

St Thomas of Canterbury Welcomes You!

The Community of Friars and the People of the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury welcome all visitors and new parishioners to our church. We hope that you will feel part of our family from the first day.

So that we may keep in contact with you please fill in a registration form, available by either downloading it or requesting a paper copy from the Welcoming Team or Parish Office. (Please return paper copies to the parish office).

You can also keep in touch with us by receiving our weekly newsletter. To do so, sign up on the website or email parishnews@stthomaswoodford.org Your email address will be held securely and confidentially. It will not be passed to any other organisations even those within the church.

We aim to post details of church activities on our website, where you should be able to find most information that you require. You can also find out about activities via the Parish Office (email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org ; Tel: 020 8504 1686), or by asking one of our Welcoming Team whom you will find at the back of the church before and after every mass.

Saint Thomas of Canterbury Woodford Green



Parish Finance Committee Annual Report
"Looking Beyond the Pandemic"
Financial Year 2020/2021

PARISH EXPENDITURE

How much did it cost to run our Parish in the financial year 2020/2021?

The day-to-day running costs of the church and Parish centre, including routine maintenance work and our Diocesan quota, amounted to a total of £192,967.

Summary of Operating Expenditure:

	Year Ending 5th April 2021	Year Ending 5th April 2020
Administration	63,433	71,319
Premises	41,920	48,800
Housekeeping	8,197	12,564
Diocesan quota	62,005	54,893
Pastoral	11,608	19,176
Parish Donations	1,169	
Social Events	729	27,312
Other including Repository/ Magazine	1,175	5,092
Courses	2,731	5,562
Total	192,967	244,718

financial support from parishioners in the form of regular church donations and future contributions to the Restoration Fund over the next three years, there is scope to fulfil ambitious projects, prioritised by the PPC, including:

- the refurbishment/redecoration of St Thomas' Church and the Becket Centre
- community projects including re-development of the "Scout/Guides Hut" and existing timber storage buildings
- investing in supporting personnel for community projects and the liturgy
- improvements to the car parking facilities

The implementation of these projects will ensure that the Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury can continue to flourish and develop a focus of community life for the wide spectrum of parishioners; young and old. The present solid financial status of the Parish is capable of progressing fully-costed projects prioritised and advanced by the PPC; the success of which will be dependent heavily on the availability and commitment of volunteer parishioners.

Thank you for your financial support that is essential to run and maintain our Parish in Woodford, Buckhurst Hill and Chigwell. We hope that you will feel able to continue that support through a commitment to planned giving, by using the Gift Aid programme that enhances the value of every £1 you donate via Gift Aid to £1.25 for the work of the Parish.

The Finance Committee

Brian Martin (Chair), Bernard Bourdillon (Secretary), Fr Quentin, Paul Turpin and Andrew Dodd

THE PARISH RESTORATION APPEAL

The Finance Committee acknowledges the hard work of the Restoration Fund committee who initiated the Appeal in 2019, largely prompted by the need to raise money for the Parish's contribution to the roof replacement and the upgrade of the heating system for the Church and the Becket Centre. The committee set an objective of raising £500,000 over five years to cover not only the cost of these necessary refurbishment projects, but also to invest in parish and community projects beyond the pandemic. The Appeal committee's work has necessarily been reduced during the lockdown period but the parishioners have responded generously to the Appeal and the balance in the fund at the year-end stood at £124,377 (including £12,172 as an apportionment of Gift Aid tax rebate). This balance, together with commitments made for the remainder of the five-year Appeal period, represents very satisfactory progress towards the financial target for the Fund.

An additional receipt of £70,653 was received in the form of a single legacy that will be used to further the objectives of the Parish Restoration Appeal.

LOOKING BEYOND THE PANDEMIC

The suppressed activity of the Parish community through the Covid lockdown period in 2020/2021 has inevitably affected the financial status of the Parish, but the commitment and support of the parishioners have ensured that the Parish was nevertheless able to contribute an additional but modest payment of £35,173 to the Parish reserves. The reserves balance of £278,324, bolstered by the funding from the Restoration Appeal and a significant legacy payment, is substantially less than the level of reserves held by the Parish in previous years, but does however account fully for the anticipated liability of the Parish for the heating project (£380,000).

It is recognised that the Parish shall be required to manage its finances to accommodate uncertainties in the coming year, including possible changes in parishioners' mass attendances and anticipated large increases in Diocesan financial demands through parish quotas. The Diocese is being required to finance a number of initiatives, which will need to be supported by financially better-off parishes within the Diocese. Nevertheless, the Finance Committee considers that the current financial status of the Parish is sound and robust; we are confident that the level of reserves are sufficient to support the infrastructure projects that are expected to be promoted by the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) in the coming year. With the continuing

Three items comprised 87% of the Parish Expenditure:

Administration: (33% of total expenditure) includes office expenses, telephones, stationary, wages and pension contributions. Wages and pension contributions account for around 84% of Administration costs.

Premises: (22% of total expenditure) includes the cost of routine maintenance and on-going work (£11k), gas and electricity bills (£15k) and building insurance (£9k).

Diocesan quota: (32% of total expenditure) is set each year by the Brentwood office, with each church paying their considered fair share of Diocesan costs.

Other Expenditure items included:

Pastoral and Community Events: Owing to the lockdown restrictions expenditure on courses encompassing our confirmation and communion programmes has reduced to 1.4 % of total expenditure, and social events reduced to less than 1%.

Parish Donations: In the financial year the Parish has supported some charities, which have relied on second collections at Parish Sunday masses. However due to the Covid restrictions lower mass attendance has ultimately decreased the extent of these donations.

PARISH INCOME

How did the Parish finance itself in the financial year 2020/2021?

The income of the Parish decreased in the year by 32.5% and amounted to a total of £228, 140. This does not include contributions to the Parish Restoration Fund.

Summary of Income Sources:

	Year Ending 5 th April 2021	Year Ending 5 th April 2020
Offertories	164,801	205,382
Gift Aid Refund	37,580	52,819
Investment Income	158	802
Social Events Income	1,078	52,917
Other Activities	4,854	8,242
Courses	7,165	8,606
Rent (OFM)	10,000	
Donations	2,504	9,578
Total	228,140	338,346

Offertory: donations represented over 60% of the Parish income and the Accounts show that, despite financial hardships associated with the pandemic, the parishioners have continued to donate generously throughout the year. The lower mass attendances at the church have resulted in an inevitable decline in cash plate receipts (reduced by over 75% from the cash donations received in the previous year). Fortunately, the Parish income has been sustained by a high level of planned-giving through standing orders that typically represent an excess of 60% of regular donations and the parishioners have maintained and extended their standing order gifting to 116% of the previous year's level. It has been highly appreciated that some parishioners who had traditionally contributed by regular cash payments are now donating by standing order in recognition that they are less frequently attending the church for mass.

Gift Aid Tax Refunds: continue to represent an important element of Parish revenue and in the year 2020/2021 the Accounts show a tax rebate amounting to £37,580.

Investment Income: on the substantial Parish reserves have remained low. This reflects and acknowledges the imminent and substantial calls on the funds that will be required to finance the investments in the infrastructure at St Thomas', most particularly in respect to the heating project. In the year a part-payment contribution of £200,000 was paid by the Parish from reserves.

Social Events: generated a small income from the Becket Centre in the sum of £1,107, owing to the effects of the Covid restrictions on Parish community life; there was no Christmas bazaar nor Summer Fete in 2020.

Other Activities Income: included the Repository, Parish Publications, Candles and Catholic papers.

Course Income: was generated by our successful Communion and Confirmation programmes, shown as an individual income source this year.

Donations: comprised bequests and various single donations.