



2020-2021 Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Thomas Church Bradwell-on-Sea for the 2021 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 7 months the church has continued to have many challenges especially with the Covid19 pandemic which started in 2020. Up Since our last meeting in October most of our activities have been online.

Funerals and a Wedding

Harvest Service

All Souls Service well attended

Remembrance Day Well attended

The Christmas Service, Carol singing around the tree in the churchyard.

Christmas gifts for the Thursday club members.

Since October all our services have been online or on Zoom, with only a Good Friday service in the Churchyard and a Easter Dawn service at the Chapel.

Messy Church In Holy week we held a Messy church with St Lawrence concluding with a Zoom get-together on Good Friday. The uptake was excellent with about 26 participants, but the attendance on the Zoom was only about half of these.

Online and Zoom Services:

During the Covid19 pandemic our services were produced jointly across the benefice and were made available online. These have continued to be very popular during the lockdowns. In the last 7 months about 33 services in this form have been produced. We still find that more 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. Zoom communion services have continued weekly and at special occasions.

Electoral Roll Report

At present, there are 24 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 5 of whom are not resident within the parish. Earlier this year we lost Sylvia Chapmen who sadly passed away just before Easter.

Attendance

The number of people from St Thomas' who attend the online services is about 30 and the Zoom Communion is 3 from St Thomas'.

Worship, Prayer and Study

Services have been weekly with a Zoom service at 10am on Sundays and a Sunday recorded service. Since Christmas our recorded services have been fully recorded in one of our parishes and then made viewable on YouTube via the Church Near You website.

Weddings and Life Cycle services: Since the last APCM we celebrated a wedding and 4 funeral services in St Thomas' with more funerals taking place at the crematorium.

All the study groups have been via Zoom

School services have been held by the Rector via weekly collective worship video.

Towards the end of 2020 we held the All-Souls service and Remembrance Sunday service. The All Souls service was one of the only services to be held in the church. It was well attended and 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. The Remembrance Day service was at the start of the second Lockdown so only a small service was held outside the church doors and attended by 6 people. We held an Online remembrance service.

At Christmas, the Church was decorated beautifully but we were unable to hold services inside, but just before the next Lockdown we were able to hold Carol Singing around the churchyard Christmas tree where about 50 people attended, socially distanced. We held a recorded Christmas Carol service that was greatly praised and a Midnight Mass recorded service.

The Church Christmas card this year was a picture of the Carol service in 2019 held in St Peters Chapel with information on the services and details of services which unfortunately due to a new lockdown we were unable to have.

The Easter services for 2021 started with the Maundy Thursday Joint benefice service on Zoom but with only 1 attended from St Thomas'.

We held a Good Friday service in the Churchyard which 10 attended. In 2020 all the Easter services were held online. The church was decorated beautifully and was left open for visitors and for private prayer.

Many joined in to record the Women around the Cross service recorded at Dengie, and the Easter Communion service recorded at St Thomas'

The Easter season online services received good audiences, across the benefice and really across the nation,

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Lent 2 Climate change service from St Peters	102 viewings
Passion Sunday from St Lawrence	46 viewings
Palm Sunday with pictures of church members with their Crosses at their homes.	62 viewings
Good Friday Women at the Cross from Dengie	51 viewings
Easter Day Communion from St Thomas	83 viewings

Considering there are mostly viewed with another person we are reaching many people.

The Church

The church was only opened on Wednesdays and Sundays during most of this time but is now open every day.

The church organ restoration project has continued during the Lockdown as the Organ builder was able to work on small projects like ours rather than large projects they have to postpone. It is expected to be completed by July.

We hope to have a celebration event when the work is completed and we are able to hold events again.

Church Music

We have had a wide selection of hymns and music in the recorded services, the selection of music has been well received.

Pastoral Care

Due to the pandemic home visits have not been possible, but much contact has been made to parishioners via phone, email or from the pavements.

The prayer list for the Sunday recorded services has been very popular for parishioners.

Cards and gifts for those who are unwell within our church community are distributed, this was a job Jean Bateman did but since she moved to South Woodham David has been doing this but would like someone else to take on this task. 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.

David has completed a foundation course in Pastoral Care, and has applied for the course as a Pastoral Assistant.

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.

Normally we support charities from collections in our Christmas service collections but this year we were unable to have collections.

We have supported USPG and Down Hall workers for work done during the Coronavirus outbreak there. We also had an online Bishops Lent Appeal to support women's education for work in Kenya.

In 2020 Advent and 2021 Lent courses and Bible Study were run via Zoom to enable spiritual growth during the last 2 lockdowns.

Our parish magazine was distributed monthly before the lockdown but continued online after. The magazine is now being printed again but is still available online. Many thanks to Roger Scurrall and all who contribute to this magazine.

Ecumenical Relationships

Although there are no churches or chapels of other denominations within our parish, we have a good working relationship with Tim Fox and all at 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 at Easter this year it was then opened to visitors again.

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. But on June 20th this year we are planning to have this service but unfortunately due to covid restrictions we are limited to 30 people. 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 decreased by £4,683. Of this decrease, £11,165 was due to expenditure on the organ restoration, offset by income from Gift Aid Tax Refunds. Even though the church has been closed for much of the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, thanks to the support of our regular donors, church funds have remained in balance.

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

Church Funds	31-12-2020	31-12-2019
Unrestricted		
General fund	8,774.49	6,044.24
Designated		
Thursday Club	378.10	78.10
Bell Ringers	314.77	41.02
Bookstall	1,919.58	1,919.58
Charity Giving	(29.01)	312.64
Children's Work	132.61	132.61
Flowers	1,534.38	1,305.65
Magazine and Print	5,145.63	4,815.63
Restricted		
Aylett Charity	1,503.91	1,401.91
Cemetery & Gale	852.78	(745.45)
Fabric	10,714.50	10,468.66
Lighting	(152.25)	242.75
Organ	11,565.54	21,320.62
Porch	613.42	613.42
Roof	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Funds	£49,268.45	£53,951.38

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 still thrive even during the lockdown. The 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 all continue to work tirelessly on our behalf.

Also, to all those who help with flower arrangers, cleaners, grass cutters, parish magazine production and distribution, and to all those who help in various ways in the church to keep it functioning during the lockdown,

A special thanks to all who took part in reading, intercessions and taking part in the Online recorded services and to David and Laurie and team who have worked for many hours each week to produce these services and make them available on the websites.

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 3 times since the APGM in October.

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 last 7 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: trees, wall, electrics and organ.
- Churchyard maintenance.
- Chapel 100year celebrations
- Special services were discussed and planned.
- Church Finances
- St Cedd's school
- MMU's
- School Governor's Board
- Parish Safeguarding
- Health and safety issues.
- Living in Love and Faith (a large document on the church and sexuality that will be discussed over the year).

The PCC met 3 times via Zoom

PCC members who have served from the 2020 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. Mrs Jayne Hill Until 2021
2. Mr Laurie Main Until 2021 (Treasurer)
3. Mr Richard Bettany Until 2022 (Minute Secretary)
4. Mrs Ella Hand Until 2022
5. Mr Roger Scurrill Until 2023
6. Mr Jean Bateman Until 2023
7. Mr Graeme Eyre Until 2023

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Approved by the PCC on 29th April 2021 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