



2019-2020 Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Church Bradwell-on-Sea for the 2020 APCM

The primary object of the PCC is to promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure states the PCC 'is to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'.

Spiritual/Worship

- To encourage people to serve God and one another and develop the spiritual life of the church actively developing individual journeys in faith via baptism and confirmation.

Mission

- To encourage our parish in developing spirituality and skills to create a loving and Christian community.
- To inspire by prayerful enthusiasm our church-aided school and the foundation of faith already established in the local congregation.

Aims and purpose

St Thomas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) have the responsibility of cooperating with, the Rector Revd Steven Poss and Churchwardens, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the stewardship and maintenance of the fabric of St Thomas Church, and the Cemetery in Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex. The rector and members of the PCC take also some responsibility for the running and maintenance of St Peter-on-the-Wall Chapel Bradwell-on-Sea.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC 's aim is to enable as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our St Thomas' community. The PCC continues to review worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many people as possible both from within our parish and the surrounding area. We try to ensure our services and worship bring people closer to God through prayer, scripture, music and sacrament.

As we are the only church within the parish when planning our worship and activities we have considered;

- A range of Christian services to suit all.
- Music to enhance our worship.
- Pastoral care projects for different groups of people within the parish.
- Evangelism, training and outreach work.

To enable us to continue in this work it is important that we continue to maintain the fabric of our Church and its facilities.

Achievements and Performance

During the 18 months the church has had many challenges especially with the Covid19 pandemic at the start of 2020. Up to this time we held many activities and services These include:

Thursday Group

Has again proved to be very successful this year with an increased membership

Shrove Tuesday Pancake evening

Well attended in 2020 boosted by a group of volunteers from Othona.

School Services

Ash Wednesday service for the school

Concerts

2019 Harmony Ladies choir

2019 Othona Music Show

Flower and Bells Festival

Great success in May, wonderful displays and funds collected for the organ fund.

Rogation service

2019 Great success, started at the Church, went to Orplands farm, Bradwell Quay, Bradwell Village Hall and finishing at the church for coffee.

2020 held online

Christian Aid service

Pentecost service

Bradwell Pilgrimage in 2019, great effort by Theresa and team on the teas.

2019 Chapel School Pilgrimage with St Cedds and schools across the Diocese.

2020 no Pilgrimage

Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings

Harvest Service

Harvest Supper, lovely meal and Great speech by Dick French

Confirmation service in October 2019 with Bishop John where we had 2 candidates and there were 5 candidates from Southminster.

All Souls Service well attended

Remembrance Day Well attended

The Christmas Services, Carol service at the Chapel, Crib, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day service.

Since March all our services have been online or Zoom, with limited live services starting in July, once a month in each parish.

Online and Zoom Services:

During the Covid19 pandemic our services were produced jointly across the benefice and were made available online. These were very popular during the lockdown when we were unable to meet. In the last 6 months about 50 services in this form have been produced. The delight was that people were worshipping each week that would not normally come to church weekly. These services involved many people as recordings were made of the readings and the prayers were produced each week from someone within the benefice. The church website hosted these services during this time. Later Zoom communion services were introduced with one service a week within the benefice.

Electoral Roll Report

At present, there are 25 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 4 of whom are not resident within the parish. A new Electoral Roll was prepared this year according to the 6 year CofE cycle of preparing electoral rolls.

Attendance

The average Sunday attendance at St Thomas, counted during 2019 till the lockdown for Communion services was 18 (18 in 2018), for All Age services 12 (12 in 2018) and for 8am Communions 8 (6 in 2018), and for our Family service with children 16 (16 in 2018). These numbers increased at baptisms and festival services. Stayed about the same. The attendance at the Christmas services were slightly down.

Worship, Prayer and Study

Up to the Lockdown we followed our usual pattern of services each month with two 10:30am communions, an All Age service and a Family service. We also held an 8:00am communion and an afternoon service at the Down Hall rest home once a month. On the 5th Sunday we held a joint service with St Lawrence, Tillingham and Dengie, which are far less attended now than before. On Thursdays, we celebrated communion at St Peters Chapel with Steven at 9:00am, and on Fridays we had Morning Prayer in the church at 9am.

Weddings and Life Cycle services: Since the last APCM we celebrated several baptisms, weddings and funerals in St, more funerals took place at the crematorium. In 2019 there were 3 funerals, Dargan Sidgwick, Dick French and Christine Simmonds.

The PCC were keen to offer a range of services and study groups over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. In 2018 we held with the other churches in the group, a Lent course and an Alpha course.

The 2019 Rogation Rally was a great success, started at the Church, went to Orplands farm, Bradwell Quay, Bradwell Village Hall and finishing at the church for coffee. In 2020 the service was online and included all 4 parishes.

In 2019 Bradwell Pilgrimage returned to its much-loved format. Pilgrims gathered at the church for prayers led by Bishop John and the Catholic Bishop of Brentwood, both led the walk to the Chapel, with our bells at St Thomas' Church being rung by a team from Springfield. The numbers were about 300-400 far more than 2018.

The Remembrance Day service was well attended by many people of all ages, the children's football team attended and laid wreathes before playing their game after church.

School services in 2019 were held in the church for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Easter, the Leavers service, September service, Harvest and carol service at Christmas. In 2020 they held the Ash Wednesday service in church just before Lockdown. The 2020 school leavers service was held in the school playground, appropriately socially distanced.

In the autumn 2019 we held the Harvest Festival where the church which was again beautifully decorated. The Harvest supper was held at the village hall, offering fellowship to the wider community. This was enjoyed by 33 people more than last year.

Towards the end of 2019 we held the All Souls service and Remembrance Sunday services. These gave people the time and place to reflect on those dear to them that have passed away and those who we owe so much to in the past.

At Christmas, the carol service was held at the Chapel led by Revd Steven with a choir arranged by Ella and at St Thomas' a Midnight Mass held on Christmas Eve led by Revd Brigid Main. The Christmas day service was conducted by Steven. The attendance at the Christmas services this year was slightly lower than last year. The church was beautifully decorated in white and silver.

No Christmas Fair was held but in early December on a Friday evening carols were held around the Christmas tree in the Churchyard followed by Mulled wine and stalls in the Chapman room.

The Church Christmas card this year was a picture a moonlit picture of St Peters Chapel with information on the services and details of the 2020 100-year celebration to be held at the Chapel. The card was called O Come all ye Faithfull.

The Easter services for 2019 started with the Maundy Thursday Joint benefice service will be held in St Thomas'. The Maundy Thursday Watch was held up till midnight, and then resumed at 6am till the 10am 'Around the Cross' service. The walk to St Peters with the cross was held on Good Friday and this was led by the Othona Community. And then we held an early 6:00am service with the Bishop of Bradwell on Easter morning at the Chapel, with communion and a bonfire with fireworks. This service included the Commissioning of Revd Steven Poss as Chaplain to St Peters Chapel. The 10:30 communion was conducted by Revd Steven in the church. The services were again enhanced by flowers from the flower group, supported by our 'sponsor a lily' scheme with allows dearly departed loved ones to be remembered at this time.

In 2020 all the Easter services were held online. Nancy Antony decorated the locked church porch with Easter flowers behind the glass doors, and David and Laurie produces online pictures of the 2019 Easter flowers set to music.

The Church

Up to the Lockdown the church was open daily for private worship and visitors. During weekdays the Chapman Rooms were used for the Thursday group, Coffee, Choir, PCC and church meetings, St Peters Chapel meetings, School groups and meetings.

The electrics in the church again updated with LED lights filled under the gallery and in the Chapman room, also at the Organ and a socket put in the Sanctuary.

The church organ restoration project is continuing and is still being led by Richard Bettany.

Church Music

The PCC are very grateful for the support given by Ella Hand and the Choir and our organists, Richard Bettany, Brian Clayden, and Mike Plant and to Laurie Main with his guitar.

Before the Lockdown the Church choir met each Friday.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Before the Lockdown Revd Steven visited church members to celebrate communion with them in their homes. Revd Steven conducted a communion service at Down Hall care home once a month.

The prayer list in the church is very popular for parishioners and visitors to place requests for prayers for the Sunday services. David looks after the cards and gifts for those who are unwell within our church community. Chris sends a card and small present from the Church to all at the Down Hall Rest Home on their birthdays. The prayer cards scheme is planned to be reintroduced, church members will receive prayer cards which will be replaced quarterly.

Mission and Evangelism

For Anglican Christians God's mission is about transformation - transforming individual lives, transforming communities and transforming the world. As we follow Jesus Christ, we believe that God's mission is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit in three ways:

- Through the Bible
- Through the tradition and life of the Church
- Through our own listening, praying, thinking and sharing as we respond to our own context.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith; in 2019 we supported various charities from our Christmas services. Before the Lockdown we had a Dengie Food Pantry collection point in the church that was run by Zanny Lawrence. We also supported USPG and Christian Aid.

We support our community with our Thursday club for the more elderly. We also work with and support our Church School.

We provide a Christian service to the community by offering weekly Church and Chapel services, special Easter and Christmas services, services at our Rest Home and home communions, weddings, baptisms, confirmations and funerals. Before the lockdown many church services were conducted in our parish church and since then over 100 have been produced online.

In 2019 Lent and Alpha courses were run to enable spiritual growth.

Our parish magazine was distributed monthly before the lockdown but continued online after. Many thanks to Roger Scurrall and all who contribute to this great magazine.

Ecumenical Relationships

Although there are no churches or chapels of other denominations within our parish, we aim to continue welcoming many members of other Christian denominations to our services. We also work with other denominations at the Bradwell Ecumenical Pilgrimage and have a good working relationship with Tim Fox and the Othona community.

We work with Revd Steven on the managing of the St Peters-on-the-Wall Chapel. The Rector, Churchwardens and Roger Scurrall are on the committee that manages the Chapel, which is run by the Cathedral. The chapel cleaning, grass cutting, flower arranging, safe money and banking, day to day maintenance and some of the bookstall is managed by members of St Thomas'. During the Lockdown the Chapel was closed and all services ceased, but in July it was opened on Thursdays and Sundays and the Thursday Communion services started. All the furniture was removed from the Chapel to reduce the amount of possible contamination of the Covid19 virus.

In June 2020 a large 100-year celebration service was planned with the Bishop of Litchfield to attend. Unfortunately, this was cancelled but a great online service was produced to mark the occasion. The Summer Evening services have all been produced online and made available on the websites.

Finance

Financial Review

At the close of the year reserves increased by £19,976. This increase was mainly due to refunds of Gift Aid and grants received. The two funds that have benefited most are Fabric and Organ. It should be noted that £5,400 has been spent on the organ restoration in 2019.

The PCC does not have a reserves policy but aims to maintain a balance between income and expenditure for the general fund.

Church Funds	31-12-2019	31-12-2018
	Unrestricted	
General fund	6,044.24	6,008.92
	Designated	
Thursday Club	78.10	0.00
Bell Ringers	41.02	292.26

2020 Annual and Finance Report for St Thomas Church Bradwell-on-Sea

Bookstall	1,919.58	1,901.57
Churchyard	—	(87.50)
Charity Giving	312.64	844.68
Children's Work	132.61	148.60
Flowers	1,305.65	1,067.14
Magazine and Print	4,815.63	4,403.63
	Restricted	
Aylett Charity	1,401.91	1,319.91
Cemetery & Gale	(745.45)	(704.78)
Fabric	10,468.66	5,359.65
Bell Restoration	—	(634.87)
Lighting	242.75	832.75
Organ	21,320.62	6,609.83
Porch	613.42	613.42
Roof	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Funds	£53,951.38	£33,975.21

Cemetery Gale account

This is a registered charity No. 210341 see;

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/CharityWithoutPartB.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=210341&SubsidiaryNumber=0>

The trustees are the Churchwardens and the administrator is the Treasurer.

Volunteers

We (the PCC) would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular Churchwardens David and Thresa, Treasurer's Gift

Aid/Stewardship Recorder Laurie, Cashier Roger and Theresa the PCC Secretary, supported by Richard the minute secretary who continue to work tirelessly on our behalf.

Also, to all those who help with reading, intercessions, serving, Sidesperson duties, leading the choir and choir members, teas, flower arrangers, bell ringers, cleaners, grass cutters, altar linen, prayer cards, parish magazine production and distribution, and to all those who help in various ways in the church and at the school. And to Wyn and Sheila who run the Thursday group that offers much support to those that belong to the group and get so much enjoyment from it, and David, Laurie and Steven who have produce so much of the Online Services and all who have added prayers and readings.

Structure, governance and management

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 82%. Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of committees dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include Worship and Mission, Fabric and Social, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary. There are also Bell Ringers and Flower Arrangers committees.

Administrative Information

St Thomas' Church is situated in the village of Bradwell-on-Sea. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England, and within the Deanery of Maldon and Dengie.

The parish is currently part of a joint benefice that consists of the two adjoining parishes of St Thomas, Bradwell-on-Sea and St Lawrence Newland, but due to a reorganisation in the future we may be a Joint Benefice of Bradwell, St Lawrence Newland, Tillingham and Dengie. Revd Steven Poss is our priest and lives in Tillingham. The Bradwell Rectory is presently being rented out but may be put to new use within the parish, possibly in connection with St Peters Chapel.

The PCC Secretary correspondence address is Bradwell House, Waterside, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, CM0 7QX.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The PCC

The full PCC meets 6 times a year, other meetings occur in between.

A typical agenda would be:

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting
4. Matters arising from those minutes
5. Outstanding actions
6. Correspondence
7. Subject for discussion:
8. Deanery Synod report
9. School report
10. Finance – report on parish finances.
11. Other reports:
 - a. Fabric
 - b. Worship and Mission
 - c. Social
 - d. Standing committee
12. Forthcoming events (details to be arranged outside meeting)
13. Past events (brief feedback)
14. AOB items to be noted or to be discussed at the next meeting.
15. Any health and safety items
16. Confidentiality
17. Close of meeting
18. Date of next meeting

Over the 18 months the PCC have discussed many issues including;

- Churchwarden reports on church service planning and joint churchwarden's meetings.
- Covid19 pandemic and services
- Fabric issues including: lighting, electrics and organ.
- Churchyard maintenance.
- Chapel 100year celebrations and possible reading by Michael Morpurgo at St Thomas'
- Talk on Youth Ministry by Mark Tiddy
- Special services were discussed and planned.
- Church accounts.
- St Cedd's school
- Parish Magazine
- Serving with Accountability' requirement How is your Church a blessing to the community you serve?
- MMU's
- Parish Safeguarding
- Health and safety issues.

The PCC met 6 times in 2019, in 2020 the PCC met once in January and 3 times via Zoom

2020 Annual and Finance Report for St Thomas Church Bradwell-on-Sea

PCC members who have served from the 2019 APCM until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

The Incumbent: Revd Steven Poss

Churchwardens: Mr David Thorpe and Mrs Theresa Reed

Elected member Deanery Synod:

1. Mrs Theresa Reed (Representative on Deanery Synod) Until 2020

Elected members PCC

1. Mr Roger Scurrill Until 2020
2. Mr Jean Bateman Until 2020
3. Mrs Jayne Hill Until 2021
4. Mr Laurie Main Until 2021 (Treasurer)
5. Mr Richard Bettany Until 2022 (Minute Secretary)
6. Mrs Ella Hand Until 2022

2019 Annual and Finance Report for the 2020 APCM of the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Church Bradwell-on-Sea

Approved by the PCC on 18th September 2020 and signed on their behalf by the Revd Steven Poss (chairman of the PCC)

Revd Steven Poss

This report was compiled by; Theresa Reed, Laurie Main and David Thorpe for the PCC

Appendix 1 Church APM Reports - **Appendix 2** Financial Report - **Appendix 3** Fabric Report