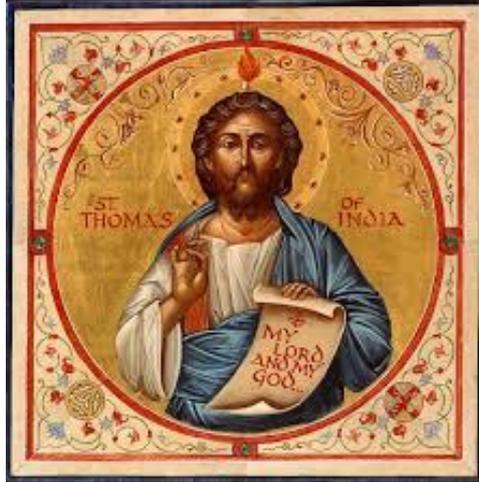


The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London



Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2020

Supported by



Charity Commission Registration No: 1179777

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019

Contents

Administrative Information.....	3
Annual Report	4
Independent Examiner's Report	20
Statement of Financial Activities	21
Balance Sheet	22
Notes to the Accounts	23

Administrative Information

The incumbent is a member of the PCC ex-officio, while all other members are elected by the Annual Parish Meeting. Churchwardens are elected annually for a one-year term of office and can serve a maximum of 6 consecutive years. Deanery Synod representatives and all other PCC members are elected for a 3-year term of office. In 2019, the following have served as members of the PCC:

Ex officio members

Incumbent

Vacant (since April 2020) – We are supported by an Interim Priest, The Reverend Pauline Nashashibi

Churchwardens

Justice Konneh
Heather Pascall

Deanery Synod Representatives

Anthony Dass
Marcia Sinclair
Rowan Howard

Elected members

Anne Rose		(from October 2020)
Briony Murray	Secretary	
Carol Clarke		(until October 2020)
Cassie Dummett		
Chris Higgins		
Cynthia Mapp		(from October 2020)
Dorothy Newton		
Georgina Wilson		
Goodness Marcelino		
Grace Moussongela		(from October 2020)
Iain McSeveny	Secretary	(until October 2020)
Jim Mott		(from October 2020)
Kathleen Ponteen		(until October 2020)
Katie Dawson		
Pat Crocker		(from October 2020)
Sandra Hall	Treasurer	
Stav Stavrou		(until October 2020)

Bankers

Lloyds TSB, Archway, London

Independent Examiner

Alex Sargent, ACA (ICAEW), Highbury, London

Quinquennial Inspector Ablett Architects Ltd, Bromley.

Annual Report

The members of the Parochial Church Council have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the church for the year ended 31st December 2019.

About us

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

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

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

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

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

Our mission

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

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

The PCC has recently reviewed and affirmed our mission.

Vicar's Report

This is your church, not mine. However, I have heard people refer to St Thomas' as St Stephen's, even to my face. Perhaps this is a consequence of having been here for over 30 years. I'm still glad to have been ministering in a place dedicated to Thomas rather than Stephen. He seems more contemporary in being someone who doesn't accept things at face value but grows in faith through questioning.

Although St Thomas' has been our church, it is now very much yours as I move on and become part of St Thomas' history. We will still all be members of the Church, but I will be worshipping who knows where. The fruitfulness of my ministry in Finsbury Park will be palpable in what does, or doesn't, happen afterwards, not least during the vacancy.

I have some anxieties, which I hope are unfounded and will be contradicted in the event. These are essentially twofold: both our finances and our volunteering for tasks feel fragile, vulnerable to the lack of someone at the centre of the network. We are slipping behind in our attempt to pay our way, having made considerable progress between 1995 and 2015. We are also relying on a relatively small minority of our congregation to ensure that the various tasks necessary to sustain our common life are executed. If we were just a congregation, we would struggle to keep going, but fortunately the rest of the Church ensures that we still can.

The genius of the Church of England is to allow variety under its umbrella: unity in diversity. We are very much allowed to do as we will, and it is quite difficult to fall out of communion. There are checks and balances, but initiative is encouraged. Having an overseer can also be positive as it enables us both to know what others have already done and to make sure we don't do anything self-destructive that could have been foreseen. Of course, on those occasions when others in the Church behave in ways that are antipathetic, we can challenge and criticise, but we can't ostracise or abandon them, and vice-versa.

Perhaps our major initiative during this past year has been environmental, encouraged by the Cloudesley Sustainable Churches grants that were part of their 500th anniversary celebrations. Not only were we able to install some draught proofing, LED lighting and solar panels, but we hosted a very successful Eco Community Fair in October. Apart from anything else this encouraged some intense networking amongst groups that often work separately.

I will be intrigued to observe from a distance the next phase in the life of St Thomas', wish you well, encourage you to participate as fully as you can and assure you of my prayers. Thank you for the hospitality you have given me.

Stephen Coles, Vicar, 1989-2020.

Secretary's Report

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, the PCC has met on six occasions: 7th May 2019, 2nd July 2019, 5th September 2019, 13th November 2019, 20th January 2020 and 10th March 2020. The key themes discussed included:

Stewardship

We undertook another round of stewardship work between September and November 2019 to encourage new and existing members of the congregation to join or move to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), and for current members to review their giving. We produced a leaflet and letters for the congregation as well as holding a stewardship table at the front of church after services. We have recently noticed an increase in the number of people in the PGS and hope this number will continue to grow. We also need to find the right type and quality of engagement with the congregation, and that this will take time. We have also taken advice from the Area Stewardship Adviser.

Preparing for the interregnum

Stephen has been gradually handing over the preparation of rotas, music lists, and the Sunday leaflet. We have produced a checklist of what needs to be done before the main Sunday service. We have been considering whom we can ask to cover services during the interregnum and Stephen has sent out a feeler on this to the Stepney Area. Five members of the PCC have volunteered to be on a standing committee with the churchwardens to deal with various other tasks.

Building works

Following on from 2018 we have continued to undertake a considerable amount of improvements to the church building:

LED lighting: the installation of LED lights was completed successfully and has greatly improved lighting inside the church. We had a helpful visit from a member of Islington Council's Energy Team to see what had been done and to offer more help.

Solar Panels: the installations on the roof have been a great success together with the battery and inverter fitted in the south porch. Islington Council approved an extra £300 for a display unit so we can see how much electricity we are generating.

Quinquennial: we managed to secure a grant of £28,500 from Cloudesley and undertook a second phase of works to complete many items that had been highlighted during the architect's inspection.

Reinstatement of the railings between the playgroup entrance and the garden: a grant of over £4,700 from Islington Council has been claimed and the works have been completed. This will improve security on the perimeter on the side of the church on St Thomas's Road.

Trellis: the playgroup has fitted a trellis along the perimeter wall from the Monsell Road gate to the baptistery gate to discourage intruders. A new baptistery gate has also been fitted that is taller than the previous one.

The Council has also funded the fitting of a proper security mechanism using a code to the gate in Monsell Road. All the gates in the perimeter wall are now locked at night.

Safeguarding

During 2019 the PCC has complied with the duties under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 in relation to having due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The necessary DBS checks have been made and training undertaken with the drop-in helpers around matters of confidentiality and difficult situations. DBS checks are also being requested for all new Sunday School volunteers. The PCC reviewed the new guidance from the Diocese for reporting serious incidents on safeguarding to the Charity Commission. The PCC agreed to delegate the authority to report these incidents to the Diocesan General Secretary and we have completed the on-line form in the Diocesan website so that this can be done. All PCC members have completed an on-line Foundation training course and we have recommended that everyone involved with Sunday School also does the training.

Common Fund

The PCC agreed to pay £71,000 with the proviso that we can increase this depending on the outcome of our stewardship work which continues into 2020. We will also need to be prudent as there is uncertainty about the impact of the interregnum on our income.

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

The PCC reviewed the contents of the MAP, and we discussed and agreed amendments. We agreed to keep the current structure and review it when the Diocese decides its priorities and objectives until 2030. There are some aspects that overlap with the Diocese *Listening to London*. The MAP shows that St Thomas's undertakes a lot of mission activities and getting enough people to volunteer is a recurring theme. During the discussion we reflected on our dialogues with the Muslim community, the

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

response to the terrorist attack on Finsbury Park, coming together on local drug problem issues, our regular tea & cake afternoons, voicing concern on climate change, being an open and welcoming church and not letting political issues (like Brexit) divide us.

Iain McSeveny, PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll report 2020

The Electoral Roll was revised between Sundays 2nd February and 1st March.

There were 149 people on the Roll. 12 names were removed, and 18 names were added.

The number on the Roll now stands at 155.

This is a fair reflection of the regular congregation at St Thomas'. A few of those on the Roll don't worship with us very often, but there are some who do worship with us more often who have not yet applied to be on the Roll.

One change is that, for data protection reasons, addresses are no longer displayed on the published Roll.

Anne Lambourne, Electoral Roll Officer

Treasurer's Report

This has been a challenging year. The PCC's main sources of offerings come from the generosity of the congregation of St. Thomas's, visitors, and income from the hiring of the church hall.

General Fund

Our income was **£8,000** below our budget for the year. We have been making a transition to giving through the Parish Giving Scheme, but we have lost some givers during the year. Our response to this has been to renew our stewardship campaign but we recognise that we will need to continue with this work to replace the income we have lost.

We have been careful with our costs but as our outcome for the year was considerably below budget, we will need to carefully monitor our financial position during 2020 while our stewardship campaign continues.

Building Fund

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

During 2019, we successfully undertook several significant building projects including a second round of projects recommended during our quinquennial review, the installation of LED lighting within the church and solar panels on the roof. A huge amount of thanks goes to Rowan Howard and Dorothy Newton for their work on these projects.

We express our gratitude to the Cloudesley Charity and to Islington Council for their very generous funding.

Reserves

Our general fund stands at £8,000 and we will need to ensure we maintain these levels to meet our normal expenditures as they fall due and build our reserves from our stewardship work. We will also review our Reserves policy during 2020.

Sandra Hall, Treasurer

Churchwardens Report

The last year has not been without its challenges. Stephen's leaving is something we had planned for, and though one can never be sure, we did have a handle on the nature of the additional work required after his leaving.

The advent of Covid-19 has had a dramatic impact on all of us, and we had the unfortunate situation of not being able to wish Stephen a proper goodbye or complete the handover tasks we had planned for. We underestimated the amount of administration required to run a church and much of this has fallen on the church wardens.

Further, we had not anticipated or fully appreciated the challenges of working with the diocese and deanery in trying to fill the vacancy. Though Rowan and Chris are leading, we and the PCC have had several meetings and discussions relating to the appointment. This again has proved to be a complicated process not helped by having to meet remotely and conduct much of our contact work via *Zoom* calls and email. Although these have proved to be useful tools, there is no substitute for human contact especially when dealing with delicate matters.

We all endured four months of shutdown where we were unable to attend church and it is right to acknowledge the work done by Nik Myers and our very own Briony in providing the technical solution which allowed us to keep worshipping. And of course, a thank you to Pauline for taking on the clerical duties at St Thomas's. We were able to re-open on July 26th and have been able to maintain our Sunday service, though limited by advice against music and singing. Currently we are somewhat limited by

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

having to wear masks (a restriction introduced two weeks after re-opening) which makes it difficult to have services of over one hour.

A big thank you goes to all involved in allowing the church to re-open ahead of many other parishes who remained closed for longer than us. The number of risk assessments and guideline consultations has been an added burden.

We are subject to fairly restrictive Covid guidance which has limited our offering in several ways, meaning we have had to make the following reductions:

- The physical space available in the church where we have had to restrict the number of pews available.
- The length of the service, keeping services to about an hour.
- Our use of the church, to allow the playgroup to meet their own stringent Covid restrictions.

It is important at this time to concentrate on our priorities already stated at a recent PCC meeting and these remain:

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

This does not mean other activities are not important; it is a realistic statement of our capacity and risk appetite during this time. We will revisit when circumstances change and stabilise. This means we will not make immediate changes when guidance changes, rather we will wait and see when they have been truly embedded. We do not have the capacity to do otherwise.

It is important to remember that we will return to 'normal' when we can, but we all need to be patient at this time.

I have to ask again, for all to be mindful of their actions and to behave in a spirit of generosity. You may not agree with everything we (or others) do or the choices we make but we are in unprecedented times and have adopted a cautious approach, during this period where we are in effect a wholly voluntary organisation. We have an offering, though reduced it is to what we can reasonably do at this time given the reduction in our volunteers and the increased vigilance and procedures made necessary by Covid.

We look forward to Christmas, and to inviting our families to come back to church and reconnect during the festive season. Here is hoping that our seasonal offering can offer people some hope during this time and a reminder of better times.

Justice Konneh & Heather Pascall, Churchwardens

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The 2019 Parish Safeguarding self-audit action plan was reviewed, and the new 2020 self-audit completed in February 2020 by Helena Konneh (Church Safeguarding Officer), Rowan Howard (Sunday School Coordinator), Stephen Coles (Incumbent), Justice Konneh/Heather Pascall (Churchwardens) and Marcia Sinclair (DBS Checker). The self-audit was shared with PCC members by email and then discussed in detail at the PCC meeting on 10th March 2020.

Both the Parish Safeguarding self-audit and the revised action plan were approved by the PCC along with the Safeguarding Policy Statement 2020, and signed off by the Churchwardens, the Church Safeguarding Officer and the Incumbent.

With the upcoming retirement of Stephen Coles, all safeguarding actions have been prioritised with the expectation that the majority will be completed in the coming months.

Good progress has been made against the 2019 action plans, in particular the DBS checks for all appropriate roles, and safeguarding training was undertaken by PCC members and Sunday School leaders and helpers.

There are several outstanding points from 2019 that have been carried forward to 2020, some of which have already been addressed including:

- further safeguarding reporting guidelines for the Thursday Group and Sunday School Leaders;
- health and safety risk assessment for the Thursday Group;
- a review of the DBS recruitment process (changes have since been reflected in the Safe recruitment flow chart);
- the issue of DBS checks for those who administer communion in a person's home (since resolved);
- clarification of first aider position (we have a qualified First Aider).

The safeguarding self-audit and photo evidence of the signed safeguarding policy statement for 2020 were sent to the Diocese of London safeguarding team in March 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the continued hard work and commitment of all volunteers, and especially: Rowan Howard (Sunday School Coordinator), Dorothy Newton (Thursday Teas Leader), Marcia Sinclair (DBS Checker), and those who support the church activities as they relate to working with vulnerable adults.

Helena Konneh, Safeguarding Officer

Report of the Deanery Synod representatives

This year, there were three meetings. Jess Swift presided as Area Dean in June but then moved on to St Ann's Tottenham. Paul Zaphiriou is now Area Dean. The themes of the meetings were:

26th June 2019: Youth: Worship led by young people and presentations on First Friday's youth group at Hope Church (all welcome first Friday each month) and Youth Film Fest. We said farewell to Jess Swift.

9th December 2019: Capital Vision 2030: this is a Bishop of London initiative encouraging us to think audaciously about our mission as Christians in London, living in faith, hope, and love in the decade ahead. Churches will be feeding into this. Topics covered in a brainstorming session included: challenges of "time-poor" modern life; understanding local need – Deanery mapping exercise is continuing; inclusive language; sharing examples of what Churches are doing well; taking climate change seriously – radical change in own lives – link with youth work; living Church outside Church buildings.

27th February 2020: Area Planning: presentation from Rev John Mackenzie, vicar at St Luke's Holloway about the church being outward looking and building partnerships with community. Capital Vision 2030 will focus on 4 areas: Growth; Discipleship; Young people; Compassion in society. Clergy will have received a letter from the Bishops of London and Stepney concerning past safeguarding cases from 2007 which requires a response.

The year ahead: new Deanery Synod representatives to be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting. There will be one representative for every 57 members on the roll (so assuming our roll stays as is, we will continue to have 3 representatives).

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

Work with Children and Young People

Sunday school

We continue to have a busy Sunday School and creche, for which we are thankful! Our Sunday School is split into two groups and is led by volunteers. We use the "Roots" materials which are based on the Gospel. Activities vary from discussions to crafts to dramas. Numbers vary from week to week – for example, a total of 41 children attended classes in Autumn 2019, with numbers in any one week varying from 9 to 16.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

We currently have 13 volunteers, with 3 reserves, plus a teenager assisting as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award. We welcome new volunteers from the congregation.

The children have been involved in a number of special projects this year, including: running a kid's café raising £105 for Christian Aid; a sustained Autumn focus on the environment – our responsibility to our neighbours affected by climate change, and what we can do as individuals to combat it (children made their own Eco pledges, and provided pledge ideas and many of the pledge leaves for our Harvest Festival and Eco Fair in October); and Remembrance Day prayers and poppy cross.

The creche is “self- service”, with parents/carers required to stay with their children. A total of 28 children attended in Autumn 2019, with an average of 7 children a week. We have an informal parent-led rota (with 8 families involved) for ensuring that the same structure is followed each week: children hear a simple, usually Bible based story, sing, do crafts and play.

Two of our young people, Grace and Goodness ran the children's activities at the Eco Fair with aplomb, showing huge initiative when we had to relocate to the sanctuary due to the poor weather and providing a lovely mix of quiet and fun activities.

Rowan Howard: Sunday school Co-ordinator

Youth

Andrew and Marcia continue to run our musical youth group and the group's contributions to services and to the Eco fair have been much appreciated, with lovely singing and music. The youth music group is looking forward and it is hoped that they will continue to be as involved as much as possible in services going forward.

Marcia Sinclair and Andrew Greer, Youth Music Co-ordinators.

Friday Bible study in the Parish Hall

We have been meeting for around seven years, having evolved from a Friday morning study group that had been meeting on and off for some years previously. Rowan generally organises and facilitates along with Malcolm.

Our core group is seven, plus occasional visitors. We come from a variety of backgrounds which makes discussions interesting and varied.

After completing St Luke's Gospel, we did a short course which used written and visual aids entitled “Tenants of the King” which explored the connection between the Bible and our role in looking after the earth particularly concerning the present climate problems. We have returned to the Tom Wright 'Bible Study Guides'. At present we are studying St John's Gospel, and at the time of writing we have reached chapter 5.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

Our discussions are interesting, lively and sometimes controversial. We are all encouraged to contribute equally so that no one person dominates the session. All conversations and opinions within the group are treated confidentially. We all share in prayer time at the end of each session.

The meetings are approximately fortnightly with occasional breaks over holiday periods. We meet in the hall as it is warmer than the office!

We are always happy to welcome new members, either on a casual or more committed basis.

Malcolm Marjoram & Rowan Howard: Bible Study leaders

Tea at St Thomas's

Tea at St Thomas's is now in its ninth year - we've been meeting since St David's Day in 2012. We meet every Thursday from 2pm-4pm in the hall. We feel it is very important to offer a regular activity continuing through holiday periods and, for instance, we meet in the church on election days when the hall is used as a polling station.

Every week there are normally between seven to fourteen attendees, sitting round a big table in the hall, enjoying tea, cake and each other's company. We are a very mixed group of local people, but we find we have a lot in common. Over a year many different people attend. Some have a direct connection with St Thomas's; many are our neighbours, mostly from within the immediate community. There are regular guests who come frequently and some who drop in occasionally. We are a mix of ages although many are of retirement age. It is a wonderfully mixed group with different backgrounds and life experiences which means that the conversation is varied and interesting. Of the regular guests there are currently more men than women.

Tea at St Thomas's is not a "club" – no-one has to register or give more than their first name - we are just there if people feel like coming to share homemade cake and chat. It is a place to come and meet people in a safe and secure environment and we do get to know some people quite well. There are five regular hosts and several other occasional helpers there to ensure that the guests have someone to talk with and that everyone can express their feelings and opinions. We share information about other local activities which people might enjoy (e.g. from Age UK Islington and North London Cares).

Over the last year we have also had the company of occasional visitors including visitors from North London Cares, staff from local Cloudesley charity, visitors from other churches (to look at our new lighting and solar panels) and one memorable

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

afternoon when we were visited by all six of our local “beat” police – a very welcome and encouraging visit.

Whilst we have been sharing our tea and talk, we have tried to be useful in other ways including providing access to the church for those who wanted to look around or have some quiet space, taking in parcels for church and playgroup, and offering tea to some of the excellent workers who have been improving and maintaining the church buildings this year.

There is always room at the table for more guests, so please invite your local neighbours; invitation cards are on the back table in the church. If you can, perhaps come with them the first time to break the ice or let one of us know and we will happily arrange something.

We would welcome more hosts to share the conversation. The more one-to-one listening and conversations we can offer the better, so please join us. We are in the hall, every Thursday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm.

Anita, Christine, Dorothy, Kate, Pat, Rowan; Tea at St Thomas’s Team.

Eco-Church Report

We have now completed our three Eco-Church projects, with generous funding of over £50,000 in total from Cloudesley, All Churches Trust and Islington Council, comprising draught proofing, new LED lighting and the installation of solar panels and battery storage.

We anticipate the projects will save 3.3 tonnes of CO2 pa; contribute significantly to the diocese Route 2050 80% reduction target, save St Thomas’s at least £1k pa in electricity costs and result in a small input from the grid’s “feed-in tariff”.

We intend to measure the environmental impact by repeating our benchmarking after a full year. We are developing a display showing power generated and fed-in to the grid to share information (money and CO2 reduction) with all who enter, encouraging them to think about their own environmental impact.

These projects have helped us in reaching Eco Church’s silver award and we have ambitions to work towards the gold award.

To celebrate this, and spread the word with our neighbours, we hosted a Community Eco Fair on 12th October 2019, with the aim “ to help us all learn about the climate crisis and what we, as people living in Finsbury Park and Highbury, can do about it – individually and together”. Despite poor weather, we had hundreds of people through the doors, with a broad spread of stall-holders offering information and advice on

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

recycling, renewable energy, re-use of goods, food waste, biodiversity and energy efficiency. There were activities for children and adults including a make-do and mend stall, making a solar panel, and clothes and book swaps. We asked for Eco pledges in return for a free LED light bulb. Blackstock Gardeners handed out gardening advice and spring bulbs, and our local milkman provided milk in glass bottles to encourage doorstep deliveries to reduce plastic waste. There were talks from Extinction Rebellion, Christian Aid and Transition Highbury, with vegetarian food and drink in our café raising £356 for the Diocese's Appeal for Mozambique, following the terrible flooding earlier in the year. Feedback from the Eco fair included "I thought the fair was a brilliant event"; "it addressed huge issues very well and gave people options and varied perspectives"; "an excellent opportunity to meet kindred spirits and tell more people about our work and its importance. We signed up several very interested potential volunteers."; "It's vital that we, as Christians, can challenge both ourselves and others in our community to journey towards greater justice. It's good to see groups like XR welcomed into a church environment and see the link between their work and Christian Aid's work and Christ's work."

Since the Fair, a speaker from Christian Aid came to a Sunday service to talk about the Climate Emergency and many of us have got involved or continue to be involved in local activity on this topic.

Rowan Howard, Dorothy Newton and Georgina Wilson: Eco Church Team

ALMA Parish Link

We are now in regular communication with our Link parish priest Rogerio Simone of St Peter & Paul Thlabane in Maputo, Mozambique, thanks to Wesley Arruda, who translates the Portuguese into English, and vice versa.

Owing to the generosity of the congregation we have been able to raise funds for:

- the purchase of a new vehicle enabling Father Rogerio to travel more easily around the parish, and
- restoration of the vicarage & installation of mechanised well

There is current project to install a mechanism to a well located in the church compound which will make it much easier for the local people to draw water.

In February 2020, the three Bishops of Lebombo, Niassa and the London Bishop for ALMA signed an extension of the 2008 ALMA Covenant with the Dioceses for a further two-year period until the end of July 2020, when the next Lambeth Council takes place. In July 2020 when all the Bishops are present, the commitment to the ALMA Covenant can be formally renewed for another decade.

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

Bishop Carlos (Lebombo) and Bishop Vicente (Niassa) attended the new Bishop's Training Course in Canterbury together with Revd. Teodosia Tavela (Lebombo) and spent a month at St. Mellitus in preparation of the new curriculum for the Portuguese speaking seminary to be used by all the Dioceses.

Sandra Hall and Christine Cox: ALMA representatives

Finsbury Park Sisters

The Sisters have continued to meet during the year to bring together women from five local churches, the Finsbury Park Mosque, the Muslim Welfare House and other friends from the local community. We met six times, sharing hospitality and developing friendship and understanding.

The year's activities began in April 2019 with a demonstration of Algerian bread-making in St Thomas's Church Hall. Sister Zahia had shared the delicious round breads on our March trip to the British Museum by popular demand! We were then taken to Finsbury Park Mosque for afternoon tea in June.

An interest in storytelling developed in the Autumn. We began telling traditional stories in St Thomas's. These came from many countries represented in the group. They ranged from "Stone Soup" to the "Salmon of Knowledge" and took in local versions of familiar tales; the hare and the tortoise, the tiger and the crocodile, and Wolf! Wolf!

In December we were invited to the N4 Library on Blackstock Road. Moya Kapas gave us a wonderful introduction to the library and its many resources. We settled at a big table in a friendly space and told stories; many from our own lives, and this encouraged everyone to speak. One sister told how, at the age of seven, she had had to deliver two kids in her family farm!

We continued with the stories in a big group at Finsbury Park Mosque in February 2020. Our stories included an account of travelling to England as a young child in *Kindertransport* in 1938, another of being ill as a child and asking for an elephant to walk past the bedroom window, and having it happen!

Cllr. Jennette Arnold invited us to visit City Hall in March and 21 sisters came to see this fascinating building. The highlight was a visit to the Council Chamber where a plenary meeting of the London Assembly was in progress, chaired by Cllr. Arnold with Sadiq Khan, the Mayor, present. After the session he came and greeted us and then we had lunch and Jennette Arnold came to talk to us. I think only one of our group had been to City Hall before. During our visit, we were invited to a celebration of International Women's Day on 9 March and four of us attended.

Dorothy Newton and Pauline Nashashibi: Finsbury Park Sisters' Group.

Open church report

We maintain a rota to keep the church open for visitors during the week, with various opening hours.

The main change recently has been that the church is open on Friday afternoons from 2pm–5pm, instead of Wednesday afternoons. In addition, on alternate Fridays, when the Bible study group is meeting in the hall, access can be gained via the hall door rather than the front door, where a sign to this effect is put out for any visitors who may call.

On Tuesday mornings entrance is via the front door, and on Thursday afternoons entrance is via the hall during Tea at St Thomas's.

Our opening hours do not have to be rigidly adhered to for anyone who is interested in joining the rota but cannot commit to particular days.

We consider this is a valuable thing to do, even when visitors are few. We have several regular people who come in to light a candle and say a prayer; some are passers-by on their way to and from the tube station, or to football matches who come in to admire the interior.

If you would like to know more, please speak to us.

Anne Rose, Malcolm Marjoram and Emerald Rabbatts: Open Church Team

Organ Restoration Report

The total committed so far is £47,000. This includes two successful grant applications from Cloudesley and the Churches Conservation Grant. The last fundraising event held was a Christmas Carolling bucket shake held on the 15th December 2019, and amount raised was £265.

We will be looking at further events but hope to gain the bulk of funds now needed via the Heritage Lottery Fund. Three quotes are needed, and it is seen as good practice to have an element of specialised knowledge from the consultant involved. We have engaged a Dr McVicker, an independent organ consultant, who was quite taken with the organ, and has completed a thorough assessment.

A tender process is in progress with three companies engaging.

Anthony Dass: Organ Restoration Team

Singing Group

The singing group continues to meet after the service fortnightly to prepare for special services. Over the past year we sang anthems during the services on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, the Patronal Festival, Advent and Epiphany. We also continued our fundraising efforts for the organ fund by singing to the Arsenal supporters in December.

Andrew Greer, Organist

Monday Night Movies

Monday Movies continues to be held on Monday evenings at 7pm for 7.30pm in the hall, or occasionally in the church during the summer because of the lighter evenings. These are open to all, are free of charge (basket for donations available), and we have some, often substantial, refreshments to start the evening off!

We now have a core of regular movie goers attending, but we are always happy to see new people; just turn up in the hall at 7pm and you'll be welcomed by a glass of wine (or tea or coffee) and nibbles.

A big improvement in the last year was the purchase, via the basket donations, of a new projector screen, which made for better viewing as well as making setting up and taking down much easier. Normally donations are contributed to the organ restoration fund, but as the old screen was becoming difficult to use and we decided on this occasion to splash out on better equipment!

As usual we have shown a wide selection of films, including *"The Man Who Would be King"* with Sean Connery and Michael Caine, movies to mark the 80th anniversary of WW2 including the excellent *"Went the Day Well?"* from the story by Graham Greene, and two horror/ghost films including the Spanish-language *"The Orphanage"*.

Recently, we have shown two films of time, mystery and loss, *"Arrival"* with Amy Adams, and *"The Jacket"* with Adrien Brody and Keira Knightley; the first in a season of three murder and revenge movies: the classic Hitchcock film *"Strangers on a Train"* followed by *"Cape Fear"* starring Gregory Peck and Robert Mitchum and the comedy/crime drama *"In Bruges"* with Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson and Ralph Fiennes.

Our last film before Easter is Gus van Sant's *"My Own Private Idaho"*, with River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves, and to kick off the season post-Easter we have Joaquin Phoenix's Oscar-winning performance in *"Joker"*, which also features Robert De Niro.

Following a couple of films in May we shall break for the summer and return in September with a proposed programme of film noir, mystery drama, and a horror or two for Halloween!

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

There are regular posters in the hall and at the back of the church advertising each film, so keep a look out and if you've not been before please just turn up at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Anne Rose: Film Night Co-ordinator

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC's policy to maintain unrestricted reserves to cover the loss of income from the playgroup over a period of twelve months. On this basis, as at 31st December 2019, the required amount of reserves was £12,000. Unrestricted reserves at that date were £8,000. The trustees have noted the shortfall on required reserves, are taking action to increase the level of reserves, and will review the policy on reserves during 2020.

Risks and uncertainties

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

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

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

- Regulatory and governance risks.

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

- Financial risks

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

Interregnum

Following the retirement of the Incumbent in April 2020, the church has entered a period of Interregnum. On 3rd June representatives of the PCC were informed by the Bishop of Stepney that there would be a suspension of presentation in relation to the appointment of a new Incumbent. The PCC has been meeting frequently since April 2020 to manage the challenges of the Interregnum.

Structure and governance

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

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

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

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

The PCC met six times during the year. In April 2020 an Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was due to be held, however due the impact of Covid-19, this meeting has been postponed and will be reconvened before the end of October 2020. PCC members due to retire at the APCM in April 2020 have agreed to remain in post until the next APCM.

This report and accounts were approved by the PCC on 21 October 2020 and signed on their behalf by

Heather Pascall, Churchwarden

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

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examination is needed instead.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records, and
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

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

ALEX SARGENT



Alex Sargent, ACA (ICAEW)

18 March 2020

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

**Statement of financial activities
For the year ended 31 December 2019**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Year Ended Dec-19 £k	Total Year Ended Dec-18 £k	
Note	£k	£k			
Income:					
Voluntary income	2	68,505	86,685	155,190	177,123
Income from church activities	3	20,033	-	20,033	20,903
Total income		<u>88,538</u>	<u>86,685</u>	<u>175,223</u>	<u>198,026</u>
Expenditure on:					
Church activities	4	<u>100,211</u>	<u>112,409</u>	<u>212,620</u>	<u>193,472</u>
Total expenditure		<u>100,211</u>	<u>112,409</u>	<u>212,620</u>	<u>193,472</u>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources and movement in funds		(11,673)	(25,724)	(37,397)	4,554
Total funds brought forward		19,847	52,937	72,784	68,230
Total funds carried forward		<u>8,174</u>	<u>27,213</u>	<u>35,387</u>	<u>72,784</u>

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019

Balance sheet

As at 31 December 2019

		Dec-19	Dec-18
	Note	£k	£k
Current assets:			
Debtors	5	21,852	27,111
Cash at bank and in hand		17,488	53,939
		<u>39,340</u>	<u>81,050</u>
Liabilities:			
	6		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(3,953)	(8,266)
		<u>35,387</u>	<u>72,784</u>
Total net assets			
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted funds	7	27,213	52,937
Unrestricted general funds	8	8,174	19,847
		<u>35,387</u>	<u>72,784</u>
Total charity funds			

Heather Pascal
Trustee

Iain McSeveny
Trustee

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

Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

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

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

b) Going concern

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

c) Income

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

d) Fund accounting

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

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

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

e) Expenditure

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

f) Fixed assets

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

g) Funds

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

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

h) Cash flow statement

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

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Thomas's, Finsbury Park, London
Annual Report and Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019**

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019

Income	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2019 Total (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2018 Total (£)
2. Voluntary income						
Planned giving	50,501	-	50,501	56,470	-	56,470
Income tax reclaimed	14,714	-	14,714	18,215	-	18,215
Collections at services	3,290	16,222	19,512	4,082	23,719	27,801
Grants	-	70,463	70,463	-	74,637	74,637
Total voluntary income	68,505	86,685	155,190	78,767	98,356	177,123
3. Income from church activities						
Hire of church property	16,568	-	16,568	17,804	-	17,804
PCC fees	1,269	-	1,269	1,186	-	1,186
Other income	2,196	-	2,196	1,913	-	1,913
Total income from church activities	20,033	-	20,033	20,903	-	20,903
Total income	88,538	86,685	175,223	99,670	98,356	198,026

Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2019 Total (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2018 Total (£)
4(a) The Ministry						
Clergy Expenses	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Mission	420	2,555	2,975	369	-	369
	3,420	2,555	5,975	3,369	-	3,369
4(b) The Church						
Gas & Electricity	4,102	-	4,102	1,728	-	1,728
Facilities (water rates,towels etc)	1,465	-	1,465	1,793	-	1,793
Cleaner	3,680	-	3,680	3,037	-	3,037
Church Insurance	4,876	-	4,876	4,772	-	4,772
Minor Repairs	3,704	-	3,704	14,416	-	14,416
Building Works	-	97,388	97,388	-	75,436	75,436
	17,826	97,388	115,214	25,746	75,436	101,182
4(c) Services						
Vestry, Altar & Candles	1,909	-	1,909	1,874	-	1,874
Organist, Choir & Music	4,201	651	4,852	4,274	-	4,274
Weekly Magazine	1,027	-	1,027	1,043	-	1,043
Other Ordinary Expenditure	577	-	577	869	-	869
	7,715	651	8,366	8,060	-	8,060
4(d) Payments Outside the Parish						
Diocese Fair Shares	71,000	-	71,000	70,600	-	70,600
Charities	250	11,815	12,065	-	10,261	10,261
	71,250	11,815	83,065	70,600	10,261	80,861
Total expenditure	100,211	112,409	212,620	107,775	85,697	193,472

5. Debtors					
Gift Aid recoverable			13,584		14,000
Accrued income			8,268		13,111
Total debtors			21,852		27,111

6. Creditors: falling due within one year					
Accrued expenditure			1,889		8,266
Overpayment by playgroup			2,064		-
Total creditors falling due within one year			3,953		8,266

Funds	Brought Forward (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfer (£)	Carried Forward (£)
Fund movements during the year were as follows:					
7. Restricted					
Solar panels & LED lighting	27,945	35,576	(59,220)	237	4,538
Minor repairs	650	2,718	(591)	(1,927)	850
Quinquennial repairs	-	35,887	(37,577)	1,690	-
Collections for charitable giving	5,470	10,378	(11,815)	518	4,551
Organ repair fund	16,646	636	(651)	-	16,631
Other	2,226	1,490	(2,555)	(518)	643
	52,937	86,685	(112,409)	-	27,213
8. Unrestricted	19,847	88,538	(100,211)	-	8,174

Payments to trustees

No payments were made to trustees during the year.

Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.