opportunities for people to grow both in faith and love, and which is simply a great bunch of people with which to enjoy life.

We can look forward to The Arts and Flower festival and we'll get yet another new curate - Sarah, joining us in July.

Thank you for playing your part in 2021;

Encourage one another as you play your parts in 2022;

Pray for your Church - nothing else is as important;

and expect the Church to grow, which it will, because God wants to bless us.

Andrew Sillis
Vicar, St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge

*Please understand that this is not my wage! It includes everything to do with having a vicar, providing their housing, a pension for when they retire, training your next vicar, and so on.

Churchwarden's Report

During 2021, The Covid Pandemic remained with us, causing a further lockdown. Our church adapted – relying heavily on on-line services, meetings, Lent and Bible Study groups. These gave a lifeline to all, especially those of our congregation living on their own, ensuring everyone stayed safe by following Government and Church of England guidelines.

One of the highlights of 2021 has got to be The Mission Team's wonderful Climate Festival Exhibition, which took place in the autumn. A year in planning, our church was decorated throughout the week of the Exhibition, including two huge hand-painted rotating globes depicting our ever-changing world. They hung in the central isle and definitely created a talking point. The church was full of stands exhibiting many groups' on-going passionate contributions and offering talks and leaflets to

all who visited. We were overjoyed at the number of people walking through our doors to investigate for themselves, and learn that even small changes to our lifestyles can make a difference to protect our world for the future.

We thank Revd. Andrew for Leading us in Worship in many different circumstances during 2021. He led our Bible Study Group on Zoom and introduced a weekly in-person "Meditation" Prayer session, which everyone attending, has commented that they have benefitted greatly from. He took numerous Baptisms towards the latter part of 2021, which were all very well attended.

We thank our administrator, Emma for all the work she carries out in the Church Office, and in the wider field for our Dudley Deanery. Our thanks also to Kathy, our Treasurer for her continual work balancing the Church finances. Kathy has supplied a detailed financial report within the body of St Thomas' 2021 Annual Report.

We are extremely grateful to Wendy Hemming and the Fabric Committee for their hard work in maintaining and developing the Church buildings. To name but a few: the work being carried out on gaining Government and local council grants; seeking permission and obtaining the Wendy & Graham Gwynne Memorial wall plaque; obtaining quotes to enable various work to be carried out (church hall windows that require painting and replacing; the many consultations and meetings towards the extremely detailed on-going work for Project 300). Wendy and the Fabric Committee have submitted a detailed report within the body of St Thomas' 2021 Annual Report.

We are of course so thankful to all our on-going Committees, which include the many volunteers who offer their time and energy. However, we always welcome additional help in the busy church life, so please come forward to join in the many activities to lend a hand when you feel you are able.

We must not forget our Church gardeners, who work so hard to always make our garden look so beautifully stocked with seasonal plants. Our Stourbridge community have the pleasure of sitting on freshly painted benches (many thanks to Joy Totney) in such a picturesque and popular space, right in the heart of the hustle and bustle of our town's life.

As we move into 2022, we can look forward to commencing Project 300, which is raising much excitement within our Stourbridge community and St Thomas' congregation, as we plan and visualise changes to the inside of our church building, working towards removing pews and opening up its internal structure to eventually house multi-functional activities. This is a huge project – architects, consultants etc. have already given their professional opinions on how we can tackle some areas we will need to replace, all with eco-friendly and sustainable options.

We look forward to all that 2022 holds for St Thomas'.

Jess Warburton, Val Charles

Fabric Report

Since the April 2021 APCM we have:

- Obtained permission and installed a curtain across the Aumbry. Thank you to Judi Davies for making this.
- Obtained a faculty and installed a Brass Plaque in memory of Graham and Wendy Gwynne
- Approved a Memorials Policy
- Re-arranged the Maundy Money display.
- Investigated new noticeboards for the South Porch

- Installed a further CCTV camera in church
- Repaired the Tower Clock
- Involved our local councilor in trying to resolve the issue with the Bell Apartments concerning the gates and the supporting posts attached to our wall. The Planning Enforcement Team at Dudley MBC have this matter in hand and have given us an initial report.
- Considered the refurbishment of the hall kitchen and toilets
- Agreed the installation of new windows in the church hall toilets, office and meeting room.
- Investigated water damage to the Youth Room Ceiling.
- Repaired and painted the North Side windows of the church hall.
- Sought quotations to install quick release gates at both ends of the passage around the church hall to provide security for the area. Started to investigate possible public funding for this project.
- Agreed a scheme for making out the car park to establish a turning circle when crush parking is not needed.
- Sought advice and quotations for remedial work for the damp inside the church hall.
- Applied for and received a grant from The Anthony and Gwendoline Wylde Trust of £2,000 for the repair of the boundary wall. (We now have two grants for this work totaling £5,000).
- Installed a new pump for the church boilers.

During 22-23 we hope to:

- Repair the Boundary Wall
- Continue to press the Planning Enforcement Team for a resolution to the Bell Apartments problem.
- Resolve the damp problem in the church hall.

Project 300

We have:

- Made appointments for two meetings with the Diocesan Advisory Council
- Defined our plans for the Project
- Had a meeting with our Architect to put our plans into a presentable form
- Started Public Consultations using professionally produced publicity material.
- Started investigations into appropriate seating and re-started contact with lighting consultants.
- Investigated the history of the Font which Project 300 seeks to replace.

We intend to:

- Continue to work with the Architect and the DAC to refine our requirements and obtain permission for the project, enabling funding applications to be made.
- Continue with Public Consultations and with interesting the Community in the wider use of our church building.

We welcome new members to the Fabric Committee who are able to offer their skills towards our many projects.

Wendy Hemming

Safeguarding Report

The PCC is aware of its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the house of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

In 2020 the PCC continued to use the "Safeguarding Toolkit" provided in the diocese as a way of self-assessment to seek to ensure it fulfils that duty. Self-assessment using the Parish Dashboard is being used now. The difference between the two is that the "Toolkit" was completed on paper and gave fewer options for self-assessment whereas the "Dashboard" is completed online in real time and can help us to assess our progress in more areas as the year progresses.

Several people have had their DBS clearance renewed during the year and several people have attended training courses for their roles, including leadership training. DBS clearances now need to be renewed every three years, rather than, as previously, every five years. All members of the PCC have completed basic safeguarding training via an online platform as this is now mandatory for members of the PCC. As from the start of January 2022, PCC members are required to complete the C1 course.

Risk assessments for activities both in the church and the hall have been completed and we are working on a risk assessment for Home Communion visits which will be completed when we have information on the rules for visiting care homes and the homes of individuals from the government.

We have ensured that Childline and Parentline posters are displayed along with our Safeguarding Policy in the Church, Church Hall, Bell Tower and Song Room. Jo Bond is Parish Advocate – a person to whom anyone can talk if there is a safeguarding problem.

If anyone has any Safeguarding concerns, then they can inform any of the following people: the Vicar, a Churchwarden, or the Parish Safeguarding Officer, who will take any action necessary.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer email address is pso@stthomasstourbridge.org

We are extremely grateful to our choir members and to our team of bell ringing tutors for giving so freely of their time. If anyone would like to join either of these teams, please don't hesitate to speak to Richard Hurst (Bell Ringers) or Jo Bond (Choir).

I shall cease to be the Safeguarding Officer after the APCM. I would like to thank you all for your support and friendship.

Jo Bond, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod Report

At the beginning of 2021, the old system of 13 deaneries was dissolved and a new system of 6 deaneries covering the whole diocese was set up. St Thomas moved from being in the old Stourbridge Deanery and became part of the much larger Greater Dudley Deanery. Setting up the new deaneries has proved more difficult than anticipated and the pandemic hasn't helped. The new scheme offers many potential advantages over the old system, and brings some moderate financial savings.

The role of the deanery is to generate mutually supportive relationships between parishes, plan mission effectively in the locality and to enable churches to actively serve and transform their communities. Working out how to do that, when Deanery Synod was only initially able to meet on Zoom, proved tricky. However, the Synod did meet in person for the first time in September, and so we are hopeful that the benefits of having a larger deanery with more opportunities to share learning, resources and fellowship, will soon become apparent.

Your Deanery Synod representatives are Andrew Sillis (House of Clergy), Andrew Harding & Wendy Hemming (House of Laity)

Andrew Sillis

PCC Activity Report

The Church Council has met five times since the APCM in October 2020.

Key matters under discussion were:

- Arrangements for public worship and private prayer as Covid-19 defence arrangements changed
- Items of work for the protection and maintenance of the church buildings
- Oversight of the church finances
- Revision of certain policies of the council

Andrew Sillis

Choir's Report

Throughout the year, the choir has worked hard on providing music for services. Like many people, we enjoy using music to worship and to express our faith.

St Thomas' choir is small at present, but we are really lucky to have such a great group of committed people singing together. Rehearsals are informal and there is a lovely, informal atmosphere even though we work hard on our music. We have been lucky also in being able to work with some really helpful musicians who have rehearsed with us and accompanied us in services.

We now have two great musicians who have agreed to work with us as their other commitment allow, which makes us very happy! Welcome to Louis Stockton and Matt Davies!

We are hoping this year to gain more members and are hoping to recruit not only more children (by doing school visits and "Be a Chorister" events) but also more adults. We have welcomed some adults already this year; a tenor and two altos, but we would love to welcome more adults, especially basses! The more members we have, the more flexible we can be on attendance.

We are looking forward to the time when we can have a young voices choir or an adult choir singing at different services and there are other thoughts in our heads as well...

It has been a huge pleasure to work with such a great group of people and if anyone would like to join us, you would be most welcome! Spread the word!

Nicky Dalton and Jo Bond

Belfry Report (St Thomas' Society of Change Ringers)

We re-started ringing in the tower on Monday May 17th with short practices and, following guidelines, limiting numbers to 6 taking it in turns to stay away. We moved to an unrestricted practice and Sunday Ringing from July 26th and returned to a full-length practice from September 6th.

We have been fortunate to have been able to restore ringing to our pre-pandemic routine without losing any of our ringers. This hasn't been the case for many towers.

Pre-pandemic we organised and rang quarter peals on a regular basis. This we should resume in 2022 as soon as it becomes practical.

During the months of not being able to ring three of us practiced handbells out of doors and often in the rain under an umbrella or in a gazebo. Now we are back to tower bell ringing we are trying to continue this, but indoors.

Ringing provides physical and intellectual challenges as well as a social life as a group activity. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to visit the tower informally on any Monday practice night. Our intention is to recruit new ringers to train over the next few months and years. We need to continue the tradition of ringing within the church especially now that we are the sole remaining practice in Stourbridge of the 4 churches with peals of bells.

Richard Hurst, Tower Captain

Flower Guild Report

Once again, we have had a strange year. Mothering Sunday bunches of Daffodils were placed in church for people to collect themselves as services where being held online.

Easter we were able to place flowers in the church again and with the help of donations we had the church full of wonderful arrangements and perfume.

Our next adventure was to combine Harvest with the Climate Expedition which was a great success working from dried arrangements to fresh flowers.

Christmas we were able to place in our flower arrangements with the embellishments of reds, gold and sparkle.

I would like to thank all the guild members for their time and talents for making the church flowers a glorious display. On a sad note, we have lost Christine Corker from our team and our condolences go to Father John and family. Janet Simmonds has also stepped down and thanks go to her for the help and support she has given to us over the past years of service.

We welcomed two new members, Daphne Darlington and Jason Emptage. If you would like to join us, please contact me or the office.

We are thankful for all the donations given to us as all the arrangements in church are covered this way. If you would like to contribute in anyway, please make your donations through the office as over the past year we seen a decline in this funding.

Looking forward to the forthcoming year.

Judi Davies

Rainbows Report

Well, if a global pandemic taught me anything it was that I could never be a Blue Peter presenter. As 2021 started we continued with weekly Zoom sessions of one hour a week, which we had started the previous November. Keeping 12 Rainbows aged between 5 and 7 years focused and entertained took quite a lot of effort. I quickly realised that it wasn't that easy to run a craft session even with 'here is one I made earlier' in place. During the term on Zoom we completed a badge - Mexico Adventure, with activities including craft, games and cooking - Chicken Enchilada's seemed a good idea when we were planning it. Turns out it is not easy to talk and cook at the same time whilst also trying to make sure everyone has done the same thing and has not cut themselves or burnt anything.

After Easter, much to my relief, we were allowed back to face-to-face meetings, these we held outside. We welcomed new Rainbows and enjoyed being together in person. We completed another badge – Brilliant Bees, we had great fun learning all about bees and the effect the environment is having on them. We completed lots of activities and finished off with Bee Ball at the end of term, which included learning how bees dance.

When we returned in September we made use of the space in the church hall, this helped in social distancing measures. We completed our First Aid badge which included a lively session on bites, animal, insect and snake. Also, a very excitable session where they learnt how germs are spread and why it is so important to wash hands all with the aid of some Vaseline and glitter. After half term we completed our second badge of the term, Advent Challenge. We had 24 things to complete which

were varied and fun, we made reindeer food, Christmas decorations, collected food for the Foodbank and had a snowball fight, amongst other things.

Our start to 2022 was delayed as many of our girl's families were hit by Covid. We have kept our group size at a lower number since Covid, as life begins to return to normal, we are looking forward to talking on more girls. We have lots of things planned, we are having a party for the Queens jubilee with our own Coronation taking place and we also taking part in the Flower & Arts Festival at St Thomas' in July.

Emma Leek, Leader in Charge

Beavers Report

We restarted our Beaver Colony in October, initially with 10 Beavers now increased to 16, and we have had great feedback from the young people and their carers.

They visited Bodenham Arboretum to earn their Explorer Badge and they enjoyed their first outing in our group minibus.

Beavers are looking forward to their first sleepover (or possibly stay-awake-over) in a few weeks and a visit to the snowdome in March. We are going to find out how refined their tastes are while working towards the international badge and sampling Indian and French cuisine (leftovers available for volunteers...).

We are hoping to arrange an overnight stay on a scouting campsite in the warmer months - to give them a real flavour of the sort of adventures they can have within scouting.

We have a team of new volunteers (Blue, Baggie, Brillo and Big Bob) running the colony supported by some seasoned leaders but would welcome another pair of hands either on a regular or ad hoc basis, this would allow us to run different activities and increase the size of the colony.

Kate Bond

Cubs Report

Cubs are back to a full program of activities after the recent challenges. We restarted online via Zoom meetings in November 2020, and we were amazed at the enthusiasm of the young people to participate remotely, while their schooling kept them in front of their computers for much of the day as well. We were even more amazed that the pack grew with new members during the lockdown to nearly its largest ever capacity.

The enthusiasm of the young people never ceases to impress us, and it is what keeps us enjoying Scouting leadership long after our own children have passed through. We would love to be able to share this experience with other parents and adult helpers who, we are sure, would find it equally rewarding.

Recent highlights have been bat watching at Saltwells Nature reserve, rhododendron underworld at Bunkers Hill and ancient history at Norton Covert.

Forthcoming plans include a visit to the fire station, behind the scenes at Waitrose, evenings out at Clent and Kinver, den building at Lickey and inevitably a camp at our favourite home-from-home, Rhydd Covert at Bewdley. Nothing beats the outdoor life, open fire cooking, the all-pervading smell of wood smoke and bringing home a dozen grubby, tired but delighted 8-10 year-olds.

Graeme Lowcock

Scouts Report

For a generation obsessed with technology and video games we were surprised by how joyful the scouts were when we were finally able to restart meeting face to face. After so long without meeting going for a simple hike was a real gift! The rules benefited us as we spent more time outside and really put the out in scOUTing, but we were happy for the opportunity to return indoors as the nights began to draw in!

We spent time listening to the scouts and have lots planned for the coming year. Our elder members are currently preparing for their expedition challenge, they will walk for two days and camp overnight being as self-sufficient as possible. We have skills days planned at local campsites and are in practice for a district shooting competition and working towards an orienteering badge.

We have a full troop, but because of the pandemic they have not had the opportunity to build the skills that they would have previously. We're working hard to on this but would welcome anyone that would be interested in helping, either as a one-off session in an area that they are knowledgeable in, as a regular helper at weekly meetings or weekends away.

Kate Bond

Treasurer's Report

Dear Friends

The pandemic continued to make 2021 difficult. Hall bookings which post pandemic was providing income remained unpredictable due to infection rates and the emergence of Covid variants.

However, the outcome was better than could have been anticipated mainly due to the grants that were received from DMBC and a refund of charges from HSBC.

Utilities remained lower this year which may have occurred because of the reduced use of facilities. However, it is recognised that our fuel charges will increase when our tariff ends in October, and this could be substantial.

Ministry Share has now replaced Fairer share in 2022 with the cost set at £65,755. Our income has been reducing steadily over the last few years and as previous years we are unable to meet this cost, therefore a 'Ministry Support Fund Grant' together with a 'Lowest Income Community Grant' has been applied for and we await news as to whether this application has been successful.

An amount of money has been restricted to develop a means whereby our church community and visitors alike can donate more easily, as cash appears to be carried far less since the pandemic.

Although our donations are reduced, on a positive note we received substantial legacies in 2021 which were restricted to the fabric of the building thereby providing a good base for Project 300.

As always, I aim to give a realistic account of our finances and the accounts reflect the points I have raised.

I have also projected that there will be an increase in clergy expenses as we are to have a curate join us this year.

I am not privy presently of any plans for the music department and therefore have acted conservatively.

The income from the hall is not one that I or anyone else can predict. The pandemic continues and sadly this has an effect on bookings being cancelled or not continued.

We have been extremely fortunate in receiving legacies in 2021 which are restricted for our fabric fund.

Unfortunately, the trend currently is that our income is reducing steadily on an annual basis and therefore our projected income, taking into account our Ministry Share only meets approx. 45% of our 2022 expenditure.

Kathy Knight, Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARIOCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) OF ST. THOMAS, STOURBRIDGE

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 and the associated notes as set out on pages 1 to 13

Respective responsibilities of the members of the PCC and the examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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

Signature: [signature] DAVID A. HAWKINS FCCA 1669293

Address: 17 MCMANAGE ROAD DY8 4JD

Date: 15/3/2022

THE CHURCH OF ST.THOMAS, STOURBRIDGE

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2021

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge - 1134825

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
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	38,947	165,033	—	203,980	45,884
Voluntary income	—	7	—	7	512
Activities for generating funds	305	38	—	343	490
Investment income	11,959	209	—	12,168	7,872
Incoming resources from charitable activities	21,081	6,880	—	27,960	8,209
Other incoming resources					
Total income	**72,292**	**172,166**	**—**	**244,458**	**62,967**
Resources used					
Charitable activities	60,195	8,168	—	68,363	71,527
Total expenditure	**60,195**	**8,168**	**—**	**68,363**	**71,527**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**12,098**	**163,998**	**—**	**176,096**	**(8,560)**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	2,950	—	2,950	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(2,950)	—	—	(2,950)	—
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	1,508	1,508	678
Net movement in funds	**9,148**	**166,948**	**1,508**	**177,604**	**(7,882)**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**10,382**	**47,779**	**10,489**	**68,650**	**76,532**
Total funds carried forward	**19,530**	**214,727**	**11,997**	**246,254**	**68,650**
Represented by					
Unrestricted	18,358	—	—	18,358	9,422
General fund					
Designated	592	—	—	592	565
Friends of the Music	580	—	—	580	395
Guttering Maintenance					
Restricted	—	8	—	8	7
Church Hall Improvements	—	2,500	—	2,500	—
Development Fund	—	209,438	—	209,438	44,639
Fabric Appeal Fund	—	882	—	882	907
Flower Festival	—	432	—	432	592
Flower Guild	—	1,247	—	1,247	1,545
Organ Improvement Fund	—	148	—	148	20
Social Mission Concerns	—	72	—	72	69
St Thomas Gardening Fund					
Endowment	—	—	11,997	11,997	10,489
Gallimore Burton Trust					

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

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge - 1134825

Balance sheet (Church of England)
As at: 31 December 2021

	As at 31/12/2021 £	As at 31/12/2020 £
Fixed assets		
Investments	11,997	10,489
	11,997	10,489
Current assets		
Debtors	2,064	1,892
Cash at bank and in hand	232,192	56,268
	234,256	58,160
Net current assets less current liabilities	**234,256**	**58,160**
Total assets less current liabilities	**246,253**	**68,649**
Total net assets less liabilities	**246,253**	**68,649**
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	18,357	9,422
Designated		
Designated - Friends of the Music	591	564
Designated - Guttering Maintenance	580	395
Designated - Church Hall Improvements	—	—
Restricted		
Restricted - Church Improvement Fund	—	—
Restricted - Development Fund	2,500	—
Restricted - Flower Festival	881	907
Restricted - Flower Guild	432	591
Restricted - Fabric Appeal Fund	209,438	44,639
Restricted - St Thomas Gardening Fund	72	69
Restricted - Church Hall Improvements	7	6
Restricted - Organ Improvement Fund	1,246	1,544
Restricted - Social Mission Concerns	147	19
Endowment		
Endowment - Gallimore Burton Trust	11,997	10,489
Funds of the church	**246,253**	**68,649**

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

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

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge - 1134825
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
DVP - Development Fund (Restricted) Fund			
Transfers to/(from)		2,500	—
Total carried forward balance		**2,500**	—
FF - Flower Festival (Restricted) Fund			
Receipts			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Donations		—	299
	Total Voluntary income	—	*299*
Activities for generating funds			
Flower Festival		7	512
	Total Activities for generating funds	*7*	*512*
Total receipts		**7**	**812**
Payments			
Charitable activities			
Stationery,Printing & Postage		32	—
	Total Charitable activities	*32*	—
Total payments		**32**	—
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used		(25)	812
Brought forward balance		907	95
Total carried forward balance		**881**	**907**
FG - Flower Guild (Restricted) Fund			
Receipts			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Donations		329	721
	Total Voluntary income	329	*721*
Total receipts		**329**	**721**
Payments			
Charitable activities			
Flowers		489	130
	Total Charitable activities	*489*	*130*
Total payments		**489**	**130**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used		(159)	591
Brought forward balance		591	—

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

Total carried forward balance	432	591

FOM - Friends of the Music (Designated) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	230	—
Total Voluntary income	*230*	—
Total receipts	**230**	—
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Choir expenses	202	—
Piano Tuning	—	100
Total Charitable activities	*202*	*100*
Total payments	**202**	**100**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	27	(100)
Brought forward balance	564	664
Total carried forward balance	**591**	**564**

Fabric - Fabric Appeal Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	895	538
Legacies received	163,800	—
Total Voluntary income	*164,695*	*538*
Investment income		
Interest received	37	195
Total Investment income	*37*	*195*
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Collections - funerals	209	—
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	*209*	—
Other incoming resources		
Grants received	6,879	1,000
VAT recovered	—	2,598
Total Other incoming resources	*6,879*	*3,598*
Total receipts	**171,820**	**4,332**
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Major repairs -Church	4,032	9,896
Major repairs - Church Hall	1,170	—
Minor repairs and maintenance - Church	1,127	3,235
Minor repairs and maintenance-Church hal	376	1,209
Architects and Chartered Surveyors Fees	—	701
Organ repairs & tuning	315	—
Total Charitable activities	*7,021*	*15,042*
Total payments	**7,021**	**15,042**

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

Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	~~164,799~~	~~(10,709)~~
Brought forward balance	44,639	55,348
Total carried forward balance	**209,438**	**44,639**

GBT - Gallimore Burton Trust (Endowment) Fund

Brought forward balance	10,489	9,811
Gains & losses	1,508	677
Total carried forward balance	**11,997**	**10,489**

Garden - St Thomas Gardening Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	3	—
Total Voluntary income	*3*	—
Total receipts	**3**	—
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	3	—
Brought forward balance	69	69
Total carried forward balance	**72**	**69**

Guttering - Guttering Maintenance (Designated) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	935	395
Total Voluntary income	*935*	*395*
Total receipts	**935**	**395**
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Minor repairs and maintenance - Church	750	160
Total Charitable activities	*750*	*160*
Total payments	**750**	**160**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	185	235
Brought forward balance	395	160
Total carried forward balance	**580**	**395**

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

Hall - Church Hall Improvements (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Investment income		
Interest received	0	—
Total Investment income	*0*	—
Total receipts	**0**	—
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	0	—
Brought forward balance	6	6
Total carried forward balance	**7**	**6**

Organ - Organ Improvement Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	5	—
Total Voluntary income	*5*	—
Total receipts	**5**	—
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Organ repairs & tuning	303	—
Total Charitable activities	*303*	—
Total payments	**303**	—
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	(298)	—
Brought forward balance	1,544	1,544
Total carried forward balance	**1,246**	**1,544**

SMC - Social Mission Concerns (Restricted) Fund

Payments		
Charitable activities		
Social Mission Concerns	321	—
Total Charitable activities	*321*	—
Total payments	**321**	—
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	(321)	—
Brought forward balance	19	19
Transfers to/(from)	450	—
Total carried forward balance	**147**	**19**

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

	From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund			
Receipts			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Planned giving		28,515	29,318
Loose cash		894	1,040
Gift Aid Recovered		7,807	7,387
Donations		565	6,182
Total Voluntary income		*37,782*	*43,928*
Investment income			
Dividends received		304	294
Total Investment income		*304*	*294*
Incoming resources from charitable activities			
Christmas Tree Festival		—	3
Sundry sales		—	43
Church hall lettings		10,581	7,280
Fees - weddings		135	53
Collections - funerals		—	130
Collections - Baptisms		673	51
PCC Fees: Funeral		569	291
PCC Fees other		—	20
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities		*11,959*	*7,872*
Other incoming resources			
Sundry income		282	10
Grants received		13,034	4,600
HSBC Refund of Charges		7,701	—
Insurance claims		62	—
Total Other incoming resources		*21,080*	*4,610*
Total receipts		**71,127**	**56,705**
Payments			
Charitable activities			
Parish share		25,000	15,000
Insurance - Church		5,086	5,068
Insurance - Church Hall		1,643	1,669
Severn Trent Water: Church		—	21
Severn Trent Water: Church Hall		141	—
Gas - Church		2,203	2,258
Electricity- Church		1,213	1,092
Gas- Church Hall		1,040	1,684
Electricity-Church Hall		767	1,096
Director of Music		—	6,666
Choir expenses		350	20
Organists fees		2,120	745
Choristers fees		69	75
Cost of services		1,939	1,235
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance		685	630
Secretary's salary		3,531	6,656
Cleaners - Church Hall		2,163	1,789
Gardener		290	125
Church Cleaner		1,383	1,342
Stationery,Printing & Postage		1,429	1,258
Telephone		414	402
Hire of photocopier		4,371	4,327
Hygiene Services Church hall		1,703	1,807
Sundry expenses		577	(66)

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	Bank charges	358	394
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Total payments		**59,241**	**56,094**
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	Brought forward balance	9,422	8,811
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

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- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
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Other income

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Dividends are accounted for when receivable and interest is accounted for when received.

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Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments every December.

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Parish Share is a voluntary obligation of the PCC to the Diocese. For 2021 this was £42,458 These accounts show the amount paid, and agreed by the PCC, during the year of £25,000. The shortfall of £17,458 is not reflected in these accounts.

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Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10 of the Charities Act 2011.

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All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1,000, or on the repair of movable church furnishings is written off.

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Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

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Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

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Unrestricted funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose are also unrestricted.

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Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 2.

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Endowment funds are those funds where the capital must be retained and details of these funds are provided in note 2.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

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The Fabric Account represents grants and amounts donated for the purposes of the repair, upkeep, and renovation of the church buildings.

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This fund represents a grant and money donated to be used towards refurbishments in the church hall. There are only a few pounds left in this fund, but it remains open.

Organ Fund

The organ fund represents donations made for the refurbishment of the organ.

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The small balance in the fund has been maintained for 2021.This was mainly due to donations being made for plants etc. that were bought for the garden area.

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The SMC fund has previously raised money primarily for the benefit of a school in ITAMBA. This year it has been involved in the Climatic Festival. Funds were transferred to the SMC to cover expenses and a surplus to enable other projects. This has been necessary due to a lack of fund-raising activities due to the Covid pandemic.

Flower Festival Fund

This money for this fund is generated from a bi-annual flower festival held in the church. Fund raising began for a festival in 2020 but this had to be postponed due to national Covid restrictions and will now take place in 2022.

Development Fund

This is a new restricted fund created to enable devices or activities for the improvement of donations or other income streams.

Endowment fund - Gallimore Burton Trust

This consists of 513 Income Shares in the C B F Church of England Investment Fund, the income from which is for the upkeep of a grave and the dividends generated for the general purposes of the PCC

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOUNTS APPROVAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

3 Salaries
During the year the PCC employed a secretary however no national insurance or PAYE was payable.

4 Payments to PCC members
No expenses or payments were paid to any PCC member, persons connected to them or related parties other than expenses reimbursed to the vicar & curate amounting to £482.

5 Investment Assets	**2021 (£)**	**2020 (£)**
Market Value at 1 January	10489	9,812
Revaluation (loss) / gain	1,508	677
Market Value at 31 December	11,997	10,489

6 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	**2021 (£)**	**2020 (£)**
Unrestricted funds : Utilities	-	-
	-	-

9 Related Party Transactions
There were no related party transactions during the year other than those explained in note 4 above of £482.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on - 6th March 2022

and signed on its behalf by:

Rev A Sillis
Vicar

K Knight
Treasurer

THE CHURCH OF ST.THOMAS, STOURBRIDGE

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2021

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge - 1134825

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
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	38,947	165,033	—	203,980	45,884
Activities for generating funds	—	7	—	7	512
Investment income	305	38	—	343	490
Incoming resources from charitable activities	11,959	209	—	12,168	7,872
Other incoming resources	21,081	6,880	—	27,960	8,209
Total income	**72,292**	**172,166**	**—**	**244,458**	**62,967**
Resources used					
Charitable activities	60,195	8,168	—	68,363	71,527
Total expenditure	**60,195**	**8,168**	**—**	**68,363**	**71,527**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**12,098**	**163,998**	**—**	**176,096**	**(8,560)**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	2,950	—	2,950	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(2,950)	—	—	(2,950)	—
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	1,508	1,508	678
Net movement in funds	**9,148**	**166,948**	**1,508**	**177,604**	**(7,882)**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**10,382**	**47,779**	**10,489**	**68,650**	**76,532**
Total funds carried forward	**19,530**	**214,727**	**11,997**	**246,254**	**68,650**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	18,358	—	—	18,358	9,422
Designated					
Friends of the Music	592	—	—	592	565
Guttering Maintenance	580	—	—	580	395
Restricted					
Church Hall Improvements	—	8	—	8	7
Development Fund	—	2,500	—	2,500	—
Fabric Appeal Fund	—	209,438	—	209,438	44,639
Flower Festival	—	882	—	882	907
Flower Guild	—	432	—	432	592
Organ Improvement Fund	—	1,247	—	1,247	1,545
Social Mission Concerns	—	148	—	148	20
St Thomas Gardening Fund	—	72	—	72	69
Endowment					
Gallimore Burton Trust	—	—	11,997	11,997	10,489

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

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge - 1134825

Balance sheet (Church of England)
As at: 31 December 2021

	As at 31/12/2021 £	As at 31/12/2020 £
Fixed assets		
Investments	11,997	10,489
	11,997	10,489
Current assets		
Debtors	2,064	1,892
Cash at bank and in hand	232,192	56,268
	234,256	58,160
	234,256	**58,160**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**246,253**	**68,649**
Total assets less current liabilities	**246,253**	**68,649**
Total net assets less liabilities		
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	18,357	9,422
Designated		
Designated - Friends of the Music	591	564
Designated - Guttering Maintenance	580	395
Designated - Church Hall Improvements	—	—
Restricted		
Restricted - Church Improvement Fund	—	—
Restricted - Development Fund	2,500	—
Restricted - Flower Festival	881	907
Restricted - Flower Guild	432	591
Restricted - Fabric Appeal Fund	209,438	44,639
Restricted - St Thomas Gardening Fund	72	69
Restricted - Church Hall Improvements	7	6
Restricted - Organ Improvement Fund	1,246	1,544
Restricted - Social Mission Concerns	147	19
Endowment		
Endowment - Gallimore Burton Trust	11,997	10,489
Funds of the church	**246,253**	**68,649**

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	From To	01 January 2021 31 December 2021	01 January 2020 31 December 2020
DVP - Development Fund (Restricted) Fund			
Transfers to/(from)		2,500	—
Total carried forward balance		**2,500**	—
FF - Flower Festival (Restricted) Fund			
Receipts			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Donations		—	299
	Total Voluntary income	—	*299*
Activities for generating funds			
Flower Festival		7	512
	Total Activities for generating funds	7	*512*
Total receipts		**7**	**812**
Payments			
Charitable activities			
Stationery,Printing & Postage		32	—
	Total Charitable activities	*32*	—
Total payments		**32**	—
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used		(25)	812
Brought forward balance		907	95
Total carried forward balance		**881**	**907**
FG - Flower Guild (Restricted) Fund			
Receipts			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Donations		329	721
	Total Voluntary income	329	*721*
Total receipts		**329**	**721**
Payments			
Charitable activities			
Flowers		489	130
	Total Charitable activities	*489*	*130*
Total payments		**489**	**130**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used		(159)	591
Brought forward balance		591	—

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Total carried forward balance	**432**	**591**

FOM - Friends of the Music (Designated) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	230	—
Total Voluntary income	*230*	—
Total receipts	**230**	—
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Choir expenses	202	—
Piano Tuning	—	100
Total Charitable activities	*202*	*100*
Total payments	**202**	**100**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	27	(100)
Brought forward balance	564	664
Total carried forward balance	**591**	**564**

Fabric - Fabric Appeal Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	895	538
Legacies received	163,800	—
Total Voluntary income	*164,695*	*538*
Investment income		
Interest received	37	195
Total Investment income	*37*	*195*
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Collections - funerals	209	—
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	*209*	—
Other incoming resources		
Grants received	6,879	1,000
VAT recovered	—	2,598
Total Other incoming resources	*6,879*	*3,598*
Total receipts	**171,820**	**4,332**
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Major repairs -Church	4,032	9,896
Major repairs - Church Hall	1,170	—
Minor repairs and maintenance - Church	1,127	3,235
Minor repairs and maintenance-Church hal	376	1,209
Architects and Chartered Surveyors Fees	—	701
Organ repairs & tuning	315	—
Total Charitable activities	*7,021*	*15,042*
Total payments	**7,021**	**15,042**

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Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	~~164,799~~	~~(10,709)~~
Brought forward balance	44,639	55,348
Total carried forward balance	**209,438**	**44,639**

GBT - Gallimore Burton Trust (Endowment) Fund

Brought forward balance	10,489	9,811
Gains & losses	1,508	677
Total carried forward balance	**11,997**	**10,489**

Garden - St Thomas Gardening Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	3	—
Total Voluntary income	*3*	—
Total receipts	**3**	—
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	3	—
Brought forward balance	69	69
Total carried forward balance	**72**	**69**

Guttering - Guttering Maintenance (Designated) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	935	395
Total Voluntary income	*935*	*395*
Total receipts	**935**	**395**
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Minor repairs and maintenance - Church	750	160
Total Charitable activities	*750*	*160*
Total payments	**750**	**160**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	185	235
Brought forward balance	395	160
Total carried forward balance	**580**	**395**

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Hall - Church Hall Improvements (Restricted) Fund

Receipts			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Investment income			
Interest received		0	—
	Total Investment income	*0*	—
		0	—
Total receipts			
		0	—
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used		6	6
Brought forward balance		**7**	**6**
Total carried forward balance			

Organ - Organ Improvement Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Donations		5	—
	Total Voluntary income	*5*	—
		5	—
Total receipts			
Payments			
Charitable activities		303	—
Organ repairs & tuning		*303*	—
	Total Charitable activities	**303**	—
Total payments			—
		(298)	
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used		1,544	1,544
Brought forward balance		**1,246**	**1,544**
Total carried forward balance			

SMC - Social Mission Concerns (Restricted) Fund

Payments			
Charitable activities		321	—
Social Mission Concerns		*321*	—
	Total Charitable activities	**321**	—
Total payments			—
		(321)	
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used		19	19
Brought forward balance		450	—
Transfers to/(from)		**147**	**19**
Total carried forward balance			

General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Planned giving	28,515	29,318
Loose cash	894	1,040
Gift Aid Recovered	7,807	7,387
Donations	565	6,182
Total Voluntary income	*37,782*	*43,928*
Investment income		
Dividends received	304	294
Total Investment income	*304*	*294*
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Christmas Tree Festival	—	3
Sundry sales	—	43
Church hall lettings	10,581	7,280
Fees - weddings	135	53
Collections - funerals	—	130
Collections - Baptisms	673	51
PCC Fees: Funeral	569	291
PCC Fees other	—	20
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	*11,959*	*7,872*
Other incoming resources		
Sundry income	282	10
Grants received	13,034	4,600
HSBC Refund of Charges	7,701	—
Insurance claims	62	—
Total Other incoming resources	*21,080*	*4,610*
Total receipts	**71,127**	**56,705**
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Parish share	25,000	15,000
Insurance - Church	5,086	5,068
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PCC OF ST. THOMAS, STOURBRIDGE

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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Unrestricted funds : Utilities	-	-
	-	-

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Approved by the Parochial Church Council on - 6th March 2022

and signed on its behalf by:

Rev A Sillis
Vicar

K Knight
Treasurer

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, STOURBRID

England & Wales - Charity number 1134825

Accounts

Parish Church of St Thomas

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Administrative Information

The church of St Thomas is situated in Stourbridge, West Midlands. It is part of the Diocese of Worcester within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

St. Thomas' Church Office
St. Thomas' Church Hall
Market Street
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY8 1AG

Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity. The Charity Number is 1134825.

PCC members who served from 25th October 2020 to 23rd May 2021 were:

Ex officio Members

Vicar and Chair Reverend Andrew Sillis
Assistant Curate Reverend Adam Hadley
Churchwardens Val Charles, Jess Warburton
Deanery Synod Members Andrew Harding, Wendy Hemming, Gary Leek

Elected Members

Jannette Griffiths
Kathryn Harding
Wendy Hemming
Kathy Knight (Treasurer)
Gary Leek (Lay Vice-Chair)
Susan Marks
Janet Taylor
Esky Wood (Secretary)
Alistair Greeves
Joy Baylis
Jo Bond (Safeguarding)
Independent Examiner to the PCC, David Hawkins

The Church of St Thomas Stourbridge

Annual Report of The Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

St. Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Thomas' Church Hall.

Public Benefit

The public benefit is served by enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Thomas' and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. When planning its charitable activities for the year, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Church attendance

The average total attendance at Sunday worship during the year was 48 adults and 2 children (under 16).

Electoral roll

3 people have left the Electoral Roll and 0 have joined between October 2020 and May 2021. Total number of people on the roll stands at 82.

Vicar’s Report

Dear Friends,

What a year it has been!

Only the very oldest of our members will be able to recall a year of greater turbulence and disruption to the church’s life and ministry; and of course the effects of the virus pandemic are still not confined to history, nor will they be for some time. I was very tempted to simply repeat many of the comments from my report written last August for the last Annual Meetings. We are ministering in an entirely new context, and we must be prepared to change much about the way we have done things. The aim is to be healthy and sustainable as a church. Fit for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and able to do so without too great a reliance on others.

This past year, St Thomas’ has weathered the Covid19 storm well. It has done so because of the exceptional dedication and commitment of a handful of people. Of course, everyone plays their part, and small or great every part played contributes to the mission. However, can I direct you to particular gratitude for the parts played by your Churchwardens, Val & Jess, by Emma & Gary, and by Adam: who have read countless pages of advice (sometimes contradictory); produced papers and risk assessments galore; searched out innovative solutions to problems practical and digital; and spent long hours cleaning and preparing the church for worship and prayer. St Thomas’ has been open more often, for longer, and served more people because of their efforts, than might otherwise have been the case. Our aim is to continue to extend our offering, in person and online, as circumstances permit.

For part of last year I was granted a period of sabbatical study. I aimed to spend time in reading, study, prayer and reflection considering what might be learned for the business of growing disciples and leading a ‘more natural’ church, from the ecological technology of ‘rewilding’. When a group of ecologists seek to rewild an area, they put back what has been taken out and take out what has artificially been introduced to an ecosystem. It seems right to me that to grow as disciples we too need to think carefully about what is missing from our spiritual lives and to remove from our lives those things which restrict life and growth. For each individual these things are likely to be different.

Additionally, rewilded areas have all their internal boundaries removed so that flora and fauna might migrate freely. I’ve interpreted that as removing the limits we put on God’s reach into our lives - it’s about taking down the fences that we erect that the Holy Spirit will not cross (out of politeness, rather than weakness). It’s about learning to say, “yes” to God, in those areas where we presently say, “I’d rather not”. So it is about a simpler and more open approach to God’s presence in our lives.

I’d like, as a community, that we approach our shared life and ministry with a simpler and more open aspect. I expect that with a greater openness to what God might want to do with us, and a greater concern for the basics of our discipleship - prayer, worship, care for others and so forth, we will experience more growth in number and in our spirituality. Some of you might have detected the ways in which we have grown, as we worshipped more simply and shared more openly online during the periods of lockdown.

One last word of thanks is to you all for your financial contribution to our ministry. You have all been most generous. In 2020, we once again failed to meet our full share of the costs of the church’s ministry. In 2020 we paid only around a third of what we were asked. You will understand that the Diocese does not have an infinite supply of money. They will always support us in ministry, but as you know, the money has to come from somewhere.

It is expected that in 2022 a new scheme for sharing the costs of ministry will come into operation. This scheme is based on how much it costs to provide a vicar’s stipend,

pensions, housing, and training for ordinands and curates. It's around £64500 this year. There will be a ministry support scheme for poorer parishes and support in raising levels of giving; but it should be obvious that more will be asked of us. We are all grateful for your contributions, but we all need to look again at our finances and ask ourselves whether we are able to get closer to the Bible's standard of a tithe - 10% divided equally between the church and the other Christian charities we support. In order to do that, you might need to remove one or two of your internal fences; but don't give more unless you're sure you can afford it.

There's lots to be looking forward to in 2021, so long as the virus can be held at bay. The Mission Team are planning a wonderful Climate Festival for the autumn and there are a host of other ideas just waiting for the right moment.

It has been a difficult year, and the next might not be much more predictable, but we have a solid foundation on which to build. God's presence with us is a constant support and encouragement. Simply keep on with your prayers, seek the Lord where he is to be found, pour out compassion on your neighbours, care for creation, live generously and see how the Lord will bless you.

With every Blessing

Andrew Sillis
Vicar, St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge

Churchwarden's Report

We are very fortunate here at St Thomas's to have quite a number of committees made up from our congregation, who volunteer their time freely to ensure St Thomas' is fairly represented in all areas of our church life.

The Wardens would like to thank both Andrew, our Vicar, for his dedication and service he is now part of the new Greater Dudley Team of Deans and Adam, who has trained for 3 years with us as a Curate, we wish him well in his new position as Priest-in-charge of St Mary's, Kingswinford and The Church of Ascension, Wall Heath. It goes without saying, "You will be greatly missed by us all"

There are numerous other people whom we thank for their hard work and dedication here at St Thomas'.

Covid-19 update:

The church has been well attended since we re-opened from this last lockdown, both at the Wednesday 11.30am and Sunday 10.30am services. Covid-19 has seen many changes in the way our services have adjusted to enable them to be broadcast live each week, plus the introduction of many online meetings, bible courses, virtual coffee mornings, and on-going training links via Worcester Diocese all, successfully set up and running on weekly/monthly basis throughout the past year. These changes have enabled us, we believe, to adapt and to equip ourselves for future ways of connecting with each other throughout our daily lives as Christians.

Finally, a sincere thank you to everyone for supporting us in our role as Wardens.

Jess Warburton, Val Charles

Fabric Report

Since the October 2020 APCM we have:

- Investigated the use of a digital lock for the church hall side door but, on advice received from our insurers, we have decided not to procced with this, instead a new manual lock was installed.
- Repaired the Sanctuary Cill with 50% funding from National Churches Trust.
- Sought advice from our insurers about the Auto locking system on the church South Porch door.
- Received £1,000 funding from Allchurches trust towards the repair of the boundary wall and need to raise a further £2,700 plus VAT before the work can start.
- Applied for a faculty for the Gwynne Plaque and have introduced a Memorials Policy on the advice of the DAC.
- Carried out remedial works on some of the south-side stained-glass in the church.
- Established with our insurers that external wire guards are not required on the two small circular stained-glass windows in the tower. We needed to do this to ensure that our insurance was valid for all our windows due to a change in policy wording.
- Had tuned both pianos in the church and the organ continues to be regularly tuned.
- Received a Condition Report of the church from our Architect, paid for by Dudley MBC, in case problems arise from the deep holes drilled for the heat source pump work at the Crystal Leisure Centre in the future.
- Replaced one of the Community Garden trees which had died with a Rowan tree.
- Temporarily removed the Maundy Money display and intend to re-house it in the former Gift Book Display Case. The Gift Book will be archived.
- Asked the Conservation Officer of DMBC to report on the replacement cheap wooden gates on the adjoining entrance to the Bell Apartments and informed them that supporting posts for this double row of gates and the metal fence behind, are attached to our historic wall. These wooden gates have replaced the conservation standard metal gates which had been installed after discussions with the Conservation Officer and the Bell about five years ago.
- Decided to install an extra CCTV camera in church to avoid a black spot which enabled a theft which occurred in January not to be able to proceed to prosecution although the thief had been identified by police from the outside CCTV camera recording. Permission will be sought from DAC for the extension of the CCTV faculty. We have also installed extra bolts on the inside of the song room doors.
- Arranged for a service and repair visit by Smiths' Clocks to the Tower Clocks as the West Face is 20 mins fast. We are obliged to maintain tower clocks.
- Received a visit from the DAC Heating Advisor as part of the Project 300 investigations.

During 21-22 we hope to:

- Repair the Boundary Wall
- Re-house the Maundy Money
- Repair the Tower Clock
- Seek PCC approval and apply for a faculty for a curtain for the outside of the Aumbry.
- Continue to seek a report from the Conservation Officer concerning the Bell Apartments work.
- Arrange a Maintenance Visit for the church and church hall.
- Continue to work on Project 300 as and when Covid 19 restrictions allow.
- Obtain quotations and funding for the replacement of the smaller church hall windows, the refurbishment of the kitchen and toilets and the re-siting of the accessible toilet.

Wendy Hemming

Safeguarding Report

The PCC is aware of its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to the house of Bishops' guidance on Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

In 2019 the PCC used the "Safeguarding Toolkit" provided in the Diocese as a way of self-assessment to seek to ensure it fulfils that duty. This year, self-assessment using the Parish Dashboard is being used. The difference between the two is that the "Toolkit" was completed on paper and gave fewer options for self-assessment whereas the "Dashboard" is completed online in real time and can help us to assess our progress in more areas as the year progresses.

Several people have had their DBS clearance renewed during the year and several people have attended training courses for their roles, including leadership training. All members of the PCC have completed basic safeguarding training via an online platform as this is now mandatory for members.

Risk assessments for activities both in Church and the Church Hall have been completed. We are working on a risk assessment for Home Communion visits, which will be completed when we have information, from the government, on the rules for visiting care homes and the homes of individuals.

We have ensured that Childline and Parentline posters are displayed, along with our Safeguarding Policy in the Church, Church Hall, Bell Tower and Song Room.

Jo Bond is Parish Advocate – a person to whom anyone can talk if there is a safeguarding problem. Jo now has a dedicated email address if people need to contact her with safeguarding issues. It is:

pso@stthomasstourbridge.org

We are extremely grateful to our existing team of choir helpers and to our team of bell ringing tutors for giving so freely of their time. If anyone would like to join either of these teams, please speak to Richard Hurst (Bell Ringers) or Jo Bond (Choir).

Jo Bond
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Deanery Synod Report

With the reduction in the number of deaneries in Worcestershire, commencing 1st February 2021, St Thomas' is now in the Greater Dudley Deanery. The Area Dean is Revd. Canon David Hoskin (Team Rector in the Brierley Hill Team Ministry). Area sub-Deans are Revd. Rachel Newell (Team Vicar in the Dudley Team Ministry) and Revd. Andrew Sillis (Vicar at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge). As a result, the Deanery Synod is now much larger – approx. 100 people (including licensed clergy).

In its new guise, the Synod met (online) for the first time on 10th March and all 3 representatives from St Thomas' (Andrew Harding, Wendy Hemming and myself) attended. The agenda for the meeting included:

- Commissioning of Area Dean and sub-Deans by Bishop Martin
- Election of Lay Chair

- Discussions on “A New Deanery – Vision, Hopes and Concerns”, “Developing our Deaneries”, the wider Diocesan Transformation Process and the Dudley “As One” movement.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15th September.

Gary Leek

PCC Activity Report

The Church Council has met five times since the APCM in October 2020.

Key matters under discussion were:

- Arrangements for public worship and private prayer as Covid-19 defence arrangements changed
- Items of work for the protection and maintenance of the church buildings
- Oversight of the church finances
- Revision of certain policies of the council

Andrew Sillis

Treasurer’s Report

Dear Friends

2020 was a difficult year for us all, we had to learn to stay safe while coping with the pandemic. Sadly, some of us also experienced the traumatic loss of friends and family because of Covid-19. However we, as a church community, pulled together and were able to see one another and enjoy church services, predominantly through Facebook and Zoom, and for this I am personally grateful.

As a treasurer it was an extremely worrying time, Stewardship was down over £5,000 in comparison to 2019. This of course influenced the amount of gift aid that could be claimed, resulting in a further drop in income of around £2,200. Together with a lack of loose cash usually received at church services has meant an overall deficit of £10,035. The impact of the pandemic also reduced the church hall’s income, resulting in an earnings loss of £10,900, I do not think I need to impress on you the difficulties this combined loss of income created.

However, we were very fortunate to receive grants toward loss of income from the church hall, and this redressed a portion of the deficit. My thanks go to Wendy Hemming, who made the grant applications to DMBC on our behalf.

The loss of income impacted the amount of Parish Share we were able to contribute to the Diocese (most other churches were also in this position). I am hopeful that our contribution will improve somewhat in 2021.

That leaves me to thank you, our church community, for your prayers, your stewardship, and any additional donations that you may have made to help us through this exceedingly difficult period.

Kathy Knight

Annual Accounts

The Church of St Thomas, Stourbridge

Annual Accounts

For the year ended

31st December 2020

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge - 1134825

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	44,323	1,560	—	45,884	53,623
Activities for generating funds	—	512	—	512	655
Investment income	294	195	—	489	732
Incoming resources from charitable activities	7,872	—	—	7,872	21,907
Other incoming resources	4,610	3,598	—	8,208	6,493
Total Income	**57,100**	**5,866**	**—**	**62,966**	**83,412**
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	—	—	—	—	50
Charitable activities	56,354	15,172	—	71,526	112,289
Other resources used	—	—	—	—	314
Total expenditure	**56,354**	**15,172**	**—**	**71,526**	**112,653**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**745**	**(9,305)**	**—**	**(8,559)**	**(29,240)**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	—	—	3,498
Gross transfers between funds - out	—	—	—	—	(3,498)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	677	677	1,547
Net movement in funds	**745**	**(9,305)**	**677**	**(7,882)**	**(27,693)**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**9,636**	**57,084**	**9,811**	**76,532**	**104,225**
Total funds carried forward	**10,381**	**47,778**	**10,489**	**68,649**	**76,532**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	9,422	—	—	9,422	8,811
Designated					
Friends of the Music	564	—	—	564	664
Guttering Maintenance	395	—	—	395	160
Restricted					
Church Hall Improvements	—	6	—	6	6
Fabric Appeal Fund	—	44,639	—	44,639	55,348
Flower Festival	—	907	—	907	95
Flower Guild	—	591	—	591	—
Organ Improvement Fund	—	1,544	—	1,544	1,544
Social Mission Concerns	—	19	—	19	19
St Thomas Gardening Fund	—	69	—	69	69
Endowment					
Gallimore Burton Trust	—	—	10,489	10,489	9,811

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

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge - 1134825

Balance sheet (Church of England)
As at: 31 December 2020

	As at 31/12/2020 £	As at 31/12/2019 £
Fixed assets		
Investments	10,489	9,811
	10,489	9,811
Current assets		
Debtors	1,892	2,280
Cash at bank and in hand	56,268	64,438
	58,160	66,718
Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	—	(1)
Net current assets less current liabilities	**58,160**	**66,720**
Total assets less current liabilities	**68,649**	**76,532**
Total net assets less liabilities	**68,649**	**76,532**
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	9,422	8,811
Designated		
Designated - Friends of the Music	564	664
Designated - Guttering Maintenance	395	160
Designated - Church Hall Improvements	—	—
Restricted		
Restricted - Church Improvement Fund	—	—
Restricted - Flower Festival	907	95
Restricted - Flower Guild	591	—
Restricted - Fabric Appeal Fund	44,639	55,348
Restricted - St Thomas Gardening Fund	69	69
Restricted - Church Hall Improvements	6	6
Restricted - Organ Improvement Fund	1,544	1,544
Restricted - Social Mission Concerns	19	19
Endowment		
Endowment - Gallimore Burton Trust	10,489	9,811
Funds of the church	**68,649**	**76,532**

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

	From 01 January 2020 To 31 December 2020	01 January 2019 31 December 2019
CIF - Church Improvement Fund (Restricted) Fund		
Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	—	125
Total Voluntary income	—	*125*
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Heritage Books	—	20
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	—	*20*
Total receipts	—	**145**
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Major repairs -Church	—	4,834
Architects and Chartered Surveyors Fees	—	325
Total Charitable activities	—	*5,160*
Total payments	—	**5,160**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	—	(5,015)
Brought forward balance	—	1,517
Transfers to/(from)	—	3,498
FF - Flower Festival (Restricted) Fund		
Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	299	—
Total Voluntary income	*299*	—
Activities for generating funds		
Flower Festival	512	145
Total Activities for generating funds	*512*	*145*
Total receipts	**812**	**145**
Payments		
Cost of generating funds		
Flower Festival expenses	—	50
Total Cost of generating funds	—	*50*
Total payments	—	**50**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	812	95
Brought forward balance	95	—
Total carried forward balance	**907**	**95**

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

Fabric - Fabric Appeal Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	538	1,222
Total Voluntary income	*538*	*1,222*
Investment income		
Interest received	195	446
Total Investment income	*195*	*446*
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Collections - funerals	—	490
Heritage Books	—	5
Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	—	*495*
Other Incoming resources		
Grants received	1,000	—
VAT recovered	2,598	—
Insurance claims	—	2,075
Total Other incoming resources	*3,598*	*2,075*
Total receipts	**4,332**	**4,240**
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Major repairs -Church	9,896	13,273
Major repairs - Church Hall	—	8,654
Minor repairs and maintenance - Church	3,235	1,944
Minor repairs and maintenance-Church hal	1,209	3,627
Sundry expenses	—	168
Architects and Chartered Surveyors Fees	701	284
Organ repairs & tuning	—	294
Total Charitable activities	*15,042*	*28,246*
Total payments	**15,042**	**28,246**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	(10,709)	(24,006)
Brought forward balance	55,348	82,852
Transfers to/(from)	—	(3,498)
Total carried forward balance	**44,639**	**55,348**

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

Hall - Church Hall Improvements (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Investment income		
Interest received	—	0
Total Investment income	—	*0*
Total receipts	—	**0**
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Minor repairs and maintenance-Church hal	—	67
Total Charitable activities	—	*67*
Total payments	—	**67**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	—	(67)
Brought forward balance	6	73
Total carried forward balance	**6**	**6**

Organ - Organ Improvement Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	—	30
Total Voluntary income	—	*30*
Total receipts	—	**30**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used	—	30
Brought forward balance	1,544	1,514
Total carried forward balance	**1,544**	**1,544**

SMC - Social Mission Concerns (Restricted) Fund

Receipts		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Voluntary income		
Donations	—	173
Total Voluntary income	—	*173*
Activities for generating funds		
Table Top Event	—	510
Total Activities for generating funds	—	*510*
Total receipts	—	**683**
Payments		
Charitable activities		
Social Mission Concerns	—	683
Total Charitable activities	—	*683*
Total payments	—	**683**

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

	From To	01 January 2020 31 December 2020	01 January 2019 31 December 2019
Brought forward balance		19	19
Total carried forward balance		**19**	**19**

General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund

Receipts			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income			
Planned giving		29,318	34,343
Loose cash		1,040	3,849
Gift Aid Recovered		7,387	9,588
Donations		6,182	3,522
	Total Voluntary income	*43,928*	*51,303*
Investment income			
Dividends received		294	285
	Total Investment income	*294*	*285*
Incoming resources from charitable activities			
Christmas Tree Festival		3	427
Sundry sales		43	199
Magazine sales		—	4
Church hall lettings		7,280	18,181
Fees - weddings		53	121
Collections - weddings		—	242
Collections - funerals		130	57
Collections - Baptisms		51	367
PCC Fees: Funeral		291	780
PCC Fees: Weddings		—	443
Lent Appeal		—	454
PCC Fees other		20	111
	Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	*7,872*	*21,392*
Other incoming resources			
Sundry income		10	87
Grants received		4,600	4,213
Insurance claims		—	117
	Total Other incoming resources	*4,610*	*4,418*
Total receipts		**56,705**	**77,399**
Payments			
Charitable activities			
Parish share		15,000	21,000
Insurance - Church		5,068	4,808
Insurance - Church Hall		1,669	1,777
Severn Trent Water: Church		21	62
Severn Trent Water: Church Hall		—	17
Gas - Church		2,258	2,226
Electricity- Church		1,092	1,938
Gas- Church Hall		1,684	1,322
Electricity-Church Hall		1,096	1,577
Director of Music		6,666	9,999
Choir expenses		20	244
Organists fees		745	50
Choristers fees		75	127
Cost of services		1,235	1,744
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance		630	610
Church Hall Chairs		—	4,213
Secretary's salary		6,656	7,679
Cleaners - Church Hall		1,789	3,263

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

Gardener		125	125
Church Cleaner		1,342	1,298
Stationery,Printing & Postage		1,258	2,171
Telephone		402	472
Hire of photocopier		4,327	3,206
Hygiene Services Church hall		1,807	1,789
Sundry expenses		(66)	2,129
Cleaning & toilet requirements		27	—
Bank charges		394	389
Visiting clergy		—	32
Vicar's expenses		222	918
Curates Expenses		543	1,040
Vergers fees		—	30
Christmas Cards		—	161
Lent collection donation		—	400
Donations		—	500
	Total Charitable activities	*56,094*	*77,327*
Other resources used			
Petty Cash theft		—	314
	Total Other resources used	—	*314*
Total payments		**56,094**	**77,641**
Excess of Incoming resources over Resources used		610	(242)
Brought forward balance		8,811	9,054
Total carried forward balance		**9,422**	**8,811**

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

1.1 Incoming resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.
- Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.
- Income tax on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the parish becomes entitled to make a claim from H M Revenue & Customs. This is done on a quarterly basis.
- Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received.
- Funds raised by book fairs and similar fund-raising events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of cards and any other sundry sales are accounted for gross.

Other income

Rental income from the letting of the church hall is recognised when the rental is due.

Income from investments

Dividends are accounted for when receivable and interest is accounted for when received.

Gains and losses on investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments every December.

1.2 Resources used

Activities directly relating to the work of the church

Parish Share is a voluntary obligation of the PCC to the Diocese. For 2020 this was £42,458 These accounts show the amount paid, and agreed by the PCC, during the year of £15,000. The shortfall of £27,458 is not reflected in these accounts.

1. **Accounting policies (continued)**

1.3 Fixed assets

Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10 of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected (at any reasonable time).

All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1,000, or on the repair of movable church furnishings is written off.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

1.4 Funds

Unrestricted funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose are also unrestricted.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are provided in note 2.

Endowment funds

Endowment funds are those funds where the capital must be retained and details of these funds are provided in note 2.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2. Funds

Restricted funds

Fabric Fund

The Fabric Account represents grants and amounts donated for the purposes of the repair, upkeep and renovation of the church buildings.

Church Improvement Fund

This Church Improvement Fund has now closed the fund only shows in these accounts as there were transactions in 2019.

Church Hall Fund

This fund represents a grant and money donated to be used towards refurbishments in the church hall. There are only a few pounds left in this fund but it remains open.

Organ Fund

The organ fund represents donations made for the refurbishment of the organ.

Gardening Fund

The gardening fund has a small balance left in the account which will possibly be exhausted in 2021.

Social Mission Concerns Fund

The SMC fund raises money primarily for the benefit of a school in ITAMBA. However due to Covid-19 there has not been an opportunity to fund raise in 2020 therefore the fund retains a small balance.

Flower Festival Fund

This money for this fund is generated from a bi-annual flower festival held in the church. Fund raising began for a festival in 2020 but this had to be postponed due to national restrictions.

Endowment fund

Gallimore Burton Trust

This consists of 513 Income Shares in the C B F Church of England Investment Fund, the income from which is for the upkeep of a grave and the dividends generated for the general purposes of the PCC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOUNTS APPROVAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

3 Salaries

During the year the PCC employed a secretary however no national insurance or PAYE was payable.

4 Payments to PCC members

No expenses or payments were paid to any PCC member, persons connected to them or related parties other than expenses reimbursed to the vicar & curate amounting to £766.

5 Investment Assets	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Market Value at 1 January	9,812	8264
Revaluation (loss) / gain	677	1,548
Market Value at 31 December	10,489	9,812

6 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	2020 (£)	2019 (£)
Unrestricted funds : Utilities	-	-
	-	-

9 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year other than those explained in note 4 above of £766.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on -

and signed on its behalf by:

Rev A Sillis
Vicar

K Knight
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PARIOCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) OF ST. THOMAS, STOURBRIDGE

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 and the associated notes as set out on pages 1 to 13

Respective responsibilities of the members of the PCC and the examiner

The members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is required.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of the independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

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

Signature: N. A [illegible] on behalf of Jaderock Ltd

Address: 17 Vicarage Road, DY8 4JN

Date: 8/3/21

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. THOMAS, STOURBRID

England & Wales - Charity number 1134825

Accounts

The Parish Church of St Thomas, Stourbridge

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31st December 2025

Notes to the Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP 2005.
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.
The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members.

2 Incoming Resources

2.1 Voluntary income and capital sources

- Collections and donations are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC
- Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid schemes is recognised only when received.
- Income tax recovered from Parish Giving Scheme donations is recognised only when received from the PGS scheme. This is received monthly.
- Income tax on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the parish becomes entitled to make a claim from HMRevenue &Customs. This is ordinarily done on a quarterly basis.
- Grants and legacies to the PC are accounted for when received.
- Funds raised by book fairs and similar fund-raising events are accounted for gross.
- Sales of cards and any other sundry sales are accounted for gross.

2.2 Other Income

Rental income from the letting of the church hall is recognised when the rental funds are received into the bank.

2.3 Income from investments

Dividends are accounted for when receivable and interest is accounted for when received.

2.4 Gains and losses on investments

Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments every December.

3 Resources used

3.1 Activities directly relating to the work of the church

Ministry Share is a voluntary obligation of the PCC to the Diocese. For 2025 this was £71,199 (2024: £70,724), these accounts show the amount paid, and agreed by the PCC, during the year of £25,000 (2024: £20,424). The difference of £46,199 (2024: £50,300) is not reflected in these accounts.
In 2025, the parish obtained grants from the Ministry Support Fund of £37,050 (2024: £46,313) and the Low Income Communities Fund of £3,824 (2024: £3,687).

3.2 Salaries

During the year the PCC employed a secretary and two cleaners.
National Insurance and PAYE payments have been made as appropriate.
Salaries fall below the threshold requiring contributions to a pension scheme.

3.3 Payments to PCC members

No expenses or payments were paid to any PCC member, or persons connected to them, in relation to their participation in church governance. PCC members and others were, of course, reimbursed the cost of any purchases made on behalf of the PCC.

4 Assets and Liabilities

4.1 Fixed Assets

4.11 Consecrated property and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10 of the Charities Act 2011.
Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected at any reasonable time.
All expenditure incurred in the year on consecrated or beneficed buildings, individual items under £1,000, or on the repair of movable church furnishings is written off.

4.12 Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

4.13 Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December in the year.
The PCC meeting of 28th April 2025 was informed that the Gallimore Burton Trust was no longer needed and that the value of the fund could be released into general funds. The motion to do so was moved, seconded and carried by the meeting. The funds were released and received on 28th May 2025.

	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Market value at 1st January	11,596	11,596
Revaluation gain / (loss)	(243)	266
Realisation of investment	11,353	
Market Value at 31st December	0	11,862

4.2 Current assets

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

4.3 Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Unrestricted funds	679	679

5 Funds

5.1 Unrestricted funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Unrestricted funds also includes funds designated for, but not restricted to, a particular purpose.

5.2 Restricted funds

Restricted funds are those funds that must be spent on restricted purposes and details of the funds held and restrictions are noted below.

6 Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year other than those explained in note 3.3

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

Rev A Sillis
Vicar

Mr David Hawkins
Treasurer

Dated : 13 / 3 / 2026

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge

Balance Sheet (Separate funds)

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	At 31/12/2025 £	At 31/12/2024 £
Fixed assets						
Investments	-	-	-	-	-	11,861.95
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**11,861.95**
Current assets						
Cash At Bank And In Hand	(359.97)	1,385.23	146,385.45	-	147,410.71	153,353.87
	(359.97)	**1,385.23**	**146,385.45**	**-**	**147,410.71**	**153,353.87**
Liabilities						
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due In One Year	-	(1,444.11)	2,122.99	-	. 678.88	678.88
	-	**(1,444.11)**	**2,122.99**	**-**	**678.88**	**678.88**
Net current assets less current liabilities	**(359.97)**	**2,829.34**	**144,262.46**	**-**	**146,731.83**	**152,674.99**
Total assets less current liabilities	**(359.97)**	**2,829.34**	**144,262.46**	**-**	**146,731.83**	**164,536.94**
Liabilities						
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total net assets less liabilities	**(359.97)**	**2,829.34**	**144,262.46**	**-**	**146,731.83**	**164,536.94**
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
Unrestricted - General Fund	(359.97)	-	-	-	(359.97)	407.07
Designated						
Designated - Flower Festival Fund	-	2,153.73	-	-	2,153.73	1,100.24
Designated - Flower Guild Fund	-	66.96	-	-	66.96	66.96
Designated - Organ Fund	-	366.69	-	-	366.69	821.69
Designated - Friends of the Music	-	241.96	-	-	241.96	274.96
Restricted						
Restricted - Project 300	-	-	(2,804.12)	-	(2,804.12)	(9,052.28)
Restricted - Fabric Works Fund	-	-	23,046.61	-	23,046.61	17,323.05
Restricted - Fabric Appeal Fund	-	-	124,147.00	-	124,147.00	143,122.98
Restricted - St Thomas Gardening Fund	-	-	(0.03)	-	(0.03)	(0.03)
Restricted - Agency collection	-	-	(127.00)	-	(127.00)	(127.00)
Endowment						
Endowment - Gallimore Burton Trust	-	-	-	-	-	10,599.30
Fund Totals	**(359.97)**	**2,829.34**	**144,262.46**	**-**	**146,731.83**	**164,536.94**

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge

Analysis of Receipts and Payments
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
Receipts						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
1101 - Planned giving	25,163.41	-	-	-	25,163.41	26,588.39
1102 - Loose cash	5,057.28	1,216.41	-	-	6,273.69	5,837.73
1103 - Gift Aid Recovered	8,674.83	-	-	-	8,674.83	10,437.45
1104 - Donations	4,357.00	190.00	5,000.00	-	9,547.00	1,711.94
1104A - Legacies received	-	-	-	-	-	-
1105 - Autumn Fair	-	-	-	-	-	-
1105A - Flower Festival	-	-	-	-	-	675.40
1120 - Books and Butties event	-	-	-	-	-	-
1120A - Christmas Cracker event	-	-	-	-	-	-
1120B - Table Top Event	-	-	-	-	-	-
1120C - Bric a Brac, cakes and books sale	-	-	-	-	-	-
1120D - Christmas Coffee Morning	-	-	-	-	-	-
1130 - Itamba	-	-	-	-	-	-
1107 - Interest received	163.91	-	6,024.02	-	6,187.93	9,742.87
1108 - Dividends received	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001 - Friends of the Music	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incoming resources from generated funds Totals	**43,416.43**	**1,406.41**	**11,024.02**	**-**	**55,846.86**	**54,993.78**
Incoming resources from charitable activities						
1105B - Christmas Tree Festival	-	-	-	-	-	-
1105C - Flowers	-	-	-	-	-	232.26
1106 - Sundry sales	-	-	-	-	-	-
1109 - Magazine sales	-	-	-	-	-	-
1110 - Church hall lettings	17,211.10	-	-	-	17,211.10	20,983.68
1111 - Fees - weddings	1,519.00	-	-	-	1,519.00	1,435.00
1111A - Fees - funerals	645.00	-	-	-	645.00	1,649.00
1112 - Collections - weddings	-	-	-	-	-	-
1112A - Collections - funerals	-	-	-	-	-	-
1112B - Collections - Baptisms	-	-	-	-	-	-
1113 - Photocopying fees received	-	-	-	-	-	-
1114 - Heritage Books	-	-	-	-	-	-
1116 - Worcs Diocesan Board of Finance	2,749.24	-	-	-	2,749.24	4,956.58
1118 - PCC Fees: Funeral	1,049.00	-	-	-	1,049.00	-
1119 - PCC Fees: Weddings	-	-	-	-	-	-
1121 - Prayer candles	-	-	-	-	-	-
1123 - Lent Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	-
1124 - Social Mission Concerns	-	-	-	-	-	-
1129 - Magdeburg Patnership (Colbitz)	-	-	-	-	-	-
119A - PCC Fees other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities Totals	**23,173.34**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**23,173.34**	**29,256.52**
Other incoming resources						
1115 - Sundry income	-	-	1,441.50	-	1,441.50	-

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
1117 - Grants received	-	-	17,327.79	-	17,327.79	-
1122 - VAT recovered	-	-	-	-	-	-
1125 - HSBC Refund of Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
1128 - Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other incoming resources Totals	**-**	**-**	**18,769.29**	**-**	**18,769.29**	**-**
Receipts Grand Totals	**66,589.77**	**1,406.41**	**29,793.31**	**-**	**97,789.49**	**84,250.30**
Payments						
Cost of generating funds						
1323 - Stewardship expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
1343 - Giving Station	-	-	-	-	-	-
1327 - Autumn Fair expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
1327A - Flower Festival expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
1327B - Books and Butties fund raising expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
1327C - Christmas Cracker fund raising event	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of generating funds Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Charitable activities						
1301 - Ministry share	25,000.00	-	-	-	25,000.00	20,423.58
1302 - Insurance - Church	4,313.54	-	-	-	4,313.54	5,154.27
1302A - Insurance - Church Hall	3,902.74	-	-	-	3,902.74	2,775.37
1303 - Severn Trent Water: Church	147.52	-	-	-	147.52	166.62
1303A - Severn Trent Water: Church Hall	136.60	-	-	-	136.60	147.75
1304 - Gas - Church	3,064.58	-	-	-	3,064.58	4,560.81
1304A - Electricity- Church	2,176.08	-	-	-	2,176.08	2,077.41
1304B - Gas- Church Hall	2,643.68	-	-	-	2,643.68	3,329.60
1304C - Electricity-Church Hall	3,495.09	-	-	-	3,495.09	2,868.28
1305 - Director of Music	3,324.80	-	-	-	3,324.80	3,709.88
1306 - Choir expenses	-	250.00	-	-	250.00	719.82
1307 - Organists fees	4,937.00	-	-	-	4,937.00	4,845.00
1308 - Choristers fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
1308A - Organ Scholar	-	-	-	-	-	-
1309 - Cost of services	1,880.30	-	-	-	1,880.30	1,578.21
1310 - Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	907.20	-	-	-	907.20	823.59
1311 - Major repairs -Church	-	-	512.89	-	512.89	-
1311A - Major repairs - Church Hall	-	-	13,188.20	-	13,188.20	21,118.96
1312 - Minor repairs and maintenance - Church	50.00	-	3,453.00	-	3,503.00	6,036.30
1312A - Minor repairs and maintenance-Church hal	-	-	2,680.66	-	2,680.66	4,866.46
1312B - Church Hall Chairs	-	-	-	-	-	-
1313 - Secretary's salary	8,210.36	-	-	-	8,210.36	8,882.85
1314 - Cleaners - Church Hall	5,117.68	-	-	-	5,117.68	4,410.16
1314A - Gardener	106.36	-	-	-	106.36	94.50
1314B - Church Cleaner	-	-	-	-	-	2,696.60
1315 - Stationery,Printing & Postage	1,510.85	35.92	-	-	1,546.77	1,781.60
1316 - Telephone	820.44	-	-	-	820.44	656.20
1317 - Hire of photocopier	865.23	-	-	-	865.23	-
1318 - Hygiene Services Church hall	512.36	-	-	-	512.36	-
1319 - Sundry expenses	2,745.24	100.00	-	-	2,845.24	429.12
1319A - Cleaning & toilet requirements	30.08	-	-	-	30.08	1,600.29

	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total This year	Total Last year
1320 - Fees to Diocese	-	-	-	-	-	-
1321 - Bank charges	113.96	-	-	-	113.96	198.32
1322 - Visiting clergy	-	-	-	-	-	-
1324 - Vicar's expenses	616.04	-	-	-	616.04	890.50
1324A - Curates Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	298.43
1325 - Vergers fees	-	-	-	-	-	-
1326 - Architects and Chartered Surveyors Fees	-	-	16,869.32	-	16,869.32	7,167.32
1328 - Organ repairs & tuning	-	455.00	-	-	455.00	685.00
1328A - Piano Tuning	-	-	-	-	-	-
1329 - Heritage Books and Leaflets	-	-	-	-	-	-
1330 - Mission Enabler	-	-	-	-	-	-
1331 - PAYE	-	-	-	-	-	-
1332 - Garden fund expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
1333 - Social Mission Concerns	-	-	-	-	-	-
1334 - Christmas Cards	-	-	-	-	-	-
1335 - Flowers	-	-	-	-	-	146.60
1336 - Wedding fees	570.00	-	-	-	570.00	-
1337 - Funeral fees	218.38	-	-	-	218.38	318.06
1338 - Lent collection donation	-	-	-	-	-	-
1339 - Magdeburg Partnership (Colbitz)	-	-	-	-	-	-
1340 - Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
1341 - Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
1344 - Advent Books	-	-	-	-	-	-
1345 - Mission and Evangelism Costs	-	-	-	-	-	133.65
1347 - Hospitality	520.00	-	93.50	-	613.50	108.29
Charitable activities Totals	**77,936.11**	**840.92**	**36,797.57**	**-**	**115,574.60**	**115,699.40**
Governance costs						
1346 - Subscriptions and Registrations	20.00	-	-	-	20.00	1,155.91
Governance costs Totals	**20.00**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**20.00**	**1,155.91**
Other resources used						
1342 - Petty Cash theft	-	-	-	-	-	-
1507 - Refund of Hall Hire Deposit	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other resources used Totals	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Payments Grand Totals	**77,956.11**	**840.92**	**36,797.57**	**-**	**115,594.60**	**116,855.31**

The Parish Church of St Thomas Stourbridge

Sofa Separate Designated

For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income	43,252.52	1,406.41	5,000.00	-	49,658.93	44,575.51
Activities for generating funds	-	-	-	-	-	675.40
Investment income	163.91	-	6,024.02	-	6,187.93	9,742.87
Incoming resources from charitable activities	23,173.34	-	-	-	23,173.34	29,256.52
Other incoming resources	-	-	18,769.29	-	18,769.29	-
Total income	**66,589.77**	**1,406.41**	**29,793.31**	**-**	**97,789.49**	**84,250.30**
Resources used						
Cost of generating funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	77,936.11	840.92	36,797.57	-	115,574.60	115,699.40
Governance costs	20.00	-	-	-	20.00	1,155.91
Other resources used	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	**77,956.11**	**840.92**	**36,797.57**	**-**	**115,594.60**	**116,855.31**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(11,366.34)**	**565.49**	**(7,004.26)**	**-**	**(17,805.11)**	**(32,605.01)**
Transfers:						
Gross transfers between funds - in	10,599.30	-	30,972.36	-	41,571.66	107,343.80
Gross transfers between funds - out	-	-	(30,972.36)	(10,599.30)	(41,571.66)	(107,343.80)
Other recognised gains / losses						
Gains/losses on investment assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**(767.04)**	**565.49**	**(7,004.26)**	**(10,599.30)**	**(17,805.11)**	**(32,605.01)**
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward	**407.07**	**2,263.85**	**151,266.72**	**10,599.30**	**164,536.94**	**197,141.95**
Total funds carried forward	**(359.97)**	**2,829.34**	**144,262.46**	**-**	**146,731.83**	**164,536.94**

Note		From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
xGuttering - Guttering Maintenance (Designated) Fund				
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		-	-
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
FGF - Flower Guild Fund (Designated) Fund				
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		66.96	-
	Transfers to/(from)		-	66.96
	Total carried forward balance		**66.96**	**66.96**
OrganF - Organ Fund (Designated) Fund				
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Organ repairs & tuning		455.00	-
		Total Charitable activities	455.00	-
	Total Resources used		**455.00**	**-**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(455.00)	-
	Brought forward balance		821.69	-
	Transfers to/(from)		-	821.69
	Total carried forward balance		**366.69**	**821.69**
xHall - Church Hall Improvements (Designated) Fund				
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		-	-
	Transfers to/(from)		-	-
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
xFABdes - Fabric Reserve (Designated) Fund				
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		-	3,534.35
	Transfers to/(from)		-	(3,534.35)
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
FFF - Flower Festival Fund (Designated) Fund				
	Incoming resources			
	Voluntary income			
	Loose cash		999.41	-
	Donations		190.00	-
		Total Voluntary income	1,189.41	-
	Total Incoming resources		**1,189.41**	**-**

Note		From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Stationery,Printing & Postage		35.92	-
	Sundry expenses		100.00	-
		Total Charitable activities	135.92	-
	Total Resources used		**135.92**	**-**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		1,053.49	-
	Brought forward balance		1,100.24	-
	Transfers to/(from)		-	1,100.24
	Total carried forward balance		**2,153.73**	**1,100.24**
	xDVP - Development Fund (Restricted) Fund			
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		-	104.70
	Transfers to/(from)		-	(104.70)
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
	MSC - Mission Social Concerns (Restricted) Fund			
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		-	79.56
	Transfers to/(from)		-	(79.56)
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
	P300 - Project 300 (Restricted) Fund			
	Incoming resources			
	Other incoming resources			
	Grants received		17,327.79	-
		Total Other incoming resources	17,327.79	-
	Total Incoming resources		**17,327.79**	**-**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Major repairs -Church		512.89	-
	Minor repairs and maintenance - Church		-	1,860.00
	Sundry expenses		-	24.96
	Architects and Chartered Surveyors Fees		16,445.60	7,167.32
	Hospitality		93.50	-
		Total Charitable activities	17,051.99	9,052.28
	Total Resources used		**17,051.99**	**9,052.28**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		275.80	(9,052.28)
	Brought forward balance		(9,052.28)	-
	Transfers to/(from)		5,972.36	-
	Total carried forward balance		**(2,804.12)**	**(9,052.28)**
	xHall - Church Hall Improvements (Restricted) Fund			
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		-	-
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**

Note		From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
CIF - Church Improvement Fund (Restricted) Fund				
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		-	-
	Total carried forward balance		-	-
General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund				
	Incoming resources			
	Incoming resources from charitable activities			
	Church hall lettings		17,211.10	20,983.68
	Fees - weddings		1,519.00	1,435.00
	Fees - funerals		645.00	1,649.00
	Worcs Diocesan Board of Finance		2,749.24	4,956.58
	PCC Fees: Funeral		1,049.00	-
		Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	23,173.34	29,024.26
	Other incoming resources			
	Grants received		-	-
		Total Other incoming resources	-	-
	Voluntary income			
	Planned giving		25,163.41	26,588.39
	Loose cash		5,057.28	5,740.23
	Gift Aid Recovered		8,674.83	10,437.45
	Donations		4,357.00	1,511.94
		Total Voluntary income	43,252.52	44,278.01
	Investment income			
	Interest received		163.91	588.96
		Total Investment income	163.91	588.96
	Total Incoming resources		**66,589.77**	**73,891.23**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Ministry share		25,000.00	20,423.58
	Insurance - Church		4,313.54	5,154.27
	Insurance - Church Hall		3,902.74	2,775.37
	Severn Trent Water: Church		147.52	166.62
	Severn Trent Water: Church Hall		136.60	147.75
	Gas - Church		3,064.58	4,560.81
	Electricity- Church		2,176.08	2,077.41
	Gas- Church Hall		2,643.68	3,329.60
	Electricity-Church Hall		3,495.09	2,868.28
	Director of Music		3,324.80	3,709.88
	Choir expenses		-	133.00
	Organists fees		4,937.00	4,845.00
	Cost of services		1,880.30	1,451.21
	Fire Extinguisher Maintenance		907.20	823.59
	Minor repairs and maintenance - Church		50.00	-
	Secretary's salary		8,210.36	8,882.85
	Cleaners - Church Hall		5,117.68	4,410.16
	Gardener		106.36	20.64
	Church Cleaner		-	2,696.60
	Stationery,Printing & Postage		1,510.85	1,565.60
	Telephone		820.44	656.20

Note		From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
	Hire of photocopier		865.23	-
	Hygiene Services Church hall		512.36	-
	Sundry expenses		2,745.24	307.72
	Cleaning & toilet requirements		30.08	1,600.29
	Bank charges		113.96	198.32
	Vicar's expenses		616.04	890.50
	Curates Expenses		-	298.43
	Wedding fees		570.00	-
	Funeral fees		218.38	318.06
	Mission and Evangelism Costs		-	133.65
	Hospitality		520.00	108.29
		Total Charitable activities	77,936.11	74,553.68
	Governance costs			
	Subscriptions and Registrations		20.00	1,155.91
		Total Governance costs	20.00	1,155.91
	Total Resources used		**77,956.11**	**75,709.59**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(11,366.34)	(1,818.36)
	Brought forward balance		407.07	2,041.17
	Transfers to/(from)		10,599.30	184.26
	Adjustments		-	-
	Total carried forward balance		**(359.97)**	**407.07**
	FABwks - Fabric Works Fund (Restricted) Fund			
	Incoming resources			
	Other incoming resources			
	Sundry income		1,441.50	-
		Total Other incoming resources	1,441.50	-
	Voluntary income			
	Donations		5,000.00	-
		Total Voluntary income	5,000.00	-
	Total Incoming resources		**6,441.50**	**-**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Major repairs - Church Hall		13,188.20	21,118.96
	Minor repairs and maintenance - Church		3,453.00	4,176.30
	Minor repairs and maintenance-Church hal		2,680.66	4,866.46
	Stationery,Printing & Postage		-	216.00
	Architects and Chartered Surveyors Fees		423.72	-
		Total Charitable activities	19,745.58	30,377.72
	Total Resources used		**19,745.58**	**30,377.72**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(13,304.08)	(30,377.72)
	Brought forward balance		17,323.05	-
	Transfers to/(from)		19,027.64	47,700.77
	Total carried forward balance		**23,046.61**	**17,323.05**
	Fabric - Fabric Appeal Fund (Restricted) Fund			
	Incoming resources			
	Investment income			
	Interest received		6,024.02	9,153.91

Note		From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
		Total Investment income	6,024.02	9,153.91
	Total Incoming resources		**6,024.02**	**9,153.91**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		6,024.02	9,153.91
	Brought forward balance		143,122.98	178,135.49
	Transfers to/(from)		(25,000.00)	(44,166.42)
	Total carried forward balance		**124,147.00**	**143,122.98**
	Organ - Organ Improvement Fund (Restricted) Fund			
	Incoming resources			
	Voluntary income			
	Donations		-	200.00
		Total Voluntary income	-	200.00
	Total Incoming resources		**-**	**200.00**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Organ repairs & tuning		-	685.00
		Total Charitable activities	-	685.00
	Total Resources used		**-**	**685.00**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	(485.00)
	Brought forward balance		-	1,306.69
	Transfers to/(from)		-	(821.69)
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
	FOM - Friends of the Music (Designated) Fund			
	Incoming resources			
	Voluntary income			
	Loose cash		217.00	-
		Total Voluntary income	217.00	-
	Total Incoming resources		**217.00**	**-**
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Choir expenses		250.00	586.82
		Total Charitable activities	250.00	586.82
	Total Resources used		**250.00**	**586.82**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		(33.00)	(586.82)
	Brought forward balance		274.96	861.78
	Total carried forward balance		**241.96**	**274.96**
	FF - Flower Festival (Restricted) Fund			
	Incoming resources			
	Incoming resources from charitable activities			
	Flowers		-	232.26
		Total Incoming resources from charitable activities	-	232.26
	Voluntary income			
	Loose cash		-	97.50

Note		From To	01 January 2025 31 December 2025	01 January 2024 31 December 2024
	Total Voluntary income		-	97.50
	Activities for generating funds			
	Flower Festival		-	675.40
	Total Activities for generating funds		-	675.40
	Total Incoming resources		**-**	**1,005.16**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	1,005.16
	Brought forward balance		-	95.08
	Transfers to/(from)		-	(1,100.24)
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
	FG - Flower Guild (Restricted) Fund			
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Sundry expenses		-	96.44
	Flowers		-	146.60
	Total Charitable activities		-	243.04
	Total Resources used		**-**	**243.04**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	(243.04)
	Brought forward balance		-	310.00
	Transfers to/(from)		-	(66.96)
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**-**
	Garden - St Thomas Gardening Fund (Restricted) Fund			
	Resources used			
	Charitable activities			
	Gardener		-	73.86
	Total Charitable activities		-	73.86
	Total Resources used		**-**	**73.86**
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	(73.86)
	Brought forward balance		(0.03)	73.83
	Total carried forward balance		**(0.03)**	**(0.03)**
	GBT - Gallimore Burton Trust (Endowment) Fund			
	Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure		-	-
	Brought forward balance		10,599.30	10,599.30
	Transfers to/(from)		(10,599.30)	-
	Total carried forward balance		**-**	**10,599.30**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS, STOURBRIDGE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report to the charity Trustees ('the PCC Members') on my examination of the Receipts and Payments Statement, Assets and Liabilities Statement and Treasurer's Report, together rereferred to as 'the accounts', of the charity ('the PCC') for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Respective Responsibilities of PCC Members and Examiner

The PCC Members of The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas, Stourbridge are responsible for the preparation of the accounts for the period ended 31 December 2025 in accordance with the Charities Act 2022.

As the PCC Members have opted to prepare receipts and payments accounts, I have been appointed as an independent examiner to review these accounts under the terms of Charities Act 2022. My responsibility is to:

- Examine the accounts and consider whether they are consistent with the records kept by the PCC.
- Review whether the accounts comply with the applicable regulations.
- Assess whether any matters have come to my attention that require further explanation or clarification.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

I have carried out my examination in accordance with the guidance provided by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. My examination included a review of the accounting records maintained by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also involved considering any unusual items or disclosures within the accounts.

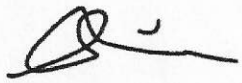
The nature of an independent examination is substantially less detailed than a full audit. Consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' but instead provide an independent report on whether any material issues have come to my attention.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matters have come to my attention that give me cause to believe that:

1. Proper accounting records have not been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2022.
2. The accounts do not agree with the underlying records.
3. There are material concerns that should be drawn to the attention of the PCC Members or the Charity Commission.

I confirm that, in my opinion, the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the applicable requirements and provide an accurate reflection of the receipts and payments made during the period.



Shaun Mooney FCCA, DChA, BA(Hons)

For and on behalf of **The M & C Partnership Limited**
10 Wilson Gardens
Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 3FE

Date: 22 February 2026