

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1173894

Details

Other names	THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST THOMAS' THE APOSTLE, WOOLTON HILL, IN THE DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER, WOOLTON HILL PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2017-07-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE IN THE PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH, PASTORAL, EVANGELISTIC, SOCIAL AND ECUMENICAL.

Activities: Parochial Church Council of North West Hampshire, including the churches of St James, Ashmansworth, St Michael and All Angels, Crux Easton, St Martin of Tours, East Woodhay and St Thomas the Apostle, Woolton Hill, Hampshire in the Diocese of Winchester

Classification

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

Geography

- Hampshire
- West Berkshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£119,345	£110,588	-	-
2023-12-31	£86,364	£114,322	-	-
2022-12-31	£81,429	£89,501	-	-
2021-12-31	£77,137	£61,352	-	-
2020-12-31	£88,328	£99,386	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
REVD LISA RODRIGUES	Chair	2024-07-29
Andrew John Colville		2024-07-10
Ann Louise Harris		2024-07-10
CHRISTINE MARGARET VANE		2012-03-15
Dr Colin John West		2024-07-10
Fiona Ashworth		2022-04-27
IAN WILLIAM ROCH		2016-04-27
RICHARD CHARLES ROE TWALLIN		2024-07-10
Rachel Hardy		2024-07-10
Richard Gordon Willis		2024-03-01
Stella Shea		2023-04-26

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE

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Accounts

North West Hampshire Benefice

St Thomas' Church, Woolton Hill – Annual Church Meeting – Minutes

7.30 pm on Monday, 7th April 2025 at St Thomas' Church

Present at the meeting: Rev'd Lisa Rodrigues (Chair), Ian Roch (Chair of St Thomas' LCC), Fiona Ashworth (Minutes), Christine Vane (Church Warden), Richard Willis (Church Warden), Steve Waite (Treasurer), Nick and Mary Harcourt, Audrey Willis, Carol Currey, Jayne Roch, Angie Maxwell, Graham and Margaret Falconer, Paul Ashworth, Madeleine Jenkins, Brian Burgham, Jenny Graham, Peter and Rachael Charles, Stella (Netty) Shea, Nichole Bentham, Jim and Valerie Burfield, Alan Johnson, Cedric Cottrell, Ann Flemming, Genie Stapleton, Bertha Bates.

1.	<p>Prayer and welcome</p> <p>Rev'd Lisa welcomed everyone to the meeting, opening the meeting with prayer and lighting a candle to remind us of the message of hope that we have to take out into our community. This is especially important at a time when there are many concerns about what is happening in the wider world.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence were given by Rosemary Cahill, Olivia and Mark Harris, Terry Hadden.</p>
3.	<p>Approval of Minutes from the Previous APCM</p> <p>The Minutes from last year's APCM were reviewed, there was a correction made to the date of the previous APCM Minutes which should have been 2023 not 2024. The Minutes then approved and signed by Christine Vane, Church Warden, who chaired the APCM in April 2024.</p> <p>Matters arising from the minutes – there were no matters arising. However it was noted that Rev'd Lisa Rodrigues was appointed as Rector in April 2024 and took up her post in July 2024.</p>
4.	<p>Annual Reports</p> <p>Churchwarden's Report – a written report was circulated prior to the meeting. In addition, RW thanked Christine Vane and Bertha Bates for all their help and support during his first year as a Church Warden.</p> <p>Treasurer's Report – A written presentation of the annual accounts for St Thomas' Church PCC - Woolton Hill (full year Jan - Dec 2024) together with the Independent Examiner (IE) declaration for approval and subsequent inclusion in the submission of the Charity Commission Annual Return 2024. Copies of the Year End Accounts were circulated prior to the meeting, together with the Treasurer's Annual Report.</p> <p>SW went through the Treasurer's report highlighting the income received and the breakdown of the main items of expenditure. He noted that St Thomas' had paid £29,000 towards the CMF, which was a shortfall of £3,000. This was an improvement on the previous year when there had been a shortfall of £5,000.</p>

With respect to WHCH, there were some one-off costs incurred last year related to the hall reopening and specifically to do with upgrading the outdoor play area.

Funds

SW explained that some of the Funds that St Thomas' holds are for 'restricted use' and set aside for specific projects, for example, the Churchyard Fund, for maintenance of the churchyard and Living Stones funds for the maintenance of the fabric of the church.

The Lock Trust Fund generates interest which is used by St Thomas' Church to fund its obligations. To date this income has been used to support the payment of the Common Mission Fund (CMF) quota for the year.

New Accounting System

Additional expenditure has been incurred in 2024 as a result of the ongoing implementation of the 'Expenses Plus Accounting System (EPAS). This system will replace the individual spreadsheets / systems previously used by the four churches that form the NWH PCC.

General Comments

SW concluded that overall St Thomas' Church have had a positive year and thanked everyone who has been involved in generating income for the church. Hopefully we can look forward to more success in 2025.

LR asked SW to give the meeting a summary of how well St Thomas' has done over the past year? SW responded that St Thomas' Church had achieved a lot during the year to cover the running costs of the church and pay 91% of its CMF quota. This has been achieved despite an environment of every increasing costs. In 2024 this was achieved through the hard work and dedication of our fantastic resource of volunteers who continues to do an outstanding job of fundraising, enabling us to continue to run a sustainable church. Through these resources we constantly look for new ideas and ways of attracting income into the church. Achieving this St Thomas' can look forward to a positive future.

In 2024 we made a small surplus. In 2023 there was bigger surplus as there was a full years Church Hall income prior to the water damage effecting the use of the Hall. Full use of the Hall was re-established during 2024.

The 2024 St Thomas' Church Accounts, prepared by Tim Nutt, Church Accounts Ltd and independently examined, were approved by the St Thomas' Church PCC.

Presentation of proposed budget for 2025.

Copies of the proposed budget for 2025 were distributed before the meeting. SRW explained that the proposed budget for 2025 had been prepared based on the 2024 actuals, any known changes and applying an inflation factor. This formed the basis for the 2025 budget. Ongoing there will clearly be changes in costs and additional costs not known at the time of preparing the proposed budget. During the year the budget will continue to be updated by a forecast based on any ongoing changes.

SRW highlighted two areas of known changes reflected in the proposed budget:

- 1) The St Thomas' CMF quota request has been increased from £32,000 to £34,396, increase £2,396.
- 2) Costs of running the new Expenses Plus Accounting system £1,100.

Threats

Main area of threat to the proposed budget are from increased utility costs together with unplanned maintenance / repairs, both very difficult to predict.

Jenny Graham thanked SW for all his hard work. She asked what the Music costs were for? SW advised that this is for paying organists and for repairing and tuning the organ. During 2024 there were additional costs due to protecting and cleaning the organ during major plaster works.

Jayne Roch again thanked Steve, particularly for the way in which information was presented which made it easy to understand and follow.

LR thanked SW on behalf of St Thomas' Church for the huge amount of work he has already done behind the scenes on the new accounting system and working with the current NWH PCC and Tim Nutt, Church Accounts Ltd. The new system will make it easier for the NWH PCC to see, in a comparative way, the finances of the churches in the benefice and how we might work together to support and adopt best practice together.

All those present supported the proposed budget.

Fabric & Churchyard Report

A written report for 2024 was circulated prior to the meeting. In addition, IR, wished to update those at the meeting on the progress with mechanising the clock. The automatic winding mechanism was installed at the beginning of February 2025 and the automative regulation system was installed at the beginning of March 2025 and all appears to be working well. IR thanked everyone involved in fundraising efforts for this project.

Safeguarding Report

There have been no safeguarding issues to report during 2024. All those who are required to have DBS checks have these in place. LR reminded anyone who needs to undertake Safeguarding training to do so asap and let Kay Fullick know once this is complete.

EcoChurch Report

LR said St Thomas' should be very proud that we have our Bronze level award and are working towards Silver. She invited everyone to continue to support our church in becoming more ecologically friendly.

Rector's Report

LR explained that since the formation of the NWH PCC she is no longer an official member for St Thomas' LCC and has therefore not written a report for this meeting, but will be contributing to the APCM Report for the NWH PCC Annual Meeting on 6 May 2025.

However, LR did want to thank everyone at St Thomas' for the warm welcome that they gave her when she took up the post of Rector at the end of July 2024 and said that it has been really wonderful to get to know people and to see what has been

	<p>happening throughout the church year. By the time we get through Easter, LR will have done a complete liturgical year and now knows how things work here.</p> <p>LR thanked everyone who provided summary reports to this meeting and for all the hard work of the volunteers who help to make St Thomas' a living church. Going forward, with the help of the Benefice Co-Ordinator, Ellie, LR plans to produce an A4 page 'What's Going On in the Benefice'. This will come out on a monthly basis and be circulated with the weekly newsletter.</p> <p>LR gave a particular, big 'thank you' to Christine Vane and Richard Willis, Church Wardens, for all their hard work which helps to keep this church running.</p> <p>Looking to the year ahead, there are plans to hold a Vision Morning on Saturday, 14th June at which PCC members and other church representatives will be asked to share their vision for the Benefice going forward.</p>
5.	<p>Confirmation of Church Wardens participation in NWH PCC</p> <p>CV and RW were elected last April 2024 to act as Church Wardens for three years. They have confirmed that they are both willing to carry on in these roles. Both said that they enjoy NWH PCC meetings and it is interesting to work with the other church wardens and to see how they do things and they are able to learn from each other.</p> <p>Motion to support CV and RW in their continued roles was proposed by Fiona Ashworth and seconded by Peter Charles.</p>
6.	<p>Formal nomination and acceptance of LCC Members</p> <p>The following people have put themselves forward to sit on the Local Church Committee: Christine Vane, Richard Willis, Steve Waite, Ian Roch, Fiona Ashworth, Bertha Bates, Stella (Netty) Shea, Angie Maxwell, Mary Harcourt, Alan Johnson, Peter Charles.</p> <p>IR said that we are very pleased to welcome Bertha Bates to the LCC as well.</p> <p>Motion to support this was proposed Nicole Bentham and seconded by Madeleine Jenkins.</p> <p>IR explained that Valerie Burfield has decided to step down from the LCC and he wanted to take this opportunity to formally record our appreciation for all that VB has contributed in the past.</p>
7.	<p>Election of Sides People</p> <p>Nick Harcourt advised that the following people are proposed for the role of Sides People next year:</p> <p>Fiona Ashworth, Paul Ashworth, Peter Charles, Rachael Charles, Carol Currey, Margaret Falconer, Mary Harcourt, Nick Harcourt, Moyra Harkness, Steve Harris, Madeleine Jenkins, Jayne Roch, Netty Shea, Chris Vane, Pat Woodage,.</p> <p>They were Proposed by Alan Johnson and seconded Angie Maxwell.</p>

	<p>NH explained that Nikki Fisher is stepping down from the roll of Sides Person this year due to health reasons.</p> <p>NH thanked all those who have acted as Sides People over the past year, as well as those who have helped with Sacristan, Intercessions, Chalice and Linen preparation.</p>
8.	<p>Nomination of LCC members to sit on the NWH PCC.</p> <p>IR thanked Netty Shea who has expressed her willingness to continue to represent St Thomas' on the NWH PCC, alongside CW and RW.</p> <p>He advised that Fiona Ashworth has decided to take a break from this role this. Therefore we are looking for an additional LCC member to act in this roll and invited LCC members to consider this and this will be discussed at the next LCC meeting.</p> <p>For information, the NWH APCM will be held on 6th May at 7.30 pm at Ashmansworth Village Hall.</p>
9.	<p>Questions and open discussion</p> <p>Jenny Graham – In respect of the planned Vision Day, JR asked whether this will this include Highclere Church? LR confirmed that it would.</p> <p>JG then asked who is it for and who can attend? JG said that she felt strongly that everyone should to be invited to attend.</p> <p>LR explained that the Vision Day is a matter for everyone. However, it would not be possible to consult with over 100 people on the same day. Therefore it is suggested that each LCC gather the views of their congregation and PCC members will represent them on the day.</p> <p>Action: This will be taken forward by the LCC to enable all those at St Thomas to express their views.</p> <p>Alan Johnson asked whether there were any plans to hold confirmation classes? He explained that he had come to be confirmed in his 80s after attended a group of about 10 people who were similarly interested and most of them had gone on to be confirmed. LR advised that she has written a letter to go in the May edition of Spectrum and Highclere Parish Magazine, inviting anyone to contact her if they are interested in baptism. LR said there was a wonderful baptism service yesterday of a 16 year old girl and LR felt this was an answer to prayer.</p>
10.	<p>Closing prayer</p> <p>The meeting was closed by sharing the Grace.</p>

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Registered Charity Number 1173894

Annual Report and Financial Statements

**Year Ended
31st December 2024**

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
	£	£
	notes	
Current assets		
Investments		
CCLA CBF Churchyard	16,878.35	20,913.85
Woolton Hill Lock Trust (7220)	177,661.65	173,686.24
James Henry Lock Trust (7147)	88,642.07	86,044.39
War Bonds	91.00	91.00
Total	<u>283,273.07</u>	<u>280,735.48</u>
Cash and Bank Balances		
Nat West - General account	13,719.39	7,329.85
Newbury Building Soc LSP & Church Hall	32,026.87 a	30,812.27
Nat West - LSP	7,167.98	2,027.94
Church Hall Santander Bank & cash	12,287.11	11,347.06
Lloyds - Lock Trust	5,227.32 f	2,182.79
Debtors	-	12,985.63
Deduct Creditors	-	2,359.86
Net current assets less current liabilities	<u>£353,701.74</u>	<u>£345,061.16</u>
	Check £0.00	
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
General Fund	11,142.95	7,196.96
Church Hall	17,779.76	28,455.29
Total Unrestricted	<u>28,922.71</u>	<u>35,652.25</u>
Restricted		
Special collections	-	253.65
Living Stones Project	39,389.64	31,322.89
Churchyard	13,858.35	15,918.95
Total Restricted	<u>53,247.99</u>	<u>47,495.49</u>
Endowment		
Investments	266,303.72	259,730.63
Lloyds - Lock Trust account	5,227.32	2,182.79
	<u>271,531.04</u>	<u>261,913.42</u>
Total Funds of church	<u>£353,701.74</u>	<u>£345,061.16</u>

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	From To	01-Jan-24 31-Dec-24	01-Jan-23 31-Dec-23
		Notes	
General fund (Unrestricted)			
Income			
Church Collections		4,810	2,408
Benefice Income		4,610	
Gift Aid Giving		17,911	17,702
Gift Aid Tax Repayment		1,405	5,266
Donations		3,544	2,054
Fees		6,386	5737.5
Fete Income		3,292	
Fundraising		5,258	3888.32
Miscellaneous	c	9411.63	15.91
Total income		56,629	37,071
Expenditure			
Benefice costs		3,605	-
Donations to charities	e	663	
Heating & Lighting		7,563	5,420
Insurance		4,486	4,294
Fees		1,117	2,952
Repairs		1,796	1,759
Fundraising costs		1,108	1,658
Music		3,118	2,656
Altar Expenses		211	151
CMF Quota		29,000	32,000
Office Expenses		3,779	2,863
Miscellaneous		590	227
Recruitment		850	-
Total expenditure		57,886	53,981
Excess of Income over Expenditure		-1,257	-16,910
Brought forward balance		7,197	2,886
Transfers to/(from)	g	4,000	21,221
Debtors & accrued income	h	1,203	
Total carried forward balance		11,143	7,196
Church Hall (Unrestricted) Fund			
Income			
Hire of hall		33,645	4883
Insurance Claim		11,819	9817
Interest	d	208	150
Donations		-	10
Refunds		-118	-
Total income		45,555	14,860
Expenditure			
Heating and Lighting		7285	5018
Insurance		4529	1074
Repairs (inc Playground)		22688	-
Hall Fixture & Fittings		5679	10307
Music Licences		-	564

Hall Cleaning	5975	2708
Telephone and broadband	349	319
Miscellaneous/Sundries	872	339
Provision for uninsured Church Hall floor repairs		-10000
Total expenditure	47,378	10328
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-1823	4532
Brought forward balance	28455	13342
Unclear Cheque	i 2982	-
Transfers to/(from)	-	-3221
Church Hall Debtors & accrued income	b -11834	13801
Total carried forward balance	17780	28455

Special Collections (Restricted) Fund

Income		
Donations	-	254
Total income	0	254
Expenditure		
Donations to charities	254	-
Total expenditure	254	0
Excess of Income over Expenditure	-254	254
Brought forward balance	254	0
Unclear Cheques	-	-
Transfers to/(from)		-
Total carried forward balance	0	254

Living Stone Project (Restricted) Fund

Income		
Donations	4,268	14940
Fundraising	4,202	-
Interest	d 1,007	1225.05
Miscellaneous	639	-
Total income	10,116	16,165
Expenditure		
Repairs	2050	-
LSP - Church development	-	48921
Total expenditure	2,050	48921
Excess of Income over Expenditure	8067	-32756
Brought forward balance	31323	74079
Transfers to/(from)	-	-10000
Total carried forward balance	39390	31323

Churchyard (Restricted) Fund

Income		
	-	
Total income	0	0

Expenditure			
Churchyard costs		3020	4044

Total expenditure		3,020	4,044
Excess of Income over Expenditure		-3020	-4044
Brought forward balance		15919	17614
Gain/loss investment value		959.4	562
Transfers to/(from)			1787
Total carried forward balance		13858	15919

LockTrust (Restricted) Fund

Income			
Dividends from CCLA x1	f	4821	6602
Dividends from CCLA x2		2223	
Total income		7045	6602

Expenditure

Total expenditure		0	0
Excess of Income over Expenditure		7045	6602
Brought forward balance		2183	3581
Transfers to/(from)	g	-4000	-8000
Total carried forward balance		5227	2183

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

Notes

- a. The Newbury Building Society Account contains £5273.76 of Church Hall funds. The remaining is for the Living Stones Project (LSP)
- b. Balances re-instated to move from Accruals to Receipts & Payments = Ecclesiastical insurance payment Paid 29/01/2024 £11819.47 + £225 outstanding hall hire invoices paid in Jan 2024 = £12044.47 minus £210 for Electricity payment
- c. Miscellaneous Category (£15050.88) minus the
 - £5000 transfer from ChurchYard CCLA account to Nat West Account - This resets the CCLA ChurchYard account to contain only ChurchYard funds, as it previously contained £4994.90 of General funds
 - £639.25 LSP VAT refund
 - £4000 bridging loan to cover CMF
- d. Newbury Building Society interest (£1214.60), split pro rata between Churchhall and LSP Funds --->
- e. St Thomas' Contribution to the Diocese for the service held for the arrival of Bishop Philip Mounstephen
- f. Lloyds account for Lock Trust (Acc 0269). Money in comes solely from the 2 CCLA Lock Trust Endowment funds dividends. This dividend income can be used by the PCC for church at their discretion
- g. £4000 transfer from Lock trust to General fund (Nat West bank June 2024)
- h. Balances re-instated to move from Accruals to Receipts & Payments = Accrued church expenses £2149.86 minus 2023 Debtors £941.16
- j. £2982 uncleared Cheque from 2023

Independent Examiner's report to the PCC of St Thomas' , Woolton Hill Hampshire

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and also to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by 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 section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations 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.

(Signed)



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(Signed)



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1173894

Accounts

St Thomas' Church, in the Parish of Woolton Hill

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON
WEDNESDAY, 3RD APRIL 2024**

Peter Charles welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the Benefice Prayer.

Peter thanked Chris Vane and Bridget Wheeler for their hard work as Church Wardens over the previous year. Bridget Wheeler is stepping down as Church Warden from today, as she will be moving from the Parish.

Chris Vane has agreed to stand again and has been proposed by Peter Charles and seconded by Fiona Ashworth for this role.

Richard Willis has also volunteered for the role of Church Warden, proposed by Fiona Ashworth and seconded by Peter Charles.

Those present at the meeting fully supported their appointment as Church Wardens to St Thomas' Church.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (which followed)

Present: Christine Vane (CV) Chair, Fiona Ashworth (FA) Minutes, Bridget Wheeler (BW), Peter Charles (PC), Terry Hadden (TH), Rachael Charles, Carol Currey, Richard Willis (RW), Audrey Willis, Rosemary Cahill, Nick Harcourt, Madeleine Jenkins, Angie Maxwell, Ann Fleming, Stella Shea (Netty), Ingrid Rankin, Cedric Cottrell, Alan Johnson, Ian and Jayne Roch, Moyra Harkness, Bertha Bates.

Apologies: Graham and Margaret Falconer, Nicole Bentham, Brian and Margaret Burgham, Mary Harcourt, Paul Ashworth, Steve Waite, Jim and Valerie Burfield, Jim Hannington, Pat Woodage

1.	Minutes of APCM 2024 The Minutes of last year's APCM held on 26 April 2024 were unanimously accepted and signed as a true record.
2.	Electoral Roll report Jane Roch reported that there are currently 74 names on the electoral role, 20 non-resident. Since last year's electoral roll, two people have moved away and 5 people have joined. Their names have been displayed in the church for the previous 14 days.
3.	Deanery Synod: election of 2 representatives for 2024/2026 Valerie Burfield and Peter Charles were elected as Deanery Synod Representatives at the last APCM. Valerie Burfield has agreed to continue as our representative for the next year. Peter Charles would like to step down for this role. Stella (Netty) Shea has been proposed and seconded to be the second Deanery Synod Representative and was unanimously supported to take up this role.

<p>4.</p>	<p>PCC Election: Election of 8 members 2024/25</p> <p>Chris Vane thanked everyone who has served on the PCC over the previous year.</p> <p>This year 8 members of the congregation have been proposed and seconded to be on the PCC, they are:</p> <p>Peter Charles, Steve Waite, Fiona Ashworth, Ian Roch, Luke Graham, Mary Harcourt, Angie Maxwell and Alan Johnson.</p> <p>All those present at the meeting supported their appointment to the PCC.</p> <p>Fiona Ashworth will continue as Secretary to the PCC.</p> <p>As a Parish we are entitled to 9 ordinary members on the PCC; therefore if someone should come forward during the year who would like to serve on the PCC, there is an additional space and an extra person could be co-opted on at a later date if needs be.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Sides People 2024/25</p> <p>Nick Harcourt gave a '<i>great thank you</i>' to Margaret Burgham who has previously organised the Rotas for Sides People, Intercessors and Chalice Persons. Margaret has now decided to stand down from this role and Nick has kindly taken over this responsibility. Nick thanked all those who have served in these roles over the previous year.</p> <p>Looking ahead, the following people are proposed to act in the role of Sides People: Paul and Fiona Ashworth, Peter and Rachael Charles, Margaret Falconer, Nikki Fisher, Moyra Harkness, Nick and Mary Harcourt, Steve Harris, Madeleine Jenkins, Jayne Roch, Netty Shea, Chris Vane, Pat Woodage.</p> <p>This was fully supported by those present at the meeting.</p> <p>Nick thanked everyone who contributes as Sides People, Intercessors and Chalice. Chris Vane thanked Nick for taking over the Rotas.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Financial Statements and Annual Report 2023</p> <p>Terry Hadden (TH) has prepared the accounts and had them audited for this year and a written report was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>These accounts showed an annual income close to £66,000 and expenditure around £62,000 which on paper looks good. However, the income was inflated by a transition of £10,000 from the Building Society Account, which is actually for Restricted Expenditure and therefore this amount will need to be repaid asap and as a result the income and expenditure forecast for 2024 is a little worrying.</p> <p>TH also explained that the expectation for last year was for St Thomas' to pay a CMF of around £36,000, but in fact only £32,000 was paid. The CMF quota for this financial year has been reduced to around £32,000.</p> <p>For 2024, TH predicts an income of around £57,000 and expenditure close to £74,000, indicating that there could be a shortfall between income and expenditure. This presents a challenge for fundraising over the next year.</p>

	<p>TH invited questions for the accounts for 2023, but none were forthcoming.</p> <p>TH is standing down as Treasurer from today and it is proposed that Steve Waite will take over this role.</p> <p>Chris Vane thanked Terry for his support as Treasurer and gave TH a small gift token in recognition of our appreciation.</p>
7.	<p>Churchwardens' Comments</p> <p>CV referred to the Annual Report for 2023, which was circulated prior to this evening's meeting and said it is encouraging to see all that is going on in the Church, which in many ways is due to the hard work, commitment and leadership of our previous Rector, Christine Dale.</p> <p>Rosemary Cahill said that in addition to what was written in the Report, over the past year, Communion Services have taken place in both care homes in the village and BRF Bible notes had been circulated to most of St Thomas' congregation.</p> <p>CV thanked BW for all her support as fellow Church Warden over the past 8 years and gave her a card and gift token again in recognition of our appreciation of her hard work and support.</p> <p>BW then gave the following Church Wardens report for 2023:</p> <p>The obvious person who is missing today is Christine Dale and I think we are all feeling her absence and I reiterate Chris' comments that we are truly grateful for all that she did for St Thomas' and the whole Benefice over the last 20 year.</p> <p>Now, of course, we must look forward and, although, things could be a little easier, we must be positive! The One PCC is moving forward at a glacial pace, but I am convinced that it will be formed in the not too distant future. This will, in my opinion, be a great attraction to anyone applying for the role of Rector as it will greatly reduce the amount of time wasted on meetings thereby giving space for pastoral and outreach work.</p> <p>As you will have heard, Chris and Suzie Hancock are leaving at the end of May. This will add an additional burden to the Church Wardens. However, all the Church Wardens in the Benefice, along with the amazing Suki, are on the case and communicate regularly and, to date, all very much seem to <i>be 'singing from the same hymn sheet'</i>! I have absolutely no doubt that the PCCs and the whole church community will rally round and support each other through this interregnum period. Plus, the Bishop and Rural Dean, have assured us of their help.</p> <p>For the last 8 years I have stood here and thanked my fellow Church Warden for all her hard work but 2023 needs particular recognition of her dedication to duty. Chris has spent an incredible amount of time on church matters, including the Church Hall, and I thank her from the bottom of my heart for all that she has done whilst continuing to maintain a sense of humour!</p> <p>When Rupert and I decided we needed to downsize and move from the village, my thoughts instantly turned to the fact that I will miss St Thomas' and also, that I will be leaving Chris in the lurch. However, after a few sleepless nights, my prayers have been answered and I am absolutely delighted to be handing over my reins to Richard Willis. Welcome, Richard, and many thanks for stepping up. It has been a</p>

	<p>privilege for me to have served as Church Warden at St Thomas' and, on the whole, I have enjoyed every minute! I will really miss you all.</p> <p>Nick Harcourt then gave a '<i>big thank you</i>' to BW for all her inspired contributions and leadership during her time as Church Warden. He also thanked CV for all her hard work to aid the administration of the church, which is recognised by all the Church community. He then gave a very warm welcome to Richard as a new Church Warden.</p> <p>CV then acknowledged that the previous few weeks have been '<i>difficult</i>' as the Church Wardens were aware of Rev Chris Hancock's decision to step down from the role of Ass Priest, but they had been unable to share this with the rest of the congregation, until his resignation was finalised. It was easier now to be able to share this information.</p> <p>CV encouraged everyone to remain optimistic, the final date for applications for post of Rector is 5th April. If there are appropriate candidates, it is planned to hold interviews on 23/24 April. Therefore, the very earliest that a new Rector could take up the post would be August or September.</p> <p>There is a meeting next week with all the Church Wardens in the Benefice and the Bishop of Basingstoke, to discuss how services in all five churches can be supported during the next few months. The Church Wardens are aware that the Diocese are unlikely to be able to cover all of the services and we may need to look at altering the pattern of services.</p> <p>CV asked for any further comments or questions. Madeleine Jenkins said that a person who has not already been thanked but who does so much behind the scenes is Bertha Bates and asked that this be recognised</p> <p>CV acknowledged that Bertha provides a huge amount of support with administration behind the scenes and thanked Bertha. CV added that Sue Hopkinson will soon be leaving her role as Church Administrator and her responsibilities will be handed over to our new Administrator, Ellie Aston-Noon.</p> <p>CV added that we have a Benefice Office at WHCH from end of week and Ellie will work from her.</p> <p>Nick Harcourt expressed concern about the amount of pressure that Suki Coe, our Lay Minister, may feel under once Rev Chris Hancock leaves. CV said that all Church Wardens were mindful of this and we need to be realistic in our expectations of Suki.</p>
8.	<p>Date of next PCC and Standing Committee meetings</p> <p>The date of the next PCC Meeting will be on Tuesday, 11 June 2024 at 7..30 p.m. at WHCH.</p> <p>Prior to this, the next Standing Committee will be on Wednesday, 22 May 2024 at 3 p.m. – venue to be confirmed.</p>

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Registered Charity Number 1173894

Annual Report and Financial statements

Year Ended

31st December 2023

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Annual report and financial statements for year ended 31 December 2023

Registered Charity
Number 1173894

Vice Chair of the PCC

Mr Peter Charles
10 Fairacre
Woolton Hill
Newbury
Berkshire
RG20 9UE

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
5 Bridge Street
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5BQ

Newbury Building Society
105b Northbrook Street
Newbury Building Society
Berkshire
RG14 1AA

Nat West Bank
Market Place
Newbury
Berkshire

Santander Bank
Bridle Road
Bootle
Manchester
L30 4GB

Independent Examiner

Judy Anderson FCCA
5 Canal Walk
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0EQ

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Woolton Hill

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2023, Charity no 1173894 which are set out on pages 2 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Church Council and Examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulation and Section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners 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 :
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
 - (b) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirement of the Act and the Regulationshave 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.

Judy Anderson FCCA
5 Canal Walk
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0EQ

Date: 03 April 2023

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Woolton Hill

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Judy Anderson FCCA
5 Canal Walk
Hungerford
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Date: 03 April 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1173894

Accounts

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, WOOLTON HILL

.....*making Christ known in our communities*

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2022

Administrative Information

St Thomas' Church is in the United Benefice of North West Hampshire in the Deanery of Whitchurch and the Diocese of Winchester. The correspondence address is The Rectory, The Mount, Woolton Hill, RG20 9QZ. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity. Charity number: 1173894

PCC members are as follows:

Incumbent:	The Reverend Canon Christine Dale
Church Wardens:	Chris Vane Bridget Wheeler
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Peter Charles Val Burfield
Elected Members:	Alan Johnson Ian Roch Margaret Burgham Luke Graham Angela Maxwell Fiona Ashworth (Hon Secretary from 27/4/22)
Officer to the PCC:	Terry Hadden (Hon Treasurer from 1/1/22)

Structure, Governance and Management

St Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Canon Christine Dale, in promoting the mission of the Church within the parish of Woolton Hill. In addition, it has maintenance responsibilities for the church building. There were 3 regular meetings of the PCC in the year 2022.

The PCC alone could not manage all the tasks the church undertakes and therefore, a number of groups and committees assist with these. The following Committees make recommendations, support the decisions of the PCC and carry out specific tasks as agreed. Their current Terms of Reference are as follows:

Standing and Finance Committee (Chair: The Rector): Vice Chair, Wardens, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer meet in advance of each PCC meeting to plan the agenda and review objectives.

Fabric Committee (Chair, Ian Roch): This is a committee elected by the PCC and is responsible for the planning and execution of all necessary maintenance work on the church building and churchyard.

Social and Fundraising (Chair, Angela Maxwell): This committee plans and arranges social and fundraising events throughout the year, primarily to bring people together and to raise funds for the upkeep of the Church.

Electoral Roll (Jayne Roch)

At the 2022 APCM there were 74 names on the Electoral Roll of whom 19 were non-resident. Seven people had joined the Electoral Roll and 1 person had died since the last report.

Benefice Committees

The Benefice Council (Chair, The Rector): The Rector and two representatives from each PCC in the North West Hampshire Benefice meet to agree the annual plan of services across the Benefice and discuss items of finance or interest to all the parishes.

The Ministry Team (Chair, The Rector): The Rector works with the Associate Priest and Licensed Lay Ministers to oversee the worship and ministry across the Benefice.

Review of the year 2022

Finance Report (Terry Hadden)

1. The first item is giving thanks to all those who have steered me through the year to the point where we can safely say that we have survived financially - somewhat battered perhaps but not beaten. In alphabetical order to avoid accusations of favouritism these include Fiona Ashworth, Bertha Bates, Cedric Cottrell, Christine Dale, Gareth Foulkes, Bob King, Chris Vane, and Bridget Wheeler. Judy Andersen gets a special mention having stepped back into the breach after resigning / retiring a year ago! There are plenty more of course. They know who they are. Thank you all!!
2. The second thing to say is that overall income has held up well. There are swings and roundabouts with grants etc. of course but taken as a whole things are pretty good being £2k higher than last year.
3. Offsetting that the expenses were £18k higher with a large element of that (£15k) being hall costs.
4. Income - unrestricted income has fallen by a little over £6.5k compared to 2021 whilst restricted (the heating project) has risen by £11k plus in the same period. The income from endowment funds has stayed pretty much the same at £7k. The net effect of all this is an increase of just under £4k.
5. We also had to take £8k from the Lock Trust towards the end of the year (7.5k in 2021) – we couldn't have met the Common Mission Fund demand without it!
6. Expenses, however, have shot up by £18k much of which is due to building costs with the heating project taking an extra £4k and the hall picking up most of the difference it seems.
7. Overall income still exceeded expenses by £2k making a net negative difference of £14k compared to 2021.
8. The above is all about cash. Last year there was a revaluation of the Lock Trust which added £18.5k to the asset value. 2022 has reversed that gain and then some! Almost £38k has been wiped off which has moved the net asset value from £395k last year down to £361k at the end of 2022.

In summary, a pretty good year aside from the valuations which are outside our control and which, we hope, will be reversed again in the days / months / years to come.

I will make no comments or forecasts for 2023. Que sera, sera.

Fabric & Churchyard Report (Ian Roch)

Church

1. Ongoing maintenance and certifications are performed in line with requirements.
2. The heating project is progressing well and is subject to a separate report.
3. The church electrics are showing their age with increasing numbers of bulb holders not working and with frequent bulb failures. The compatible type of bulbs are becoming increasingly difficult (and expensive) to source.
4. There have been numerous incidents of petty theft and vandalism caused by a group of youths entering the church, particularly at weekends and school holidays. This has included theft of the wheelchair, damage to candles, theft of biscuits and interference with floral decorations. As a result,

the door between the church and the vestry is now locked with items stored in the vestry /boiler room where possible. These incidents have been reported to Hampshire police. Most recently there has been damage to the lightning conductor although damage is limited to a few of the wall fixings being pulled out. The integrity of the conductor was not affected.

5. Some lead theft and tile damage occurred to the roof of the west porch.
6. Increasing dampness has been observed in the bell tower. It is not yet known if this is being caused by a fault in the fabric of the building or if it was due to a particular rain / wind direction.

Churchyard

7. Working Parties are usually held twice per year. All offers of assistance will be gratefully received whether at a Working Party or on an ad-hoc basis.
8. Despite previous improvements to ditches in the lower churchyard along the Church Lane and the lower churchyard boundaries, parts of the lower churchyard remain very boggy during winter months. The cause is believed to be an old drain which is now being disturbed as new graves are dug. Solutions are being looked at but cost constraints prevail.
9. A contractor is engaged for an average of 6 hours per month to cut the grass in front of the church and to cut around the old graves on a twice per year basis. The remainder of cutting in the main churchyard and the lower churchyard is carried out by volunteers. The ageing demographic of the volunteers means that more tasks are being carried out by contractors with an associated increase in the maintenance costs of the Church.

Clock

10. The annual inspection / maintenance check was carried out in the autumn by the Cumbria Clock Company. The clock is working well with no issues to report.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who undertakes countless tasks in and around the Church.

Heating (Bertha Bates)

The best intentions etc....., we had hoped to have the new heating system up and running by October. However, our plans were scuppered. The Diocesan heating engineer needed many additional questions answered before it went to committee, needless to say it missed the meeting and we had to wait for another couple of months. Eventually permission was given and it was then a case of organising AWG contractors to dig the trench, SEN and Total to install and connect the new three phase wiring and a smart meter, and Hannington and Green to connect it all. (Before the work on installing the heating could start). This work is now planned to commence in January 2023.

Cleaning Report (Margaret Falconer)

We have a team of 10 cleaners, losing two from the previous year. Many thanks to Carol, Marilyn, Mary, Madeleine, Rachael, Angie, Pat, Chris and Val for their hard work. The rota has been reduced from once a week to once a fortnight although we check when there are festivals and events, especially the schools. In 2023 a Spring/Summer clean is planned for Saturday 15th April to follow up after the new heating system had been installed.

Flower Report (Margaret Falconer)

Thank you so much to our church flower arrangers. Sadly, we lost Jean Sharp in December and she will be missed both as a colleague and as an expert. We are fortunate to have kept the rest of the team of Sue Wakelin, Diana Durkin Ros Oles, Mary Holmes, Bertha Bates, Pat Woodage, Margaret Falconer, Sue Jopson, Bron Sutton and Rosie Cordell. Of course we are always on the lookout for new flower arrangers, just a love of flowers is required. I am encouraging the use of chicken wire as we try to eliminate floral foam. Our arrangers finance their own flowers and the PCC provides extra funds for the main festivals.

Church Unlockers Report (Angie Maxwell)

Early on in the year, life started to get back to normal after the limitations of the pandemic. This meant that the church could once again be kept open during the week by our loyal band of regular helpers.

These were, in order of duty days throughout the week, Rosemary Cahill, Genie Stapleton, Angie Maxwell, Bridget Wheeler and Anthony Clifton. Thanks are also due to those others who deputized when necessary.

Unfortunately, it was necessary to keep the church locked during school holidays later in the year when it was discovered that these were the main times that petty vandalism was taking place within the church and its surrounds.

Well done to all the team for their continuing commitment to this important duty.

Church Hall Report (Ingrid Rankin)

2022 brought change, continuity, and the unforeseen for Woolton Hill Church Hall.

Following many years of faithful service on the Management Committee, Nick Harcourt, John Angle and Cedric Cottrell stepped down from their responsibilities. Before departing, their combined operational knowledge was captured in an A-Z manual, which is now the go to document for running the Hall. New and additional members have been appointed, with everyone having a clearly defined role. There has been an overview of processes and policies; safeguarding training, fire control checks and a Refund Policy are now in place. Also, we have created a bespoke logo for use on documents. For the first time in seven years, there are increased hire rates for next year: responses from hirers have been only supportive and understanding.

During 2022, there were 5 regular meetings and an extraordinary one. Maintenance issues were addressed either "in house" by our maintenance officer or via contractors. Both PAT and fixed wire testing were completed, and some internal door handles upgraded. Detailed stocktakes of the kitchen and loft enable us to keep effective control of storage spaces. Thankfully, our boundary fence and wall, partially demolished following a power outage, is now reinstated.

Unfortunately, in early November, buckling of the wooden floor in the main hall created an emergency. Since then, for health and safety reasons, the main hall has been out of action and there is no time frame for a return to use. This situation produced additional work, from the cancellation of bookings, attendance with investigative contractors to keeping hirers regularly informed. We are very grateful for all the support and guidance provided by the Church Treasurer.

Bookings for the first three quarters maintained pre pandemic levels and there was positive engagement with Pre-School, with half termly face to face meetings with the Manager. Total income for the year was £23,515, driven mainly by regular hirers, contributing three quarters of the total. We believe the loss of earnings from the main hall being unavailable, is in the region of £1,500 and have taken the prudent view of not including this recovery (from insurance) in the accounts. . We have made expenditure savings where possible; cleaning costs have been set at less than 50% of what they were before Nov. Total expenditure for the year amounted to £29,780, with significant spend on hall maintenance (£12,014) and utilities (£6,789). This resulted in a significant loss for the financial year of £6,324. However, with increased hire prices in 2023 and discussions with the insurance company for loss of earnings, we hope to reduce this level of loss in 2023.

Going forward, we are mindful of the need to retain as many of our regular hirers as possible. In addition to sharing regular updates with them, we are looking forward to showcasing the premises, once all the remedial work is complete.

Rotas Report (Margaret Burgham)

As always this is my opportunity to say a big "Thank you" to all our wonderful Sides people, Sacristans and Intercessors. Despite a lot of sickness, you have continued to support and commit to helping St. Thomas' to be a welcoming church.

I would also like to thank you for replying so promptly to my emails asking you to give me the dates when you are unable to serve. It saves a lot of having to swap around and makes my job, which I love, a lot easier.

Thank you for your willingness and commitment.

Social & Fundraising Report (Angela Maxwell)

A full range of social and fundraising activities took place during the year.

These commenced at the beginning of February with the annual Trivial Pursuits quiz ably organized by Jayne and Ian Roch and much enjoyed by all despite having to rely on the Zoom format again.

Later in the month, a new event called Aladdin's Cave, was held in the Church Hall. As the name suggests, it was a sale of an eclectic range of new or as good as new items which had been donated. A very upmarket version of our traditional jumble sale. A lot of hard work beforehand and on the day, but it turned out to be financially much more successful than a jumble sale and something which we hoped to repeat in the future.

In May, Genie and Alan Stapleton held a 'bring and buy' Coffee Morning. It turned out to be such a warm and sunny day that we were able to sit outside in their lovely garden to enjoy good company as well as the tasty cake and coffee refreshments.

In June, the committee organised more cake and refreshments after the Handbells concert in the church.

The next day, celebratory drinks were arranged by Ian Roch after the Diamond Jubilee service for the late Queen. Chris Vane had baked an amazing variety of crown topped cakes to make it a truly royal occasion.

At the end of June, Margaret Burgham masterminded yet another most enjoyable Safari Supper. She let us know that she would be passing on the baton for organising this event in future years. Well done Margaret and thank you for all your efforts in putting this event on for so many years.

A very successful Summer Fair was held in the Church grounds at the beginning of July organised by Bertha Bates and Chris Vane. A huge number of stall holders and other helpers were involved to make this a great community event.

The St Thomas team provided and served refreshments at the September Village Market as well as organising the raffle. Many volunteers were needed on the day as well as beforehand to make the cakes which were sold.

After the Harvest church service in October, refreshments were offered by way of the contributions to a Bake Off competition with the theme of harvest. We certainly enjoyed the end products baked by young and old alike!

Later in October, the social and fundraising team plus partners were treated to a drinks and nibbles evening at the home of Ann Fleming. Donations raised on the evening helped to swell church funds.

Chris Vane organised a Christmas stall at the November Village Market. Many of the items donated for sale had been deliberately held back from earlier in the year to offer at this time as they had such a Christmassy feel to them. A great team of helpers were involved beforehand and on the day as well.

More refreshments were provided after the service attended by the Bishop of Winchester at the end of November and again after the Carol Service in December. Many thanks are due to our resident barmen Ian Roch and Stuart Carlyle.

As you can see, there has been a full year of fundraising social events which couldn't have happened without the support of so many volunteers. It's been hard work but fun. Can I offer sincere thanks to all involved.

Parish Outreach Reports

Welcome Pack Report (Mary Harcourt)

We have delivered 13 Welcome Packs over the year to newcomers to the village.

The contents of the pack reflect the many and varied activities in the village - not only the Church, the Surgery, the Stores and the schools but also sports facilities, the Silver Band and various clubs and societies. Some of these produce leaflets while others direct residents to their websites.

We have a dedicated team who deliver the Packs which are always very gratefully received.

Community Café Report (Carol Currey)

The Community Café has continued weekly get together throughout the year. Our visitor numbers vary between 12 and 20 and the regulars really enjoy meeting with people they have got to know through the Café and around the village. Visitors always enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits and social chat. The lack of heating in Church has been a challenge, we have resorted to meeting in our Helpers homes. It will be good when we are able to return to Church. The Café has a constant team of Helpers though additional Helpers would be warmly welcomed.

Our visitors are generous with their donations and at least twice a year these are passed on in equal parts to St Thomas' Church and a local Charity. This year the Charities have been Loose Ends and The Food Bank.

Festival Leaflets Report (Rosemary Cahill) Easter and Christmas leaflets.

Before Easter and Christmas, leaflets are delivered to every household in the NWH Benefice. They contain a letter from Canon Christine and a list of all relevant services. The aim is for final deliveries to leave a clear week before the first service listed (Palm Sunday or Carol Services). The Master has to be available for copying by Sue Hopkinson (Coordinator), so 5 weeks are needed, especially for the teams in the 3 largest parishes. For these, Sue splits into individual named packs where requested. Those for EW are delivered direct from the copier. The remainder of the 1900 copies then go, via my house, to the team leaders in each parish. Household numbers vary from 26 (CE) to 850 (WH). Remarkably there are many individuals who have willingly continued this twice yearly task over many years, and we are grateful to them all.

Musical accompanists and Choir Report (Bertha Bates)

The Choir sang for church services throughout 2022. It was especially good to be able to sing for the Carol Service and again on Christmas Day. We are as always very grateful to Georgie who gives us so much time in her busy life to jolly us along. Thank you also to Peter Stanley, Alistair Davis and Genie Stapleton for playing the organ during the past year, and to Mary Harcourt for playing the keyboard. We were sorry that Kathleen Trehwella decided to give up her monthly slot with us, and we were very sorry to hear that she had passed away just before Christmas.

Bell Ringers Report (Christopher Pack)

Ringling has not been as regular as usual due to illness and other factors beyond our control. As all the ringers are committed to at least one other church we were only able to ring for a wedding and the carol service.

The ringling chamber has suffered now that the boiler no longer functions with mould growing in one corner and the woodworm are still active. On a more positive note a removable soundproofing block has been fashioned that fits into the trapdoor opening and makes ringling far more pleasurable.

Chris would like to record his thanks to the Burghclere ringers and those from other towers without whom there would be no ringling at all.

St Thomas' Handbells Report (Nicole Bentham)

For most of 2022 we continued rehearsing in members' homes to save both the ringers and all our equipment from the cold and damp conditions in church. This enabled us to prepare for a Jubilee Concert in St Thomas' in early June to coincide with Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Proceeds were shared between church funds and the DEC Ukraine appeal. As a gesture of support we included the Ukrainian National anthem which we had learnt soon after the invasion. We were pleased to take the same programme to local care homes and delighted to be able to resume much of our usual round of Christmas engagements in December, as well as accepting our first invitation to ring for Kingsclere WI's Christmas meeting.

In the course of the year we regretfully said goodbye to two of the team, both on grounds of deteriorating health. Alan had been with us for a relatively short time but he had made a big impact and we miss his lively contributions to our practices. Chris was a very long-standing and unfailingly cheerful member of the group, and her experience and reliability have been a challenge to replace. On

the positive side we welcomed Diane Snell as a new ringer in the autumn; amazingly she had already made her playing debut by the end of the year and we look forward to her participating fully in future performances.

Children's Ministry Report (Jenny Graham)

As we reflect on the activities for the children in 2022 we are grateful for the prayer support from the wider St Thomas' family and for the new contacts we have made and the fun and safety we have enjoyed throughout the year.

We have been a core team of 5 following Nicola stepping back at the start of the year. We are thankful for the valuable contributions Nicola brought to the group and for the continued support from her and her family in attending events and services throughout 2022.

Our calendar of services and events for 2022 was busy and varied and we have really enjoyed meeting new children and developing relationships in the community. Our Good Friday Easter activity morning remains the highlight of the year for many of us and it was hugely enjoyable this year made especially so by the additional help we receive from the church family in running activities and, most importantly, in the creation of the Easter Garden! We had a small but incredibly special time with some families to celebrate 'Mums' on Mothering Sunday weekend. The children were occupied with crafts and games on a lovely sunny day and the Mums had some valuable time out together with good conversation and some treats to enjoy!

We were blessed with great weather for our Summer Activity Morning held in the grounds of the church where we created bug hotels, did some filming about nature and enjoyed some games and a picnic together. The autumn term was busy as we did our first 'Bake-off'! It was great to join with the wider church and have different generations entering their yummy and very creative Harvest bakes! We had 26 children come along to our Light Party to enjoy a positive alternative to Halloween and were thrilled to join with the Brownies to run this event! We hope and pray that the positive links with the Brownies will continue. We were fully booked and squeezing some last minute requests in for our Crafty Christmas event where we hosted 32 children in the church for fun, games, crafts and a party tea. It was a great way to end the year!

We are firmly in the pattern now of our All Together Services being the focus each month for the regular children and families with participation in the service and additional activities and a short time together after the service. We are hugely grateful for the support of the PCC in purchasing a screen so that we can incorporate some different material into the All Together Services from time to time. The screen and projector have also been used at our events which widens the scope of the material we can use with the children.

We have been trying to raise the profile of our All Together services and other activities which was boosted by appearing on the front page of the Spectrum early in the year with a great write up in the magazine. The local schools regularly send invitations to services and events to their families and we have made some new contacts through this. It was also great to have input from St Thomas' school at the Christingle Service and then to welcome many more from local schools and families at the Crib Service – another highlight of the year for many!

The prayers of our wider church family are incredibly important to us....Olivia, Lucy, Kay and Jenny are all busy working mums and have a lot in life to juggle. Val completes the team and is incredible at keeping us all going with her positivity and wisdom. We also continue to benefit from Christine's input, guidance and teamwork. Your prayer support is essential and as we have popular events your 'pitching in' to help with activities is also so important. Thank you for your continued support as we try and engage the children and families in our community and share God's love with them.

Home Group Report (Margaret Burgham)

During our last session of Homegroup, eight of us studied Paul's letter to the Philippians which showed very clearly his affection for the people of Philippi in Northern Greece. We found it a very interesting book to read and resulted in a lot of discussion.

Pins and Needles Report (Carol Currey)

The Pins & Needles sewing and knitting group has more or less closed now. The changes began when we were restricted due to Covid. The main items being distributed then were blankets being sent to hospitals and later to Ukraine, both of these outlets are closed to us. We are still able to knit hats and fingerless gloves for The Seafarers who provide us with a prepaid postage label. Some of us do keep in touch exchanging patterns and passing on unwanted wool.

School Report (The Rector)

During 2022 the bedding in of federation arrangements between St Thomas' Infant School and Woolton Hill Junior School continued under the leadership of Executive Headteacher Paul Davies. The recovery following the pandemic closures and it was not until the autumn term that we could fully consider larger school services in church once more. It was good to welcome the whole school for Harvest services and the infant Nativity in December. New vision, values and branding has brought a greater unity between the schools and much progress has been made with the aim to consolidate a continuous curricula to flow between the schools. The Rector continued to support collective worship and meet with the Headteacher. We thank the serving Foundation governors: the Rector, Stephen Waite and Fiona Ashworth (who joined the governing body in the summer term 2022).

Whitchurch Deanery Synod Report (Val Burfield)

Meetings have been via zoom during 2022. Alison Coulter, Vice Chair of General Synod, gave us an interesting talk explaining how the voice of the laity is heard in General Synod, and also the functions of the Synod.

In November Bishop David spoke about the need to focus on the Diocesan Mission, especially to engage our younger and more diverse population. There had been a hard hitting report on racial justice in C of E by Lament in Action with recommendations to which each Diocese will respond. He also outlined the changes in the benefices within the Deanery during the last year, and acknowledged that the stipendiary clergy were working extra hard and well beyond their comfort zone, and expressed his thanks and gratitude for their commitment. He stated his pleasure that the churches in rural North Hampshire enjoyed the closest links with their schools.

Mityana 2021 saw the scheme for sponsorship of lay readers introduced which several churches, including our own, agreed to undertake. This has been very well received in different churches in Mityana. An outbreak of Ebola prevented the October 22 visit which is now planned for Oct 2023.

Churchwarden's Report (Chris Vane and Bridget Wheeler).

In 2022 we continued with the allocation of tasks mentioned in our previous report. Bridget focused on the One Parish plans. Chris (with Bertha's support as Project Manager) battled the bureaucracy involved in the heating project, reported on earlier under Fabric and Churchyard.

It was a great pleasure to be able to remove the carpet in the chancel to reveal once again the wonderful Victorian encaustic tiles. While we waited for the new heating, the defunct radiators and boiler were taken away and four pews moved to expand the children's area.

Unfortunately we suffered several instances of petty vandalism during the year, by two separate teenage groups. A new look for the door from church into the vestry was installed in July, to limit public access to the area. Once again, with regret, it was decided to keep the church locked in school holidays and at weekends. In September, the roof was damaged by stones fired by catapult from the Village Field and in November a failed attempt was made to remove lead flashings from the west porch roof, causing collateral damage. This repair is in abeyance, as there is no water ingress.

Also in November, the CD element of the sound system failed, which meant improvisation for funerals and school services until it could be replaced in December. Despite the lack of heating through the year, the limited number of power sockets restricted the number of temporary heaters we could use. It was

heartening to continue to welcome those who were able to brave the cold during the winter, and we apologise to all of you who felt unable to attend the services because of the cold. The failure of the heating in the main room of the Church Hall meant that this could not be considered as an alternative.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Christine, whose support and encouragement were invaluable during this difficult year.

In Conclusion (The Rector)

At the beginning of 2022 we were still having to take care at the tail end of the pandemic. There were still restrictions on the receiving of Holy Communion for example and it took some time for folk to feel more secure about coming back to church. By the summer anxieties seemed to have subsided a great deal and by the end of the year it was a joy to see our Christmas attendances back to where they had been pre-pandemic. My heartfelt thanks to all our faithful teams of volunteers who have worked hard at the various aspects of our church worship and life to ensure we serve our communities with faith and the sharing of the love of Christ. Much of their work is recorded in this report and we all say to one another - Thank you!

At St Thomas' Church we have been particularly challenged by the failure of the heating system. So thank you to all of you who despite the cold turned out in warm coats, scarves and gloves, with blankets and even a hot water bottle or two to endure this challenge. Our sincere thanks indeed to Bertha Bates and Chris Vane who have steered the heating project through to a successful conclusion.

My regular weekly e-mail has continued as a significant point of communication across all our church congregations and includes others who wish to keep in touch with church. Along with this the weekly news sheet is now distributed electronically.

During 2022, as a benefice, we continued to engage with exploring joining our five PCCs to become one PCC with local church committees. The aim continues to be to centralise and reduce overall governance matters in order to release more energy locally. As 2022 ends and 2023 begins four of the five parishes, including Woolton Hill, are continuing with this project and a shadow single PCC has been formed to work on the finer details. As this project continues the shadow PCC expects that the single PCC might formally come into being in 2024.

My thanks to my clergy colleague Canon Marvin Bamforth, who served as our Associate Priest for four years and retired at the end of July 2022. We held a joyful Evensong in August to celebrate his ministry with us, say thank you and farewell to him and to Sue. We celebrated with Suki Coe in October when she was, after three years of training, licensed as a Lay Minister. I thank my other Ministry Team colleagues including Rosemary Cahill who supports with a number of ministries, such as taking services in our two care homes; also to Sue Hopkinson and Bertha Bates who support with administration. Early in 2023 we said a formal farewell to Mike Sarson, now moved to Wiltshire and also a formal thank you to Horace Mitchell – who is still very much with us, but who has stood back from Licensed Lay Ministry. Also in March 2023 we were excited to welcome our new Associate Priest, the Revd Professor Chris Hancock, who has moved here with his wife Suzie. So our Ministry Team is renewed...

For me it continues to be a privilege and a joy to share in the life of St Thomas' Church and the parish of Woolton Hill. May we continue to be confident in our call to follow Christ, in knowing the love of God, loving one another and in serving our neighbour. For so we will recognise God with us and among us, and so we will make Christ known in our communities.

Revd Canon Christine Dale

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Registered Charity Number 1173894

Annual Report and Financial statements

Year Ended

31st December 2022

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Annual report and financial statements for year ended 31 December 2022

Registered Charity
Number 1173894

Rector

The Reverend Canon Christine Dale
The Rectory
The Mount
Woolton Hill
Newbury
Berkshire

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
5 Bridge Street
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5BQ

Newbury Building Society
105b Northbrook Street
Newbury Building Society
Berkshire
RG14 1AA

Nat West Bank
Market Place
Newbury
Berkshire

Santander Bank
Bridle Road
Bootle
Manchester
L30 4GB

Independent Examiner

Judy Anderson FCCA
5 Canal Walk
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0EQ

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Woolton Hill

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, Charity no 1173894 which are set out on pages 2 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Church Council and Examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulation and Section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition.

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners 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 :
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
 - (b) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirement of the Act and the Regulationshave 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.

Judy Anderson FCCA
5 Canal Walk
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0EQ



Date: 26 April 2023

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Statement of activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022				2021
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
Incoming Resources	4					
Planned Voluntary Income	a	23,126.36	0.00	0.00	23,126.36	24,908.56
Unplanned Voluntary income	b	2,671.21	283.34	0.00	2,954.55	3,107.12
Other Voluntary income	c	5,981.71	14,025.35	0.00	20,007.06	8,799.47
Ordinary income	d	24,834.15	760.95	7,063.55	32,658.65	31,001.08
Extraordinary income	e	2,682.19	0.00	0.00	2,682.19	9,321.09
Total incoming resources		59,295.62	15,069.64	7,063.55	81,428.81	77,137.32
Resources Used	5					
Ministry	a	38,210.33			38,210.33	36,848.86
Building Costs	b	38,098.61	4,795.67		42,894.28	15,748.85
Service Costs	c	2,566.19			2,566.19	3,141.80
Administration	d	5,229.85			5,229.85	4,509.92
Grants & other extraordinary expenditure	e	317.32	283.34	0.00	600.66	1,102.89
Total Resources Used		84,422.29	5,079.01	0.00	89,501.30	61,352.31
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		(25,126.68)	9,990.63	7,063.55	(8,072.49)	15,785.01
Transfers		8,000.00		(8,000.00)	0.00	0.00
Unreleased gains/(losses) (i.e. Revaluation of Lock Trust)			(2,149.96)	(33,648.66)	(35,798.62)	18,489.73
Net movement of funds		(17,126.68)	7,840.67	(34,585.11)	(43,871.11)	34,274.74
Balance brought forward		33,355.09	83,852.00	278,121.80	395,328.89	361,054.15
Balance Carried Forward		16,228.42	91,692.67	243,536.69	351,457.78	395,328.89

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2022


	Note	2022	2021
Investments		258,612.12	294,135.99
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	1,679.76	562.18
Cash and Bank Balances			
Nat West - General account	8	4,049.78	5,790.68
Newbury Building Soc LSP & Church Hall	9	59,437.11	63,959.76
Nat West - LSP		16,008.67	1,778.99
Church Hall Santander Bank & cash	10	20,185.77	24,899.27
Lloyds - Lock Trust account		3,580.57	4,517.02
		103,261.90	100,945.72
Deduct Creditors & Provisions	7	12,096.00	315.00
		351,457.78	395,328.89
Funds	11		
Unrestricted		16,228.42	33,355.09
Restricted		91,692.67	83,852.00
Endowment - permanent		243,536.69	278,121.80
		351,457.78	395,328.89

The attached notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts

Approved by the Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council on
26th April 2023



Rev'd Canon Christine Dale
Chairman



T Hadden
Honorary Treasurer

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

(a) General

The accounts are based on the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, except where noted below, under the historical cost convention, except for investments, which are shown at valuation

The accounts include all material transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Where costs have been incurred for the whole benefice, just those that relate to St Thomas' are recorded in the accounts.

(b) Funds

The general fund receives the regular income of the PCC and is used to pay its recurring expenses, and is not subject to any restriction.

The Church Hall funds are separately run under the auspices of the PCC.

The Special Collection fund is a restricted fund into which received sums donated at collections and for other specific reasons are passed onto the designated recipient.

The Churchyard Fund represents the money received for the upkeep of the churchyard and has been restricted to that activity.

The Lock Trust consists of a permanent endowment fund and a restricted distributable income fund.

The Living Stones Project represents the money received and spent on the the development of the Church and is restricted to this purpose.

(c) Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and donations are recognised when made.

Amounts receivable under Gift Aid are recognised when honoured by the donor.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received.

(d) Application of Resources

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

(e) Cost related to the work of the church

The diocesan parish quota is accounted for when payable.

(f) Church Properties

Church properties are excluded from the accounts under the Charities Act 2011. The PCC, however, has responsibility for maintaining and insuring the properties. The Church, the Church Hall and contents of both buildings are presently insured for a total of £11,830,000.

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2022 (continued)

2 Within the North West Hampshire Benefice, St Thomas' PCC pays for the combined Benefice office and other combined costs and is then reimbursed by the other parishes in the Benefice. As at 31 December 2022, St Thomas' PCC was owed £1,550.76 (£562.16 2021) for office expenses, altar supplies and other Benefice costs from the other Benefice PCCs.

3 The Living Stones Project is abbreviated in the accounts to LSP. The project is specifically to raise funds for the refurbishment, reordering and development of the Church.

	2022				2021
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
4 Ordinary Income					
voluntary income					
(a) Planned giving					
Tax on Gift Aid	5,191.97	0.00	0.00	5,191.97	5,304.25
Gift Aid	17,934.39	0.00	0.00	17,934.39	19,604.31
	23,126.36	0.00	0.00	23,126.36	24,908.56
(b) Unplanned giving					
Church collections	2,671.21	283.34	0.00	2,954.55	3,107.12
(c) Other Voluntary income					
Fundraising	3,680.65	0.00	0.00	3,680.65	1,912.30
Donations & Legacies	2,301.06	14,025.35	0.00	16,326.41	6,887.17
	5,981.71	14,025.35	0.00	20,007.06	8,799.47
(d) Ordinary income					
Hire of hall	20,647.00		0.00	20,647.00	17,985.25
Fees	4,146.00	0.00	0.00	4,146.00	4,955.00
Churchyard		50.00		50.00	0.00
Dividends and interest	41.15	710.95	7,063.55	7,815.65	7,549.99
	24,834.15	760.95	7,063.55	32,658.65	30,490.24
(e) Extraordinary income					
LSP		0.00		0.00	306.00
Wayleave	15.19			15.19	15.09
Grants Church Hall	2,667.00	0.00		2,667.00	9,000.00
	2,682.19	0.00	0.00	2,682.19	9,321.09
Total incoming resources	59,295.62	15,069.64	7,063.55	81,428.81	76,626.48

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2022 (continued)

	2022				2021
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
5 Ordinary Expenditure					
(a) Ministry					
Quota	36,201.00		0.00	36,201.00	34,212.48
Office Expenses	2,009.33		0.00	2,009.33	2,636.38
	38,210.33	0.00	0.00	38,210.33	36,848.86
(b) Building					
Heat and Light	7,199.18		0.00	7,199.18	6,056.29
Insurance	4,055.68		0.00	4,055.68	3,819.89
Repairs	986.89	4,795.67	0.00	5,782.56	1,867.53
Churchyard	2,007.17	0.00	0.00	2,007.17	1,205.67
Church Hall	23,849.69		0.00	23,849.69	2,799.47
	38,098.61	4,795.67	0.00	42,894.28	15,748.85
(c) Service costs					
Music	2,130.52		0.00	2,130.52	2,697.64
Altar Expenses	54.18		0.00	54.18	47.10
Other service costs	129.97			129.97	199.59
Children's Ministry	251.52		0.00	251.52	197.48
	2,566.19	0.00	0.00	2,566.19	3,141.80
(d) Administration					
Books and Stationery	27.96		0.00	27.96	438.02
Photocopier	129.60		0.00	129.60	87.46
Church Hall cleaning	4,454.50		0.00	4,454.50	3,602.50
Sundries	299.02		0.00	299.02	15.62
Telephone and broadband	318.76		0.00	318.76	366.32
	5,229.85	0.00	0.00	5,229.85	4,509.92
(e) Grants made & other extraordinary expenditure					
Church related	317.32	283.34	0.00	600.66	784.89
LSP - Church development		0.00		0.00	318.00
	317.32	283.34	0.00	600.66	1,102.89
Total Expenses	84,422.29	5,079.01	0.00	89,501.30	61,352.31

6 Debtors

Church Hall Debtors	129.00	0.00
Other Benefice parishes	1,550.76	562.18
Total Debtors	1,679.76	562.18

7 Creditors, Accruals & Provisions

Made up of	12,096.00	315.00
Deferred income and credit notes - Church Hall	1,886.00	165.00
Church Hall electricity	210.00	150.00
Provision for uninsured Church Hall floor repairs	10,000.00	
Total creditors, accruals & provisions	12,096.00	315.00

A General Provision of £10,000 has been agreed to cover any uninsured repairs to the Church Hall floor. At the date of signing the accounts the cost of the uninsured repairs is not yet quantifiable.

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2022 (continued)

8 Within the National Westminster General account at the year end £950.90 is owed by the restricted churchyard fund and £3,756.44 is held for the LSP.

9 Within the Newbury Building Society account total of £59,437.11 is £5,123.65 that belongs to the Church Hall the remaining £54,313.46 to Living Stones

10 The Church Hall holds, £20,185.77 in its Santander Bank account and £5,123.65 in Newbury Building Society. The Church Hall received £2,667 (£9,000 in 2021) in non repayable Covid grants

11 Funds Analysis

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Uplift and transfers	Closing Balance
General	3,688.32	35,780.47	(47,625.38)	11,042.59	2,886.00
Church Hall	29,666.77	23,515.15	(36,796.91)	(3,042.59)	13,342.42
Unrestricted funds	33,355.09	59,295.62	(84,422.29)	8,000.00	16,228.42
Special collections	0.00	283.34	(283.34)	0.00	0.00
Living Stones Project	64,412.69	14,461.55	(4,795.67)	0.00	74,078.57
Churchyard	19,439.31	324.75	0.00	(2,149.96)	17,614.10
Restricted funds	83,852.00	15,069.64	(5,079.01)	(2,149.96)	91,692.67
Investments	273,604.78	0.00	0.00	(33,648.66)	239,956.12
Bank Account	4,517.02	7,063.55	0.00	(8,000.00)	3,580.57
Endowment Fund	278,121.80	7,063.55	0.00	(41,648.66)	243,536.69
Grand Total	395,328.89	81,428.81	(89,501.30)	(35,798.62)	351,457.78

	Investments	Debtors and stock	(Creditors)	Cash / Bank	Total
Endowment	239,956.12			3,580.57	243,536.69
Restricted					
LSP				74,078.57	74,078.57
Churchyard	18,565.00			(950.90)	17,614.10
Unrestricted					
General	91.00	1,550.76		1,244.24	2,886.00
Church Hall		129.00	(12,096.00)	25,309.42	13,342.42
	258,612.12	1,679.76	(12,096.00)	103,261.90	351,457.78

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Woolton Hill

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2022, Charity no 1173894 which are set out on pages 2 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Church Council and Examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulation and Section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners 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 :
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
 - (b) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirement of the Act and the Regulationshave 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.

Judy Anderson FCCA
5 Canal Walk
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0EQ



Date: 26 April 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1173894

Accounts

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, WOOLTON HILL

.....making Christ known in our communities

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2021

Administrative Information

St Thomas' Church is in the United Benefice of North West Hampshire in the Deanery of Whitchurch and the Diocese of Winchester.

The correspondence address is The Rectory, The Mount, Woolton Hill, RG20 9QZ

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity. Charity number: 1173894

PCC members are as follows:

Incumbent:	The Reverend Canon Christine Dale
Associate Priest:	The Reverend Canon Marvin Bamforth
Church Wardens:	Chris Vane Bridget Wheeler (Hon. Secretary)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Peter Charles Val Burfield
Elected Members:	Jim Hannington Bob King (Hon. Treasurer) Ian Roch Margaret Burgham Luke Graham Angela Maxwell Mary Herbert Helen Carlile Alan Johnson

Structure, Governance and Management

St Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Canon Christine Dale, in promoting the mission of the Church within the parish of Woolton Hill. In addition, it has maintenance responsibilities for the church building. There were 2 regular meetings of the PCC in the year 2020.

The PCC alone could not manage all the tasks the church undertakes and therefore, a number of groups and committees assist with these. The following Committees make recommendations, support the decisions of the PCC and carry out specific tasks as agreed. Their current Terms of Reference are as follows:

Standing Committee (Chair: The Rector): Vice Chair, Wardens, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer meet in advance of each PCC meeting to plan the agenda and review objectives.

(From 27th April 2016 the duties of the Finance Committee were joined with Standing Committee)

Fabric Committee (Chair, Ian Roch): This is a committee elected by the PCC and is responsible for the planning and execution of all necessary maintenance work on the church building and churchyard.

Social and Fundraising (Chair, Angela Maxwell): This committee plans and arranges social and fundraising events throughout the year, primarily to bring people together and to raise funds for the upkeep of the Church.

Electoral Roll Report (Jayne Roch) At the 2021 APCM there were 68 names on the Electoral Roll of whom 16 were non-resident. One person had died, no-one has moved away and there are no new members.

Benefice Committees

The Benefice Council (Chair, The Rector): The Rector and two representatives from each PCC in the North West Hampshire Benefice meet to discuss and agree items of mutual interest to all parishes, including the regular pattern of services across the five churches and shared financial matters.

The Ministry Team (Chair, The Rector): The Rector, the Associate Priest, 3 Readers, 1 Lay Preacher, 1 Reader Emeritus, 1 Reader in training. The Ministry Team oversees worship, discipleship training and pastoral ministry concerns.

Review of the year 2021

Finance Report (Bob King) With the progressive easing of Covid restrictions during the year 2021 has been slightly less traumatic from a financial point of view and has allowed the Church to pay all its Parish Share this year of £34,212. Total income for the year was £77,137 compared to £88,328 last year. The expenditure for the year was £61,352 compared to £99,386 in 2020. There were no major capital grants or expenditure items this year which account for the differences in income and expenditure. All running costs were largely in line with previous years.

The Church Hall, being open again for lettings, had a good year. The shared costs of the Benefice that are paid by St Thomas' and apportioned quarterly is still working well to the benefit of all five parishes. The Living Stones money held on deposit in Newbury Building Society stood at £63,959 (£61,621) which includes £5,082 of the Church Hall monies in the same account. My thanks go to all those who have worked hard to help generate income and keeping costs down wherever possible. My thanks also go to Bertha Bates and Chris Vane for sharing the banking duties: to Cedric Cottrell for administering the Hall accounts and Judy Anderson who audits the books and produces the formal accounts.

Fabric & Churchyard Report (Ian Roch)

Church

Ongoing maintenance and certifications are performed in line with requirements.

The quinquennial inspection took place in May 2021. No urgent items were identified but the heating system was singled out as needing attention. Most other findings related to general maintenance tasks.

Heating system: When the oil boiler was serviced in Autumn 2020 we were warned that we were on borrowed time and should be prepared for the boiler to fail within the next year or so. Towards the end of March 2021 it stopped. During the summer Graham Vane managed to repair it and we once again had heating when required until late October, when a leak in the underfloor Victorian cast iron pipe work finally put the whole system out of commission. For the rest of the year we researched appropriate replacement systems, while relying on electric heaters to provide what heat they could. All options were investigated, and it is envisaged that a new electric system is the only feasible option based on cost and practicality.

Churchyard

Working Parties are usually held twice per year. All offers of assistance will be gratefully received whether at a Working Party or on an ad-hoc basis.

Despite previous improvements to ditches in the lower churchyard along the Church Lane and the lower churchyard boundaries, parts of the lower churchyard remain very boggy during winter months. This is likely due to underground water draining from around the local area, not helped by the heavy clay which retains the water.

A contractor is engaged for an average of 6 hours per month to cut the grass in front of the church and to cut around the old graves on a twice per year basis. The remainder of cutting in the main churchyard and the lower churchyard is carried out by volunteers. The aging demographic of the volunteers means that more tasks are being carried out by contractors with an associated increase in the maintenance costs of the Churchyard.

It is still planned to enable step-free access into the church, but higher priorities have prevailed.

Clock

The annual inspection / maintenance check was carried out in July by the Cumbria Clock Company. The clock is working well with no issues to report.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who undertakes countless tasks in and around the Church.

Living Stones Church Project Report: as per details of heating in the fabric report above, the next stage of the Living Stones Project will be during 2022 to install electric heating into the church building.

Cleaning Report (Margaret Falconer) We have a team of 12 cleaners. Many thanks to Carol, Marilyn, Mary, Madeleine, Moyra, Sarah, Rachael, Angie, Pat, Chris and Val for their hard work. All the equipment is working well. Two soft brushes have been bought to sweep the sanctuary tiles. I will organise a Spring/Summer clean after the new heating system is installed.

Flower Report (Margaret Falconer) Thank you so much to our church flower arrangers. We are fortunate to have kept the team of Sue Wakelin, Diana Durkin Ros Oles, Jean Sharp, Mary Holmes, Bertha Bates, Pat Woodage, Margaret Falconer, Sue Jopson, Bron Sutton and Rosie Cordell. We are so fortunate to have such talent in our villages and beyond to Whitchurch. I feel that flower arranging is becoming a dying art as very few younger people are taking an interest and currently our age range is from 70 to 86. Reaching the windowsills is becoming quite a challenge. In the future it may be difficult to maintain a full rota. The banning of floral foam and its replacement with chicken wire is forcing a return to the "Constance Spry" style of design of the mid-20th century. We can only do our best. Our arrangers finance their own flowers, and the PCC provides extra funds for the main festivals.

Church Unlockers Report (Angie Maxwell) The church has been kept open during the day and has been locked overnight as much as has been possible during the pandemic but there have been spells when this has not happened due to official guidance. Additionally, some petty vandalism occurred in the summer which meant the church was kept locked for a while during the school holidays. Thanks go as usual to the committed band of helpers who have gone with the flow as covid allowed to keep the church accessible during the day. Also, to those others who deputized when necessary. Our regular team for the January to December 2021 year were Anthony Clifton, Genie Stapleton, Angie Maxwell, Bridget Wheeler, Steve Green and Rosemary Cahill. We are grateful to Steve Green for all his help in the past but who decided to come off the rota during the year with Anthony Clifton kindly taking on an extra duty.

Church Hall Report (Nick Harcourt) Still under the Covid 19 restrictions, the Hall began to open up to Regular Users in January, and Casual Users came on stream from July onwards. The strength of the combination of Regular and Casual Users of the Hall continues to show the essential service that the Hall provides for the local community.

In January, John Angle managed to secure Support Funding from Basingstoke and Deane, to the value of £9000, which made a very positive Financial Contribution to the funding. In fact, it made all the difference to secure the overall funding income for the financial year.

Essential works around the Hall were identified but these works were finally scheduled to be carried out by Newbury Construction Services in January 2022.

The online Diary identified and introduced by Mark Rand, East Woodhay Society, and John Angle, Project Manager has been an excellent function for the operation of the Hall. This is financially supported by the East Woodhay Parish Council. So many thanks to them.

The small Hall Committee has been a credit to the Community. Chris Vane, and Bridget Wheeler, our Churchwardens, John Angle the Project Manager, Cedric Cottrell the Treasurer, and Clare McLaughlin the Secretary are the committee. Richard Randall has continued to provide an excellent service in maintaining all areas of the Hall.

The service provision of the Hall to the local community is first class, and a new expanded committee will take over the running of the Hall in April 2022.

Rotas Report (Margaret Burgham) As always, this is my opportunity to say a big "thank you" to all our wonderful Sidespeople, Sacristans and Intercessors who have continued to support and commit to helping St Thomas' to be a welcoming church.

Thank you also for helping me to cover our Sunday services with your willingness.

Social & Fundraising Report (Angela Maxwell) Despite covid restrictions, social and fundraising events still went ahead during the 2021 year. The first of these was the annual Trivial Pursuits quiz in February which had to be held online. Jayne and Ian Roch with the help of question setter Rob Small still managed to make it a really fun evening despite the changed format. At our March committee meeting which also had to be held online, Margaret Burgham announced that she no longer felt able to continue as Chairman. Angie Maxwell agreed to take over the role with Carol Currey as Vice Chair. A huge debt of thanks is due to Margaret for her loyal commitment and steady hand in steering the group over the past few years. Fortunately for us, Margaret will still be able to play her part on the committee in the future. A very successful mini fete (community-wise and financially) was held in the church grounds in July organised by Bertha Bates and Chris Vane and their team. The regular Friday Community Café was able to recommence at the end of July after a long closure due to the pandemic. It continued to be well-supported throughout the year providing a friendly meeting place for refreshment and chat plus raising funds from attendees' donations for the church and a chosen charity. At the beginning of August, celebratory drinks were served after the Benefice service at St Thomas' to mark the end of lockdown. Later in August Ann Fleming hosted a fundraising soiree at her home for members of the social and fundraising committee and their partners. It had been hoped to make this a larger event, but it was felt that the climate wasn't yet right for a larger social gathering being so soon after the lockdown period had ended. Members of the social and fundraising committee ran the Village Market tearoom in September. It was held at the Junior School and the comfortable weather conditions lead to a steady stream of customers and a very profitable end result both enjoyment-wise and financially. Thank you to all those who provided cakes for the occasion which were certainly needed! At harvest time in October, the younger members of the congregation brought along their home-made cupcakes which were served with refreshments and much enjoyed after the Harvest service. Pat Woodage co-ordinated a very successful Jumble Sale in November which again raised welcome funds for St Thomas'. Due to renewed covid restrictions at Christmas, it was not possible to serve the usual mulled wine and mince pie refreshments after the "Not the Carol Service"(2020)! Considering what a roller coaster year pandemic-wise 2021 turned out to be, I am really pleased that we were still able put on a

variety of events. All those involved deserve a sincere thank you for all their commitment and hard work.

Parish Outreach Reports

Good Neighbour and Welcome Pack Report (Carol Currey) Despite the challenges of the Corona virus restrictions a few Welcome Packs were still delivered to new families moving into the village. Later in the year it seemed that more house moves were taking place giving the team the opportunity to be able to meet and welcome new people to Woolton Hill. Twenty-four Packs were delivered during the year. The contents of the pack have changed a little as more groups are directing people to their on-line websites for information instead of having promotional leaflets. The Team of people who deliver the Packs has not changed, though the Co-ordination of the Packs is now done by Mary Harcourt.

The Coronavirus continued to affect the activities of the Good Neighbour team throughout the first half of 2021. This informal group of people, whose objective is to help others and offer out-reach from our Church to people in the village, meet occasionally to discuss any changes which may be suggested. Many of the previous opportunities for their work stalled because of the virus. However, the baptism cards and birthday cards for those children up to the age of five and who have been baptised in St Thomas' Church continue to be hand delivered.

Community Café Report (Carol Currey) The Community Café re-opened in July 2021 and has continued weekly throughout the year. The number of visitors to the Café each week has varied from four to fifteen and as they have got to know each other they enjoy the chat and social contact. The team helping at the café has increased by two, which is good news as one of the original team is now working full time and is no longer able to help. Three times a year the donations made by the visitors are shared equally between St Thomas' Church and a registered charity chosen by the visitors.

Festival Leaflets Report (Rosemary Cahill) Easter and Christmas leaflets. 1900 are delivered to every dwelling in the 5-parish Benefice, to leave a clear week before the start of the festival in question. The Rector writes an invitation of welcome, listing all the planned services. These are then copied at St Martin's school, by the Benefice co-ordinator, who helpfully sorts into individual named packs for each of the 3 large parishes as instructed by their team leaders. Those for East Woodhay (300) are delivered direct from school for onward distribution to their team. The rest come to me at Stanton, where the greenhouse is a recognised collection point for Highclere (700), Ashmansworth (65), and Crux Easton (26). A few extra are left in each church. Woolton Hill needs 22 volunteers for the 850 households. The clock starts ticking 3 weeks before all will have been delivered.

Musical accompanists and Choir Report (Bertha Bates) The Choir sang for church services throughout 2021. We sang for the Carol Service and again on Christmas Day, and at other services when possible. Hopefully we will be able to return to full choir practice soon. Georgie continues to jolly us along and again we must thank Peter Stanley and Genie Stapleton for playing the organ during the past year.

Bell Ringers Report (Christopher Pack) Due to the Covid restrictions & having limited ventilation facilities we only managed to ring for the Carol Service. Hopefully ringing will restart in April 2022.

St Thomas' Handbells Report (Nicole Bentham) 2021 started with total lockdown which put paid to our ringing activities, and it was not until April that it was again possible to meet in the churchyard for outdoor rehearsals. As a result, we were able to perform at two care homes in the summer and subsequently to deliver a limited Christmas schedule. One novel departure was a group of us attending a Zoom rally in the autumn which proved an enjoyable way of introducing us to some new Christmas pieces. The return of the cold weather and the demise of the church heating led us to move our practices to members' homes and this has continued beyond the end of the year. Intermittent illnesses have depleted our team somewhat and we are conscious of the ongoing need to recruit some additional ringers. In spite of the recent obstacles the team remains keen to ring whenever and wherever we can.

Children's Ministry Report (Jenny Graham) 2021 has been a year which has kept the Sunday Club Team on their toes and ensured we develop the skills to be flexible and respond quickly to changing circumstances! It has also been a year of significant change. The year started as 2020 had finished with Sunday Club happening on Zoom and with a handful of children from regular families joining in. As the months went on it was clear that some of the children were beginning to tire of the 'online' meeting and really wanted to be back together again meeting face to face. This was achieved as the summer approached and then we were blessed to be able to meet for a fun summer holiday session including a picnic. This was also a farewell and 'thank you' to the loyal team led by Jayne Roch as most of them decided to hand on the baton to a new team. Grateful thanks to Jayne, Sarah and Helen for their dedication over many years. Val Burfield is continuing to work with the new team and Lucy, Olivia, Kay and Jenny are very grateful for her wisdom, guidance, enthusiasm and support. The 5 people in the new team were joined by Nicola for the first term but due to other commitments Nicola has stepped back and continues to support by being the first one to sign her family up to anything that Sunday Club is doing!

It was decided to take a break from meeting as Sunday Club on the second Sunday of each month and to use the autumn term to make new contacts in the community. This was achieved through putting on a 'Welcome Back Party' in September, a 'Light Party' as an alternative to Halloween events on 31st October and then a Christmas Event just before Christmas. Each of these events were very well attended and saw the church making connections with new families. As momentum built throughout the term it led to the Christmas event being oversubscribed! However, we had to take the decision to cancel this last event as covid cases were rising quickly and many were being reported through the schools. In order not to add to the spread of the virus just before Christmas, we made up craft boxes for all those who had registered and also those we had added to a waiting list because we were oversubscribed. So, no one missed out in the end and all the children were able to enjoy some of the crafts we had planned and receive some Christmas treats. 40 craft boxes were made up for families to collect from the church and only one was left!

We have started to see some more people join the All Together Service and so the team have decided to prioritise this time each month and make this the focus for Sunday Club alongside any other 'events' that are considered appropriate to provide opportunities to make new contacts. The new pattern for All Together is to provide cake for refreshments after the service and then engage the children in some crafts or games or other activities for a short time while parents have the opportunity to enjoy the refreshments and have conversations with the rest of the congregation.

Thank you to the church family for embracing this change and we hope that relationships can be developed with new families through this.

Thank you to our prayer support team that has been established since September and has been faithfully praying for our events and for the children and families in our community. One of the most immediate challenges for the team is to consider how we provide something suitable for those who are approaching secondary school age. It is a key time for them, and they need something more than Sunday Club currently provides. Please pray for us that we will know what to do to continue to engage this age group and that we will have the resources to support them in the journeys of faith.

Home Group Report (Margaret Burgham) With the continued uncertainty with Covid infections, we decided that it would be safer if we didn't meet until the Sept. / Dec. session. We had already planned to study The Book of Esther which we all thoroughly enjoyed, marvelling at her strength through constant prayer. For this Hebrew woman to become Queen of Persia was a truly remarkable achievement.

Pins and Needles Report (Mary Herbert) Sadly there have been no face to face Pins and Needles Fridays during the last year because of Covid. However, we have been able to get our "stockpile" into the various charities that we support and some of our ladies were still knitting and sewing at home.

School Report (The Rector) 2021 was a year dominated by the bedding in of the federation arrangement between St Thomas' Infant School and Woolton Hill Junior School. In January 2021 the governing body were successful second time around in recruiting an Executive Headteacher to lead the Federation. Mr Paul Davies began this role following Easter. He has brought new energy and vision to the federation. The journey for the schools has been challenging with falling numbers on roll, mostly due to a low birth rate in previous years. Despite this much has been done to progress objectives in bringing about more continuity in the curriculum the children study as they move from the infants to the juniors. Successful recruitment of a deputy Headteacher and SEM specialist in the autumn term means that from January 2022 the senior leadership team will be at strength. The ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic continued to restrict the way visitors could enter the schools and also restricted school services in church, The Rector continued to support collective worship and was pleased to welcome the whole federation to church for a start of school collective worship.

We thank the serving Foundation governors: the Rector, Stephen Waite and Jenny Graham (Jenny stands down from this role in March 2022).

Whitchurch Deanery Synod Report (Val Burfield) This year has seen the proposed reorganisation of the Benefices in the Deanery taking place with some amalgamation of churches into a different benefice, but we voted to remain as the North West Hampshire Benefice.

We were also reminded to work towards gaining an eco-church award and at the February meeting Rev Rosie presented a talk giving guidance as to ways of achieving this. We were encouraged to look at ideas on her church St Thomas Lymington web site as they have reached the gold standard.

The treasurer was pleased to report that our Deanery led this year's league table of donations to the Common Mission Fund and thanked us all sincerely.

Once again, we were delighted with Rev. Dodie Marsden's report on the ongoing work with the children, schools, communities and churches which we support in Mytiana.

The churches are hoping to set up a training scheme for lay readers and she asked for voluntary contributions from churches in the Deanery and I am pleased to say we are supporting one lay reader.

Churchwarden's Report (Chris Vane) During the year we were still managing the implications of Covid restrictions on church life. At the end of May we were able to open the church during the day, and in July the pew arrangements began to be eased. My notes say, 'still use alternate pews only, but each pew could have more people'. Meanwhile from Spring onwards we were meeting the DAC representatives and our architect to gain advice and information regarding the options for a new heating system. The first quote for the work came through in October and at that time the underfloor pipework failed and, with no heating at all, the matter took on a new urgency. Portable electric heaters were brought in (including two new oscillating heaters kindly donated by members of the congregation) but with only four power sockets available these could only take off some of the chill. Blankets were available! Bertha Bates has once more taken the role of Project manager and we are working hard to resolve the issue, with support from Christine and Bridget. Meanwhile Bridget is kept busy with the meetings involved in the 'One PCC' plans. We look forward to both these matters progressing rapidly in 2022.

In Conclusion (The Rector)

As 2021 began we discovered how quickly we had become used to 'zoom' online services and to constantly having to think and reflect on the way that we were able to go about church life and worship in the midst of the pandemic and unfolding vaccination programmes. As services in church became more possible to resume, we continued to reach as many folk as possible through a mix of 'online' and 'in-person' services until the end of July, after which the service pattern in all our churches resumed. The clergy put in place a 'baptism recovery' programme to accommodate a good number of baptisms which had had to be postponed in 2020. Some weddings went ahead earlier in the year with restricted numbers with most restrictions for pastoral offices being eased by July/August. Numbers attending church services did reduce, including at Christmas when services were able to follow the pre-pandemic pattern. Social and fundraising activities were also curtailed for much of the year, although some outdoor activities were a success.

The regular weekly e-mail from the Rector, begun at the start of the pandemic, has continued as an important point of communication across all our church congregations and includes others who wish to keep in touch with church. Along with this the weekly news sheet was redesigned for easier circulation in an electronic form.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has remained faithful and done much to keep things going as needed during these two years of pandemic. Despite all 'church' in so many ways really has gone on as usual, that is the people of the church sharing together in worship, prayer, faith, ministry and outreach in whatever ways we can.

During 2021, as a benefice, we engaged with promptings from the Diocese with respect to exploring joining our five PCCs to become one PCC with local church committees. The aim of this being to centralise and thereby reduce overall governance matters in order to release more energy locally. A small working group has been making progress on this and as 2022 unfolds more information will be shared and PCCs will be engaged in more detailed conversations.

My thanks as ever to my clergy colleague Marvin, and to all my Ministry Team colleagues including Sue Hopkinson and Bertha Bates who support with administration. I give especial thanks to Mary Herbert who has served us so faithfully as a Licensed Lay Minister and who hung up her blue Reader scarf at the end of last September after many years of ministry, both with us here and earlier in other Dioceses.

For me it continues to be a privilege and a joy to share in the life of St Thomas' Church and the parish of Woolton Hill. May we continue to be confident in our call to follow Christ, in knowing the love of God, loving one another and in serving our neighbour. For so we will recognise God with us and among us, and so we will make Christ known in our communities.

Revd Canon Christine Dale

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Registered Charity Number 1173894

Annual Report and Financial statements

Year Ended

31st December 2021

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Annual report and financial statements for year ended 31 December 2021

Registered Charity
Number 1173894

Rector
The Reverend Canon Christine Dale
The Rectory
The Mount
Woolton Hill
Newbury
Berkshire

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
5 Bridge Street
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5BQ

Newbury Building Society
105b Northbrook Street
Newbury Building Society
Berkshire
RG14 1AA

Nat West Bank
Market Place
Newbury
Berkshire

Santander Bank
Bridle Road
Bootle
Manchester
L30 4GB

Independent Examiner

Judy Anderson FCCA
2 Orchard Green
Chilton Foliat
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0LN

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Woolton Hill

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, Charity no 1173894 which are set out on pages 2 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Church Council and Examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulation and Section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

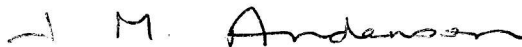
Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners 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 :
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
 - (b) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirement of the Act and the Regulationshave 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.



Judy Anderson FCCA
2 Orchard Green
Chilton Foliat
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0LN

Date: 21st March 2022

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Statement of activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

		2021				2020
Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total	
Incoming Resources	4					
Planned Voluntary Income	a	24,844.30	64.26	0.00	24,908.56	25,208.84
Unplanned Voluntary income	b	2,322.23	784.89	0.00	3,107.12	1,008.89
Other Voluntary income	c	6,799.47	2,000.00	0.00	8,799.47	8,819.62
Ordinary income	d	22,973.42	816.16	7,211.50	31,001.08	24,223.96
Extraordinary income	e	9,015.09	306.00	0.00	9,321.09	29,066.74
Total incoming resources		65,954.51	3,971.31	7,211.50	77,137.32	88,328.05
Resources Used	5					
Ministry	a	36,848.86			36,848.86	31,867.55
Building Costs	b	15,748.85	0.00		15,748.85	55,507.26
Service Costs	c	3,141.80			3,141.80	2,077.64
Administration	d	4,509.92			4,509.92	2,638.34
Grants & other extraordinary expenditure	e	0.00	1,102.89	0.00	1,102.89	7,295.00
Total Resources Used		60,249.42	1,102.89	0.00	61,352.31	99,385.79
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		5,705.09	2,868.42	7,211.50	15,785.01	(11,057.74)
Transfers		7,500.00		(7,500.00)	0.00	0.00
Unreleased gains/(losses) (i.e. Revaluation of Lock Trust)			2,534.34	15,955.39	18,489.73	14,641.12
Net movement of funds		13,205.09	5,402.76	15,666.89	34,274.74	3,583.38
Balance brought forward		20,150.00	78,449.24	262,454.91	361,054.15	357,470.77
Balance Carried Forward		33,355.09	83,852.00	278,121.80	395,328.89	361,054.15

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

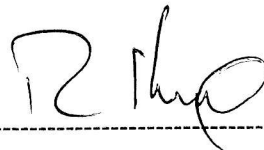
	Note	2021	2020
Investments		278,180.60	275,135.42
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	562.18	2,104.59
Cash and Bank Balances			
Nat West - General account	8	5,790.68	1,879.32
Newbury Building Soc LSP & Church f	9	63,959.76	61,621.27
Nat West - LSP		1,778.99	1,726.73
Church Hall Santander Bank & cash	10	24,899.27	14,036.30
Lloyds - Lock Trust account		4,517.02	4,805.52
		100,945.72	84,069.14
Deduct Creditors	7	315.00	255.00
		379,373.50	361,054.15
Funds	11		
Unrestricted		33,355.09	20,150.00
Restricted		83,852.00	78,449.24
Endowment - permanent		262,166.41	262,454.91
		379,373.50	361,054.15

The attached notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts

Approved by the Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council on
th March 2022



Rev'd Canon Christine Dale
 Chairman



R.King
 Honorary Treasurer

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

(a) General

The accounts are based on the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, except where noted below, under the historical cost convention, except for investments, which are shown at valuation

The accounts include all material transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Where costs have been incurred for the whole benefice, just those that relate to St Thomas' are recorded in the accounts.

(b) Funds

The general fund receives the regular income of the PCC and is used to pay its recurring expenses, and is not subject to any restriction.

The Church Hall funds are separately run under the auspices of the PCC.

The Special Collection fund is a restricted fund into which received sums donated at collections and for other specific reasons are passed onto the designated recipient.

The Churchyard Fund represents the money received for the upkeep of the churchyard and has been restricted to that activity.

The Lock Trust consists of a permanent endowment fund and a restricted distributable income fund.

The Living Stones Project represents the money received and spent on the the development of the Church and is restricted to this purpose.

(c) Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and donations are recognised when made.

Amounts receivable under Gift Aid are recognised when honoured by the donor.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received.

(d) Application of Resources

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

(e) Cost related to the work of the church

The diocesan parish quota is accounted for when payable.

(f) Church Properties

Church properties are excluded from the accounts under the Charities Act 2011. The PCC, however, has responsibility for maintaining and insuring the properties. The Church, the Church Hall and contents of both buildings are presently insured for a total of £11,590,000

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2021 (continued)

2 Within the North West Hampshire Benefice, St Thomas' PCC pays for the combined Benefice office and other combined costs and is then reimbursed by the other parishes in the Benefice. As at 31 December 2021, St Thomas' PCC was owed £562.16 (£109.05 2020) for office expenses, altar supplies and other Benefice costs from the other Benefice PCCs.

3 The Living Stones Project is abbreviated in the accounts to LSP. The project is specifically to raise funds for the refurbishment, reordering and development of the Church.

	2021				2020
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
4 Ordinary Income					
voluntary income					
(a) Planned giving					
Tax on Gift Aid	5,304.25	0.00	0.00	5,304.25	6,883.84
Gift Aid	19,540.05	64.26	0.00	19,604.31	18,325.00
	24,844.30	64.26	0.00	24,908.56	25,208.84
(b) Unplanned giving					
Church collections	2,322.23	784.89	0.00	3,107.12	1,008.89
(c) Other Voluntary income					
Fundraising	1,912.30	0.00	0.00	1,912.30	540.58
Donations & Legacies	4,887.17	2,000.00	0.00	6,887.17	8,279.04
	6,799.47	2,000.00	0.00	8,799.47	8,819.62
(d) Ordinary income					
Hire of hall	17,985.25		0.00	17,985.25	12,889.00
Fees	4,955.00	0.00	0.00	4,955.00	2,545.00
Churchyard		0.00		0.00	0.00
Dividends and interest	33.17	816.16	7,211.50	8,060.83	8,789.96
	22,973.42	816.16	7,211.50	31,001.08	24,223.96
(e) Extraordinary income					
LSP		306.00		306.00	57.11
Wayleave	15.09			15.09	15.17
Grants Church Hall	9,000.00	0.00		9,000.00	28,476.57
	9,015.09	306.00	0.00	9,321.09	29,066.74
Total incoming resources	65,954.51	3,971.31	7,211.50	77,137.32	88,328.05

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2021 (continued)

	2021			2020
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
5 Ordinary Expenditure				
(a) Ministry				
Quota	34,212.48		0.00	29,600.18
Office Expenses	2,636.38		0.00	2,267.37
	36,848.86	0.00	0.00	31,867.55
(b) Building				
Heat and Light	6,056.29		0.00	5,965.87
Insurance	3,819.89		0.00	3,599.21
Repairs	1,867.53		0.00	1,056.02
Churchyard	1,205.67	0.00	0.00	10,783.02
Church Hall	2,799.47		0.00	34,103.14
	15,748.85	0.00	0.00	55,507.26
(c) Service costs				
Music	2,697.64		0.00	1,655.26
Altar Expenses	47.10		0.00	197.75
Other service costs	199.59			40.20
Children's Ministry	197.48		0.00	184.43
	3,141.80	0.00	0.00	2,077.64
(d) Administration				
Books and Stationery	438.02		0.00	302.60
Photocopier	87.46		0.00	216.33
Church Hall cleaning	3,602.50		0.00	1,712.50
Sundries	15.62		0.00	53.15
Telephone and broadband	366.32		0.00	353.76
	4,509.92	0.00	0.00	2,638.34
(e) Grants made & other extraordinary expenditure				
Church related	0.00	784.89	0.00	205.40
LSP - Church development		318.00		7,089.60
	0.00	1,102.89	0.00	7,295.00
Total Expenses	60,249.42	1,102.89	0.00	99,385.79

6 Debtors

Prepayment - Good Exchange	0.00	1,995.54
Other Benefice parishes	562.18	109.05
Total Debtors	562.18	2,104.59

7 Creditors & accruals

Made up of	315.00	255.00
Deferred income and credit notes - Church Hall	165.00	155.00
Church Hall electricity	150.00	100.00
Total creditors and accruals	315.00	255.00

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2021 (continued)

8 Within the National Westminster General account at the year end £1,000.90 is owed by the restricted churchyard fund and £3,756.44 is designated for the LSP.

9 Within the Newbury Building Society account total of £63,959.76 is £5,082.50 that belongs to the Church Hall the remaining £58,877.26 to Living Stones

10 The Church Hall holds in total £111.22 petty cash, £24,788.05 in its Santander Bank account and £5,082.50 in Newbury Building Society. The Church Hall received £9,000 in non repayable Covid grants in the year.

11 Funds Analysis

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Uplift and transfers	Closing Balance
General	1,319.37	38,936.09	(46,932.90)	10,365.76	3,688.32
Church Hall	18,830.63	27,018.42	(13,316.52)	(2,865.76)	29,666.77
Unrestricted funds	20,150.00	65,954.51	(60,249.42)	7,500.00	33,355.09
Special collections	0.00	784.89	(784.89)	0.00	0.00
Living Stones Project - Church	62,055.11	2,675.58	(318.00)	0.00	64,412.69
Churchyard	16,394.13	510.84	0.00	2,534.34	19,439.31
Restricted funds	78,449.24	3,971.31	(1,102.89)	2,534.34	83,852.00
Investments	257,649.39	0.00	0.00	15,955.39	273,604.78
Bank Account	4,805.52	7,211.50	0.00	(7,500.00)	4,517.02
Endowment Fund	262,454.91	7,211.50	0.00	8,455.39	278,121.80
Grand Total	361,054.15	77,137.32	(61,352.31)	18,489.73	395,328.89

	Investments	Debtors and stock	(Creditors)	Cash / Bank	Total
Endowment	273,604.78			4,517.02	278,121.80
Restricted					
LSP				64,412.69	64,412.69
Churchyard	20,440.21			(1,000.90)	19,439.31
Unrestricted					
General	91.00	562.18		3,035.14	3,688.32
Church Hall			(315.00)	29,981.77	29,666.77
	294,135.99	562.18	(315.00)	100,945.72	395,328.89

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Woolton Hill

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2021, Charity no 1173894 which are set out on pages 2 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Church Council and Examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulation and Section 144(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners 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 :
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
 - (b) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirement of the Act and the Regulationshave 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.



Judy Anderson
2 Orchard Green
Chilton Foliat
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0LN

Date: 21st March 2022

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1173894

Accounts

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, WOOLTON HILL

.....making Christ known in our communities

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2020

Administrative Information

St Thomas' Church is in the United Benefice of North West Hampshire in the Deanery of Whitchurch and the Diocese of Winchester.

The correspondence address is The Rectory, The Mount, Woolton Hill, RG20 9QZ

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a registered charity. Charity number: 1173894

PCC members are as follows:

Incumbent:	The Reverend Canon Christine Dale
Church Wardens:	Chris Vane Bridget Wheeler (Hon. Secretary)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Val Burfield (Safeguarding Officer) Margaret Burgham (until 5 th October 2020) Peter Charles (from 5 th October 2020)
Elected Members:	Jim Hannington Ian Roch Helen Carlile Alan Johnson Margaret Burgham (from 5 th October 2020) Peter Charles (until 5 th October 2020) Genie Stapleton (until 5 th October 2020)
Officer to the PCC	Bob King (Hon. Treasurer)

Structure, Governance and Management

St Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Canon Christine Dale, in promoting the mission of the Church within the parish of Woolton Hill. In addition, it has maintenance responsibilities for the church building. There were 2 regular meetings of the PCC in the year 2020.

The PCC alone could not manage all the tasks the church undertakes and therefore, a number of groups and committees assist with these. The following Committees make recommendations, support the decisions of the PCC and carry out specific tasks as agreed. Their current Terms of Reference are as follows:

Standing Committee (Chair: The Rector): Vice Chair, Wardens, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer meet in advance of each PCC meeting to plan the agenda and review objectives.
(From 27th April 2016 the duties of the Finance Committee were joined with Standing Committee)

Fabric Committee (Chair, Ian Roch): This is a Committee elected by the PCC and is responsible for the planning and execution of all necessary maintenance work on the church building and churchyard.

Social and Fundraising (Chair, Margaret Burgham): This committee plans and arranges social and fundraising events throughout the year, primarily to bring people together and to raise funds for the upkeep of the Church.

Publicity Group (currently in abeyance)

Electoral Roll Report (Jayne Roch) At the 2020 APCM there were 69 names on the Electoral Roll of whom 16 were non-resident. Three people had joined the Electoral Roll, 1 person had died and 1 person had moved away since the last report.

Benefice Committees

The Benefice Council (Chair, The Rector): The Rector and two representatives from each PCC in the North West Hampshire Benefice meet to agree the annual plan of services across the Benefice and discuss items of finance or interest to all the parishes. During 2020 the Council did not meet, instead the churchwardens from all parishes met regularly with the Rector, online, to oversee and review matters during the time of pandemic

The Ministry Team (Chair, The Rector): The Rector, the Associate Priest, 3 Licensed Lay Ministers, 1 Lay Preacher, 1 Reader Emeritus, 1 Licensed Lay Minister in training. The purpose of the Ministry Team is to collaborate together in oversee the worship and ministry across the Benefice.

Review of the year 2020

Finance Report (Bob King) Covid -19 has made 2020 a very difficult year financially but the finances have held up reasonably well considering we have been unable to hold many of the larger annual fundraising events and not being able to hire out the church hall. It shows the importance of our loyal regular contributors to the church and the Lock Trust income. It will not be surprising that the Church did not pay all its Parish Share this year. Of the requested £37,233 we paid £29,600 to the Diocese of Winchester. Total income for the year was £88,328 compared to £100,872 last year. The expenditure for the year was £99,386 compared to £110,171 in 2019. The major expenditure being the installation of drainage and new paths in the lower churchyard. The shared costs of the Benefice that are paid by St Thomas' and apportioned quarterly is still working well to the benefit of all five parishes. The Living Stones money held on deposit in Newbury Building Society stood at £61,621 (£68,662) which includes £5,054 of the Church Hall monies in the same account.

My thanks go to all those who have worked hard to help generate income and keeping costs down wherever possible. My thanks also go to Bertha Bates and Chris Vane for sharing the banking duties: to Cedric Cottrell for administering the Hall accounts and Judy Anderson who audits the books and produces the formal accounts.

Fabric & Churchyard Report (Ian Roch)

Church

1. Ongoing maintenance and certifications are performed in line with requirements.
2. The central heating boiler has finally failed and discussions re replacement are commencing. Significant expenditure is envisaged.
3. Small pieces of cement mortar have been found on the ground near to the west door, the grass to the rear of the church and inside the bell tower. These are cosmetic and are likely due to general weathering plus the age of the building.
4. The quinquennial inspection is due to take place later this year.

Churchyard

5. A Working Party was held in June. Hopefully one or more Working Parties will be held in 2021. All offers of assistance will be gratefully received.
6. The reinstatement of the ditch along the lower churchyard / Church Lane boundary has been completed. This ditch is now diverting some rainwater away from the churchyard. However, a very boggy patch near to recent graves continues to be a problem. There is believed to be some

old drainage pipes within the churchyard but the condition and routes of these are unknown. One such drain was recently discovered whilst digging a new grave.

7. The extension of the gravel pathway into the lower churchyard has been completed. The cost of the works, including planning permission and various other required reports and certifications was in excess of £10,000. The PCC is most grateful for the donations received which have helped towards this cost.
8. A contractor is engaged for an average of 6 hours per month to cut the grass in front of the church and to cut around the old graves on a twice per year basis. The remainder of cutting in the main churchyard and the lower churchyard is carried out by volunteers. There has also been expenditure in removing the invasion of brambles along the Church Lane and Infants School boundaries. Whilst the PCC has received a number of positive comments as to the condition of the churchyard, this comes at cost of circa £2,000 per year. Again, appreciation is given for the donations received.
9. It is still planned to enable step-free access into the church, but higher priorities have prevailed.

Clock

10. The annual inspection / maintenance check was carried out in July by the Cumbria Clock Company. The clock is working well with no issues to report.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who undertakes countless tasks in and around the Church.

Living Stones Church Project Report – no activity in 2020

Cleaning Report (Margaret Falconer) Access to the church during the last 12 months has been severely restricted because of the pandemic and the church has been locked so only key holders have access. Chris Vane, Val Burfield and Margaret Falconer have on occasion visited to ensure that the church is clean.

Flower Report (Margaret Falconer) There has been little flower arranging during 2020 because of the pandemic. For example, the church was locked at Easter and only a socially distanced masked Christmas service took place for which we did limited flower arrangements. The arrangers are financing their own flowers and will do their arrangements in memory of a loved one. We are fortunate to have kept the team of Sue Wakelin, Diana Durkin Ros Oles, Jean Sharp, Mary Holmes, Bertha Bates, Pat Woodage, Margaret Falconer, Sue Jopson, Bron Sutton and Rosie Cordell. We have not spent money this year, so we still have a balance of £41 in the kitty.

Church Unlocks Report (Angie Maxwell) At the beginning of January 2020, the church continued to be locked and unlocked every day by the usual loyal band of Anthony Clifton, Genie Stapleton, Angie Maxwell, Georgie Robertson, Bridget Wheeler, Steve Green and Rosemary Cahill. However, as the pandemic restrictions gradually came into force, as from the end of March, the church had to be closed to visitors and so the daily routine was stopped in its tracks. As the year went on, the churchwardens arranged to open and close the church as was necessary. Later in the year St Thomas' was open for private prayer on a Sunday and again the churchwardens made the necessary arrangements for this to happen. As ever, thanks are due to all involved in carrying out this very important task to make the church accessible.

Church Hall Report (Nick Harcourt) Covid19 has had the most significant impact on the operation of this Hall, that can be recalled in living memory. It closed the Hall, and effectively stopped the User bookings and Income stream. This happened on 23rd March 2020. Hand sanitising, new rules of operation and cleaning measures were implemented. Track and Trace arrangements were put in place.

Then on 1st June 2020, PreSchool recommenced operations, and Beyond, the Group looking after Young people with Autism used the hall for a number of sessions. PreSchool carried on operating as

the Government deemed it was essential for parents to be able to use this facility so that they could go on working. This enabled basic services of Electricity and Gas to be paid.

The effective closure of the Hall provided an opportunity to conduct essential works in the Hall. Tied to this was the necessity to identify and secure funding. John Angle, the Project Manager for the Hall, researched all possible sources, and with the fantastic cooperation from Basingstoke and Deane, he secured the major funding resource. Other funding sources were PreSchool and the Hall itself. The B&D Grants were based on proven need, and a Hall contribution.

The projects which were implemented, had been agreed by the Committee in conjunction with wide consultation with User Groups. The summaries are shown below:

Sources of Funds		Projects	
LIF Grant	£27,700.00	Roof repairs	£9,950.00
S106	£332.40	External matting	£6,344.46
PreSchool	£500.00	Sound & hearing system	£6,716.08
Hall funds	£2,183.34	Loft floor and shelving	£7,705.74
Total	£30,715.74	Total	£30,715.74

The Hall is well served through the East Woodhay Website, redeveloped by Mark Rand, where the Diary of Bookings is viewable by all. Both John Angle and Mark Rand worked together on introducing this new Diary. The Website also enables Users to place advertising for their Hall activities.

The small Hall Committee continues to serve the Hall, which include the two Churchwardens, Chris Vane and Bridget Wheeler; Cedric Cottrell our Treasurer; John Angle our Project Manager and Clare McLaughlin our Secretary. Richard Randall has made a positive contribution to the regular cleaning of the Hall, to maintain a high standard.

Woolton Hill Church Hall continues to build on its strengths, and despite the severe imposition of closures to User Groups, and restricted use by PreSchool, the future remains optimistic.

Rotas Report (Margaret Burgham) This is always my opportunity to say thank you to all the Sidespeople, Sacristans, Chalice bearers and Intercessors and that still applies despite it being a very different year. Since the first lockdown on March 23rd, 2020 there have been a limited number of in-church services plus an outdoor Remembrance Day service.

Thank you to those who have been willing to serve in church, following all the rules. Thank you again for all your support and commitment.

Social & Fundraising Report (Margaret Burgham) Well! What a strange year this has been! We started off in January 2020 with new ideas for fund raising and social events. This was not to be, and the only event that did take place was the 30th Trivial Pursuits evening when seventy two people enjoyed the usual fun packed evening under the guidance of Rob Small, our question master. A total of £1,055 was raised for church funds. We have a very willing and active committee and hope that 2021 will be a better year for everyone.

Parish Outreach Reports

Good Neighbour and Welcome Pack Report (Carol Currey) Many things changed when the Coronavirus affected 'normal' life in Woolton Hill. However, the Good Neighbour team, which is an informal group of people whose objective is to help others, continued in much the same way albeit socially distancing from March onwards.

The group currently are aware of the activities of the Pins and Needles Knitting and Sewing Group which draws its membership from across the Benefice and local community. The group are under the guidance of Mary Herbert and Carol Currey. The group enjoy a monthly get together to knit or sew useful items for organisations, though from March 2020 the knitting and sewing continued individually at home. These items are being stored until we are advised that they can be taken or sent to local hospitals and maternity units, Women's Refuge Centres, Seafarers Mission.

We visit, on request, anyone in the village who would like company, on an ad hoc or regular basis. Requests typically come from church folk or the Neighbourcare organisation in the village. Many people who are not part of the Good Neighbour team visit and support others in the village. Since March 2020 these contacts have been by phone or a card. We arrange and hand deliver baptism cards and birthday cards, for those children, up to the age of five, who have been baptised in St Thomas' Church and still live in the parish. We have volunteers available, on request, to provide transport to/from church. Of course, this has not been possible since March 2020.

Community Café Report (Carol Currey) Until March 2020 the Community Café was held in St Thomas' Church and continued to be a sociable place for local people to enjoy each other's company. It has been available every Friday morning from 9.30 to 11.00 (other Church events permitting). Tea, coffee and biscuits have been regularly available and from time to time cakes are also brought to share. Marmalade and jam are often available too. Books and jigsaws are exchanged amongst the group and the topics discussed within it are many and various. Numbers attending were between 12 and 15 each week. New people to the village have been able to meet established villagers and friendships have been forged. It provided a really happy outreach opportunity. There are 8 volunteers for the Café, of which 3 take it in turns to be 'on duty'. A dish is available for donations and on a quarterly basis these are given as follows - 50% is given to a charity chosen by the people in the café and 50% to St Thomas to cover the expenses of the café. It is hoped that the café will reopen as soon as the Covid rules allow.

Festival Leaflets Report (Rosemary Cahill) By mid-March 2020, 1900 Easter leaflets had been copied by co-ordinator Sue and sorted into designated packs as requested by EW, H & WH. The East Woodhay and Highclere Coronavirus Community Support (EWHCCS) Newsletter arrived just in time to be included in all the Easter packs. The list of services was by then totally irrelevant, but the Easter message remained. This Newsletter including NWHB entry continued to be circulated weekly. Over 50 teams distributed Christmas leaflets to every household in the Benefice as usual. Christmas leaflets were produced to a tight timetable, with the complications of services being both in church (booking needed) and online, all within the third lockdown restrictions.

Musical accompanists and Choir Report (Bertha Bates) The Choir sang for church services in January and February 2020, then came lockdown. We were, however, able to have a choir of six at the Not the Carol Service and again on Christmas Day. We must thank Peter Stanley for playing the organ when allowed during the past year.

Bell Ringers Report (Christopher Pack) Ringing continued much as normal with practices alternating with Burghclere until the first lockdown in March started & ringing stopped. Some towers were able to ring occasionally with social distancing in place but with the small size of St. Thomas' ringing chamber that was impossible. I wish to record my thanks to all the ringers from various towers who come & make possible practices, weddings & the odd service ringing that we are able to perform.

St Thomas' Handbells Report (Nicole Bentham) The year began normally enough with a contingent attending the Handbell Ringers GB South East Region birthday rally in January where we were delighted to take delivery of a brand new bass F bell to replace one we had had on loan for a year. Rehearsals were in full swing for a performance at the Parkinson's Society lunch in March when lockdown struck and everything ground to a halt. By September the Covid regulations allowed six of us to meet in the churchyard to practise, so by working a weekly rotation everyone was able to have a go. The appreciative response of occasional passers-by encouraged us to plan three outdoor events at Christmas, ringing at Broadmead Care Home, St Thomas' Infant School and finally to welcome the congregation to St Thomas' *Not the Carol Service*. All three proved exceptionally rewarding and fulfilling. As ever, we are most grateful to Genie for her tireless energy and enthusiastic leadership.

Children's Ministry Report (Jayne Roch) Sunday Club began 2020 in person with the theme of Miracles, we continued during the summer and autumn terms via zoom with the themes of Joshua and Peace. We have welcomed up to 8 children aged between 4 and 10 to these sessions, along with their parents. We have regularly provided children to read lessons and write prayers for the All Together services, which have taken place via zoom. From February to July, we held Confirmation Sessions for 6 young people from across the Benefice. The first session was in person and then we moved to zoom sessions. Due to restrictions the Confirmation Service had not taken place by the end of 2020. A remote Christingle service was held at the beginning of December. Many families joined us, with Christingles that they had made, for the usual Christingle songs and stories about the work of the Children's Society. Also, through the autumn term, and linked with the Sunday Club theme of Peace, we collected decorated hands to construct the word Peace on a banner. This was displayed outside the church over the Christmas period. Many people had great fun trying to 'find' their hand on the banner. The socially distanced 'Come to Bethlehem' morning held on the 19th December in church attracted many families who journeyed around the church finding out about the Christmas story by asking nativity characters questions. It proved to be great fun for the characters too and the morning went very quickly. Moyra Harkness 'retired' from Sunday Club at the end of 2020 after more than 10 years of service during this stint as a leader. We thank Moyra for her work with many young people over this time and we will really miss her as part of the team. Many thanks to all involved for the hard work that they put into Children's Ministry. Also, thanks to the PCC and wider church family for their support and prayers.

Monday Study Group (Mary Herbert) It is with regret that I report that The Monday Study Group has not met during 2020. The winter conditions and illness of membership prevented us from meeting prior to lockdown in March.

Home Group Report (Rosemary Cahill) Early in 2020, 3 meetings, studying Colossians and Philemon were held at Lawling. This led up to Lent when we joined in with the rest of the Benefice. We looked forward to meeting again when allowed. The lockdown came before any further plans could be made. Discussions with the members suggested that Zoom did not appeal nor did garden meetings when permissible. The way forward remains unclear.

Bible Reading Fellowship Several different notes are used by 15 people across the Benefice, 1 of which is posted to a previous resident. The BRF year runs from May, with a single reduced annual subscription for more than 5 readers. September and the following January come through in good time and orders can always be amended. The notes also include the BRF book list, occasional extracts and details of other initiatives available or planned. Contact Rosemary for more information. The pandemic did not disturb this valuable resource, with deliveries Covid secure.

Pins and Needles Report (Mary Herbert) We were able to hold our February Blessing in St Thomas' just prior to lockdown in March and we were able to get many items into their respective charities prior to the first lockdown. I am pleased to report that the ladies did not lessen their "productivity" during the year, and it was a delight in November between lockdowns to hold our biannual Blessing of the items. Again, we were able to distribute some – mainly to the Women's Refuge in Andover and personal bags on the wards at West Berks Hospital. All the other items are in store. This is very much a Benefice and Community group and we own heartfelt thanks to all those folks who continued to contribute knitting wool during the year especially during the periods of lockdown which kept us going. The majority of our ladies live alone and these contributions were a blessing to them as well as to those to whom the items go. The sewing group said goodbye to Jeanette Chadwick who has relocated to Salisbury to be closer to family. We will miss her expertise and her ability to work with our oddments and make bags with a special difference which the Women's Refuge were pleased to receive alongside our usual bags which they use for toiletries and

toys bags for new arrivals. I am pleased to report that we still support all of the charities mentioned in last year's report and can be found in Carol Currey's Neighbour Report.

School Report (The Rector) Headteacher Mrs Pearce-King left the school in July after some seven years to further her career. Due to the pandemic the usual farewells and thank you events were much curtailed. However in July we were able to hold a leavers' service for year 2 children (2 services were needed to accommodate the numbers socially distanced) during which a farewell was also made to Mrs Pearce-King with sincere thanks for her hard work. In the meantime the governing body began to work closely with that of the Junior School. A plan to federate the two schools was made and consultations held when permitted. By September 2020 agreement had been reached and recruitment for an Executive Headteacher had begun. The Federation came into being at the end of September 2020 and a single governing body was formed. The first round of recruitment was unsuccessful, and a second round began and would run its course in early 2021. During the pandemic the school achieved wonderful work in adjusting and moving teaching onto online platforms, whilst continuing to support families. The Rector continued to support collective worship by recording videos for use in the children's class worship.

We thank the serving Foundation governors (The Rector, Stephen Waite and Jenny Graham).

Whitchurch Deanery Synod Report (Val Burfield) Deanery meetings have focused on finance for the majority of the time. Funding is an ongoing concern in this diocese as it has very little income apart from the monies provided by the church membership. A presentation by the Diocesan Head of financial Operations told us of the current deficit in funding within the Winchester Diocese and outlined various ways we might try to increase our income. However, the deanery was thanked and praised for the way it had contributed to the income of the diocese. Dodi reports regularly on the way the deanery is supporting the schools and churches in Mityana. Essential toilets are the latest project being funded. During lockdown many churches reported on the success of zoom and other media for delivering church services and meetings.

Churchwarden's Report (Chris Vane) The role of Churchwardens certainly changed during 2020, as the various restrictions to church life came into force. The necessary form-filling continued, including all the paperwork required to bring the lower churchyard paths project to a satisfactory conclusion. Huge thanks to Bertha Bates and Steve Luff Smith for their part in this. During lockdown our main task was to be caretakers of the building - checking regularly that all was in order internally and externally and enabling access for the regular annual servicing visits when this was allowed. We also had the duty to interpret and facilitate the 7 iterations of the Church of England Risk Assessment Template for Opening Church Buildings to the Public, so that when possible the church could be open for services and for private visits. It was a particular pleasure to enable safely 'Come to Bethlehem' and the two Christmas services. Zoom meant that the normal round of official meetings could continue, but we look forward to a time when 'face to face' is possible once again.

In Conclusion (The Rector)

2020 was certainly an extraordinary year. My sincere thanks to everyone who stepped up during the pandemic to keep things as needed running, even though often behind the scenes. To reduce the transmission of the virus services in church were stopped nationally before Mothering Sunday, during Holy Week we made a tentative start with online 'zoom' services and on Easter Sunday the 'zoom' service was attended by 109 people. 'Zoom' services continued for the rest of the year, and a mix of online and 'in church' services were arranged once we were permitted to hold services in person again. Whilst not to everyone's taste, and indeed also not accessible to those without IT facilities, the online services have served to hold the worshipping community together from across our parishes. Unexpectedly perhaps these online services have helped us get to know each other a bit better. At Christmas some new thoughts about taking Christmas outside the church building helped us proclaim the nativity afresh as did some new creative ideas for worship, according to

regulations, within the building. It was a joy to discover the Christmas message of love and peace in Christ was unchanged and so our worship and prayer continued.

Pastorally a regular weekly e-mail from the Rector to a combined parishes and other interested parties circulation list has kept folk informed. Some telephone contacting and online 'zoom' chats have helped keep folk connected. Alongside this a wonderfully positive collaboration arose between Neighbourcare, our churches, Parish Councils and local societies in order to provide practical support with prescription deliveries, help with shopping and pastoral phone support. A regular newsletter kept local folk informed. Many church members were already involved with Neighbourcare and many more joined the volunteer team.

The reports contained in this document show the challenges faced and we know challenges still continue. It has undoubtedly been a worrying time, many families have been bereaved and sadly many funerals have taken place with reduced numbers and in sad circumstances. Weddings and baptisms have been postponed – so future joys are awaited. We still do not know when we may be able to sing a hymn together in church – but the day will come and then we will rejoice indeed!

Thank you for journeying together, and apart, this year. May we continue to be confident in our call to follow Christ, in knowing the love of God, loving one another and in serving our neighbour. For so we will recognise God with us and among us, and so we will make Christ known in our communities.

Revd Canon Christine Dale

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Registered Charity Number 1173894

Annual Report and Financial statements

Year Ended

31st December 2020

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Annual report and financial statements for year ended 31 December 2020

Registered Charity
Number 1173894

Rector

The Reverend Canon Christine Dale
The Rectory
The Mount
Woolton Hill
Newbury
Berkshire

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
5 Bridge Street
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5BQ

Newbury Building Society
105b Northbrook Street
Newbury Building Society
Berkshire
RG14 1AA

Nat West Bank
Market Place
Newbury
Berkshire

Santander Bank
Bridle Road
Bootle
Manchester
L30 4GB

Independent Examiner

Judy Anderson FCCA
2 Orchard Green
Chilton Foliat
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0LN

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Woolton Hill

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020, Charity no 1173894 which are set out on pages 2 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Respective responsibilities of the Church Council and Examiner

As the members of the PCC, you are responsible for the preparation of accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulation and Section 144(2) of the Act do not apply.

It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and to be found in the Church guidance 2006 edition.

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners 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 :
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
 - (b) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirement of the Act and the Regulationshave 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.

Judy Anderson FCCA
2 Orchard Green
Chilton Foliat
Hungerford
Berkshire
RG17 0LN

Date: 26th April 2021

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Statement of activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020				2019
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total	Total
Incoming Resources	4					
Planned Voluntary Income	a	25,209	0	0	25,209	27,316
Unplanned Voluntary income	b	873	135	0	1,009	3,545
Other Voluntary income	c	8,820	0	0	8,820	6,858
Ordinary income	d	15,478	1,037	7,709	24,224	35,542
Extraordinary income	e	28,492	575	0	29,067	27,611
Total incoming resources		78,872	1,747	7,709	88,328	100,872
Resources Used	5					
Ministry	a	31,868			31,868	39,612
Building Costs	b	55,507	0		55,507	59,296
Service Costs	c	2,078			2,078	2,913
Administration	d	2,638			2,638	5,639
Grants & other extraordinary expenditure	e	70	7,225	0	7,295	2,712
Total Resources Used		92,161	7,225	0	99,386	110,171
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		13,289	5,478	7,709	11,058	9,299
Transfers		7,400		7,400	0	0
Unreleased gains/(losses) (i.e. Revaluation of Lock Trust)			1,117	13,524	14,641	28,860
Net movement of funds		5,889	4,360	13,833	3,583	19,561
Balance brought forward		26,039	82,810	248,622	357,471	337,910
Balance Carried Forward		20,150	78,449	262,455	361,054	357,471

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020	2019
Investments		275,135	260,015
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	2,105	937
Cash and Bank Balances			
Nat West - General account	8	1,879	5,214
Newbury Building Soc LSP & Church f	9	61,621	68,662
Nat West - LSP		1,727	599
Church Hall Santander Bank & cash	10	14,036	18,293
Lloyds - Lock Trust account		4,806	4,497
		84,069	97,265
Deduct Creditors	7	255	746
		361,054	357,471
Funds	11		
Unrestricted		20,150	26,039
Restricted		78,449	82,810
Endowment - permanent		262,455	248,622
		361,054	357,471

The attached notes on pages 4 to 7 form part of these accounts

Approved by the Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council on
26th April 2021

Rev'd Canon Christine Dale
Chairman

R.King
Honorary Treasurer

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2020

1. Accounting Policies

(a) General

The accounts are based on the Church Accounting Regulations 2006.

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis, except where noted below, under the historical cost convention, except for investments, which are shown at valuation

The accounts include all material transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC can be held responsible.

Where costs have been incurred for the whole benefice, just those that relate to St Thomas' are recorded in the accounts.

(b) Funds

The general fund receives the regular income of the PCC and is used to pay its recurring expenses, and is not subject to any restriction.

The Church Hall funds are separately run under the auspices of the PCC.

The Special Collection fund is a restricted fund into which received sums donated at collections and for other specific reasons are passed onto the designated recipient.

The Churchyard Fund represents the money received for the upkeep of the churchyard and has been restricted to that activity.

The Lock Trust consists of a permanent endowment fund and a restricted distributable income fund.

The Living Stones Project represents the money received and spent on the the development of the Church and is restricted to this purpose.

(c) Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and donations are recognised when made.

Amounts receivable under Gift Aid are recognised when honoured by the donor.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid is recognised when received.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when received.

Dividends and interest are accounted for when received.

(d) Application of Resources

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid.

(e) Cost related to the work of the church

The diocesan parish quota is accounted for when payable.

(f) Church Properties

Church properties are excluded from the accounts under the Charities Act 2011. The PCC, however, has responsibility for maintaining and insuring the properties. The Church, the Church Hall and contents of both buildings are presently insured for a total of £11,200,000

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2020 (continued)

- 2 Within the North West Hampshire Benefice, St Thomas' PCC pays for the combined Benefice office and other combined costs and is then reimbursed by the other parishes in the Benefice. As at 31 December 2020, St Thomas' PCC was owed £109.05 (£936.60 2019) for office expenses, altar supplies and other Benefice costs from the other Benefice PCCs.
- 3 The Living Stones Project is abbreviated in the accounts to LSP. The project is specifically to raise funds for the refurbishment, reordering and development of the Church.

	2020			2019
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
4 Ordinary Income				
voluntary income				
(a) Planned giving				
Tax on Gift Aid	6,884	0	0	6,884
Gift Aid	18,325	0	0	18,325
	25,209	0	0	25,209
(b) Unplanned giving				
Church collections	873	135	0	1,009
				3,545
(c) Other Voluntary income				
Fundraising	541	0	0	541
Donations & Legacies	8,279	0	0	8,279
	8,820	0	0	6,858
(d) Ordinary income				
Hire of hall	12,889		0	12,889
Fees	2,545	0	0	2,545
Churchyard		0		0
Dividends and interest	44	1,037	7,709	8,790
	15,478	1,037	7,709	24,224
(e) Extraordinary income				
LSP		575		575
Wayleave	15			15
Grants Church Hall	28,477	0		28,496
	28,492	575	0	27,611
Total incoming resources	78,872	1,747	7,709	88,328
				100,872

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Notes forming part of the financial statement for year to 31 December 2020 (continued)

8 Within the National Westminster General account at the year end £1,000.90 is owed by the restricted churchyard fund and £3,756.44 is designated for the LSP.

9 Within the Newbury Building Society account total of £61,621.27 is £5,049.33 that belongs to the Church Hall and £56,571.94 to Living Stones

10 The Church Hall holds in total £1.34 petty cash, £14,034.96 in its Santander Bank account and £5,049.33 in Newbury Building Society.

11 Funds Analysis

	Opening balance	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Uplift and transfers	Closing Balance
General	3,486	37,412	49,657	10,078	1,319
Church Hall	22,552	41,460	42,503	2,678	18,831
Unrestricted funds	26,039	78,872	92,161	7,400	20,150
Special collections	0	135	135	0	0
Living Stones Project - Church	68,012	1,132	7,090		62,055
Churchyard	14,797	480	0	1,117	16,394
Restricted funds	82,810	1,747	7,225	1,117	78,449
Investments	244,125	0	0	13,524	257,649
Bank Account	4,497	7,709	0	7,400	4,806
Endowment Fund	248,622	7,709	0	6,124	262,455
Grand Total	357,471	88,328	99,386	14,641	361,054

	Investments	Debtors and stock	(Creditors)	Cash / Bank	Total
Endowment	257,649			4,806	262,455
Restricted					
LSP				62,055	62,055
Churchyard		17,395		1,001	16,394
Unrestricted					
General	91	2,105		876	1,319
Church Hall			255	19,086	18,831
	275,135	2,105	255	84,069	361,054

Woolton Hill Parochial Church Council

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Woolton Hill

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Date: 26th April 2021