

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



Annual Reports For Annual Church Meeting 2023

Welcome!

Welcome to our Reports for the Annual Church Meeting 2023. It is wonderful to have you as part of our Church Family, and thank you for reading through these reports and (hopefully) attending our ACM this year. If you have any queries or comments please raise them at the meeting, or mention them privately, if you prefer, to me or one of the Church Council (PCC) members.

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.

Welcome, indeed.

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).

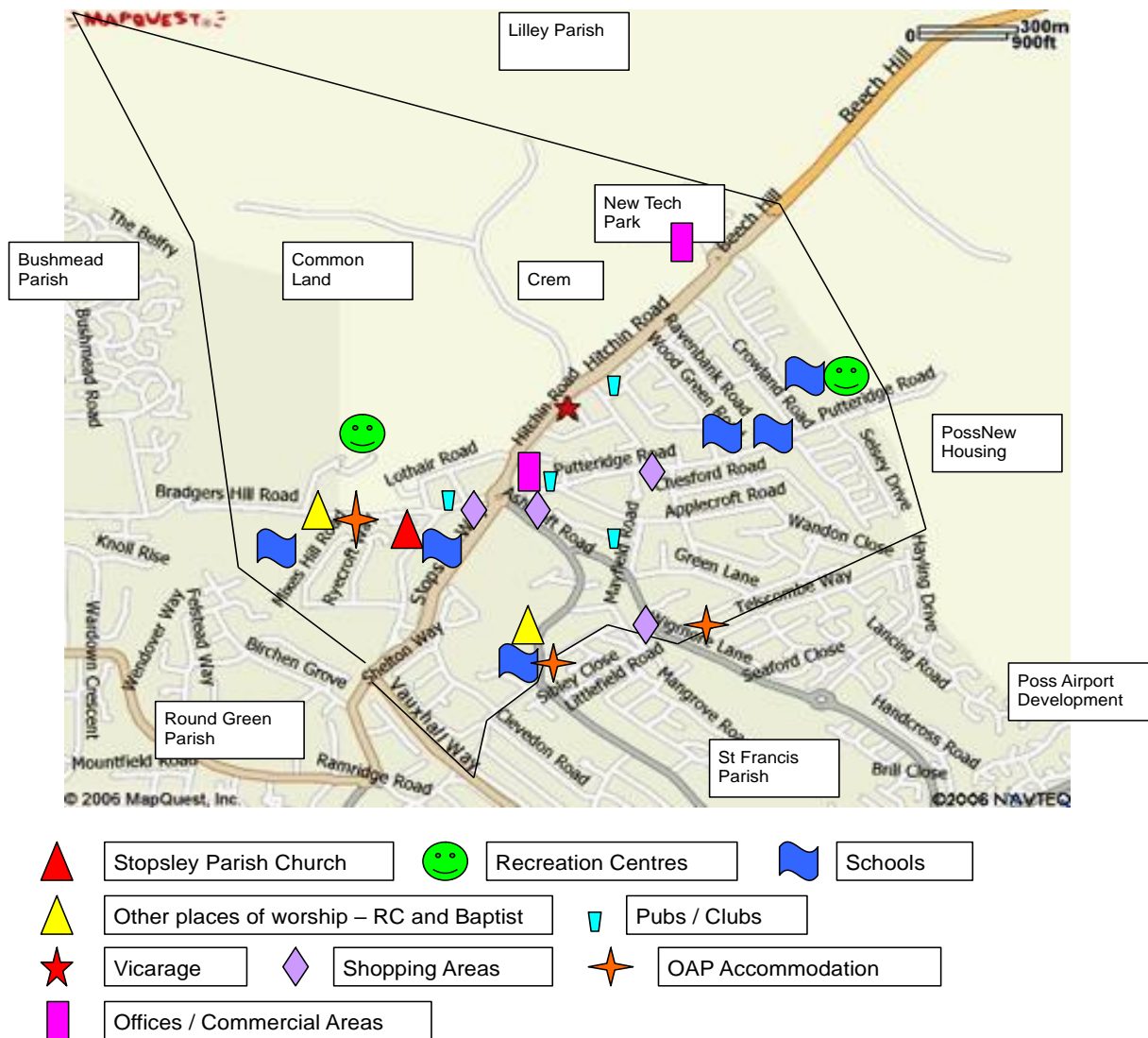
Location : North East area of Luton, at the boundary with Herts. The parish includes the wards of Stopsley and Putteridge. The busy A505 from Luton to Hitchin runs through the parish and separates the church geographically from much of the rest of the parish.

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.

In the early 1990's 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 2022 (Prepared for AGM 2023)
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 2022 (after the 2022 AGM) the following served as members of the P. C. C:

Ex-officio Members

1. David Alexander (Vicar, Chairman)

Churchwardens - Vacant

., and

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	Linda Clitheroe	2021	2yr	2023
2	Ian Marshall	2021	2yr	2023
3	Charlotte Zhivago	2021	2yr	2023
4	Louise Winter	2021	2yr	2023
5	John Alexander	2021	3yr	2024
6	Deborah Bachini	2021	3yr	2024
7	David Newbound	2021	3yr	2024
8	Neil Rolls	2021	3yr	2024
9	Rosemary Stipta	2022	3yr	2025
10	Vacant	2022	3yr	2025
11	Vacant	2022	3yr	2025
12	Vacant	2022	3yr	2025

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

1 Christine Younger	2020	3yr	2023
2 Steve Dolby	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 2022

PCC Members: Julie Bailey, John Kingham, Stewart Leary, Stella Marshall

Deanery Synod Members : Continue in office till 2023

Elections at 2023 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.

Linda Clitheroe *
Ian Marshall
Charlotte Zhivago
Louise Winter

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

We are also grateful for those who have represented us on the Deanery Synod. They, or others are eligible to stand again.

Christine Younger
Steve Dolby

There will be elections for the following positions:

4 PCC member(s)	to serve for 3 years to 2026
3 PCC member(s)	to serve for 2 years to 2025
0 PCC member(s)	to serve for 1 year to 2024
3 Deanery Synod member(s)	to serve to 2026

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.

Electoral Roll

There are 126 parishioners now on the Church Electoral Roll. This represents a change of minus 8 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

This past year continues to be, like the previous two, very different from the normal life of our church. 2022 saw a gradual opening up of services and activities, but really we still have some way to go yet. 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, helped in ringing members of the church to offer support. At services we continued to be very careful to keep one another safe.

We have continued to livestream 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. We also livestream all our services from the church building. We are grateful to all who have made this possible, especially John Pinnock and Rosemary Stipta. 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 could in our local community, during this time of challenge. Thank you for all the ways in which each person has contributed to this.

During the year we celebrated our 160th birthday as a parish. We are grateful for God's faithfulness in the past, and the present and 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

At the moment we do not have an elected Church Warden.

Administrators report

The Parish Office has had another busy year. It's been good to see the back of working at home and to be in the office properly, seeing the church being used again for weekly services, baptisms, funerals and weddings, for clubs and groups. The office has returned to being the front line for many people contacting the church for the first time, for dropping off and picking up and many other reasons. We try to give a warm welcome and to be accessible. The work is varied, interesting and enjoyable.

My thanks go to the many volunteers helping to keep the church clean and tidy and running smoothly; a small team of people are giving help with cleaning, IT, flower arranging, silver cleaning, food bank collections, shopping, tea making and many other behind the scenes jobs. It is all much appreciated, and if anyone has an hour or two to assist please do contact me in the office for details.

Deborah Bachini

Church Flowers Report

We have done a mix of silk and real flower arrangements again this year. We have used good quality, realistic silk flowers so that they do not need attention, ie regular watering and arranging. The reason for this is that we are still looking for extra helpers to do flower arranging and also due to the cost of real flowers.

I would like to thank Ian, Mary and Christine for their help at Easter, also to Emily, Ronnie, Ryley and Victoria for making the Easter Garden.

If anyone would like to have a go at flower arrangements, I would be happy to give tips and advice. Please ask. Thank you

Linda Clitheroe

Deanery Synod Report

The Luton Deanery Synod met four times in 2022. In February we had a presentation from Rachel Johnson the Diocesan Environmental Officer. Rachel gave a detailed presentation as all parishes are encouraged to join with the national and diocesan Church of England targets of reaching net zero by 2030. The emphasis is on the management of church buildings, church land and local community participation.

At our June meeting we considered Mission and ways we could collaborate more effectively. The members reflected on 3 things that we would like to do that we are not already doing. After a short presentation of these, we were encouraged to speak to others with similar ideas so that we could share and support one another.

In October we had an informative presentation by Jessica Rowlands on the Luton community chaplaincy and heard about their plans to deliver more locally focussed chaplaincy in different neighbourhoods of the town.

The November meeting included a presentation from Rev Jairo Nyaongo on the work of the diocesan racial Justice group and an invitation for parishes to take part in a survey on attitudes to those of different racial backgrounds.

During the year, the governance of Wenlock School was passed over to the diocesan Multi Academy Trust. The ethos of the school remains Christian, but it will be managed by different means. A new local governing body will also be appointed. A group that had been constituted to look at the structure of the Luton deanery met twice and an assessment was begun of the strengths and needs of our parishes.

A big thankyou to all those who represent our parishes on deanery Synod. Elections for members of Synod take place at this year's APCM and it would be good to have a full take up of places for this triennium.

David Kesterton Area Dean

With thanks to David Kesterton for sharing his report above.

Steve Dolby

Care Team

The Care Team continues to meet regularly once a month, to prayerfully and practically support the church and wider community. I am grateful for the faithfulness of the members of the care team, who are a great support to both myself and Debbie, the Parish Nurse, and vicar David. Also to our community as a whole, as they practically work as members of the body of Christ in this place.

David Newbound

Hands of Mercy



2022 marked the 25th anniversary of Hands of Mercy. What an incredible milestone! 25 years ago, the work started when one street child met David Gunn and took him to her family living in Florante Street, one of the squatter communities in Manila. David galvanised support to help their situation and Hands of Mercy was born. The contact quickly developed into reaching a whole community and over the years has spread to nine communities, impacting many thousands of lives.

The prayers, support and gifts of supporters from St. Thomas' has been invaluable. In 2022, 50 families were sponsored through the Family Support Programme, 200 children were fed through the Supplementary Feeding Programme (9,600 meals) and 217 children and teenagers were helped with their education through the Child Sponsorship Programme. Your faithful support and prayers helped to make this possible – on behalf of everyone in the Philippines, THANK YOU!

There are some challenges ahead as we face 2023 – food prices have risen considerably and pesos (the Filipino currency) don't go as far as they used to. This is a global issue but sadly, price rises affect those living in poverty the most. If you feel motivated or prompted to help further – either through sponsoring a child or family or helping wherever it's needed the most – we would love to hear from you. Please get in contact with the Hands of Mercy UK office – info@handsofmercyph.org or call Denise, our administrator, on 07467 127023.

Thank you again for being part of the Hands of Mercy story and we look forward to the next 25 years and beyond!

God bless you,

Samantha Graham, Chair, and the UK Trustees, Hands of Mercy International



Samantha Graham, Chair, and the UK Trustees, Hands of Mercy International

Home Group

Our home group meets weekly on Thursday evenings in the comfort of our lounge. Usually, there are 7 or 8 of us and we have been meeting regularly now for a number of years apart from when we had to pause the meetings to comply with lockdown regulations.

The objectives of our home group are to try and get to know God better and to try to learn more about his plans for us all, both as individuals and as a community, through studying the bible, praying and learning from each other; to grow closer together in friendship and trust and to support each other through the ups and downs of life.

When studying the bible we, during one term followed the Sunday sermon series, during another we looked at various short books alternating weekly between the Old and the New Testament. We decide together what we would like to look at. However we are not always as studious as this sounds, we have many laughs and definitely value each others' friendships and respect each others' opinions. We ensure that we have at least one meeting a term that is a social, when we share a meal together.

If anyone would like to know more then please do not hesitate to talk with either Ruth, me or any member of the group, or come and join us for a couple of weeks. You would be very welcome, – no commitment necessary.

Ian Marshall

Lunch Club

I am delighted that this year we have been able to resume the Lent lunches. I am also very grateful to Maggie and her daughter Kerri and to Jean, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make these little lunches the success they are. All money raised this year will be going to the Turkish and Syrian people after the recent earthquake.

God bless

David Newbound

Parish Nurse

My Parish Nurse role has been in operation now for 4 years and is going from strength to strength, thanks be to God

I have an Alzheimers group that runs every 3rd Wednesday (see news letter for details). Also a twins group which runs every month and just recently I have started the St Thomas Parish Nurse cancer support group for those suffering from cancer and those supporting them. This group is supported by Macmillian in which a grant was given, this group happens on the last Friday of the month, see The Messenger for details

Mr Steve Dolby has been paramount in obtaining grants for my ministry which is paramount to its continuation.

My plan for the future is that in Jan 2024 I will begin full time parish nurse ministry at the church with much more plans for wellbeing and health promotion. My wellbeing coffee morning has been a great success with 40 plus people attending.

I would like to thank my husband David (Director of Pastoral Care) for his ongoing love and support, to Steve Dolby for his continued hard work as my fundraiser and accessing Grants etc and generally supporting all I do. Also Deborah and Neil for their ongoing support.

And last but not least David and Jane for prayers support and love and the love of the St Thomas's church family

I am available at the moment for one to one appointments and chats on a Wednesday 10am to 4pm, please contact me and during my wellbeing coffee morning I am available for personal chats and blood pressure checks also

Many thanks for your ongoing support and look forward to ongoing service with you

Debbie Newbound

Pastoral Care Report

Over the last 12 months, I've had the privilege to accompany people from the church community and the wider community in their personal journeys, to listen to their stories, to share their hopes and fears, to walk with them in their daily lives. For all that has been given, and for all that has been received, thank you, but above all thanks and praise to God. Much of these interactions and conversations take place quietly and remain hidden. But what a privilege it is to share in your stories, your hopes and your heart aches, and to accompany you on your spiritual and life journeys. May God bless us all. David.

David Newbound
Director of Pastoral Care

Safeguarding

Judi Kingham has decided to stand down from the Team after many years service. Hopefully we will be able to announce a successor for Judi at the AGM.

The safeguarding team manage the applications for DBS police checks for anyone who works with children or vulnerable adults in the church. We also try to ensure that the church is a safe place. The Church safeguarding policy complies to the guidelines laid down by St Albans Diocese and Church of England.

Linda Clitheroe
Safeguarding Officer

Stewardship Report

The year 2022 is another year most people wish to forget. It has been a year of an increase in the cost of living, strikes, working from home, 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 (2022).

As at 31st. December, 2022 the membership of the Scheme was 62. (couples count as one). A net reduction of 4 from the previous year.

As you can appreciate, with increased running costs year on year, regular stewardship giving and donations are more important than ever. This is because St. Thomas's costs exceed its income for the fourth year in succession. Legacy monies, which should be put aside to maintain the fabric of the Church are being used to make up the deficit,

However, stewardship is not only about money, it is also about giving time and practical help to St. Thomas's Church. There is always a need for Sunday Club helpers, refreshment volunteers, and also cleaners, litter pickers and people to carry out odd jobs, etc. The list is endless. If you are in a position to help, please talk to the Administrator in the Parish Office.

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 Parish Administrator for details.

Leslie Sims - Stewardship Secretary

Sunday Club Review



Our first full year back to 'normality' and what a wonderful year it has been. We have a lovely group of regular children now and often visiting children with often more than 10 who all enjoy activities during our Sunday morning service.



Throughout the year we have met each week and looked at both the New and Old Testament. On the first Sunday of each month, we have joined the 'grown ups' in church for the all age service and the rest of the month we have met in the hall we growing in our journey with Jesus and God through prayer, discussions, activities, games, stories and crafts.

As well as our regular meeting we have had some wonderful events, our Easter party was a great success, we shared a picnic in the park with friends, family and our church family as a whole where the children competed in the crazy golf and enjoyed the scavenger hunt. We won the judges prize in the Stopsley scarecrow festival, the Christmas market and the children shared our wonderful nativity in church in December and finished off the year with the epiphany party.



As a team we feel we are in a positive place, we have support from helpers who join us for a session or 2 a term and are invaluable to the success of Sunday club and imperative to us being able to continue.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite any members of the congregation to come in and see what we do, lend a hand and possibly join our team of helpers.



Looking forwards we are hoping for more outings, more parties, more activities and more fun enjoying our spiritual journey together.

In partnership with Stopsley Baptist Church around 100 people, including our Sunday Club members and Parishioners, attended a Light Party on 31st October, which was held at Haverings. The children enjoyed games, crafts, food and a bonfire and much fun was had by all. Thanks to Angela, Richard and Jo White for all their work for the event.

Sara Hillyard

Treasurer's Annual Report Year ended 31st December 2022

Once again this has been a challenging financial year for our Church. While our total income excluding legacies increased by 10% from 2021, total expenditure also increased by 5%, mainly due to increased services following the lifting of Covid restrictions

We were very fortunate to have received a large Legacy from the Estate of Jim Gabriel which has enabled us to continue our activities at a similar level to past years without having to make some very difficult financial decisions. In the absence of this legacy, we would have reported a deficit of £30,126 which is obviously not sustainable.

I am sure that 2023 will again be a challenging year. The Parish Share has further increased by £1,038 to £63,268 and with the age of the building it is unlikely that we will not incur some level of expenditure to maintain it in a good condition. We also will be exposed to the full impact of increased electric and gas prices as our existing contracts expire.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to the people who help with the handling of the Church Cash and Accounting:

Deborah Bachini who helps count and record the Collections at each Service;

Les Sims who deals with the envelope giving and gift aid return; and

Sarah Vyvyan who has operated the Church PAYE scheme.

We are also very appreciative of Natasha Wilcox, who at extremely short notice carried out the Independent Examination of our 2022 Accounts.

Neil Rolls

(Hon. Treasurer St Thomas' PCC)

15 May 2023

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

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 7 is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) do not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed: 

Date: 21 May 2023

Natasha Wilcox
1 Furze Close
Luton
LU2 7UB

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st December 2022

Incoming Resources (all unrestricted)

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	220,294	71,538
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	9,974	3,507
Income from charitable & ancillary trading	2(c)	191	40
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	2,822	3,509
Total Non-Designated Incoming resources		<u>233,281</u>	<u>78,595</u>

Resources Used

Grants	3(a)	1,774	826
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	98,178	95,631
Publicity, Church management & admin.	3(c)	1,632	456
		<u>101,584</u>	<u>96,913</u>

Net Annual Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>131,697</u>	<u>(18,318)</u>
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St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets	4	<u>1,477</u>	<u>1,253</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	4,223	3,511
Bank Accounts		171,587	42,826
Cash		23	47
		<u>175,833</u>	<u>46,384</u>
Liabilities: Amounts due within one year	6	<u>8,672</u>	<u>10,696</u>
Net current assets		167,161	35,688
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>168,638</u>	<u>36,941</u>
Funds			
General Account	7	0	0
Legacy Funds	8	167,563	35,866
Youth Project		1,075	1,075
		<u>168,638</u>	<u>36,941</u>

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 2 to 7 for the year ended 31 December 2022

Signed :



Treasurer : Neil Rolls

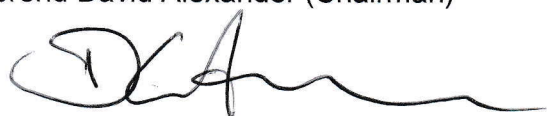
Date: 21 May 2023

APPROVED by the Church Meeting held on 21 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed :

Reverend David Alexander (Chairman)

Date: 21 May 2023



St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2022

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 2022

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	2022 £	2021 £
2(a) Incoming from donors			
Planned Giving		43,562	46,005
Gift Day		2,355	0
Income Tax recoverable		9,418	10,031
Collections (open plate) at all Services		2,668	1,580
Collections (credit card) at all Services		468	109
Legacies		161,823	13,813
		<u>220,294</u>	<u>71,538</u>
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources			
Coffee mornings, Lunches & Teas		699	15
Hire of and Donations for use of hall		1,100	720
Social Events		1,285	0
Miscellaneous Donations & Receipts		3,004	1,366
Parish Nursing Donations & Receipts		3,886	1,406
		<u>9,974</u>	<u>3,507</u>
2(c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading			
Magazine Subscriptions		191	40
Magazine Adverts		0	0
		<u>191</u>	<u>40</u>
2(d) Other ordinary income resources			
Wedding and funeral fees & receipts		<u>2,822</u>	<u>3,509</u>

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
3 Resources Used		
3(a) Grants to Charities		
World Relief	1,042	10
World Mission	0	0
UK Social Concern/Relief	192	16
UK Church Mission	540	800
	<u>1,774</u>	<u>826</u>
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
Ministry: Parish Share	62,268	62,469
Clergy Expenses	3,724	3,639
Pastoral Worker	4,914	4,680
Pastoral Discretionary Expenditure	0	0
Church Office Wages	8,139	6,783
Church: Running Expenses	7,067	7,474
Routine Maintenance	4,516	2,163
Major Repairs	0	2,400
Service Costs	2,491	1,766
Parish Nursing	1,985	1,023
Depreciation	798	1,198
Telephone Charges	1,530	1,824
Miscellaneous	746	212
	<u>98,178</u>	<u>95,631</u>
3(c) Publicity, Church Management & Administration		
Stationery & printing (incl. magazine)	1,462	1,006
Independent Examiner's fee	120	(600)
Miscellaneous	50	50
	<u>1,632</u>	<u>456</u>

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2022

4. Fixed Assets

	Sound Equipment	Office Equipment	Churchyard Equipment	Total
Cost/Valuation				
At 1 January 2022	10,233	6,644	1,540	18,417
Additions during year	0	1,022	0	1,022
Disposals	0	0	(1,540)	(1,540)
At 31 December 2022	10,233	7,666	0	17,899
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	10,233	5,391	1,540	17,164
Charge for year	0	798	0	798
Disposals	0	0	(1,540)	(1,540)
At 31 December 2022	10,233	6,189	0	16,422
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2022	0	1,477	0	1,477
At 31 December 2021	0	1,253	0	1,253

5. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Income Tax recoverable	3,958	3,246
Other Debtors	265	265
	<u>4,223</u>	<u>3,511</u>

6. Liabilities: Amounts due within one year

Donations	990	660
Other Creditors & Accruals	7,682	10,036
	<u>8,672</u>	<u>10,696</u>

7. Funds

	General Account	Legacy Funds (Unrestricted)	Youth Project	Total
At 1 January 2022	0	35,866	1,075	36,941
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	0	131,697	0	131,697
At 31 December 2022	<u>0</u>	<u>167,563</u>	<u>1,075</u>	<u>168,638</u>

8. Legacy Funds

	2022 £	2021 £
B Cox	0	22,079
John McBeath	0	5,000
Josie Cumberland	5,740	8,787
Jim Gabriel	161,823	0
	<u>167,563</u>	<u>35,866</u>

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

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 7 is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) do not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed: 

Date: 21 May 2023

Natasha Wilcox
1 Furze Close
Luton
LU2 7UB

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st December 2022

Incoming Resources (all unrestricted)

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	220,294	71,538
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	9,974	3,507
Income from charitable & ancillary trading	2(c)	191	40
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	2,822	3,509
Total Non-Designated Incoming resources		<u>233,281</u>	<u>78,595</u>

Resources Used

Grants	3(a)	1,774	826
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	98,178	95,631
Publicity, Church management & admin.	3(c)	1,632	456
		<u>101,584</u>	<u>96,913</u>

Net Annual Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>131,697</u>	<u>(18,318)</u>
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St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets	4	<u>1,477</u>	<u>1,253</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	4,223	3,511
Bank Accounts		171,587	42,826
Cash		23	47
		<u>175,833</u>	<u>46,384</u>
Liabilities: Amounts due within one year	6	<u>8,672</u>	<u>10,696</u>
Net current assets		167,161	35,688
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>168,638</u>	<u>36,941</u>
Funds			
General Account	7	0	0
Legacy Funds	8	167,563	35,866
Youth Project		1,075	1,075
		<u>168,638</u>	<u>36,941</u>

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 2 to 7 for the year ended 31 December 2022

Signed :



Treasurer : Neil Rolls

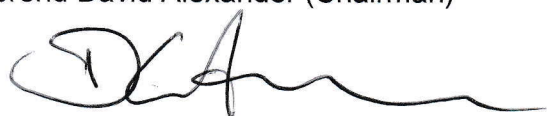
Date: 21 May 2023

APPROVED by the Church Meeting held on 21 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed :

Reverend David Alexander (Chairman)

Date: 21 May 2023



St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2022

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 2022

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	2022 £	2021 £
2(a) Incoming from donors			
Planned Giving		43,562	46,005
Gift Day		2,355	0
Income Tax recoverable		9,418	10,031
Collections (open plate) at all Services		2,668	1,580
Collections (credit card) at all Services		468	109
Legacies		161,823	13,813
		<u>220,294</u>	<u>71,538</u>
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources			
Coffee mornings, Lunches & Teas		699	15
Hire of and Donations for use of hall		1,100	720
Social Events		1,285	0
Miscellaneous Donations & Receipts		3,004	1,366
Parish Nursing Donations & Receipts		3,886	1,406
		<u>9,974</u>	<u>3,507</u>
2(c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading			
Magazine Subscriptions		191	40
Magazine Adverts		0	0
		<u>191</u>	<u>40</u>
2(d) Other ordinary income resources			
Wedding and funeral fees & receipts		<u>2,822</u>	<u>3,509</u>

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
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	2022	2021
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St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton

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