



**St Thomas' Church
Lowther St
York**



**ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

For the year ended 31 December 2023

www.stthomasyork.org.uk

Priest-in-Charge: Revd Alistair Rycroft

Churchwardens: Mrs Jo Bloss, Mr Matt Clarke-Neale

Treasurer: Mr Ross Watson

Independent Examiner: Mrs Jane Kasiuk

Bank: Lloyds Bank plc, Pavement Branch, York

Registered charity number: 1198054

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Annual Report of the PCC of St Thomas' for the year ended Dec 31st 2023

St Thomas' Church (serving the parish of St Thomas with St Maurice) is on Lowther St in the Groves area of York. It is within the Diocese of York.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission. The PCC has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church; pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church and hall.

Membership: Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and are then eligible to stand for election to the PCC.

During 2023, the members of the PCC of St Thomas' Church were:

Revd Al Rycroft (priest-in-charge) – Chair
Revd Andy Hagon (curate)
David Stirk – Vice Chair
Matt Clarke-Neale – Churchwarden (from AGM)
Jo Bloss – Churchwarden
David Pennock – Treasurer (until AGM, thereafter normal member)
Ross Watson – Treasurer (from AGM)
Tom Dennis – Secretary
Viv Pennock
Peter Platts
Ruth Dunlop
Will Mitchell
Gerald Snowden (Deanery Synod Representative)

There were six full PCC meetings during 2023

Church Attendance

As of April 2024, there were 121 names on the electoral roll (42 resident in the parish). The average attendance figure for Sunday services in October 2023 was 83 adults and 25 children. In 2023, we continued to stream worship services online, live from the church building with several regular viewers.

Church Services continued at 10.30am on Sundays, usually a Eucharistic Service, but with some Services of the Word (sometimes All Age). Children's groups ran during our non- all age services. We held communion services midweek through most of the year. We held special services (Carol Service, Midnight Communion) in December.

Safeguarding: The PCC has a safeguarding policy, displayed in the church and church hall. St Thomas' follows guidance to ensure 'safer recruitment' of staff and volunteers. Staff and volunteers are appropriately trained according to Church of England guidance. The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' safeguarding policy.

Through 2023, the Parish Safeguarding Representative was Alison Taylor. Tom Dennis became the PCC's safeguarding link.

Review of 2023 and Priorities for 2024 (by Al Rycroft, Priest-in-Charge)

Another year has rushed by; things at St Thomas' don't seem to stand still. But perhaps that's just what we should expect. What is alive is never stagnant or static, but dynamic and ever-changing. This means that there can be an air of chaos, and it may feel as though we are constantly trying to keep a rein on things, not letting everything run wild; but we want to be grateful to God for giving us this abundant life! I remember a wise man (I think his name was Phil Moore) saying that he was always sceptical when people said God wanted the church to have a 'time of consolidation', because it doesn't really seem that God works like that – he is the God of new creation, new life and growth.

It has seemed (and this is borne out by the numbers in the book!) that we've experienced a small step-change in our size as a Sunday congregation in the latter half of 2023 and into this year. Regularly, we will have 120-140 people (adults and children combined) gathering to worship – this is a wonderful blessing, as well as a logistical challenge! It means we have to think seriously both about how we can make our Sunday mornings 'work' in welcoming and accommodating that number of people; and also about whether there are new ways in which this growth might spill over into other worshipping communities being formed. I expect this to be an important question for St Thomas' over the next year, particularly as we prepare to move back into a church building which we hope we allow greater versatility.

Another important (and related) question over the coming months will be our partnership with St Wulstan's. We have done, and continue to do, some things together (events, occasional services etc). We now move into a time where we will be making decisions with St Wulstan's about whether there are ways in which this relationship should be formalized, and if so how this should happen.

Through 2023, we emphasized in our teaching our relationships with one another and with God – growing as disciples and in love for one another. Of course, this is a lifelong calling, and we have not wanted to leave this behind as we've moved into 2024. We continue to believe that God's call on us is to be a 'haven of hope' in the Groves, as people find love and welcome in this community: not merely the love and welcome of a flawed human family (important though that is), but even more so the perfect and eternal love and welcome of their heavenly Father.

Once again, we are so grateful for the wonderful mix of people at St Thomas', and especially for the marvellous sense of family – from newborns to nonagenarians! It's a great joy, but also a big responsibility for the adults, as God asks us to invest in our children as they grow up in the faith. As last year, I'd love to encourage each of us to ask God how you might serve (there are innumerable ways he might lead you!) the children in our church family. In the life of the church, each and every one of us is given unique gifts with which to serve one another – no one is peripheral or useless.

We've seen some extraordinary things through 2023 – remarkable displays like the 'Knitted Bible'; wonderful community ventures like Chocolate and Co, with its strong links to St Thomas'; wonderful baptisms representing God's work in so many lives. I do give thanks for everything that's going on at St Thomas', on Sundays and throughout the week, in the church buildings and out in homes and in the community. Please do read through the reports later in the booklet for an overview of the many different ministries, as well as information about the finances and the work going on with the building. Without listing names (because there are so many), I'd like to thank each and every person, young and old, who serves – on welcome and coffee, in music and worship, maintaining the building, serving on PCC or staff team, with children and young people, and in so many other ways. We pray it is all for the glory of God as he is honoured in our lives, our church and our community.

We go on trusting God in all the uncertainties of life, in the midst of our fragile world. As we read in early 2024:

"Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, Lord."

Psalm 89.15

Financial Review for 2023

Total receipts on general unrestricted funds in 2023 were £107,920 and are detailed in the financial statements on pages 5 to 7 of this report. £110,422 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Thomas' Church, including the freewill offering of £36,468 to the Diocese of York, which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

General maintenance costs increased to £7,187, which included things such as costs for various pieces of joinery work and maintaining the trees at the front of Church.

Planned Giving, collections, donations and Gift Aid Tax all increased to give a net result for the year of an excess of receipts over payments of £208 after transfers.

Our total budgeted general fund expenditure for 2024 is £115,381, which equates to £2,219 per week. The majority of this money comes from the generous giving of the congregation at St Thomas' Church. Church members are encouraged to use standing orders to provide planned regular income. The budgeted requirement for Planned Giving is £84,600, or £1,627 per week. Where possible the use of Gift Aid to maximise donations by the recovery of income tax is encouraged. The tax reclaimed for the tax year 2022/23 was £21,053.

The general fund budget excludes the financing of any capital works on the structure of the Church, so in addition to all the general fund figures reported above the Building a Haven Project had fund raising of £13,576 last year. Expenditure on the project totalled £6,086. This year will see significantly more expenditure as the floor levelling work takes place.

Reserves Policy

It is necessary for the PCC to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds, equivalent to 3 months unrestricted expenditure, £28,845 against the 2024 budget of £115,381. The balance of £51,500 on unrestricted funds at the year-end exceeded this target, however some of these funds will be used to assist with the Building a Haven project.

Ross Watson (PCC Treasurer)

13/04/24

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to trustees of the PCC of the Church of St Thomas with St Maurice, York (Charity no 1198054)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church of St Thomas with St Maurice, York, (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023, set out on pages 5 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Mrs Jane Kasiuk
20 Elmfield Avenue, York, YO31 9LS
13th April 2024

St Thomas with St Maurice Church, Lowther Street, York
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT							
Receipts							
Voluntary receipts from donors							
Tax efficient planned giving		62,511.00	-	1,200.00	-	63,711.00	59,842
Other planned giving		11,764.37	-	600.00	-	12,364.37	11,218
Collections		4,982.26	-	1,208.13	-	6,190.39	3,466
Other recurring giving/donations		-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-recurring giving/donations		3,194.08	-	25.00	-	3,219.08	6,885
Income tax recovered		17,059.02	-	3,993.65	-	21,052.67	16,466
		99,510.73	-	7,026.78	-	106,537.51	97,877
Other voluntary receipts	3a	-	-	870.00	-	870.00	17,907
Activities for generating funds	3b	536.00	-	7,783.00	-	8,319.00	31,625
Investment income	3c	660.79	-	2,710.55	-	3,371.34	691
Receipts from church activities	3d	7,212.00	-	-	-	7,212.00	3,908
Other incoming resources	3e	-	-	-	-	-	5,212
		107,919.52	-	18,390.33	-	126,309.85	157,219
Payments							
Church activities							
Diocesan Freewill Offering		36,467.98	-	-	-	36,467.98	34,728
Other payments	3f	73,953.96	-	17,855.87	-	91,809.83	87,465
		110,421.94	-	17,855.87	-	128,277.81	122,193
Excess of Receipts over Payments		(2,502.42)	-	534.46	-	(1,967.96)	35,026
Transfers between funds		2,710.55		(2,710.55)	-	-	907
		208.13	-	(2,176.09)	-	(1,967.96)	35,932
Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan		51,292.70	-	101,840.27	-	153,132.97	117,201
Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec		51,500.83	-	99,664.18	-	151,165.01	153,133
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES							
Cash Funds							
Bank current account		2,388.65	-	229.90	-	2,618.55	10,247
Bank deposit account		34,041.50	-	43,638.05	-	77,679.55	72,019
CBF deposit fund		15,070.68	-	55,796.23	-	70,866.91	70,867
		51,500.83	-	99,664.18	-	151,165.01	153,133
Investment Assets							
		-	-	-	-	-	-
		51,500.83	-	99,664.18	-	151,165.01	153,133

The attached notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements

Approved by the PCC on 11 March 2024 and signed on their behalf
by: Revd Al Rycroft (PCC Chair)
Ross Watson (PCC Treasurer)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The movement in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

Fund	Balance b/f	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance c/f
Restricted Funds:					
Martin Fund	55,796.23	2,710.55	-	(2,710.55)	55,796.23
Restricted / Charity / Funeral Collections	-	735.83	(505.93)	-	229.90
Flower Fund	138.49	25.00	(16.00)	-	147.49
Creativity Fund	2,663.49	472.30	(950.71)	-	2,185.08
Outreach and Support projects	9,044.29	-	(664.16)	-	8,380.13
Building a Haven Project	18,398.40	13,576.65	(6,086.73)	-	25,888.32
Community Café Fund	15,649.37	-	(8,612.34)	-	7,037.03
Acts 435	150.00	870.00	(1,020.00)	-	-
	101,840.27	18,390.33	(17,855.87)	(2,710.55)	99,664.18
Designated Funds:					
	-	-	-	-	-

Receipts and Payment Analysis

	Unrestrict ed Fund £	Designate d Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Other voluntary receipts					
Legacy	-	-	-	-	-
Recurring grants	-	-	-	-	-
Non-recurring grants	-	-	870.00	870.00	17,907
	-	-	870.00	870.00	17,907
Activities for generating funds - receipts					
Fund raising	536.00	-	7,783.00	8,319.00	31,625
	536.00	-	7,783.00	8,319.00	31,625
Receipts from investments					
Dividends and interest	660.79		2,710.55	3,371.34	691
Rent from PCC owned property	-	-	-	-	-
	660.79	-	2,710.55	3,371.34	691
Receipts from church activities					
Fees retained by the PCC	1,352.00	-	-	1,352.00	938
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	-
Letting of Hall and Church	2,540.00	-	-	2,540.00	2,130
Rent from car park	3,320.00	-	-	3,320.00	840
	7,212.00	-	-	7,212.00	3,908
Other incoming resources					
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
Loans		-	-	-	80
Donations received as endowments	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of COIF shares	-	-	-	-	5,132
	-	-	-	-	5,212

Receipts and Payment Analysis

Unrestrict ed	Designate d	Restricted	Total	Total
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	Fund £	Fund £	Fund £	2023 £	2022 £
Church activities - payments					
Costs of generating funds					
Fund raising costs		-	-	-	21
Donations (grants) to charities					
Overseas missions	6,500.04	-	368.93	6,868.97	6,700
Home missions	2,500.00	-		2,500.00	2,804
Secular charities	250.00	-	137.00	387.00	381
Activities directly related to the work of the church					
Salaries, wages & honorarium	31,621.62	-		31,621.62	33,247
Working expenses of the incumbent		-	-	-	94
Working expenses of assistant staff	-	-	-	-	-
Parsonage house expenditure	149.62	-	-	149.62	478
Mission & evangelism costs	2,155.43	-	950.71	3,106.14	2,312
Church insurance	2,415.59	-	-	2,415.59	2,314
Church cleaning	2,659.35	-	-	2,659.35	2,632
Church admin costs	1,339.36	-	-	1,339.36	913
Church maintenance costs	7,187.08	-	-	7,187.08	5,311
Upkeep of services	3,300.22	-	16.00	3,316.22	3,601
Upkeep of churchyard	-	-	-	-	-
Other PCC property upkeep	-	-	-	-	-
Support costs	1,510.58	-	1,684.16	3,194.74	1,890
Loan interest paid	-	-	-	-	-
Church administration and administrator	1,127.92	-	-	1,127.92	-
Gas costs	7,394.03	-	-	7,394.03	3,212
Electricity costs	2,594.09	-	-	2,594.09	1,187
Water costs	331.16	-	-	331.16	371
Oil costs	-	-	-	-	-
Costs of trading					
Bookstall costs	-	-	-	-	-
Letting direct costs	827.87	-	-	827.87	587
Parish magazine costs	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs	90.00	-	-	90.00	85
Major expenditure					
Major repairs to church buildings	-	-	-	-	-
Major repairs to church hall	-	-	8,612.34	8,612.34	-
New building or major works	-	-	6,086.73	6,086.73	19,323
	73,953.96	-	17,855.87	91,809.83	87,465.35

The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members.

Working expenses of the incumbent allocated to specific cost centres.

No payments were made to PCC members.

St Thomas with St Maurice Church

General fund budget 2024

	Total	Per Week
INCOME	£	£
Planned giving	84,600	1627
Collections	4,000	77
Income tax	17,000	327
Donations	2,000	38
Fees	1,000	19
Car parking	4,500	87
Hall income	1,700	33
Interest	600	12
TOTAL	115400	2219

	Total	Per Week
EXPENDITURE	£	£
Charity giving	5,500	106
Support Chris & Suzy	5,500	106
Support Louise	0	0
Free Will Offering	38,292	736
Vicarage water	432	8
Church & Hall running	18,000	346
Maintenance	5,000	96
Training / Scholarship	1,400	27
Misson / Outreach	1,500	29
Services	3,500	67
Admin	1,400	27
Miscellaneous	600	12
Lay Outreach Workers	22,838	439
Children's Worker	11,419	220
TOTAL	115381	2219