

# BELFAST/Belfast: St. Thomas/St. Thomas/Connor/Church of Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 101975

## Details

---

Known as	The Parish of St Thomas Eglantine Avenue Belfast
Status	Received
Registered	2015-02-19
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

---

Address	28 Church Road Newtownbreda Belfast Bt8 7aq BT8 7AQ
Phone	07595320677
Email	<a href="mailto:stthomasbt9@gmail.com">stthomasbt9@gmail.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.stthomas.connor.anglican.org">www.stthomas.connor.anglican.org</a>

## Activities

---

**Purposes:** The principal function is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help is fundamental to the practical delivery of the tenets of Christianity. As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish has custody of a large body of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Parish as a secondary charitable purpose.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of religion

**How the charity works:** Religious activities

**Who the charity helps:** Asylum seekers/refugees, General public

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£58,570	£116,231	£0	1

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Richard Cotter		
Mr Thomas Lyttle		
Rev Dr Thomas Alan Mccann		
The Rev.P Jack		

**BELFAST/Belfast: St. Thomas/St. Thomas/Connor/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101975

---

# Accounts

---

**St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast**

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

**Charity no. 101975**



## **Contents**

	<b>Page (s)</b>
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees	1
Receipts and payments account	2
Statement of assets and liabilities	3
Notes to the financial statements	4 -6

## Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast

I report to the on the accounts of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

### Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

*Paul Clarke* 22/03/2025

Paul Clarke FCA  
7 Manse Green  
Newtownards  
BT23 4TW

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

### Receipts and Payments Account

		2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
	Note				
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>					
Church collections	3	30,155.85	0.00	<b>30,155.85</b>	31,016.19
Special Donations & Bequests		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	5,700.00
Trust Income		1,465.54	0.00	<b>1,465.54</b>	1,351.04
Property use	4	18,810.00	0.00	<b>18,810.00</b>	19,870.00
Other receipts	5	0.00	47.50	<b>47.50</b>	1,276.00
Charities Appeals		0.00	90.00	<b>90.00</b>	316.23
Fund-raising		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	36.07
Interest		8,000.62	0.00	<b>8,000.62</b>	7,393.26
		<b>58,432.01</b>	<b>137.50</b>	<b>58,569.51</b>	<b>66,958.79</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>					
Stipend, salaries and other costs	6	69,311.95	0.00	<b>69,311.95</b>	47,736.90
Electricity, Water & Gas		4,241.41	0.00	<b>4,241.41</b>	4,007.97
Rates		3,865.83	0.00	<b>3,865.83</b>	3,505.21
Insurance		8,815.04	0.00	<b>8,815.04</b>	1,669.17
Repairs and Maintenance		1,856.08	0.00	<b>1,856.08</b>	1,128.58
Rectory capital works project		0.00	15,900.52	<b>15,900.52</b>	16,900.52
Gardening		2,200.00	0.00	<b>2,200.00</b>	1,922.00
Office Supplies		231.76	0.00	<b>231.76</b>	320.82
Church Supplies		0.00	148.00	<b>148.00</b>	142.00
Diocesan Payments		9,086.40	0.00	<b>9,086.40</b>	12,378.72
Charities and Bishops Appeals		10.00	90.00	<b>100.00</b>	316.23
Other payments	7	214.50	47.50	<b>262.00</b>	108.00
Bank Charges		212.02	0.00	<b>212.02</b>	189.61
		<b>100,044.99</b>	<b>16,186.02</b>	<b>116,231.01</b>	<b>90,325.73</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>(41,612.98)</b>	<b>(16,048.52)</b>	<b>(57,661.50)</b>	<b>(23,366.94)</b>
Bank balances as at 1 January		10,628.21	229,565.65	240,193.86	263,560.80
Add Diocesan support scheme loan		56,833.35	0.00	56,833.35	0.00
Bank balances as at 31 December		<b>25,848.58</b>	<b>213,517.13</b>	<b>239,365.71</b>	240,193.86


The notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>					
Danske Bank no. 1 account		9,759.73	5,551.18	<b>15,310.91</b>	7,072.71
Danske Bank no. 2 account		288.70	0.00	<b>288.70</b>	240.24
Dankse Bank business investment account		446.92	0.00	<b>446.92</b>	439.60
RCB deposit account		15,353.23	207,965.95	<b>223,319.18</b>	232,441.31
	2	<u>25,848.58</u>	<u>213,517.13</u>	<b><u>239,365.71</u></b>	<u>240,193.86</u>
<b>Investment assets</b>					
RCB unit trust	ib (ii)	0.00	49,622.00	<b>49,622.00</b>	48,717.32
<b>Assets retained for the Parish's own use</b>					
Rectory	1b (i)	0.00	751,355.00	<b>751,355.00</b>	715,575.00
Church office	1b (i)	0.00	60,870.00	<b>60,870.00</b>	57,972.00
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Diocesan support loan		(56,833.35)	0.00	<b>(56,833.35)</b>	0.00
Stipend & allowances		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	(8,507.02)
HMRC payment		(1,268.83)	0.00	<b>(1,268.83)</b>	0.00
Amount due to parish secretary		(1,500.00)	0.00	<b>(1,500.00)</b>	(1,500.00)
Amount due to gardener		(66.00)	0.00	<b>(66.00)</b>	(96.00)
Col Gazette		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	(72.00)
Rectory capital works project		0.00	(1,100.00)	<b>(1,100.00)</b>	0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>(33,819.60)</u>	<u>1,074,264.13</u>	<b><u>1,040,444.53</u></b>	<u>1,052,283.16</u>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:

  
 Keith Currie  
 Honorary Treasurer  
 22/03/2025

The notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 1. Accounting policies

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities

#### (a) Receipts and Payments Account

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

#### (b) Statement of Assets and Liabilities

##### (i) Assets retained for the Parish's own use

The assets of the Parish, retained for its own use comprise:-

- Church Building
- Other buildings – Rectory and Church Office
- Various fixtures and fittings

The Church Building (including Christian artwork, materials and artefacts) are deemed to be Heritage Assets as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). These Heritage Assets are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

Other buildings comprising the Rectory and Church Office were built / acquired a number of years ago and accordingly reliable records of the initial cost, acquisition, subsequent capital works are not available. These buildings are included at insurance values only. Professional valuations have not been completed. No depreciation has been provided on these properties as the select vestry maintains these properties in good repair and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

All of the Church land and buildings are vested in the Representative Church Body.

Fixtures and Fittings costing more than £1,000 are recognised at cost and are depreciated on a straight line basis over a period of 5 years. There are currently no fixtures and fittings costing more than £1,000 which were acquired within the previous 5 years.

##### ii) Investments

Investment in RCB Unit Trusts are initially recorded at cost and are then subsequently stated at fair value at each year end date.

### 2. Reconciliation of Cash Funds

	£
Total cash funds at 1 January 2024	240,193.86
Receipts for the year	58,569.51
Add Diocesan support scheme loan	56,833.35
Payments for the year	(116,231.01)
Total cash funds at 31 December 2024	<u>239,365.71</u>

## Notes to the financial statements (cont'd)

### 3. Church collections

	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Free-will Offerings	4,051.35	0.00	<b>4,051.35</b>	5,034.00
Banker's Orders	15,685.00	0.00	<b>15,685.00</b>	15,033.00
loose plate collection	1,408.31	0.00	<b>1,408.31</b>	983.27
Gift Aid Tax refund	5,561.19	0.00	<b>5,561.19</b>	6,247.57
Gift month	3,230.00	0.00	<b>3,230.00</b>	2,967.00
Donations	220.00	0.00	<b>220.00</b>	751.35
	<b>30,155.85</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>30,155.85</b>	<b>31,016.19</b>

### 4. Property use

	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Rent from Bell Tower	8,000.00	0.00	<b>8,000.00</b>	8,000.00
Car park	9,960.00	0.00	<b>9,960.00</b>	11,390.00
Other users	850.00	0.00	<b>850.00</b>	480.00
	<b>18,810.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>18,810.00</b>	<b>19,870.00</b>

### 5. Other receipts

	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Church of Ireland Gazette Receipts	0.00	47.50	<b>47.50</b>	70.00
Electric and Gas grants	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	1,200.00
Sundry Income	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Parish organisations	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	6.00
	<b>0.00</b>	<b>47.50</b>	<b>47.50</b>	<b>1,276.00</b>

## Notes to the financial statements (cont'd)

### 6. Stipend, salaries & other costs

	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Rector - stipend	47,865.13	0.00	<b>47,865.13</b>	33,283.40
Rector - allowances	5,652.39	0.00	<b>5,652.39</b>	5,492.50
Rector - pension	9,144.60	0.00	<b>9,144.60</b>	6,441.00
Rector - employer's NIC	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Rector - cover	1,737.83	0.00	<b>1,737.83</b>	300.00
Organists	1,825.00	0.00	<b>1,825.00</b>	2,220.00
Secretary	3,087.00	0.00	<b>3,087.00</b>	0.00
	<u>69,311.95</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u><b>69,311.95</b></u>	<u>47,736.90</u>

### 7. Other payments

	2024 Unrestricted Funds	2024 Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Church of Ireland Gazette	214.50	47.50	<b>262.00</b>	108.00
Parish organisations	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
	<u>214.50</u>	<u>47.50</u>	<u><b>262.00</b></u>	<u>108.00</u>

### 8. Transactions with the Trustees

Details of remuneration paid to the Rector are shown at note 6 above. The rectory was vacant during the year to allow for capital works programme. Other accommodation was rented by the Church for the rector and his family at a cost of £13,200.

No trustee, nor any person related to a trustee, had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Parish during the year.

**BELFAST/Belfast: St. Thomas/St. Thomas/Connor/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101975

---

# Accounts

---

**St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast**

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Charity no. 101975**



## **Contents**

	<b>Page (s)</b>
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees	1
Receipts and payments account	2
Statement of assets and liabilities	3
Notes to the financial statements	4 -6

### Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast

I report to the on the accounts of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

#### Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

*Paul Clarke 16.03.24*

Paul Clarke FCA  
7 Manse Green  
Newtownards  
BT23 4TW

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Receipts and Payments Account

		2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Church collections	3	31,016.19	0.00	<b>31,016.19</b>	36,748.23
Special Donations & Bequests		5,625.00	75.00	<b>5,700.00</b>	10,217.88
Trust Income		1,351.04	0.00	<b>1,351.04</b>	1,293.78
Property use	4	19,870.00	0.00	<b>19,870.00</b>	23,429.00
COVID 19 Charity Fund Grant		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	7,174.00
Other receipts	5	1,200.00	76.00	<b>1,276.00</b>	2,346.41
Charities Appeals		0.00	316.23	<b>316.23</b>	80.00
Fund-raising		36.07	0.00	<b>36.07</b>	26.08
Interest		7,393.26	0.00	<b>7,393.26</b>	53.52
		<b>66,491.56</b>	<b>467.23</b>	<b>66,958.79</b>	<b>81,368.90</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Wages, salaries and other costs	6	47,661.90	75.00	<b>47,736.90</b>	52,978.52
Electricity, Water & Gas		4,007.97	0.00	<b>4,007.97</b>	7,136.96
Telephone & internet		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	358.73
Rates		3,505.21	0.00	<b>3,505.21</b>	4,413.48
Insurance		1,669.17	0.00	<b>1,669.17</b>	6,641.11
Repairs and Maintenance		1,128.58	0.00	<b>1,128.58</b>	1,564.00
Rectory capital works project		0.00	16,900.52	<b>16,900.52</b>	33,421.20
Gardening		1,922.00	0.00	<b>1,922.00</b>	1,773.00
Office Supplies		320.82	0.00	<b>320.82</b>	601.23
Church Supplies		0.00	142.00	<b>142.00</b>	378.00
Diocesan Payments		12,378.72	0.00	<b>12,378.72</b>	12,167.16
Charities and Bishops Appeals		0.00	316.23	<b>316.23</b>	80.00
Other payments	7	38.00	70.00	<b>108.00</b>	511.35
Bank Charges		189.61	0.00	<b>189.61</b>	194.28
		<b>72,821.98</b>	<b>17,503.75</b>	<b>90,325.73</b>	<b>122,219.02</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>(6,330.42)</b>	<b>(17,036.52)</b>	<b>(23,366.94)</b>	<b>(40,850.12)</b>
Bank balances as at 1 January		16,958.63	246,602.17	<b>263,560.80</b>	22,246.52
Add sale of unit trusts /curatage		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	282,164.40
Bank balances as at 31 December		<b>10,628.21</b>	<b>229,565.65</b>	<b>240,193.86</b>	<b>263,560.80</b>

The notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>					
Danske Bank no. 1 account		2,573.53	4,499.18	<b>7,072.71</b>	12,475.52
Danske Bank no. 2 account		240.24	0.00	<b>240.24</b>	1,205.35
Dankse Bank business investment account		439.60	0.00	<b>439.60</b>	434.16
RCB deposit account		7,374.84	225,066.47	<b>232,441.31</b>	244,883.70
Parish organisations bank accounts		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	4,562.07
	2	<b>10,628.21</b>	<b>229,565.65</b>	<b>240,193.86</b>	263,560.80
<b>Investment assets</b>					
RCB unit trust	ib (ii)	-	48,717.32	<b>48,717.32</b>	47,297.60
<b>Assets retained for the Parish's own use</b>					
Rectory	1b (i)	-	715,575.00	<b>715,575.00</b>	665,652.00
Church office	1b (i)	-	57,972.00	<b>57,972.00</b>	53,927.00
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Stipend & allowances		(8,507.02)	0.00	<b>(8,507.02)</b>	-
Amount due to parish secretary		(1,500.00)	0.00	<b>(1,500.00)</b>	(1,500.00)
Amount due to gardener		(96.00)	0.00	<b>(96.00)</b>	(144.00)
Col Gazette		(72.00)	0.00	<b>(72.00)</b>	-
Alarm maintenance		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	(150.00)
Rectory capital works project		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	(1,000.00)
<b>Total Assets</b>		453.19	1,051,829.97	<b>1,052,283.16</b>	1,027,643.40

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:

*David G. King*

David King  
Honorary Treasurer

16/3/2024

The notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 1. Accounting policies

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities

#### (a) Receipts and Payments Account

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

#### (b) Statement of Assets and Liabilities

##### (i) Assets retained for the Parish's own use

The assets of the Parish, retained for its own use comprise:-

- Church Building
- Other buildings – Rectory and Church Office
- Various fixtures and fittings

The Church Building (including Christian artwork, materials and artefacts) are deemed to be Heritage Assets as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). These Heritage Assets are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

Other buildings comprising the Rectory and Church Office were built / acquired a number of years ago and accordingly reliable records of the initial cost, acquisition, subsequent capital works are not available. These buildings are included at insurance values only. Professional valuations have not been completed. No depreciation has been provided on these properties as the select vestry maintains these properties in good repair and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

All of the Church land and buildings are vested in the Representative Church Body.

Fixtures and Fittings costing more than £1,000 are recognised at cost and are depreciated on a straight line basis over a period of 5 years. There are currently no fixtures and fittings costing more than £1,000 which were acquired within the previous 5 years.

##### ii) Investments

Investment in RCB Unit Trusts are initially recorded at cost and are then subsequently stated at fair value at each year end date.

### 2. Reconciliation of Cash Funds

	£
Total cash funds at 1 January 2023	263,560.80
Receipts for the year	66,958.79
Add transfers from sale of unit trusts	0.00
Payments for the year	(90,325.73)
Total cash funds at 31 December 2023	<u><u>240,193.86</u></u>

## Notes to the financial statements (cont'd)

### 3. Church collections

	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Free-will Offerings	5,034.00	0.00	5,034.00	5,434.00
Banker's Orders	15,033.00	0.00	15,033.00	16,423.00
loose plate collection	983.27	0.00	983.27	812.70
Gift Aid Tax refund	6,247.57	0.00	6,247.57	8,123.53
Gift month	2,967.00	0.00	2,967.00	5,295.00
Donations	751.35	0.00	751.35	660.00
	<u>31,016.19</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>31,016.19</u>	<u>36,748.23</u>

### 4. Property use

	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Rent from Bell Tower	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Car park	11,390.00	0.00	11,390.00	10,630.00
Rental of curatage	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,124.00
Other users	480.00	0.00	480.00	675.00
	<u>19,870.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>19,870.00</u>	<u>23,429.00</u>

### 5. Other receipts

	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Church of Ireland Gazette Receipts	0.00	70.00	70.00	80.00
Electric and Gas grants	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00
Sundry Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	749.74
RCB grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,510.00
Parish organisations	0.00	6.00	6.00	6.67
	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>76.00</u>	<u>1,276.00</u>	<u>2,346.41</u>

## Notes to the financial statements (cont'd)

### 6. Wages, salaries & other costs

	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Rector - stipend	33,283.40	0.00	<b>33,283.40</b>	37,035.22
Rector - allowances	5,492.50	0.00	<b>5,492.50</b>	6,591.00
Rector - pension	6,441.00	0.00	<b>6,441.00</b>	5,909.04
Rector - employer's NIC	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	153.26
Rector - cover	250.00	50.00	<b>300.00</b>	300.00
Organists	2,195.00	25.00	<b>2,220.00</b>	2,990.00
Secretary	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
	<b>47,661.90</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>47,736.90</b>	<b>52,978.52</b>

### 7. Other payments

	2023 Unrestricted Funds	2023 Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Church of Ireland Gazette	38.00	70.00	<b>108.00</b>	160.00
Parish organisations	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	351.35
	<b>38.00</b>	<b>70.00</b>	<b>108.00</b>	<b>511.35</b>

### 8. Transactions with the Trustees

Details of remuneration paid to the Rector are shown at note 6 above. The rectory was vacant during the year to allow for capital works programme. Other accommodation was rented by the Church for the rector and his family at a cost of £12,100.

No trustee, nor any person related to a trustee, had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Parish during the year.

**BELFAST/Belfast: St. Thomas/St. Thomas/Connor/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101975

---

# Annual report

---

# **St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast**

**Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**Charity no. 101975**



## **Contents**

	<b>Page (s)</b>
Charity information	1
Trustees' report	2 – 6

## Charity Information

<b>Trustees</b>	The Rev. P Jack Prof A Aughey Ms. S Aughey Mr. K Chan Mr. P Dundas Mr. C Eneh Miss M Howe Mr. D G King Mr. P King Mrs. A Oxley Mr. O Paulin
<b>Registered charity number</b>	101975
<b>Registered address</b>	St Thomas's Parish Church c/o The Rectory 1A Eglantine Avenue Belfast BT9 6DW
<b>Bankers</b>	Danske Bank Donegall Square West Belfast BT1 6JS
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stthomas.connor.anglican.org">www.stthomas.connor.anglican.org</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	facebook.com/stthomasbelfast
<b>Twitter</b>	@stthomasbt9

## Trustees' Report

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### Charitable purposes

The principal purpose of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help is fundamental to the practical delivery of the tenets of Christianity. As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish has custody of a large body of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Parish as a secondary charitable purpose.

### Background

St Thomas's Parish Church is located in South Belfast, Northern Ireland and is part of the Church of Ireland, which is a member Church of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

We are committed to be a beacon for God in the City – through our witness, openness and friendliness to all.

- We welcome and include everyone, in our worship, prayer and activities.
- We seek to reflect God's love for all people and all creation.
- We seek to serve God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in prayer, worship and lifestyle.

We are committed to excellence for God; we welcome all who wish to join us in our work and fellowship.

Whether you are from Belfast or visiting the city, you will be very welcome in our Church.

### Details of activities, achievements, performance and public benefit

During the year we held in person services and meetings at our Church.

#### *Worship and prayer*

The main focus of activity is the public worship services which take place on Sunday morning. We have a range of services over the course of each month including a monthly family service, together with a number of special services throughout the year, which people who attend find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. On the 3rd Sunday evening of each month we have Evening Prayer with the Belfast Bach Cantata Consort.

Children and young people also take an active role in Family Services and other worship services including bible reading and leading the prayers.

Sunday Morning Prayer and Holy Communion services take place throughout the year.

We held a number of special services during the year including a number of funerals and burial of ashes.

## Trustees' Report (cont'd)

We also had the popular Christingle Service and the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight during Advent.

Visitors who attend St Thomas' for worship all receive a very warm welcome.

We are one of the few Churches in Northern Ireland to have a peal of bells ringing each Sunday morning with regular practices and an active bell ringing society.

### *Pastoral care*

Some members of our Parish are unable to attend Church due to ill health or age. The Rector visits pastorally all Church members who have requested it, to pray with them and celebrate Holy Communion either at their homes or in hospital. The Rector also makes significant pastoral visits throughout the year, to both those who are members of the parish and those who are not. St Thomas's is also a welcoming and embracing Christian community which reflects the diversity of a modern and international Northern Ireland. Members of our Church regularly visit those who cannot attend to keep them in touch with Church life.

### *Mission, evangelism and charitable giving*

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. During the year we were able to support the work of the following organisations:-

- Water Aid (£50);
- International Red Cross (£216); and
- Food donations were made to The Trussell Trust food bank in South Belfast during Harvest and throughout the year together with a Harvest donation of £50.

During Christian Aid week members of our Church collected £527 plus gift aid. All monies raised were passed on directly to Christian Aid.

### *Other activities*

We were pleased to be able to facilitate, on request, public access to the Church building and records.

### **Beneficiaries**

All of the Church-based activities listed above, which cover the youngest child to the oldest adult within the Church, are open to the population of South Belfast and beyond.

## Trustees' Report (cont'd)

### Financial review

Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £66,492 with restricted receipts of £467. This included church collections of £31,016, a legacy of £5,000 and receipts from property use of £19,870.

We are very grateful to the generosity of all who have contributed during the year.

Total payments of unrestricted funds were £72,823 with restricted payments of £17,504. Unrestricted payments included wages, salary and other employment costs of £47,662; diocesan payments of £12,379; electricity, water & gas of £4,008 and insurance of £1,669. Restricted payments included work and professional fees on the church rectory and rent of suitable alternative accommodation.

The overall result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £23,367. Additionally, there were liabilities of £10,175 at the end of the financial year. At the year end the cash on hand and bank balances of unrestricted funds was £10,628 and restricted funds of £229,566.

During the year the select vestry liaised with the Diocese regarding financial assistance to meet ongoing running costs.

The select vestry will continue to actively review and monitor the financial position of the Parish to attempt to seek to address deficits and to build unrestricted reserves in accordance with our Reserves Policy over the medium to long term.

### Structure, governance and management

#### *Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity*

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland (see [www.ireland.anglican.org/about/the-constitution](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/the-constitution)) governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The select vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

#### *Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)*

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the general vestry of the Parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the general vestry and to stand for election to the select vestry. Meetings of the general vestry are held at least once a year. The select vestry is elected as part of this general vestry meeting. The select vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

## Trustees' Report (cont'd)

### *Organisational Structure*

The select vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the Parish. The select vestry consists of the Rector of the Parish, the churchwardens, the glebe wardens and up to twelve other members of the general vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The select vestry is chaired by the Rector. Select vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied.

The select vestry meets at times fixed by the members or by the diocesan synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens. In 2023 the Select Vestry met 9 times during the year.

An inter-related system joining the central, diocesan and Parish provides additional assistance and sharing of expertise across the structures of the Church as well as achieving a consistent manner of dealing with issues.

All Church property is vested in the Representative Church Body.

### **Pay and remuneration**

The Rector of the Parish receives a stipend (£33,283) together with allowances (£5,493) in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

No other trustee received pay or remuneration during the year.

### **Administrative information**

Details of the trustees who served during the year, registered address and charity registration number are given in the Charity Information section on page 1.

### **Compliance with Public Benefit**

The select vestry has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's aims and objectives, as well as providing public benefit.

## Trustees' Report (cont'd)

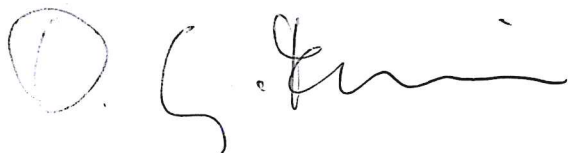
### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:**

  
20 x 24

**BELFAST/Belfast: St. Thomas/St. Thomas/Connor/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101975

---

# Annual return

---

### Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast

I report to the on the accounts of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

#### Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

*Paul Clarke 16.03.24*

Paul Clarke FCA  
7 Manse Green  
Newtownards  
BT23 4TW

**BELFAST/Belfast: St. Thomas/St. Thomas/Connor/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101975

---

# Accounts

---

**St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast**

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Charity no. 101975**



## **Contents**

	<b>Page (s)</b>
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees	1
Receipts and payments account	2
Statement of assets and liabilities	3
Notes to the financial statements	4 -6

### Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast

I report to the on the accounts of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

#### Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Maynard Porter  
MA (Business Administration)  
8b Old Moira Road  
Glenavy  
Crumlin  
BT29 4NP

20/03/2023

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Receipts and Payments Account

		2022	2022	2022	2021
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds		
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Church collections	3	36,748.23	0.00	<b>36,748.23</b>	49,237.57
Special Donations & Bequests		10,217.88	0.00	<b>10,217.88</b>	394.00
Trust Income		1,293.78	0.00	<b>1,293.78</b>	2,206.89
Property use	4	23,429.00	0.00	<b>23,429.00</b>	27,141.00
COVID 19 Charity Fund Grant		7,174.00	0.00	<b>7,174.00</b>	6,568.00
Other receipts	5	2,259.74	86.67	<b>2,346.41</b>	24.52
Charities Appeals		0.00	80.00	<b>80.00</b>	150.00
Fund-raising		26.08	0.00	<b>26.08</b>	1,004.24
Interest		53.52	0.00	<b>53.52</b>	52.44
		<b>81,202.23</b>	<b>166.67</b>	<b>81,368.90</b>	<b>86,778.66</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Wages, salaries and other costs	6	52,978.52	0.00	<b>52,978.52</b>	50,699.94
Electricity, Water & Gas		7,136.96	0.00	<b>7,136.96</b>	6,198.34
Telephone & internet		358.73	0.00	<b>358.73</b>	346.75
Rent & Rates		4,413.48	0.00	<b>4,413.48</b>	4,833.29
Insurance		6,641.11	0.00	<b>6,641.11</b>	5,803.21
Repairs and Maintenance		1,564.00	0.00	<b>1,564.00</b>	1,506.77
Rectory capital works project		0.00	33,421.20	<b>33,421.20</b>	9,370.00
Gardening		1,773.00	0.00	<b>1,773.00</b>	1,326.00
Office Supplies		601.23	0.00	<b>601.23</b>	471.76
Church Supplies		378.00	0.00	<b>378.00</b>	602.80
Diocesan Payments		12,167.16	0.00	<b>12,167.16</b>	11,878.56
Charities and Bishops Appeals		0.00	80.00	<b>80.00</b>	150.00
Other payments	7	80.00	431.35	<b>511.35</b>	164.00
Bank Charges		194.28	0.00	<b>194.28</b>	167.04
		<b>88,286.47</b>	<b>33,932.55</b>	<b>122,219.02</b>	<b>93,518.46</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>		<b>(7,084.24)</b>	<b>(33,765.88)</b>	<b>(40,850.12)</b>	<b>(6,739.80)</b>
Bank balances as at 1 January		24,042.87	(4,050.14)	<b>19,992.73</b>	26,732.53
Add transfers		0.00	39,534.49	<b>39,534.49</b>	0.00
Bank balances as at 31 December		<b>16,958.63</b>	<b>1,718.47</b>	<b>18,677.10</b>	19,992.73

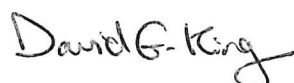
The notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Note	2022 Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Restricted Funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
<b>Cash and bank balances</b>					
Danske Bank no. 1 account		15,319.12	(2,843.60)	<b>12,475.52</b>	13,637.58
Danske Bank no. 2 account		1,205.35	0.00	<b>1,205.35</b>	1,014.77
Dankse Bank business investment account		434.16	0.00	<b>434.16</b>	433.63
Parish organisations		0.00	4,562.07	<b>4,562.07</b>	4,906.75
	2	<b>16,958.63</b>	<b>1,718.47</b>	<b>18,677.10</b>	<b>19,992.73</b>
<b>Investment assets</b>					
RCB unit trust	ib (ii)	-	47,297.60	<b>47,297.60</b>	90,972.17
RCB deposit account		-	244,883.70	<b>244,883.70</b>	2,253.79
<b>Assets retained for the Parish's own use</b>					
Rectory	1b (i)	-	665,652.00	<b>619,211.00</b>	619,211.00
Church office	1b (i)	-	53,927.00	<b>50,165.00</b>	50,165.00
Curatage	1b (i)	-	n/a	<b>n/a</b>	239,950.00
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Amount due to parish secretary		(1,500.00)	0.00	<b>(1,500.00)</b>	(1,500.00)
Amount due to gardener		(144.00)	0.00	<b>(144.00)</b>	(42.00)
Alarm maintenance		(150.00)	0.00	<b>(150.00)</b>	0.00
Rectory capital works project		0.00	(1,000.00)	<b>(1,000.00)</b>	0.00
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>15,164.63</b>	<b>1,012,478.77</b>	<b>1,027,643.40</b>	<b>1,021,002.69</b>

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:



David King  
Honorary Treasurer

20/03/2023.

The notes on pages 4 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the financial statements

### 1. Accounting policies

Set out below are the principal accounting policies which have been adopted in the compilation of the Receipts and Payments Account and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities

#### (a) Receipts and Payments Account

All items of income and expenditure included within the Receipts and Payments Account have been accounted for on a cash receipts basis.

#### (b) Statement of Assets and Liabilities

##### (i) Assets retained for the Parish's own use

The assets of the Parish, retained for its own use comprise:-

- Church Building
- Other buildings – Rectory and Church Office
- Various fixtures and fittings

The Church Building (including Christian artwork, materials and artefacts) are deemed to be Heritage Assets as defined by the Charities SORP (FRS102). These Heritage Assets are not included in the statement of assets and liabilities as information on the cost or valuation is not available and such information cannot be obtained at a cost commensurate with the benefit to the users of the accounts and to the Parish.

Other buildings comprising the Rectory and Church Office were built / acquired a number of years ago and accordingly reliable records of the initial cost, acquisition, subsequent capital works are not available. These buildings are included at insurance values only. Professional valuations have not been completed. No depreciation has been provided on these properties as the select vestry maintains these properties in good repair and the remaining useful life currently exceeds 50 years.

All of the Church land and buildings are vested in the Representative Church Body.

Fixtures and Fittings costing more than £1,000 are recognised at cost and are depreciated on a straight line basis over a period of 5 years. There are currently no fixtures and fittings costing more than £1,000 which were acquired within the previous 5 years.

##### ii) Investments

Investment in RCB Unit Trusts are initially recorded at cost and are then subsequently stated at fair value at each year end date.

### 2. Reconciliation of Cash Funds

	£
Total cash funds at 1 January 2022	19,992.73
Receipts for the year	81,368.90
Add transfers from sale of unit trusts	39,534.49
Payments for the year	<u>(122,219.02)</u>
Total cash funds at 31 December 2022	<u><u>18,677.10</u></u>

## Notes to the financial statements (cont'd)

### 3. Church collections

	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Free-will Offerings	5,434.00	0.00	5,434.00	10,089.00
Banker's Orders	16,423.00	0.00	16,423.00	23,487.00
loose plate collection	812.70	0.00	812.70	817.15
Gift Aid Tax refund	8,123.53	0.00	8,123.53	9,964.42
COVID 19 Appeal / (Gift month)	5,295.00	0.00	5,295.00	4,640.00
Donations	660.00	0.00	660.00	240.00
	36,748.23	0.00	36,748.23	49,237.57

### 4. Property use

	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Rent from Bell Tower	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Car park	10,630.00	0.00	10,630.00	10,150.00
Rental of curatage	4,124.00	0.00	4,124.00	8,916.00
Other users	675.00	0.00	675.00	75.00
	23,429.00	0.00	23,429.00	27,141.00

### 5. Other receipts

	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Church of Ireland Gazette Receipts	0.00	80.00	80.00	20.00
Contribution to Transport	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sundry Income	749.74	0.00	749.74	0.00
RCB grant	1,510.00	0.00	1,510.00	0.00
Parish organisations	0.00	6.67	0.00	4.52
	2,259.74	86.67	2,346.41	24.52

## Notes to the financial statements (cont'd)

### 6. Wages, salaries & other costs

	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Rector - stipend	37,035.22	0.00	<b>37,035.22</b>	36,089.96
Rector - motor allowance	6,591.00	0.00	<b>6,591.00</b>	6,591.00
Rector - pension	5,909.04	0.00	<b>5,909.04</b>	5,737.08
Rector - employer's NIC	153.26	0.00	<b>153.26</b>	0.00
Rector - cover	300.00	0.00	<b>300.00</b>	1,171.90
Organists	2,990.00	0.00	<b>2,990.00</b>	1,110.00
Secretary	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
	<b>52,978.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>52,978.52</b>	<b>50,699.94</b>

### 7. Other payments

	2022 Unrestricted Funds	2022 Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Church of Ireland Gazette	80.00	80.00	<b>160.00</b>	164.00
Parish organisations	0.00	351.35	<b>351.35</b>	0.00
	<b>80.00</b>	<b>431.35</b>	<b>511.35</b>	<b>164.00</b>

### 8. Transactions with the Trustees

Details of remuneration paid to the Rector are shown at note 6 above. The rectory was vacant during the year to allow for the capital works programme. Other accommodation was rented by the Church for the rector and his family at a cost of £10,900.

No trustee, nor any person related to a trustee, had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the Parish during the year.

**BELFAST/Belfast: St. Thomas/St. Thomas/Connor/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101975

---

# Annual report

---

# **St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast**

**Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 December 2022**

**Charity no. 101975**



## **Contents**

	<b>Page (s)</b>
Charity information	1
Trustees' report	2 – 6

## Charity Information

<b>Trustees</b>	The Rev. P Jack Prof A Aughey Ms. S Aughey Mr. K Chan Mr. P Dundas Mr. C Eneh Miss M Howe Mr. D G King Mr. P King Mr. N Mulholland (resigned April 2022) Mrs. A Oxley Mr. O Paulin
<b>Registered charity number</b>	101975
<b>Registered address</b>	St Thomas's Parish Church c/o The Rev P Jack 28 Church Road Newtownbreda Belfast BT8 7AQ
<b>Bankers</b>	Danske Bank Donegall Square West Belfast BT1 6JS
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stthomas.connor.anglican.org">www.stthomas.connor.anglican.org</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://facebook.com/stthomasbelfast">facebook.com/stthomasbelfast</a>
<b>Twitter</b>	@stthomasbt9

## Trustees' Report

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### Charitable purposes

The principal purpose of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting through the work of the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help is fundamental to the practical delivery of the tenets of Christianity. As a result of activity in pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, the Parish has custody of a large body of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural heritage, the maintenance of which is undertaken by the Parish as a secondary charitable purpose.

### Background

St Thomas's Parish Church is located in South Belfast, Northern Ireland and is part of the Church of Ireland, which is a member Church of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

We are committed to be a beacon for God in the City – through our witness, openness and friendliness to all.

- We welcome and include everyone, in our worship, prayer and activities.
- We seek to reflect God's love for all people and all creation.
- We seek to serve God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in prayer, worship and lifestyle.

We are committed to excellence for God; we welcome all who wish to join us in our work and fellowship.

Whether you are from Belfast or visiting the city, you will be very welcome in our Church.

### Details of activities, achievements, performance and public benefit

During the year we held in person services and meetings at our Church in accordance with Government and Diocesan guidance.

#### *Worship and prayer*

The main focus of activity is the public worship services which take place on Sunday morning. We have a range of services over the course of each month including a monthly family service, together with a number of special services throughout the year, which people who attend find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. On the 3rd Sunday evening of each month we have Evening Prayer with the Belfast Bach Cantata Consort.

Children and young people also take an active role in Family Services and other worship services including bible reading and leading the prayers.

Sunday Morning Prayer and Holy Communion services take place throughout the year.

We held a number of special services during the year including a number of funerals and burial of ashes.

## Trustees' Report (cont'd)

We also had the popular Christingle Service and the Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by candlelight during Advent.

Visitors who attend St Thomas' for worship all receive a very warm welcome.

We are one of the few Churches in Northern Ireland to have a peal of 8 bells ringing each Sunday morning with regular practices and an active bell ringing society.

### *Pastoral care*

Some members of our Parish are unable to attend Church due to ill health or age. The Rector visits pastorally all Church members who have requested it, to pray with them and celebrate Holy Communion either at their homes or in hospital. The Rector also makes significant pastoral visits throughout the year, to both those who are members of the parish and those who are not. During 2022 when it was not possible to make in-person visits online and telephone calls were made instead. St Thomas's also has ongoing ecumenical relationships, for example, with the Clonard Pilgrims and Clonard Monastery. St Thomas's is also a welcoming and embracing Christian community which reflects the diversity of a modern and international Northern Ireland. Members of our Church regularly visit those who cannot attend to keep them in touch with Church life.

### *Mission, evangelism and charitable giving*

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. During the year we were able to support the work of the following organisations:-

- Water Aid (£40);
- Food donations were made to The Trussell Trust food bank in South Belfast during Harvest and throughout the year together with a Harvest donation of £40.

During Christian Aid week members of our Church collected £527 plus gift aid. All monies raised were passed on directly to Christian Aid.

### *Other activities*

We were pleased to be able to facilitate, on request, public access to the Church building and records.

### **Beneficiaries**

All of the Church-based activities listed above, which cover the youngest child to the oldest adult within the Church, are open to the population of South Belfast and beyond.

## Trustees' Report (cont'd)

### Financial review

Total receipts of unrestricted funds were £81,202 with restricted receipts of £167. This included church collections of £36,748, a legacy of £9,028 and receipts from property use of £23,429. We also received a support grant of £7,174 from the Department for the Communities Covid-19 Charities Fund.

We are very grateful to the generosity of all who have contributed during the year.

Total payments of unrestricted funds were £88,286 with restricted payments of £33,933. Unrestricted payments included wages, salary and other employment costs of £52,979; diocesan payments of £12,167; electricity, water & gas of £7,137 and insurance of £6,641. Restricted payments included work and professional fees on the church rectory.

The overall result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £40,850. At the year end the cash on hand and bank balances of unrestricted funds was £16,959 and restricted funds of £1,718.

The select vestry will continue to actively review and monitor the financial position of the Parish to attempt to seek to address deficits and to build unrestricted reserves in accordance with our Reserves Policy over the medium to long term.

### Structure, governance and management

#### *Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity*

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland (see [www.ireland.anglican.org/about/the-constitution](http://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/the-constitution)) governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The select vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

#### *Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)*

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the Parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the general vestry of the Parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the general vestry and to stand for election to the select vestry. Meetings of the general vestry are held at least once a year. The select vestry is elected as part of this general vestry meeting. The select vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

## Trustees' Report (cont'd)

### *Organisational Structure*

The select vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the Parish. The select vestry consists of the Rector of the Parish, the churchwardens, the glebe wardens and up to twelve other members of the general vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The select vestry is chaired by the Rector. Select vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish including deciding how Parish funds are to be applied.

The select vestry meets at times fixed by the members or by the diocesan synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens. In 2022 the Select Vestry met 9 times during the year.

An inter-related system joining the central, diocesan and Parish provides additional assistance and sharing of expertise across the structures of the Church as well as achieving a consistent manner of dealing with issues.

All Church property is vested in the Representative Church Body.

### **Pay and remuneration**

The Rector of the Parish receives a stipend (£37,035) together with a motor allowance (£6,591) in accordance with figures approved by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

No other trustee received pay or remuneration during the year.

### **Administrative information**

Details of the trustees who served during the year, registered address and charity registration number are given in the Charity Information section on page 1.

### **Compliance with Public Benefit**

The select vestry has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's aims and objectives, as well as providing public benefit.

## Trustees' Report (cont'd)

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf:

*The Rev. Paul Seal*  
*25th October 2023*

**BELFAST/Belfast: St. Thomas/St. Thomas/Connor/Church of Ireland**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 101975

---

# Annual return

---

### Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast

I report to the on the accounts of St Thomas's Parish Church, Belfast for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

#### Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner.

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Maynard Porter  
MA (Business Administration)  
8b Old Moira Road  
Glenavy  
Crumlin  
BT29 4NP

20/03/2023