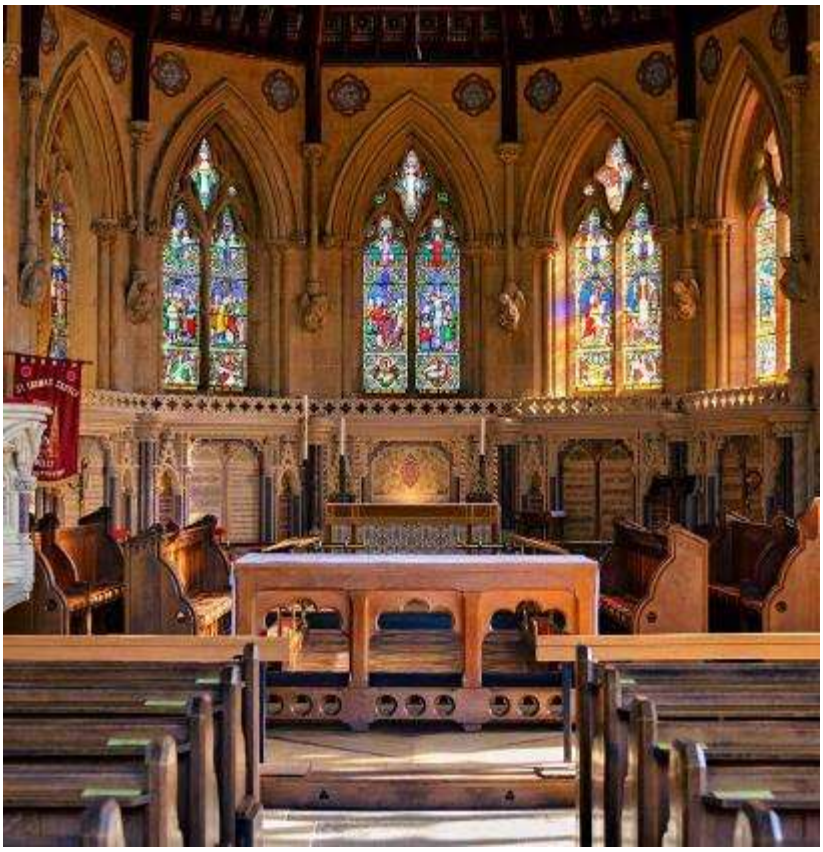
St Thomas, Wells, with the Horringtons



Annual Review of 2025

Annual Meeting of Parishioners
&
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

7.30pm

Wednesday 25th March 2026

7.30pm Annual Meeting of Parishioners
Agenda

1. Prayers
2. To accept apologies for absence
3. To agree the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Wednesday 9th April 2025
4. To elect two Churchwardens for the coming year.

7.45pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Agenda

1. To agree the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 2025
2. To receive Reports:
   - 2.1 The Parish Church Electoral Roll
   - 2.2 The Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
   - 2.3 The Independently Examined Financial Statements of the PCC for year ended 31 Dec 2025
   - 2.4 The Fabric of the Church report inc. the church hall
   - 2.5 The proceedings of the Shepton Mallet Deanery Synod
3. To elect representatives to serve on the PCC and Deanery Synod.
4. To appoint an External Examiner for the financial statements of the PCC.
5. Comments or questions about 2025 and the reports
6. To hear the Chair's closing remarks

Minutes of the Annual Meetings Wednesday April 9th 2025

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners

The meeting was preceded with drinks and nibbles.

Present: The Revd. Claire Towns, Judy Penhaligon, Chris Jenkins, Charlie Sutton, Maggie Sutton, Gill Tucker, John Simarpi, Lavinia Morrison, Ann Edmonds, Lizzie Fox, David Kennett, Celia Kennett, Pauline Pickford, Christina Baron, Joanna Birkett, Katie Steadman-Towns, Michaela Cross, Stacey Camfield. David Grover, Ian Ames-White, Ruth Ames-White, Iona Baker, Mike Tolley, Alan Butt Philip, Caroline Riley, Rob Riley, Clifford Fountaine, Lella Fountaine, Jane Mackenzie, Phoebe King, Caroline Maycock, Linda Lapington, Jane Flinders, Roy Orme, Kathy Orme, Val Breen, Alan Thomas, Anna Dmochowski, Rosemary Evans, Gabrielle Camfield. (41)

Apologies: Kate Gleave, Jenny Maidment, June Wilcock, Valerie Forrester, Lynn Rendell, David Humphrys, Christine Humphrys, Sheila Baker, Amanda Russell, Cilla Grain, Gill Kelly, Debbie Cochrane, Julia Harris, Mike Harris, Jean Hague, Kathy Wilson, Lizzie Jeanes, Sue Winstone, Kathryn Tolley, Jan Hodge, Gill Palmer, Penny Farrell, Daphne Shillingford, Hazel Sharp, Rachel Thomas, Kathleen Davidson, Barbara and Michael Calverley. (28)

Claire thanked those members of the PCC who had provided the refreshments and to Chris Jenkins who was taking the minutes in the absence of a PCC Secretary.

1. Claire then opened the meeting with prayer.

2. The apologies as entered on the list were accepted.

3. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting of the Parishioners on Wednesday March 20th 2024 were agreed. Proposed Clifford Fountaine, Seconded Lavinia Morrison.

4. Election of Churchwardens: Judy Penhaligon had been proposed by Gill Tucker and Seconded by Charlie Sutton; and Chris Jenkins had been proposed by Joanna Birkett and seconded by Judy Penhaligon. There being no other names Judy and Chris were duly elected.
Claire thanked Judy and Chris, both of them different but with hugely complementary talents, gifts and qualities.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the APCM held on March 20th 2024 were agreed. Proposed by Ann Edmonds, Seconded by Joanna Birkett.

2. Reports.
2.1 Electoral Roll. Ann Edmonds reported that there were 119 names on the new Roll. There had been 121 but since the Roll had been updated Ron Davey and Megan Hewson had died.
From the old list 3 people had died, Jenny Boocock, Janet Wickett, and Irene Foyle. 12 others had moved or otherwise asked for their names to be removed. 36 had not responded and there were 7 new members.
Claire thanked Ann and Caroline Maycock for the electoral roll details, especially as this was a year when we had to complete a new Roll, not just update the old one.
Charlie Sutton asked whether the drop in numbers would affect our Parish Share? The answer is no, as the share is calculated on average attendance, not the Roll.

2.2. Annual Report of the PCC
This is in the published booklet.
Joanna commented that ABC2 was flourishing, and Crafty Church was doing well with many thanks to Judy and Claire.

Claire commented on the Safeguarding team of Joanna, Mike and Michaela thanking them and all the work that put is in.

2.3. Financial Statements.
Ian presented a set of independently examined reports which showed that although we had plenty of money in the bank, we were still spending around £2500 per month more than we were getting in. Although was being offset at the moment by the amount of interest we were getting from the legacy.
The telephone bill seems to be very high and Chris is looking into that, and the Gas and Electric bill is high but there is not much we can do about that.
For the legacy money we will be looking at smaller projects.
Claire thanked the Finance Team of Ian, Charlie and Barbara, as well as Fiona.

2.4. Fabric Report
This is in the published booklet.
Alan Butt Philip asked about the money which Pamela Pye had given for the North Porch and the Clock repairs. The porch was finished but the clock has not been touched.
Chris as chair of the Fabric Committee invited our architect Alan Thomas to reply. The answer was that the proposal was to refurbish the clock face only, but a faculty was refused as it was felt that the whole clock needed to be attended to not just the face. We are now in a position to look at this as a separate project.
Summary of Church Hall use.

2.5. Report on the Shepton Mallet Deanery Synod.
As per the report in the booklet.

3. Elections to PCC and Deanery Synod.
Claire thanked Debbie, Linda and Iona who were all standing down. (Megan Hewson had resigned due to ill health)
Nominations had been received for David Kennet, Michaela Cross, Ian Ames-White and Rachel Thomas.
As we had four vacancies these four were duly elected.
There were no nominations for the vacancy for Deanery Synod.

4. To appoint an external examiner for the financial statements of the PCC.
This year we have had to do the accounts in a different way because we have had a very high income.
It was agreed that unless we get another big legacy this year, next year we will revert to the independent Examiner that we used last year.
Proposed Joanna Birkett, seconded Alan Butt Philip.

5. Comments or questions about the 2024 report.
There were no comments or questions.

5. Chair's closing remarks.

Firstly, I want to say that I'm glad it's not this time last year!! I'm so thankful to God – and to you – for helping me get through what was a very difficult few months back then. I am, and we are now in a much better place, so Thank you!! Whilst saying thank you, I want to say that it's each and every person that makes life what it is at Sy Thomas, whether that be in exercising 'Up front' ministry, playing or singing, or reading or praying in services. Or in helping to keep the building and grounds in good shape; or keeping everything running smoothly, sidespeople, servers, welcomers, coffee makers and clearer uppers. Thanks to those who keep us safe, the PSO team, the Wardens. Thanks to those with front facing roles, whether at ABC2, Coffee Stop, and Crafty Church, or helping out at concerts. Thanks to those who do virtual 'Behind the scenes' roles, such as washing the linens and tea towels, cleaning, counting money etc. SO MANY people, SO MANY roles.
Thanks to Caroline for all she does, precious and invaluable part of our life here.
We have to remember those who have been very much part of life here but have recently died; Ron Davey, Michael Belham and Megan Hewson. As for the Legacy, We still have a vision and dreams for something big, but now is not the time as we need people to lead and drive it forward. Neither myself or the Churchwardens have the capacity to take on that amount of work at this time. Claire then highlighted some of the smaller projects that we were looking at. Lighting in the church. The possibility of having a fixed projector and a screen that can be easily put into position. A new shed. A new noticeboard. Tidy up and rearrange the choir vestry with shelves etc to make it a much more user friendly space instead of just an untidy corridor. Revamp the community room with a sofa and easy chair. Claire outlined the idea of having a Premises/Facilities manager. The job description was done and we had someone who was interested. The plan is to invite them to apply without putting out a formal advert. This was quite within the rules and if it didn't work out then we would advertise as normal. Interviews were planned for the week commencing 19th May. There was a question about how much the proposed Premises/Facilities manager would be paid. Claire said that the hours were 25 hours a week, annualised, but that she didn't want to announce the actual rate of pay, except to say that it was above the minimum living wage.

Claire then invited thoughts or suggestions for what we could be doing.
The following came from the meeting.

- Horrington burial ground fencing.
- Clock.
- Repairs to the main gates at the bottom of the church steps.
- Signage within the buildings eg. Pointing to the community room etc.
- Encourage families to use the choir vestry during services because of the noise generated at the back of church. This is something that might merit further debate because opposing views were expressed in the meeting
- Revamp the hall kitchen and toilets if there is going to be a delay in doing something else with the hall.
- Like Trio Paradis concerts, there is scope for similar daytime events.

- Improve the welcoming appearance of the front doors of the church.
- Get a key case for the hall for the hall users to use. (Already exists)
- Get rid of the heavy tables in the hall and move to all GoPack tables.
- Get rid of the piano in the hall.
- More vacuum flasks for coffee in church.

Thanks were expressed to Geoff Penhaligon for all he does around the church, mowing, cleaning, sorting rubbish, tidying the carpark etc.

Chris then thanked Claire for all she had done for St Thomas' throughout the year. He said that he had recently met a former Archdeacon of Wells who had commented very favourably on the vicar we had, especially taking services and preaching. But Chris also commented and thanked Claire for all that goes on behind the scenes, visiting, rotas, planning services and so much more.

THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

As of March 5th 2026, the Electoral Roll for St. Thomas, Wells with The Horringtons stands at **122** an increase of 1 from last year's number. 4 people have been removed from the Roll, 2 through death and 2 because they have moved away. 5 new people have been added.

Ann Edmonds, Parish Electoral Roll Officer

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Objectives

The PCC has responsibility to co-operate with the Priest in Charge to promote, in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC also owns, lets and maintains the church hall, church hall bungalow, plus the car park.

Administrative information

- The church is situated in St. Thomas Street, Wells, and serves East Wells, South, East and West Horrington. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, St. Thomas Street, Wells, BA5 2UZ.
- The parish is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, within the Church of England.
- The Parochial Church Council is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules (CRR). The length of service, capacity and the number of elected members (subject to the maximum allowed under the CRR) is as agreed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The full PCC met on 8 occasions during 2024. Sub-Teams also met - Standing Committee, Finance Team and Community Team. Standing Committee met monthly to deal with urgent or routine business. There was a PCC Away Day in September.

At each of its meetings the PCC received a financial report from the Treasurer, together with occasional reports from other committees, namely the Worship Committee.
The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Membership of the PCC

During 2025 the following members have served on the PCC:

Elected:

Ian Ames-White	Elected 2025
Michaela Cross	Elected 2025
David Kennett	Elected 2025
Barbara Calverley	Elected 2024 *(2-year casual vacancy from Hamish Redman resignation, a 2023 election)*
Ann Edmonds	Elected 2024
John Simarpi	Elected 2024
Charlie Sutton	Elected 2024
Mike Tolley	Elected 2023
Rachel Thomas	Elected 2025 (*1-year casual vacancy from death of Megan Hewson, elected in 2023)*

Ex-officio:

The Revd. Claire Towns	(Priest in Charge, Chair of PCC)
Chris Jenkins	(Churchwarden and Reader)
Judith Penhaligon	(Churchwarden and Deanery Synod)
Christina Baron	(General Synod)
Gill Tucker	(Deanery Synod)

Church Teams:
Other groups/activities that contribute invaluable work and input to the life of the church and parish, include: ABC2; Coffee Stop; Crafty Church Team; Flowers; Healing Prayers; Home Groups; Lay Worship Assistants; Musicians and Singers; Pastoral Care Team; Sacristans and Servers; Safeguarding; Snack and Chat; Sidespeople, Stewards and

Welcomers; and Thursday Meditation Group. Huge thanks to the many volunteers who work so hard to contribute to the work of all these teams.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding at St Thomas' is believed to be an essential part of the church's loving pastoral care of each other and the PCC takes it very seriously.
I am very grateful for the positive attitude of the church towards safeguarding and the willingness with which people attend and participate in the necessary training. It makes it much easier for the above to be achieved.
I, Joanna Birkett, am the current Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). I am back on PCC ex-officio as Lay Reader, but Mike Tolley has kept PCC up to date on Safeguarding developments.
Safeguarding issues overseen this year include

- Michaela Cross is well embedded in the team and has had a significant impact on administration of the training sessions, contacting volunteers and developing role descriptions.
- Mike Tolley has continued to put in a huge amount of work with the Parish Dashboards and 31:8 our new DBS provider, clarifying the training and DBS needs of our various teams.
- Foundation Safeguarding was delivered in Nov '25 to 10 people and Jan '26 to 5 people. We are very grateful for the positive support of everyone.
- PCC affirmed Safeguarding Policy, The Revd. Claire Towns signed it to be displayed in a public place.
- There will be further training requirements/opportunities for members of community outreach groups over the next few months.
- The team is developing role descriptions for Safer Recruitment purposes.
- The team is also looking at Risk Assessments for different activities.

Joanna Birkett, PSO

The Safeguarding process at St Thomas comprises two parts: training, and a criminal record check by the government Disclosure and Barring Service. Most of our volunteer roles require at least a Basic level check, while others, such as for those serving on the PCC require a more detailed search. If you hold a DBS certificate it will require renewal every three years you are in the role. Applications are made online, with assistance provided by the Safeguarding team.

Life at St Thomas' in 2025

OCCASIONAL OFFICES


5 baptisms, all of babies and children under 4 years old.


3 weddings



20 funerals and 7 interments of ashes

We remember with fondness and thanksgiving those church family members who died in 2025 – Heather Shepherd, Ron Davey, Michael Belham, Megan Hewson, Anthony Roberts and Martin Thomas.

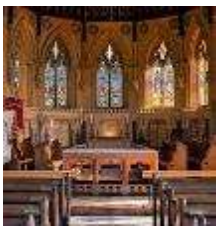
WORSHIP



Sunday 10am service attendance ranged from 50-80. New faces have appeared in church, as well as on the reading and intercessions rota. On Mothering Sunday and Harvest Festival, baptism families were welcomed to receive their church family welcome and their baptism candles. On Harvest Festival day, we were pleased to welcome Harriet Sandys, who had recently visited Ukraine and talked to the congregation about the reality of life in a warzone. So many donations for Somerset Aid for Ukraine were subsequently collected at St Thomas, and it's been really delightful that Harriet has since made St Thomas her spiritual home!


Taizé services continue to be held at 6.30pm on the 3rd Sunday of the month, attracting 12-20 people, many of whom come from beyond the 10am congregation. Huge thanks to Jon Jelfs for playing the piano at these services.


Crafty Church met 8 times in 2025, including the Light Party at Halloween and the Crafty Christingle in December, and has continued to thrive, sometimes with as many as 36 children attending, along with the adults they bring with them. The majority of people attending are 'regulars' and a strong sense of community is being built at Crafty Church. It's been really good to see people attending Crafty Church who have initially come into contact with us via ABC2. Also, 3 baptisms have emerged from ABC2 and Crafty Church in 2025. Church isn't just that which happens on a Sunday morning. We're aware that some people feel disappointed that we don't see Crafty Church families on a Sunday morning but Crafty Church **is** church for them. They encounter Christianity there, not only in the prayers, songs and words spoken as well as the activities themselves but also in all of the conversations that happen between helpers and families. So many meaningful pastoral and missional opportunities are found there! By the end of 2026, it is hoped that we can offer another worship opportunity for families, which is more relaxed in tone….


Other special services were held throughout the year – Holy Week and Easter, All Souls and Christmas. Services are held monthly on both floors at Torwood Nursing Home and a small number of people receive communion in their homes.



Sunday Youth, led by Joanna, Keith and Mandy continues to meet most months on the 2nd Sunday during the 10am service. Although numbers are low, there is still a strong relationship between all members of the group. The role of faith in everyday life is discussed and fun is also had!


LEARNING TOGETHER

Four Home Groups continue to meet regularly, offering a space to learn, to pray, to deepen friendships and support one another. The *Living Thankfully* course started during the 4 weeks of Advent 2024 continued during the 5 weeks of Lent 2025. This was held on Monday afternoons in church and attracted about 15 people.

Then in Advent, about the same number of people took part in the weekly Advent course, again on Monday afternoons. The theme of this was *Hope from Adversity*; as well as the Monday sessions, this theme was followed on Sunday mornings in Advent, with 4 different people telling their personal stories of how they had found hope from adversity.

OUTREACH & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



2 ABC2

Our weekly playgroup for babies and pre-school aged children in the Church Hall with their mums, dads, grannies, grandpas, and child minders continues to be a place of friendship, community, and joy.

We meet almost every week, with a few weeks off during parts of the school holidays.
On average over the last six months, we have had 32 carers and children in each session.

We are sharing God's love with "our" families;

- building relationships
- offering friendly support with the ups and downs of family life
- giving a warm welcome to every person who joins us
- providing a supportive and inclusive environment

There are a great number of our families who love to attend Crafty Church and we very grateful to Judy and Claire for providing that opportunity.

We have an amazing group of volunteers
(who are all DBS checked, have attended safeguarding training and wear name badges)-

Our *super set up team* of Celia and David,
For the core session Kathy, Lydia, Lisa, and Michaela, with an occasional Den!
Our *perfect pack away team* of Anna and Alan

Our volunteers are fantastic and we could not run the group without them. They are committed and faithful and together we are all enjoying friendship, fellowship and the reward of serving our community.
We thank each volunteer because together we make the group a special place to welcome families to our St Thomas community and share God's love.

Michaela Cross, ABC2 Leader



COFFEE STOP

Coffee Stop continues to thrive and although many have been coming for some time, there has been a steady increase in new people joining us this year. Numbers are typically around 50 per week - approximately half are from the St Thomas church family, most others come from within the parish and a few from the wider Wells area. Donations in 2025 averaged £50 per week. Cakes, biscuits and milk are provided by team leaders and our 'regulars' often bring contributions ~ their generosity is much appreciated.

We were pleased to host MacMillan Cancer and Christian Aid mornings and have offered our help at similar events in 2026 ~ all proceeds go to the respective charities. Musical entertainment from the Cathedral School has been a highlight and we hope to include more of these occasions in the future.

At Coffee Stop we offer a warm welcome and fellowship in a sociable and relaxed atmosphere. There is always lively conversation, the sharing of common interests and problems, mutual support and a lot of laughter! We ensure that no one feels isolated and we are particularly mindful of those who come with carers. It is encouraging that members of a local supported living facility have felt comfortable during their visits and now return on a weekly basis. Coffee Stop also provides a valuable opportunity for Claire, Joanna and the Pastoral Care Team to mingle and chat with church members and others from the community. In this way we aim to uphold St Thomas's ethos of outreach and inclusivity.

A detailed Risk Assessment was carried out in 2025. All team members have completed the necessary Safeguarding Courses and are fully conversant with the standards and regulations for Food Safety + Hygiene. Thank you to everyone involved in helping us meet these essential requirements. It's good to report that team leaders are now familiar with the magic and mystery of the new coffee machine! Sincere thanks go to Adam Stewart for cleaning it every week and particularly for setting up and clearing away all the tables and chairs - this has made a significant difference and lightened our load considerably. Thanks also go to Judy for her continual support and especially for the lovely flower arrangements. And finally a huge Thank You to everyone who has given their time and energy to make Coffee Stop such a success. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team ~ but we would definitely welcome more volunteers!

Jane Flinders, Coffee Stop Leader




The July Garden Party on July 19th was another great success, once more drawing in lots of families and people from the local community.

Thanks to Steve Abbott and friends for singing at it, which was a real ‘crowd puller’. There was a bar and this too was a success.



St Thomas continues to be hired for a host of external social events such as concerts..



ST THOMAS’ ON-LINE PRESENCE

Katie Steadman-Towns was appointed in early 2025 to manage the church’s website and Facebook page. This ensure that pages are kept up to date, something which has been done in partnership with Adam Stewart, the Premises Manager, re. the ‘Hiring our Premises’ page on the website. A bookings calendar, at a cost of £1020 + VAT has been created for this page and gives a snapshot of availability and the costs of hire. The bookings calendar requires some additional functionality to be added (ability to add repeat functions etc.).
A quote from 21 Six is £215 plus VAT to undertake this work. 'What's On' and 'Information Hub' pages are both updated at least once a week, so they're always current.

Facebook

- Posts are added at least 3 times a week on our own FB page and also the City of Wells Connection Community page to increase exposure.
- All regular and one-off events are advertised.
- Number of followers is now 720 (on 07/03/2026).
- Number of people viewing the Sunday service ranges between 139 - 370 (from past 3 Sundays) illustrating another means of offering outreach and worship in this day and age.

Katie-Steadman Towns

DINDER



From April 1st 2024, The Revd. Claire Towns also became the 'as if' Priest in Charge of Michael and All Angels, Dinder. There is a monthly Eucharist in Dinder at 1130am on the 3rd Sunday of the Month, which Claire takes immediately after the 10am service in St Thomas.

The Revd. Claire Towns, Priest-in-Charge

FINANCE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2025

A game of two halves. Our current position and looking to the future.

Current Position …… Having dwelt on our General Fund losses in past years, due to our Parish Share commitment, the Finance team are happy to report an overall surplus at the end of 2025.
However, Church Income was boosted by Interest from our Deposit accounts holding funds from the Hannam and Pye legacies and we are still running at a monthly loss against pledged and donated income. This has increased to approx. £5,500 per month.

We collected and donated £2,239 to Christian Aid £541, Macmillan Cancer Support £108, The Children's Society £78 and £503 each to The Salvation Army, Ukraine Aid, and YMCA, Wells.

Additional outgoings on Salaries and 'Other' expenditure are required for the administration of the church office, hall bookings and finance.

Our Outreach expenditure includes funds well spent on our attractive and informative website and very popular events such as Crafty Church and the July Garden Party – which has been a great success and is now a summer date in the community calendar.

Major repairs to the hall were to fix a water drainage problem.

The Church Family need to be aware that it costs us, on average, **£553 per day to keep St. Thomas open.** We are very fortunate to have had the legacies we've received. However, we must not rest on our laurels and be complacent when looking to the future. We have to generate more income from the Church Family and increase bookings of our facilities.

Going forward …… We have for the first time, created a budget for 2026, based on 2025's income and expenditure and allowing for inflationary pressures. This is so we can more effectively see where we will need to spend our money.
We have invested in a Facilities Manager who is doing a great job. As a result, we have less overhead on the volunteers, who were always having to make themselves available for events. Plus, with additional marketing, and a diary feature on our website, we are seeing the beginnings of an upturn in bookings of our facilities.
New Audio visual equipment is being installed, into the community room, to make it much easier for groups to display information, provide training, entertainments, run business meeting along with Zoom & Teams meetings with remote attendees.
With a car park, refreshment facilities, state of the art audio visual equipment we expect the community room bookings to increase. Spread the word.

The Hall and Bungalow operating Income contribute to the operating costs of the Church. Going forward the Finance team will 'un-designate' the Hall and Bungalow Income and Expenditure allowing a simpler view of the Operating costs of St Thomas's as a whole.
We also have to be mindful of the condition of the hall and bungalow and any remedial, renovation or 'other' works that may need to be entertained.
We are considering funding new lighting, in the Church, as the existing lighting has become dull and uneconomic to run.
We are also considering funding an upgrade to the audio visual capability in the Church to provide greater flexibility of use.

Overall, we are in a very fortunate financial position and are doing everything we can to direct expenditure where it will be most effective while minimizing costs, all the time conscious of our commitment to outreach, to the benefit of our Church Family and the wider community of East Wells.

A brief overview of the account's headlines is provided below. The full accounts are with our Accountant and Independent Examiner for approval – prior to reporting to the Charities Commission. The full monthly accounts are available to be examined, in the Church Office, on request.

Analysis of income and expenditure
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	General	Designated	Restricted	This year	Total Last year
Incoming resources					
Voluntary Income					
01201 - Planned Giving	54,476	0	0	54,476	57,411
01202 - Gift Aided Envelopes	4,332	0	0	4,332	3,155
01218 - Charity Donations to be paid on	2,239	0	0	2,239	1,854
02201A - Planned giving (non-tax efficient)	4,299	0	0	4,299	2,983
03203 - Collections and Donations	15,863	0	0	15,863	6,250
05219 - Special Charity Appeals	0	0	0	0	200
06204 - Tax recovered	4,011	0	0	4,011	6,167
07206 - Legacies	2,000	302,987	0	304,987	900,000
12218 - Flowers Donation	50	0	0	50	127
Voluntary Income Totals	**87,271**	**302,987**	**0**	**390,259**	**978,148**
Activities for Generating Funds					
13221 - Fund Raising Income	748	0	0	748	120
13220 - Other income - coffee income	3,491	0	0	3,491	3,727
Activities for Generating Funds Totals	**4,240**	**0**	**0**	**4,240**	**3,848**
Income from Investments					
10208 - Interest Received	50,337	1,558	0	51,896	29,019
10210 - Bungalow Rent	4,650	4,650	0	9,300	9,300
10221 - Dividends received	149	0	0	149	146
Income from Investments Totals	**55,137**	**6,208**	**0**	**61,346**	**38,466**
Church Activities					
11207 - Fees	8,823	0	0	8,823	7,115
12208 - Room Lettings - Church/Community room	5,343	0	0	5,343	4,694
12209 - Hall Rents	320	21,210	0	21,530	21,555
12211 - Magazine income	0	0	0	0	0
12212 - Votive candle income	164	0	0	164	173
12213 - Photocopying income	75	0	0	75	25
12216 - BRF income	94	0	0	94	118
Church Activities Totals	**14,819**	**21,210**	**0**	**36,029**	**33,681**
Incoming resources Grand totals	**161,469**	**330,406**	**0**	**491,876**	**1,054,145**

Resources used					
Costs of Generating Funds (fundraising costs, etc)					
23340 - Other expenditure	4,436	904	0	5,340	998
24333 - Bungalow Expenses	0	0	0	0	150
Costs of Generating Funds (fundraising costs, etc) Totals	**4,436**	**904**	**0**	**5,340**	**1,148**
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations					
18337 - Charitable Donations from PCC Funds	387	0	0	387	0
18339 - Charitable Donations thro Special Colls.	2,239	0	0	2,239	2,849
18341 - Outreach	3,286	0	0	3,286	610
All Mission Giving and Charitable Grants & Donations Tota	**5,913**	**0**	**0**	**5,913**	**3,459**
Church Activities					
19301 - Parish Share	90,506	0	0	90,506	90,234
20303 - Salaries - organists	3,416	0	0	3,416	3,071
20306 - Salaries - Office Administrator	19,057	0	0	19,057	16,305
20325 - Caretaker's salary	8,478	0	0	8,478	2,309
20342 - Funeral and Wedding Fees	875	0	0	875	729
20343 - Organists' fees - funerals and weddings	1,760	0	0	1,760	1,350
21302 - Clergy expenses	1,572	0	0	1,572	2,056
23304 - Music	681	0	0	681	702
23305 - Worship	1,296	0	0	1,296	458
23307 - Office - photocopier rental	1,632	0	0	1,632	1,577
23308 - Office - supplies, etc.	764	0	0	764	674
23309 - Telephone	4,123	0	0	4,123	5,061
23310 - Children's Activities	398	0	0	398	367
23313 - Flowers	173	0	0	173	132
23314 - Events & hospitality	3,252	0	0	3,252	1,549
23315 - Routine maintenance	2,559	674	0	3,233	2,286
23323 - Insurance - church	2,423	0	0	2,423	2,584
23324 - Insurance - hall	0	1,478	0	1,478	1,102
23326 - Hall expenses	0	0	0	0	37
23333 - Subscriptions	456	0	0	456	552
23334 - Gifts	52	0	0	52	176
24327 - Gas - church	6,252	0	0	6,252	6,935
24328 - Gas - hall	772	471	0	1,243	1,565
24329 - Electricity - church	2,782	0	0	2,782	2,764
24330 - Electricity - hall	973	606	0	1,579	1,540
24331 - Water & sewerage - church	580	0	0	580	694
24332 - Water & sewerage - hall	0	429	0	429	451
25312 - Votive candles cost	168	0	0	168	301
25336 - BRF Sales	0	0	0	0	173
Church Activities Totals	**155,011**	**3,659**	**0**	**158,670**	**147,746**
Major repairs to church building, inc. redecoration					
27316 - Major repairs to church	2,806	0	0	2,806	8,635
Major repairs to church building, inc. redecoration Totals	**2,806**	**0**	**0**	**2,806**	**8,635**
Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, inc. redecoration					
28317 - Major repairs to church hall	0	2,124	0	2,124	0
Major repairs to church hall or other PCC property, inc. red	**0**	**2,124**	**0**	**2,124**	**0**
Resources used Grand totals	**168,166**	**6,687**	**0**	**174,854**	**160,990**
(deficit) /surplus	-6,697	323,719	0	317,022	893,155

Ian Ames-White, Finance Team

FABRIC REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025

As we are still working through how we are going to spend the legacy money, there has not been much movement around the fabric of the buildings this year.

There has been some remedial work undertaken, such as repairs to the doors of the servery and chair store.

The roof of the office has been recovered and since then we have had no problems with water leaking onto the photocopier. As the winter has been very wet we hope this has been a suitable test for the new roof!

The shed has been replaced and the garden equipment is now secure again.
Geoff Penhaligon does a splendid job of taking good care of the garden. We employed Adam Stewart to be our Premises Manager in July 2025 and this has greatly eased the workload of both Churchwardens in managing the Fabric.

We have had a survey report on the hall to determine whether it is still fit for purpose and we have yet to work through that and all it means.

We have had an estimate for new lighting for the church which was in excess of £100.000. We are now waiting for further estimates in order for the Legacy team and the PCC to see what fits best for St Thomas and the future use of the building.

Chris Jenkins, Churchwarden



Premises Manager Report

I have been serving as Premises Manager for St Thomas' church since July 2025. During August and September, Caroline handed over to me booking and invoicing duties for the church hall, community room and church itself (with the exception of those duties when they pertained to weddings and funerals). I'm sure it goes without saying for those who know her that Caroline has been incredibly helpful during and after this handover.

For a well-worn building nearing the quoted end of its lifespan, the hall is a pretty busy place. It's been a pleasure meeting all the groups that occupy the space. The regulars such as the art groups, ABC2 and bridge clubs continue to have very well attended sessions; Brownies and Guides are once again meeting weekly; and we are taking the occasional one-off booking for local entities such as Wells Golf Club.

I am working on ways of filling the few currently vacant slots. We have had some enquiries from potential hirers whom we have been unable to accommodate, and I hope, with a few adjustments, to make space for such groups in the future. For example, the vaccination clinic that holds biannual sessions is booking fewer days than in previous years, so the time may come to limit their Friday bookings so as to accommodate more regular bookings, without too greatly impacting our ethos of furnishing groups providing a community service.

This year at least one phase of work will undoubtedly begin to improve the structure of the church hall, even if that is just the repair of the flat roof over the toilets and kitchen. I look forward to that challenge (however large!) with the hope of minimizing the impact on the hall users and parishioners alike.

Adam Stewart, Premises Manager

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SHEPTON MALLET DEANERY SYNOD

There were three Meetings 2025
At the June Meeting Steve Sakakini was commissioned into the role of Shepton Mallet Lay Dean by the Archdeacon, The Venerable Anne Gell. He is also continuing in the role of Secretary. Steve gave a brief definition of the role as Lay Dean, and explained how important he thought it was to introduce himself to as many parishes as possible and meet people in their local context.The Revd Sam Denyer talked about the history of Deanery Synods.
Christina Baron then explained the procedure for selecting the Archbishop of Canterbury, and also referred to the selection of Bishops generally.
This was the final meeting for Revd Sam Denyer, who was leaving St Cuthbert's in October.

The main topic at the November Meeting was led by the Revd Claire Towns. She referred to 'The 5 Marks of Mission'.

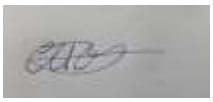
- *To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom*
- *To teach, baptise and nurture new believers*
- *To respond to human need by loving service*
- *To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation*
- *To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth*

Each Benefice/Group were asked to discuss all the activities they were doing to connect with their communities. The discussion was divided into 3 categories: 1) What are you doing now?

2) What have you tried that you would like to do again? 3) What would you like to do in the future?
Following that, the question “What does your community need?” was asked.
Each group was asked to identify the top 3 Activities that they wanted to prosper or focus on in the future. The information will be gathered up and discussed at future meetings.

Gill Tucker, Deanery Synod Rep.

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signed  *The Revd Claire Towns – Priest in Charge*
17th March 2026