



Widcombe
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

Widcombe Parish

APCM Ministry Reports
2019-2020



St Thomas à Becket & St Matts

www.widcombe.church

Introduction to the annual report booklet

This year inevitably, will be a year forever remembered for the ongoing challenge of the Corona Virus. So many lives have been affected in so many ways, from debilitating illness, anxiety, financial loss and isolation through to the loss of dearly loved ones. It has also however been a time to rediscover the simple joys of true community, thankfulness for those who serve as keyworkers and the vital centrality of our faith, expressed perhaps in new ways, yet with eternal truths and the comfort of an ever-present God.

In the light of this global pandemic, APCM's in the Anglican Church were postponed for some 6 months and hence, rather than our normal April date, we now find ourselves in October finally able to reflect and give thanks for all that God continues to do amongst us.

I personally am again incredibly grateful for the energy, service and sacrifice of so many volunteers and leaders across our two church communities who have worked tirelessly, particularly as we moved online, to partner in our Lord's service over these last months. So it is right that this year at our APCM that I again take *my* opportunity to thank all of *you* for your partnership in the gospel and your grace and understanding as we have together tried to navigate these complicated times.

There is, amongst the inevitable continuing challenges, many reasons to give thanks - to celebrate and remember the good things that we have seen and experienced over many months. This APCM report booklet is again a small part of that, offering us a 'bird's eye view' of a few of the responsibilities, activities and ministries that have taken place across our parish - it really is both humbling and immensely encouraging to see how God has worked through so many people, in so many ways.

I hope as we all step forward into an increasingly uncertain landscape, may we together continue to be expectant of God's faithfulness and goodness towards - one church - prayerfully yielding our hearts and lives to Him in simple trust.

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness.*

(Lamentations 3.22 & 23 ESV)



Two great churches, one amazing family!

Safeguarding Report

There were no safeguarding incidents reported during 2019 in respect of St. Thomas à Becket Church or St. Matthew's Church.

In June 2019, in line with Church of England guidance, Widcombe PCC put in place procedures regarding the reporting of safeguarding serious incidents to the Charity Commission.

The Benefice is registered to use, and continues to successfully use, the DBS e-bulk system when DBS checks need to be carried out, along with Diocesan safe recruitment procedures.

As regards safeguarding training, a secure safeguarding training database was established inhouse in December 2019. This documents the names and email addresses of those who have undergone training, the level and date of their training, and the date training will need to be refreshed.



Safeguarding training must be refreshed every three years, and further details of the safeguarding training categories can be found on the Diocesan website. Anyone requiring training is asked to contact the Safeguarding Officer or church office in the first instance.

Our parish website meets national church requirements for safeguarding, including providing clear signposting arrangements and links to the Safeguarding Officer and Safeguarding Policy on the home page.

Jill Oldham
Safeguarding Officer

Electoral Roll officers report

Jonathan Potter has now taken over the very well organised Electoral Roll management from Alison Furber - thank you, Alison. The parish currently lists 118 on the Roll.

If anyone is unsure whether they are listed, or needs to be added, please contact JP at jonathanrpotter@hotmail.com for the appropriate form.

Jonathan Potter
Electoral Roll Officer

Secretary's Report

The full PCC met 7 times during the year (3 of which were online!), with an average level of attendance of 75%.

A Standing Committee meeting was held prior to each PCC meeting to set the agenda and transact business not requiring a full PCC meeting. From May 2019-October 2020, St Thomas held four baptisms, four marriages and four funerals. In addition, the Bristol branch of the German Lutheran Church continued to use St Thomas à Becket church for its monthly services as it has done for over forty years.

At St Matt's, the midweek Life hub groups, pastorates and Alpha course continued. The weekly contemporary services had varying numbers but an average through the year of 75 adults and 15 children. St Matt's held one wedding, three baptisms and one Thanksgiving services in 2019/20.

As well as regular services, St Matt's was the venue for the Widcombe Junior School Easter service, Leavers service, Harvest Festival and Christmas service for all for the staff, pupils and parents.

Christmas services within the Parish were very well attended, including Nine Lessons and Carols, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services, Christingle service and 'Carols by Candlelight', with over 900 attending in total over the Christmas period.

The Wednesday coffee morning at St Matt's continued to grow with some babies and toddlers now attending and the Christmas Lunch was especially well attended this year offering a full Christmas meal for some 50 people with entertainment provided for by Sarena the Church Intern.



COVID-19 meant we had to move as a parish to online services, with meetings held via zoom. This was a challenge for all involved but proved to be a success. We hope all were blessed by the resources available and hope to return to a full complement of physical church services and activities as soon as is safe to do so.

Samantha Forrester
PCC Secretary

St Thomas a Becket Report

St Thomas aims to be a Christian community that reaches out to the parish and beyond, to invite people to encounter God's grace and we continue in our journey to achieve this vision. We are pleased to welcome some new regular members of the congregation and were delighted that Polly, one of our adopted students, was to be married in the parish this Summer.

After stormy weather in February, Peter has done some temporary slate fixing and has put back the small window in the tower, which had been blown in. The roofer working on the St Matthew's roof has inspected the damage. He advises immediate remedial patching and a re-roof in 2-3 years time. The graveyard is now maintained by the council but in the interest of climate change and general tidiness we need to display a polite notice asking people not to leave plastic flowers and pots by the memorial slabs - and to remove dead blooms. Re growth in the bay tree and a cherry sapling in the wall, need to be removed. Internally the church is in good shape, but we need to replace the lighting strips by the choir stalls, and we would like to install a security light outside the porch before next

winter.

Due to the COVID 19 virus the church has been closed since 21 March for services and private prayer. Previously numbers at services were steady and we welcomed 4 new families to the last family service. Until the church closure there was a parish prayer meeting twice a month in the church. We look forward to a time when people can once again write their requests for prayer in the book by the font! We managed to have 3 of the planned 6 Lent course meetings, based on 'Prayer'! The study material is very good - and we plan to keep the booklets to use next Lent! The Thursday group, meeting twice monthly for Bible study and fellowship will re-start when we can...

Following a request for Evensong services, we were going to trial occasional Evensong in the summer, starting at 5pm, following on from church opening. This is now on a 'back burner' for next year!

St Thomas à Becket has a warm, friendly fellowship and we churchwardens are very grateful for the help we receive from so many in the congregation in planning and running services. In this time when so many are self-isolating, people are showing much kindness and concern for each other.

Liz and Sue

St Thomas à Becket Wardens

St Matts Report

It is over six years since St Matthew's was re-born as a worshipping community. With a strap-line "finding family, creating community", our core belief at St Matt's is not so much in doing church but rather in being church. In partnership with St Thomas à Becket, we aim to be a Christian community that reaches out to the parish and beyond, to invite people to encounter God's presence and His grace. Our evening services draw many students and young professionals who are thriving and we have been exploring...



St Matt's hosts our busy parish admin office and is in use most evenings, and increasingly daytimes, by a variety of community groups. However, the building itself is tired and in need of restoration, something which we are planning to put right in the proposed Redevelopment programme.

Finally, our thanks and appreciation to all the helpers and volunteers in our church family, who serve and bless St Matt's in so many different ways.

*Andrew Udale-Smith & Bill James
Wardens at St Matthew's*



Widcombe Warriors

Warriors is a group of St Matt's men who are learning to "walk with God", whilst journeying the highs and lows of life together. In September 2019 we hosted a "Wild at Heart" retreat for 20 St Matt's men, plus 25 other men from Bath and Bristol, at a former fruit farm near the Malvern Hills. It was an amazing time in which God spoke to many of us individually, but also moulded us together as a "band of brothers". We are continuing to explore our next adventure together...

Andrew Udale-Smith

Vicars Report

My thanks again to everyone who has worked tirelessly and diligently throughout the year in keeping both St Matts and St Thomas à Becket such special places to worship, to belong to or simply to visit.

My personal thanks must also go to the PCC, the office and staff team including Sam (currently on maternity), Tamsin and Mary along with Peter our very hardworking Sexton.

I am also greatly indebted to my colleague Rev'd Jenny, our parish curate who has helped and supported me in leading and preaching throughout the year and on numerous other occasions along with our amazing retired colleague Revd Judith Harries, who is always so willing to help and minister in the parish both in homes and at St Thomas.

Despite the challenges of the days in which we live, there is so much still to be thankful for. And although uncertainty does surround us, I want to strongly underline my belief that new opportunities to experience the Father's goodness will continue to abound and surprise us over the coming weeks and months.

Indeed, because of the trials we all currently find ourselves living in, the church, I believe, can increasingly be seen as a blazing beacon of light, hope and stability. Our two church buildings are wonderful treasures that we of course will continue to be good stewards and guardians of. However, the real church, the true and undiminished church, is not really bricks and mortar or 1 hour service slots – it is the precious believers, the living stones whose hands, hearts and voices make Christ known in all corners of our community and city. This is the true, living and vibrant church that Christ is building amongst us, which in turn makes it my undiminished joy to serve alongside each of you in this wonderful parish.

As we head towards Advent – may we increasingly encounter Christ, the Light of the World, our Living Hope, shining upon, amongst and within us all.

Rev'd Tim Buckley
Vicar of Widcombe

Curate's Report

This is the year I can report that my curacy training is completed! I have jumped through the hoops, ticked the boxes and almost successfully exasperated Tim's patience! Bishop Ruth has graciously 'signed off my training' and so I am free to apply for my next post, wherever and whatever that may be. I would appreciate prayer for my discernment in this season. I have also been accepted on the CPAS Arrow Leadership Course, which will challenge and



support me well through this transition season and in preparation for ministry years ahead.

In Spring 2019 we held the church weekend away at Pear Ash Farm, for which I was richly blessed in hosting. Autumn 2019 I had a trial run of leaving beautiful Widcombe when I ventured out into the sticks for a rural church placement. Apart from a marathon of Harvest Festivals, I had a marvellous time and this has helped me appreciate the quirky variety contained in the CofE. I have continued healing prayer ministry and witnessed God bring beautiful restoration for people and this ties-in with my involvement in the Diocesan Renewal Group. There is no barrier for God as lockdown did not hinder this ministry thanks to "zoom" meaning more than the noise of fast cars.

I am ever thankful to God for the generosity, kindness and encouragement He has shown me through you all and through this stunning part of the world.

Rev'd Jenny Buckler
Curate

Lay Reader's Report

The IME3 year of Reader Training involves spending one Sunday a month at lectures in Wells, and lots of homework in between. I am learning a lot from Tim, the excellent diocesan trainers, the other trainees and everyone who has written a sermon evaluation for me this year, thank you!

[Mary was duly licensed Lay Reader on 3rd October, 2020. Blessings on you and your ministry.]

Mary Udale-Smith
Lay Reader

Treasurers Report (see supplementary document)

Mr Mark Nish

St Matt's Redevelopment Team (SMART)

April 2020

SMART is a committee that reports to the PCC. Its remit to lead on the redevelopment of St Matts. Members of SMART are Martin Geake, Tim Buckley, Peter Jones, Mark Nish, Louise Sturgess, Tony Coverdale. The St Matts wardens are also always invited to attend meetings and participate.

The redevelopment of St Matts Vestry Wing has been completed. There is now a fabulous meeting room upstairs which we have named the Keep and is accessed via the old spiral staircase. The stud wall in the arch between the church and the meeting room has been replaced with an attractive glass window in a wooden frame which brings light and life into the church space. The 1970s staircase has been removed thereby allowing a better configuration between the two rooms which serve as our Church Office.

On the retirement of Raymond Winrow, Connolly Wellingham Architects were appointed as the parish's new church architects. Their first task was to review the concept design for the redevelopment of the Parish Hall end of St Matts. They have come up with some very interesting and positive suggestions which will be shared with the church family later in the year.

Funding is now being sought for the second phase of St Matts roof repairs – the northern roof. We are hopeful of raising at least half of the required funds from grant making trusts and are being helped in this endeavour by a grants fundraiser.

Mr Martin Geake

Chair of PCC & SMART

Women's Ministry

We have aimed to encourage and equip women in knowing who God is, who we are in Him - and how He created, loves, values and sees each of us as individuals. We have also spent time looking at (and practising!) forgiveness and being thankful.

During the mornings together, we have had breakfast, fellowship, teaching and time with God - using a craft to help us stay focused - with prayer and worship.

Debbie Nish

Widcombe Junior School Report

Widcombe Junior School is a key stage 2 school for children ages 7 to 11. It has a two-form entry for each year group from Year 3 to Year 6 and the school serves families from the local area.

This year the staff have developed an exciting new curriculum offer which integrates learning across subjects. Children and teachers have enjoyed this way of learning and this has been enriched by a greater focus on developing the school's Christian identity. Some developments to celebrate include:

- Pupils take a lead in Worship
- Opportunities for parents to engage in worship through – class assemblies and celebration assemblies
- Each Value has a Bible story linked to it, explored during Worship and links to eight key concepts made and shared along with children
- Inspiration visitors are regularly invited in to promote and provide real life examples of our core values e.g.

-
- Christian symbols in Worship – light candle, prayer, reflection,
 - Reflection Room – refresher for new year 3s given each year and update on charter
 - 5x formal Christian Services at St Matthew's Church for the school and its community

'The Widcombe Way' reflects the school's vision which is underpinned by Christian values.

Liz Russo



Liz's term came to an end this Spring and we are really grateful for all she has brought to the governing committee and Widcombe juniors as a school.

*With thanks to Liz Russo & Fiona Coverdale
as governors at Widcombe Juniors*

Deanery Report

Deanery Synod? What on earth is that? Sounds a bit scary and serious – and undoubtedly boring. Why would one want to volunteer for that? All such thoughts and more buzzed round my head when my name was suggested. The Deanery Synod is a body whose name I have known forever but about which I had utterly no clear idea ... as you can see...

What it is, is a group (synod) drawn from all the parishes in the deanery. One or two people per parish are members. The group meets informally four times a year and we meet in different churches within the Bath deanery. Tim hosted the first one this year in St Matt's. We meet fellow churchgoers and hear about different initiatives and events in the deanery. It's often (but not always) actually quite interesting! So far, Carol Tottle (much more grown up and understanding of it than me) and I have been to two meetings this year.

Amongst other things, we have met the people involved and heard about the work of some exciting new ministries within the city. We heard about BS3G, a large BANES-wide initiative along the lines of the very successful Compassion Project in Frome - now, of course, needed more than ever. We also had a detailed presentation about Good Friday's Passion Play, which sadly was not able to take place... maybe next year?

It is a useful way to channel back information from the wider area into the parishes via the PCCs.

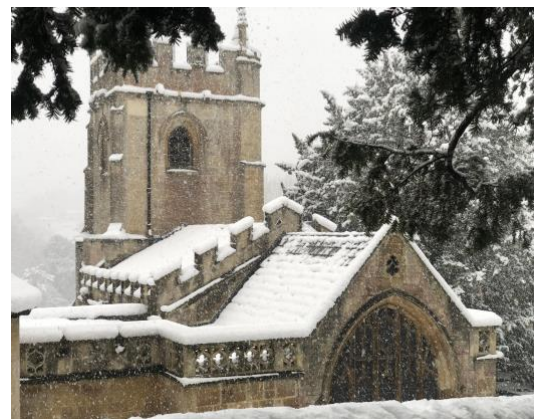
Anne Lawson

Deanery Synod rep (with apologies to those who already knew all about deanery synods!)

The 8 0'clock service

A loyal band of around 8 of us come together twice a month in the lovely little church of St Thomas a Becket at 8 o'clock on a Sunday morning to worship – using the traditional, spoken service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer.

Communion, quiet prayers, time for reflection, two lessons and a short talk from Tim or Jenny. It is a service with its own special atmosphere and one we hold very dear. Do come and join us one Sunday and discover for yourself why we continue to get up so early on a Sunday morning for this lovely, peaceful service.



Anne Lawson

Community Engagement

It's been a joy over the last year to watch the coffee morning grow, with ages now ranging from new born babies to those in their nineties- even the local police pop in!

I now go up to the University, most Tuesdays, to help with the Charity lunch served at the Chaplaincy. It's a great opportunity to meet up with our students and get to know some of

the other students as well. The Chaplaincy Team are wonderful and it's great to be able to support them.

We've also started visiting Widcombe Junior school once a week which has been great fun. The staff team there are brilliant, the children are so enthusiastic and I learnt how to service my bike in the last lesson.

Along with women's breakfasts, marriage prep and life hubs, life is quite busy. In the future we would love to build closer relationship with the local businesses and the Widcombe Association. We are so blessed to be based at the centre of such a wonderful community.

Tamsin McMaster

Community administrator

Parish Internship

As an intern this year my ministry has involved mentoring a student who is a new Christian and getting to see her love for Jesus grow and encourage her in disciplines to deepen and mature her faith and relationship with God.

I have seen others being encouraged in their own worship through singing in the band at St Matts and during communion at St Thomas. And in leading the Tuesday life hub I created a safe space for the students who came to connect and discuss faith, enabling them to learn, grow and lead as well.

Sarena Matheson

Mission support

As a PCC, we are continually committed to financially and practically supporting local, national and global ministries aimed at blessing the poor and furthering God's Kingdom. Some examples of this over the last year are as follows:

The parish continued to build and foster strong connections and support with our mission partners in Sri Lanka, Jerrie and Isabel both in terms of their co-leading of the newly built church and also in their running of the Haven Home for girls in Kandy.



This year we have also supported the Widcombe birthed, Bath based charity Grow for Life which provides therapeutic gardening opportunities for people suffering from mental and physical ill health with the aim of increasing the confidence and self-esteem of participants.

As is tradition, we were additionally able to give from our collections taken at our Christmas services the sum of £1500 to charities nominated by the PCC.

PCC Mission sub group

Widcombe Community House

The Widcombe Community House has existed since the beginning of 2017. A core focus has been to live as one as opposed to 4 individual parts as many young professionals sharing houses do. We've been having weekly communal meals and in the past few weeks this has increased into additional eating together in the house every weekday. We've improved our house prayer times, increasing our praying together in the mornings. We've been supportive of each other, particularly through challenging times. We undertook the Bath Soup Run for the first time in early March and are interested in doing this more regularly in the future so we can serve our community. A key focus for the next 12 months is to undertake more community outreach. The Thursday clap for the NHS has been a great opportunity to speak to our next-door neighbours and we hope to know them better.

Ed Stephens and the Community House members

Life Hubs

Our weekly Life Hubs continue to be vital places of fellowship, discipleship and pastoral support. We have 5 flourishing groups that meet in various locations around the city on a variety of evenings. Several of these groups may well need to split and multiply again in the next year due to growth in numbers of those wishing to attend. Many of these groups traditionally begin by eating together and are open to and include members of both church communities. Intermittently these groups are invited to attend a central 'pastorate' meeting usually held on the first Wednesday of the month at St Matts for gathered worship and teaching.

Contacts

Vicar: Revd Tim Buckley

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07810 543209

Curate: Jenny Buckley

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Parish Administrator: Sam Forrester

Email: admin@widcombe.church

01225 465065

Community Administrator and bookings: Tamsin McMaster

Email: community@widcombe.church

01225 465065

Safeguarding Officer: Jill Oldham

Email: safeguarding@widcombe.church

07782659688

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WIDCOMBE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC

Year Ended 31 December 2019

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2019 which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

The PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the PCC 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 accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the PCC have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
- accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or

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



.....
Peter Barton FCCA
ART Accountants Ltd
11 Manvers Street
Bath
BA1 1JQ

Date 31 / 7 / 2020

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year Ended 31 December 2019


	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Funds 2018 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary receipts:				
Planned giving	76,921	6,735	83,656	62,407
Other giving & donations	13,281	37,067	50,348	41,275
Gift aid tax recovered	20,457	-	20,457	17,949
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Activities for generating funds:				
Fundraising	126	-	126	760
Lettings	8,215	-	8,215	8,365
Parochial fees	2,644	-	2,644	2,270
Investment income	481	148	629	403
Other income	12	-	12	13,742
Total incoming resources	<u>122,137</u>	<u>43,950</u>	<u>166,087</u>	<u>147,171</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Church activities:				
<i>St Thomas Church expenses:</i>				
Heat & light	1,506	-	1,506	1,330
Insurance	970	-	970	970
Church repairs & maintenance	-	2,910	2,910	1,756
<i>St Matthew's Church expenses:</i>				
Heat, light & water	8,422	-	8,422	8,209
Insurance	2,130	-	2,130	2,063
Church repairs & maintenance	14,709	-	14,709	23,738
Roof repairs & professional fees	-	30,755	30,755	45,480
Parish Share for year	57,184	-	57,184	49,725
Parish administration	21,823	-	21,823	20,276
Church services	4,896	-	4,896	4,366
Clergy expenses	4,047	-	4,047	727
Mission & charitable giving	10,869	6,000	16,869	15,410
Parish sundries	6,385	-	6,385	159
Parochial fees	1,779	-	1,779	1,539
Total resources expended	<u>134,720</u>	<u>39,665</u>	<u>174,385</u>	<u>175,748</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>(12,583)</u>	<u>4,285</u>	<u>(8,298)</u>	<u>(28,577)</u>
Balances brought forward	59,602	24,649	84,251	112,828
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	<u>47,019</u>	<u>28,934</u>	<u>75,953</u>	<u>84,251</u>

BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019 £	Funds 2018 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	759	-	759	3,714
Bank Current Account	36,089	9,114	45,203	51,672
Deposit Funds	12,383	19,820	32,203	31,964
	<u>49,231</u>	<u>28,934</u>	<u>78,165</u>	<u>87,350</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors	2,212	-	2,212	3,099
	<u>2,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,212</u>	<u>3,099</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS				
	<u>47,019</u>	<u>28,934</u>	<u>75,953</u>	<u>84,251</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			47,019	59,602
Restricted funds		Note 2	28,934	24,649
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>75,953</u>	<u>84,251</u>

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf



MARTIN GEAKE

Lay-Chairperson

31 July 2020

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year Ended 31 December 2019

1 LAND AT ST MARK'S

Widcombe PCC owns a piece of land by St Mark's Community Centre. The PCC continues to discuss its maintenance and plans for this land in the future.

2 The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance brought forward	Receipts	Payments	Balance carried forward
St Thomas' Restoration Fund	19,203	3,328	2,910	19,621
Organ Fund	2,520	-	-	2,520
Widcombe United Charities	2,926	-	-	2,926
Missionary Fund	-	6,000	(6,000)	-
St Matt's Regeneration Fund	-	34,622	(30,755)	3,867
	<u>24,649</u>	<u>43,950</u>	<u>(39,665)</u>	<u>28,934</u>

The St Thomas Restoration Fund is restricted to expenditure on the fabric of St Thomas' Church building.

The Organ Fund was donated specifically for organ repairs.

The Widcombe United Charities Fund is a separate charity (charity number 239919) and Widcombe PCC is the sole trustee. The charity is restricted to expenditure for the benefit of widows and orphans of the parish.

The Missionary Fund covers any anonymous gifts made to the church towards specific individuals and causes.

The St Matts Regeneration Fund is restricted to expenditure for the regeneration of the church roof and to the future re-ordering of the church building.