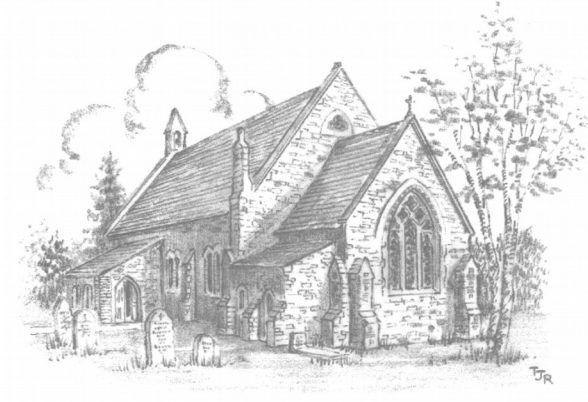


St Thomas's, Stopsley Seeking to Share God's Love



Annual Reports For Annual Church Meeting 2022

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2022.

We invite you to our Annual Church Meeting on May 22 and also to read the reports below.

AGENDA

Stopsley Parish Church ACM 2022

22 May 2022, After 10am Service in the Church

- ☐☐ **Welcome and Prayer**
- ☐☐ **Election of Secretary for the Meeting**
- ☐☐ **Apologies**
- ☐☐ **Minutes of the previous Annual Church Meeting**

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS OF STOPSLEY

Open to members of the Church family and residents of the parish (only Church electoral roll members and parish residents on local government electoral roll may vote).

- ☐☐ **Election of Churchwardens**
Election of 2 Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

open to members of the Church family (only Church electoral roll members may vote)

- ☐☐ **Vicar's Report**
- ☐☐ **PCC Report** (Report is part of our Annual Report, and has been posted on Public Folder and has a link from the weekly email)
- ☐☐ **Finance (Accounts are posted on Public Folder), including**
 - ☐☐ **Election of: Independent Examiner for the accounts.**
 - ☐☐ **Financial Report & Independently Examined Accounts for previous year.**
 - ☐☐ **Stewardship Report - report in Annual Report, posted on Public Folder**
- ☐☐ **Annual Reports** – parishioners are encouraged to read the Annual Report on the Public Folder in advance of the meeting.
- ☐☐☐ **Election of Parochial Church Councillors and Deanery Synod Representatives**
 - ☐☐ **Deanery Synod Elected Representatives**
 - ☐☐ **Parochial Church Councillors**
(N.B Election of Sidesmen/women or Welcomers is now the responsibility of the PCC)
- ☐☐☐ **Any Other Business**
- ☐☐☐ **Date of next PCC meeting**
- ☐☐☐ **Closing Prayer**

St Thomas's, Stopsley
Parish Profile & Mission Action Plan

Mission Statement: *Seeking to Share God's Love.*

- ❖ We seek to be a ***Mission-orientated*** evangelistic church, intent on sharing God's love with all in our local community, and beyond.
- ❖ We aim to reach out in ***love*** to all we can, witnessing for Christ through word and action.
- ❖ We wish to be a ***welcoming community*** in all we do.
- ❖ We offer a wide range of worship styles, including ***established*** services and ***Fresh Expressions*** for those presently unchurched and newcomers.
- ❖ We are aware of our need to be prayerful, seeking the power of the ***Holy Spirit***.
- ❖ We value being taught from the ***Scriptures***, desiring that they are expounded in a relevant and inspirational way.
- ❖ We endeavour to be a ***pastoral*** church, caring for the Church family and any others we can.
- ❖ We are a ***servant*** church seeking to serve people in our community and town, and further afield, in practical and caring ways in the name of Jesus.
- ❖ We prize our history and are ***forward-looking*** in faith to what God will do through us in the future.
- ❖ We are a ***friendly*** church, valuing fellowship, eating together, homegroups and hospitality.

SOME PARISH DETAILS

Population : 10,000 approx. (This figure gives some idea of the 'pastoral area' for our church, rather than exact count of the population).

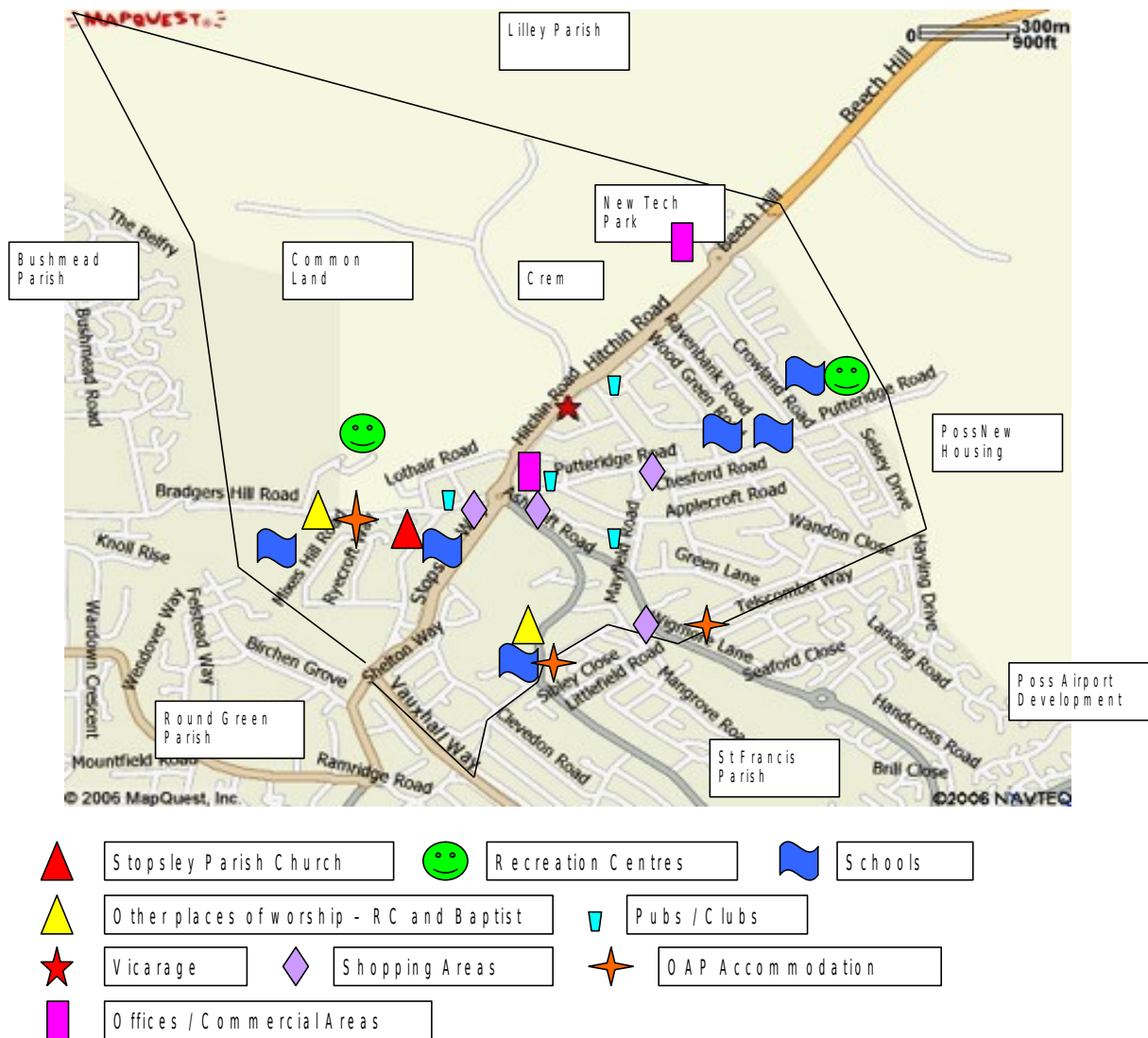
Location : North East area of Luton, at the boundary with Herts. The parish includes the wards of Stopsley and Putteridge. The busy A505 from Luton to Hitchin runs through the parish and separates the church geographically from much of the rest of the parish.

Type[s] of housing : Mainly owner occupied, with some rented accommodation, and pockets of housing association or council property.

Community facilities : Two high schools, two primary schools, one special needs school, and a large sports complex with Olympic swimming and diving facilities.

History of the community : In 1862, when the church was built, Stopsley was a village. Over the years since then Luton has gradually swallowed it up and it is now a suburb of the town. Some of the major employers of people in the community over the past 100 years have closed or declined in size, but employment remains fairly high. The airport and the car industry are major employers.

Parish boundaries: No longer quite the same natural cohesive community that it once was but boundaries mainly make sense except confusing boundary on Ramridge Estate with St. Francis.



PARTNERSHIP IN WORSHIP, MISSION & MINISTRY

We are active participants in the Luton Deanery in working together in mission to our town of Luton.

In the early 1990's we planted Christchurch, Bushmead, a thriving church largely within what was the much larger former parish of Stopsley.

Other Christian Churches : we have a good friendly relationship with Stopsley Baptist Church and Ramridge Baptist Church with whom we have co-operated on various events and projects. SBC has a much bigger congregation, and with its better facilities and style of worship it attracts younger people and people from a wider area. We have different styles of worship but complement one another in our evangelistic task. We have friendly relations with Sacred Heart (RC). Ministers are involved in local and town wide fraternals, and we also participate in a local evangelical hub for prayer and mission, and a similar but larger grouping for the whole town.

Annual Parish Report on 2021 (Prepared for AGM 2022)
by Stopsley (St Thomas) Parish Church Council (PCC)
Charity Number: 1175152

Background - What is the PCC?

Stopsley Parish Church P.C.C. has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Alexander, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Stopsley the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Our Parish Mission Statement is as follows: **Seeking to share God's love with everyone.**

Membership - Who is on the PCC?

Members of the P.C.C are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Church Meeting (properly known as the Annual Parochial Church Meeting) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During 2021 (after the 2021 AGM) the following served as members of the P. C. C:

Ex-officio Members

1. David Alexander (Vicar, Chairman)
2. Churchwarden - vacant
3. Churchwarden - vacant

Elected Lay Representatives (We are entitled to 12 elected representatives)

*(The rules state: 6 reps if up to 50 on the Electoral roll
9 reps if up to 100 on the Electoral roll
12 reps if up to 200 on the Electoral roll
15 reps if over 200 on the Electoral roll)*

	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Year Elected</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>	
	<u>Term Ends</u>			
1	Julie Bailey	2019	3yr	2022
2	John Kingham	2019	3yr	2022
3	Stewart Leary	2019	3yr	
	2022			
4	Stella Marshall	2019	3yr	2022
5	Linda Clitheroe	2021	2yr	2023
6	Ian Marshall	2021	2yr	2023
7	Charlotte Zhivago	2021	2yr	2023
8	Louise Winter	2021	2yr	
	2023			
9	John Alexander	2021	3yr	2024
10	Deborah Bachini	2021	3yr	2024
11	David Newbound	2021	3yr	2024
12	Neil Rolls	2021	3yr	2024

Elected Representatives on Deanery Synod (automatically also serve on the PCC)**

1 Christine Younger	2021	2yr	2023
2 Steve Dolby	2021	2yr	
2023			
3 Vacant	2020	3yr	2023

*** We have between 100-199 names on our electoral roll and so are entitled to 3 Elected Deanery Synod Representatives.*

NB Clergy of the church also serve on the Deanery Synod

Co-opted PCC Member(s)

1 Rosemary Stipta	Co-opted	1yr	2022
-------------------	----------	-----	------

Office came to end at APCM 2021

PCC Members: Karen Ritchie, Neil Rolls*, David Newbound* and John Alexander*

Deanery Synod Members : Nil

*(Any names marked * were office holders and so eligible for re-election)*

Elections at 2022 AGM

We are very appreciative of the significant contributions of the PCC members coming to the end of their period of office. Under the present rules in place for our PCC, elected members who have served for 3 years, apart from 'office holders', are not eligible for re-election until 12 months after the end of their term of office.

Julie Bailey, John Kingham, Stewart Leary, Stella Marshall

*(Any names marked * are eligible for re-election as they are office holders)*

There will be elections for the following positions:

4 PCC member(s)	to serve for 3 years to 2025
0 PCC member(s)	to serve for 2 years to 2024
0 PCC member(s)	to serve for 1 year to 2023
1 Deanery Synod member(s)**	to serve to 2023

*** NB Since 2020 Deanery Synod representatives can only serve for two successive 3 year terms (i.e. for a maximum of 6 years)*

Committees - Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law, and is our only official committee. It has power to transact the business of the P.C.C between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the council. We also have had a number of 'Action Church Teams' (ACTs) that organise activities, or discuss matters, as directed by the P.C.C. and Vicar. These haven't been meeting during covid, but we are looking to restart them as appropriate.

PCC Electoral Roll Report

There are 132 parishioners now on the Church Electoral Roll. This represents a change of minus 2 from the previous year's ACM Electoral Roll. These changes are due to parishioners moving, changing church, death or people who live outside the parish and no longer regularly attend St Thomas's.

PCC Review of the Year

This past year has been, like the previous one, very different for the normal life of our church. The first half had very little organised activities due to the covid restrictions. The latter half of the year and into 2022 has seen a gradual opening up of services and some activities, but we have some way to go yet. We are grateful to all members of the church family, and those who have associated themselves with us, in keeping in touch with one another and seeking to support each other, practically and spiritually. There have been many phone calls, emails and messages – and much prayer for each other. Thank you to you all.

We are also especially thankful for the wonderful pastoral support offered by David Newbound as Pastoral Worker, Debbie Newbound as Parish Nurse and Deborah Bachini, who, in addition to keeping the Church Office operating as a connection point in difficult circumstances, has helped in ringing members of the church to offer support. When we have been able to meet for services we have been very careful to keep one another safe. Thank you to everyone who has worn face coverings and kept socially distant from those from different households. This has been a real challenge for us all as we longed to encourage one another.

Thank you also to those who have cleaned the church building before and after the services and operated the 'Track and Trace' system.

We have livestreamed a daily 'Prayer and Share' to those who could join us via Facebook Live, and those who connected later via Facebook, Google Public Folder, YouTube and the website. As well as many church members, we have been joined by others, both locally and around the country and the world. In addition, we held Coffee by Zoom until we could meet up with one another physically again. We also now livestream all our services since they restarted in the church building. We are grateful to all who have made this possible, especially John Pinnock and Rosemary Stipta, and for excellent advice from Andrew Pinnock.

During lockdown, and beyond, we have delivered letters and cards to all our church members and contacts, including a simple prayer sheet which people could use daily, even if they did not have access to social media. Church members have been involved in volunteering and delivering food and medicines to those in need. We have also worked hard at producing a weekly email to keep people in touch via a mailing list.

The main focus of the last year has been attempting to care for and support one another, and for those we could in our local community, during a time of great difficulty and challenge. Thank you for all the ways in which each person has risen to the challenge. We look forward to the future with confident hope in God as we share His love together.

David Alexander, Vicar. On behalf of the P.C.C

Warden's Report

At the moment we do not have an elected Churchwarden.

Administrators report

I have alternated between working from home and the office during the past year and my thanks go to David A and David N for supporting me to work very flexibly.

The office work has been very varied, but enjoyable, and each new day brings a different challenge or task to deal with. It's been wonderful to see the church building being used again for weekly services, baptisms, funerals and weddings, for clubs and groups and for people to be able to pop in to say hello when they come to empty the Foodbank box, clean the silver etc. We continue to wear masks and try to stagger our times in the office to maintain social distancing as much as possible. However using the building again means stepping up on the weekly cleaning and thanks go to all the volunteers who do much of this work.

Many thanks to David White and Frank Weedon for sorting all the plate money over the years and taking it to the bank. Both have now 'retired' from this role so the office has taken it on whilst in the pandemic, until a replacement can be found - and I echo the Stewardship Secretary's request for people to consider taking up the Parish Stewardship Scheme.

I am grateful that Linda continues to give advice when I need help from her vast store of knowledge, and also to John P when I get stuck once again with an IT problem! Although no longer Churchwarden, Ian has continued to give me much appreciated support.

Deborah Bachini

Church Flowers Report

We have been unable to have flowers in the church in the past year, but hope to resume after Easter. If anyone would like to give money towards flowers in the church, maybe in memory of someone special, please speak to the Parish office.

Linda Clitheroe

Deanery Synod Report

Luton deanery synod met Four times during the year, twice on zoom and twice in person. There was also a barbeque held at St Marys in July. External presentations were delivered on the theme of young people and children's work, and an "Asset based approach to church growth".

The new parish of St Augustine of Canterbury with Holy Trinity Biscot came into being in October with parts of the former Biscot parish now being brought into St Andrews Blenheim Crescent and Holy Cross Marsh Farm. Holy Trinity remains open and an active place of worship and mission as a chapel of ease under the responsibility of the vicar of St Augustines. St Matthews High Town ceased to be an Anglican place of worship with responsibility for the building temporarily residing with St Marys PCC before moving to the diocese. At the end of the year the Romanian Orthodox church were in the process of negotiating a lease on the building. St Matthews parish is now absorbed into St Marys parish.

The Bishop of Bedford requested a Luton Review group be restarted to consider the future structure and resourcing of the deanery. Work also began on revising the deanery MAP.

We welcomed Simon Curtis as curate at All Saints Caddington with St Johns Farley Hill and Revd Josias de Souza as vicar of St Francis. We said farewell to Revd Jo Burke – Associate Minister, All Saints with St Peters. Our longstanding deanery secretary Valerie Dallinger very sadly died in October. Church members from across the deanery were well represented at her funeral.

It was a challenging year for the town and the deanery. The challenges bring the opportunity to listen afresh to what God is saying to us and consider new patterns for our life together going forward.

With thanks to David Kesterton for sharing his report above. Steve Dolby

Care Team

The Care Team has not meet since just before the beginning of the Pandemic. This is under review by myself (David Newbound) and Vicar (David Alexander).
David Newbound

Hands of Mercy



2021 has been another challenging year for the Philippines because of Covid. Unlike the UK, the Philippines was in lockdown for all of 2021 and struggled with a slow vaccine rollout. Prices also rose and families struggled to find work, pay the bills and buy food.

Children continued to attend school online but many struggled with this and were desperate to go back to school.

It was a year of struggle in so many ways but the support of St. Thomas' and all of our supporters was invaluable. We can't overstate how vital this has been and how families and children have been able to survive the pandemic because of this.

As of the time of writing (March 2022), things are starting to look more hopeful. The vaccine rollout has sped up significantly and there's a strong hope that

children can return to school in September (providing they are vaccinated). We are now praying that the economy will pick up as this will be needed to create jobs and provide work for many families in the squatter communities.

Despite the hardships, there is hope, and we have seen God's hand and provision in 2021. We are really grateful for the part you have played in this and for all the fundraising efforts (especially the St. Thomas' virtual concerts and John Alexander's dab hand in this!)

Thank you again to everyone who has given, prayed and supported Hands of Mercy during 2021. A massive SALAMAT ('thank you' in Tagalog)!

God bless you,



Samantha Gr

Home Group

Home groups
for details. *Ia*

Lunch Club

Lunch Club h

Men's Breakfasts

There were no Men's breakfasts in the last year, but they will resume in the coming year. *Ian Marshall*

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer has been replaced by the live-streamed Prayer and Share from the Vicarage each day at 10am, and afterwards put on the Google public folder

Parish Nurs

Through the
supporting th
maze of the
themselves r
hospital

One of the bi
getting throu



Hand of Mercy International

contact the Parish Office



paramount in
he, going through the
happening with
on loved ones in

GP appointments and

In October 2021, along with Director of Pastoral Care, we held a coffee morning that was also livestreamed, about life after Covid. It looked at support and how we can help with anxiety and other issues that arose after the time of social isolation etc. We aim to do more with this in the coming year as people find this helpful and continue to do so.

This event and all our educational coffee mornings are open to the whole community whatever their background or faith as our motto of St Thomas church is “ Sharing Gods Love with Everyone”.

I had to take time off from the Parish and my NHS job in Nov and have just had surgery for ongoing hip bursitis which I am now recovering from. My plan is to be back in March where I have some new ideas for educational coffee mornings and health related bible study which will be fantastic. I am looking forward to seeing you all then. God bless you

Debbie Newbound

Pastoral Care Report

I have been in contact with people over the course of the Pandemic and as we take steps to discover a new normal, which is different for each person I speak with or have been blessed to visit or meet up with. Together under the guidance of God we are seeking a positive way forward, in God’s strength and with his grace and provision.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and also in me. (John 14:1)

These words powerfully moved me and enabled me to support others. They convey such tenderness and love. They comfort, encourage and enable us all. For the God and his Son who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow will see us through. They also encourage us to not only stand firm but to grow and step out in faith. Thank you for the privilege of journeying with you. God bless

David Newbound , Director or Pastoral Care

Sacristan

I cannot begin to tell you what a delight it has been to return to regular services and to see the church beginning to meet again together as things gradually and safely begin to return to some kind of normal. Until recent events have prevented me I have supported the vicar and the church family by working behind the scenes to prepare for each service (alongside those who regularly clean church silver in preparation for services). In consultation with the vicar I am now intincting communion wafers with wine so that those who attend services and receive Home Communion can share in the symbolism of receiving the bread and wine together. God bless

David Newbound

Safeguarding

We have met with David Alexander during the past year. There has been no further training though we did have a meeting with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. We are

compliant with what is required of us and obviously are always available via telephone should anyone need to contact us.

Judi Kingham and Linda Clitheroe, Safeguarding Officers

Social and Fundraising Team

There have been no Social events or fundraising in the last year.

Sara, Ruth and the Social Team

Stewardship Report

The year 2021 is another year most people wish to forget and look forward to a brighter 2022. It has been a year of lockdowns, working from home, job losses and bereavements.

With this difficult situation, which has affected all of us in some way, I wish to thank everyone who has faithfully been committed to supporting our Church this financial year (2021). As you can appreciate, with increased running costs year on year, regular stewardship giving and donations are more important than ever.

However, stewardship is not only about money, it is also about giving time and practical help to St. Thomas's Church. In terms of giving your time and practical help there is a need for cleaners, Sunday Club helpers, litter pickers and people to carry out odd jobs, etc. The list is endless. With the ceasing of "lockdown" and, consequently, with regular services in our church (with social distancing, etc) the cleaning of the building, particularly after services, is of paramount importance. If you are in a position to help, please talk to the Parish Administrator at the Parish Office.

As at 31st. December, 2021 the membership of the Scheme was 66 (couples count as one). A net reduction of 9 from the previous year.

Finally, I would ask that you take this opportunity to pray and reflect on your giving. If you would like to join the Stewardship Scheme and make regular donations please ask me, the Treasurer or the Parish Administrator for details.

Leslie Sims - Stewardship Secretary

STUFF (St Thomas's Unbelievably Fabulous Fun)

There were no STUFF related meetings or activities this year.

Angela and Richard Scarlett-Marshall

Sunday Club Review

The Sunday Club are now meeting again on a Sunday morning in the hall.

Sara Hillyard

St Thomas' Volunteers Group

We were a group of 8 ladies and 2 gentlemen who ran the Coffee Mornings on the first Saturday of every month. The Coffee Mornings were very popular and well attended but sadly we could only hold three Coffee Mornings in January, February and March 2020 and only managed to raise £405 that year for the church. Then, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the churches were shut down and everywhere went into Lockdown. We were no longer able to meet together and so were unable to hold any more Coffee Mornings especially our Annual Charity Coffee Mornings.

Unfortunately, some of us are no longer able to carry on as the Volunteers Group and hope that there are some younger people in the church who could perhaps take over and help with Coffee Mornings in the future.

Georgina Cook

Diocese of St Albans - Parish of St Thomas Stopsley
Seeking to share God's love

Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on Sunday 23rd May 2021
At 11.15am in the Church

Present:

David Alexander (Vicar and Chairman)
David Newbound (Director of Pastoral Care); Debbie Newbound; Deborah Bachini, Neil Rolls, Bev Rolls, Karen and Alice Ritchie, John Pinnock, Rosemary Stipta, David Stipta, Ian and Ruth Marshall, Les and Geraldine Sims, Barbara Edlin, Stella Marshall, Peggy Seng, Louise, Christine Younger, John Kingham, Margaret, Natalie.

2021.1 Welcome and Prayers

The Vicar opened the meeting by welcoming all. He explained that the meeting was being livestreamed and on Zoom (which failed shortly afterwards!). He explained that if anyone wished to speak, David N would have a microphone on a boom and it must be used to speak. He suggested that those in the church raised their hand if they wished to speak. He apologised that the Zoom meeting had failed and said that as far as he knew the people who had tried to join on Zoom were now watching on livestream. He then opened the meeting with a prayer.

2021.2 Election of Secretary for the Meeting

Rosemary Stipta was proposed as secretary by Barbara Edlin, seconded by Deborah Bachini and elected unanimously.

2021.3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Jane Alexander.

2021.4 Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting on Sunday 25th October 2020

These had been distributed with the AGM papers and had been checked by the PCC. Acceptance was proposed by Stella Marshall, seconded by David Newbound and accepted unanimously.

2021.5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS OF STOPSLEY

2021.6 Election of Churchwardens

The Vicar gave thanks to the Churchwarden, Ian Marshall, for all his hard work over the last year and indeed the last 7 years. He presented Ian with a card and some gifts. Ian thanked everyone and thanked especially Ruth Marshall for her support.

David A said that although he had had discussions with a number of people, he had received no nominations. He asked people not to panic, saying we had an

excellent PCC. He said that if necessary we could call an emergency meeting or we can elect next year

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

2021.7 Vicar's Report

The Vicar thanked the many people who make a wonderful contribution to the church's life, including David Newbound, Debbie Newbound, Deborah Bachini, Linda Clitheroe, Ian Clitheroe, Ian Marshall, PCC, John Alexander and choir, John Pinnock and music group, Tech Team – John Pinnock, Rosemary Stipta and Andy Pinnock, Neil Rolls, Sunday Club leaders, STUFF leaders, Les Sims.

2020.8 PCC Report

The PCC report has been circulated on the public folder and people were encouraged to read it at their leisure.

2021.9 Finance Matters including (a) Election of Independent Examiner; (b) Financial Report and (c) Stewardship

- a) Election of Independent Examiner** – it was proposed by the PCC that Godfrey Laws should be elected as Independent Examiners. This was now proposed by the PCC, seconded by Ian Marshall and supported unanimously.
- b) Financial Report** – Neil Rolls presented a slide show in support of this and went through each individual slide. There were no questions. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by David Stipta, seconded by Karen Ritchie and agreed unanimously.
- c) Stewardship** – the report had been circulated on the public folder and David Alexander thanked all for continuing donations.

2021.9 Annual Reports – David Alexander explained that these, along with the other AGM papers, were on the public folder.

2021.10 Election of PCC and Deanery Synod

The Vicar said that the Deanery Synod representatives were one person down as we could have 3 people but only have 2 – Christine Younger and Steve Dolby. Both were happy to stand for reelection. Deanery Synod reps were automatically on the PCC. Christine was nominated by Ian Marshall, seconded by Linda Clitheroe. Steve was nominated by Deborah Bachini and seconded by Ruth Marshall. David declared both duly elected.

Election of PCC:

Nominations had been received as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
David Newbound	Gill Palmer	Deborah Bachini
Neil Rolls	Ian Marshall	John Kingham
Deborah Bachini	Gill Palmer	David Newbound
John Alexander	David Stipta	John Kingham

Linda Clitheroe	Deborah Bachini	David Newbound
Louise Winter	Deborah Bachini	David Newbound
Charlotte Zhivago	Linda Clitheroe	John Kingham
Rosemary Stipta	Karen Ritchie	Louise Winter
Ian Marshall	Stella Marshall	Louise Winter

David A commented that all of those who had reached the end of their term of office were eligible to stand again. He then went on to explain that as we had 9 nominations for 8 places there would need to be a ballot. The 4 with the most votes would be elected for 3 years, the next 4 for 2 years and the 9th one could be co-opted by PCC if members chose to do so. David A explained how the secret ballot would work and said that the votes would be counted later as those on livestream were able to vote by texting Deborah or himself.

2021.11 Any Other Business – Christine Younger raised a query about Deanery Synod saying that Stewart Leary attended the meetings but was described as a Methodist representative, so she sought clarification. David A explained that Stewart had been co-opted by the Deanery Synod to liaise with the Methodist Church and in the same way Steve also represented the Catholic Church.

2020.12 Date of Next PCC Meeting

14th June 2021 – Rosemary tendered her apologies as she will be on holiday.

2021.13 Closing Prayers

David Alexander thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.

Comments and Questions for the AGM or PCC or Vicar.

Any Comment:

Any Question:

We are also looking for more volunteers to help with welcoming, pastoral visiting, readings in church, helping with the children at Sunday Club or other activities for children or young people, refreshments, cleaning, maintenance work, etc. Let us know how you

would like to help....

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 2 to 7 is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) do not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

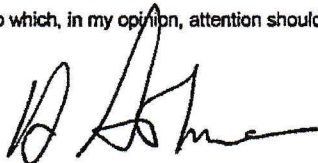
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the 2011 Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not been met; or
- 2 To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

27 JUNE 2022

Howard Ashmore
Godfrey Laws & Co. Ltd
Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors
69 Knowl Piece
Wilbury Way
HITCHIN
Hertfordshire
SG4 0TY

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st December 2021

Incoming Resources (all unrestricted)

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	71,538	117,256
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	3,507	6,076
Income from charitable & ancillary trading	2(c)	40	640
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	3,509	4,297
Total Non-Designated Incoming resources		<u>78,594</u>	<u>128,269</u>

Resources Used

Grants	3(a)	826	11,470
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	95,631	93,322
Publicity, Church management & admin.	3(c)	456	1,043
		<u>96,913</u>	<u>105,835</u>

Net Annual Surplus / (Deficit)

	<u>(18,319)</u>	<u>22,434</u>
--	------------------------	----------------------

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets	4	<u>1,253</u>	<u>1,407</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	3,511	2,996
Bank Accounts		42,826	57,149
Cash		<u>47</u>	<u>119</u>
		<u>46,384</u>	<u>60,264</u>
Liabilities: Amounts due within one year	6	<u>10,696</u>	<u>6,411</u>
Net current assets		35,688	53,853
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>36,941</u>	<u>55,260</u>
Funds			
General Account	7	0	0
Legacy Funds	8	35,866	54,185
Youth Project		<u>1,075</u>	<u>1,075</u>
		<u>36,941</u>	<u>55,260</u>

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 7 for the year ended 31 December 2021

Signed: 

Treasurer: Neil Rolls

Date: 22 May 2022

APPROVED by the Church Meeting held on 22 May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed: 

Reverend David Alexander (Chairman)

Date: 22 May 2022

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due,

Income from investments

Interest is accounted for when received.

Resources Used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property.

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2021

Equipment

Office Equipment and sound equipment is depreciated on the straight line basis at a rate of 33.3% per annum.

Churchyard Maintenance Equipment is depreciated on the reducing balance basis at a rate of 30% per annum.

Individual items of Equipment with a purchase price of £250 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

2. Incoming resources (all unrestricted)

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
2(a) Incoming from donors			
Planned Giving		46,005	44,705
Gift Day		0	0
Income Tax recoverable		10,031	9,640
Collections (open plate) at all Services		1,580	938
Collections (credit card) at all Services		109	51
Legacies		13,813	61,921
		<u>71,538</u>	<u>117,256</u>
 2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources			
Coffee mornings, Lunches & Teas		15	476
Hire of and Donations for use of hall		720	525
Social Events		0	0
Miscellaneous Donations & Receipts		1,366	4,096
Parish Nursing Donations & Receipts		1,406	980
		<u>3,507</u>	<u>6,076</u>
 2(c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading			
Magazine Subscriptions		40	510
Magazine Adverts		0	130
		<u>40</u>	<u>640</u>
 2(d) Other ordinary income resources			
Wedding and funeral fees & receipts		<u>3,509</u>	<u>4,297</u>

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
3 Resources Used		
3(a) Grants to Charities		
World Relief	10	4,774
World Mission	0	145
UK Social Concern/Relief	16	4,841
UK Church Mission	800	1,710
	<u>826</u>	<u>11,470</u>
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
Ministry: Parish Share	62,469	63,806
Clergy Expenses	3,639	3,293
Pastoral Worker	4,680	4,680
Pastoral Discretionary Expenditure	0	268
Church Office Wages	6,783	6,460
Church: Running Expenses	7,474	5,213
Routine Maintenance	2,163	2,939
Major Repairs	2,400	0
Service Costs	1,766	2,205
Parish Nursing	1,023	980
Depreciation	1,198	1,354
Telephone Charges	1,824	1,855
Miscellaneous	212	270
	<u>95,631</u>	<u>93,322</u>
3(c) Publicity, Church Management & Administration		
Stationery & printing (incl. magazine)	1,006	845
Independent Examiner's fee	(600)	120
Miscellaneous	50	78
	<u>456</u>	<u>1,043</u>

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2021

4. Fixed Assets

	Sound Equipment	Office Equipment	Churchyard Equipment	Total
Cost/Valuation				
At 1 January 2021	10,233	5,600	1,540	17,373
Additions during year	0	1,044	0	1,044
At 31 December 2021	10,233	6,644	1,540	18,417
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	10,233	4,193	1,540	15,966
Charge for year	0	1,198	0	1,198
At 31 December 2021	10,233	5,391	1,540	17,164
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2021	0	1,253	0	1,253
At 31 December 2020	0	1,407	0	1,407

5. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Income Tax recoverable	3,246	2,996
Other Debtors	265	0
	<u>3,511</u>	<u>2,996</u>

6. Liabilities: Amounts due within one year

Donations	660	330
Other Creditors & Accruals	10,036	6,081
	<u>10,696</u>	<u>6,411</u>

7. Funds

	General Account	Legacy Funds (Unrestricted)	Youth Project	Total
At 1 January 2021	0	54,185	1,075	55,260
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	0	(18,319)	0	(18,319)
At 31 December 2021	0	35,866	1,075	36,941

8. Legacy Funds

	2021 £	2020 £
B Cox	22,079	53,685
Daphnie Elsie Ward	0	500
John McBeath	5,000	0
Josie Cumberland	8,787	0
	<u>35,866</u>	<u>54,185</u>

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 2 to 7 is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 3(3) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) do not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Regulation 7 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

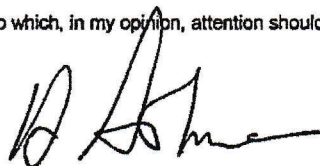
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the 2011 Act and to be found in the guidance from the CBF. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 have not been met; or
- 2 To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

27 JUNE 2022

Howard Ashmore
Godfrey Laws & Co. Ltd
Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors
69 Knowl Piece
Wilbury Way
HITCHIN
Hertfordshire
SG4 0TY

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31st December 2021

Incoming Resources (all unrestricted)

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Incoming resources from donors	2(a)	71,538	117,256
Other voluntary incoming resources	2(b)	3,507	6,076
Income from charitable & ancillary trading	2(c)	40	640
Other ordinary incoming resources	2(d)	3,509	4,297
Total Non-Designated Incoming resources		<u>78,594</u>	<u>128,269</u>

Resources Used

Grants	3(a)	826	11,470
Activities directly relating to the work of the Church	3(b)	95,631	93,322
Publicity, Church management & admin.	3(c)	456	1,043
		<u>96,913</u>	<u>105,835</u>

Net Annual Surplus / (Deficit)

	<u>(18,319)</u>	<u>22,434</u>
--	------------------------	----------------------

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed Assets	4	<u>1,253</u>	<u>1,407</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	3,511	2,996
Bank Accounts		42,826	57,149
Cash		<u>47</u>	<u>119</u>
		<u>46,384</u>	<u>60,264</u>
Liabilities: Amounts due within one year	6	<u>10,696</u>	<u>6,411</u>
Net current assets		35,688	53,853
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>36,941</u>	<u>55,260</u>
Funds			
General Account	7	0	0
Legacy Funds	8	35,866	54,185
Youth Project		<u>1,075</u>	<u>1,075</u>
		<u>36,941</u>	<u>55,260</u>

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

I have prepared the financial statements on pages 1 to 7 for the year ended 31 December 2021

Signed: 

Treasurer: Neil Rolls

Date: 22 May 2022

APPROVED by the Church Meeting held on 22 May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed: 

Reverend David Alexander (Chairman)

Date: 22 May 2022

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at market value.

Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income and capital sources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Planned giving receivable under covenant is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on covenants or gift aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due,

Income from investments

Interest is accounted for when received.

Resources Used

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property.

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2021

Equipment

Office Equipment and sound equipment is depreciated on the straight line basis at a rate of 33.3% per annum.

Churchyard Maintenance Equipment is depreciated on the reducing balance basis at a rate of 30% per annum.

Individual items of Equipment with a purchase price of £250 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

2. Incoming resources (all unrestricted)

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
2(a) Incoming from donors			
Planned Giving		46,005	44,705
Gift Day		0	0
Income Tax recoverable		10,031	9,640
Collections (open plate) at all Services		1,580	938
Collections (credit card) at all Services		109	51
Legacies		13,813	61,921
		<u>71,538</u>	<u>117,256</u>
2(b) Other voluntary incoming resources			
Coffee mornings, Lunches & Teas		15	476
Hire of and Donations for use of hall		720	525
Social Events		0	0
Miscellaneous Donations & Receipts		1,366	4,096
Parish Nursing Donations & Receipts		1,406	980
		<u>3,507</u>	<u>6,076</u>
2(c) Income from charitable and ancillary trading			
Magazine Subscriptions		40	510
Magazine Adverts		0	130
		<u>40</u>	<u>640</u>
2(d) Other ordinary income resources			
Wedding and funeral fees & receipts		<u>3,509</u>	<u>4,297</u>

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
3 Resources Used		
3(a) Grants to Charities		
World Relief	10	4,774
World Mission	0	145
UK Social Concern/Relief	16	4,841
UK Church Mission	800	1,710
	<u>826</u>	<u>11,470</u>
3(b) Activities directly relating to the work of the Church		
Ministry: Parish Share	62,469	63,806
Clergy Expenses	3,639	3,293
Pastoral Worker	4,680	4,680
Pastoral Discretionary Expenditure	0	268
Church Office Wages	6,783	6,460
Church: Running Expenses	7,474	5,213
Routine Maintenance	2,163	2,939
Major Repairs	2,400	0
Service Costs	1,766	2,205
Parish Nursing	1,023	980
Depreciation	1,198	1,354
Telephone Charges	1,824	1,855
Miscellaneous	212	270
	<u>95,631</u>	<u>93,322</u>
3(c) Publicity, Church Management & Administration		
Stationery & printing (incl. magazine)	1,006	845
Independent Examiner's fee	(600)	120
Miscellaneous	50	78
	<u>456</u>	<u>1,043</u>

St Thomas' P.C.C. Stopsley, Luton

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2021

4. Fixed Assets

	Sound Equipment	Office Equipment	Churchyard Equipment	Total
Cost/Valuation				
At 1 January 2021	10,233	5,600	1,540	17,373
Additions during year	0	1,044	0	1,044
At 31 December 2021	10,233	6,644	1,540	18,417
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	10,233	4,193	1,540	15,966
Charge for year	0	1,198	0	1,198
At 31 December 2021	10,233	5,391	1,540	17,164
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2021	0	1,253	0	1,253
At 31 December 2020	0	1,407	0	1,407

5. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Income Tax recoverable	3,246	2,996
Other Debtors	265	0
	<u>3,511</u>	<u>2,996</u>

6. Liabilities: Amounts due within one year

Donations	660	330
Other Creditors & Accruals	10,036	6,081
	<u>10,696</u>	<u>6,411</u>

7. Funds

	General Account	Legacy Funds (Unrestricted)	Youth Project	Total
At 1 January 2021	0	54,185	1,075	55,260
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	0	(18,319)	0	(18,319)
At 31 December 2021	0	35,866	1,075	36,941

8. Legacy Funds

	2021 £	2020 £
B Cox	22,079	53,685
Daphnie Elsie Ward	0	500
John McBeath	5,000	0
Josie Cumberland	8,787	0
	<u>35,866</u>	<u>54,185</u>