



**Pathway
Church**

at St Thomas

REPORTS

FOR

ST THOMAS, PONDEERSBRIDGE

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

2023

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Meeting of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
To be held at St Thomas' Church, immediately after the 11am service
Sunday 23rd April 2023.

Agenda

Vestry Meeting for the election of the churchwardens (Note 1)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 Vestry Meeting.
4. Nomination and Election of Churchwardens for 2023-2024.

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (Note 2)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 APCM.
3. Matters arising from the 2022 APCM minutes.
4. Report on the revised electoral Roll – Electoral Roll Officer
5. Elections
 - a. PCC
 - b. Deanery Synod representatives
 - c. Churches Together representative
 - d. Team Council – 2 plus a Churchwarden
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Presentation and acceptance of the 2022 examined financial accounts.
8. Reports:
 - Mission and Ministry Report
 - Churchwardens Report
 - Secretary's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Annual Accounts 2022
 - Electoral Roll Report
 - Safeguarding Report
 - Deanery Synod Report
 - Churches Together Report
9. Questions and items for discussion not covered elsewhere
(to be given to the current secretary in advance of the meeting)
10. Closing Prayer

NOTES:

1. VESTRY MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF THE 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.
2. ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Anyone may attend but only those on the Church Electoral Role may vote at this meeting.
3. FIRST MEETING OF NEW PCC will follow on from the APCM: Only those on the new PCC may participate in this meeting.

**Meeting of St Thomas Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Sunday 15th May 2022 in the Church**

Vestry Meeting for the election of Churchwardens.

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

Apologies: Terry & Jane Randells and Sylvia Abblitt.

Election of Churchwardens: 2 nominations were received, one for Carol Turner and one for Paul Turner and having been duly proposed and seconded the members voted unanimously that they be elected again this year. Rev. Andrew thanked them both for all their hard work during a difficult year, what with Covid and the interregnum.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 15th May 2022.

1. The same people were present as at the vestry meeting.
2. Adoption of minutes from APCM 14th April 2021 having being duly proposed the minutes were signed by Rev. Andrew Smith.
3. Matters arising from the minutes – none.
4. Report on the electoral roll – John informed the committee there were 10 persons.
5. Election of PCC members this remained the same but with one exception. Mrs Eileen George who attended wished to come on the PCC.
6. Carol carries on being Deanery Synod Representative for another year,
7. Russell Jackson is willing to carry on as our Independent Examiner of the accounts.
8. Election of Team Council members: Paul Turner (Churchwarden), Rosemary Woodward and Tracey Beaumont agreed to stand again.
9. Election of Churches Together Representative: Elizabeth Burgess agreed to stand again.
10. Presentation and acceptance of 2021 financial accounts: these were proposed as a true account by John Chrisp and seconded by Carol.
11. Reports from Churchwardens: Carol read these to the committee. She pointed out that 2021 had been a productive year despite the pandemic and St Thomas functioned well under the circumstances. The building continues to be cared for, we need to turn our attention to the floors and foundations. The churchyard is looking the best it has for years and she thanked everyone who had helped with this. She outlined some of the activities we had held. The full report is on file.
12. Date of the next APCM to be notified at a later date.

MISSION AND MINISTRY REPORT

Year ending April 2023

I (Rev'd Emily Davis) joined the Benefice as Priest-in-Charge in June 2022, joined by Rev'd Lloyd Davis as Associate Vicar (Pioneer).

It has been lovely getting to know the people of St Thomas' since my arrival in June 2022 and I have particularly enjoyed the numerous social events organised by the church community, such as the Scarecrow Festival. The Nativity Tableaux was also a real highlight of my first Christmas in the Benefice.

It has been wonderful to take part in the Half Term Activities run by the church for some of our local families within the village. Our Easter celebrations in Pondersbridge - the Holy Saturday activities and Dawn Service on the farm - were particularly special and a wonderfully joyful way to share in the Easter story with others and celebrate the resurrection together.

The Average Sunday Attendance (Congregation) at St Thomas' in 2022 was 12, compared to 9 in 2019; (figures were not submitted in 2000-2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic).

The Occasional Offices held at St Thomas' are as follows:

	2022	2021
Baptisms	0	0
Weddings	0	0
Funerals	0	1

I would like to say a big Thank You to Carol and Paul, our churchwardens, and to Richard, our Treasurer, for all their hard work this past year which I know has been a real blessing to St Thomas' and enabled much of the wider mission and ministry that we have been able to offer as a church. I am very grateful too for all those who have helped to organize the various social/fundraising events and the half term activities for local families as I know these have been a wonderful blessing to the local community.

Rev'd Emily Davis
Priest-in-Charge

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

Year ending April 2023

June 2022 saw the end of two years interregnum when we unanimously welcomed Rev Emily Davis as Priest in Charge and Rev Lloyd Davis as Associate Vicar (Pioneer). Exciting, positive appointments.

- Swift changes, new ideas and initiatives within the team soon took place, including talks on how the future looked for the Benefice. Unfortunately, St Thomas PCC felt demoralized when they were told there were no plans for us for two, perhaps more years. Resources availability, would be prioritized within the other churches, particularly in town, as they were seen to have the greatest mission field.
- Though disappointed, we remain committed to creating an environment which hopefully will bring others in our community to know the love of our gracious God. From a conversation had with Rev Lloyd, (as a Pioneer) he believed that Rev. Emily (also a Pioneer) would be committed to journeying with us in service and outreach, as is appropriate, regarding our local population numbers.
- Therefore, we have endeavoured to work side by side in those appropriate times, (services and activities). Hopefully we will be encouraged to retain our ability to use our initiative, when required, if only to prevent stagnation.

OUTREACH AND MISSION

- St Thomas has continued in its mission to serve the community of Pondersbridge and indeed to everyone in need. **Our Half Term Activities for Children and Families**, which started October 2021, has made good ground helping both children and adults with creative skills, socializing etc. Fellowship is encouraged during our sit down lunch each day. Activities have been based 11.00 am – 3.00 pm on three consecutive days.
- One family has now moved away but credited us with their, life changing, self confidence and trust, that has enabled them to build a new future for themselves. We have since heard of three outstanding school reports and their involvement in various activity groups.
- Another family has joined us. 16 families within the community have had invitations. However, it is important that we recognise enough volunteers are available on each day, to enable sessions to achieve a positive outcome and are not overstretched.
- Two new volunteers came during Easter and are happy to help in future activities.
- Rev. Emily has supported our sessions since her arrival, and we are appreciative of her all age “**Exploring Easter**” event, supported by two families, in which children played a very active, willing part, and in the short worship time which followed. A real blessing and joy for us all to see.
- A new form of outreach was in holding a well supported “**Breakfast Gathering**”. Is one to build on, the next being in May.

Together with other events, we aim to make St Thomas more relevant within the community and as such make it more sustainable. All our ventures require many hands to make them work, in preparation behind the scenes and on the day. **Our thanks go to EVERYONE for playing their part and giving their time.**

PARISH SHARE

The Parish share is our biggest single outlay but with increasing costs across the board collectively, it can leave finances in a delicate state, so we must remain positive. The only outside financial support we get is £350 from Ramsey Town Council, not automatically but applied for by John Crisp, to which we are thankful. It is used for the upkeep of the churchyard. Our usual outreach events, Suppers, Bazaar, Afternoon Teas, B-B-Q's have served us well, we now need to expand that programme by using any resources and skills we already have.

BUILDING

The condition of the building remains very much the same as last year. Unfortunately we have now been let down by two companies who have either, reduced their workload or, as in the case of the Structural Engineer, retired altogether. His fee for drawing up the schedule of works to safeguard the building, has been paid. And conversations with our Architect, Peter Slinger, are being held to see where to go next. The insurance company has now made a cash settlement for the work required inside the roof space, and we have asked further questions of Ecclesiastical, as to whether this is the best solution, bearing in mind how long it MAY be before some of the work can be done.

This may sound bleak, but 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.

THANK YOU

Finally a big THANK YOU goes out to the whole ministry team for seeing us through the interregnum and thereafter. For their support, patience, and flexibility in ensuring services throughout the Team continued and for keeping us together. Times are changing, we pray that with God's help, we can do our best to move with them and deal with any challenges we may face in the future.

Yours in God's service

Paul Turner and Carol Turner
Churchwardens

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Year ending April 2023

We have had a successful year with fundraising this year at St Thomas. The afternoon tea was well attended. The cycle race drew people into the village and we provided sausages and burgers from the barbeque. The scarecrow festival went ahead with the church open for the week, ending with a barbeque in the churchyard which was well attended also. The annual harvest supper in the village hall took place and with the new cooker installed made life a lot easier. Once again the Christmas Bazaar was a huge success with people from the village attending. The Nativity tableau was well attended despite the world cup final being on the same day. The Half term activities in October and February with the children from the village has proved successful. We have introduced a cooked lunch for the families sharing fellowship and friendship. The Easter workshop day on the Wednesday went well and the Easter Saturday service and activity was well attended. The children got involved with Easter Story and the singing. The Easter Dawn Service took place at the farm of Richard & Liz and was well attended although unfortunately we did not see the sun rise due to the cloud. We tried a new fund raiser – a breakfast in the village hall. This was successful and we intend to hold another one. All in all a busy and successful year.

Liz Burgess
Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT

Year ending April 2023

The balance of the relative Church accounts can be seen on the summary of accounts listed bottom of the first page of the printed accounts. The insurance payment had been duly passed onto the contractors although some work still remains in abeyance . Funds were transferred from the deposit account to pay for the surveyor's report looking into the settlement/subsidence in front of the altar.

The year saw a gradual return to pre- covid levels of fund raising activities. These are essential to our Church in meeting our parish share and rely heavily on the generosity of our members with regard to the cost of inputs both in time and money to make these events profitable.

The Church was fortunate to be shielded somewhat from the utility energy crisis by the fact that as well as receiving a one off payment from the diocese towards these costs and receiving a cash repayment from the energy company for over estimated usage during covid and the fortunate availability of our two wood burning stoves.

With regard to our investment shares income although the Individual share value dropped from the previous year the dividends remained largely stable. Again these are essential as they form the basis of our Church meeting it's parish share demand.

Richard Burgess
Treasurer

ANNUAL TREASURERS REPORT FOR ST THOMAS PONDERSBRIDGE JANUARY – DECEMBER 2022

<u>FABRIC A/C (BUSINESS PREMIUM) FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST 2022</u>	<u>£</u>
BALANCE AS AT JANUARY 1ST 2022	6018.22
<u>INCOME</u>	
INTEREST	4.26
DIVIDENDS - CBF INV. FUNDS	1779.96
	7802.44
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
TEAM SHARE (12 x £100)	1200.00
TRANSFER TO COMMUNITY A/C	2000.00
BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022	4602.44

<u>ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDERSBRIDGE</u>	<u>OPENING BALANCE</u>	<u>CLOSING BALANCE</u>
<u>SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2022</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
COMMUNITY A/C - COMMITTED (ROOF)	10000.00	
COMMUNITY A/C - FREE	1519.32	2520.85
FABRIC A/C	6018.22	4602.44
SUNDAY SCHOOL A/C	7.54	7.54
CHURCHYARD A/C	902.86	902.86

ON 31ST DECEMBER 2022 THE MID MARKET VALUE (NET ASSET VALUE) OF ONE SHARE IN THE FUND WAS 2066.14 PENCE AND THE BID MARKET VALUE OF ONE SHARE WAS 2064.59 PENCE GIVING AN INVESTMENT VALUE AT THAT DATE OF £59847.60 AND BID MARKET VALUE OF £59802.71. DIVIDENDS WERE RECEIVED IN 2022 OF £1779.96 AND PAID INTO THE FABRIC A/C.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDBERSBRIDGE COMMUNITY A/C FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2022

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£
THE MINISTRY	
THE CHURCH AND SERVICES	
HEATING AND LIGHTING	1092.16
INSURANCE - PREMIUM 2022	1572.30
FIRE EXTINGUISHER SERVICE	93.60
LIGHTNING CONDUCTOR TESTING	228.00
OTHER ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	
PROVISIONS FOR FUNDRAISING EVENTS	182.89
MISC. GIFT	39.56
CHURCHES TOGETHER ADVERT	35.00
'JIGSAW PUZZLE' PRIZE	50.00
PAYMENTS TO OR THRU DIOCESE	
CHURCHES TOGETHER SUB	30.00
PARISH SHARE – 2022	3100.00
EXTRA ORDINARY EXPENDITURE	
ROOF REPAIRS - JOHN LUCAS LTD	24415.20
	<u>30838.71</u>

<u>ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDBERSBRIDGE SUNDAY SCHOOL A/C</u> (20211990)	£
BALANCE AS AT 1 st JANUARY 2022	7.54
NO TRANSACTIONS	
BALANCE AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2022	<u>7.54</u>

ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDERSBRIDGE COMMUNITY A/C FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	<u>£</u>
BALANCE AS AT 1 ST JANUARY 2022	11519.32
<u>INCOME</u>	
VOLUNTARY INCOME	
PLANNED GIVING - COVENANTS	
GIFT AID	3523.47
GIFT AID TAX RECOVERED	1011.16
UNCOVENANTED	240.00
OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME	
COFFEE MORNING	295.00
AFTERNOON TEA	302.00
CYCLE RACE SUNDAY	133.75
SCARECROW FESTIVAL	226.62
HARVEST SUPPER	403.00
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR	691.09
SUNDRY_DONATIONS	621.60
EXTRA ORDINARY INCOME	
INSURANCE CLAIM - STORM DAMAGE TO ROOF	10829.20
SWALEC POWER REPAYMENT	1533.35
WATER AID COLLECTION	30.00
TRANSFER FROM BUSINESS PREMIUM A/C	2000.00
	15762.30
	<u>21840.24</u>
BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022	2520.85

ST THOMAS' CHURCH PONDERSBRIDGE CHURCHYARD A/C FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	<u>£</u>
(20414719)	
BALANCE AS AT JANUARY 1 ST 2022	902.86
NO TRANSACTIONS	
BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022	<u>902.86</u>

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

Year ending December 2022

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. 10 people were recorded as being on the Roll last year but there was an error in numeration since 11 were in fact recorded as being on the register. 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

Year ending April 2023

The past year has been busy for PCC members as they have all been DBS checked and all have completed required trainings. I have also completed 'Safer Recruitment' and my 'Safeguarding Leadership Course'. All of the trainings cover for a period of three years.

The PCC adopted PCC policies; Safeguarding Policy and Data Privacy Policy during the year along with a Recruitment of Ex-Offenders Policy.

Everyone working with children, whether it be during half-term activities or any future activities MUST complete a confidential declaration and a volunteer agreement form and necessary risk assessments must also be updated for every activity.

The safeguarding dashboard is always ongoing but we have kept updated after each PCC meeting throughout the year.

We have six actions to be completed at our upcoming PCC meeting.

Tracey Beaumont
Parish Safeguarding Officer

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Year ending April 2023

The main emphasis this year has been on working on the Deanery Development Plan for the future progress of the churches within the Deanery. A copy of the Plan was voted for at the Synod meeting and passed. The Standing Committee is now working on the Mission Action Development Plan and their findings will be submitted in the summer.

Our speakers this year have been Peter Leech, Deputy Director of Diocesan Mission and Ministry Department who spoke on Education, Mission and Ministry within a Local Context; The Rev Julie Norris, Diocesan Director of Lay Ministry, who spoke on Lay Ministry, Lay Vocations and Developing Lay Ministry and the training opportunities available; the Ven Richard Harlow, Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech who introduced himself and shared his views on how to move the church forward; and Geoffrey Hunter (Diocesan Advisory Committee) who gave a presentation on the REACH Ely Project.

Discussions were also held on the Deanery Share 2023 which is to increase by 4%. It was decided that for the present the same formula would be adopted for the allocation of costs. Whittlesey, Pondersbridge and Coates Benefice will therefore be requested to give £64,685.00.

Throughout this year the Deanery Synod has been without a secretary and Stephen Tooke, the Lay Chair has been coordinating minutes. It is hoped that a new secretary can be elected for the next Synod.

Fiona Heaysman
Deanery Synod Representative
for Holy Trinity, Coates

CHURCHES TOGETHER REPORT

Year ending April 2023

Since some new members joined Churches Together this year there has been an enthusiasm to become more proactive and this has been seen in the number of services and activities held with increased participation from all the churches in the group.

In April many people attended the Procession of the Cross followed by the Service at the Buttercross and refreshments afterwards. In March (2022) a service was held for the Women's World Day of Prayer where members from our churches contributed to the readings and prayers.

Christian Aid fund raising activities took place throughout the year, including a coffee morning, cake stall at the Buttercross and a Quiz Night at St Jude's.

In June, a joint service was held to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and in December a prayer area was set up near the Buttercross with opportunities to write a prayer at Whittlesey Christmas Extravaganza. Books and children's poems were given out and many of the Churches Together members took part in manning the area and speaking to people. In January we held a service for the Week of Christian Unity followed by refreshments. Churches Together members took part in the readings and prayers.

Mr Ian Cornall has worked hard producing a Churches Together leaflet to be distributed to people in the new developments around Whittlesey. A limited leaflet drop has happened and we are reviewing the information contained in the leaflet for further distribution.

The Rev Langley Mackrell-Hey has opened a Churches Together Facebook page which provides thoughts and reflections as well as encouraging others to contribute.

Roger Brown, our treasurer, continues to ensure that we are covered for public liability insurance and paying for advertising in Discovering Whittlesey magazine.

Fiona Heaysman
Churches Together Representative
for Holy Trinity, Coates