

**Trustees' Report
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

**for the Parochial Church Council of
St Thomas à Becket Church and St Matthew's Church,
Widcombe, Bath**

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Aims and Purposes

Widcombe Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Timothy Buckley, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St Thomas à Becket Church and St Matthew's Church buildings.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our two churches and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within the parish and beyond. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and beyond
- missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Thomas à Becket Church and St Matthew's Church.

Achievements and Performance

Vicar's Report (Reverend Timothy Buckley)

The last 18 months will, inevitably, forever be a time remembered as a time of global challenge as we navigated the fallout of the Corona Virus. So many people, in so many ways have been affected emotionally, economically and socially. Those ripples of disturbance and pain are, of course, not over.

It has however, also been a time to rediscover the simple joys of true community, thankfulness for those who serve as key-workers and the vital centrality of our faith; yes, perhaps expressed in new unexpected ways, yet with the same hope filled message and consolation of our ever-present, ever loving God.

We would all recognize the massive challenge these last few months have been, and whilst we are at last able to begin to move back towards some form of normality, I want to recognize the challenge, sacrifice and cost that has been paid by so many.

Advent then was, a bit like the calm before a resurgent oncoming storm, a wonderful opportunity in the midst of the global dismay and darkness, a brief opportunity to celebrate and share the great news and hope of the gospel; some light in the darkness. The 9 lessons and Carols for me was a very moving and precious time together, to show how we as a church community, shoulder to shoulder could proclaim the message of Christmas - Christ, the Light of the World, our Living Hope, shining upon, amongst and within us all through those dark days.

My particular thanks again to everyone who has worked tirelessly and diligently throughout these very complicated months to help serve our worshipping communities in both St Matthew's and St Thomas à Becket. Hundreds and hundreds of hours have been spent in producing online resources and materials, recording and uploading, typing and sending of emails and reminders. Of course, none of us had even really heard of Zoom before this pandemic – now it's a verb, and the regular litany of "sorry, you need to unmute yourself" will be imbedded in this generation forever. Thank you to all who have served in these unseen ways. Thank you to all who embraced this new technology and ways of 'being' – some I know, had barely even used a smartphone before all this - thank you and well done for your bravery! Thank you also to so many of you who made phone calls to others, who dropped in a card or a newspaper, who helped shop or simply smiled and shouted through windows to make sure others felt remembered and loved.

Thank you all for your patience, for your commitment to community, and for being church – the real church – buildings are wonderful and we have two beautiful ones to thank God for – yes, buildings are important, but people are everything.

My personal thanks must also go to the PCC, the office and staff team including Sam Forrester (who has just returned from maternity leave), Tamsin McMaster and Mary Udale-Smith, our Reader, along with Peter Jones, our very hardworking Sexton, and Libby Piggott, our amazing Intern who has inspired and challenged us in equal measure showing her incredible gifts as an evangelist and administrator and servant to Gods people.

I am also greatly indebted to my colleague, the Reverend Jenny Buckler, 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 colleague, the Reverend Judith Harries, who has always been so willing to help and minister in the parish, both in homes and at St Thomas', and was also so willing along with many others to record sermons for our online resources. Thank you to the many of you who recorded, readings intercessions and facilitated our worship.

Jenny is of course leaving us at the end of June 2021, for pastures new, having completed her training. We know that she will be an amazing gift to all those God calls her amongst, and she leaves with our great thanks and love and will be hugely missed across the parish.

Despite the challenges of the days in which we live, for many challenges and uncertainties still remain - there is so much still to be thankful for. I want to strongly underline my belief that a new landscape of promise awaits us as we step forward, unafraid, because we know that the Father's goodness will continue to abound and surprise us in the coming days, and excited, because the God Shepherd is leading us into a promised land, of greens pastures with still waters and places of blessing and transformation.

Safeguarding Report (Jill Oldham – Safeguarding Officer)

There were no safeguarding incidents reported during 2020 in respect of St. Thomas à Becket Church or St. Matthew's Church.

The Diocese of Bath & Wells conducted a 'Past Serious Cases' review in the early part of the year. This required current incumbents in the Diocese to establish if, since 2007, there had been instances of concern relating to the behaviour of church officers, including clergy, towards children and/or adults who might be at risk.

After consultation with previous incumbents, we were able to report back that there had been no such instances of concern during the period in question.

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, our secure safeguarding training database was kept updated throughout the year, and any new training (or refresher training) was completed by those individuals for whom it is was required.

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.

Electoral Roll Report (Jonathan Potter – Electoral Roll Officer)

The parish currently lists 118 members on the Roll.

PCC Secretary's Report (Sam Forrester – PCC Secretary)

Since the last delayed Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in late October 2020, the PCC met 4 times, all of which were held '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 Oct 2020 until May 2021, at St Thomas à Becket Church, under Covid restrictions, there were no baptisms, one marriage and two funerals.

At St Matthew's Church, the midweek Life Hub groups split down into newly formed online smaller "Soul Groups", which have been coordinated brilliantly by our Pioneer Ordinand, Sarah Sanderson.

Weekly worship services have largely been conducted online using Zoom, with an average weekly attendance of around 30-40 screens.

Because of Covid restrictions, the annual Widcombe Junior School Christmas and Easter service's for the staff, pupils and parents could not be held in St Matthew's Church. Neither could the Reverend Timothy Buckley's attend monthly school assemblies, but these were replaced by some videos produced by him, which were greatly appreciated.

Christmas services within the Parish were significantly complicated in 2020 because of the coronavirus restrictions. However, our combined Nine Lessons and Carols service – held at St Matthew's Church for the first time to allow for more attendees but appropriately spaced - was a huge success, with Eventbrite used to reserve seats and fully book the venue. Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services were also well attended; the 10.00am family celebration was hosted at St Matthew's Church after an early morning Christmas communion service at Thomas à Becket Church.

The Wednesday coffee mornings at St Matthew's Church had to move on-line and, after initial technological struggles for some, proved to be a growing source of connection and fun for many.

COVID-19 inevitably meant we had to move as a parish to online services, with live meetings held via Zoom and pre-recorded resources available through YouTube. This has been a great challenge for all involved but proved to be a real success.

St Thomas à Becket Church Report (Liz Holden-White and Sue Wiggin – Churchwardens)

The pandemic during the last year has in many ways brought our Christian family at St. Thomas à Becket closer together. Under the difficult circumstances of lockdown and self-isolation, there has been true concern and compassion for others shown within the Widcombe community. We pray that this will continue as we now move forwards.

Due to Covid, it has not been possible to deal with certain issues concerning the fabric of the church, for example, a few loose tiles and a small leak within the tower, although we continue to monitor the situation carefully.

St Matthew's Church Report (Andrew Udale-Smith and Bill James – Chapelwardens)

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.

Since the October 2020 APCM, St Matthew's has largely been an online worshipping community. We have held a weekly 5pm service on Zoom, with worship, a talk and discussion in break out groups. At the heart of St Matthew's are our Soul Groups, small groups of typically 6 or so church family members who meet mid-week – sometimes to study (e.g. Pete Greig's "Prayer Course") and sometimes to support each other or just have fun together.

Due to the challenges of the last 18 months – much of the plans for the redevelopment for St Matthew's Church have been put on hold. However, we were aware of some of the historical challenges facing the remainder of the North roof section which had always proved a challenge in keeping the building watertight. These vital repairs had been anticipated after a survey of the entire roof, undertaken some time ago when we repaired the office wing and side chapel of the building. However, during lockdown, it became evident that to fully secure the future of this building, these works would need to commence sooner than anticipated. These works have been completed in early 2021.

Finally, our thanks and appreciation to all the helpers and volunteers in our church family, who have continued to serve and bless St Matthew's in so many different ways during this challenging time.

Widcombe Junior School Report

Widcombe Junior School is a Church of England 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.

Staff have developed an exciting curriculum 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.

Since our last APCM in October, Widcombe Juniors has continued to strive to maintain the highest level of excellence in work despite the at times almost impossible circumstances it found itself facing. Staff, governors and management have worked tirelessly while children were forced to work at home online, before initially returning to school in bubbles, and more recently, having their current more normal working patterns restored.

Both staff and children alike should be commended for their attitude and application as pupils brilliantly continued to learn and grow, supported by staff and governors, including the Reverend Timothy Buckley who prepared several helpful video messages and encouragements for the school community. Throughout these many months, the joy and enthusiasm that underpins this school community has been evident, and we are thankful to God for all the blessings and successes that have been seen.

Deanery Synod Report (Anne Lawson and Carol Tottle)

Two members of our PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides a useful link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Sadly, because of COVID restrictions, the Deanery Synod meetings have been greatly affected with only one meeting held since our last APCM. This was an online event at which our new Area Dean, the Reverend Stephen Girling was formally appointed to his new role, and Mrs Pippa Page was voted in as Lay Dean to replace the retiring Jeremy Key-Pugh.

Mission support (PCC Mission sub-group)

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.

We have also supported the Widcombe-birther, 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 their confidence and self-esteem.

We have also partnered with Mercy In Action, another Bath-based charity that, in addition to supporting vulnerable children in The Philippines, has established a growing and vital clothing and 'food pantry' ministry to struggling families within the parish and across Bath.

Financial Review

In 2020, the PCC's total unrestricted income was £128,450 and expenditure from normal activities was £134,814. As a consequence, the PCC incurred a deficit of (£6,364) in the year, which was met from our reserves.

The PCC can meet its legal liabilities when they are due; the PCC's aim is to maintain a reserve of Unrestricted Funds of approximately £30,000 to cover emergency situations, equivalent to approximately three month's normal operating costs at current levels. At the end of 2020, the PCC's balance of unrestricted funds was £40,655.

In 2020, the PCC had three principal sources of unrestricted income: voluntary giving; gift aid; and lettings. The PCC received £101,642 in voluntary donations, of which £79,568 was planned giving. The PCC received an additional £19,286 in tax recovered in the form of Gift Aid. The PCC received £2,375 in rent from lettings of St Matthew's Church, the principal users being: Bath Operatic and Drama Society and Beats Dance. The Covid-19 restrictions in place for the majority of 2020 significantly reduced the lettings income received.

The expenditure from unrestricted funds fall into five categories: Administration and Office Costs; St Thomas à Becket's Operating Costs; St Matthew's Operating Costs; Charitable Donations (Mission); and Parish Share.

In 2020, our Parish Share, which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy, was increased by 15% to £66,745. This was paid in full and has now been paid in full for nine consecutive years.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of Widcombe PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), the churchwardens and chapelwardens, the reader, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Administrative Information

St Thomas à Becket Church and St Matthew's Church are sited in Church Street and Widcombe Hill respectively, within the parish of Widcombe, Bath. We are in the Bath Deanery and part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission (no. 1182372).

PCC members who have served for the period from 01 January 2020 until the APCM held on 24 May 2021 are:

Ex Officio members:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	The Reverend Timothy Buckley
<i>Curate:</i>	The Reverend Jenny Buckler
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Elizabeth Holden-White Sue Wiggin
<i>Chapelwardens:</i>	Andrew Udale-Smith Bill James
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mark Nish
<i>Elected Members:</i>	Martin Geake (PCC Chairman) Louise Sturgess (until APCM 2020) Lindsaye Dunn Jonathan Potter

Anne Lawson (Deanery Synod representative)

Elected Members:

Carol Tottle (Deanery Synod representative)
The Reverend Judith Harries (co-opted)

Approved by the PCC on 24 May 2021 and signed on their behalf by Martin Geake (PCC Chairman)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Geake', with a horizontal line underneath.

Martin Geake

Independent Examiners Report to the trustees/members of Widcombe PCC - Year Ended 31 December 2020

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2020 as set out on pages 13 to 15.

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 18 / 6 / 21

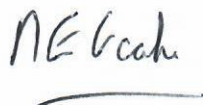
WIDCOMBE PCC - STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES- Year Ended 31 Dec' 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Funds 2019 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary receipts:				
Planned giving	79,568	780	80,348	83,656
Other giving & donations	22,074	5,466	27,540	50,348
Grants	-	13,000	13,000	-
Gift aid tax recovered	19,286	-	19,286	20,457
Activities for generating funds:				
Fundraising	15	-	15	126
Lettings	2,375	-	2,375	8,215
Parochial fees	3,109	-	3,109	2,644
Investment income	180	-	180	629
Other income	1,843	-	1,843	12
Total incoming resources	<u>128,450</u>	<u>19,246</u>	<u>147,696</u>	<u>166,087</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Church activities:				
<i>St Thomas Church expenses:</i>				
Heat & light	1,400	-	1,400	1,506
Insurance	1,080	-	1,080	970
Church repairs & maintenance	50	-	50	2,910
<i>St Matthew's Church expenses:</i>				
Heat, light & water	6,340	-	6,340	8,422
Insurance	2,164	-	2,164	2,130
Church repairs & maintenance	12,345	-	12,345	14,709
Roof repairs & professional fees	12,204	19,823	32,027	30,755
Parish Share for year	66,745	-	66,745	57,184
Parish administration	22,172	-	22,172	21,823
Church services	4,335	-	4,335	4,896
Clergy expenses	1,899	-	1,899	4,047
Mission & charitable giving	3,296	2,323	5,619	16,869
Parish sundries	690	-	690	6,385
Parochial fees	94	-	94	1,779
Total resources expended	<u>134,814</u>	<u>22,146</u>	<u>156,960</u>	<u>174,385</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>(6,364)</u>	<u>(2,900)</u>	<u>(9,264)</u>	<u>(8,298)</u>
Balances brought forward	47,019	28,934	75,953	84,251
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	<u>40,655</u>	<u>26,034</u>	<u>66,689</u>	<u>75,953</u>

WIDCOMBE PCC - BALANCE SHEET – Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Funds 2019 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	2,828	-	2,828	759
Bank Current Account	29,854	6,130	35,984	45,203
Deposit Funds	12,435	19,904	32,339	32,203
	<u>45,117</u>	<u>26,034</u>	<u>71,151</u>	<u>78,165</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors	4,462	-	4,462	2,212
	<u>4,462</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,462</u>	<u>2,212</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>40,655</u>	<u>26,034</u>	<u>66,689</u>	<u>75,953</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			40,655	47,019
Restricted funds	Note 2		26,034	28,934
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>66,689</u>	<u>75,953</u>

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf



MARTIN GEAKE

Lay-Chairperson

24 May 2021

WIDCOMBE PCC - NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year Ended 31 December 2020

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	19,621	180	-	19,801
Organ Fund	2,520	-	-	2,520
Widcombe United Charities	2,926	-	-	2,926
Missionary Fund	-	1,435	(1,435)	-
St Matthew's Regeneration Fund	3,867	15,956	(19,823)	-
Sri Lanka Haven Home Fund	-	1,675	(888)	787
	<u>28,934</u>	<u>19,246</u>	<u>(22,146)</u>	<u>26,034</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 Matthew's Regeneration Fund is restricted to expenditure for the regeneration of the church roof and to the future re-ordering of the church building.

The Sri Lankan Haven Home Fund is restricted to expenditure for the welfare of young girl's who are either orphaned or from disadvantaged backgrounds.