

# THE FRIENDS OF ST THOMAS CHURCH LYMINGTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1166743

## Details

---

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2016-04-26

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

## Contact

---

**Address** The Chantry  
Hollywood Lane  
Lymington  
SO41 9HD

**Phone** 01590673740

**Email** [friends@lymingtonchurch.org](mailto:friends@lymingtonchurch.org)

## Activities

---

**Objects:** A) THE FRIENDS IS ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE RESTORATION,PRESERVATION, REPAIR, MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION OF THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS IN THE PARISH OF LYMINGTON (HEREINAFTER CALLED THEÆCHURCHÆ) AND OF THE MONUMENTS, FITTINGS, FIXTURES, STAINED GLASS, FURNITURE,ORNAMENTS AND CHATTELS IN THE CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD BELONGING TO THE CHURCH.

**Activities:** The Friends of St Thomas Church activities include raising funds to support the Parochial Church Council in relation to maintenance of the buildings, fabric and surrounding churchyard.

## Classification

---

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes

## Geography

---

- Hampshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£60,343	£70,105	-	-
2024-03-31	£25,199	£17,397	-	-
2023-03-31	£19,556	£27,237	-	-
2022-03-31	£15,478	£6,024	-	-
2021-03-31	£2,549	£3,431	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>DAPHNE LORRAINE JOHNSTON</b>	Chair	2014-06-25
DEREK TILLEY		2016-04-13
JANICE VIVEASH		2016-04-13
YVONNE MACKENZIE		2016-04-13

**THE FRIENDS OF ST THOMAS CHURCH LYMINGTON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166743

---

# Accounts

---

## Annual Report November 2025.

I begin with a little history. In 2014, I gave my first annual report and I spoke of how we set up our organisation. In 2015 I recorded my enthusiasm for The Friends being the perfect fit to run a Christmas Tree Festival in St Thomas Church. It was no longer taking place at the United Reform Church. That year saw major repairs being carried out on the Cupola. I report getting up very early one June morning to watch the massive crane that blocked the road, lifting the old weathervane down. I can report that the then relatively new Friends organisation made a contribution of £27,000 towards the repair of the Cupola and replacement weathervane. . The entire repair costs were over £100,000.

Fast forward to last year and the Christmas Tree Festival- our major fundraiser and perhaps the most successful to date. We purchased total of 76 trees with 60 sponsored trees in the church and others placed in the Courtyard garden. For the first time we use the entire footprint of the church and hall. This greatly improved the visitor experience. The tree festival is timed to coincide with the Town lights switch-on and street closure. The church was buzzing with visitors and the café and sales tables did a roaring trade over five days!

The success of this event is due to the incredible number of volunteers who plan for weeks, who give their time and their skill. I cannot emphasize this point strongly enough! I have crazy ideas- for example beautifying the Narthex and stairs up to the

hall- the ideas are the easy bit and before I could say Rudolf, we had a reindeer standing on a decorated archway totally transforming a very gloomy space! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this event.

Your committee did not rest for a long as we had decided to hold a Mid-summer fair on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June.

The church and hall looked very jolly with bunting and flags. The Fayre included old traditions - Morris Dancers performing outside the West door and fourteen Artisans selling their wares in the Hall. Local commercial growers donated spectacular flowering lily and hydrangea plants, these were added to a massive stock of other plants and resulted in a stall that generated over £500.

Other attractions in the church included a hugely popular Bottle Tombola, Children's activities, a sales table of miscellaneous gifts and original cards from a local artist. Joan and her team provided delicious refreshments in the hall and The West Gallery Choir performed from the gallery to the delight of visitors. A Bouncy Castle in the courtyard garden and beer sales in the churchyard completed the picture.

Andy Dibb kindly arranged for the Bell tower to be open and Kate Hanks from Sway Hand Bell Ringers gave a demonstration and mini-tutorial to children and adult visitors who were delighted to discover they could perform a simple tune.

Again an event such as this requires months of planning and I particularly must thank Joan Horton Fawkes who has a massive vision to promote what we

do here. She is in touch with local coach companies to include our events in their publicity.

I am so grateful to everyone who helped towards the success of this event. I am delighted to report that it raised in the region of £4,000.

In conclusion this was a joyous happy occasion and needless to say, has now become a fixture on our calendar!

2025 marked an important birthday at St Thomas Church. We celebrated 775 years of worship on this site. The birthday provided a significant opportunity for The Friends to play their part.

Lee Thompson suggested commissioning a Christus Figure from the renowned sculptor Peter Eugene Ball. Peter's work can be seen in Winchester Cathedral, Romsey Abbey and other significant religious buildings. We were delighted, that although retired, he accepted the commission. The beautiful figure was delivered to us in the summer. It will eventually be placed in the Courtenay Chapel. The chapel is often visited for moments of quiet reflection. It is my hope that the beautiful wooden Figure, with its gentle expression and outstretched arms will suggest peace and love in our troubled world.

I briefly digress to a story connecting the old with the new --- I recently visited Notre Dame Cathedral to see for myself the amazing the restoration following the catastrophic fire. You will recall that the roof is constructed using a veritable forest of oak beams arranged to support the iconic lead roof. You cannot actually see these beams.

When planning the rebuild nobody knew the exact arrangements for these beams. However, apparently, there is a successful video game that involves jumping from roof to roof to escape. This video company were able to provide an exact plan and, what is more, also provided much needed funds to help pay for the repairs.

Back to Lymington and The Friends -- other small projects this year include replacing the unsightly tin shed in the courtyard with a more pleasing wooden one, contributing to the cost of carpentry in the choir Vestry, also known as The Bethune room and a permanent profile selling occasional cards within the church.

I owe an enormous Thank You to the Committee who work with me to ensure the success of The Friends. We have a very happy team who are so generous with their time and their skills. This year in particular I have felt hugely supported by them all.

One member, Lynne Bennett, is no longer able to commit to regular meetings and will stand down as Membership Secretary. Lynne will remain our co-ordinator for Artisans and I am delighted that this means we continue to have her involved. Thank you Lynne for the support you have given me and for the many hours you have given to The Friends, your wisdom and your organisational skills have been invaluable.

We welcome two new members to our team; Sarah Bunce and Mary Hill. Thank you so much for joining us.

We will soon be voting to adopt the committee for a further year in office when I will expand on the various roles.

Lastly, I have to thank you, our membership.

The custodianship of this building is ours for a blink in time, 775yrs is a long history and we have something precious in our care. Your generosity and your interest is beyond priceless. Please continue to support our fundraising but also please continue to share your time and skills with us.

Thank you,

Daphne Johnston

Chair of The Friends. Nov 2025.

From: Daphne Johnston daphne.johnston@icloud.com  
 Subject: Picture  
 Date: 20 November 2025 at 16:45  
 To: DAPHNE Daphne.johnston@icloud.com



**THE FRIENDS OF ST THOMAS CHURCH LYMINGTON**  
**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2025**

**RECEIPTS**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Membership Subscriptions	4,890	1,250
Donations	3,634	2,975
Piano Donations	30,122	-
Gift Aid	2,427	949
Sponsorship	3,000	4,800
Christmas Tree Festival	13,846	13,508
Musical Events	790	1,192
Summer Festival	938	-
Sale of Christmas Cards	458	525
Sundry Receipts	135	-
Bank Interest	103	-
	<u>60,343</u>	<u>25,199</u>

**PAYMENTS**

Insurance	308	308
Donation to St Thomas Church	-	10,000
Steinway Piano		
- donated to St Thomas Church	54,950	-
Deposit for Christus	3,000	-
Christmas Tree Festival	6,409	5,052
Musical Events	2,327	87
Christmas Cards	722	382
Advertising	1,148	1,381
Sundry Expenses	967	75
Bank Charges	274	112
	<u>70,105</u>	<u>17,397</u>

**(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR**

	(9,762)	7,802
<b>Cash at bank at 1st April 2024</b>	<u>34,730</u>	<u>26,928</u>
<b>CASH AT BANK AT 31ST MARCH 2025</b>	<u>£24,968</u>	<u>£34,730</u>

**STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AT 31ST MARCH 2025**

Cash at Bank		
Current Account	14,865	34,730
Business Manager Account	10,103	-
	<u>£24,968</u>	<u>£34,730</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 30th October 2025

*Dusan Behr*

*Daphne Johnston*

Sent from my iPhone

From: Daphne Johnston daphne.johnston@icloud.com  
Subject: Picture  
Date: 20 November 2025 at 17:06  
To: Daphne Johnston daphne.chantry@gmail.com



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/  
members of

On accounts for the year ended  Charity no (if any)

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:  Date:


Name:

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

Address:

**Section B Disclosure**

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



Sent from my iPhone

**THE FRIENDS OF ST THOMAS CHURCH LYMINGTON**

England & Wales - Charity number 1166743

---

# Accounts

---

## Annual Report Friends AGM 2024

I have great pleasure in presenting my annual report. It has been a busy year and the Friends have considerably raised their profile to contribute to life at St Thomas Church.

Last year, just before our AGM, we welcomed the Reverend Lee Thompson as our new vicar. Early in his tenure he witnessed our major fundraising event, the Christmas Tree Festival.

The 2023 festival was undoubtedly the best yet.

We had the same number of sponsored trees as in previous years but the restaurant was busier, the sales tables were busier and the Artisan Market in the hall was packed with shoppers. All this contributed to a massive foot-fall, particularly on Saturday morning. I have a vision of our new vicar acting as a traffic warden to try to control the crowds.

The purpose of this event is not solely to raise funds, it is to offer our Community the opportunity to be part of an event in this beautiful building, to be part of something enjoyable, something inclusive in their church.

We reach the businesses, the shopkeepers, the charities, and the schools. We also reach many groups of local musicians and choirs, from ukulele players to flautists to hand bell ringers.

At the wash-up meeting after the festival and subsequently we considered ways to improve the visitor experience. Several aspects were less than ideal, including crowd control, food preparation and the general safety of our visitors. This led us to the conclusion that we needed more space and so for the next festival the PCC have agreed that

we may use the whole footprint of St Thomas Church and Hall.

In June we held a Summer Reception for members and guests. Originally planned as a “thank you’ for the support of our members, we were delighted, also to present the newly published St Thomas Churchyard Memorials Book, the result of many years work by the late Nigel Mussett and his team of volunteers.

I am grateful to Rosie Ward and to Simon Bennett for pushing this publication over the line. Thank you Simon for coming to the reception and talking about this special document. It is the most detailed up to date record of the churchyard and will be a useful reference for the visitors who come to enquire about family graves.

As a result of this reception and of other initiatives during the year I am delighted to report that our membership has increased and now stands at 70 members.

Another recent initiative that The Friends were delighted to a part of was the Piano Project. To give a little background, the instrument that had long resided in St Thomas Church was no longer fit for purpose and needed replacement. Two professional musicians who regularly perform here and who take a keen interest in developing our musical life, were tasked with finding a replacement. This they achieved in late May with the caveat that the instrument they had identified must be paid for by the end of September. A small committee chaired by local retired businessman David Wansbrough, initiated a targeted fund raising drive. The Friends contributed available funds and the new piano arrived a couple of weeks ago. Gifted to St Thomas Church PCC, this beautiful Steinway Grand piano will hopefully serve the needs of all who contribute to the musical life here in St Thomas Church for many years to come.

As we reach the end of another year I am indebted to the Friends Executive Committee. I will introduce you to these wonderful friends of mine who work tirelessly through the year and keep me in order!

Alison Baker, the treasurer, assisted by Derek Sheffer, Yvonne Mackenzie the Minutes Secretary, Lynne Bennett the Membership Secretary and Joan Horton-Fawkes the Operations Manager.

Rosie Scott on the general committee.

These talented people bring with them a wealth of skills and ideas that continually astound me. They are generous with their time, (some are generous with their husbands time), all truly embody what this 'Friends of' scheme is all about.

I also would like to thank three former committee members who served for many years and have now retired. Joanna Oswin, Anthea Macalister and Peter Stone have each given many years service to The Friends and have seen the organisation go from strength to strength. They truly deserve their retirement, I cannot thank you all enough.

I referred earlier to our significantly raised profile. There is always a risk when your head is above the parapet that you might be shot!

I thought I would end this Annual Report by reading some of the first page of our constitution, simply to make it absolutely clear why we are here and to remind you of just how much we can still achieve.

Our objects and powers

- a) The friends is established to promote and support the restoration, preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement and beautification of the church of St Thomas in the Parish of Lymington (hereinafter called the church) and of the monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained-glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in the church and churchyard belonging to the church.

- b) In furtherance of the said objects but not otherwise the friends may
- c) arrange and provide for or join in arranging and providing for the holding of concerts, exhibitions, meetings, lectures and classes.
- d) Collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the objects. Cause to be printed or otherwise circulated gratuitously or otherwise, such papers, books, periodicals, pamphlets or other documentation or films, websites or recorded tapes as shall further the objects.
- e) Raise funds by lawful means and through any lawful activity and invite and receive contributions from any organisation, person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription and otherwise provided that the Friends shall not undertake permanent trading.
- f) Make grants of money and gifts of the property to the Parochial Church Council of the Parish Lymington exclusively for the purpose of the said objects and generally assist those responsible for the care and maintenance of the church.

I share this with you to emphasize what is on the top of our notepaper. We are The Friends of St Thomas Church and thanks to the support we receive from you, we really can make things happen.

Thank you.

I commend my Annual Report for adoption.

Daphne Johnston. Chairman

From: Daphne Johnston daphne.johnston@icloud.com  
 Subject: Paper  
 Date: 12 December 2024 at 15:53  
 To: Daphne Johnston daphne.chantry@gmail.com



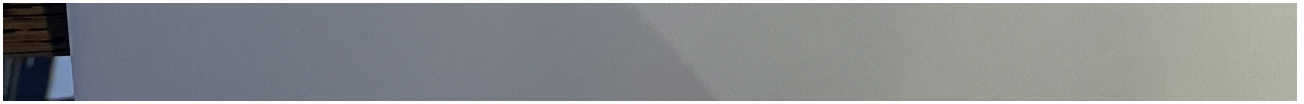
THE FRIENDS OF ST THOMAS CHURCH LYMINGTON

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Membership Subscriptions	1,250	885
Donations	7,775	3,949
Gift Aid	949	-
Christmas Tree Festival	13,508	13,421
Musical Events	1,192	600
Sale of Christmas Cards	525	266
Artisan Market	-	435
	<u>25,199</u>	<u>19,556</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Insurance	308	205
Donation to St Thomas Church	10,000	20,000
Christmas Tree Festival	5,052	4,667
Musical Events	87	693
Christmas Cards	382	316
Advertising	1,381	1,127
Sundry Payments	75	107
Bank Charges	112	122
	<u>17,397</u>	<u>27,237</u>
<u>(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>7,802</u>	<u>(7,681)</u>
Cash at bank at 1st April 2023	26,928	25,155
<u>CASH AT BANK AT 31ST MARCH 2024</u>	<u>£34,730</u>	<u>£26,928</u>
<u>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31ST MARCH 2024</u>		
Cash at Bank	<u>£34,730</u>	<u>£26,928</u>

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 6th November 2024

.....  
*Dean Baker*  
 .....



Sent from my iPhone

From: Daphne Johnston daphne.johnston@icloud.com  
Subject: Document  
Date: 12 December 2024 at 15:57  
To: Daphne Johnston daphne.chantry@gmail.com



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name  
The Friends of St Thomas Church Lymington

On accounts for the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

1166743

Set out on pages

3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Signed:

*J. Nivison*

Date:

6th Nov 2024


Name:

John Nivison

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

Address:

27 Beresford Road Lymington SO41 9JT



Sent from my iPhone