



Treasurer Alison Warder

Structure Governance and Management

It remains policy at St Thomas' that those elected onto the PCC serve for a period of 12 months rather than three years, as is commonplace elsewhere; however, individuals may stand for re-election. Elected members are required to confirm their eligibility to be a 'charity trustee'. Lay Representatives to Charlton Deanery Synod are elected to serve a term of three years. It is practice at St Thomas' that Churchwardens stand for election to office at the Easter Vestry Meeting that prefaces the APCM on an annual basis.

All qualified to do so are encouraged to register on the Parish Electoral Roll, a requirement for eligibility to stand for election to the PCC. The Electoral Roll is fully revised every six years and is regularly updated. The Electoral Roll was fully revised in 2019.

The PCC meets monthly, excluding August, December and April. St Thomas' PCC is supported by a Standing Committee composed of the Rector, Churchwardens and PCC Secretary. It meets to prepare the agenda for the PCC meeting as well as dealing with minor (or emergency) items of business.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC co-operates with the Rector, the Clergy and Churchwardens in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Achievement and Performance

The Parish Electoral Roll was not revised in 2020 and at the APCM held in April 2019 there were 38 members on the Parish Electoral Roll. The number on the electoral roll as at April 2019, means that the number of members that can be elected for St Thomas' PCC at the 2020 APCM is 6. St Thomas' is entitled to 2 Charlton Deanery Synod representatives, who were elected at the 2017 APCM to serve until the next elections in 2020, however there is currently only one representative as one resigned in 2019. The lay representatives for Charlton Deanery Synod are ex-officio members of the PCC. Because of the extraordinary situation of a global pandemic, no APCM was held in 2020 and a new PCC was not elected.

Revd Liz Newman has been Rector of Charlton since July 2017 and while she remains in full time ministry, her post is presently only half funded as a result of diocesan wide cuts and the requirement on all deaneries to shed a post. For Charlton Deanery this means there was only limited funding for a post, which is unquestionably full time.

The period of interregnum saw continued close partnership with the parish of St Luke's within the benefice, a partnership which has been further consolidated by Liz's appointment.

St Thomas' has embraced the transition to paying its contribution to the Parish Support Fund (the annual contribution to the Diocese) in place of the previous scheme of Fairer Shares. Were the Rector being paid as full time, it would remain the case that St Thomas' receives more from the Diocese in financial terms than it is able to contribute.

St Thomas' is a historic building and is Grade 2 listed. Like all buildings of this age and size, it requires much by way of upkeep, with lighting, heating, and internal redecoration, improvement and repairs making constant demands. We are much indebted to 'in-house' work carried out by our Churchwarden and others. The quinquennial inspection happened late in 2019.

The church and hall continue to attract both regular and occasional bookings. Since October 2019 SPABC is no longer a license holder but continues to rent the upper hall on a sessional basis via hall hire agreement. Champions for Change is also a regular user.

Financial Review

The annual accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 are attached to this report. Total receipts were £39,470, of which £29,274 was unrestricted voluntary donations.

The planned giving through banker's orders has increased by 15% (a similar increase to that of last year). In 2019 it was £10,220 and in 2020 was £14,328.

Collections in 2019 were £2,717 and in 2020 was £1,111.

A significant contribution to this increase comes from the fundraising activities that have been supported by the local community and donations to the general work of the church from those in the community. Total funds raised were £4,077, a combination of generous giving from the local residents and various Christmas activities, including Sheila's raffle. And Jim also got £1,875 back from Bulb for utilities overpayment.

Aside from the above, the concert for the Winter Night Shelter in January 2020 raised £1,790 which we passed on to GWNS. Sadly, the night shelter was closed in lockdown and has not yet emerged again.

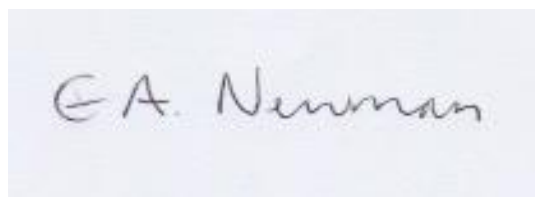
Another significant financial contribution came in the form of two grants that our Rector worked hard to achieve; the first being a grant of £7,083 to do up the Upstairs Hall and the second one of £500 for live-streaming services (shared with St Luke's).

I am still pleased to be able to report that the net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £13 on unrestricted funds.

Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £13,826 as opposed to £13,813 on 1st January 2020.

This only goes to show the combined benefit of various widows' mites.

Approved by the PCC January 2021

A photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Liz Newman".

and signed on their behalf by

Revd Liz Newman
Rector, The Benefice of Charlton