



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 3rd April 2022, 6:00pm

AGENDA

THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Approval of the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on 28th April 2021
- 3) Election of two Churchwardens for the year 2022/23
- 4) Approval of Warden's team

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Introduction and Vicar's report
- 3) Approval of the minutes of the APCM held on 28th April 2021 (*distributed*)
- 4) Notification of any urgent AOB under item 13 below
- 5) Approval of the Electoral Roll (*displayed*)
- 6) Election of PCC representatives.
- 7) Annual report of the PCC. (*written report distributed*)
- 8) A report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (*written report distributed*)
- 9) Financial review and presentation of the financial statements (*distributed*)
- 10) Receipt and Adoption of Annual Report and Accounts for Year Ended 31st December 2021
- 11) Appointment of an Independent Examiner to the PCC
- 12) Review of 2021 (*written report distributed*)
- 13) Any other business of parochial or general concern to the parish

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ST THOMAS' COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- 1) Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 28th April 2021
- 2) Grants and Income Report (*distributed*)
- 3) Financial Report (*distributed*)



Annual Vestry Meeting

Wednesday 28th April 2021, **7.30pm**

Minutes

Agenda Item		Action
Introduction	<p>There are three meetings tonight. People were welcomed to the zoom meeting. Comments were invited by the gesture of hand.</p> <p>George welcomed all attendees at this Zoom meeting. The aim of the meeting is to look at business and governance, to acknowledge loss as a church family as well as a recognising the challenges of the past year. Grateful thanks to God for His faithfulness to us with a feeling of hope looking forward to the future.</p> <p>The meeting then opened with a time of prayer.</p>	
1: Apologies	Steph Neale, Sue Hall, David and Christine Parsons, Alison Fleetwood, Martin Sekasi, Shellie Briggs [apologies for late arrival]	
2: Approval of Minutes of last meeting [14/10/20]	<p>Noted that some dates were incorrect in the minutes ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2. Date of last meeting is 07/04/2019 not 2018 and 2019/2020 [2020/2021]• 3. Election of two church wardens should read 2020/21 not 2019/20 <p>The minutes were then accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proposed: Elizabeth Quiggins Seconded Kevin Cook 2 abstentions:</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to Tim Waddington and David Neale for their work as wardens this year.</p>	
3: Election of two church	Tim Waddington Proposed: Jean Thorp Seconded: Barbara Handley	

wardens for 2019/20	David Neale Proposed: Kevin Cook Seconded: Jean Thorp	
		<i>One abstention</i>
4: Approval of Wardens Team	The Wardens' team were thanked for the time that they have given and served the church: Jan Waddington, Christine Burgess, Ray and Chris de Vial, Muriel Leeming, Nick Gray, Jean Thorp, Janet Sullivan, Steph Neale	

Signed: Date:

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">Annual Parochial Church Meeting</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Wednesday 28th April 2021, 7.30pm</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>Minutes</i></p>		
Agenda Item		Action
Introduction	The meeting opened with prayer. George welcomed all attendees at this Zoom meeting. The aim of the meeting is to look at business and governance, celebration and thanksgiving	
1: Apologies	Steph Neale, Sue Hall, David and Christine Parsons, Alison Fleetwood	
2: Introduction and Vicar's report	George spoke about the word REDISCOVERY and encouraged the church family to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rediscover the King for ourselves and our community • rediscover freedom in God • rediscover a sense of freedom to answer the call to share our faith 	

<p>3: Approval of minutes of APCM 14/10/20</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Proposed:</i> Clive Handley <i>Seconded:</i> Jean Thorp 4 abstentions</p> <p>It was noted that two organisations had been missed off the Mission Partners Report and that both had received £2000 donation in December 2020 ie Kisumu Children’s Trust and Open Doors</p>	
<p>4: Notification of any urgent business under item 13 below</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>5: Approval of Electoral Roll [236]</p>	<p>Thanks were expressed to Lesley-Ann Baker on compiling the Electoral Roll. 238 are on the Roll.</p> <p>The Electoral Roll was approved</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Proposed:</i> Ian Reay <i>Seconded:</i> Pete Blamire <i>Unanimous</i></p>	
<p>6: Election of PCC representatives</p>	<p>Firstly, thanks were expressed to those who have served on the PCC this year. In particular to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Porthouse completing his 3 year term of office • Mike Crees, stepping down in order to take up a nomination to join Deanery Synod for a two year term <p>Nominations to Deanery Synod [3 years]</p> <p>Mike Crees <i>Proposed:</i> Portia Crees <i>Seconded:</i> Tim Waddington</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>One abstention</i></p>	

	<p>No Nominations received to PCC [3 years]</p> <p><i>Proposed: Seconded:</i></p> <p><i>Proposed: Seconded:</i></p> <p><i>Proposed: Seconded:</i></p>	
7: Annual Report of PCC	<p>Thanks were expressed to Mary Reay for compiling the report and for the work done as secretary to the PCC</p> <p>The Annual Report of the PCC was accepted</p> <p><i>Proposed:</i> Kevin Cook <i>Seconded:</i> Ian Reay <i>Unanimous</i></p>	
8: Deanery Synod Report	<p>Thanks were expressed to Christine Burgess and Clive Handley for their attendance at the Synod meetings</p> <p>The Deanery Synod Report was accepted</p> <p><i>Proposed:</i> Mary Reay <i>Seconded:</i> Carole Smith <i>One abstention</i></p>	
9: Financial review and presentation of statements	<p>The Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 had been prepared in accordance with the church accounting procedures. They were approved by the PCC last March and have been independently examined.</p>	
10: Receipt and adoption of Annual report and Accounts for the year	<p>Kevin Cook took the meeting through an overview of the accounts, which showed a surplus of £3,651, highlighting the main sources of income and expenditure, and the movement in the bank balances during the year.</p>	

<p>ending 31st December 2020</p>	<p>A resolution was then considered as follows:</p> <p>Receipt and adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Proposed:</i> Mike Crees</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Seconded:</i> Jean Thorp</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 abstentions</p> <p>Kevin then gave an update on the present financial situation, including the response to the stewardship review that has enabled the PCC to proceed with the appointment of a Youth Work Co-ordinator. The appointment of a Pastoral Care Co-ordinator has been deferred until we have funding.</p> <p>Kevin thanked a number of people for the support they have given during the year especially Janet, Heather, and the Finance Committee. The whole Church was thanked for the continued generous giving and stewardship.</p> <p>George spoke to the church about the financial situation as we move forwards into the next few years.</p> <p>Heartfelt thanks were expressed to Kevin Cook for the colossal work he does as treasurer, as well as all the other things he does for the church.</p> <p>He echoed Kevin’s thanks to Janet, Heather and the Finance Committee as well as the PCC.</p> <p>Huge thanks were also given to the church family for their ongoing financial commitment to the life of the church.</p>	
<p>11: Appointment of Independent Examiner to the PCC</p>	<p>It was proposed that Helen Holmes of Stables, Thompson & Briscoe be elected as Independent Examiner until the next APCM.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Proposed:</i> John Whittaker</p>	

	Seconded: Janet Sullivan One abstention	
12: Review of 2019	<p>Reports are available and have been distributed prior to the meeting</p> <p>If there are any questions please feel free to get in touch with George or the church office.</p>	
13: AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Youth Worker – a query was made with regard to the number of hours in the advert – ie 40 hour week? The advert is being reviewed so this will be looked at as 37 hours is the usual for a full time post • Thanks were expressed to the church family for giving to prison ministry both in Ethiopia and the UK <p>George concluded the meeting with thanks to the staff and leadership team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to Jean Thorp and Janet Sullivan in the admin team • to Jonathan Cook for his care of the buildings – adjusting to quite dramatic changes during the year and being proactive in making the changes • to Rob McLellan, as a wonderful colleague and team member for the first 8 months of 2020, especially for his involvement with the P word conference and work with Young People who pioneered a youth event last Feb across the churches along the S Lakes • to Wendy Young who does such an excellent job and amazing variety of work as Children and Families worker especially her creative ways of working and improvising during lockdown • to Shellie Briggs for the lead she has taken in the Prayer ministry over the past 5 years and the smooth transition to Lorraine Gibbard for the sustaining prayer that has continues to happen • to the Prayer team • to Vic starting her work as a curate in lockdown – she has done a wonderful job in braving all the challenges so well and is a great colleague to work with. A welcome to Martin and Annabella too. • to Nicholas Stainforth and others for all the work in our church grounds • to the Welcome teams for their hospitality • to the Worship teams for the way they lead us each Sunday • to the tech team who have worked so hard to provide our internet presence during the lockdown ie Mike and Sam on sound; Andy Hugo and Clive on vmix; Roger, Clive and Andy on projecting • to Hannah Porthouse for putting together the STK kids videos • to the Retired clergy • to the Readers • to the Life group leaders and members and all those groups that are keeping the connections alive which is so necessary in our various degrees of lockdown and shielding 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to the Meals team offering meals to those who felt under pressure - many meals have been made and given out• to the Cedars team, especially Bill and Diane, who have worked hard at keeping people who have been housebound and isolated during the lockdown connected to the church family through phone calls and doorstep visits• and finally a huge thank you to all the volunteers who share their gifts among the church body. ie Everyone working together to make our lives wonderful <p>Wendy Young thanked George for his leadership, support, hard work and encouragement to the leadership team and church family during a very difficult year</p>	
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Signed: Date:



St Thomas' Community Connections Annual Meeting

Wednesday 28th April 2021, **7.30pm**

Minutes

Agenda Item		Action
Introduction	The meeting opened with prayer.	
1: Apologies	Steph Neale, Sue Hall, David and Christine Parsons, Alison Fleetwood, Shellie Briggs	
2: Approval of Minutes of last meeting 14/10/20	<p>George expressed thanks for the excellent work done by Ivan Smith in obtaining grants; to Jean Thorpe for producing the accounts and to Carole Smith and all the many volunteers who work in this area</p> <p>Grateful thanks were also given to the bus project team who have managed to keep in touch with their regulars during lockdown, despite the bus being unable to run</p> <p>The minutes were approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Proposed:</i> Ian Reay <i>Seconded:</i> Christine Cook 2 abstentions</p>	
3: Financial Report	<p>It was proposed that the accounts be accepted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Proposed:</i> Wendy Young <i>Seconded:</i> Mary Reay 2 abstentions</p>	
4: Reports from different supported activities	<p>It was proposed that the reports be accepted</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Proposed :</i> Lesley-Ann Baker <i>Seconded:</i> Christine Burgess 2 abstentions</p>	
5: Closing prayers	George then closed the meeting with words of blessing over the church and community	

Signed: Date:

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2021

Vicar's Report 2021-2022

I am grateful for all the generous commitment and ministry represented in this report, and because it has been a year in which the pandemic has kept us at a distance from one another it is really important to record something of life at St Thomas' Kendal in 2021-2022. One of the privileges of being the Vicar is an overview and a sense of how things are working together in the life and ministry we share. As you read I hope you will be encouraged to see a little of what was often hard to see and celebrate over the last twelve months.

Whilst the annual report might allow us to catch up on what has been happening, I want to share something of where we are currently by telling you what I saw last Sunday. It was a bright March Sunday, and in the morning we gathered for worship at our 8.45 and 10.45 services. Numbers attending are still smaller than pre-lockdown at the early service, and growing steadily at the 10.45. We welcomed a number of visitors and people of all ages. We were very obviously a family of all generations from newborn to ninety (or thereabouts!) Our work with children and teenagers filled the lounge, whilst in our services we worshipped in song, prayed and committed ourselves to act and give to others, we listened to Scripture and to the Holy Spirit, offered prayer for healing and comfort, we looked at Jesus before Pilate and heard the challenge to build lives of truth in Christ. Notices included support for Ukrainians and teams for church coffee (at last) – I see that our eyes and hearts are very much open to God, to one another and to the world.

In the afternoon we marked the challenges of the last two years with a memorial service. It was a profound time together remembering those who died in the last two years, acknowledging, grieving and feeling the many things we lost. In quiet and at prayer stations, as well as prayer and worship we were able to gather, mourn and also receive comfort and name the hope we have in Jesus. For some it was the first time back in church for a service since the initial lockdown in 2020. Crucially, we didn't leave quickly but stayed together to share afternoon tea and talk and spend time together. It was a wonderful time to reclaim our sense of family and of belonging to one another!

In some ways the service on Sunday afternoon was unique, an unrepeatable experience, but it was also a powerful symbol of our ongoing recovery and rediscovery of being a church together. We are *gathering* again, finding our place and helping others to find theirs. And we are *going out* with a renewed sense of the responsibility and opportunity of bringing good news to the communities and the world we share.

A scripture that I think captures this moment for us is found in Jesus' words of invitation at the end of Matthew 11:

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

I observe that in light of the last two years there is still a great need to receive the rest and healing that Jesus offers to us, to acknowledge where we are weary and burdened, to know that he sees us, has grace for us, that he is invested in our lives in every way. It is also a really significant time to hear his call to each of us and to the church. He says: come to me, take my yoke, learn from me, find rest... The call we hear is to come and discover the life that he wants to share with us and shape in us: freely and wholly given to what the father is doing, becoming more and more like Jesus – believing, trusting, acting, serving, loving like him through the Holy Spirit.

Two things to say in conclusion: thank you – firstly to you and to all who give themselves to our life together at STK, and thank you Lord – for your faithfulness, for your kindness and goodness this year – fill us with your Holy Spirit, be glorified among us, and let your kingdom be extended in and through our lives

Curate Report 2021-2022

As I have been reflecting on this past year I have noticed how many experiences I have had for the first time.

I led my first Easter Sunday service. At that time we had a booking system and I remember knowing exactly who was going to be there, creating bags for each person and praying for each person to know and experience the hope of the resurrection afresh.

In April last year I led my first funeral service at the Crematorium of a man who lived near Crook. It was quite an overwhelming experience to be the only voice in a room for thirty minutes and to hold that space for the family to grieve. It was a privilege to serve and journey with the family and I have built good relationships with the son of the deceased and his wife, who live in Ireland. Later in July, they invited me back to lead my first burial of ashes and to join them for lunch afterwards, which was such a blessing.

Although I have done different types of Christian youthwork previously, it was the first time I had been part of a team to start a new detached youthwork project. I remember the training being inspirational and it enabled me to pray for all the different areas in Kendal that young people hang out. I look forward to seeing a bigger detached team developed and the opportunities for the young people to encounter Jesus.

In May I began the Bereavement Journey with the intention that I would be part of a team that would lead the course in Kendal. It was a powerful journey for me as I was able to grieve losing my mum 7 years previously and it also helped me deal with some of the losses caused by being made redundant.

After being priested, in July, I led my first communion service at the altogether STK family service and it was such an honour to serve in this way and to remember and celebrate together the meal that Jesus calls us to do as his disciples.

In July I led my first wedding service and I enjoyed meeting the couple and journeying with them as they prepared for married life. The service itself was very moving and very hot (I had my robes on). One of my friends attended the wedding and reflected warmly on how personal the service was, which was one of my hopes.

In September I began serving at Holgarth Toddlers on Friday mornings and although I can't commit to weekly or help with set up or set down, I have loved building relationships with the team, the parents, and the children. I am excited about the opportunities I have had to share faith and encourage parents in their parenting.

I helped Wendy with a Parenting course, in the Autumn, for under 11's, which was brilliant and a great opportunity to learn for myself how to parent Annabella in faith, to meet other parents in the church and to encourage and pray for one another.

One area that I hoped to develop in, is the senior ministry within STK through the work of Cedars and I have enjoyed attending and connecting with many at those monthly meetings. My highlight was the Christmas meal where Ray dressed up as Father Christmas and gave out gifts and Breda sang so beautifully!

There are a couple of communion services that I led that were very moving for me personally and were also firsts - the Christmas Eve services at STK and at St Catherine's Crook and more recently a BCP communion service at Cartmel Fell. What a privilege it has been to create space for people to meet with Jesus through celebrating communion.

There are more firsts to come as I lead my first baptism service, become a governor at St Thomas' School and lead the Bereavement journey in person at STK.

Thank you STK family for all your encouragement and for journeying with me in the firsts!

Vic Sekasi

Life groups report 2021-2022

My hope for Life groups is that they are the heartbeat of STK. I have been reflecting on these verses from Isaiah 43.18-19, '*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*' What has struck me as we are emerging from restrictions is that God is doing a new thing. I felt that this next year there would be some pruning and some growth especially in terms of leaders. Over the past year there has been a lot of change within the life groups both in new leaders and new members joining groups. Also, some groups have changed days and times of when they meet. Some groups have changed their format, meeting monthly for socials or meeting for prayer and fellowship. One group has recently closed due to the leaders stepping down, and one group has not yet met in person due to many members shielding.

In the Autumn term we used a resource as a church called Mission Shaped Living and were challenged to not see mission and witness as a set of practices to do but instead as a life to live in response to us encountering Jesus. My hope was that Jesus would turn the material into life changing transformation or mission shaped living when we encounter him within the word of God and encounter others. In the Spring term many of the groups engaged with LLF or the Homosexuality, the church and the bible Study evenings.

Over the past year I have loved meeting all the leaders face to face and developing life group leaders' gatherings. I am thankful for all those who have led life groups throughout this past year whether they call themselves a leader or not. In January I invited the leaders to share what they are thankful for in 2021 and what they hoped for in 2022. Here is a summary :-

We are thankful for answers to prayer, for new members who have brought fresh perspective, for a new inspiring leader, for a new believer who joined our group, for the worship times, for the strong level of personal trust within the group, for supporting each other through the challenges and the changes, for serving each other's needs, for all who lead and use their gifts within the meetings that bring challenge and passion, for the diversity of the group, for all the socials, for the mutual strong bond we have with each other.

God invites us to imagine a future which would be radically different from our present reality and as I pray for the life groups during lent, I am praying for these hopes that the leaders have. Please join me in praying for them too.

We are hoping that we can go deeper with God and each other and can continue to support one another. We are hoping we can hear what God is saying to us as a group and be bold about it. We hope that we can grow and remain strong in the face of continued adversity. We hope for deepening friendships. We hope for God to move powerfully. We hope for confidence to give the group a new direction. We hope for a new co-leader. We hope that in and through our group the Kingdom of God will be experienced in love and power. We hope for more opportunities to connect with the younger generation. We hope that some of our members on the fringe can re-engage with the group or join another one. We hope for God to lead us into bold new faith initiatives both individually and as a group. We hope that God will grow us organically in our life together, in our Christian walk and in our worship of Him.

At present we have an influx of newcomers and are looking to train up some new leaders to start some new groups after Easter. God is doing a new thing within the life groups and is making new ways! Praise God!

Vic Sekasi

PCC report 2021-2022

This year has seen the church slowly moving out of lockdown, with church services resuming carefully and considerately. The use of technology has been paramount during the year and thanks are expressed to all those who have supported the church in this. The PCC have also made use of technology and continued to meet each month over Zoom.

BUILDINGS

The lounge has been re-decorated however, there has been difficulty in getting contractors to quote for the work that still needs to be done from the Quinquennial recommendations, the Buildings Committee having been let down on a number of occasions. The ongoing problem with the church heating is being closely monitored, spare parts finally sourced and a new contractor engaged to review the situation. Many thanks to the churchwardens for persevering with this problem.

STAFFING

There have been a number of changes in the staffing of STK.

We said goodbye to Jean Thorpe, one of our Church Administrators, as she retired. The PCC would like to thank her for the wonderful work she has done over the years, both as a member of staff and the congregation - going above and beyond the call of duty on many occasions. [NB You will still see Jean around as she still volunteers her time in a number of areas!] We welcome Alex Stockley who has been duly appointed as Duty Manager and Administrator.

Many thanks too, to Jonathan Cook, who has been the church's faithful and enthusiastic cleaner for a number of years. He has moved onto pastures new and we wish him all the best in his new job in the Scottish Highlands, giving him opportunity to use the myriad skills that he has. We welcome Elliot McLellan as our new cleaner.

The final appointment this last year is that of our new Youth Work Leader. We are delighted to welcome James, Emilia and Christopher Locke to STK and look forward to them becoming an integral part of the STK community.

Finally, with regard to staffing, the Pastoral Worker Role has been re-examined and the 2.5day/week post will be advertised by June 2022.

FINANCE

The Church finances have been managed well over the year and these will be looked at in a separate document.

CHURCH SERVICES AND GROUPS

- Both the Church of England and Government guidelines for church services and meetings have been followed during this last year, erring on the side of caution.
- Social media and Zoom have been used to maintain contact with members of the church who have been unable to attend.
- The Children's and Youth groups are now meeting on Sundays, with church service times being changed to help the free flow of people. The Christmas Eve service attracted a number of people connected to the church via the Toddler and Children's groups. Feedback for this service has been extremely positive and a thanks go to all those involved in the presentation. The Mothering Sunday Service also hoped to attract a similar congregation. The PCC would like to thank all who lead and volunteer in this important work.
- A Memorial Service was held on 23 March, allowing space to reflect together on loss and grief during the pandemic

MISSION PARTNERS

There have been some recent changes to the list of partners. One of the main criteria is that there must be a 'Champion' within the church congregation. The Colemans in Jerusalem are now the link to Christian Mission to the Jews [CMJ]; the relationship with CMS is being reviewed; Rachel Stockley is the new champion for MAF. It was felt that, after losing Bob Spratt, the link to Mission to Prisoners has ended. As seed money was given as 'start up' money to CAP, the PCC voted for them to become Mission Partners

SAFEGUARDING

All DBS checks are now on an electronic system and are kept up to date. The church has adopted the Diocesan policies. Many thanks to Marion Jones, STK's Safeguarding officer, for all the work she does in this area.

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY [CAP]

This year has seen the reopening of a CAP centre in Kendal, named Kendal and District Debt Centre. It is supported by six churches – STK, the Methodist churches, KPC, St Marks [Natland], Crosscraze and Gateway Church. The PCC are pleased that STK is a key player in this venture, holding the finances until a proper bank account could be set up. Samantha Vyner-Brooks was appointed as Manager and has a team of voluntary 'befrienders' to support clients. The project has had funding from a variety of sources including a £12,000 grant from the Diocese applied for by STK. The Centre is also one of the Mayor's chosen charities this year

DIOCESAN NEWS

- Mike Crees was elected to the Deanery Synod as another rep for STK
- Bishop Emma left the Diocese to work with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the vacancy has been advertised
- Despite lockdown restrictions, we are pleased to say that a well-attended service was held for the ordination of our curate, Vic Sekasi
- the important Anglican publication, Living in Love and Faith, was discussed by the PCC and everyone encourage to attend the course being held in the Parish Church. A follow up course was held at STK preceding the Easter celebrations
- Congratulations to Nick Gray who has been licensed as reader to the Two Valleys Mission Community

UKRAINE

The PCC agreed that STK should sign up with the Sanctuary Foundation, pledging to show practical and compassionate assistance towards Ukrainians fleeing the Russian Invasion. A collection was also taken and the donation was pledged to European Christian Mission [ECM] who are involved with the situation on the ground. [our Mission Partner – Steve Bell – works with ECM]

Finally, the PCC would like to thank everyone for their continued support of St Thomas'. None of the activities could take place without those who take part - giving their time, energy and financial support so freely to serve each other. The members of the PCC would ask for continued prayer for wisdom and guidance for the church and also for our role within our community as we seek to spread the Good News of Jesus to those around us

Mary Reay, PCC

Electoral Roll Report 2021-2022

Following last year's new roll, we have had 4 additions. When the roll opened again this year 7 people had asked to be included. This has raised the number on the roll to 241 as at 16th March 2022, taking into account anyone who has left the area or passed away.

Of the total number on the roll 47 live in St Thomas' parish which represents approximately 19.5% of the church membership.

After the APCM the Roll will again be open for any new persons who wish to become recognised members of STK and the Church of England.

Lesley-Ann Baker, Electoral Roll Officer.

Kendal Deanery Synod Report 2021-2022

11th March 2021 This was a zoom meeting. Spotlight issue; Linda Woodhead Professor of Religion and Society at Lancaster University spoke about the religious and cultural context of the UK today and the challenge of speaking boldly about the Gospel. Business; it was noted that the *2021 Parish Offer from this Deanery met only 86% of the cost of ministry within it.* **5th July 2021** This was a zoom meeting. Spotlight issue; Pam Martin helped the meeting explore what "Treading Gently" might involve for local churches. She focused on A Rocha's Eco Church project and particularly its initial self-assessment. The point of this self assessment is to help church communities to be intentional in creation care and environmental action, as Christian stewards of God's earth. **12th October 2021** Spotlight issue; Revd Aimee Lynch presented the Living in Love and Faith course. She gave an overview of the resources, and explained that the task for the church is to engage with them. Business; *across the diocese, the Parish Offer is 12% lower than two years ago. This must potentially lead to a further reduction in stipendiary posts.*

Christine Burgess

Mission Partnerships Report 2021-2022

It is almost possible to merely 'duplicate' the report made in 2021 as we have experienced yet another year of Covid which has inhibited our desire to meet as a committee. However, we have considered a number of issues via e-mail and met in person recently, for the first time since 2020.

STK has continued its essential support for the partnership organisations during this difficult past year. The committee and PCC have addressed questions raised by our Treasurer. We were saddened by the loss of Bob Spratt, who so enthusiastically championed the mission to prisoners in Ethiopia. Meanwhile, having agreed to provide 'seed' money to aid the set-up of CAP (Christians against poverty) in Kendal, we are now proposing to add this to the mainstream list of organisations. This will provide a debt centre in the town at a time of increasing need.

We are very grateful to David Parsons, who has championed our partnership with MAF, but has now decided it is time to relinquish this role to Rachel and Charley Stockley, who are keen to take this on.

Obviously, there has been little opportunity over the last year for the interaction we would wish with the different partners, but we hope as church returns to more normal functioning this can be restored. In our recent meeting we were able to take an overview of each organisation and hopefully over the next year the committee will be able to meet regularly in person once again and continue the ongoing process of reviewing and encouraging our partnerships.

A revised list of our partnership organisations can be found below and the committee would ask for your continued interest and prayers for the organisations, individual mission partners and church champions as we seek to deepen our partnerships in mission.

Andrew Kohn/ Grace Bryers

Our present Partners: Feb 2022

Organisation	Nature	Contact/ Champion
CMJ – Church Mission amongst Jewish People	Christian witness to Jewish people internationally Sarah & Tim Coleman	Julie Barker
CMS – Church Mission Society	<i>(New partners being sought following the Skiel's return from India)</i>	Jan Waddington
ECM – European Christian Mission	Stephen & Tabitha Bell Pastoring in Croatia / Balkans	Chris Mullen
MAF – Mission Aviation Fellowship	Sam & Abby Baguma Uganda Hub from 2019	Rachel and Charley Stockley
Church of Uganda	Richard Rukundo – children's ministry across Uganda	Grace Bryers
Manna House	Local disadvantaged	Christine Burgess
NISCU	Local schools Christian Work	Katie Hall
Kisumu Children Trust	Working with Children	Samara Earl
Open Doors	Mission to the persecuted Christians	Grace Bryers
CAP – Christians Against Poverty	Debt counselling/Social issues	George Briggs

St. Thomas's Church Kendal Staffing Committee Annual report 2021 - 2022

This past year has been one of endings and new beginnings.

We were still taking advantage of the Government's furlough scheme until the summer when changes were taking place and we finally ended this in July.

July also saw two of our longer serving staff leave us. Jean retired from the office administration role and Jonathan left us for new challenges and eventual relocation to his beloved Scotland. We wish them both God's richest blessings in these new chapters.

That left us with three vacancies – Youth work coordinator, part time admin assistant and cleaner.

New beginnings – In September we welcomed Alex Stockley to take up dual roles of duty manager and part time admin assistant.

In October Elliot McLellan joined us as cleaner.

And finally, just making it into this year, James Locke took up the role of Youth Work Coordinator, by relocating here with Emilia and new son, Christopher.

It has been good to have these three young adults join the STK staff team bringing their own particular skills and gifts. Please welcome and encourage them.

Finally, this report would not be complete without giving due credit to Janet and Wendy who have continued to serve the church and community with dedication, enthusiasm and creativity through the past challenging year. They have been amazing. Thank you.

Moyra Lee, Chair, Staffing Committee

Prayer Ministry Report 2021-2022

A year of contrasts!

In the period leading up to September 2021 we continued waiting, listening and going deeper with God. As restrictions began to lift for COVID our faithful Prayer Team were delighted to be able to pray with people face to face again. After-Service Prayer is being well used and we have seen physical healings, people receiving words of knowledge and being strengthened and encouraged in their faith.

It is always a powerful time when the children of God gather to pray. The first Tuesday in the month is our special opportunity to spend the evening in prayer. James 5 v 16 says that, "the prayers of a righteous man or woman are effective". Let's choose to be influencers in heaven and on earth.

The Confidential Intercessors continue their quiet and loving work. This is a resource for people who have difficult, sensitive issues which they would hesitate to share more widely. People really appreciate this prayer support. Julie Barker is our contact for further information.

The Pastoral Prayer Team continued with regular pastoral prayer appointments on Zoom which were affective and valued by those being prayed for. From September we were able to hold appointments in the Prayer Room again. These appointments allow us to spend more time praying with the person and many experience emotional, spiritual and mental healing.

It is a huge privilege to accompany people in prayer at these times.

In May we joined in with the Archbishop's 'Thy Kingdom Come' project. We distributed prayer resources, encouraging us to pray for our church, town, nation and the world.

A group of churches in Kendal and surrounding villages meet to plan events during the year. On Saturday 2nd of October we prayed for Kendal and villages, providing prayer prompt sheets, and on-line prayers. We opened the prayer room for prayer and there was a prayer walk to Kendal castle with refreshments.

In December we produced Christmas Prayer posters, which were displayed in all the churches. During the February Half-Term we sent encouragement to churches for suggested prayer walks.

Lunch time prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Lent has been a special time for those who have been able to come to pray for the situation in Ukraine and in other troubled areas of the world.

Jesus often prayed through the night and went without food, so we know prayer is really important. Prayer is our privilege and our challenge. Thank you so much to those who pray faithfully throughout the year.

Lorraine Gibbard, Prayer Ministry co-ordinator

Children and Families ministry Report 2021-2022

2021 continued to challenge us, as we worked out ways to connect safely with families both in church and the wider community. Below are the details of the key things we have done in the past year. As restrictions have changed we have reinvented ourselves several times over and still continue to do so!

STKids

Zoom sessions in the summer term of 2021 kept us connected with some of our families
Face to face sessions began in Sept 21 with age specific group sessions, twice a month and a family session once a month.

Highlights

The fun of creating the new family sessions, where we enjoy challenges, games, bible stories and prayer together.

Welcoming new families, some coming to us through our toddler groups.

Parenting for Faith course, enabling parents to share their faith more at home.

Christmas Eve service- gathering mainly non-church families, from our different midweek groups and school connections to discover the truths about the Christmas story.

As we move forward, we continue to focus on

- 1) Helping children to encounter Jesus through Gods word and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) To help families grow in faith together.

Toddlers Outside

In order to keep connected to our toddler group families, whilst maintaining covid restrictions, we created 'Toddlers Outside'. This took place in the church grounds, in the form of a discovery trail. Parents signed up via Facebook and came at a set time. These continued through to the summer holidays.

Highlights

The Easter trail, called 'The Promised One', which was also part of the Good Friday experience for our church family.

Dino Day and The Gruffalo trail.

Opening the doors for our indoor sessions in September, on Tuesdays in the church lounge and Fridays at Hallgarth Community centre.

Online parenting course.

We have continued to underpin our toddler activities with prayer and we are super grateful to members of our congregation who have supported us in this way by praying regularly for us.

Bumps and Babes

Throughout lockdown and beyond we have continued to offer this support group to new mums and their families.

Initially we provided six-week blocks of sessions, where mums could attend for two blocks. As restrictions eased however, we were able to provide two ongoing groups running in separate parts of the building.

Highlights

The joy and excitement of these new mums as they found a welcoming space to chat

Walking with mums from bump to babe arriving

Providing meals to new families and those in need of support

Seeing new friendships develop between parents.

Because we have continued to walk with parents before, during and after the pandemic, they see that we are committed to living life alongside them. As a result, we have seen increased opportunity to pray with our mid-week families and seen answers to prayer. Parents are also asking questions about our faith and want to know more.

Many of our mid-week families consider St Thomas's to be their church and as such, are part of our wider and ever-growing church family. We long for them to know the love, joy and power of the Kingdom in their everyday lives, right where they are. We are committed to walking with them and revealing His love in practical ways and through providing space to explore faith.

This year we aim to run parenting courses that look at faith and an Alpha course later in the year. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers and leaders, that make each of these things happen. Their dedication and love for children and their families, the hard work they put in each week, the sacrifices they make and the obvious joy they get from serving in this way is truly amazing and a blessing to us all.

Wendy Young Children and Families Coordinator.

Youth Ministry 2021-2022

Since September 2020 until the end of February 2022 Youth has been capably led by Shellie Briggs and Marion Jones with help and assistance from Mike Crees and Mark Sullivan. We would love to say a huge thank you to this team for all that they've given of their time and energy in discipling the youth of St Thomas' Kendal and for Shellie and Marion's continued and vital support of the ministry.

From March 2022 I have joined as Youth Leader. So far, I have been building relationship with families of the young people through home visits, leading Groovy's youth group on Sunday and building connections with the church and local youth leaders.

Looking at the year ahead I aim to build a team of volunteers to further enhance the youth ministry and I will be working in partnership with Katy Hall to deliver a Christian Union in Queen Katherine's School.

James Locke Youth Work co-ordinator.

Buildings and Property 2021-2022

Maintenance works this year have included redecorating the church lounge, which successfully refreshed the space for groups and activities that returned through the Autumn. Boundary tree work was undertaken. Drains and downspouts were cleared and repairs commissioned for the Lounge roof – though not yet completed by the contractor. The greatest challenge of the last year has been the availability and reliability of contractors to undertake work for us.

The management and repair of the church heating system has been an ongoing focus for our wardens, with some encouraging results in recent months, and further work underway to assess efficient heating options for the future.

We are awaiting further consultation on the quinquennial work needed in relation to church glazing and tower.

79 High Garth is currently let commercially by PCC to generate income.

Thanks go to all who tend to the grounds around church, ensuring they are attractive and tidy, and to all who have helped practically with maintenance and work in the building itself.

PCC Buildings Committee

Safeguarding People Annual Report to the APCM 2021-2022

1. Parish Safeguarding Officers

Marion Jones (*Safeguarding Co-ordinator*)
Carole Smith (*DBS Administrator until Dec 2021*)
Rev George Briggs (Incumbent)
Wendy Young (Children's Champion)
James Locke (Young People's Champion)

2. Safer Recruitment, and Training

Our parish supports the following groups working with children and young people, and with adults who are vulnerable:

- DJs
- Youth Work
- Toddler Groups
- Space
- Bumps and Babes
- Prayer ministry
- The Bus People
- Cedars

We continue to ensure that all new leaders and volunteers working with our groups have been safely recruited according to the Church's national guidance. There are several different levels of safeguarding training which must be undertaken by members of the church in different ordained and lay roles. Safeguarding training must be renewed every three years. Basic and Foundation levels are completed via the online Church of England Safeguarding Hub, Leadership training is offered within the Dioceses for ordained, licensed and lay leaders. Additional training around Domestic Abuse has been given to all Leaders and PCC members this year.

Co-ordinators of different areas of work within the church will be asked to keep an up to date record of staff and volunteer training.

DBS renewals are now required every 3 years and since January 2022 all our DBS applications are submitted via an electronic system. We are encouraging people to register their DBS online.

3. Church Policy and Guidance

The STK PCC adopted the "Promoting a Safer Church" safeguarding policy in December 2021 and continues to work in full cooperation with use the Carlisle Diocese Safeguarding Guidance. The welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults is an absolute priority for the Church. Safeguarding shows God's love in action and in churches demonstrates safety and security, where abuse and mistreatment of others is not tolerated.

We are required to:

- display information about how to contact the diocesan safeguarding adviser, parish safeguarding officer and how to get help outside the church with child and adult safeguarding issues. A poster with the relevant information is now on display on the notice board in the church foyer. We are now also promoting children and youth safeguarding champions to whom any concerns can be brought: Wendy Young and James Locke.
- ensure that up to date safeguarding arrangements are clearly visible on the front page of the parish website.

Marion Jones, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Cedar's Report 2021-2022

Owing to Covid 19 the Cedar's programme of events has had to be limited. Cedar's leaders continued in regular telephone contact with Cedar's members when we were locked down and also with those who continued shielding once Church was reopened.

CDs of the weekly church service have been provided by delivery or posted to those unable to access the service via the internet. Doorstep meetings, socially distanced, have occurred at times and gifts and cards were delivered to Cedar's members at Easter and Christmas.

Since September Cedar's began meeting once a month for Tea and chat in church. These have been important times of being together and have included speakers, musical items and quizzes. In December it was possible to hold a Christmas meal and party together using the main church so as to be well spaced out. The Christmas meal was brought in by outside caterers E and GJ Seward from Burneside.

Sally Willis, Grace Bryers, Ann Baker, and Graham and Glenda Taylor have joined the planning and leadership group of Cedars, joining with Glenis Weare, Pam Mayor, Jenny McIntyre, Karen Ladell, Pam Parker-Oxspring, Ray and Sonia Brown, Bill and Diane Holliday. Ten new members have started attending Cedars this year. There are around 60 people who are connected to Cedars although not all are ready to return at the moment or are not well enough to attend.

Regular planning meetings have been taking place and a review of Cedars with an eye to the future. Our stipendiary clergy George and Vic have attended some meetings as we have considered planning for the future and the pastoral support for senior people in church.

Bill and Diane Holliday

Mission Giving and Collections

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC are committed to giving 10% of our donations received to our Mission Partners. To this end £21,240 has been set aside for missions and charities at home and overseas. Several collections were taken during the year, including the Bishop's Harvest appeal and Kendal District debt centre. During May 2021 Christin Aid week raised roughly £1500. The annual Advent Fair raised £700 for North West Air Ambulance and St. John's Hospice. Stall holders raised another £1000 for individual charities of choice. Other aid included donations to Kendal Food Bank from church members. All those involved in the above collections are to be congratulated for their fund-raising efforts.

TREASURERS REPORT FOR APCM.

(prepared 25th March 2022)

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 reveal that there was a surplus of £19,143 for the year.

There was a reduction in our Parish Offer from £86,400 paid in 2020 to a more realistic and affordable amount of £72,000; and savings in staff costs of £23,111 as we were without a Youth Work Co-ordinator throughout the year.

These savings were partly offset by extra Building Costs, notably our gas bills, also repairs and maintenance, such as decorating the Church Lounge

As in previous years we gave 10% of our giving to Mission partners at home and overseas.

Income totalled £241,061 and was virtually unchanged from 2020.

At the year end our Bank balances were satisfactory at £104,876. Of this £33,600 was deposited in the Cumberland Building Society, and designated by the PCC towards funding of staff salaries for two years.

There are some challenges ahead, with funding required for additional staff posts and essential repairs required as a result of the last quinquennial inspection.

My thanks to Janet Sullivan in the office, Heather Palmer who takes care of our payroll and furlough grant claims and to the Finance Committee. But most of all thanks to everyone for their generous giving, including the pledges made towards the additional staff posts.

Kevin Cook, Hon Treasurer.

St Thomas's Accounts year ended 31st December 2021						
Income and Expenditure Account						
				<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>
Income				241,341		242,857
Expenditure				222,198		239,206
Surplus				19,143		3,651

St Thomas's Accounts year ended 31 December 2021

Where our income came from

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Planned Giving	156,527	158,036
Loose collection	4,464	4,740
One off gifts	18,410	19,680
Gift Aid	31,797	34,235
Grants	6,517	6,783
Lettings and Rent	14,630	5,805
Sundry income	8,549	12,375
Interest	447	1,203
Total income	241,341	242,857

St Thomas's Accounts year ended 31 December 2021

What we spent it on

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Parish Offer	72,000	86,400
Staff costs	57,694	77,071
Mission giving	25,260	26,500
Community/other	17,896	17,202
Building running	29,593	17,022
Administration	19,755	15,011
Total spent	222,198	239,206

St Thomas's Accounts year ended 31 December 2021**Whats in the Bank?**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
General Account	12,224	13,388
Designated A/c	10,758	14,184
Cumberland B.Soc	77,270	54,656
CCLA A/c	864	811
Total at year end	101,116	83,039

St.Thomas' Community Connections Report for 2021-2022

Grants and Income Report 2021 (for Jan – Dec 2021)

Another quiet year on the grant front with many providers still understandably diverting their attention to covid support schemes. I am encouraged that there will be a return to normal availability of funds in 2022 as activities (including our own) open up again to wider access.

A total of £20,799 came into the Community Connections charity account during 2021. This was made up of £30 income from the "Bus People" weekly shopping bus project, a grant from Kendal Central School Fund for Youth work salary support of £3,500 and donations received for Kendal & District Debt Project totalling £17,269.

Outgoing payments totalled £17,257 These were: Payments transferred to Kendal & District Debt Project (In association with Christians Against Poverty CAPS (£50 transferred Jan 2022) £17,219. Expenses for Kendal Detached Youth Work £38*

Explanation of Activities:

St. Thomas' Youth Work: Our post of Youth Work Coordinator ceased in 2019 as our post holder left to train for the ministry and at the same time Covid 19 restrictions set in making the post unsustainable. In 2021, and following a review of our coming needs and response to coming out of Covid restrictions, the time was right to re-introduce a post of Youth Work Leader (that is to lead youth work directly rather than coordinate a team of volunteers). We asked the Kendal Central School Fund for help in pump priming this post with a salary support grant of £3 500 towards our first year.

Subsequently a grant of £3 500 was awarded by this fund (administered by Carlisle Diocese). This grant was obtained using the St.Thomas' Community Connections bidding system I have devised and so came into the Community Connections account. It will transfer to the main St.Thomas' Church account for administration purposes because it is for salary pump priming.

Debt Centre: St. Thomas' Community Connections Charity agreed to be the initial fund holder for the new Kendal and District Debt Centre Project which is supported by a group of churches in our area. This was agreed so that funds could be collected from donors into one place before the new organisation could obtain its own bank account and Samantha Vyner-Brooks could take over as Debt Centre Manager. This explains the activity in our account involving these fairly large sums and this responsibility is now complete.

* Detached Youth Work: A small pilot Detached Youth Work project has been developed through Kendal Parish church in partnership with Kendal St.Thomas' Church and other churches in the area. This detached youth work connects with young people who don't go to youth clubs or formal youth provision, but hang around outside in various parks or areas of our town. A management group was formed from across various churches to oversee the work, chaired by Rev Anne Underwood Pioneer Minister for Kendal Parish Church and, for us, involving Rev Vic Sekasi. Further support is given by a working team of volunteers. A bid for funding was created through St.Thomas' Community Connections for ease of operation. £1,000 was obtained from the Norman Whiteley Trust but although the grant was awarded in December 2021 it was paid in January 2022 and so does not appear in this year's accounts.

Ivan Smith, Trustee, St. Thomas' Community Connections

ST THOMAS' COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Receipts and Payments Report

Jan - Dec 2021

Income

Bus Project income	30
Grant from Carlisle Diocese for Youth work	3,500
Donations received for Kendal & District Debt Project	17,269
	<hr/>
	20,799

Payments

Transferred to Kendal & District Debt Project (£50 transferred Jan 2022)	17,219
Expenses for Kendal Detached Youth Work	38
	<hr/>
	17,257
Unused this year (due to not much activity because of Covid 19)	<hr/>
	3,542

Bank Account

Balance 1st January 2021	3,556
Unused this year	3,542
Balance 31st December 2021	7,098