

St Thomas's, Stopsley Seeking to Share God's Love



Annual Reports For Annual Church Meeting 2021

Welcome!

Welcome to our Reports for the Annual Church Meeting 2021. It is wonderful to have you as part of our Church Family, whether you have been able to physically attend any services in the last year, or if you are part of our growing livestream and digital community, or it has unavoidably been a year of painful separation. Thank you for reading through these reports and (hopefully) attending our ACM this year – in person, or by Zoom, or on livestream. If you have any queries or comments please raise them at the meeting, or mention them privately, if you prefer, to me or to our Churchwarden or one of the Church Council (PCC) members. There is also a slip at the end of this document.

As we meet together it is important to honour one another in the life of our church family and especially all those who do so much to care for members and to reach out to our community, and beyond, with the good news of Jesus. We are truly called to seek to share God's love with everyone!

Let us be praying ... that together we might be the Church God wants us to be, and the Church that Stopsley needs. And let's pray for one another as we seek to recover from this painful and difficult year

David Alexander (Vicar)

St Thomas's, Stopsley
Parish Profile & Mission Action Plan

Mission Statement: *Seeking to Share God's Love.*

- ❖ We seek to be a ***Mission-orientated*** evangelistic church, intent on sharing God's love with all in our local community, and beyond.
- ❖ We aim to reach out in ***love*** to all we can, witnessing for Christ through word and action.
- ❖ We wish to be a ***welcoming community*** in all we do.
- ❖ We offer a wide range of worship styles, including ***established*** services and ***Fresh Expressions*** for those presently unchurched and newcomers.
- ❖ We are aware of our need to be prayerful, seeking the power of the ***Holy Spirit***.
- ❖ We value being taught from the ***Scriptures***, desiring that they are expounded in a relevant and inspirational way.
- ❖ We endeavour to be a ***pastoral*** church, caring for the Church family and any others we can.
- ❖ We are a ***servant*** church seeking to serve people in our community and town, and further afield, in practical and caring ways in the name of Jesus.
- ❖ We prize our history and are ***forward-looking*** in faith to what God will do through us in the future.
- ❖ We are a ***friendly*** church, valuing fellowship, eating together, homegroups and hospitality.

SOME PARISH DETAILS

Population : 10,000 approx. (This figure gives some idea of the 'pastoral area' for our church, rather than exact count of the population).

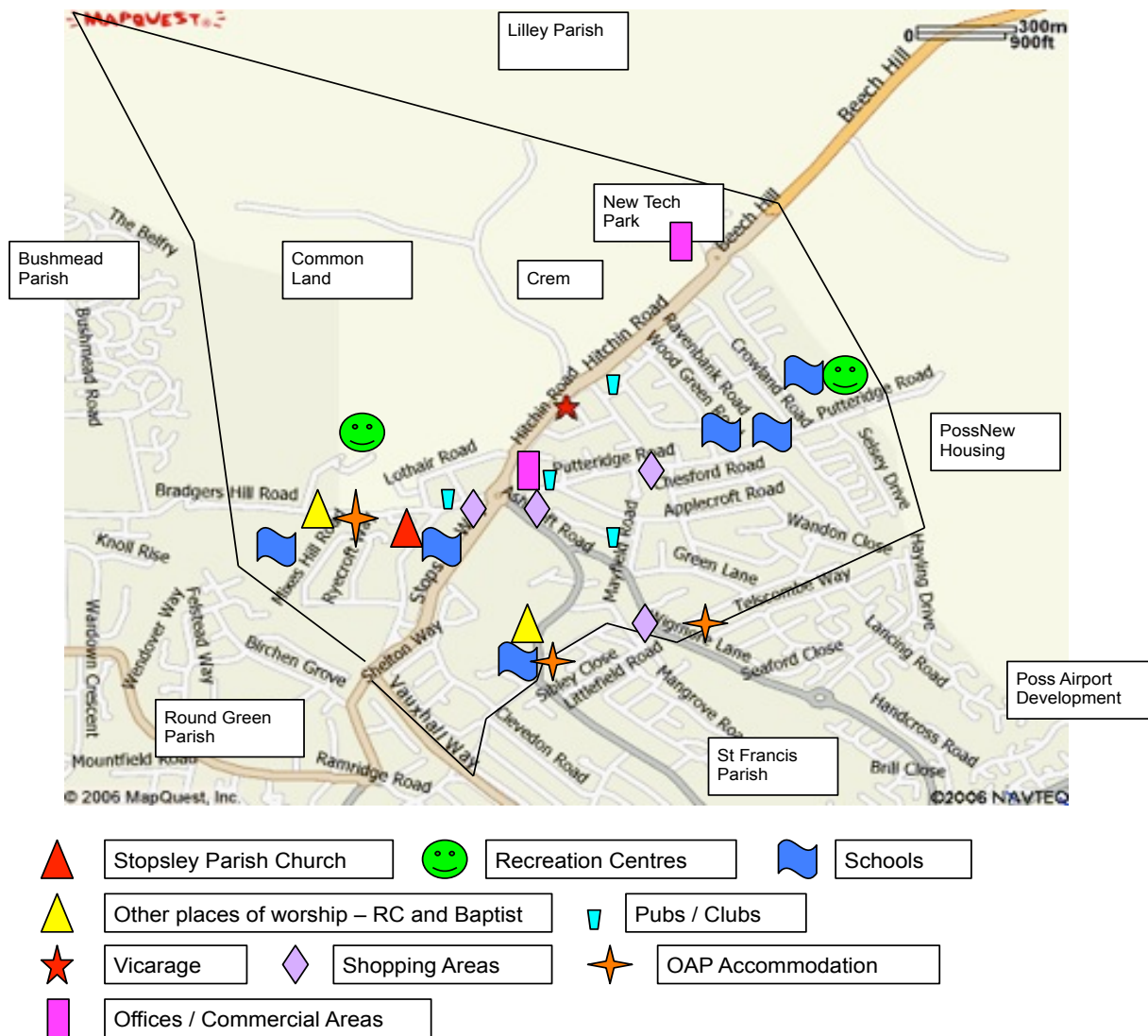
Location : North East area of Luton, at the boundary with Herts. The parish includes the wards of Stopsley and Putteridge. The busy A505 from Luton to Hitchin runs through the parish and separates the church geographically from much of the rest of the parish.

Type[s] of housing : Mainly owner occupied, with some rented accommodation, and pockets of housing association or council property.

Community facilities : Two high schools, two primary schools, one special needs school, and a large sports complex with Olympic swimming and diving facilities.

History of the community : In 1862, when the church was built, Stopsley was a village. Over the years since then Luton has gradually swallowed it up and it is now a suburb of the town. Some of the major employers of people in the community over the past 100 years have closed or declined in size, but employment remains fairly high. The airport and the car industry are major employers.

Parish boundaries: No longer quite the same natural cohesive community that it once was but boundaries mainly make sense except confusing boundary on Ramridge Estate with St. Francis.



PARTNERSHIP IN WORSHIP, MISSION & MINISTRY

We are active participants in the Luton Deanery in working together in mission to our town of Luton.

30 years ago we planted Christchurch, Bushmead, a thriving church largely within what was the much larger former parish of Stopsley.

Other Christian Churches : we have a good friendly relationship with Stopsley Baptist Church and Ramridge Baptist Church with whom we have co-operated on various events and projects. SBC has a much bigger congregation, and with its better facilities and style of worship it attracts younger people and people from a wider area. We have different styles of worship but complement one another in our evangelistic task. We have friendly relations with Sacred Heart (RC). Ministers are involved in local and town wide fraternals, and we also participate in a local evangelical hub for prayer and mission, and a similar but larger grouping for the whole town.

Annual Parish Report on 2020 (Prepared for AGM 2021)
by Stopsley (St Thomas) Parish Church Council (PCC)

Background – What is the PCC?

Stopsley Parish Church P.C.C. has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Alexander, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Stopsley the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Our Parish Mission Statement is as follows: **Seeking to share God's love with everyone.**

Membership – Who is on the PCC?

Members of the P.C.C are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Church Meeting (properly known as the Annual Parochial Church Meeting) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During 2020 (after the 2020 AGM) the following served as members of the P. C. C:

Ex-officio Members

1. David Alexander (Vicar, Chairman)
2. Ian Marshall (Churchwarden)

Elected Lay Representatives We are entitled to 12 elected representatives:

(The rules state: 6 reps if up to 50 on the Electoral roll
 9 reps if up to 100 on the Electoral roll
 12 reps if up to 200 on the Electoral roll
 15 reps if over 200 on the Electoral roll)

	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Year Elected</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
1	John Alexander	2018	3yr	2021
2	David Newbound	2018	3yr	2021
3	Neil Rolls	2019	2yr	2021
4	Karen Ritchie	2019	2yr	2021
5	Julie Bailey	2019	3yr	2022
6	John Kingham	2019	3yr	2022
7	Stewart Leary	2019	3yr	2022
8	Stella Marshall	2019	3yr	2022
9	Vacant	2020	3yr	2023
10	Vacant	2020	3yr	2023
11	Vacant	2020	3yr	2023
12	Vacant	2020	3yr	2023

Elected Representatives on Deanery Synod** who automatically also serve on the PCC

1 Vacant	2020	3yr	2023
2 Vacant	2020	3yr	2023
3 Vacant	2020	3yr	2023

** We have between 100-199 names on our electoral roll and so are entitled to 3 Elected Deanery Synod Representatives.

NB The clergy of the church also serve on the Deanery Synod

Co-opted

None

Office came to end at APCM 2020

PCC Members: Deborah Bachini, Linda Clitheroe, John Pinnock, Rosemary Stipta,

Deanery Synod Members : Steve Dolby, Christine Younger

Elections at 2019 AGM

We are very appreciative of the significant contributions of the PCC members coming to the end of their period of office. Under the present rules in place for our PCC, elected members who have served for 3 years, apart from 'office holders*', are not eligible for re-election until 12 months after the end of their term of office.

John Alexander*

David Newbound*

Neil Rolls*

Karen Ritchie

** Eligible for re-election as an Office Holder*

There will be elections for the following positions:

4 PCC member(s)	to serve for 3 years to 2024
4 PCC member(s)	to serve for 2 years to 2023
0 PCC member(s)	to serve for 1 year to 2022
3 Deanery Synod member(s)**	to serve to 2023

** NB From 2020 Deanery Synod representatives can only serve for two successive 3 year terms (i.e. for a maximum of 6 years)

Committees

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law, and is our only official committee. It has power to transact the business of the P.C.C between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. We also have a number of 'Action Church Teams' (ACTs) that organise activities, or discuss matters, as directed by the P.C.C. and Vicar.

Electoral Roll

There are 134 parishioners now on the Church Electoral Roll. This represents a change of minus 2 from the previous year's ACM Electoral Roll. These changes are due to parishioners moving, changing church, death or people who live outside the parish and no longer regularly attend St Thomas's.

Review of the Year

Each year we are able to report on much vigorous activity within the life of St Thomas's. This year has been very different and we have little to report in terms of organised activities – we have been in some sort of lockdown for much of the year, and very restricted in what was allowed in-between. We are grateful to all members of the church family, and those who have associated themselves with us, in keeping in touch with one another and seeking to support each other, practically and spiritually. There have been many phone calls, emails and messages – and much prayer for each other. Thank you to you all.

We are also especially thankful for the wonderful pastoral support offered by David Newbound as Pastoral Worker, Debbie Newbound as Parish Nurse and Deborah Bachini, who, in addition to keeping the Church Office operating as a connection point in difficult circumstances, has helped in ringing members of the church to offer support. When we have been able to meet for services we have been very careful to keep one another safe. Thank you to everyone who has worn face coverings and kept socially distant from those from different households. This has been a real challenge for us all as we longed to encourage one another.

Thank you also to those who have cleaned the church building before and after the services and operated the 'Track and Trace' system.

We have livestreamed a daily 'Prayer and Share' to those who could join us via Facebook Live, and those who connected later via Facebook, Google Public Folder, YouTube and the website. As well as many church members, we have been joined by others, both locally and around the country and the world. In addition, we have held Coffee by Zoom so we could meet up with one another socially, if only over the internet. We also began livestreaming services when they restarted in the church building. We are grateful to all who have made this possible, especially John Pinnock and Rosemary Stipta, and for excellent advice from Andrew Pinnock.

When lockdown was first introduced we delivered letters to all our church members, including a simple prayer sheet which we hoped people could use daily, even if they did not have access to social media. We have also delivered cards around the parish and to other contacts. Church members have been involved in volunteering and delivering food and

medicines to those in need. We have also worked hard at producing a weekly email to keep people in touch via a mailing list.

The main focus of the last year has been attempting to care for and support one another, and for those we couple in our local community, during a time of great difficulty and challenge. Thank you for all the ways in which each person has risen to the challenge. We look forward to the future with confident hope in God as we share His love together.

David Alexander, Vicar. On behalf of the P.C.C

Warden's Report

2020-21 has been a strange and difficult year in the life of St Thomas' with the church having to cope with the strictures that Covid-19 has created with changes to the way church services have been run and other routine measures. The paramount concern this year has been the safe-keeping of our church family members and visitors with measures in place to make sure we have adhered to 'social distancing' and other hygiene measures and many thanks must go to those who have volunteered to make sure that the church has been a safe place for any who have attended services. We have all seen how difficult it has been avoiding the natural tendency for handshakes, hugs and high fives.

We do hope that in the following year certain measures will be relaxed to make our services more 'normal' as the country slowly but surely beats this dreadful virus.

Many thanks must go to all who have been looking after the upkeep and maintenance of the church building and grounds, especially Ian Clitheroe supported by his wife Linda and Deborah Bachini. Ian has completed much essential maintenance and repair work to the church building, as required by last year's 'quinquennial' report, and also maintenance of the grounds and clearing up. Thanks also to those other members of the church who have done their bit in keeping the church grounds tidy. I have to give special thanks to Deborah Bachini who has worked very hard to make sure that essential reports and returns were completed and for keeping me up to date with all the paperwork.

This is my final year as church warden a task which I have enjoyed and which has been made so much easier with the help and support of Deborah, Ian, Linda and David Alexander. I know that whoever takes on this role will be well supported and encouraged by the Parish Administrator and clergy.

At this point, I would like to mention that a number of members of the congregation have approached me to say how much they have appreciated the care and love they have felt David Alexander has given them over the last 18 months during the worst and darkest times of the lockdown. All credit must go to David for his shepherding and care of his 'flock' during Covid-19 and, I know, will continue to be so in the future.

I want also to give thanks for the kindness I have been shown by many people, including present and past treasurers, those who love this church and especially our vicar.

*Ian Marshall
Churchwarden*

Sunday Club Review

It is hard to believe that it has been almost a year since we last saw any of the children together in church. We can't wait until we can all meet in person again. We have tried to keep in contact with the children and their families over the last year, in a covid-safe way. We have had monthly Zoom meetings and emailed activity packs over the last few months, meaning that we were able to still have a nativity at Christmas and meet for remembrance Sunday, it has been lovely to see and hear from the children, although does not come close to replacing the in-person interaction and it is not practical for all families. We will be reviewing the possibilities of in person meetings over the summer term, but as with everything safety will remain paramount and no meetings will be planned until it is safe to do so.

Sara Hillyard

STUFF (St Thomas's Unbelievably Fabulous Fun)

Due to the Covid pandemic and various individuals being poorly we've had no events for STUFF since last year's AGM.

Angela and Richard Scarlett-Marshall

Safeguarding

Due to Covid19 Linda, David and Judi met outdoors socially distanced in the summer. We had hoped to arrange some training supported by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. This of course did not go forward and is still on our agenda. We would remind everyone that we are always available via telephone if anybody needs to contact us.

Judi Kingham and Linda Clitheroe
Safeguarding Officers

Home Groups

Again, after starting 2020 with a couple of meetings, as lockdowns came to be, we had to abandon regular meetings for the rest of the year but are hoping to resume them at some point in the future. As the name indicates these take place in someone's home either weekly or fortnightly and, when it comes to the bible study bit, we try to follow the theme of the main church services although we often do our own thing. It is an opportunity to meet with other members of the congregation in an informal and enjoyable setting, to chat over refreshments and catch up with church and other news and also a time to pray over various issues and concerns. No one is under any obligation to join in with the prayers, or any other part of the evening for that matter but usually everyone finds the evenings go all too quickly. We start at 8pm and aim to finish by 9.30 and lifts are always available for those who haven't got transport.

Ian Marshall

Morning Prayer

As we have been unable to meet in church this year, Morning Prayer has been replaced by the live-streamed Prayer and Share from the Vicarage each day at 10am, and afterwards put on the Google public folder

David Newbound

Christian Meditation

The Christian Meditation group has been unable to meet this last year.

David Newbound

Noah Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen closed in March 2020 and, currently, has not reopened.

Karen Ritchie.

Hands of Mercy



2020 has been a challenging year for so many of us because of Covid and the lockdown. It has been especially difficult for Hands of Mercy in the Philippines. The situation has been dire – extreme poverty coupled with lockdown, people not being able to work and having virtually no way to buy food or pay bills.

It has been one of the most trying and tough seasons in all of Hands of Mercy's history. As of the time of writing (April 2021), the Philippines is still in lockdown. It will be a while yet before they get large enough stocks of the vaccine to vaccinate their population of 109 million and start to move forward.

To make matters worse, the Philippines was hit with typhoons last year which has led to an increase in food prices in 2021. Your prayers are very much needed for this struggling country.

But yet despite the huge challenges, we have seen God's incredible faithfulness. We have been blown away by the generous and sacrificial giving of our supporters, including you at St. Thomas', to help support Hands of Mercy. This meant that we were able to send out extra money for food for a whole year during their lockdown, meaning that thousands of people were able to eat during the pandemic.

We have been so blessed by the St. Thomas' virtual concerts on behalf of Hands of Mercy which have raised funds and awareness (thanks in particular go to John Alexander who ably hosted these!)

In other news, we were really pleased that Linda Clitheroe started as the Hands of Mercy administrator in July 2020, taking over from Fran Gunn who was retiring. It wasn't easy doing a handover during the middle of a pandemic! But Linda has settled in well and we are blessed to have her on board.

Thank you to everyone of you at St. Thomas' who has given, prayed or supported Hands of Mercy in any way, especially during this Covid pandemic – we wouldn't be here today without your support.

God bless you and salamat! ('thank you' in Tagalog!)



Emergency food parcel that has been vital during the pandemic to feed families and children

Samantha Graham and the UK Trustees

Care Team

The Care Team have not been able to meet this past year, but we have kept in touch with each other.

David Newbound

Pastoral Care Report

So often over the last 14 months the people I have been in contact with each day have conveyed to me that their hearts have been really troubled. They have struggled increasingly: physically, spiritually, emotionally and mentally. Many have been troubled by so many different kinds of losses which, to many, have been like a grief that they have lived with in varying degrees on a day to day basis. Compounded by the loss of physically seeing family and close friends. Loss of going out if they have been shielding. Death of a loved one, friend, neighbour, colleague. Difficulty in getting through to GP. Cancelled Hospital appointments etc. Loss of employment. Not to mention the closing of churches. All these things, and more, came about so quickly as lockdown was implemented. It has been, and remains, difficult for people.

Again and again through lockdown we have had to discover new ways of being a church and ministering to those in our care, whilst still complying with government guidelines but also with diocesan recommendations. Time and time again I have been drawn to, and used in conversations and prayers with people, these words from John's Gospel, which came directly from Jesus to his disciples : *At a time of uncertainty and change. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and also in me. (John 14:1).* These words powerfully moved me and enabled me to support others. They convey such tenderness and love. They comfort, encourage, enable us all. For God and his Son, who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, will see us through. They also encourage us to not only stand firm but to grow and step out in faith.

I have also had to discover new and fresh ways to walk with, and alongside, others. I have not done this alone. I have been supported prayerfully and practically. Yet what I will hold onto is this - a deep gratitude for people continuing to open up, share deeply, for their generosity and kindness, for welcoming me and inviting me to deepen existing friendship and make some new ones. For this I will remain and continue to be humbled and will be eternally grateful.

As a church we have sent out across the Parish 200 Christmas and Easter Cards, and hand delivered 150 Palm Crosses with a prayer. We have supplied chocolate eggs in church on Easter Sunday, which for some was the only Easter egg they had this year. On Mothering Sunday we gave laminated cards of daffodils. Now as we come out of lockdown let us continue to support and encourage each other. Finally I would say huge thank you to everyone who has continued quietly to help and support others.

Thank you for the privilege of journeying with you. God bless David.

David Newbound
Director of Pastoral Care

Parish Nurse

The Parish Nurse service has been working through the pandemic, I have largely been working through with video calls and phone calls, sharing on line support. We have managed to secure a few grants through Lockdown which will help with things like Parish Nurse notice board for advertising events, and other media equipment to help with other on line support which we will be working on while we still have restrictions but it means we can still give valuable support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Steve Dolby for tirelessly working to secure various grants which are essential in my ministry.

As you know we normally have a symposium in March, this year it is still going on but via zoom which will be very different but also informative. I will share those days with you when I have completed them. Many thanks for your on going support from David the vicar, Deborah Bachini, the PCC, Steve Dolby, Neil Rolls and as ever my husband the Director of pastoral care and all those in the church family and wider community. God bless you all in our year ahead.

Debbie Newbound

Social and Fundraising Team

What a challenging year this has been, our last social event was all the way back in February 2020. We have all missed the opportunity to get together with several events that were planned over the year having been cancelled or postponed.

Over the coming months as restrictions lift and we start to be able to see each other again safely we will look at what options there are for social events to re-commence.

At this time we have no set plans, safety will of course be our first priority and no events will be planned until we can be confident that it is safe for them to go ahead, once we do start planning events we will review to see what events people are interested in and try to make sure we are meeting together in a way that everyone can both enjoy and feel able to attend.

Sara, Ruth and the Social Team

Lunch Club

Lunch Club has been unable to meet this last year.

Men's Breakfasts

Due to various lockdowns, restrictions on meeting in public venues and other constraints, men's breakfasts didn't take place this year but, again, it is hoped that this regular activity

will re-commence at some point in the new year. It involves a group of men who meet approximately once a term on a Saturday morning in a pub or café to enjoy a hearty breakfast, good company and a brief but, hopefully stimulating, 'God' slot. Men of all ages are very welcome and are under no obligation to 'sign-up' to a long term commitment. The general chat has always been lively and has proved to be a very good way to start the weekend: it is usually over by 10am leaving the rest of the day clear. When we start up again there will be ample notice given in the weekly newsletter so keep your eyes peeled as they say. As an offshoot, we are starting a men only church WhatsApp group which should be up and running which any man is welcome to join. Again, watch this space.

Ian Marshall

St Thomas' Volunteers Group

We are a group of 8 ladies and 2 gentlemen who run the Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of every month. At the Coffee Mornings, as well as refreshments, we have a raffle, a cake stall, a book stall, DVD stall and a stall with bric-a-brac and various other items. We are happy to help on other occasions when asked.

The Coffee Mornings are very popular and well attended but sadly we could only hold three Coffee Mornings in 2020, in January, February and March, and only managed to raise £405 for the church. Then, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the churches were shut down and everywhere went into Lockdown. During the rest of 2020 we were no longer able to meet together and so were unable to hold any more Coffee Mornings especially our Annual Charity Coffee Morning in May which would have been for the Children's Society.

We usually meet in the Church Hall on the third Wednesday of the month between 11.00am and 12 noon for discussion and hope that one day, in the not too distant future, we will be able to meet together again.

Georgina Cook

Stewardship Report

The year 2020 is a year most people wish to forget and look forward to a brighter 2021. It has been a year of furloughs, job losses and bereavements.

With this difficult situation, which has affected all of us in some way, I wish to thank everyone who has faithfully been committed to supporting our Church this financial year (2020). As you can appreciate, with increased running costs year on year, regular stewardship giving and donations are more important than ever.

However, stewardship is not only about money, it is also about giving time and practical help to St. Thomas's Church. In terms of giving your time and practical help there is a need for cleaners, Sunday Club helpers, litter pickers and people to carry out odd jobs, etc. The list is endless. However, with the easing of "lockdown" and, consequently, the eventual re-opening of our church (with social distancing, etc) the cleaning of the building, particularly after services, is of paramount importance. If you are in a position to help please talk to the Churchwarden or the Parish Administrator at the Parish Office.

As at 31st. December, 2020 the membership of the Scheme was 75. (couples counted as one). A net reduction of 3 from the previous year.

Finally, I would ask that you take this opportunity to pray and reflect on your giving. If you would like to join the Stewardship Scheme and make regular donations please ask me, the Treasurer or the Churchwarden for details.

Leslie Sims

Stewardship Secretary

Administrators report

Last year I wrote "The office is seldom quiet", but this year sadly has been a very different story. From the end of March 2020 I have mainly been working from home, only going into the church office once a week to empty the postbox, run the water and make sure everything is safe and secure. I have become involved in ringing some parishioners for a chat, and this has been a pleasure, so many lovely chats – thank you! In July 2020 we began the mammoth task of cleaning the whole building and freshening it up so that we could re-open for services. Also much work was done to purchase appropriate cleaning materials and set in place safety measures for socially distanced worship. Thanks to David, Debbie and Jan for their help with that. All the usual mundane office jobs have had to continue, things like servicing alarms and heaters, putting out the wheelie bins etc and this has all helped to add some sense of normality to my life!

My thanks to David A, Linda, Ian M, David, Debbie, John and Neil who have all continued to support and guide me throughout the year. I'm looking forward to being back in the office every morning again, as soon as it is possible to do so safely.

Deborah Bachini

Church Flowers Report

As the church has not been open for services on a regular basis we have not had flowers in church for over a year.

Linda Clitheroe

Deanery Synod Report

The deanery synod met five times during 2020 but only the February meeting was held "live". At this meeting we had a presentation on the issue of modern-day slavery and the Clewer initiative (a national campaign to raise awareness of this issue) which made us aware of the reality of modern-day slavery in context such as car washes. At our June meeting we had a presentation from the then Director of Training Tim Bull on Clergy Wellbeing.

Online forums for finance and churchwarden training at deanery level have been delivered. Measures for the pastoral reorganisation affecting St Matthews and Holy Trinity Biscot were

begun.

Revd Joe Pienaar and Revd Nick Grew left the deanery along with the curates in training Revd Jess McLaren and Revd Sarah Hancock.

Steve Dolby

Comments and Questions for the AGM or PCC or Vicar.

(please either raise at the meeting, or send to the Church Office)

Any Comment:

Any Question:

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of
St Thomas' Church, Stopsley, Luton**

1

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 2 to 7 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the regulations") and under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC and the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the 2011 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 under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance on PCC Accountability, The Charities Act 2011 and the PCC, 5 th edition 2017. 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 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 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 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:



Date:

11 June 2021

Howard Ashmore
Godfrey Laws & Co. Ltd
Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors
69 Knowl Piece
Wilbury Way
HITCHIN
Hertfordshire
SG4 0TY

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st December 2020

Incoming Resources (all unrestricted)			As restated
	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
Incoming resources from donations and legacies	2(a)	117,256	94,443
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	6,076	12,515
Income from charitable & ancillary trading	2(c)	640	1,425
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	4,297	3,467
Total Non-Designated Incoming resources		<u>128,269</u>	<u>111,850</u>
 Resources Used			
Grants	3(a)	11,470	(20)
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	93,322	105,794
Publicity, Church management & admin.	3(c)	1,043	4,450
		<u>105,835</u>	<u>110,224</u>
 Net Annual Surplus / (Deficit)		 <u>22,434</u>	 <u>1,626</u>

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed Assets	4	<u>1,407</u>	<u>2,761</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	2,996	7,084
Bank Accounts		57,149	31,650
Cash		119	-
		<u>60,264</u>	<u>38,734</u>
Liabilities: Amounts due within one year	6	<u>6,411</u>	<u>8,669</u>
Net current assets		53,853	30,065
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>55,260</u>	<u>32,826</u>
Funds			
General Account	7	0	496
Legacy Funds	8	54,185	31,255
Youth Project		1,075	1,075
		<u>55,260</u>	<u>32,826</u>

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 7 for the year ended 31 December 2020

Signed:

Neil Rolls

Date: 23rd May 2021

Treasurer: Neil Rolls

APPROVED by the Church Meeting held on 23rd May 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed:

David Alexander

Reverend David Alexander (Chairman)

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

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

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

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

Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due,

Income from investments

Interest is accounted for when received.

Resources Used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property.

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2020

Equipment

Office Equipment and sound equipment is depreciated on the straight line basis at a rate of 33.3% per annum.

Churchyard Maintenance Equipment is depreciated on the reducing balance basis at a rate of 30% per annum.

Individual items of Equipment with a purchase price of £250 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

2. Incoming resources (all unrestricted)

	Note	2020 £	As restated 2019 £
2(a) Incoming from donors			
Planned Giving		44,705	56,578
Gift Day		0	3,607
Income Tax recoverable		9,640	13,511
Collections (open plate) at all Services		938	3,958
Collections (credit card) at all Services		51	1,189
Legacies		61,921	15,600
		<u>117,256</u>	<u>94,443</u>

A prior year adjustment has been made in respect of income from legacies, last year (2019) these were recorded in a note to the accounts rather than as incoming resources the figures have now been restated.

2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources

Coffee mornings, Lunches & Teas	476	1,876
Hire of and Donations for use of hall	525	1,288
Social Events	0	2,777
Miscellaneous Donations & Receipts	4,096	4,837
Parish Nursing Donations & Receipts	980	1,737
	<u>6,076</u>	<u>12,515</u>

2(c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading

Magazine Subscriptions	510	887
Magazine Adverts	130	538
	<u>640</u>	<u>1,425</u>

2(d) Other ordinary income resources

Wedding and funeral fees & receipts	<u>4,297</u>	<u>3,467</u>
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St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
3 Resources Used		
3(a) Grants to Charities		
World Relief	4,774	0
World Mission	145	0
UK Social Concern/Relief	4,841	0
UK Church Mission	1,710	(20)
	<u>11,470</u>	<u>(20)</u>
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
Ministry: Parish Share	63,806	67,374
Clergy Expenses	3,293	4,616
Pastoral Worker	4,680	4,680
Pastoral Discretionary Expenditure	268	791
Church Office Wages	6,460	7,752
Church: Running Expenses	5,213	7,315
Routine Maintenance	2,939	2,448
Major Repairs	0	3,188
Service Costs	2,205	1,071
Parish Nursing	980	1,208
Depreciation	1,354	1,049
Telephone Charges	1,855	1,569
Miscellaneous	270	2,732
	<u>93,322</u>	<u>105,794</u>
3(c) Publicity, Church Management & Administration		
Stationery & printing (incl. magazine)	845	3,863
Independent Examiner's fee	120	120
Miscellaneous	78	467
	<u>1,043</u>	<u>4,450</u>

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2020

4. Fixed Assets

	Sound Equipment	Office Equipment	Churchyard Equipment	Total
Cost/Valuation				
At 1 January 2020	10,233	5,600	1,540	17,373
Additions during year	0	0	0	0
At 31 December 2020	10,233	5,600	1,540	17,373
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2020	10,233	2,839	1,540	14,612
Charge for year	0	1,354	0	1,354
At 1 January 2020	10,233	4,193	1,540	15,966
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2020	0	1,407	0	1,407
At 31 December 2019	0	2,761	0	2,761

5. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Income Tax recoverable	2,996	7,024
Other Debtors	0	60
	<u>2,996</u>	<u>7,084</u>

6. Liabilities: Amounts due within one year

Donations	330	660
Other Creditors & Accruals	6,081	8,009
	<u>6,411</u>	<u>8,669</u>

7. Funds

	General Account	Legacy Funds (Unrestricted)	Youth Project	Total
At 1 January 2020	496	31,255	1,075	32,826
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(496)	22,930	0	22,434
At 31 December 2020	0	54,185	1,075	55,260

8. Legacy Funds

	2020 £	2019 £
B Cox	53,685	600
B Harris	0	10,000
Bryan Sexton	0	5,000
Daphnie Elsie Ward	500	0
Francis Estdale	0	2,280
J L Kingham	0	10,000
James Dyer	0	1,000
John Shaw for Church Maintenance	0	875
Toyer	0	1,000
Waters	0	500
	<u>54,185</u>	<u>31,255</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of
St Thomas' Church, Stopsley, Luton**

1

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 2 to 7 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the regulations") and under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As members of the PCC and the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the 2011 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 under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance on PCC Accountability, The Charities Act 2011 and the PCC, 5 th edition 2017. 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 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 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 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:



Date:

11 June 2021

Howard Ashmore
Godfrey Laws & Co. Ltd
Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors
69 Knowl Piece
Wilbury Way
HITCHIN
Hertfordshire
SG4 0TY