



St Thomas' Church
Lowther St
York
(St Thomas' Mission Unit)



ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
For the year ended 31 December 2020

Priest-in-Charge and Co-ordinator of the Mission Unit: Revd Alistair Rycroft

Churchwardens: Mrs Jo Bloss, Mr Michael Minihan

Treasurer: Mr David Pennock

Independent Examiner: Mrs Jane Kasiuk, 20 Elmfield Avenue, YO31 9LS

Bank: Lloyds Bank plc, Pavement Branch, York

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Annual Report of the PCC of St Thomas' for the year ended Dec 31st 2018

St Thomas' Church (also St Thomas' Mission Unit, 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 exempted from registration 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 2020, the members of the PCC of St Thomas' Church were:

Revd Al Rycroft (priest-in-charge) – Chair
David Stirk – Vice Chair
Michael Minihan – Churchwarden
Jo Bloss – Churchwarden
David Pennock – Treasurer
Tom Dennis – Secretary
Viv Pennock
Anna Minihan
Rob Hazell
Peter Platts
David Nevard
Ruth Dunlop (from November 2020)
Maya James (from November 2020)
Mr Gerald Snowden (Deanery Synod Representative)

Full ordinary meetings of the PCC occurred four times during 2020, and there were two meetings of the Standing Committee. After January, these took place via Zoom because of Covid restrictions.

Church Attendance

As of May 2020, there were 90 on the electoral roll (25 resident, 65 non-resident). The average attendance figure for Sunday services from January to March 2020 was 81 adults and 17 children. Following national restrictions, our main worship services continued online for the rest of 2020.

Church Services continued at 10.30am on Sundays until March 2020, normally a Eucharistic service, but with a monthly All Age service of the Word. Children's groups ran during our non- all age services. Following the Covid restrictions, most worship was online. We had communion services for limited numbers on Sunday afternoons or midweek between July and the end of the year. We also held some in-person services at Christmas.

Safeguarding: The PCC has an up to date 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.

The Safeguarding Representative was Jenny Bingham (to November) and Abigail Ocroft (from November). Ruth Dunlop is now the PCC's safeguarding link.

Review of 2020 (by Al Rycroft, Priest-in-Charge)

Owing to all the disruptions of Covid-19, it's only five months since I last wrote an annual review. This time, we are looking back on 2020 in all its strangeness. But, for all the difficulties of the pandemic year, there was also plenty of strangeness in a good sense as we continued to be aware of God with us. According to the Rosetta Tharp song I played in an all age service, when God is at work we find "strange things happening every day"!

2020 began normally enough, and we reflected together as a PCC that we needed to be careful in St Thomas' to tend to one another's wellbeing, not burning ourselves out. The two emphases I spoke of in January were to develop a 'culture of prayer' and to be full of hope so that we can be a 'haven of hope' to others. I think many of us found during 2020 that we were driven to pray because of the great disruption we were confronted with, and for some there was also more *time* to pray as the busyness of normal life was forcibly interrupted. I hope that we will emerge from this experience with our relationship to Jesus strengthened and our desire to pray deepened.

There were also many signs of hope in 2020. Though we could not meet together, the evidence was all around that our community was not shattered by the ongoing restrictions. It was encouraging to see that St Thomas' is a community of people who genuinely care for one another, and who were creatively and self-sacrificially supporting one another when it would have been so easy to retreat and 'look after number one'. Online services brought people together while physically apart, online home groups grew and proved invaluable to many, other online activities brought encouragement, and outdoor walks and doorstep chats blossomed.

Of course, the desire to serve did not stop there, and the willingness to look out for the needs of others in our local community and beyond was also very evident. Groves Groceries was a lifeline to many during the isolation of the first lockdown, and the support group we were allowed to run once restrictions returned in the autumn also made a big difference to those attending.

Where possible, we did try to make use of the building – aware of our opportunity to offer a place of peace in what was often a climate of fear. Small communion services were able to take place in the second half of the year, and the Festival of Christmas Trees and Nativities won plenty of admiration: the church looked great, and we were able to open the building and make contact with local people in the run-up to Christmas. Perhaps a good template for Advent activities in years to come, when more people would be free to come through.

2020 also saw the beginning of two very significant things: first, the partnership with St Wulstan's, our neighbouring parish. From the autumn onwards, various preachers and clergy from St Thomas' went to lead and speak at St Wulstan's, and we began to discover a lovely fellowship of people with a very similar desire to reach out with the love of Jesus into their local community. I write just a couple of days after having been licensed as priest-in-charge there, and it's my belief that God is at work in this burgeoning relationship, and that he has plenty to do in our two parishes as we support and encourage each other.

Secondly, we began to make strides in our plans to repair and reorder St Thomas' building. We employed Claire Smith (who began in January 2021) as our Development Manager – with money from the Barbara Martin legacy – and also received a Temporary License from the Archdeacon to allow us to remove the pews for up to 18 months. It now feels as though our desire for the building to match our vision to be a 'haven of hope' in the Groves is starting to be enacted, which is exciting to see.

In spite of all the challenges of 2020, once again we have been greatly blessed and have seen so much evidence of God's faithfulness. Once again, I am hugely grateful to each and every one who is part of this joyful community; and grateful, too, for the ongoing blessing of unity under our Lord Jesus. In a world which seems increasingly to be pulling itself apart and deeply divided, let's pray that we might shine the light of God's goodness:

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation... We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!'" (2 Corinthians 5.19-20)

Financial Review for 2020 and Future Prospects

Total receipts on general unrestricted funds in 2020 were £83,543 and are detailed in the financial statements on pages 5-7 of this report. £86,392 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Thomas' Church, including the freewill offering of £31,500 to the Diocese of York, which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

With a year spent more in Lockdown than not, running costs were less than 2019, with savings in utility costs. The costs of services were not reduced as any savings were offset by the cost of streaming services online and higher costs to provide resources for children's activities at home.

General maintenance costs increased by nearly £1,000, to £4,104, with some work deferred from 2019. An additional £3,965 was spent on Major Repairs, which was for Vestry refurbishment and replacement of some Church lighting.

Planned Giving increased by £8,000 and exceeded budget by £4,500, following a few increases in standing order amounts and the start of some new ones. As would be expected, there was a significant reduction in Church Collections, which were £4,451 less than 2019. Other income from Hall letting and Car parking was much reduced.

The net result for the year was a deficit of receipts over payments of £2,204 after transfers, however given the unprecedented year this is a very good result and demonstrates the generous giving of our Church congregation, even in the face of so much upheaval and uncertainty.

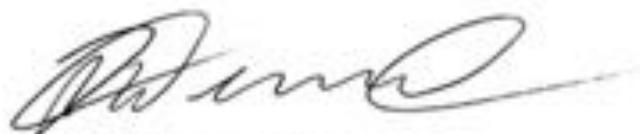
Our CDIF investment fund shares increased in value by £356 and paid dividends and interest of £171 into the John Walker and Agar's Gift charities we administer. Some funds from these charity holdings and the PCC's own charitable giving amounted to £3,000. Support for Chris and Suzy Wilson given to CMS towards their mission costs in Ethiopia was £5,000 and a further £400 was provided to Louise Barclay towards her mission work in Belgium. Funding for Groves Groceries and Christmas Outreach totalled £1,070. Unused balances have now been unrestricted, with the donor's approval, for general support and outreach.

Our total budgeted general fund expenditure for 2021 is £93,405, which equates to £1,796 per week. This excludes the financing of any capital works on the structure of the Church. The majority of this money comes from the generous giving of the congregation at St Thomas' Church. Church members are encouraged to use bankers' standing orders to provide planned regular income. The budgeted requirement for Planned Giving is £68,000, or £1,308 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 2019/20 was £12,477.

The Treasurer is grateful for the valuable support received from the Church Wardens and those who assist with collection counting and banking.

Reserves Policy

It is prudent for the PCC to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds, equivalent to 3 months unrestricted expenditure, £23,351 against the 2020 budget of £93,405. The balance of £40,515 on unrestricted funds at the year-end exceeded this target.



David Pennock (PCC Treasurer)

**Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of the Church of St Thomas with
St Maurice, York.**

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 2020.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

22 April 2021

St Thomas with St Maurice Church, Lowther Street, York
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Endowment Fund £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT						
Receipts						
Voluntary receipts from donors						
Tax efficient planned giving	46,746.00	-	-	-	46,746.00	42,115
Other planned giving	17,762.78	-	-	-	17,762.78	14,370
Collections	705.79	-	80.00	-	785.79	5,237
Other recurring giving/donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-recurring giving/donations	2,962.04	-	3,270.90	-	6,232.94	7,728
Income tax recovered	12,477.18	-	-	-	12,477.18	12,036
	80,683.79	-	3,350.90	-	84,034.69	81,486
Other voluntary receipts	3a	-	-	-	-	3,701
Activities for generating funds	3b	20.26	-	-	20.26	18
Investment income	3c	17.47	2.45	564.95	584.87	714
Receipts from church activities	3d	2,822.00	-	-	2,822.00	5,620
Other incoming resources	3e	-	-	-	-	-
	83,543.32	2.45	3,915.85	-	87,461.62	91,538
Payments						
Church activities						
Dioesan Fredwill Offering	31,500.00	-	-	-	31,500.00	30,000
Other payments	3f	54,891.77	438.06	1,170.98	56,500.81	50,485
	86,391.77	438.06	1,170.98	-	88,000.81	80,485
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(2,848.21)	(435.61)	2,744.87	-	(538.95)	11,053
Transfers between funds	644.43	-	(644.43)	-	-	-
	(2,203.82)	(435.61)	2,100.44	-	(538.99)	11,053
Bank current and deposit accounts 1 Jan	42,719.06	1,000.75	78,713.42	-	123,033.23	111,980
Bank current and deposit accounts 31 Dec	40,515.27	1,185.14	80,813.86	-	122,494.27	123,033
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES						
Cash Funds						
Bank current account	3,207.34	-	-	-	3,207.34	3,764
Bank deposit account	37,307.93	724.00	9,946.95	-	47,978.28	47,961
CBF & COIF deposit funds	-	441.14	70,866.91	-	71,308.05	71,308
	40,515.27	1,185.14	80,813.86	-	122,494.27	123,033
Investment Assets						
COIF Investment Fund Shares at market value (Increase in value in 2020 = £306.07)	-	-	5,923.59	-	5,923.59	5,568
	40,515.27	1,185.14	86,737.45	-	128,417.86	128,601

The attached notes on pages 6-7 form part of these financial statements

Approved by the PCC on 15th April 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Rev'd Al Rycroft (PCC Chairman)



Dave Pennock (PCC Treasurer)



St Thomas with St Maurice Church, Lowther Street, York
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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	70,866.91	294.43	-	(294.43)	70,866.91
John Walker York Holy Trinity	296.66	32.46	-	(50.00)	281.12
John Walker Sundry School	81.58	11.37	-	(30.00)	62.95
Agar's Gift	1,192.49	126.69	-	(170.00)	1,149.18
Restricted / Charity / Funeral Collections	-	60.00	(80.00)	-	-
Flower Fund	210.00	-	(53.18)	-	156.82
JRH Creativity Grant	1,922.50	320.90	(376.51)	-	1,866.89
Encounter	25.59	-	(25.59)	-	-
Gift Pledges	4,115.60	-	-	-	4,115.60
Christmas Outreach	-	950.00	(835.69)	-	314.31
Reordering Project	-	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00
	78,713.42	3,915.85	(1,170.98)	(644.43)	80,813.86
Designated Funds:					
West Front Fund	450.95	2.45	-	-	453.40
Fabric Fund	711.74	-	-	-	711.74
Vestry Fund	438.06	-	(438.06)	-	-
	1,600.75	2.45	(438.06)	-	1,165.14

3 Receipts and Payment Analysis

	Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
a Other voluntary receipts					
Legacy	-	-	-	-	-
Recurring grants	-	-	-	-	-
Non-recurring grants	-	-	-	-	3,701
	-	-	-	-	3,701
b Activities for generating funds - receipts					
Fund raising	20.26	-	-	20.26	18
	20.26	-	-	20.26	18
c Receipts from investments					
Dividends and interest	17.47	2.45	564.95	584.87	714
Rent from PCC owned property	-	-	-	-	-
	17.47	2.45	564.95	584.87	714
d Receipts from church activities					
Fees retained by the PCC	145.00	-	-	145.00	628
Bookstall	-	-	-	-	-
Letting of hall	1,657.00	-	-	1,657.00	2,577
Rent from car park	1,020.00	-	-	1,020.00	2,215
	2,822.00	-	-	2,822.00	5,620
e Other incoming resources					
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
Loans	-	-	-	-	-
Donations received as endowments	-	-	-	-	-
Sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

St Thomas with St Maurice Church, Lowther Street, York
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3 Receipts and Payment Analysis

f Church activities - payments

Costs of generating funds	
Fund raising costs	
Donations (grants) to charities	
Overseas missions	
Home missions	
Secular charities	
Activities directly related to the work of the church	
Salaries, wages & honorarium	
Working expenses of the incumbent	
Working expenses of assistant staff	
Parsonage house expenditure	
Mission & evangelism costs	
Church insurance	
Church cleaning	
Church admin costs	
Church maintenance costs	
Upkeep of services	
Upkeep of churchyard	
Other PCC property upkeep	
Support costs	
Loan interest paid	
Church administration and administrator	
Gas costs	
Electricity costs	
Water costs	
Oil costs	
Costs of trading	
Bookstall costs	
Letting direct costs	
Parish magazine costs	
Governance costs	
Major expenditure	
Major repairs to church buildings	
Major repairs to church hall	
New building or major works	

Unrestricted Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
£	£	£	£	£
76.18	-	-	76.18	57
5,900.04	-	-	5,900.04	5,631
2,250.00	-	-	2,250.00	2,334
250.00	-	80.00	330.00	402
24,084.57	-	-	24,084.57	20,121
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
362.00	-	-	362.00	414
442.65	-	1,037.79	1,480.44	3,696
2,257.50	-	-	2,257.50	2,330
2,617.21	-	-	2,617.21	2,359
1,113.87	-	-	1,113.87	606
4,104.27	-	-	4,104.27	3,155
2,355.47	-	53.19	2,408.66	2,472
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
1,600.00	-	-	1,600.00	1,247
-	-	-	-	-
139.26	-	-	139.26	435
2,444.36	-	-	2,444.36	2,672
776.71	-	-	776.71	1,346
253.91	-	-	253.91	414
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
209.77	-	-	209.77	648
-	-	-	-	-
95.00	-	-	95.00	80
3,927.00	436.06	-	3,965.06	-
-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-
54,891.77	436.06	1,170.96	56,500.81	50,485

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

5 Working expenses of the incumbent allocated to specific cost centres.

6 No payments were made to PCC members.

**St Thomas with St Maurice Church
General fund budget 2021**

	Total	Per Week
INCOME	£	£
Planned giving	68,000	1,308
Collections	3,000	58
Income tax	13,000	250
Donations	3,000	58
Fees	200	4
Car parking	2,000	38
Hall income	1,000	19
Interest	20	0
Transfers charity funds	250	5
TOTAL	90,470	1,740

	Total	Per Week
EXPENDITURE	£	£
Charity giving	3,000	58
Support Chris & Sury	5,000	95
Support Louise	1,200	23
Free Will Offering	33,075	636
Vicarage water	430	8
Church & Hall running	11,000	212
Maintenance	8,000	154
Training / Scholarship	1,000	19
Misson / Outreach	1,500	29
Services	2,500	48
Admin	900	17
Miscellaneous	500	10
Lay Outreach Workers	15,150	291
Children's Worker	10,150	195
TOTAL	93,405	1,796

Church Wardens' Report 2020/21

This report is a review of the past year during which we have been through tumultuous times as individuals and as a church. We pray that the Joy of the Lord has been your strength through it all and that you have encountered His love and grace and peace in whatever you have been through.

For the church, it has been a challenging but also an exciting time. God really is doing a new thing amongst us and we need to try and keep up!

Communal Worship

We made a rapid transition in March 2020 to online worship with excellent support and input from the staff team and, of course, the whole Rycroft family who welcomed us into their home each week for a service that helped us to feel connected and reassured at a worrying time. Al and Lucy juggling music, teaching, technology and children was truly inspiring and, at times, very funny.

Those who could not access online church were supported with DVDs or paper copies of sermons thanks to several people who have delivered them all year. This is just one example of how we have worked together to support and encourage one another. Being family to one another has been difficult when we are apart but many of us have been blessed by the kindness of others in big and small ways.

Al's teaching has helped us to seek God's perspective in troubled times – both on Sundays and through teaching series online. He has also encouraged us to be thinking and praying about what we will do next – what to return to and what to lay down. Most recently, we have been focusing on our Vision and what it means to be a Haven in the Groves.

Children

Charlotte has supported families throughout the year with Church in a Bag to imaginatively help children have their own bit of church each week. Again, delivered by some very faithful helpers. Over 15 families have been supported in this way which is wonderful.

Outreach

Groves Groceries was a wonderful project to share the love of Christ in practical ways through provision of food and a friendly face each week. We are so grateful to Maya for organising this and to everyone who helped out. At Christmas we provided lots of hampers for people in need in our area and across York.

Also at Christmas we had a festival of light and trees in the church which attracted many people to pop into the building and, we hope, sense the presence of Jesus and think about His birth afresh. We also had a nativity trail and a sheep trail around the community. Bryony Dansey did a great job of visiting lots of local shops and involving the community in these activities. We were blessed to have a wonderful array of life size animals and assorted props courtesy of the Moore family.

Development Project

We were delighted to appoint Claire Smith as our Development Project Manager – Claire has made a great start to her work since January 2021 with the early stages of consultation and helping us all to think about what our priorities are to be.

We obtained a temporary faculty to remove all the pews. These are currently in storage pending long term decisions. With excellent work from Dave Stirk and Stuart Dyas the nave has been made into a very usable and attractive space whilst we consider next steps towards our plan to fully redevelop the church building.

St Wulstan's

Alongside this big project we have entered into a partnership with St Wulstan's Church where Al has now (May 2021) been licensed as Priest in Charge. The PCC had a helpful meeting with Archdeacon Sam Rushton to

discuss our hopes and concerns about this new direction. We are excited about developing, over time, a shared vision with St Wulstan's so that we can support each other to be good news in our neighbouring communities and to grow as disciples of Jesus .

Jo Bloss and Mike Minihan

Children's Work

As this lockdown eases and we get used to a new normality, we are excited to be able to resume children's activities again and for the opportunities this will create in the ministry.

The resource 'Church in a Bag' has continued throughout the academic year as a substitute for Sunday children's groups that have not been able to start back yet. We have 17 families signed up to receive a weekly bag that contains Bible-based activities and craft resources, along with a related video. Thank you to all my volunteers who have so faithfully delivered the bags each week!

In the spring term, we ran two weekly Zoom groups for KS1 and KS2 aged children. We enjoyed playing Zoom-friendly games and having fellowship together. In the KS2 group, we explored different emotions in the Bible.

Training

In October, I started the Aurora Children's Ministry Training course which was run by the Yorkshire Methodist District. The course covered children's spirituality, child and faith development, practical approaches to children's ministry, child theology and how to manage the ministry. This content was taught through weekly Zoom sessions, along with personal study and the completion of 6 assignments. With the course ending in May, I feel it has been a valuable experience and equipped me with a greater knowledge of how to run the ministry both practically and spiritually.

Tiny Tots

For the past 8 months, we have not been able as a group meet due to the various restrictions. However, with easing of lockdown we are back meeting again in the building! It has been such a blessing to reconnect with families again in person.

Charlotte Hazell

Students

During 2020, we've been blessed to be joined by a few new students, adding to the group of continuing students, both from the University of York & York St. John's. In terms of numbers, there have been up to twenty students that have been regularly connected to St. Thomas' in one shape or form.

Prior to lockdown, Sunday evenings were used as a time for students to gather & build relationships with each other in the church hall in a relaxed atmosphere over games & food. A number of students joined home groups that met weekly. Some met regularly one-to-one with members of the congregation in a mentoring-style relationship (thank you mentors!). The young adults & students went away for a weekend in January 2020 to Wydale, where Dave Nevard shared. Following the lockdown, students continued to remain connected in groups that met monthly over Zoom/Facebook, discussing faith & student life. Approximately twenty people took part in these from various parts of the country, which was more than would attend on a single counter-culture night! Students have served as part of the refreshment rota, running Sunday children's groups, the P.A. & in the worship band.

In July 2020, we said farewell to two of our students, Sarah Taylor & Hannah Waddilove, both of whom completed degrees at the University of York. Louise moved on too; we do thank God for all her work meeting regularly with students & cooking them several meals! In September 2020, Caleb Hawthorne started a one

year discipleship programme with the Belfrey, during which he is serving students at St Thomas' in '20/'21. We look forward to seeing what God does in the lives of students this year.

Community Outreach

Following the lockdown, of course many of our usual midweek outreach groups could not meet. We did, however, run several outdoor cafes or indoor cafes in accordance with the 'rule of six' during the summer and early autumn.

During the first lockdown, we were able to serve many local contacts with food parcels through Groves Groceries. This ran for 15 weeks, with the support of YourCafe and many volunteers from St Thomas' (and some others). An amazing 848 bags of food were delivered, and the responses we received from many – including local families the schools had connected us with – were evidence of how valuable this scheme was. With special thanks to Eddy and Maya James for co-ordinating the project.

In accordance with the guidelines for permitted activities, we've been running a support group throughout the winter of 2020 & now into 2021. Presently, the group meets on Tuesdays at 1pm. It has been encouraging to see new people join, together with a number of regulars attending every week. Needs vary for those who come. For some, the group has been one of the few (if not only) interactions they have with people outside of their household. For others, the food, drink & warmth provided is helpful. We're thankful to Reg for working hard in the kitchen, serving hot drinks & bacon sandwiches! We've had regular opportunities to pray with attendees. Do pray that this might continue. It has been great to have a few members of the church attending the group at various times, which has allowed for relationships to develop with those that don't currently attend Sunday services.

Farewell to Louise Barclay-Johnson!

We were very sad that our farewell to Louise couldn't be the big event we'd have liked it to be. She has worked tirelessly to serve in so many areas of our church life ever since she arrived as a student – leading worship, leading the Groves Gospel choir, serving on Peaced Together and at Creative Café, devoted great time and effort to work with students and young adults. We are delighted that we can continue to partner with and support Louise in her new ministry as she serves with CMS and Ichthus in Belgium.

Fabric Report 2020

Following on from the extended 2019 report, we have carried out further work within the buildings. Firstly we have upgraded the central heating boiler in the hall and dispensed with the separate water heater. They have been replaced with a more efficient, cost effective Combi-boiler for the heating and hot water.

Secondly, now that the Covid 19 restrictions have eased we were able, under a temporary Faculty (licence) from the Diocese, to make more space for socially distancing, once we are able to return for services. The Faculty enabled us to remove the pews from the nave and put them into safe storage. We were then able to develop the two spaces so that chairs could easily be spread around, meaning that a larger number of the congregation could attend services. I'm please to say that the whole process went very well and we had it completed for Easter. I wish to thank all volunteers for who put their names on the list and for giving of their time to make this project a reality.

Further to this work we look forward to the Building Group developing plans for reordering throughout 2021.

Dave Stirk

2nd St Thomas Scout Group

Well, what a year.

I started last year's report with the news that Chris Leach had stepped down as Group Scout Leader after thirty years, so it is appropriate that I start this year's by acknowledging, with great sadness, her passing in November after a long term illness. COVID-19 restrictions meant that we could not celebrate her life in the way we might have wanted to, but we hope to be able to honour Chris and her dedicated service at some point in the future.

Our group continues to be led by the experience of our fantastic leadership team, with Toni Myers and Jo Wareham stepping up to be joint Group Scout Leaders and myself and Holly Sloan stepping up to be responsible for running on the Cub and Beaver sections respectively. Simon Errington has joined our committee as treasurer and he and I are working on recruiting volunteers for this.

As I write this, we are in the process of starting up again after a year of lockdown. With the nights getting longer and the weather (hopefully) improving, we are hoping to run an entirely outdoor programme, which will be a fantastic adventurous start for all our current members, and if anyone is looking to join us, we have plenty of spaces for young people aged 6- 10.

We would also welcome any adults who are looking for a new challenge, either as a member of our leadership team. We particularly are looking for someone to join our Beaver section as an assistant leader, no previous experience required! If anyone is interested, please contact us below.

Yours in Scouting

Tom Mann - Section Leader (Cubs)

On behalf of the leadership team of 2nd St Thomas' Scout Group

2ndstthomasyork@gmail.com or tgm17@gmail.com

Facebook: 2nd St Thomas- Official

Minutes of the St. Thomas' Mission Unit Annual General Meeting, 2020

The St. Thomas' Mission Unit Annual General Meeting was held on 15th November 2020 at 12:00pm via Zoom

Parishioner's Meeting

1. Opening Prayer

Al Rycroft greeted those on the Zoom call.

2. Appointment of a secretary for the meeting

T. Dennis was reelected as secretary. Approved unanimously.

3. Apologies for absence

D. Dyas, V. Ward, B. Nye, A. Nye.

4. Minutes of the Parishioner's Meeting, 31st March 2019

Approved with no alterations. Proposed: D. Pennock. Seconded: D. Stirk.

5. Matters arising

No matters arising.

6. Elections: Church Wardens for the year 2020/21

Jo Bloss elected as churchwarden. Proposed: V. Pennock. Seconded: A. Stirk.

Michael Minihan elected as churchwarden. Proposed: V. Pennock. Seconded: A. Stirk.

Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

See Parishioner's meeting.

2. Minutes of AGM, 31st March 2019

Approved with no alterations. Proposed: M. Neale. Seconded: D. Griffin.

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Alison Stirk reported to the secretary that there are 88 people on the electoral roll - 26 in the parish, 62 outside.

5. Reports

a. *Treasurer's Annual Report and Presentation of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019*

Accounts enclosed in annual report. Proposed: P. Platts. Seconded: D. Griffin.

Approved unanimously.

The congregation thanked D. Pennock for his hard work and presentation at the AGM.

b. *Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for the year 2020*

Jane Kasiuk reappointed. Approved unanimously.

6. Elections:

a. Synod Representatives

G. Snowden reelected as deanery synod representative. Proposed: D. Stirk. Seconded: R. James. One space remains.

b. PCC Members to serve for 3 years

Ruth Dunlop elected to the PCC. Proposed: J. Bloss. Seconded: L. Rycroft.

Maya James elected to the PCC. Proposed: A. Taylor. Seconded: D. Pennock.

Approved uncontested.

c. Safeguarding Officer (Protection of children and vulnerable adults)

J. Bingham to stand down. The congregation minutes their thanks.

A. Oscroft to become Safeguarding Officer (election of this role to occur during the next PCC meeting).

d. Electoral Roll Officer (Annual)

A. Stirk reelected as Electoral Roll Officer. Approved unanimously.

e. Sidespersons (Annual) All people on welcoming rota are approved as sidespersons. Approved.

7. **Reports booklet**

D. Pennock presented information on the finances of the church to the congregation (year-end 2019). Total receipts for the year-end were £85,730 with 2/3 coming from planned giving (£42,115) and the reclaimed income tax (£12,036). Alongside other donation sources, approximately £80,000 of receipts came from giving. The expenditure this year was £76,830, with £30,000 (39% of expenditure) being the freewill offering to the diocese (a 5% increase) and £20,121 on salaries, representing the largest portions of this. Fees and hall income are down, but planned giving is as expected. Our finances also show we were thankful to not have to furlough any staff. D. Pennock thanked those who helped count the donations, G. Snowden for going to the bank and to J. Kasiuk for being the independent examiner.

Vicar's Annual Report

A. Rycroft emphasized how grateful he was for the way so many people contribute to the daily life of St. Thomas'. He also raised the PCC subcommittees and how these were open to anyone and they should feel free to put their names forward. He further highlighted how, though we may not know what comes next in life, God is steadfast and will lead us forward, will not abandon us and 'will do good to us' (as mentioned in Galatians).

A. Rycroft also shared that Chris and Suzy's mission is ending (after a brief return stint to complete graduation for some of the students) and Chris is exploring ordination in the Church of Ireland.

Closer links with St. Wulstans were also discussed and the idea of a partnership with St. Wulstans was raised. A. Rycroft also discussed how our church is unlikely to get a full-time stipend, particularly following the lockdown, even though they appreciate all the good things happening at our church. A Rycroft expressed his commitment to the church.

A Project Development Manager has also been appointed. This will be C. Smith, subject to referencing.

Staffing for the next year was also discussed. The PCC had wished to appoint a part-time role to focus on outreach and music, but this has been put on hold until the end of 2020. C. Hawthorne has also been appointed as an intern.

8. **AOB**

L. Barclay was thanked by the PCC and the congregation for the fantastic work she completed whilst serving the church.

Others shared the joy of companionship during lockdown. Tuesday Prayer Meetings were also raised as important.

R. James raised the possibility of purchasing the Church Rooms. A. Rycroft shared that the building is currently unsafe and structurally unsound.

9. **Date of next PCC meeting**

To be confirmed at a later date.

10. **Closing prayer**

P. Moore closed in prayer, quoting from Psalm 103.

