

# St Thomas Exeter

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

### **REPORTS & ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

## **ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

1. Minutes
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. St Thomas Parochial Charity

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

1. Minutes
2. Staff Report
3. Presentation of Electoral Roll
4. Hon. Secretary's Report
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report
6. Report on various accounts
  - Flower Arrangers
  - Young at Hearts
  - St Thomas Tots
7. Church Fabric Report
8. Safeguarding Report
9. Deanery Synod Report
10. Nominations and Elections for 2021
11. Appointment of Independent Examiner
12. Date of Next PCC Meeting

## **The Annual Vestry Meeting was held at St Thomas Church on 18th October 2020**

The meeting opened with prayers.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th April 2019 were read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

Prop: Mr E Marchant

Sec: Mr I Totterdell

Carried:

### **Churchwardens**

One nomination had been received from Mr Ian Totterdell. No other nominations had been received. Mr Totterdell was elected.

Prop:

Sec:

Carried:

Fr David commented that there are on-going discussions on how best other people can support Mr Totterdell in this role which is more demanding at this year. Next year Mr Totterdell will be want to travel and some tasks will need to be covered.

### **Charity Accounts**

The accounts had been examined and signed by Mr Withers and circulated. A cheque for £75 in payment of the Christmas Meal at Age UK had not been cashed and was returned. The accounts were accepted on the proposal of Mrs J Farmer

Sec: Mrs J Vowles

Carried:

Fr David thanked Mrs Darke for all her hard work during the past year.

Date .....

Signed .....

Chairman

## **The 104th Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held via Zoom on Sunday 18th October 2020.**

The Revd. Dr D Nixon was in the Chair

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th April 2019 were read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

Proposed: Mrs C Bryant

Seconded: Dr N Byott

Carried:

**Staff Report:** This had been circulated.

**Electoral Roll:** Mrs C Bryant reported that the total number of members on the roll as at 7th April 2019 was 75.

Removed 2

Deceased 2

Total as at 18th October 2020 71

Fr David thanked Mrs Bryant for her work on the Electoral Roll.

**Secretary's Report:** The report had been circulated.

Fr David thanked Mrs Thomas for her work as Secretary.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report had been circulated. Mr Withers talked to the accounts. Fr David commented that although there seems to be a lot of money in the accounts this is because of the sale of St Andrews and Emmanuel Churches. We are still running at a deficit and need to be

Careful with the finances.

The accounts were accepted on the proposal of Mr I Totterdell

Seconded: Mrs A Campion

Carried:

**Church Fabric Report:** A report by the Churchwardens on the state of the fabric had been circulated.

**Safeguarding Report:** A report by Mrs C Bryant had been circulated. Some DBS checks were outstanding. Meetings were now held every 3 months.

**Deanery Synod Report:** A report on the meetings held during the year had been circulated.

**Diocesan Synod Report:** A report by Mr P Baker had been circulated.

### **Elections:**

PCC for 2020, 1/3 being elected: Dr J Morgan. Mr D Wright. Mrs J Thomas

Deanery Synod: Mr P Baker, Mr A Withers

Election of Sidesmen and Women: Mrs E Barber and Mr R Mounce had died since last year. The remaining Sidesmen and Women were elected *en bloc*

Prop: Mr E Marchant

Sec: Mrs J Farmer

Carried:

**Appointment of Independent Examiner:** It was proposed by Mr A Withers that Mr Martin Cronin be appointed Independent Examiner. Seconded: Fr David Carried:

### **Any Other Business: None**

Fr David thanked everyone for their work in the Parish this year.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Date..... Signed.....

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## **Report from the Rector and Staff of St Thomas, Exeter 2020**

### **Fr David Nixon**

Above all, whether we like it or not, this becomes the Covid Report for the parish of St Thomas Exeter, as a record of what we have done and not done in a year which saw extraordinary circumstances locally and nationally. I have maintained the same sections below as previously for the sake of continuity, but with a very different sort of content.

### *Church Matters*

Up until the imposition of the first Covid lockdown, parish life had continued in its regular round – see 2019 report for typical details, including liturgy, school visits etc.

Our last regular service in Church was Lent 3 – by the time of Mothering Sunday we were completely closed even for clergy prayer, a controversial decision at the time. There was a staff Mass for Mothering Sunday, but the rest of Lent and Holy Week was not marked by public worship

– for the first time I guess in many centuries.

Our initial principal challenge was keeping in touch with parishioners in order to offer spiritual and pastoral support. A prior piece of work to this was to compile accurate contact details for those who had regular or less regular contact with us, a job which took several weeks to complete, although phone and post contact began quite quickly. One positive outcome of Covid was a list combining administrative and pastoral details.

Although I became acquainted with Zoom slightly earlier for meetings and staff Morning Prayer, it was not until Easter Day that we began Zoom services on Sunday mornings, blessing Fr Charles as he left to become a Chaplain in the Royal Navy. Zoom services at 10.30 to replace the main Sunday Mass have continued ever since, with the great benefit of including more people in reading, giving a talk, praying the intercessions, and leading overall. The friendliness and ‘family feeling’ of a regular group of parishioners (up to about 25 in total) has been noted by others. The disadvantage is that no new person has joined, and although some have been with us throughout on the phone, this worship has essentially excluded those without internet access.

Recorded Eucharists were celebrated for Ascension Day and Corpus Christi, and put on the website – which itself became a means of support and information for those with access. Otherwise, a postal mailing has gone out to all those without internet ever week since March 2020, with the pewsheets, Sunday talk and some other prayers, readings, quizzes etc.

We resumed Eucharists in Church at 12 noon on 5 July (for St Thomas our Patron) as a trial, and then in earnest from 19 July. These were in a much restricted form with no singing, but with great joy in coming back together in person. In a similarly restrained way, Revd Sarah was ordained priest in the Cathedral on 26 September, with her first Mass for St Michael and all Angels on Tuesday 29 September. Revd Alison Whiting was licensed to us by Zoom on 1 October, with Revd Eliza having left to become Chaplain at Taunton School in August. We have continued these Masses at 12 noon without interruption, except for the period of Remembrance Sunday until Advent Sunday. Zoom services on Sunday mornings have been a constant staple.

Christmas 2020 was again at one level reduced, but at another spurred us on imaginatively to construct a Christmas Trail in place of a Crib Service. Folk were determined to remain in Church for worship despite the cold, not least that distancing was easier, and we all realised how much we had missed the building.

I should like to pay tribute and say thank you to all members of staff in this period: to Sarah for continuing her curacy in strange times and for her creativity; to Phil for keeping calm and carrying on; to Alison for fitting in so quickly and easily; to Ian for joining us for worship and discussion, and all the practical things around the building. Also a very big thank you to Mary who has helped Ian keep the building open for daily private prayer. All those who have joined in for worship on-line or in person have been incredibly supportive, and we are grateful.

It is with sadness that I record the deaths of Bob Mounce, Eileen Barber, Daphne King and Mary Long during this year. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Often this has felt like running on the spot, with constant changes in regulation from Government or Church or both. Notwithstanding this, we have learnt something about ourselves and each other in this period, about the value of connections and the value of our prayers.

During the year, the parish undertook 17 funerals; but the impact of Covid was such that we celebrated only one baptism and no weddings.

### *In the Wider Parish*

Good relations continued with local schools until March 2020, but thereafter despite our best efforts, we have had no real contact because of Covid. We hope to restart assemblies when restrictions permit.

The most significant piece of work here with St Thomas ecumenical colleagues has been the establishment of a Community Larder, hosted by the Methodist Church, where we have been a drop-off point. Ian (with young people from Riverside early in the year) has organised the generous food donations given by local people and congregation, and transported it to the Methodists for distribution. It is a sad reality that in 2020 there was considerable incidence of food poverty in the parish.

### *Diocesan Roles*

I continue with the role of Area Dean of Christianity (Exeter and environs), which involved regular meeting with other Rural Deans and the Archdeacon, organising and facilitating weekly Clergy Chapter meetings on Zoom at the start of the first lockdown, and other formal engagements. I remained a Vocations Assessor (but with only one candidate before lockdown), and continued to attend the *One for Exeter* meetings of ecumenical clergy across the city. As co-ordinator of the Bayeux-Lisieux exchange group, I visited Caen with a group including the Bishop and Dean of Exeter in February 2020 to discuss pilgrimage. In early December, I facilitated an on-line seminar about Poverty in Exeter, at which Dame Louise Casey was a guest speaker.

### *Research and Teaching*

I continue with the role of honorary senior research fellow in the Theology and Religion Department of the Exeter University, and attended occasional research seminars. Work on a book about Brexit and theology was completed and early 2020 saw it in print. I delivered one session for SWMTC on theological reflection as part of the on-going training of curates, and one CMD session for diocesan clergy about theology and Covid – subsequently turning this into an article published in *Practical Theology*. I attended an international conference on theology and the pandemic via Zoom, and we progressed the *Scientists in Congregation* project with a Zoom visit from staff at St Thomas surgery.

### **Revd Sarah Cumming, Curate**

It has been a busy year with many situations arising which do not fit neatly into the Curacy training framework. As David has mentioned, the transition to online worship and to sending posted resources were the priorities at the start of the year, followed by adapting to each wave of change.

Being ordained to the priesthood was a great joy; something I feel that I am still growing into. It has always been a privilege to lead worship, and to preside is an occasion of holy wonder. I am keen to retain the diaconal focus of engagement with the local community. To this end, I have continued, with David, to attend regular Community Leaders meetings, which include local church leaders. I have organised the school uniform swap, the Nativity Trail and Zoom Nativity, designed the Holy Week and Easter Trails, led a Lent Group, promoted the Easter Joy photo competition, and the Ribbons for Remembrance which included a slot of Radio Devon! On a more serious note,

I have started taking funerals, which has included offering support to those who are bereaved. Meeting people for a cuppa and chat, in person or by telephone has been a priority.

My training has included sessions on Church Law, Ministry and Mission, Catholic Social Teaching, and responding to the pandemic.

I am very grateful to everyone at St Thomas for their ongoing support, especially David for his generous sharing of expertise and encouragement.

### **Phil Baker, Reader**

2020 has been an unusual year! Having started the first couple of months normally, ministry to care homes and home communions had to stop with lockdown and distancing regulations. However I have been active in the Zoom services and the Eucharists when we were allowed to resume them. Preaching at both and conducting Zoom services in turn with the rest of the staff team. The other thing I have been doing is collating, printing and posting the pewsheets, zoom sermon and other material to around 45 addresses every week. Lots of envelope stuffing and stamp sticking! I have carried on Synod as much as possible and also on the Readers' Conference organising committee. I have also been making sure that bills were paid when they came in, in conjunction with Pat Metford.

### **Revd Alison Whiting, Associate Priest**

It has been such a strange 12 months or so for everyone. I am delighted to have been licensed at St Thomas' as Associate Priest within that time, but am finding it incredibly strange to have been taking part within the clergy team, yet not really having the opportunity to get to know people. Due to Covid, people cannot really loiter and chat before or after services, so I'm very conscious that the people I have 'met' have either been in a small box on my computer screen, or hiding behind a mask in church; neither of which are conducive to proper conversations or relationship building!

Since I have a full time job, my commitment to St Thomas' has mostly been limited to Sunday services. I felt particularly privileged when Revd Sarah asked me if I might sing an Agnus Dei during her first celebration of Mass in the autumn – and even more so when she trusted me to write one for the occasion! I then had the opportunity to set the Gloria to music and sing both on Christmas and Easter Day. I was so grateful for the opportunity to try something I'd not done before, in such a kindly, forgiving environment.

The pastoral aspect of my ministry mainly revolves around an evening I spend each week, at Wonford House, as a volunteer chaplain on PICU (Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit). This is an area I have felt passionate about for some years, and although it has its challenging moments, it feels very 'right' - as does serving at St Thomas'.

I would like to thank the ministry team and congregation at St Thomas for being so warm welcoming – I am looking forward to getting to know you properly as circumstances allow – hopefully soon!

### **Ian Totterdell, Churchwarden**

Please see under Fabric Report.

## **Electoral Roll Report: Summary as at May 2021**

Number on electoral roll as at 2020 revision	75
Members removed from electoral roll	2
New members	3
TOTAL MEMBERS AS AT 16 May 2021	76

## **Secretary's Report of the St Thomas PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020**

The PCC had met on four occasions. The meetings had to be conducted via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Fr Charles had left the Parish at Easter to take up a new role as Royal Naval Chaplain.

New Ideas: There had been an initiative with the Cathedral to develop pilgrimage routes throughout the Diocese, based on the theme '7 days of creation'. The walk had been due to take place in early May but had been cancelled to Covid-19.

St Thomas: Mr Totterdell, as Churchwarden, and Mr Baker gave regular reports on the church building and meetings with the Architect regarding the repairs.

The Hall: The Hall had been closed from March until September due to Covid 19 restrictions. In December the Hall was closed again. There was a substantial loss of income. However a grant had been received from Devon County Council to cover some of the losses.

Treasurer's Report: Mr Withers, the PCC Treasurer, had given regular reports on the financial situation of the Church.

Vestry Meeting & APCM: After a discussion it was decided that meeting would be held on October via Zoom and would be as brief as possible.

Health & Safety: Mr Le Fleming had carried out a risk assessment for the Hall. All rules surrounding Covid-19 were being adhered to.

Safeguarding: Mrs Bryant, the Safeguarding Officer, had given regular reports.

Resolutions made by the PCC during the year include:

Mr Withers was authorised to place £400,000 into the CCLA instant access account. Acceptance of the Architect's recommendations for the allocation of monies to designated funds. Acceptance of a quote from FTec for a new boiler amounting to £3751 plus VAT. To re-open the Church as soon as possible and safely following guidance from the Diocese and to purchase hand sanitiser and draw up a cleaning rota for the St Thomas Chapel. A notice would be placed on the Church door and the notice board providing information about imminent opening. Acceptance of a risk assessment for the re-opening of the Hall. The APCM in October would be via Zoom. It was carried with 1 abstention and 1 against. A safer recruitment policy as part of its Safeguarding Action Plan. This was carried with 2 abstentions. The PCC would match the donations made by the congregation towards Christmas presents for underprivileged children at the rate of 50% up to £100. This was carried with 1 against. A donation of £75 would be made towards the Christmas lunches.

Jenny Thomas PCC Secretary



**Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31 December 2020** (to be read alongside the accounts and summary below)

The main summary of the year is included in the accounts. While the accounts look very different this year, following a year where lockdown has been the main event and the comparative figures show the sale of Emmanuel and St Andrew's Churches.

I should say that while our income and expenses are down this year and the accounts show a deficit in the year, this is primarily made up of depreciation and the inclusion of common fund which we have not paid. If we remove these adjustments, we would have made a small surplus. While the hall has not made us any money this year, the drop in income will hopefully be temporary and will soon be providing us with a worthwhile income stream.

We have received various grants in the year, some of which to pay for ongoing costs due to the pandemic and some as emergency repairs to the church which are currently ongoing.

We have now had two years in which we have not paid the common fund in full, however, our demand for this year has fallen below £3,000 a month and we are on course to pay £,3000 a month this year, assuming the hall is able to open to full capacity in June. As our common fund should decrease next year further, i would envisage with us paying the same levels on contributions each year we could repay all of our common fund debts within three years.

Andrew Withers, Hon Treasurer St Thomas PCC

# ST THOMAS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
<b>10a</b>						
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>						
<b>Donations and Legacies</b>						
Donations	9,633	2,023	11,656	13,294	2,176	15,470
Parish Giving	19,250	-	19,250	18,248	-	18,248
Gift Aid tax refunds and GASDS	1,695	-	1,695	(73)	20	(53)
Grants	2,500	11,398	13,898	22,877	2,679	2,679
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	22,877
	<u>33,078</u>	<u>13,421</u>	<u>46,499</u>	<u>54,346</u>	<u>4,875</u>	<u>59,221</u>
<b>10b</b>						
<b>Charitable Activities</b>						
After service café	123	-	123	400	-	400
Young at Heart	114	-	114	483	-	483
Toddler group	-	117	117	-	617	617
Flower club	-	-	-	230	-	230
Hall hire	8,264	-	8,264	22,206	-	22,206
Service fees	998	-	998	2,993	-	2,993
Walsingham Pilgrimage	-	-	-	4,530	-	4,530
	<u>9,499</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>9,616</u>	<u>30,842</u>	<u>617</u>	<u>31,459</u>
<b>10c</b>						
<b>Other trading activities</b>						
Fundraising events	113	260	373	2,826	2,397	5,223
200 Club My St Thomas Appeal	-	1,985	1,985	-	2,050	2,050
	<u>113</u>	<u>2,245</u>	<u>2,358</u>	<u>2,826</u>	<u>4,447</u>	<u>7,273</u>
<b>10d</b>						
<b>Other Income</b>						
Sale of assets	-	-	-	475,259	-	475,259
Other Income	2,365	22	2,387	1,197	-	1,197
	<u>2,365</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>2,387</u>	<u>476,456</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>476,456</u>

**DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**EXPENDITURE**

		Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £
<b>11a</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>							
	<b>Raising Funds</b>							
	Sundry Fundraising costs		97	-	97	390	-	390
	200 Club expenditure		-	1,200	1,200	1,200	-	1,200
	Young at Heart expenses		-	-	-	357	-	357
			<u>97</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>1,297</u>	<u>1,947</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,947</u>
<b>11b</b>	<b>Charitable Activities</b>							
	Charitable Giving	7	-	399	399	97	547	644
	Diocesan Parish Share		39,773	-	39,773	43,946	-	43,946
	Rector's expenses		869	118	987	1,115	-	1,115
	Vicars' expenses		188	-	188	1,092	-	1,092
	Curate's expenses		131	-	131	8	-	8
	Reader expenses		135	-	135	-	-	-
	Repairs & maintenance		4,087	5,471	9,558	2,521	11,716	14,237
	Insurance		6,076	-	6,076	9,643	-	9,643
	Utilities – Gas, Electric & Water		4,113	-	4,113	4,598	-	4,598
	Telephone		712	-	712	704	-	704
	Office costs		254	-	254	229	-	229
	Printing, Postage & Stationery		1,453	879	2,332	621	-	621
	Cleaners		3,343	-	3,343	2,767	-	2,767
	Gardener		798	-	798	1,407	-	1,407
	Walsingham Pilgrimage		-	-	-	4,530	-	4,530
	Toddler group expenses		-	53	53	-	271	271
	Flower club expenses		20	-	20	195	-	195
			<u>76,458</u>	<u>6,920</u>	<u>83,378</u>	<u>113,213</u>	<u>12,534</u>	<u>125,747</u>
	<b>After Service Café expenses</b>		15	-	15	-	-	-
	Church hall costs		-	-	-	291	-	291
	Depreciation		12,621	-	12,621	12,531	-	12,531
	Upkeep of services		389	-	389	435	-	435
	Organist fee		1,680	-	1,680	1,710	-	1,710
	Choir fees		711	-	711	688	-	688
	Funeral & Wedding fees		235	-	235	-	-	-
	Legal fees		(2,070)	-	(2,070)	23,185	-	23,185
	Independent examiner's fee	9	900	-	900	900	-	900
	Sundry expenses		25	-	25	-	-	-
			<u>76,458</u>	<u>6,920</u>	<u>83,378</u>	<u>113,213</u>	<u>12,534</u>	<u>125,747</u>

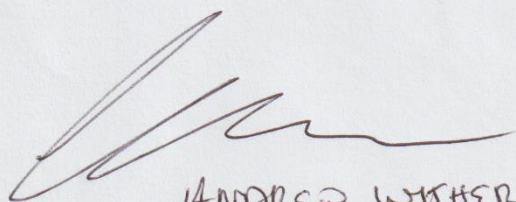
## Reports on various accounts

### ST. THOMAS PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Balance in Hand 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	702.15
Dividends: 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020	191.17
31 <sup>st</sup> May	191.17
30 <sup>th</sup> August	191.17
20 <sup>th</sup> November	195.87
	<hr/> 769.38
	<hr/> 1471.53
Expenses : Cash Drawn	250.00
Age U.K.	100.00
Ecumenical Christmas Lunch	75.00
	<hr/> 425.00
Balance at Bank 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	<hr/> 1046.53
Cheque not cleared	75.00
	<hr/>
Balance in Hand	971.53
	<hr/>

#### Ann Coffin Charity (for large print books)

Balance in Hand 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	446.69
Dividends :	
31 <sup>st</sup> May	14.30
28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020	14.30
30 <sup>th</sup> August	14.30
30 <sup>th</sup> November	14.66
	<hr/>
Balance in Hand 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	504.25
	<hr/>

  
ANDREW WITHERS.

08/05/21



ST. THOMAS PARISH CHURCH  
FLOWER ARRANGERS GROUP

Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

INCOME

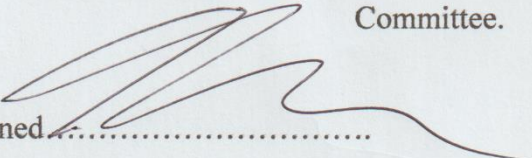
Balance b/f	77.13
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	77.13
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EXPENDITURE

Bulbs	20.00
Balance c/f	57.13
	<hr/>
	77.13
	<hr/>

N.B. Balance P.C.C. Flower Account as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020  
= £600

I have examined these accounts, books and documents, and  
am satisfied that they show a true account of the affairs of the  
Committee.

Signed  .....

Date 14.10.21 .....

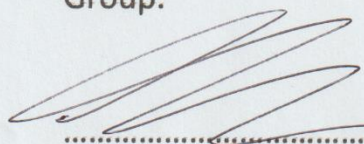
**ST. THOMAS "YOUNG AT HEARTS" CLUB**

**Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020**

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Cash in Hand 31/12/19	133.53	Transfer PC.C. A/c	200.00
Attendance Income	57.00		
Draw	57.00		
		Cash in Hand –	
		31/12/20	47.53
Balance in P.C.C. A/c			
b/f	365.00		
Transfer to P.C.C	<u>200.00</u>	Balance P.C.C.A/c	565.00
	565.00		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	812.53		812.53
	<hr/>		<hr/>

N.B. Balance "Young at Hearts" Club as at 31<sup>st</sup>  
December, 2020 = £612.53

I have examined these accounts and the books and documents, and  
am satisfied that they show a true account of the affairs of this  
Group.



.....Andrew Withers

Date...14/04/21



SUNDAY COFFEE (Petty Cash) Accounts  
For the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020

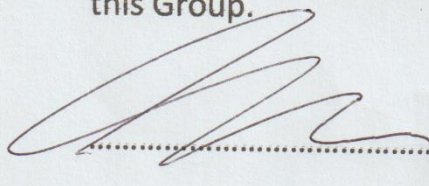
INCOME

Cash in Hand 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2019	7.60
Sunday Coffee	115.46
	<hr/>
	123.06
	<hr/>

EXPENSES

Christingle Expenses	13.85
Stationary	1.00
Keys	24.00
Wine for Eucharist	13.00
Postage	15.47
Coffee/Squash	14.60
Transfer to P.C.C.	40.00
Cash in Hand 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2020	1.14
	<hr/>
	123.06
	<hr/>

I have examined these accounts and the books and documents and am satisfied that they show a true account of the affairs of this Group.

 ..... Andrew Withers    Date...14/04/21.....

**ST. THOMAS TOTS**

**Accounts for the Period Ended 30th September, 2020**

**INCOME**

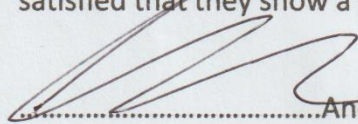
Cash in Hand 31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2019	46.29
Balance in P.C.C. Account	600.00
Float	20.00
Income	116.70
	<hr/>
	782.99
	<hr/>

**EXPENSES**

Food	52.74
Cash in Hand 30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020	110.25
Float " "	20.00
Balance in P.C.C. Account " "	600.00
	<hr/>
	782.99
	<hr/>

N.B. Balance P.C.C. St. Thomas Tots as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020  
**£730.25**

I have examined these accounts and the books and documents, and am satisfied that they show a true account of the affairs of this Group.

  
.....Andrew Withers

Date.....14/04/21.....



## Church Fabric Report

During 2020 the upkeep and the maintenance of the church buildings have been significantly affected by the restrictions brought in because of the covid-19 pandemic. Many things we normally do have not been done, and some new things have had to be done. But by the efforts of many, both in our church community and outside it, the church has remained open as often as government legislation has allowed for private prayer by the community and for services, and we can be very proud of that.

We were still using the church hall for services, as has been the usual winter pattern, when we were instructed to cease worshipping together in March. All use of the church building for services and for private prayer ceased, as did use of the hall for groups, etc. The easing of lockdown restrictions in mid-June allowed the church building to be re-opened for private prayer; we have been fortunate that the St Thomas Chapel, which is the part of the church normally set aside for prayer and meditation, is adjacent to the main (north) door and so it is possible to have that open while restricting access to the rest of the church. Since the accessible areas have to be sanitised at least daily, it would not be feasible to open the whole church every day, and barriers have been used to restrict access. A dispenser of hand sanitiser was put up in the porch; initially battery-operated, but later replaced by a mechanical one. A risk assessment was produced for re-opening. A rota for cleaning the chapel was produced. Apart from during the second lockdown (Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>), and on public holidays, the St Thomas Chapel has been open for prayer every Mon-Fri since between 10am and 3pm. Many thanks are due to those who have joined the cleaning rota, and especially to Mary Daunton who has opened and closed the church most days.

The church re-opened for services on the first Sunday that that was allowed, 5<sup>th</sup> July, just in time to celebrate St Thomas's day (transferred from 3<sup>rd</sup>). Services have been held there every Sunday since 19<sup>th</sup> July (except during the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown) and on a few other occasions as well. Because the regulations required households to be spaced at least 2m apart distances were measured out and the optimal distribution of places marked using tape on the pew-backs. To maximise the available spaces, a lot of items that had been stored – or dumped – in various places were moved to other locations; when restrictions ease it is intended that many of these items will be disposed of! A risk assessment was produced for re-opening for worship, including considering how to limit movements of the clergy and of the congregation before, during and after services. Thanks are due to all those who have attended for taking seriously the need to keep others safe.

It had been hoped to develop and submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funds to complete the remaining stage(s) of the restoration work on the church. When the first lockdown happened, however, HLF stopped accepting bids (and most building work was not allowed anyway). Later in the summer it began to receive bids again, but only for emergency work. Some of what we were planning to do fell under that heading, and with the help of our architect Jo Hibbert we were successfully able to apply for funds to undertake work to replace the lead and repair the slates in the valley between the main nave roof and the south aisle roof. This will greatly aid stopping further water ingress, and thanks are due to the HLF for funding it. The work had not commenced by the end of 2020, but has been underway subsequently during 2021. Since the start of 2021 HLF has started accepting larger bids again, and it is our intention to submit one for the remaining work.

Minor works were undertaken, mainly during the less-restricted summer period:

- Loose plaster had accumulated behind green netting in the ceiling above the font, and has been removed. An electrical inspection was carried out and flagged up a number of issues that need work urgently, but none of them require the church to be closed for safety reasons.
- A check on the tower clock identified a problem with a link-rod; the architect has confirmed that that is not a sign of more serious structural problems (phew!). However, if the rod is left un-repaired the clock mechanism will seize up, so some work will have to be done.
- A bad leak developed in the nave roof following storms a week before Christmas; two slates had slipped, and were temporarily put back in place by the churchwarden (and the repair has lasted until the funded work).
- The hall heating boiler was serviced in the autumn (when some groups were able to meet there); it worked through the winter but there is no doubt that its days are numbered and it will soon need to be replaced.

Finally, the churchyard has been a great asset to the wider community during the past year, enjoyed by many families and others. Mary Daunton has worked hard to keep it trim, aided initially by Bob Mounce (sadly missed), and latterly by Pat Mounce and Helen Pearce. The flower borders adjacent to the church and edging Cowick St have been a joy to behold, so many thanks are due to all those who have given our church such a joyful face through this difficult time.

Ian Totterdell, Churchwarden

## **Safeguarding Report**

I am pleased to report that there were no safeguarding incidents to report since last year's APCM. The parish safeguarding group currently comprises Rev'd Dr David Nixon, Rev'd Sarah Cumming, Philip Baker, Ian Totterdell, Jane Vowles (safeguarding representative) and Carolyn Bryant (safeguarding representative). The group has continued to meet throughout the lockdown period via Zoom, and will continue to meet in this way on a quarterly basis in future. All actions and discussions are minuted and safeguarding is a standard agenda item at all PCC meetings. As part of the parish Safeguarding Action plan the PCC has formally adopted the diocesan safeguarding policy. All essential DBS checks and training are up to date or planned in accordance with the parish safeguarding dashboard.

Carolyn Bryant, Safeguarding Representative

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Deanery Synod had only 2 meetings. A physical one at the beginning of February when the focus was on new housing particularly around Exeter with Ed Moffat from the Diocesan Office reporting on the huge amount of housing in the pipeline particularly around the Matford/Alphington area. There is much concern over environmental, social and economic impact and impact on infrastructure as well as how we can minister to these new areas of housing. The second meeting October was by Zoom when the Archdeacon of Exeter spoke about his work and about the impact of COVID on it.

Phil Baker, Deanery Synod Representative (and Member of Synod Standing Committee)

## PCC MEMBERS ELECTED ON 18th OCTOBER 2020

MR M LE FLEMING  
DR J MORGAN  
MR D WRIGHT  
MRS C BRYANT  
MRS M DAUNTON  
MRS J FARMER  
MRS J HARRIS  
MRS J THOMAS

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

MR I TOTTERDELL	CHURCHWARDEN
MR L P C BAKER	LAY READER/DEANERY SYNOD
MR A WITHERS	DEANERY SYNOD/TREASURER

## SIDESMEN AND WOMEN ELECTED IN 2020

Mr M Le Fleming  
Mr E Marchant  
Mr T Smith  
Mrs S Carpanini  
Mrs B Darke  
Mrs J Farmer  
Mrs J Harris  
Mrs G Matthews  
Ms S Marsh  
Mrs P A Metford  
Mrs P Mounce  
Mrs G Richards  
Mrs C Smith  
Mrs C Sturman