

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park,
London**



Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2019

Supported by



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The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2020

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Administrative Information

The incumbent is a member of the PCC ex-officio, while all other members are elected by the Annual Parish Meeting. Churchwardens are elected annually for a one-year term of office and can serve a maximum of 6 consecutive years. Deanery Synod representatives and all other PCC members are elected for a 3-year term of office. In 2020, the following have served as members of the PCC:

Ex officio members

Incumbent

Vacancy since April 2020. – Interim Priest: Pauline Nashashibi

Churchwardens

Justice Konneh (Until May 2021)

Heather Pascall

Anne Rose (Since May 2021)

Deanery Synod Representatives

Anthony Dass

Marcia Sinclair

Rowan Howard

Elected members

Anne Rose		(Until May 2021)
Briony Murray	Secretary	(Secretary since October 2020)
Cassie Dummett		(Until May 2021 – stood down to take on
Safeguarding Officer Role)		
Chris Higgins		(Until May 2021)
Cynthia Mapp		
Dorothy Newton		
Georgina Wilson		(Until May 2021)
Goodness Marcelino		
Grace Moussongela		(Co-opted until May 2021 – Re-elected May
2021 – for 2 year vacancy)		
Jim Mott		(from October 2020)
Katie Dawson		(Until May 2021)
Pat Crocker		
Sandra Hall	Treasurer	
Nina Bakirtas		(from May 2021)
Jonathan Shattock		(from May 2021)
Nicola Byrne		(from May 2021)
Jennifer McMillan		(from May 2021)

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Bankers	Lloyds TSB, Archway, London
Independent Examiner	Alex Sargent, ACA (ICAEW), Highbury, London
Quinquennial Inspector	Ablett Architects Ltd, Bromley.

Annual Report

The members of the Parochial Church Council have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the church for the year ended 31st December 2020.

About us

St Thomas is a vibrant community in the heart of Finsbury Park. We are a Church of England (Anglican) parish church. Our congregation is almost as diverse as you will find locally; from many parts of the world and from a wide range of backgrounds, regardless of age, race, or sexuality.

Our church was built as successor church to St Matthew, Friday Street, in the City and was consecrated in 1889. We are a “back-street” church with a spacious interior very sympathetic to the worship in the catholic tradition for which it was constructed.

We are committed to caring for our local area. We support many voluntary groups, as well as getting involved in neighbourhood festivals and campaigns. We believe in acting out God’s love in a lively and practical way in North London.

Children are at the heart of our congregation and are made welcome in our services. The church also hosts a playgroup. We have strong links with St John’s primary school, Highbury Vale.

Our life with one another is not just on Sundays. We hold regular discussion groups and mid-week services, and we celebrate the great Christian festivals – whenever they fall. We are good at social events, to which all are welcome.

Our mission

We are a welcoming, inclusive church in Finsbury Park, seeking to follow Jesus Christ and to live out the good news of God’s love by:

- worshipping God, and offering prayer
- exploring faith with open minds and hearts
- supporting people in their spiritual journey
- promoting peace, challenging injustice and responding to need
- sharing hospitality and celebrating community

The PCC has recently reviewed and affirmed our mission.

Vicar's Report (Interim Priest – Rev Pauline Nashashibi)

At St Thomas's in Covid Days

Coming to serve at St Thomas's during the interregnum seemed a natural thing for me to do as I had been trained there and thought I knew what was likely to be needed. In the event, when I arrived in April 2020 Covid days had begun, the building was closed and we all found out that keeping things going meant doing just about everything differently. I am very grateful for the support I have received from the church community and for the willingness of clergy and reader colleagues to come to preach and preside for St Thomas's online and in person.

The immediate challenge was to maintain worship and the life of prayer during church closure. With the help of Briony Murray, Nik Myers, now based in Ireland, the teams of readers and prayer leaders led by Chris Higgins and Jenni McMillan and my daughter's technical help at home, we were able to start a regular Service of the Word on the 19th of April. Within this, the habit of intercession has been faithfully maintained as Justice Konneh has gathered the prayers of the people week by week. This has also been an important way of keeping in touch and reflecting on the needs of the community. We added a 'Spiritual Communion' once a month – a prayer designed to help people feel God's presence in times such as these. 'Supporting people on their spiritual journey' is also part of the church's mission. The regular Bible Study has continued and there have been the Lent groups. I think it will be important to offer preparation for First Communion to children before they move onto secondary school.

Opening church on the 26th of July was the next big challenge as everyone adapted to the safety needs and we became used to receiving communion in one kind only. It has been tough but over time we have become familiar with the drill. The wardens and the risk assessment group have kept us safe. It has been very good to see attendance in church grow from around 27 – 40, with a particularly encouraging response on Easter Day when we had 65 people (of whom 4 were children) and with 38 on the Sunday following. We have to leave quickly and still miss conversation and hospitality time. We have yet to find a way to replace the after service zoom coffee.

As I look at participation, it is clear that both online and in church the main difficulty has been involving children and this is going to continue for as long the rules on keeping children in 'pods' and of safe-distancing apply. We have had a series of all-age days, online and in church with Rowan Howard's leadership and the aid of the new database which makes it easy to stay in contact with families. There has been some very good participation (for Covid days), notably on the Harvest festival, when we had 9 family bubbles and 61 attending overall. A good many children have contributed to services, online and in church, with readings, prayers, pictures and mini plays, particularly in 'The Christmas Story'. Making this happen depends on a lot of work and, even so, a look at figures shows how much

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ground there is to make up. In 2019, of a typical attendance of 100, between 25 to 40 would be children.

Dorothy Newton and the Thursday Tea at St Thomas's team and other volunteers have been keeping in touch with guests, some of whom are isolated and for whom Covid days have been very limiting. Other volunteers from the congregation have kept in touch with older members and found ways of staying in touch at a time when the open hospitality which is part of the church's mission has been restricted.

Contacts with our friends in the Finsbury Park Mosque and Muslim Welfare House have continued through the regular 'Conversations' meetings which the Reverend Stephen Coles established with local faith leaders and which I now convene. Sadly we have also been unable to share hospitality in open events as we usually do. I hope the Finsbury Park Sisters will be able to meet this summer.

A number of factors are in play during interregnums. Attendance quite often declines, partly because people miss the vicar they love and because it's a time when people think of making a change. There are new roles to fill and decisions about the future demand attention at a time when there is less capacity for following people up or for holding activities to draw them in. Just now these factors are compounded by lockdown rules and shielding.

In spite of and because of Covid, there have been innovations. The Communications group has brought us the biweekly Newsletter and weekly emails that keep us informed, both benefitting from the new database with Mailchimp that has also supported work with children. And online worship has some plusses. Participation has not been fully analysed yet, but we can see that YouTube figures on the first day have usually doubled by the end of week 1, indicating a need for worship at other times than Sunday morning. There are reasons for keeping up the online offer and not only because we are still living with Covid. There have always been housebound people and others whose family or work situations make it difficult to come regularly on Sunday, or even at all. Also, online worship allows new people to have a look at the local church without having to cross the threshold - if they know it is on offer.

Thinking of the challenges of the times and uncertainties about the future, I very much appreciate what the church community has achieved. Maybe this is a good time to connect with the Parish old-style by delivering an invitation door to door?

Rev. Pauline Nashashibi 10.4.2021

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Secretary's Report

In the six months since we had the last APM, the PCC has continued to hold its meetings on Zoom, having now been doing so for over a year and continuing to meet almost once per month, having done so since beginning on Zoom too.

We have continued to discuss matters relating to the pandemic and how we can provide church for as many as we can. We have continued with our social distancing when we have been in the building and have also had to make decisions to close the building and move worship online.

To this end, providing church for all, and sometimes needing to be fully online, we successfully applied for a further grant from Cloudsley which was offered as further emergency funds to help churches provide their online services. We have now had our video equipment installed and we have had a few volunteers interested in training, more are welcome as this becomes an integral part of our Sunday morning routines. Could you think about joining a new rota to help with this? Full training will be given.

The PCC has also discussed matters relating to the interregnum which are detailed more fully elsewhere.

We have discussed how we are able to help the playgroup to meet their needs, seeking to work together with them to help them provide their service to our local community.

We have discussed our provisions for the 2 major church festivals, Christmas and Easter, and have offered a range of provisions online and in person as the situation allowed at the time. We have implemented our Lent / Easter collection and have communicated this to our congregation, setting up an online giving link to assist with the collection.

We have discussed our financial situation, detailed further in the report below.

We are now back in the building, have installed a proper video recording solution and services are now able to be recorded and uploaded for additional viewers to see later in the day, thereby reaching beyond those in the community who can come to the building, but being accessible to those not yet willing or able to return to church, and those who are engaged with us but too distant to attend regularly.

Briony Murray – Secretary

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Electoral Roll report 2020

The Electoral Roll was revised between 31st March 2021 and 21st April 2021.

There were 155 people on the roll in 2020. One name has been removed and there have been no additions.

The number on the Roll now stands at 154.

In this challenging year it has been unclear who should be removed as the congregation has not been in church often and it is likely that many have been shielding and participating online. Therefore, we have only been looking to remove anyone who has moved away from the area or has died.

Similarly, it has been difficult to ascertain new regular worshippers in the parish.

Now that we have begun to re-open church, we will continue to revise the roll until the date of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Anne Lambourne, Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurer's Report

Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2020.

This has been a very challenging year with the PCC's main sources of offerings from the generosity of the congregation of St. Thomas's and visitors.

Your generosity has again enabled the church to grow in so many ways, to pay our bills, fund our commitments and support our mission partners both here and overseas.

General Fund:

Giving to the church increased slightly despite the closure of the building in March 2020 due to Covid. This is encouraging news for the church as we found ways to survive and even thrive in the midst of all the challenges that the pandemic has thrown our way.

The church had to adapt to an online presence, embrace social media, innovate and change.

I wish to thank Briony who assisted in setting up online giving via the website and Facebook. Also, Justice, for organising card and contactless payment via the digital device.

Building Fund:

Numerous building projects having been undertaken. We now operate several restricted funds for building works, LED lighting, solar panels and audio visual recording of services.

In 2020 we applied for and received grants from Richard Cloudesley Charity and Islington Council.

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Restricted Funds: (Collections for charities etc)

Total amount collected and sent amounted to £4815 for charities, including Akwaaba, CARIS- Cold Winter Shelter, Medical Aid for Palestine and Diocese Mozambique Emergency Appeal.

Reserves:

Our general fund reserves stand at £5254, the building fund reserve £5,833 and other restricted reserves £24,273.

Conclusion:

St. Thomas is a thriving, outward looking church. We have continued to meet our Parish Share commitment to the Diocese of £60,500 as well as our commitment of our mission partners. I appeal to those who may not be doing so already, to please consider making a commitment to regular giving by way of direct debit under the Parish Giving Scheme which enables the church to claim back an extra 25% from HMRC automatically.

Next year is likely to be both demanding and testing during our Interregnum and the coronavirus pandemic. Accordingly, I stress the need for us as congregants to press on and continue being supportive. Our church is not just the building and clergy but all the people who attend, each equally valuable but unique.

Thank you & God bless you.

Sandra Hall, Treasurer

Churchwardens Report

We have had two further church closures since the last church warden's report was issued in October. We had a severely curtailed Christmas offering and many of our key people including myself caught COVID. The third church closure, though not mandatory, was requested by Islington council, supported by local faith groups, due to the severity of the infection rate within the Borough.

After three months, we reopened our door on Palm Sunday and had a very successful Holy Week given the circumstances. The church also had a much needed clean on Saturday Saturday, which was testament to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported us during the past difficult year.

Those who have helped with ensuring a safe opening of the Church.

Members of the PCC and Sub Groups.

From my previous report, our main priorities were:

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- Maintaining Sunday Worship
- Engaging with the Diocese and Deanery re the appointment of a new incumbent
- Allowing playgroup to continue and serve the community

I believe we have been successful in managing priorities, and we are now on a firmer footing, due to the on-going and successful roll-out of the NHS vaccine programme. It is important to remember that we had two key challenges during the past year, COVID and the on-going situation with the vacancy. Not having an incumbent or a Priest in Charge has gone on far longer than I anticipated.

Sunday Worship

Like all churches, we face some uncertainty regarding how many of our regular worshippers will continue to join us for services. This is the great unknown, there may be some who have formed new habits during COVID. Conversely, there are those who may now place greater emphasis on human engagement with the community, of which our church is an important part.

As a church we have done some outreach, sending out palm crosses to signal we are here reminding people of our presence and relevance. I urge the PCC to consider other activities to showcase to the wider community that St Thomas' is open and welcomes all.

As I write, it seems as though all restrictions will be lifted mid June. We look forward to removing the red tape and allowing access to all of our pews.

Vacancy

As yet, we have no incumbent, though conversations are continuing with the Diocese and we have appointed four people from the PCC to lead this effort including both current church wardens. This is one of our key priorities and I will play my part in helping to move things forward.

Playgroup

We have reached agreement with the playgroup to pay 75% of the rent due during the first COVID lockdown, Sandra has sent the invoice and we are expecting payment in the usual fashion. They continue to work under stringent COVID measures and we need to support them as best we can. I don't expect the other hall users, Girl Guides and others to return before the autumn school term.

Finally

I said my previous report was my last as Church Warden, that was wrong. This is my last report as Church Warden. Heather and my newly elected replacement will form the new team with my support, when called on.

Justice

Justice Konneh & Heather Pascall, Churchwardens

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

- This is the fourth report from Helena Konneh (HK), Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO), St Thomas the Apostle Finsbury Park to the PCC for the APCM on 9th May 2021.
- The 2020 Parish Safeguarding Self-Audit action plan was reviewed, and the new 2021 self-audit completed by the following on 2nd February 2021: Helena Konneh (Church Safeguarding Officer), Rowan Howard (Sunday School Coordinator), Heather Pascall (Churchwarden) and Marcia Sinclair (DBS Checker).
- The completed self-audit was shared with PCC members by email with a request for questions to be submitted to Helena in advance of the PCC meeting. One PCC member raised two points. A further discussion was also had at the PCC meeting on 10th March 2021.
- Both the Parish Safeguarding Self- Audit and revised action plan were approved at the PCC meeting, also the Safeguarding Policy Statement 2021, which was signed by the churchwardens and Helena Konneh.
- A new Church Safeguarding Officer was appointed at the PCC meeting on 10th March 2021, we welcome and thank Cassie Dummett for taking over this role. A planned handover starts with the first meeting in early April 2021. This will cover the role, training and key activities of the role holder.
- The agreed self-audit, Safeguarding Policy Statement 2021 and a notification of Cassie's new appointment was emailed to the Diocese of London on 10th March 2021. A question was also raised to clarify the need for a First Aider at church activities.
- With the retirement of Stephen Coles in April 2020, the intention was for all Safeguarding actions to be prioritised. However, due to Covid-19 and restrictions coming into place in March 2020 work towards the actions had to be put on hold. As we lift out of lockdown, we will resume our plans.
- Some progress has been made against the 2020 action plan. Notably:
 - DBS checks for all PCC members.
 - Safeguarding training is undertaken by all PCC members and some Sunday School leaders/helpers.
 - A role description for the Lead Recruiter is now in place.
- There are several outstanding points (from 2019 and 2020) that have been carried forward to 2021, these will need to be addressed as we plan to return to our face-to-face activities:
 - Further Safeguarding reporting guidelines for the Thursday Group / Sunday School Leaders.
 - Health and Safety risk assessment for Thursday Group (to now reflect Covid-19 considerations).
 - Review the DBS recruitment process (changes have since been reflected in the Safe recruitment flow chart).
- Helena would like to take this opportunity to thank the continued hard work and commitment of all volunteers, and especially: Rowan Howard, Sunday School

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Coordinator, Dorothy Newton, Thursday Teas Leader; Marcia Sinclair, DBS Checker and those who support the church activities as they relate to working with vulnerable adults. Also, a special thank you to Cassie Dummett who will be taking over the Church Safeguarding Lead role shortly.

Helena Konneh, Church Safeguarding Officer: 21/03/2021

Report of the Deanery Synod representatives

The representatives from St Thomas's are: Rowan Howard, Marcia Sinclair and Anthony Dass, who were all re-elected in 2020 for a 3 year term to 2023.

This year, there were 3 meetings (up to March 2021). Paul Zaphiriou is Area Dean.

The themes of the meetings were:

21st April 2020: How the Deanery and Area might develop:

22nd December 2020: Welcome to new Parish Representatives. Discussions around church in lockdown, working with other faiths through Islington Faith Forum, and engagement with community through foodbanks, refugee drop-in centre, memory café, cold weather shelter (some activities suspended due to lockdown). What have churches learnt through the pandemic? What insights can we share?

27th January 2021: Capital Vision 2030: Presentation from Paul Zaphiriou around 3 themes of creating confident disciples, compassionate communities and creative growth. The three top priorities for the Diocese are younger, safer and more racially just. As a Parish, we will be engaging with these themes and priorities as we develop our mission action plan for the coming years.

Rowan Howard, Marcia Sinclair and Anthony Dass: Deanery Synod Representatives

Work with Children and Young People

This year of the pandemic has meant that our usual ways of being together and providing activities for children and young people at St Thomas's have been hugely disrupted.

At the start of the first lockdown, in March 2020, we had limited ways to stay in touch, with the Church closed and no facility for online services. We kept in touch with Sunday School volunteers by email and delivered Easter eggs to all of the children from the congregation who live in or close to the Parish. Lots of the children made farewell cards or pictures for Stephen, that formed part of the delivery he found on his doorstep on Easter morning, when we sadly said a virtual goodbye and thankyou.

We then developed an email data base and created a families' email list that we could use to stay in touch with families with children and young people. This helped us with inviting

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contributions of prayers and pictures from our children in our first all-age online service in June.

Once we were able to be back in Church, it was clear that we would not be able to re-commence Sunday School classes or creche within Government guidelines. So, children and young people would need to stay in the main service with their families. We therefore started planning regular all- age services, starting with Harvest on 4th October, at which we encourage attendance and participation by children and young people. We were delighted to welcome 9 family bubbles at the Harvest service and collected bountiful contributions for the St John's Brownswood Park foodbank. One parent commented *"It was really nice to be able to come to church. I don't think I'd realised - or had time to realise- how much I missed it."*

We also planned a socially distanced picnic – but that was sadly stymied by changes to lockdown rules.

The all age services have continued both in Church - 13th December for the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth - and online - Christmas Eve with a wonderful nativity narrative that many members of the congregation contributed to, Candlemas on 31st January and Mothering Sunday on 14th March. We have had lovely contributions of readings, prayers and pictures from a broad range of families.

Our youth band were able to rehearse during the Autumn and contribute to our Advent worship.

We conducted a youth Re-engagement survey whereby the 10 youths age 8-18, listed possible activities that would engage the youth at St Thomas. The report was sent to the PCC and communication committee.

In 2021, we have included a weekly activity sheet from Roots in the notices with a range of activities for all ages to help families to engage with the Gospel themes during the week.

We look forward to being able to be together in Church once again and to re-start our weekly children's activities.

Rowan Howard: Sunday School co-ordinator

Marcia Sinclair and Andrew Greer: Youth

Tea at St Thomas's

Sadly, Tea at St Thomas's has not been able to meet for a year now. Our last meeting was in March 2020, so we have missed the whole of our ninth year (we'd met every week since St David's Day in 2012).

Almost none of the guests have a computer or are familiar with Zoom, so we could not transfer our meetings to virtual ones. However, we have done our best to keep in touch with most of our regular guests – 10 have been phoned each week by at least one of the

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hosts. Guests have appreciated the regular – and occasional - phone calls: “talking on the phone really cheers me up”. They have been very grateful for a chat – but, of course, say how much they miss the pleasure of sitting together round the tea table and chatting informally with the hosts and other guests.

The phone conversations have sometimes been stressful - we’ve heard about people’s lives in lockdown and about their isolation and loneliness - and about some difficult circumstances and illnesses: “What life is this? – it’s like being in a prison cell” - “It’s hell on earth - this isn’t life, this is bare existence”

At Christmas we arranged between us to deliver cards and small gifts to those guests who live nearby. We had hoped to do this in a group but, as Tier 4 regulations then came into force, we had to visit individually. We divided the task between us, each agreeing with the guest a suitable time on Christmas Eve and then, wearing our masks, we put the parcel on their doorstep, rang the doorbell and stepped back to their gate – from where we had a brief conversation and passed on Christmas greetings from all of us from Tea at St Thomas’s.

We very much hope that Tea at St Thomas’s will meet again as soon as regulations allow.

Dorothy, Christine, Pat, Rowan, Anita

March 2021

Singing Group

Unfortunately, music took a bit of a back seat in the past year due to COVID19. As a high singing church, this was devastating. We managed to provide services for parishioners online until we opened again, and since then we have been rather 'in and out' until just recently. We are glad to have singers from the Singing Group sing some responses in the service now and we hope to increase the sung liturgy soon. I also hope to resume rehearsals for the Youth Music group in the coming month, with the Singing Group not far behind.

Andrew Greer, Organist

Monday Night Movies

The last film shown at Monday Night Movies was *In Bruges* on 16 March 2020. Additionally, Stephen Coles had requested to have one last film shown before his retirement, *My Own Private Idaho*, which was due to be screened on 30 March.

Sadly the outbreak of Covid-19 then meant that the first lockdown occurred, and all of our activities including Sunday services were stopped. As nobody knew how this situation would progress, I had hoped that we could start film night again in the autumn of 2020, but alas, it was not to be, and like other cinemas, theatres and community groups we remain dark.

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However, as the situation is improving now with the success of mass vaccinations as well as lockdowns, I have hopes that we may be able to start up again in the autumn. At the time of writing it is planned to reopen the church for Sunday services on Palm Sunday, 28 March. All being well, I can see no reason why our other activities should not reopen in due course when safe to do so. Our film night always has a summer break anyway, as many people are away, and the light evenings make it difficult to screen movies, so reopening in September would be good.

For those who may not know, Monday Movies were held on Monday evenings at 7pm for 7.30pm in the hall, or occasionally in the church during May/June (because of the lighter evenings). These were open to all, were free of charge (basket for donations available), and we had some - often substantial! - refreshments together to start the evening off.

In 2020 we screened two films of time, mystery and loss, *Arrival* (with Amy Adams), and *The Jacket* (Adrien Brody and Keira Knightley); the first in a season of three murder and revenge movies: the classic Hitchcock film from 1951 *Strangers on a Train*; followed by *Cape Fear* from 1961 starring Gregory Peck and Robert Mitchum; and the comedy/crime drama *In Bruges* from 2008, with Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson and Ralph Fiennes – mentioned above.

I had planned a programme of film noir, mystery drama, and a horror or two for Halloween. If we can open again this September I would like to pick up where we left off, with this programme, or maybe an Oscar winner...

We look forward to seeing you!

Anne Rose: Film Night Co-ordinator

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain unrestricted reserves to cover the loss of income from the playgroup over a period of twelve months. On this basis, as at 31st December 2020, the required amount of reserves was £13,000. Unrestricted reserves fell during the year from £8,000 to £5,000. The trustees have noted the shortfall on required reserves, are taking action to increase the level of reserves, and will review the policy on reserves during 2021.

Risks and uncertainties

The principal risks and uncertainties as identified by the trustees, are in three areas:

- Operational risks to health and safety and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

Mitigation: activities to manage these risks have been reported above and the Safeguarding Officer reports at Trustee meetings on any safeguarding issues and any matters that arise.

- Regulatory and governance risks.

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Mitigation: through Diocesan resources, the trustees are updated on Church of England regulatory and governance requirements, which are then assessed and actioned accordingly.

- Financial risks

Mitigation: day to day risks and uncertainties are managed by the Treasurer who reports regularly to the Trustees and provides advice as appropriate. If it is apparent that levels of donations do not match expenditure commitments over a sustained period, then the Trustees will reassess those commitments.

Interregnum

Following Stephen Coles' retirement in 2020 the Bishop of Stepney decided to 'suspend presentation' at St Thomas's, which is a technical term for not advertising for, or appointing, a new incumbent (paid parish priest) for a period of up to 5 years in order to explore new arrangements. Instead, the Bishop proposed that St Thomas's should explore a partnership with St John Brownswood Park, eventually leading to an arrangement whereby the two parishes would share one paid parish priest and a supporting team of unpaid clergy.

After many months of discussions with the Diocese the Parochial Church Council (those elected from the congregation to be trustees) agreed to the Bishop's proposal for a trial period with Revd Alice Smith from St John's as 'Priest-in-charge' of St Thomas's, an official position where the priest has all the responsibilities and authority of an incumbent but without formal 'possession' of the parish. If successful, this arrangement could be formalised into a partnership.

During positive meetings with Revd Alice, PCC representatives learned that she is expecting her first baby in October 2021. This happy news has, however, further complicated the start of the trial period.

The situation has been resolved as follows: from September 2021 we shall be welcoming a part-time paid interim priest, Revd Caroline Shuttleworth, who will minister to us at St Thomas's until June 2022. Although focussed on St Thomas's she will also have a role at St John's in helping cover Revd Alice's maternity leave with additional clergy support. We are very pleased that Revd Pauline Nashashibi will continue working with us (with a well-deserved summer break).

As Revd Alice returns from her maternity leave after Easter 2022 there will be a period of handover until she is ready to take over formally as 'Priest-in-charge' next summer (2022). From then on, we will have a trial period of about two years with this arrangement.

The partnership with St John's

The form of the partnership with St John's is to be explored. For the foreseeable future both churches will have their own PCCs and separate finances. We will look to maintain our customary patterns of worship.

In the period until Revd Alice returns in 2022 and begins to lead the partnership in person, St Thomas's will primarily focus on our own recovery following Stephen's retirement and the challenges of Covid, exploring 'who we are' and our future mission, but we will also look for opportunities of informal ways of getting to know St John's better.

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Chris Higgins and Rowan Howard, Parish Representatives

Structure and governance

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It is a registered charity, governed under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956), as amended, and the Church Representation Rules.

The method of appointment to the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The incumbent and wardens are ex officio members, with the remaining members elected from members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including how funds are spent. In practice, responsibility for specific matters may be delegated to PCC sub-committees.

In exercising its duties, the PCC has due regard to and complies with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The PCC met every month since the APCM in October 2020. The APCM was to be held as normal prior to the end of May 2021. This was held on the 9th May 2021. Due to timings regarding reporting Interregnum information, clarifications on the treasurer's and independent examiner's report, the meeting was adjourned to be reconvened on the 30th May 2021.

This report and accounts were approved by the PCC on 30th May 2021 and signed on their behalf by Heather Pascall, Churchwarden

ST THOMAS'S CHURCH: INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act

2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed instead.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's 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

Having completed my examination, no matter has come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records, and
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2020

Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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

ALEX SARGENT

Alex Sargent
ACA (ICAEW)
29 May 2021

St Thomas the Apostle, Finsbury Park
Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Year Ended Dec-20 £k	Total Year Ended Dec-19 £k
	Note	£k	£k		
Income:					
Voluntary income	2	68,888	16,268	85,156	155,190
Income from church activities	3	13,595	-	13,595	20,033
Total income		<u>82,483</u>	<u>16,268</u>	<u>98,751</u>	<u>175,223</u>
Expenditure on:					
Church activities	4	<u>81,109</u>	<u>17,671</u>	<u>98,780</u>	<u>212,620</u>
Total expenditure		<u>81,109</u>	<u>17,671</u>	<u>98,780</u>	<u>212,620</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources and movement in funds		1,374	(1,403)	(29)	(37,397)
Total funds brought forward at 1st Jan		8,174	27,213	35,387	72,784
Movement between funds		(4,295)	4,295	-	-
Total funds carried forward at 31st Dec		<u>5,253</u>	<u>30,105</u>	<u>35,358</u>	<u>35,387</u>

Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2020

Company no. 3038352

		Dec-20	Dec-19
	Note	£k	£k
Current assets:			
Debtors	5	5,000	21,852
Cash at bank and in hand		17,488	53,939
		22,488	75,791
Liabilities:			
	6		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		-	(3,953)
Total net assets		22,488	71,838
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds	7	30,105	27,213
Unrestricted general funds	8	5,253	8,174
Total charity funds		35,358	35,387

Heather Pascal
Trustee

Iain McSeveny
Trustee

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102).

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

b) Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees' continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

c) Income

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Interest is accounted for when received. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain.

d) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received/generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

e) Expenditure

Common Fund contributions are accounted for when payable. Any amount pledged but unpaid at 31 December is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation. All other expenditure is recognised on the accruals basis and accounted for gross.

f) Fixed assets

Consecrated Property and Moveable Church Furnishings: consecrated land and benefice property such as the church building and vicarage is excluded the accounts in accordance with s10 of the Charities Act 2011. Moveable church contents are held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. All expenditure incurred on consecrated or benefice buildings and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is expensed within the Statement of Financial Activities.

g) Funds

Restricted funds comprise revenue donations and grants intended for a specific purpose by the donor or funds set aside from general funds by the trustees for a dedicated purpose.

Unrestricted funds are income funds which are to be spent on the PCC's general purposes.

h) Cash flow statement

The financial statements do not include a Cash Flow Statement because the charity, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102).

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Income	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2020 Total (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2019 Total (£)
2. Voluntary income						
Planned giving	51,487	-	51,487	50,501	-	50,501
Income tax reclaimed	16,449	-	16,449	14,714	-	14,714
Collections at services	952	6,557	7,509	3,290	16,222	19,512
Grants	-	9,711	9,711	-	70,463	70,463
Total voluntary income	68,888	16,268	85,156	68,505	86,685	155,190
3. Income from church activities						
Hire of church property	10,928	-	10,928	16,568	-	16,568
PCC fees	765	-	765	1,269	-	1,269
Other income	1,902	-	1,902	2,196	-	2,196
Total income from church activities	13,595	-	13,595	20,033	-	20,033
Total income	82,483	16,268	98,751	88,538	86,685	175,223

Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2019 Total (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2018 Total (£)
4(a) The Ministry						
Clergy Expenses	2,107	-	2,107	3,000	-	3,000
Mission	125	741	866	420	2,555	2,975
	2,232	741	2,973	3,420	-	5,975
4(b) The Church						
Gas & Electricity	3,916	-	3,916	4,102	-	4,102
Facilities (water rates,towels etc)	1,342	-	1,342	1,465	-	1,465
Cleaner	2,048	-	2,048	3,680	-	3,680
Church Insurance	4,632	-	4,632	4,876	-	4,876
Minor Repairs	1,253	-	1,253	3,704	-	3,704
Building Works	-	12,856	12,856	-	97,388	97,388
	13,191	12,856	26,047	17,826	97,388	115,214
4(c) Services						
Vestry, Altar & Candles	1,261	-	1,261	1,909	-	1,909
Organist, Choir & Music	2,525	2,175	4,700	4,201	651	4,852
Weekly Magazine	402	-	402	1,027	-	1,027
Other Ordinary Expenditure	748	-	748	577	-	577
	4,936	2,175	7,111	7,715	-	8,366
4(d) Payments Outside the Parish						
Diocese Fair Shares	60,500	-	60,500	71,000	-	71,000
Charities	250	1,899	2,149	250	11,815	12,065
	60,750	1,899	62,649	71,250	11,815	83,065
Total expenditure	81,109	17,671	98,780	100,211	109,203	212,620

5. Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable			5,000		13,584
Accrued income			-		8,268
Total debtors			5,000		21,852
6. Creditors: falling due within one year					
Accrued expenditure			-		1,889
Overpayment by playgroup			-		2,064
Total creditors falling due within one year			0		3,953

Funds	Brought Forward (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfer (£)	Carried Forward (£)
Fund movements during the year were as follows:					
7. Restricted					
Collections for charitable giving	4,551	1,835	(1,899)	329	4,816
Organ repair fund	16,631	-	(96)	-	16,535
Solar panels & LED lighting	4,538	-	(198)	-	4,340
Minor repairs	850	9,006	(7,743)	(620)	1,493
IT Equipment	-	5,000	(2,079)	-	2,921
Quinquennial repairs	-	-	(4,915)	4,915	-
Other	643	427	(741)	(329)	-
	27,213	16,268	(17,671)	4,295	30,105
8. Unrestricted	8,174	82,483	(81,109)	(4,295)	5,253

Payments to trustees

No payments were made to trustees during the year.

Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.