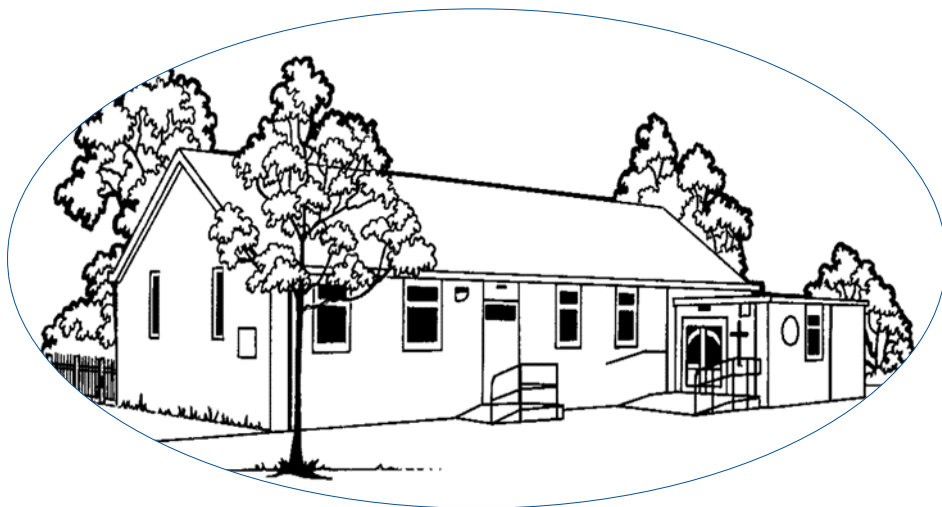


**The Parochial Church Council of  
St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Churches  
Stockton Heath**

**Annual and Financial Reports  
for the year ending  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**



## Introduction

This information is published as part of the requirements of the Church of England Regulations and Requirements of the Charities Commissioners.

Vicar: Revd. Michael Ridley

Curate: Revd Ruth Gray

Readers: Christine Chapman  
Lee Marsh

Church Wardens: Katharine Emery  
Simon Goodchild

Pastoral Worker: Julie Brown

Deanery Synod: Dorothy Carter  
Sue Burke  
Jenny Corroboy  
Sarah Downes

Treasurer: Sue Burke

Safeguarding: Dorothy Carter  
Julie Bennion

Secretaries: Kirsty Gill  
Kris Bradshaw

Legal Status: a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a registered Charity (Charity no. 1131459).

Deanery: Great Budworth

Diocese: Chester

St Thomas' PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, in promoting the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of:

- St Thomas' Church, London Road, Stockton Heath
- St Thomas' Church Hall, Ellesmere Road, Stockton Heath
- St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingleway/Bridge Lane, Appleton
- 8 St Moncia's Close, Appleton

Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Vicar,  
St Thomas' Vicarage  
12 Melton Avenue. Walton  
Warrington WA4 6PQ  
Tel: 01925 261396

## Parochial Church Council 2025

### Ex-officio Members

Revd Michael Ridley  
Revd Ruth Gray  
Lee Marsh  
Katharine Emery  
Simon Goodchild  
Dorothy Carter  
Sue Burke  
Jenny Corroboy  
Sarah Downes  
Julie Brown

### Co-opted Members

Sheila Barton  
Melanie Wilson

### Elected Members

Peter Banyard  
Kris Bradshaw  
Irene Fitzgerald  
Kirsty Gill  
Lynda Heesom  
Stuart Marley  
Janice Rowlands  
Dorika Roxby  
Joe Roxby (res 08/25)  
Jacqueline Shaw  
Elaine Smith  
Peter Speed  
James Thornton (res 11/25)  
David Whalley

In 2025 the Parochial Church Council met in January, March, April (APCM), May, July, September and November, with Standing Committee meetings generally two weeks beforehand.

Standing Committees are comprised of the Vicar (who also Chairs the PCC), the Church Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer and these people prepare for the PCC meeting, and make emergency decisions, which are ratified by the PCC at the following PCC Meeting.

PCC members are also Charity Trustees and are recruited from and voted for by members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll. PCC members are elected for three-year terms after which they must stand down, but can stand for re-election.

The PCC adheres to its aims and principles concerning outreach and mission, whilst managing the finances and the running of and safety of both Churches. Action groups hold their own meetings but refer to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions. Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission.

The PCC works extremely hard on the many aspects of running a successful Church and thanks go to all who attend regularly with a cheerful willingness and enthusiasm.

New faces and talents are always welcome and anyone who feels that they can contribute should speak to a Secretary or a Church Warden.

**Kirsty Gill & Kris Bradshaw - PCC Secretaries**

## A Word from Your Vicar

Dear Friends,

Rowan Williams, a previous Archbishop of Canterbury, suggested that the Kingdom of God existed when we find where God is at work, and join in. The Church of England has always been good at this: with church buildings usually at the centre of villages and towns, clergy providing a middle way in ecumenical matters, church congregations generally being willing and able to bring folk together whatever their faith journey.



All the above is, I believe, true of our churches. We try to be servants to our community with an emphasis on the young, families, the frail and all in need. Across the country there are parishes scratching their heads wondering why they have low numbers and little community inclusion. Our success, if you can call it that, is down to several factors not least many dedicated and committed workers who spend many hours each week keeping the show on the road: safeguarding officers, keepers of the finances, children and family workers, Bible Study leaders, cleaners, bell ringers, musicians, wardens, welcomers, tea makers and lots more. We have much for which we should be thankful!

As another clever person once, said, any church fellowship is only one generation from extinction. By this I mean we've got to pray and plan for the future. Our Diocesan Vision "One in Christ: Sharing Hope" has at its centre three vital components:

- Making disciples
- Establishing new worshipping communities
- Developing new leaders

You can see how this looks on the Diocesan website [www.chesterdiocese.org/content/strategy](http://www.chesterdiocese.org/content/strategy)

For me this makes absolute sense in our context, but we need to be intentional, so here's a few thoughts on the matter because I think we have all the right ideas but need to focus.

### **Making disciples**

While we have sporadic beginners courses such as the Pilgrim Course, Confirmation Classes etc, we need more mid-week groups to help people grow in faith. Too often we finish a course and leave new Christians to sink or swim. We also need to engage with families who would like their children to gain entry to St. Thomas' School. Many of the parents aren't confirmed: we need to find ways to help them grow in faith rather than peter out and stop coming to services once their child 'gets in'. It may be that some Sundays the children stay in church and the adults go to the hall for lessons in the faith? We are fortunate currently in St. Thomas' in having a wide fringe of people who just arrive and quite often stay and grow but it's a bit hit and miss. We need to strengthen our welcome, make nurture more accessible and have an emphasis on teaching. With this in

mind I intend to map out the year with Beginner's Course September – December, Nurture Course January – Easter and Growing Faith April – July.

### **Establishing new worshipping communities**

In the last year Children's Praise has started in the Church Hall on the third Sunday: a standalone service for families with children emphasising singing, fun, crafts and refreshments. With Ruth's help leaders are being trained to carry this on when she moves on to her own parish. We need to do this more in the parish as a whole. St. Mary Magdalene's doesn't have a Sunday School now and while numbers are stable unless we encourage young families St. Mary Magdalene's won't grow any bigger. It's interesting that the Word Service at St. Mary Magdalene's has really grown people's confidence and is totally lay-led.

This is a pattern we need to encourage across the parish so that new worshipping communities for a wide variety of ages could be established from old to young. In many ways a sort of new worshipping community can be found at our Thursday Morning Communion, this having as much to do with convenience as the building up of friendships. Our numbers on Thursday are comparable with some local churches' regular Sunday attendance. With the Mature Movers meeting up with us after the service for coffee on occasions there can be as many as fifty people enjoying fellowship. I am sure the newly formed and expanded Ministry Team will have some ideas about new worshipping communities – how about Forest Church? Brick Church? Carers' Church? Dementia Church? The possibilities are endless to share the Good News of Jesus.

### **Developing new leaders**

We are fortunate that the good work done by Mel and Sheila, our previous Churchwardens, has been continued by Katharine and Simon. This hasn't happened by accident but because we have lots of previous wardens who support and encourage, sharing their wealth of knowledge. Recruiting new leaders is so much easier when you know you will be supported.

It is very encouraging that five people went on the four week Occasional Worship Leaders' (OWL) course recently. I am confident that they will make a difference to our worship, working alongside our existing licensed Readers. Hopefully others will want to go on this course too. "Is it you?" (the Diocesan Vocations strapline) is a helpful prompt to those who feel God's calling to ministry. With the way the Church of England is going and the desperate need for lay and ordained leadership we as a parish need to encourage as many as possible to go on courses so that people can discover whether they have a ministry to serve the church. There is an online OWLs course in November – I hope many folk will volunteer.

With these three strategies I hope that the coming year will be one in which we renew our efforts to spread the Good News of Jesus; are mindful of finding new ways to build up and create worshipping communities and nurture and encourage new leadership. We have much to do: pray for God's directing to accomplish our hopes.

Yours, Michael.

## Some words from Revd. Ruth Gray, Assistant Curate

As this will be my last APCM here at St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's, I find myself reflecting on the three years I have spent with you all in this wonderful parish.

When I first arrived as a 'wet behind the ears' Curate I did so already uplifted by the care shown to me on my pre-curacy visits, and the prayers said as I prepared for ordination. I knew in my heart that all would be well, and it has been, in fact it has been so much more. That is due to the abundance of love, care and generosity that I see on a daily basis from this church community as you live out your lives as disciples of Christ.



Over the past three years I have built up a collection of pictures and cards given to me mainly by the children within the parish that I have added to my pinboard in my office. One particular card has the picture of a light bulb on it with the words, 'Let your light shine' found in Matthew 5:16.



Each one of us is called to be a light giver, to shine the light within us that is the light of Jesus. The light that shines into the darkness, brings hope to the hope-less, compassion to those in need and love to our neighbours. It is this light that I see shining out from you all, in the things that you do. From the listening ears, to the conversation instigators, the bakers and tea makers, the bellringers, the pray-ers, the church preparers, the administrators, the grant application producers, the live-streamers, the PowerPoint makers and clickers, the Bible Explorers, the organ/piano players, the singers and the worship leaders. The list goes on and on.

So thank you for all that you do to shine Christ's light into the world, long may it continue!

And thank you for all the prayers said, and the love and support given to me over the past 3 years. It will be hard to say goodbye when the time comes for me to move on, but I will go holding onto the memory of all those wonderful 'light shining' moments experienced with you all, as God calls me to go and shine my light within a new community of light givers, wherever that may be!

Yours in Christ, Ruth.

## Church Wardens' Report—St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's

Dear Friends

We want to start off by saying how wonderfully supportive and helpful both congregations have been to us as we embarked upon our first year as 'newbie' Church Wardens. It is a privilege to be asked and accepted, and we will serve you all to the best of our ability by the Grace of God.

2025 seems to have been a busy year again for both of our churches of St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's. St Thomas' hosted several events as part of Stockton Heath festival, the church became an Art Gallery, and a team manned a 'pick a prize' raffle at the festival fete.

We have hosted some wonderful concerts – including 'Warrington String Quartet' and 'Spirit of Broadway at the movies', to name just two.

Several confirmation candidates were warmly welcomed into the light of Christ as Bishop Julie came to St Thomas' for our wonderful confirmation service surrounded by our church family.

Every year brings some cause to celebrate, and this year was no exception. Certainly, one of the most memorable events of the year was Michael's Commissioning as Rural Dean of Great Budworth. A truly joyous service and we were happy to welcome so many people into St Thomas' to witness the Commissioning and worship with us.

With the help and support of Broomfields Youth Project, PCC approval and church volunteers we hosted a 'Hang out Hub' for young people every Tuesday after school from February 2025. It was a 'safe place' for them to chill, socialise, play table tennis, badminton, card and computer games and football outside in the better weather. Conversations were had and refreshments were served– it is amazing how hungry young people are and popcorn and hot chocolate was a 'must' each week. There was a small core of young people who attended regularly. Unfortunately, numbers did not grow despite continuing for a year and holding events like a pancake party and games competition, there was little opportunity for mission. Hence, the decision was made to close the hub in Feb 2026 and look to development of youth engagement in other ways.

Notable events, both fundraisers and social, were the Harvest Bring & Share with Beetle Drive & Quiz, Hot Pot Supper and Ceilidh, Church Christmas Fair – fun for all of the family! The Vantry has come to St Mary Magdalene's, helping to support people in the community who are struggling to afford food.

Our Big Winter Clean at St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's saw many cobwebs swept away and surfaces shining once more! Many thanks to all our hard-working volunteers who keep our churches spick and span.

St Mary Magdalene's waved goodbye to our organ, which has been sent to a new home. We have a new microphone and sound connection, which is making it much easier to hear



our services, and smart new chair cushions. Thanks to the SMAG and everyone else who has helped with our church upkeep, and a special mention for Peter Banyard who arranged for our fridge to be replaced very quickly when it stopped working.

Advent and Christmas had many popular services. At St Thomas' we 'went on a Star Hunt' with Ruth in two packed-out Crib and Christingle services on Christmas Eve. Well over 1000 people crossed the threshold into our churches during Christmas services.

In January we were happy to welcome all 3 Bishops Julie, Mark and Sam to our Deanery. The 'Meet your Bishops' service at St James' was a great opportunity to get to know them and ask questions.

Recent exciting news at St Thomas' is that our 'Expression of Interest' to Heritage Lottery Fund was accepted! Much hard work has been undertaken by Sue Burke and Suzanne Evans, and we are very grateful to them both. We have a long way to go but are very excited about the future holds for our church.

Several of our church members recently completed the 'Occasional Worship Leaders course' run by the Chester Diocese at Church House. This is very important as Michael's role of Rural Dean stretches his resources further; and as Ruth looks to moving on; we all must give support where we can. This will mean flexibility will be required of us as 'services of the word' will feature more and some services will be 'lay led'. We have done this at St Thomas' in the past when Michael was covering St James' and St Hilda's in Latchford and are confident with our training we can help ease the workload for our ministry team. St Mary's continues to have 'services of the word' once a month, and we have been very grateful for everybody who volunteers to take part.

The Easter Experience showcased the artistic and creative talents of our members as the tableaux of the Passion Story were spread throughout the church. School children were guided through different 'stations' of the Easter Story and enjoyed taking an active part in and learning about the final days of Jesus. It was a huge success, and Bishop Mark even visited us to enjoy the experience for himself. Congratulations to all who made it such a success.

Also this Lent, St Mary Magdalene's hosted the 'Caring for God's Creation' course which we were trialling, ably led by Sheila Barton. This provided us with lots of things to think about and helpful advice to make our churches and our lives more green, and will contribute towards our Eco Award.

Some happy (and sad!) news regarding Ruth - we are very happy to celebrate that she has been officially 'signed off' by Bishop Julie and can now start to actively apply for jobs and to have her very own Parish. We will be sorry to see her go, she has brought so much to our parishes, and she will always be a part of our church family.

Finally, we cannot conclude our report without saying thank you to all those who freely help with keeping our churches open and welcoming. Please continue to support us both with your prayers and we look forward to serving with you all for another year.

With thanks, **Simon and Katharine**

## Annual Report of the Safeguarding Officers for 2025

At our churches we do everything we can to maintain a safer environment for everyone. We have adopted and remain committed to implementing the House of Bishops' Safeguarding policies and good practice guidance.

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding, about people of any age within our churches, please contact our Safeguarding Officers at [stsmmsafeguarding@outlook.com](mailto:stsmmsafeguarding@outlook.com)



St Thomas' - Dorothy Carter



St Mary Magdalene's - Julie Bennion

Both have up-to-date DBS clearance and all mandatory training.

There are posters in both churches with their contact information displayed. If neither of these are available and if the matter is urgent please speak, in confidence, to the Vicar or your Church Warden who will ensure that your concerns are passed on immediately.

Further information can be seen on the church website: [stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk](http://stthomas-stocktonheath.org.uk).

Safeguarding is a regular item on all PCC agendas. PCC members must have enhanced DBS clearance certificates and anyone working regularly with children must be cleared on the Children's Barred List. PCC members must complete safeguarding training at Basic and Foundation levels as well as training in Safer Recruitment.

The Safer Recruitment Policy means that any paid staff and/or volunteering roles must be subject to a standard application process, including references and safeguarding clearance where appropriate. All clearance and training certificates are valid for three years only. Certificates may be required for various other roles, but guidance will be given at the time of application.

Church employees who work regularly with children or vulnerable adults currently have valid and satisfactory DBS disclosures. This also applies to Readers and Pastoral workers.

The aims of these measures are:

- to ensure a safe environment for all who attend our Churches to worship, work, volunteer or visit.
- to promote safe practice by raising awareness of safeguarding issues by offering training to church volunteers.
- to ensure all church activities and church groups have current risk assessments which are reviewed annually, as do all church trips and on and off-site events.

No serious issues were reported during 2025 but advice and support has been readily available whenever required, including in areas of safety in health and wellbeing. Safeguarding measures are extremely stringent and anyone who would like further information should speak to Dorothy or Julie at any time. Thanks go to everyone who has willingly complied with the regulations and guidelines, thus helping to keep our congregations, volunteers, visitors, friends & clergy safe, while still keeping our churches welcoming and inclusive.

**Dorothy Carter. Lead Recruiter / Safeguarding Officer - St. Thomas'**  
**Julie Bennion. Safeguarding Officer - St Mary Magdalene's**

## **Great Budworth Deanery Synod**

The aims of the Deanery Synod are:

- To consider matters concerning the Church of England.
- To bring together the views of the parishes of the Deanery.
- To act as the channel of communication between the parishes of the Deanery and the Diocesan Synod.
- To effect decisions made by the Diocesan Synod.
- To raise matters with the Diocesan Synod.
- To elect representatives to the Diocesan and General Synods.

In 2025, meetings were held at St Matthews' Stretton; Daresbury hosted an open meeting, and a Zoom meeting regarding the business side of the Deanery took place in October. Recurring topics were safeguarding, reports on Parish Share, vacancies in the Deanery and full details of training available. Revd. Emma Speake of Runcorn spoke enthusiastically on "inclusion and access to church and worship". The Bishop's advisors spoke on Lay Ministry, pointing out that training is available and at multiple locations. Synod allows us to hear how other churches are reacting to these challenges and to share ideas.

Revd. Alec Brown became interim Rural Dean in place of Revd. Bev Jameson, and Revd. Michael Ridley became our new Rural Dean later in the year. St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's representatives for 2025 were Dorothy Carter, Jenny Corroboy, Sue Burke and Sarah Downes. The Parish is represented by Julie Brown, Pastoral Worker.

Deanery Synod representatives attend meetings on behalf of the Parish and report back to PCC. Because of the numbers on our electoral roll, we are eligible to elect five members for the Deanery Synod for a three-year term. If anyone would like to learn more about this role, please talk to a Church Warden or one of the representatives.

***Jenny Corroboy, Dorothy Carter, Sue Burke & Sarah Downes  
Deanery Synod Representatives***

## Action Groups

Action groups hold their own meetings but refer back to the PCC for approval of their spending and actions. Issues addressed include worship, mission, safeguarding, ecumenical matters, social activities and all the possible ways of enhancing outreach and mission. The groups who meet regularly are:

St Thomas' Action Group (STAG)  
St Mary's Action Group (SMAG)  
Church Hall Action Group (CHAG)  
Fundraising, Social & Mission Group  
Tech Team  
Pastoral Group  
Deanery Synod  
Bridgewater Churches Together

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## Outreach

A word of thanks go to all to who work so hard to organise or help with the groups that our Church community provides.

It was stated a while ago in Parliament that "Without volunteers this country would grind to a halt" and our wonderful group of volunteers certainly lays testimony to that statement.

A heartfelt thanks goes to all who work so hard to make our Church the warm, welcoming and safe haven that it is.

Apart from the support listed in other parts of the report, volunteers are responsible for the success of the following really well loved and important parts of our Churches:

Sunday School	The Choir
Bellringing	Open Church
Eco Church	Cleaning
Church Duties	Office work
Home Visits	Praise and Play

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## Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll closed on March 21st to allow time for revision and a new version has now been prepared. The number of members is 241.

The Electoral Roll will be re-opened on April 26th after the AGM.

Congregation members are encouraged to have their names added to give them voting rights at general meetings.

Should anyone wish to be entered on the Electoral Roll application forms are available at the Church Office or ask one of the Church Wardens.

**Simon Hutt**  
**Electoral Roll Officer**

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## Reserve Policy

It is the aim of the PCC to hold £27,000 in unrestricted reserves to enable cover for three months' running costs in the event of a major problem, and/or to provide additional support for some unforeseen repairs. Having considered outgoings, the PCC deems this to be a reasonable amount to hold in reserve to maintain an adequate cash flow. This policy will be reviewed in twelve months' time by the PCC, who will consider the viability of this amount.

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## Risk report

The major risks to which the PCC are exposed are reviewed regularly, with systems in place to address them effectively. Major risks identified are:

- Adverse publicity
- Demographic change
- Dependency on income
- Disaster issues
- Fund raising
- Governance
- Security
- Volunteering
- Vulnerable people
- Pandemic

Risk assessments are stored at a central point and can be viewed on request.

## Financial Review of the Year 2025

I recently found an old Annual Report 2003 whilst clearing cupboards! In it the then Treasurer, Peter Chapman reported that there had been a deficit every year of the five years he had been Treasurer! Thankfully in my eight years we have only once had a deficit and that was in 2023 as a direct result of the St Mary Magdalene Car park major works and this year, we have achieved a surplus of £25,241 of which £23,413 is General Fund and therefore unrestricted monies. Personally, and on behalf of the whole PCC thank you to everyone who gives sacrificially of their time, money and talents to the work of our churches and God's Kingdom in Stockton Heath and Appleton.



The 2025 Accounts have been prepared on an Accruals basis so that income or expenses are recorded when the transaction occurs rather than when payment is made or received. As our total income is less than £250,000, we are not required legally to produce Accruals Accounts but have done so as it allows for more accurate comparisons month on month with the previous year. This is particularly useful in both assessing the current financial position, forecasting future positions and identifying change. There have been no major works in the Parish in 2025.

Parish Finances are a team effort. Linda Latham continues as Bookkeeper maintaining all the computerised Finance Coordinator records and provides a 'second authority' for all our financial transactions, she is an invaluable colleague. Joanne Ridley, Reg Pritchard, Jackie Cole and Christine Bradshaw assist with the money counting every week and we have recently welcomed Sarah Downes to the Sunday team to add some resilience for holidays. Simon Hutt undertakes the weekly banking at the Post Office and the Parish Office team provide invaluable admin support. Joanne Ridley is our Gift Aid Secretary and together we ensure we claim every penny of eligible tax recovery on donations. I am grateful for the dedicated work of the entire team.

Geoff Bruce BSc. FCA has completed six years as our Independent Examiner, having agreed to 'one more year' last year. He has provided this service free of charge throughout and we are most grateful to Geoff for his time, guidance, and expertise, particularly in my early years as Treasurer his advice was invaluable. In addition to examining our accounts in line with Charity Commission guidance, Geoff helped me establish sound financial processes and has provided oversight of these throughout the six years. He has encouraged all PCC members to be aware of their responsibilities as Trustees. There is an established induction process for all new PCC members detailing the responsibilities of Trustees, we adhere to our Standing Financial Instructions which are reviewed annually, and I undertake the Charity Commission Internal Financial Controls Self-Assessment Checklist presenting the findings to the PCC annually to ensure we have robust processes in place. I produce and present a formal report to every PCC meeting updating the financial position and keeping PCC members fully informed about all financial issues, these reports are incorporated into the PCC minutes as Appendices.

The format of the Accounts presented is unchanged from 2024. We continue to use the Data Developments Finance Coordinator computerised accounts system and operate 'fund accounting.' This accounting package will not be supported past 2027 so we will be transferring to a cloud-based system with Data Developments in the next few months in readiness.

You will note headings of general fund, designated funds and restricted funds on page two of the accounts and on the Balance Sheet these funds and their balances are detailed. We have three designated funds set aside for a particular purpose: Visranthi Trust, a charity in India which supports victims of domestic abuse to which a group of regular donors contribute; Mission Project Fund for our outreach work like the Christmas and Easter bags for vulnerable families and the holiday fun lunches and St Mary Magdalene Car Park Fund. Thanks to a successful Car Treasure Hunt in June combined with a generous donation the deficit in the St Mary Magdalene Car Park fund was cleared. In December 2025 Ann and Mick Jackson retired from their roles as Parish 100 Club organisers. I would like to record our thanks to them for their dedication over around sixteen years. In the eight years I have been Treasurer they have overseen donations of £12,250 from 100 Club to support the church. Lynda Heesom has taken over this important role and has to date eighty-eight members; it would be wonderful if we could finally have one hundred members. You will note that Parish 100 Club now appears on the Balance sheet as a Designated Fund but there is no money recorded for 2025 because although many members paid their fees for 2026 in 2025, these are recorded as 'Debtors' to be included in the 2026 accounts under the Accruals principles.

There are five active restricted funds, donations into these funds must be used for the sole purpose of that fund: Parish Family Fund for youth and family work; Grants Fund holding money given annually by the War Graves Commission for us to use to maintain the graves of the fallen in the churchyard; Bells fund to manage and maintain the bell tower and ringing band; the Parish Charities Fund is used for our annual charitable outward giving; and St Mary Magdalene Flower Fund is self-explanatory. The movement in these funds can be seen in detail in the 'notes to accompany the accounts' page of the accounts.

Agency Accounts, also detailed on page 5, relate to money we receive on behalf of a third party: it is not our money and is managed separately within the accounts but forms part of our creditors figure. Examples include fees we receive and pay to the Diocese, vergers or organist from weddings and funerals and charity donations such as the Children's Society Christingle candles, Macmillan Coffee morning. As approved by PCC in 2024 we have taken on the management of Little Sunbeams finances. We initially managed these monies through a restricted fund, but the Independent Examiner has advised we transfer this to an Agency account.

Our total receipts for 2025 are £230,333 compared to £230,910 in 2024. Due to our managing Little Sunbeams monies both our income and expenditure figures are over-inflated by their £3934 receipts and payments. Our total expenditure in 2025 was £205,093 a reduction of £21,911 from the 2024 figure of £227,004. Hence it is the

reduction in expenditure rather than an increase in income which has created our surplus.

Following the annual Thanksgiving Sunday Appeal 2024, we received pledged increases to Planned Giving from both congregations totalling £8,154 with an actual increase of £7,235 most pledges being honoured, the difference being due to members of our congregation moving away or sadly dying. Plate collections were also increased by £660. £24,836 in donations were received in 2025 reduced by £7,035 compared to 2024. We received on large donation in 2025 of £5,000 which, with the hard work of Peter Speed and Ian Burke enabled the complete renewal of the Church Hall kitchen. The Card Reader continues to be an asset with £3,761 being received in 2025 compared to £3,145 in 2024.

We make considerable effort within the Parish to ensure that all giving is tax efficient wherever possible. If you are a UK taxpayer giving to the Parish and have not completed a Gift Aid declaration, **please contact me**. £29,176 has been claimed in Recovered Tax in 2025, this is a reduction of £4,851 from 2024 explained by reduced Gift Aid eligible donations in 2025 and a successful Listed Places of Worship VAT repayment claim for eligible works to the clock and in the Tower of £2,834 received in 2024.

A reduction in Interest Rates has led to reduced Investment Income of £453, funds are held in CCLA (CBF) Deposit Account where we receive a higher interest rate. Total interest on this account in 2025 is £4140 and the PCC have approved movement of further funds not immediately necessary for day-to-day operations into this account to maximise our income.

Julie Bennion and Peter Speed do a fantastic job of managing the bookings for St Mary Magdalene and St Thomas Church hall hire respectively not only raising £10,529 and £15,774 respectively in income but ensuring the halls are safe and welcoming for visitors. St Thomas' Hall hire income has increased by £985 and St Mary Magdalene reduced by £724. Both halls are very busy with regular bookings and this difference relates entirely to party and 'one -off' hall hire, with St Thomas' Church hall having forty-six such bookings and St Mary Magdalene only nine. Some of this relates to hire availability on Saturdays but PCC has approved an advertising banner for St Mary Magdalene based on the success of the St Thomas Church hall banner.

The Fundraising, Social and Mission Project team have had a busy year raising around £7,000 after costs for events. Highlights were the Elton John Tribute night, Stockton Heath Festival events, Car Treasure Hunt, Ceilidh and Hot pot Supper, Warrington String Quartet Concert - with an unwanted appearance of Storm Claudia - the Christmas Fair in collaboration with St Thomas' School and Golborne Brass Band Christmas Concert. In addition, the team held free family fun lunches in school holidays, packed and distributed Christmas and Easter bags with help from the other congregation members, hosted a Pancake Party, held a Macmillan Coffee morning, provided refreshments for Michael's induction as Rural Dean and for VE Day to name a few. We have welcomed several new members to the team who have been a joy to work with.

We were fortunate again to receive a grant from 'Brakes' via Transforming Lives Together of £2500 for the Mission projects we undertake: fun lunches, Christmas and Easter bags. Our collaboration with local schools is now well established. We provided a total of 198 adults and 237 children with Breakfast, lunch, evening meal and pudding for 2 days, fresh fruit and potatoes, Christmas treats and craft. We also hosted eight free fun lunches during school holidays with all hot meals freely provided by members of the FRASM team. With the Pastoral Care Team 52 Easter and Christmas Cheer bags were distributed to older vulnerable or isolated people within our congregation and community. In addition to the grant of £2500 from Brakes, we received donations from our congregations of £748. The church 'Kindness Group' has continued their activity in 2025 with ten gifts of flowers and eight cakes being taken to members of our congregations and community – showing and sharing God's love.

In 2025 our expenditure was £205,093 a reduction of £21,911 compared to £227,004 in 2024. There are four main reasons for this reduction, none of which are recurrent. We have not undertaken any major works in 2025 whereas in 2024 we undertook repairs to St Thomas' Church Clock and electrical works in the Bell tower these account for the reduction of £12,373 in the Church Maintenance category seen in 2025. In 2024 we purchased a piano, there have not been any major equipment purchases in 2025 explaining the reduction of £8,340 in the Equipment Purchase category. In 2024 we undertook preparatory works: digital survey, heating appraisal, full project costings ready for the Expression Of Interest to National Heritage Lottery Fund for Major Works funding for the final stages of restoration and internal reordering for St Thomas' Church to remove her from the Heritage England Churches at risk register costing £7,370. During 2025 we had minimal spend on this as we were working on the Expressions of Interest and I am delighted that we finally succeeded in passing this stage in January 2026 having been invited to formally apply for a grant, there are still no guarantees, however. Although we continue to be impacted by rising running costs, our energy costs have been reduced because of an error in the applied VAT rate to gas invoices from 2023 and 2024, only identified in 2025. Regent Gas our energy supplier for Gas for both St Mary Magdalene's and St Thomas' Churches had inconsistently applied a VAT rate of 20% rather than the 5% we are required to pay to several invoices since the start of the contracts in 2023. A successful challenge resulted in a credit being applied for both churches (£4,222 to St Thomas and £478 to St Mary Magdalene) explaining our apparent reduction in running costs for 2025.

Diocesan Parish Share of £77,635 per annum in 2025, an increase of £2,261 must be paid before any other costs are considered. This is our contribution to the cost of our Vicar, his stipend, pension contributions, housing and training of future clergy. No Deanery Contribution was required again in 2025.

Energy costs are a worry for everyone and the church is not exempt. Fortunately, we negotiated new three-year contracts for gas for both churches and electricity at St Mary Magdalene before the current crisis at 2025 prices to commence in 2026. Similarly, gas for StThomas Church hall is on a three-year contract commencing October 2025 and electricity for St Thomas' Church and Hall were new favourable three

- year contracts in October 2025. I hope this future planning will give us significant protection against the volatility.

The PCC again fulfilled our obligation to Christian outreach in our 'Outward Giving' Parish Policy which is to give away 10% of our disposable income. We allocated £13,985 based on our disposable income into General Fund in 2025. This was distributed between Overseas Mission, Home Mission, and Secular Charities.

£13,160 in donations are as follows: £2500 to the Church Missionary Society, £2500 to USPG, £600 to Visranthi Trust, £500 to St David's Nigeria, £500 to Christchurch Latchford, £500 to Ascension Trust for Street Pastors, £400 to the Prison Fellowship, £1,250 to Broomfield's Youth Project, £600 to St Joseph's Family Centre, £850 to St Rocco's and £600 to St Thomas' School towards distinctiveness, £1,050 to Warrington Youth for Christ, and £200 to support the Creamfields Church tent, £50 to National Churches trust, £560 to DEC Gaza. A further £500 was given to the church Mission Project. Listed in the Memorandum Analysis - Charity Agency Summary are all the other collections or donations received and paid out to charities throughout 2025.

Our Cash at bank and in hand is £173,961 with £157,213 in unrestricted funds and £16,748 in designated and restricted funds. Thanksgiving Sunday 2025 yielded increased pledged giving of £4792 and new pledges of £1,820 totalling £6,612 increased giving which will help sustain us through 2026. As I have alluded to, our surplus in 2025 was a direct result of non-recurring reduced expenditure. This must resonate a cautionary note for 2026 where we will be more dependent on increased income than we can be on reduced expenditure. The overall costings for the previously mentioned Major Works project for St Thomas Church are predicted to be £1,900,000, we must provide 10% of this from Parish Funds - the PCC has ring fenced £80,000 for this - fundraising and securing other grants. Our application to National Heritage Lottery Fund is in two phases: a Development Phase Application for around £235,000 which if successful is followed by a Delivery Round Application for the remainder of the funds to undertake the works. No guarantees are in place for either of the phases to be successful, but we must continue to endeavour to secure funding to preserve our beautiful church for generations to come. Please do support any events or activities in the coming years.

In 2025 we have welcomed our new Church wardens - Katharine and Simon who have settled in very well and are already doing an amazing job. Kris and Kirsty continue to 'job share' the role of Parish Secretary and efficiently keep us all in order. It is a privilege to work as part of this Leadership team with such dedicated people and with Michael and Ruth. I am grateful for all their support in my role.

Financial stability underpins all that we do as a Parish to follow Jesus and show and share God's love in our community. Let us fix our eyes firmly on Jesus, thank Him for all His blessings in 2025 and journey on with Him through 2026.

**Sue Burke**  
**Parish Treasurer**

**St Thomas' Church Stockton Heath**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>						
Donations and legacies						
Planned Giving	95,385	480	1,053	0	96,917	89,682
Plate Collections	17,852	0	0	0	17,852	17,192
Recovered tax	28,195	826	155	0	29,176	33,757
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donations	18,777	4,373	1,686	0	24,836	31,871
Income from charitable activities						
Fund Raising	12,740	2,154	0	0	14,894	14,360
Other trading activities	0	0	3,934	0	3,934	0
Investments	4,250	0	18	0	4,268	4,721
Other income	1,178	0	0	0	1,178	2,916
St Mary's House Rent	720	0	0	0	720	0
St Thomas' Church Hall Hire	15,774	0	0	0	15,774	14,789
St Mary's Hall Hire	10,529	0	0	0	10,529	11,253
PCC Fees	5,339	0	0	0	5,339	7,655
Grants	2,200	2,500	217	0	4,917	2,713
Diocesan fees	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>212,938</b>	<b>10,333</b>	<b>7,063</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>230,333</b>	<b>230,910</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Raising funds	5,359	1,859	234	0	7,452	6,114
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Diocesan Parish Contribution and Deanery	77,635	0	0	0	77,635	75,374
Clergy Costs	3,087	0	0	0	3,087	2,808
Youth Worker Costs	96	0	1,705	0	1,800	1,473
Church Running costs	35,028	0	491	0	35,519	42,538
Church Maintenance / Repairs	5,275	0	0	0	5,275	17,648
Church equipment purchase	2,115	0	0	0	2,115	10,455
Church Hall Running Costs	17,603	0	0	0	17,603	17,235
Church Hall Maintenance / repairs	6,507	0	0	0	6,507	2,025
Mission Giving and donations	0	0	12,660	0	12,660	10,870
Worship Costs	9,354	0	384	0	9,738	10,698
Churchyard costs	141	0	0	0	141	0
Support Costs	6,894	3,909	0	0	10,804	9,375
Vicarage costs	4,157	0	0	0	4,157	5,303
Other expenditure	501	3,825	3,444	0	7,770	4,562
St Mary's House	2,497	0	0	0	2,497	3,156
Major works	332	0	0	0	332	7,370
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>176,581</b>	<b>9,593</b>	<b>18,918</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>205,093</b>	<b>227,004</b>
Gains / losses on investment assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>36,357</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>(11,855)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,241</b>	<b>3,906</b>
<b>Transfers</b>						
Gross transfers between funds - in	3,076	2,006	14,528	0	19,609	19,214
Gross transfers between funds - out	(16,020)	(1,520)	(2,070)	0	(19,609)	(19,214)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>						
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>23,413</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,241</b>	<b>3,906</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>133,800</b>	<b>3,414</b>	<b>11,507</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>148,721</b>	<b>144,815</b>
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>157,213</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>12,109</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>173,961</b>	<b>148,721</b>

## Balance sheet (Summary)

As at: 31 December 2025

	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
	£ ½	£ ½
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	12,968	11,561
Cash at bank and in hand	175,297	149,176
	<u>188,265</u>	<u>160,737</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	14,304	12,016
	<u>173,961</u>	<u>148,721</u>
<b>Net current assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>173,961</u>	<u>148,721</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<u>173,961</u>	<u>148,721</u>
<b>Total net assets less liabilities</b>	<u>173,961</u>	<u>148,721</u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>Unrestricted</b>		
Unrestricted - General fund	157,213	133,800
<b>Designated</b>		
Designated - ST MM Car Park	115	(466)
Designated - Mission Projects	4,367	3,879
Designated - Parish 100 Club	0	0
Designated - Visranthi Trust	156	0
<b>Restricted</b>		
Restricted - Bells fund	2,303	1,633
Restricted - Grants Fund	1,132	1,149
Restricted - Little Sunbeams	0	0
Restricted - St Mary's Flower Fund	318	307
Restricted - Parish Charities fund	1,652	1,332
Restricted - Parish Family Fund	6,705	7,086
Restricted - Prom Praise	0	0
Restricted - Agency collection	0	0
<b>Funds of the church</b>	<u>173,961</u>	<u>148,721</u>

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

## Notes to Accompany the Accounts 2025

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Regulations 2006 and Section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

Agency monies held are also shown as a creditor. These are detailed below for information.

2. The PCC holds 199.49 CBF accumulation shares whose market value was £12,374.28 for December 2025 (£12520.43 for December 2024)

3. In addition the PCC own the following non sacred buildings:

St Mary's house Insurance valuation December 2025 £273,355

St Thomas Church Hall Insurance valuation December 2025, £1,216,453

4. The PCC has a Reserves Policy and held £25,000 reserves in 2025

5. Little Sunbeams is an ecumenical play group run from St Mary Magdalene by Parish volunteers.

The PCC approved a request from them to manage their monies through our banking and accounts system.

6. The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Bal C/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Designated fund (unrestricted)</b>					
Visranthi Trust	0	3981	3825	0	156
Mission Project fund	3879	3897	3909	500	4367
St Mary Magdalene Car Park fund	-465	628	34	-14	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>3414</b>	<b>8506</b>	<b>7768</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>4638</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Charities	1331	0	12664	12985	1652
War graves	1148	217	233	0	1132
Flowers	307	395	384	0	318
Parish Family fund	7086	1355	1764	28	6705
Gain on investment asset					
Bells Fund	1632	1162	491		2303
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>11504</u></b>	<b><u>3129</u></b>	<b><u>15536</u></b>	<b><u>13013</u></b>	<b>12110</b>
<b>Memorandum analysis</b>					
<b>Church acting as an agent</b>		<b>Bal b/fwd</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Bal C/ fwd</b>
Diocesan fees for weddings and funerals		835	4941	4675	1101
Other fees- verger/ organist/choir		215	2507	2462	260
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>1050</u></b>	<b><u>7448</u></b>	<b><u>7137</u></b>	<b>1361</b>
<b>Charity Agency Summary</b>					
Chester Clergy Families		0	501	501	0
Bridgewater Churches Together			598	0	598
Christian Aid Gaza		6	0	6	0
Christian Aid Myanmar		0	409	409	0
Children's society		792	1174	792	1174
foodbank		223	70	293	0
Present Aid		880	453	934	399
Macmillan Cancer Support		0	776	776	0
USPG		0	771	771	0
Little Sunbeams		0	2698	0	2698
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>1901</u></b>	<b><u>7450</u></b>	<b><u>4482</u></b>	<b><u>4869</u></b>
<b>Total Agency fund</b>					<b>6230</b>



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name

The Parochial Church Council of St Thomas and St Mary Magdalene  
Stockton Heath

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1131459

Set out on pages

As attached – six in total

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above  
charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the  
accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011  
("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out  
under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I  
have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission  
under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have  
come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me  
cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130  
of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements  
concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities  
(Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement  
that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter  
considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection  
with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in  
order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

4 April 2026

Name:

Geoff Bruce

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

FCA

Address:

31 Bristow Close, Warrington, WA5 8EU

**The Parochial Church Council  
of St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Churches  
Charity Number 1131459**

**DRAFT: Minutes of the Vestry Meeting  
for the year January 1st to December 31st 2024  
held on Sunday 11th May 2025 at St Thomas' Church at 10:45am**

The number present at the meeting was 82

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting for the year 2024**

The minutes of the Vestry meeting held in 2024 were reviewed and accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Election of Church Wardens:**

Nominated	Proposed	Seconded	Approved
Katharine Emery	Sue Burke	Sheila Barton	Unanimously
Simon Goodchild	Melanie Wilson	Peter Banyard	Unanimously

**Church Warden Remarks & Giving of Gifts**

Sheila Barton looked back on her six years as Churchwarden at St Thomas' with a moving poem that captured the "highs and lows" of her term. She spoke candidly about the difficulties of the pandemic and her own health journey with cancer, alongside more hopeful moments like the successful integration of new technology into worship and the refurbishment of the church clock. She expressed joy in welcoming Ruth, Lee, and Keiko to the team and asked for the church's prayerful support for her & Mel's successors as they take up their new responsibilities.

Mel Wilson shared a reflection on her six years at St Mary Magdalene's, also recalling the resilience required to lead through the pandemic and the achievement of the fundraising and construction of the new car park. She was pleased to report a thriving congregation of 35 regular worshippers and noted what a privilege it has been to serve the church. Mel closed her remarks with a simple, faithful assurance: "God looks after us."

Rev Michael Ridley thanked both Churchwardens for their dedication and hard work as they were presented with gifts from the incoming wardens.

The Churchwardens also presented gifts to Revd Michael & Joanne Ridley, Curate Ruth Gray, Margaret Hindle who is retiring from the pastoral committee, and retiring bell captain Sarah Downes, who introduced her successor Sarah Fegan.

**The Terriers and Log Books**

MR explained the contents of the Terrier and Inventory, detailing the church property and silverware—along with the Log Book of maintenance works. These were confirmed as up-to-date and were signed by the relevant parties.

**The Vestry meeting closed at 11:05 am.**

**The Parochial Church Council  
of St Thomas' and St Mary Magdalene's Churches  
Charity Number 1131459**

**DRAFT: Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
for the year January 1st to December 31st 2024  
held on Sunday 11th May 2025 at St Thomas Thomas' Church at 11:05am**

The number present at the meeting was 82

**Minutes of the 2024 APCM**

The minutes of the previous meeting held in 2024 were reviewed and accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Chair's Remarks**

*Ministry & Volunteering:* Revd Michael Ridley offered his sincere thanks to all who have shared in the ministry of the parish over the past year. He extended an invitation for others to consider stepping up into various roles in the coming year, noting the ongoing need for volunteers to sustain church life.

*A Shared Journey:* Revd Ruth Gray shared a reflection using the metaphor of geese flying in a V-formation. She explained how this symbolises that spreading the Word of Jesus is a collective effort and the responsibility of the whole church family, rather than just a few.

*Future Training:* To encourage this shared ownership of worship, several upcoming opportunities were highlighted, including:

- Good Shepherd Sunday
- Called to Serve course
- Occasional Worship Leader (OWL) courses

**Electoral Roll**

KG (PCC Secretary) reported on behalf of Simon Hutt that the Electoral Roll stood at 203 names at the time of closing on 13/04/2025. (Since then, a further 6 names had been added, bringing the current total to 209).

MR noted that although this is a small reduction on the previous roll, the parish is in a fortunate position, as these numbers show stability compared to the general decline seen in many other parishes across the Diocese.

**Annual Reports and Financial Statements 2024.**

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2024 were distributed prior to the meeting.

Sue Burke presented the accounts via a pre-recorded video, celebrating the parish's achievements and emphasising the necessity of maintaining robust financial foundations for future mission. There were no questions from the floor. The 2024 accounts were formally accepted by the meeting.

**Appointment of Independent Examiner**

MR confirmed that Geoff Bruce has kindly volunteered to continue as the Independent Examiner for the 2025 financial year. MR expressed his gratitude for Geoff's meticulous work in ensuring the accuracy and compliance of the parish finances.

*Proposed:* Peter Banyard

*Seconded:* Gillian Banks

*Result:* Carried unanimously.

## **Deanery Synod Report**

Jenny Corroboy provided an overview of the history and function of the Great Budworth Deanery. She updated attendees on the topics discussed at the quarterly meetings. It was noted that there is currently one vacancy for a representative from this parish to join the Deanery Synod.

## **Safeguarding Report**

Dorothy Carter (Safeguarding Officer) explained the vital importance of safeguarding within the parish.

The parish uses the Diocesan Dashboard to ensure close adherence to Church of England safeguarding policies. We are currently at Level 2 and actively working toward Level 3.

DC confirmed that there were no reported safeguarding concerns during 2024.

There will be a Safeguarding Sunday service on November 16th 2025.

DC concluded by reminding all present that safeguarding is a collective responsibility, with every member of the congregation playing a vital role in keeping the church a safe and welcoming space for all. She expressed her sincere thanks to the parish for their ongoing vigilance and support in these efforts.

## **Elections of PCC Members**

Thanks were expressed to all members of the PCC for their loyal input. Seven candidates had been proposed and seconded:

Peter Banyard	Jackie Shaw
Sarah Downes,	Elaine Smith
Kirsty Gill	Peter Speed
Lynda Heesom	

The meeting approved their election unanimously. This brings the PCC to a full complement of 15 elected members.

It was noted that Sheila Barton and Mel Wilson will be co-opted onto the PCC for a period of one year to ensure a smooth transition and the sharing of their significant experience with their successors. The congregation expressed unanimous support for this arrangement, which will be formally ratified at the next PCC meeting.

There is one current vacancy for a Deanery Synod representative. No volunteers came forward, the position remains open.

## **Sidespeople**

It was confirmed that there are currently 21 sidespeople serving at St Thomas' and 11 at St Mary Magdalene's. Their formal re-appointment will take place at the next PCC meeting on 20th May.

MR emphasised the critical importance of first impressions and the "ministry of welcome" within the church. He encouraged anyone interested in joining the team of sidespeople to speak with the newly appointed Churchwardens.

## **Any Other Business & Closing**

The floor was opened for questions from attendees; no further matters were raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:10 with The Grace.