

Parish Church of St Thomas Stockport
Consecrated 1825



Annual Church Meeting

15th April 2018

Incumbent

Vacant

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A big thanks to everyone who comes week after week to rehearsals and services, and special welcome to Suzanne, who joined us during the year. We give grateful thanks once again to Peter Mayo for his sterling service and to David Carlston Williams and Roger Briscoe for their extra contributions during Peter's absence and at Christmas.

*Richard Scott,
Choirmaster*

concern. The items of disrepair which cause the church to be registered are highlighted in the *2015 Quinquennial Report*, in particular, repairs to the stonework around the parapet and the upper windows are listed as urgent.

Eddie Lockett

10. Deanery Synod Report

The May meeting once again took the form of an away day at Woodford parish church. It was led by Rev Cannon Jeremy Dussek, Cannon Precentor at Chester Cathedral. We explored the role of Christians in the society today. The October meeting was held at St Mary's which was the first under the new Rural Dean Rev David Brewster. The following subjects were discussed: Reorganisation of the Stockport central churches, The proposed budget for 2018/2019, The churches highlighted a number of special events and services leading up to Christmas. There was then a Group discussion on the shape and structure of Synod meetings and proposed items for future meetings. It was also agreed to move start time of synod to 7pm. The meeting concluded with a presentation to Cannon Diane for her time as Rural Dean.

The February meeting took place at St Saviours and following short updates and forthcoming events from each of the parishes took the form of a workshop on prayer led by Rev Magdelene Smith. During the evening we were introduced to a number of prayer techniques. We then split into 4 groups and were given an opportunity to try 2 of the techniques described. It was decided that future meetings would be held at 7:30pm rather than the 7:00pm agreed at the previous meeting.

Kevin Morgan
Deanery Synod Representative

11. Organ Report

Peter Mayo, Organist, will give a verbal report to the meeting.

12. Choir Report

The choir continues to be a very important part of the life of St. Thomas's. We sang at the Archdeacons Visitation and all the principle services and festivals during the year with our usual variety of hymns and anthems, both old and new.

On Wednesday 4th April we sang at the service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Winifred Allsopp a stalwart member of the choir for many years; recordings of the choir (with Win, Eric and Louise singing) were played at the crematorium too.

The Carol Service was again the highlight of the year, and this year we were very pleased to welcome the deputy Mayor of Stockport and also composer/ musician John Turner.

Background

St Thomas Stockport has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral roll and for election to the PCC. Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the Year the following served as members of the PCC

The elected members from the APCM were:-

The Churchwardens

Mr Richard Scott

Mr Peter Nelson up to the APCM 2017

Mr John Childs from the APCM 2017 until his resignation on 9th November

The elected members up to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2016 were:

Mrs J Brindley,

Mrs A Stott

Mrs A Stewardson

Mr H Long	Secretary
Mrs J Scott	Treasurer
Mrs F Green	Deanery Synod Representative and Vice Chair
Mr K Morgan	Deanery Synod Representative

The elected members from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2017 were:

Mrs J Brindley,

Mrs A Stott

Mrs A Stewardson

Mr H Long	Secretary
Mrs J Scott	Treasurer
Mr P Nelson	
Mrs F Green	Deanery Synod Representative and Vice Chair
Mr K Morgan	Deanery Synod Representative

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council.

Church attendance

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules a new roll was prepared in 2017. As a consequence there are now 64 electors on the Church Electoral

Roll, 8 of whom are resident within the parish
The average Sunday attendance is 40.
Services during the week were held each Wednesday up to October when they were cancelled until further notice due to poor attendance. In September the weekly Sunday Evensong was reduced to the first Sunday of the Month with Benediction. Services are held on major festivals at which the average attendance is 20.

There is a Praise and Play group for toddlers each Tuesday morning during Term Time and the church is open to visitors on Tuesday and Friday morning. Strong links with St Thomas Primary School have continued over the year.

Review of the year

The full PCC met 3 times throughout the year with an average attendance of 96%. The standing committee met between meetings and verbal reports of its meetings were received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary. Members of the PCC also attended several joint meetings of the proposed new Stockport central parish.

Most of the time was taken up with discussing the proposals regarding the future of Stockport Town Centre churches.

The other main topics were:

- Suspension of the Benefice
- Finance
- Restoration & gates
- Children's worship
- Antisocial behaviour & Graffiti
- Health & Safety
- Worship patterns

Financial review

During the year there was additional expenditure on Richardson St where the Kitchen was replaced. The items of regular expenditure continued to be Parish Share, heating and electricity and the insurance of the building. As a result of entering new contracts and the installation of a new heating controller the heating costs have reduced this year.

At the end of the year the general account is showing payments in excess of receipts of £2,917.

Reserves policy

There are no outstanding commitments on the reserves, although we are mindful of the works identified in the 2015 Quinquennial report.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met;

or (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed) Roy Hardy

9. Fabric Report

During the past year, the west end gallery wall was decorated which completed the upstairs decoration.

Sheets of polycarbonate were purchased and fitted to the interior face of the gallery windows by church personnel. This has reduced the noise level from external sources and early indications show that the project may help to reduce expenditure on fuel supply.

A report was received from the Architect with regard to the rising damp problem. The area of ceiling in the North West corner of the gallery ceiling, which was damaged by water ingress was treated with damp proof solution and repainted by Mr Davidson at the same time as the West gallery wall was painted.

Over a prolonged period, waste has accumulated in several areas of the church and is in need of disposal as soon as possible.

The four external doors at the East End were repainted after being defaced with graffiti.

Stonework on the portico was seriously damaged by graffiti which has been found impossible to remove.

A damaged gate post at the West End entrance to the Churchyard was repaired and the adjoining section of railing refitted.

There are several areas of concern, mentioned in the last report that are still outstanding.

- The broken windows (upper NW ante room and "Rector's vestry")
- The drainpipes still need painting
- The boiler pump is still noisy.

An oil burning candle lighter has been donated and it is hoped that its use will reduce the number of wax spillages onto altar linen.

As we continue to operate in a period of "Vacancy" at a time when the Diocese and Deanery are still considering the future of our town centre churches, the fact that our church remains on the "*Churches at Risk Register*" must give cause for

Peter Nelson
PCC Vice Chairman

Jane Scott
PCC Treasurer

Independent Examiner's report

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out in the report, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

Thanksgiving scheme

The thanksgiving process in November 2017 year resulted in 29 pledges being made representing 34 members. The breakdown of pledges was as follows:

£4 per week or less	-	2
£4.01 to £5 per week	-	7
£5.01 to £10 per week	-	10
£10.01 to £15 per week	-	1
£15.01 to £20 per week	-	4
£20.01 to £30 per week	-	5
£30.01 to £40 per week	-	4
£40.01 to £50 per week	-	0
Over £50 per week	-	1

It is important that all members of the church feel able to contribute regularly. If you are not in the thanksgiving scheme and want further information please contact the PCC Treasurer.

Future developments

It is expected that all future developments will depend upon the outcome of the parish reorganisation.

2. Agenda

Sunday 15th April 2018

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Election of Churchwardens
-

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies
2. The minutes of the 2017 meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Electoral roll report
5. Reports
 - Secretary's report
 - Churchwardens' report
 - Children and Families report
 - Fabric report
 - Deanery Synod report
 - Organ report
 - Choir report
6. Presentation of accounts
7. Elections
 - Deanery Synod
 - PCC
 - Appointment of Sidespersons
 - Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Chairman's remarks
9. AOB

3. Minutes of the last AGM

Parish Church of St Thomas, Stockport
Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting
On Sunday 30th April 2017 at 10.45am
under the chairmanship of Frances Green (vice chairman)

Immediately before the APCM at a meeting of parishioners for the purpose of electing Churchwardens, Richard Scott and John Childs were duly elected for the coming year, both proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed by all in

2016

Statement of assets and liabilities

2017

£	Cash funds	£
254	Total of cash floats	130
47085	Bank current and deposit accounts	30,999
47,339	Total cash funds	31,129
Representing		
	Unrestricted fund	£ 22,744
Notes	CDW Fund	£ 3,124
1.	The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis	£ 268
	Designated organ fund	£ 12,920
2.	The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities	
250	Other non-current assets (debtor)	
6,246	furnishings held by the church-wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for their disposal.	
	End of year income tax claim	7,104
	Clergy cover	823
3.	The expenses paid to clergy may include a small, immaterial proportion of their salaries to their function as PCC members.	7,927
6,496	other payments were made to PCC members.	
Assets retained for the use of the church		
11,212	Fixed asset (90 Richardson St)	11,212
4.	The payments to charities included:	
	A. £147 to US	
	B. £150 to Exiles army	
263	C. £263 to The Christie	
	Donation from Christmas giving	0
	D. £145 to Stockport foodbank	
	E. £129 to DEC appeal	
	F. £150 to Weekend Day Care	
	G. £280 to the Children's Society	
64,783	H. £150 to Brain Tumour Trust	50,267
	Total	

Approved by the PCC on 18 March 2018

2016

Financial Statement

2017

Church development worker Account

£	Receipts	£
10,000	PCC allocation	
13,333	Chester grant	
	Payments	
6,528	Salary	9,792
1,143	Working expenses	2,746
15,662	Excess of receipts over payments	-12538
0	Total 1 Jan	15,662
15,662	Total 31 Dec	3,125

Organ Fund Receipts and Payments Account

268	Total 1 Jan	268
268	Total 31 Dec	268

Appeal Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	Receipts	
194	Lent Lunches	0
373	Sweets, Cakes, Jam	352
1,242	Lucky Numbers	1,212
	Payments	
624	Lucky numbers	624
30	Lent lunches	0
1,155	Excess of receipts over payments	940
15,825	Total 1 January	11,980
5,000	Transfer to general account	
11,980	Total 31 Dec	12,920

attendance.

Attendance: The meeting was attended by 29 persons.

Apologies were received from:- Jane Brindley, Richard Scott, Jenny Wallace, John Childs, Sarah Mason, Canon Diane Cookson the Rural Dean.

The minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 24th April 2016, which had previously been circulated were taken as read, accepted as a true and correct record, and signed by the chairman. Proposed by Doris Brindley, seconded by Kevin Morgan.

Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

Reports from the Electoral Roll Officer, the PCC Secretary, the Churchwardens, the Fabric Report, the Deanery Synod, the Choir, the Organ, Children and Families work, and Community Development Work, had all been circulated seven days before the meeting.

All these reports were taken as read and accepted.

Presentation of Accounts. A copy of the Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mrs Jane Scott presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016. Jane thanked Kevin Morgan and Jenny Wallace for their assistance and thanks were offered to Roy Hardy as Independent Examiner.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Pat Lockett and seconded by Eddie Lockett following approval by the PCC on 21st March 2017.

Elections

PCC Membership.

Peter Nelson was nominated and unanimously accepted as a member of PCC.

Appointment of Sidespersons.

The following church members who were duly proposed and seconded were elected to serve for one year.

Peter Nelson, Brian Broderick, Kevin Morgan, Sarah Mason, Hamid Amir, Ann Stewardson, Sheila Long.

Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Mr Roy Hardy to continue in this role. All agreed.

Deanery Synod Representatives.

Frances Green and Kevin Morgan agreed to continue as our representatives.

Vice Chairman's Comments.

I understand, in the time of vacancy, it falls to me (as vice chairman) to give a short report. Firstly, in the months ahead we must keep our vision for the future. Fr Philip has helped us to remain focused on our faith and we are grateful to

him. Can we do our best to support all activities, particularly the visitation on 18th May, when we will need a lot of helpers. In a congregation of this size we are each so important, so a big thank you all who have stepped up to do extra tasks following Fr Andrews departure. Thank you to the Friday morning team and to those who have helped with laity led services. We are most grateful to the officers who have been elected to serve, it is important to be seen as 'business as usual' when in vacancy.

We must be positive in our faith and the future of this special place.

Any Other Business.

Peter Nelson thanked John Childs and Eddie Lockett for their efforts over the recent unruly behaviour and vandalism in church grounds. Also thanks to Eddie for his work throughout the year on the church fabric. Thanks were also given to the choir and to the organist Peter Mayo for maintaining the continuing excellence of the music. Also thanks to Doris Brindley, Pat Lockett, Marie Flint and helpers for Children and Family. Father Philip was thanked for his help during the vacancy. He expressed his pleasure and said that he was impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm at St Thomas' Church.

The meeting closed at 11.25am.

Immediately after the APCM a PCC meeting was held to confirm the officers. Frances Green (Vice-chair), Jane Scott (Treasurer) and Harry Long (Secretary), had all agreed to carry on in position and they were all unanimously agreed and confirmed by the members.

Peter Nelson having stood down as Churchwarden had been proposed and seconded as a member of the PCC. He was also unanimously welcomed by the other members of the PCC

4. Electoral Roll Report

Mr Eric Tomlinson, Electoral Roll Officer will give a verbal report on the revision of the roll.

5. Secretary's Report

This report records the business of the PCC throughout the year and in order to prevent repetition it is intentionally brief, most of the items being reported in full in the other reports contained within this booklet. The PCC met three times during this year with an average attendance of 96%. The main items discussed were as follows. Suspension of the benefice, the Bishop's proposals, ongoing finance at each meeting, restoration, painting to the rear gallery, double glazing to the gallery windows, restoration, messy church and praise and play, Community Development Work (Mathew is not now based at our church), Richardson Street, Health and Safety, graffiti and gates, Patronage vacancy, children's church, Parish fees.

In the absence of a priest Peter Nelson was invited to chair our meetings, and following the death of Frances, Peter was elected as vice chairman.

2016

£

72

1,352

16,085

3,084

632

8,269

7,746

988

1,404

843

130

124

4,224

529

189

911

124

291

200

11,385

861

59,541

5,000

-6,266

31,927

25,661

Payments

Weekly Giving Envelopes

Charitable Giving

Parish Share

Organist provision

Working expenses

Presentation

Heating / Electricity / Water

Church Insurance

Church maintenance

Organ Maintenance

Altar Expenses

Flowers

Easter Eggs / Christmas Tree

Children's work

Sundries

Choir

Richardson St

Printing / Postage / Licences

Telephone

Choral

Major repairs to church

Major repairs to other property

Total Payments

Transfer from appeal fund

Excess of receipts over payments

Total Unrestricted Funds as 1 Jan

Total Unrestricted Funds as 31 Dec

2017

£

71

1,414

16,447

3,724

215

225

6,813

8,133

866

882

659

226

71

4,045

611

101

1,033

203

284

300

2,324

2,508

51,157

0

-2,917

25,661

22,744

2016**Receipts****2017**

£		£
21,539	Tax Efficient planned giving	27,026
2,263	Other Planned Giving	1,363
915	Loose cash collections	1,115
3,442	Other gift aid	1,368
6,246	Income tax recovered	7,104
0	Presentation	225
0	Easter draw	56
673	Magazine / Praise & Play / Small donations	758
439	Sale of candles / Memorial Book/	432
2,965	Ceiling non gift aid	360
264	Wedding and funeral fees	738
1,968	Hire of Church	620
690	Jigsaw festival / Craft fair	0
13	Interest / charges / transfers	3
5,040	Rent from Richardson Street	5,040
752	Charity collections	1,007
1,065	General donations	1,025
48,274	Total	48,240

Harry Long
PCC Secretary

6. Churchwardens Report

For all of this year we have been in an interregnum, and I must give thanks to everyone who has kept things going so admirably during this difficult period. Unfortunately, John Childs had to stand down as warden during the year, owing to ill health. We wish him well and thank him for all that he has done in the past.

I'm very grateful to Peter Nelson for almost single-handedly organizing clergy during the year. We give thanks to Fr Philip Meadows for his help in the early part of the period, and especially to Fr David Parker who takes most of our services now. As usual, especial thanks go to Eddie Locket for his ongoing guidance and support to our visiting clergy.

Sadly during the year we bade a fond farewell to Frances Green. Frances had done so much for St Thomas's in many, many roles, and she will be greatly missed.

Our church is renowned for its traditional style of worship and this is due in no small part to the musical tradition and our excellent choir and organist, Peter Mayo, who has been in hospital twice this year, but always comes back to us refreshed as soon as he can (and often before he should!)

We are grateful to Eric Tomlinson for the compilation of our new weekly sheet and any suggestions for additional material will be welcome

We have again hosted Northern Chamber Orchestra rehearsals and several recordings throughout this year.

We must give thanks to our former sacristan Vera Worthington for her sterling service over the years, also to Dorothy Fernley for arranging attractive and well thought out displays. They are both longstanding and reliable members of the congregation and their joint ministry at funerals is very much appreciated.

This year we successfully hosted the Archdeacon's Visitation service in May, receiving great admiration for our welcome and organization. The church was once again open for the Heritage weekend in September and the school contribution was much appreciated; our thanks are given to all those who volunteered to steward on these occasions.

We managed during the year to decorate all the upstairs side walls and ceilings. We have also secondary glazed the upstairs windows, and thank everyone involved in that project, especially the formidable Hamid!

I should at this point like to thank the following:

- The sidespersons for their ministry of welcome which is often overlooked but is an essential part of our church
- The servers for their support during this period of change
- The people who provide refreshments both on Sundays and Fridays, particularly Doris Brindley
- Our Flower arrangers and those who donate monies to defray the cost of decorating the church
- The regular weekly band of helpers on a Friday morning, Pat & Eddie Lockett, Dorothy Fernley, Vera Worthington, Doris Brindley and Peter Nelson who come rain or shine to ensure the church is at its best for our services with thanks to Bill Frith for his wonderful brass cleaning which has to be seen to be admired
- Jenny Wallace for being our Children's Society Representative
- Our treasurer Jane Scott for keeping the accounts and ensuring our financial stability and for Kevin Morgan and Jenny Wallace for their support.
- The contribution made by our deanery synod representatives and members of the PCC
- Eric Tomlinson for his duties as electoral roll officer
- The choir, organist and choirmaster for their contribution to our services throughout this year
- Marie for her excellent children's work
- Harry Long for continuing as PCC secretary and dealing with lots of extra correspondence and emails during the vacancy
- Finally Pat Lockett for the ongoing support and for organizing readers and for just being there.

We have a challenging time ahead as we prepare to advertise the vacancy and will be grateful for your continued presence and prayerful support.

Richard Scott
Churchwarden

7 Children's and Families Report

2017 was a great year for children's and families work at St. Thomas', strengthening our links with St. Thomas' Primary School and with the community. The whole school was invited to participate in an 'Experience Christmas' which was well received by school and well supported by church members. Throughout the year, fortnightly Christian assemblies have been delivered to the whole school, as well as a weekly lunch club for small groups of children and Bible stories and singing for nursery children. Throughout the year, a number of classes have visited Church to learn about the Last Supper, why

church is important to Christians and to find out what happens during the Eucharist. Parents and children from school have also visited church for their special Easter and Christmas services. Each child in school had the opportunity to create some artwork of their favourite Bible story, as part of the Chester Diocese YBible initiative. The artwork was displayed in Church during advent and Christmas and the parents and children were invited to come and view the wonderful display.

Our Praise and Play group has continued to thrive. There is a great sense of community within the group, as we continue to play, sing, make crafts and hear a Bible story each week during term time. The children enjoyed Christmas and end of term parties. Children also took part in a sponsored 'toddle waddle' in the Summer to raise money for the neonatal unit at St. Mary's Hospital. Praise and Play is faithfully supported by a small team of church members each week. Thanks to those who give their time and talents for this valuable ministry.

Marie Flint
Children's and Families Worker

8. Financial Report

The annual accounts take up the next 6 pages of the booklet and will be presented by Jane Scott, Treasurer.