

Annual reports and accounts for 2023-24



**Pathway
Church** at St Thomas

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agenda for 2024 meetings

Meeting of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

To be held in the Church after the 6pm service

Sunday 21st April 2024.

Vestry Meeting for the election of churchwardens

Anyone on the church electoral roll of the parish or anyone who lives within the parish is entitled to attend and vote at this meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening prayer.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 vestry meeting.
4. Thanks to outgoing churchwarden(s.)
5. Nomination and Election of Churchwardens for 2024-2025.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Anyone on the Church Electoral Role may participate in this meeting.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 APCM.
3. Matters arising from the 2023 APCM minutes.
4. Report on the revised electoral Roll – Electoral Roll Officer.
5. Elections:
 - a) to the PCC.
 - b) Deanery Synod representative.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner.
7. Presentation and acceptance of the 2023 examined financial accounts.
8. Joint Council Proposal.
9. Reports:
 - a) Secretary.
 - b) Mission and ministry.
 - c) Churchwardens.
 - d) Treasurer.
 - e) Safeguarding.
 - f) Deanery Synod.
 - g) Churches Together.
10. Questions and items for discussion not covered elsewhere.
(to be given to the current secretary in advance of the meeting.)
11. Closing prayer.

First meeting of the new Parochial Church Council

Only those on the new PCC may participate in this meeting.

Agenda

1. Election of officers:
 - a) Honorary Secretary.
 - b) Honorary Treasurer.
 - c) Vice chairperson.
 - d) Joint Council members.
2. Date of the next meeting.

minutes of 2023 meetings

Minutes of St. Thomas Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 23rd April 2023 in the Church after morning praise,

Vestry Meeting.

Present: Carol Turner, Paul Turner, John Chrisp, Rosemary Woodward, Tracey Beaumont, Richard & Liz Burgess, Eileen George, Rev. Mike Jones and Rev. Emily Davis.

Election of Churchwardens: 2 nominations were received: one for Carol Turner and the other for Paul Turner. They were voted unanimously by the committee and they were both willing to stand for another year.

Meeting of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

1. The same people were present as at the vestry meeting.
2. Adoption of minutes from APCM 15th May 2022 were duly signed by Rev. Emily Davis.
3. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
4. Report on the electoral roll this has risen by one with the enrolment of Louise Clarke a regular attendee of our Church.
5. Election of PCC members this year remained the same.
6. Carol agreed to carry on as our Synod Representative.
7. Our auditor Russell Jackson is willing to be our Independent Examiner of Accounts for another year.
8. Election of Team Council members: Paul Turner (Churchwarden), Rosemary Woodward and Tracey Beaumont agreed to stand again.

9. Elizabeth Burgess agreed to be Churches Together representative for a second year.
10. The presentation and acceptance accounts for 2022 were proposed and seconded as a true account.
11. The committee members have all the reports in the booklet for St Thomas Church APCM.

joint council proposal

Over the past year, we have had a number of conversations in the Benefice about how we might make better and more effective use of our Team/Joint Council structure. In the process of this, we have discovered that there is a lack of clarity around membership of Team Council and what its purpose really is. Following these conversations, this proposal for a Joint Council has been discussed, agreed and is now put forward by the Rector, Churchwardens and the Ministry Team.

In putting forward this proposal our aim is to:

Clarify membership of the Team/Joint Council - the constitution that I have inherited as Rector excludes Ministry Team from the Team Council and we would like to see them included as we seek to re-define membership of this Joint Council.

It is also felt that, in order to be more effective, this Joint Council has to be of a more manageable size to have meaningful discussion and oversight of the wider mission and ministry across the Benefice. This new Joint Council would be of a smaller, but more effective, size than the current Team Council membership (see Point 1).

Clarify the aims and purpose of the Team/Joint Council - I feel it is important to have some structure within the Benefice, besides the Ministry Team, which seeks to look at the bigger picture of our ministry and our mission across Whittlesey, Pondersbridge and Coates. This is not to detract from the role and responsibilities of PCCs. (See Point 4). In practice this means that Joint Council will continue to decide upon matters such as:

- Ministry Share contributions from each Parish.
- Mission Action Planning at a Benefice-wide level.

- Diary/Event Co-ordination across the Benefice.
- Planning of Service Rotas/Service Patterns across the Benefice, including Christmas and Easter services.

This Joint Council Proposal is not to displace the role of PCCs (Parochial Church Councils). PCCs will continue to hold responsibility for the finances, building maintenance, mission and ministry of individual parishes.

If you have any questions about this, please contact either the Rector, a member of the Ministry Team or your Churchwarden(s). Please contact them in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when we are planning to vote on this proposal.

Reverend Emily Davis
Rector

Scheme for Partial Joint Council of Parishes

Whittlesey Team: Pathway Church Joint Council

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings of the Parishes of Whittlesey St Andrew & Whittlesey St Mary, Pondersbridge St Thomas, and Coates Holy Trinity, in the County of Cambridgeshire and the Diocese of Ely (the “Parishes”), in exercise of the powers conferred by Rules M37–42 of the Church Representation Rules and in accordance with the Pastoral Scheme made on 26 July 1995, make the following agreement that constitutes **Pathway Church Joint Council** (replacing Whittlesey Team Council):

1 Membership of Joint Council

There shall be a Joint Council for the Parishes (the “Joint Council”) with the following membership:

- 1.1 every clerk in Holy Orders who is beneficed in or licensed to a Parish;
- 1.2 one churchwarden of the Church of each Parish;
- 1.3 each deaconess, lay worker and reader licensed to a Parish,
- 1.4 any priest resident in the benefice with permission to officiate may be co-opted with 75% support of elected members, so long as at any meeting lay members outnumber clergy,
- 1.5 one lay person from each Parish elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the relevant Parish.
- 1.6 at any meeting, each parish shall be represented by 2 lay members, so if members elected to fill posts 1.2 & 1.4 are unavailable, they shall be represented by another lay person from the PCC of the parish, who may exercise their vote.

2 Officers of the Joint Council

- 2.1 The Chair of the Joint Council shall be taken by one of the following persons in the following order:

- 2.1.1 the Minister of that Parish if they are present;
 - 2.1.2 the Vice-Chair of the Joint Council, if they are present;
 - 2.1.3 a member of the Joint Council chosen by all members present at the meeting from amongst their number.
- 2.2 The Joint Council shall elect one of its lay members to act as Vice-Chair.
- 2.3 The Joint Council may appoint one of its members as secretary, but if it does not, it must appoint some other fit person. The Secretary is to have charge of all the documents relating to the current business of the Joint Council, to keep the minutes, to record all resolutions passed and to notify the Secretary's name and address to the Secretary of the Deanery Synod and the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod.
- 2.4 The Joint Council may appoint one of its members as treasurer or two or more of its members as joint treasurers, but if it does not, it must arrange for the office of treasurer to be discharged by some other fit person or persons.
- 2.5 At the first meeting following 1 June in each year, the Joint Council shall appoint some fit person holding the qualifications required by the Church Representation Rules and not being a member of the Joint Council to be an independent examiner or auditor to the Joint Council. The term of office of the Independent Examiner or Auditor ends at the conclusion of the first meeting following 1 June in the year after appointment, but may be renewed (for any number of times) annually. The Joint Council shall meet the remuneration of such a person.

- 2.6 The Joint Council may appoint such other officers on such terms and with or without remuneration as it sees fit.

3 Meetings

The provisions of the Model Rules for a Parochial Church Council contained in Part 9 Section B of the Church Representation Rules shall apply to meetings of the Joint Council and transacting business by correspondence so far as consistent with the provisions of this Scheme, substituting ‘parishes’ for ‘parish’ and ‘Joint Council’ for ‘PCC’ as appropriate.

- 3.1 The Joint Council shall meet at least 4 times per year.
- 3.2 The meetings of the Joint Council shall be open to any member of a PCC within the benefice. However, additional members of a PCC (above 2 elected) may not vote.
- 3.3 Voting shall be by show of hands, unless a secret ballot is requested by 2 members. Decisions will require a majority of 2/3rds, and must include at least one member from each PCC voting in favour.
- 3.4 Any business item may be delayed until the next meeting by 2 members of the Joint Council asking for an adjournment in order to consult their PCC.

4 Functions and powers of the Joint Council

- 4.1 The following functions of each Parochial Church Council are delegated to the Joint Council:

- 4.1.1 co-operation with the Minister in promoting in the Parishes the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This shall particularly include: Mission Action Planning, Co-ordination of diaries across the parishes; Co-ordination of major projects; planning of service rotas; working towards Net Zero carbon; liaising with local and Civic authorities (The PCCs reserve to themselves responsibility for those pastoral, evangelistic, and social ministries that solely impact upon their geographical parish or church building);
- 4.1.2 the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church of England on any question;
- 4.1.3 making known and putting into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod or the Deanery Synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the Joint Council on any particular matter;
- 4.1.4 giving advice to the Diocesan Synod and the Deanery Synod on any matter referred to the Joint Council;
- 4.1.5 raising such matters as the Joint Council considers appropriate with the Diocesan Synod or Deanery Synod;
- 4.1.6 the co-ordination of safeguarding across the benefice (but not ultimate responsibility for safeguarding which remains with the PCC).
- 4.2 The Joint Council shall have some of the powers of each Parochial Church Council, including power to:
- 4.2 The Joint Council shall have some of the powers of each Parochial Church Council, including power to:

- 4.2.1 agree on behalf of all of the Parishes the amount(s) to be offered to the Diocesan Board of Finance as a contribution to the costs of the Diocese;
- 4.2.2 organise, operate, manage, maintain, discontinue, alter, promote, fund and establish any missionary activity in the Parishes of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, which would have been an activity of a Parochial Church Council;
- 4.2.3 establish a standing committee of the Joint Council to transact the business of the Joint Council between meetings of the Joint Council, subject to any directions as to the exercise of its power made by the Joint Council, but the standing committee:
 - may not discharge a duty of the Joint Council, and
 - may not exercise a power of the Joint Council which is subject to the passing of a resolution by the Joint Council or to compliance with the Joint Council with some other requirement;
- 4.2.4 establish such other committees (which may include persons who are not members of the Joint Council) for the various branches of church work in the Parishes, of which the Minister is entitled to be an ex officio member;
- 4.2.5 open and operate a bank account (or accounts) for the purposes of mission and ministry in the benefice, including for the purposes of payment of expenses of clergy and lay ministers;
- 4.2.6 when the Joint Council makes decisions that expose the PCCs to risk, including public liability, the PCC of the place in which the risk was incurred will assume liability for the activity, decision or impact. The action of the Joint Council will be deemed to be the action of the PCC in question.

5 Transfer of assets

- 5.1 The following assets of the Parochial Church Council (or former Team Council) shall be transferred to and vest in the Joint Council on the date when this Scheme comes into operation, including:
- 5.1.1 the bank accounts and investments set out in Schedule 1.
- 5.2 The PCCs will transfer to the Joint Council such other monies as the Joint Council shall, by vote, agree on 1 June and 1 January each year.

6 Operation

- 6.1 This Joint Council shall come into operation on such date as the Bishop of Ely may determine, being a date not later than [specify date].
- 6.2 If the Parishes cease to be within the area of a united benefice the Bishop of Ely may exercise the powers contained in the Church Representation Rules to:
- 6.2.1 provide for the Joint Council to cease to apply to the Parish which has ceased to be connected to the other Parishes or has been dissolved; or
- 6.2.2 provide for the Joint Council to be revoked, but it is recorded here that it is the intention of the Annual Parochial Church Meetings that the Bishop should provide for the following: redistribution of any assets owed to the Parishes which ceases to belong to the scheme.

APPROVED by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings of the Parishes of Whittlesey St Andrew & Whittlesey St Mary, Pondersbridge St Thomas, and Coates Holy Trinity held on the following dates:

Name of Parish	Date approved	Numbers voting		
		For	Against	Abstained

SCHEDULE 1

Part 1

Bank accounts and investments to be held by the Joint Council for its general purposes:

Bank Account held in the name of ‘Benefice of Whittlesey Ponders-bridge And Coates Team Council’.

Approved by the Bishop of Ely:

Signed:

Date:

mission and ministry report

Year ending December 2023

This was my first full year as Incumbent in the Benefice of Whittlesey, Pondersbridge and Coates and it was lovely to be installed as Rector in Holy Trinity, Coates in August.

The Average Sunday Attendance (Congregation) at Thomas in 2023 was 12 (11 adults and 1 child), as was the case in 2022.

The Occasional Offices held at St Thomas were as follows:

	2023	2022
Baptisms	2	0
Weddings	0	0
Funerals and Interment of Ashes	0	0

It has been wonderful to see the Half Term Activities and events such as the Scarecrow Festival continue in 2023 as I know these have been a real blessing to the village community. It has also been good to see new initiatives developed in 2023 too, as the church continues to reach out to the community with a warm welcome, hospitality and generosity.

I would like to say Thank You to all who have contributed to and supported the Church's mission and ministry this past year.

*Rev'd Emily Davis
Team Rector*

churchwardens' report

Year ending April 2024

It has been a privilege to serve the people of Pondersbridge, as their Churchwardens in another challenging year. Life at St Thomas Church has continued with enthusiasm since last April, to ensure that it is a place where people will find a welcome and activity endorsing our belief that Christ is in all that we do.

We are thankful to the ministry team, that services of worship still take place on a weekly basis and their service to us is not taken for granted.

We are thankful too for the Leading Your Church Into Growth courses, which we supported in May 2023 and earlier this year, for forging a positive attitude to putting ideas, from the course, in action.

There have been numerous meetings within the benefice where we have been encouraged by Archdeacon Richard Harlow, to air our concerns at St Thomas. Voicing his encouragement in respect of our work within our village community and especially noting good attendance figures at special services and outreach events, has been a driving force to us, hence:-

We have remained focused on **Mission and Outreach** , and enjoyed putting on events with great enthusiasm, receiving generous, unconditional support throughout.

The one off “**Open Breakfast**” session in February 2023 developed into almost a monthly session from October 2023 with the intention that they ended in March 2024. By popular request, saw another this month and we are being pressed to continue throughout the summer. As in the past “Afternoon Tea” is another want, on the list .

July 2023 a new venture, “**Crafty Times**”, became a fortnightly occasion to meet up, with no break even for public holidays. It is an occasion enjoyed by multigenerational and multi gender attendees, each finding friendship, encouragement, and an openness, in a world where there is a need for support in health and wellbeing. There is the opportunity to try out different crafts, to develop new skills and each and every person brings something to the group, especially compassion, in a place where we are all equal.

Our **Half Term Activities with Children and Families** – continues and is making positive steps towards a growing faith, with those connected. Our families joined congregations to enjoy our first ever “**Christingle Service**” where each made their own Christingle’s from scratch and the **Carol Service and Nativity**, found them dressing according to their part with children reading from scripture.

In February day one, during Half Term Activities , to encouraging interest in wildlife in our churchyard, to both animals and humans, the whole group made bug hotels, bird boxes and a hedgehog house.

On the second day heavy rain prevented outside activity but it enable all 14 boxes to be blessed on the following Sunday Morning service followed by their immediate placement in inconspicuous spots around the churchyard, helped by the families. Now, children from the village carrying out regular surveys.

Last October, St Thomas’ formed a connection with Ruth New, Development Officer for Children & Families in the Diocese of Ely. It is encouraging to us that we not only find inspiration from her group, but they are very accepting of what we are able to give to them.

Easter Saturday – our 3.00 pm an All age session in church involved much activity as we explored the Story of Easter, by re-enactment with dressing and props, a short video and singing. The afternoon ending with an Egg Hunt in glorious sunshine.

Following on, **The Festival of Light Service** and on Sunday **The Dawn Service**, brought the real meaning of Easter to the fore.

In November 2023, a full church were entertained by “**Echoes From The Past**” a group of five musician, giving their time free of charge, played instrumental sounds from the 60’s & 70’s. Funds raised were allocated for forthcoming work that needs to be carried out to the structure beneath the alter end of the church. The band are looking to perform again at St Thomas, in June, to raise money for Cambridge, Peterborough & South Lincs Mental Health, which is our lent appeal.

In September, Diane Cook, from the Wild Life Trust, took the opportunity to view St Thomas’ churchyard. We were greatly inspired, by her enthusiasm for what we have unwittingly achieved within the churchyard. A natural process now to develop further with the Boxes, made at the Children’s Activity Sessions. We have not signed up for the Wild Life Scheme but it is our intention to enhance wild life activity.

Unfortunately in January we arrived at the churchyard to find that thousands of our snowdrops had been stolen, leaving large bare areas. Several snowdrop thefts had taken place in Thorney.

General Maintenance – We are waiting for a visit from Holly Robinson, Historic Church Buildings Support Officer, together with Peter Stringer, our Architect, to view the structure beneath the east end, which is in need of repair. Kevin White, structural engineer will also be visiting in due course. Work has not started.

The Five yearly Quinquennial Report was carried out by Peter Stringer during the year, with very little change. Clearing of a roof gully over the organ area needs to be carried out but he said with the steepness of the building, understands that safety was a priority. He was pleased with the general condition and complementary on what the church achieves on the small resources it has. Though there is work to do, there is little preventing us from going forward as a vibrant outgoing

church, using what we have and working for the betterment of our community.

PARISH SHARE—Again The Parish share is our biggest single outlay, and unfortunately for the first time in the history of St Thomas' we have been unable to pay our full share, which increased from £4,300 (2022) to £10,060. We are asked to make a contribution and as we will be facing expensive restoration work in due course, we need to prioritise money that is available and that which is to be raised.

THANK YOU—Finally a big thank you goes out to the PCC members for their support to us both over the year, for their kindness and understanding at low times. For their collective positivity in wanting to keep our church moving forward, the enjoyable work that has been done within the community and all of the outreach events.

*Yours in God's service,
Paul Turner and Carol Turner,
Churchwardens.*

P S note:- Following a meeting with The Archdeacon Richard Harlow this afternoon, Tuesday 9th April, 2024.

I have helpfully made the decision not to stand for the position of Church Warden at the upcoming APCM on the 21st April 2024.

This is solely to enable Rev. Emily Davis to endeavour to fulfil her responsibilities to St Thomas'.

In the two years of being a warden, I have given all I have, in serving in the parish and benefice as a whole. In the 50+ years of being a church member, have enjoyed friendships within the benefice and miss those who have left. I have learnt a lot. There is still work to do. We move on.

*God Bless
Carol Turner*

secretary's report

With regards to our outreach at St. Thomas this has been another fruitful year.

The children's half term activities have seen the same number of children and they come with much enthusiasm. The autumn activities proved a great hit with the making of bee houses, bird boxes and hedgehog homes. These were then distributed around the churchyard. Also the Easter services last year and this and the harvest one were enjoyed with the children participating in bible readings and re-enactment.

The breakfasts have been a huge hit with people wanting to know when the next one is before they leave.

We held a very successful concert performed by Echoes of the Past, the Church was full and the group gave their performance and time free of charge. Funds were raised for the on going repairs of St. Thomas Church.

Once again the scarecrow festival was well attended as was the barbeque on the Sunday afternoon.

The harvest Supper and the Christmas Bazaar saw some new faces amongst the regulars.

All in all a successful year. Well done everyone.

Items discussed by St.Thomas' PCC in 2023.

Matters discussed included:

Maintenance works to Church

Parish Share

Finance

Charity Giving

Safeguarding

Health & Safety

Fund raising activities

Churches Together

Team Council

Deanery Synod

Re-wilding of Churchyard

Worship & Services

LYCIG

Children's mission & Worship

*Liz Burgess
PCC Secretary*

treasurers report

As always the balance of the relative Church accounts can be viewed on the summary of accounts listed bottom of the first page of the printed accounts. The current account includes a restricted insurance payment for restoration work awaiting completion on a prior claim. The issue of the suspended accounts shown i.e. The Churchyard account and the Sunday School account will be required addressing with Barclays Bank PLC in the coming year.

The requirement of fabric restoration was again forefront in the varied fund raising activities undertaken during the year. These activities are coupled with an element of evangelism toward our local community. Thanks go to all whose inputs both in time and money were essential in making them both successful and profitable.

It should be pointed out that although fabric restoration is the prime concern of the PCC the payments for Team expenses and Team share contributions were maintained.

Finally, the wood burning stoves again help reduce winter energy bills and provide a welcoming warmth for any new members attracted to our outreach events.

unexamined accounts

ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDBERSBRIDGE

FABRIC A/C (BUSINESS PREMIUM) FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST 2023

£

BALANCE AS AT JANUARY 1ST 2023	4602.44
 <u>INCOME</u>	
INTEREST	46.07
DIVIDENDS - CBF INV. FUNDS	1789.81
	6438.32
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
TEAM SHARE (12 x £100)	1200.00
 BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023	 5238.32

ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDBERSBRIDGE

OPENING BALANCE

CLOSING BALANCE

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2023

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
COMMUNITY A/C - COMMITTED (ROOF)		9827.21
COMMUNITY A/C - FREE	2520.85	6065.29
FABRIC A/C	4602.44	5238.32
SUNDAY SCHOOL A/C	7.54	7.54
CHURCHYARD A/C	902.86	902.86
		A/C SUSPENDED
		A/C SUSPENDED

ON 31 DECEMBER 2023 THE VALUATION OF THE CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND INVESTMENT FUND OF 2896.5900 unit share holding WAS £65,478.29. DIVIDENDS WERE RECEIVED IN 2023 OF £1721.45 AND PAID INTO THE FABRIC A/C.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDEERSBRIDGE COMMUNITY A/C FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£
THE MINISTRY	
TEAM COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS - EXPENSES	600.00
THE CHURCH AND SERVICES	
HEATING AND LIGHTING	530.20
INSURANCE - PREMIUM 2020	1636.21
FIRE EXTINGUISHER SERVICE	68.10
LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR TEST	228.00
ORGAN TUNING	128.00
CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP	53.50
COMMUNION WINE/WAFERS	21.87
CHURCHYARD MAINTAINANCE	76.33
OTHER ORDINARY PARISH EXPENDITURE	
FUND RAISING EXPENDITURE	227.59
CHURCHES TOGETHER SUB	53.00
TEAM SHARE	3100.00
PAYMENTS TO CHARITIES	291.60
	<u>7014.40</u>
<u>ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDEERSBRIDGE SUNDAY SCHOOL A/C (20211990)</u>	£
BALANCE AS AT 1 ST JANUARY 2023	7.54
NO TRANSACTIONS	ACCOUNT SUSPENDED
BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023	<u>7.54</u>

ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDERSBRIDGE COMMUNITY A/C FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	<u>£</u>
BALANCE AS AT 1 ST JANUARY 20123	2520.85
<u>INCOME</u>	
VOLUNTARY INCOME	
GIFT AID	4559.88
GIFT AID TAX RECOVERED	1033.02
UNCOVENANTED PLANNED GIVING	240.00
OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME	
BREAKFAST X2	352.00
GAMES AFTERNOON	43.57
COMBINED CONCERT	415.00
CORONATION BRUNCH	200.00
CYCLE RACE	105.50
SCARECROW FESTIVAL	320.00
HARVEST SUPPER	484.10
ECHOES CONCERT	725.00
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR	743.87
SUMUP	28.43
SUNDRY DONATIONS	435.00
OTHER ORDINARY INCOME	
FEES PAID TO PCC	308.00
HEATING GRANT	600.00
EXTRA ORDINARY INCOME	
INSURANCE PAYMENT	9827.21
	20420.58
BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023	15892.50

ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDERSBRIDGE CHURCHYARD A/C FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	<u>£</u>
BALANCE AS AT JANUARY 1 ST 2023	902.86
NO TRANSACTIONS ACCOUNT SUSPENDED	
BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023	<u>902.86</u>

electoral roll report

Year ending 31st December 2023.

The Electoral Roll is the Parish Church's register of electors, who are qualified to attend and vote at the Annual Parish Church Meeting where the elections take place for the membership of the Parish Church Council and the Deanery Synod. 12 people were recorded as being on the Roll last year. There have been no persons taken off and none added, so there is no change to the register.

People can be added to the Electoral Roll if they have been baptised, and are over 16 years of age, and either "live in the parish", "live outside the parish and have attended St Thomas' for 6 months" or "are a member in good standing of another church and have attended St Thomas' for 6 months". Anyone wishing to be added to the Electoral Roll or have any questions can contact me at johnchrisp@yahoo.com or by telephone on 01733 844336.

*John Chrisp
Electoral Roll Officer*

safeguarding report

I have had a busy year making sure all policies and trainings are up to date.

I attended the Bishop's Garden party – it was good to meet other PSOs and compare notes. I also attended a training on 'modern slavery and safeguarding' which was very enlightening and a real eye opener in "modern England".

The dashboard has been fully updated on a very regular basis and I was pleased to note that at a recent team parish safeguarding officers meeting St.Thomas was the only one with nothing outstanding.

Safeguarding is massively important in todays church and anyone can be vulnerable regardless of age or gender.

I would like to thank the pcc at St Thomas for taking their responsibilities seriously and doing everything required of them to ensure we are all fully compliant with Church policies.

*Tracey Beaumont
Parish Safeguarding Officer*

deanery synod report

In June newly elected members attended their first meeting of the Deanery Synod and a new Standing Committee and Offers were appointed. The new Deanery Synod Treasurer is Lesley Gibbs, the Deanery Secretary Admin is Julie Lee. Anthony Gleaves volunteered as a member of the Standing Committee. However, the post of Lay Chair remains unfilled.

The Deanery Development Plan was agreed and a “pen-picture” and pillar document were sent representing all the churches in the Deanery.

Archdeacon Richard gave a briefing from the Diocesan Synod about the study on the deployment of clergy staff and how this will need to evolve in the future.

In September the Revd. Peter Leech, Deputy Director for Mission and Ministry, led a discussion on our Deanery Development Plan including finance, lay leadership, benefice re-organisation and church schools.

Holly – Development Officer for Good Communication, talked about the importance of sharing good practice around churches, using social media, the Church Near You website and social network information. She suggested consulting communications @ElyDiocese.org.

In November the Revd. Mark Rodel spoke on Join the Learning Revolution – An Introduction to Open Christian Learning. Courses offered will be a mixture of online and personal discussions. It is just beginning to be implemented and more information will follow.

The second speaker was the Revd. Tim Tompson who spoke about the Cambridge Historic Churches Trust, their fund raising through Ride and Stride and donations through Wills which allows them to give churches grants and loans.

Discussions on the Parish Share allocations and the formulas used to allow fair contributions are ongoing and no definite conclusions have been reached.

The Deanery Development Plan will be focusing on training and the climate change environmental agenda.

In January the Revd. Imogen Way spoke on Engaging with the Eco Church Journey. She gave some inspiring practical ideas as to how to make your church into an Eco Church as Ely Diocese has introduced an Ely Diocesan Action Plan to become Net Zero by 2030.

The majority of speakers this year have been interesting and some thought provoking, providing useful information about accessing further information or help.

*Fiona Heaysman
Deanery Synod Rep.
Holy Trinity, Coates*

churches together report

This year Churches Together has continued to develop as a team supporting one another in Services, Messy Church and Holiday at Home and growing in fellowship.

A joint service was held for the week of prayer for Christian Unity at Queen Street and St. Jude's Roman Catholic Church hosted a joint service for the World Day of Prayer.

The Witness and Service for Good Friday was well attended by members of the public and activities for the children were completed at Queen Street, where refreshments were served.

A joint Pentecost Praise Picnic was held in May on North Street, where prayers, activities and reflections were led by members of the different churches.

Fund Raising for Christian Aid included a Concert by the Whittlesey Concert Band, A cake stall at the Buttercross, a cake and craft morning at the Studio and a collection after the service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

We have begun distributing the Churches Together leaflets to the new housing developments.

Holiday at Home continues to be a great success with all the places filled and volunteers from several of the churches.

Messy Church Families under the Churches Together banner continues to be well supported. The team has members from nearly all the churches and we meet to plan activities and review previous sessions as well as run the actual sessions.

The planning for some of next year's activities is underway and we hope to continue with enthusiasm, prayer and fellowship.

*Fiona Heaysman
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Pathway Church

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The Church of England

Diocese of Ely