

The Parish of St Thomas and St Edmund Salisbury

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH 2018



Rector introduction to Annual Report

2018 was an extraordinary year in the life of the city of Salisbury and, because St Thomas's is bound into that life, it meant it was an extraordinary year for us too. We all did together what we have always done – welcoming, praying, transforming - but because of the media interest (and we saw quite a few cameras and reporters) this ministry happened to be read, viewed and heard across the country and around the world.



I believe that together we were there for our city in its hour of need – providing compassion and care and a little much needed joy too. The church was seen to be a focus of prayer and of loving service. What a privilege for us all to be called to serve in this way: discerning and witnessing to God's work in our community.

In hindsight, 2018 may not have been the best year in which to launch a £2 million appeal to renovate, repair and redevelop our beautiful and busy church. However, many of our members have laboured hard to get the appeal going with the support of many more. Consequently, in 2019 we are just about ready to begin works that will reap great rewards by Easter 2020.

Meanwhile, the parochial church council has undertaken some important work under the heading 'And who is my neighbour?', exploring what we are about as a church. Gradually the ideas that flow from that day will become more visibly part of our common life. We continue to respond to God's call to be a vibrant Christian community at the heart of the city: inclusive, compassionate, generous, worshipping in spirit and in truth, and in beauty.

Safeguarding Report

“Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture in all our churches; it is at the heart of our Christian faith. We must respond sensitively and compassionately to the needs of all children, young people and adults, in order to keep them safe from harm.” (Archbishop Justin Welby, July 2018.)

Bridget Trump, who had been the Parish Safeguarding Officer for over two years, handed over to Rosie Norman in October 2018; Michael Humphreys remains as Deputy. We are grateful to Bridget who did a huge amount to ensure that - as required by the Church of England - safeguarding is now a vital foundation stone, which underpins all our activities within the parish.

The Safeguarding Group consists of the Ministry Team, the Churchwardens and the Parish Safeguarding Officers. We meet every 3 months to discuss any safeguarding issues and areas of concern, and to ensure diocesan advice in all aspects of safeguarding is followed.

The Parish Safeguarding Handbook, which was completely rewritten and updated last year, remains a comprehensive booklet with guidelines and advice in an easy-to-read format. A copy is available at the back of the church. This, together with the recently updated tri-fold leaflet and the information now available on St Thomas's website, provide information to all who may be interested or in need.

The Safer Recruitment Policy is being followed - with all new volunteers completing an application form and informal interview, undergoing any training that is necessary, and attending a basic safeguarding course and/or DBS check if appropriate.

New volunteers' contact details are currently being uploaded (with permission) onto the diocesan database so that future safeguarding courses can be planned by the diocese according to the need in each area, and reminders will be sent out automatically to those requiring updating.

There has been a slight change in the structure of the safeguarding courses, which are now as follows:

- C1 remains the safeguarding foundation course
- C2 remains as a more advanced course for those in leadership roles
- C3 remains as the course for those who are ordained

- C5 is a new course for those requiring an update to their C1 or C2 or C3. Updating is necessary every 3 years.

It is thanks to the energy and support of so many people at St Thomas's that the changes required by the Church of England have been put in place. However, the process is continuous: we all share the responsibility to promote a safer culture, and we must all be aware of the needs of those who may be vulnerable and respond appropriately.

If anyone has any safeguarding concerns, please contact us via the Parish Office on 01722 322537, or email safeguarding@stthomassalisbury.co.uk

Rosie Norman and Michael Humphreys

Adult Education Team:

Membership:

Fiona Hulbert (Chair); Mark Manterfield; Judith Marriott; Jonathan Plows; Jill Britton; Wendy Pugh.

The Adult Education Team works to provide a range of opportunities for learning, reflection, discussion and spiritual growth within the congregation. We have begun several new initiatives in the last year, as well as familiar events such as a Quiet Day and our Parish Lent Programme.

Saturday Discussion Cafés: A gathering on the third Saturday of each month in the St Michael's Room for open discussion on various topics related to our faith and practice. These have varied from 'Why read the Bible?' to 'What are the clergy for?'

Creative Meditations: Quiet gatherings which have included prayer stations, reflections on art, personal stories and creative liturgy. These were held in the Easter Season, Creation Season and Lent.

Mondays@St Thomas: New opportunities for reflection and discussion based around poetry, art or scripture.

Interfaith Education: We continued our programme of occasional opportunities to learn about other faiths, with a return visit from Imam Usama Hasan, speaking on 'From Extremism to Peace-Building' and a talk from Canon Guy Wilkinson on the Christian Theology of Judaism.

Being an Inclusive Church – Sexuality: An informative seminar was held featuring the bishop of Salisbury and Ruth Wilde, the National Co-ordinator of Inclusive Church.

Quiet Day: In July we went to a new venue, the Wisdom Centre in Romsey, for a Quiet Day featuring a labyrinth walk and a creative art session.

Lent 2019: This year's programme features a course on 'Refugees and the Bible', and well as our always-popular Lent talks/lunches. This year the talks are all given by members of the congregation, talking about their callings in different areas of their life and work.

Ideas and offers for future events are always welcome.

Fiona Hulbert

The Bellringers

We have continued to ring for most of the Sunday Parish Communion and Evensong services, exceptions being the few occasions when we could not summon up enough ringers and once when there was snow. We have also rung for several weddings, some funerals and Mayor making and, as last year, we rang for Christingle and Carols for Busy People. Once a month we hold an advanced practice that brings in ringers from a wide area and allows us to practise methods we could not ring on our own. This has led to several of our ringers extending their repertoire. Many of our ringers also support the ringing at St. Martins and at Britford.

In this year of the centenary of the First World War armistice, we rang before the cathedral service at which the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers' memorial was rededicated by the bishop. Sadly, a peal attempted that afternoon was unsuccessful.

We also rang before the cathedral evensong at which their new Dean was installed.

We held three open tower events in support of the 2020 Church appeal's very successful Flower and Art Festival.

Of the seven learners we started teaching in 2017, four remain and one has reached the standard for regular service ringing; the others are not far behind. My wife, Ali, and I attended a further Association of Ringing Teachers' course so as to be better prepared for taking our learners through the next stages of their development. To accelerate the learners' progress, we have continued to hold a joint practice with Wilton on Monday nights and a learners' session before the usual Thursday night practice at St. Thomas's; our learners now also stay on for the main practice. More learners are still wanted; they need to be reasonably fit and between about 12 and 60. Our learners took part in a novices' striking competition at Zeals.

We lost Richard and Gretta Harvey who took their buckets and spades off to live by the seaside, and Andy Teed who could no longer resist the call of his native

Devon. We are most grateful for the sustained support they gave to the band. We welcomed Alan Frost and Heather Coutts.

Our bells were rung by members of our band and many visitors for a memorial service to Elizabeth Champion, formerly a long-time ringer at St. Thomas's who died in July.

Our social events continued, organised by our dynamic Social Secretary, Penny Ibbs. We had an excellent tower outing in September organised by Louise starting at Goodworth Clatford and finishing at Stockbridge with a pub lunch in Whitchurch. 20 ringers attended. Richard and Gretta held a ringers' barbeque in their garden in July.

We continued to man the second Saturday coffee mornings in the church and this year split the takings equally between the church and the church Quest 2020 fund. Our December coffee morning again coincided this year with the Tree Festival so was exceedingly busy.

Led by Margaret, the ringers again entered a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival.

For further information, audio and video links and contact details, see our website which can be accessed via the church website (hover over "Getting Involved" and click on Bellringing).

Nigel Orchard, Tower Captain

Margaret Romano, Deputy Tower Captain

The Bookstall

The Bookstall has enjoyed another successful year with takings of £2,821.

Considering all that has happened in the city last year, this is a very solid result.

I would like to pay tribute to all my excellent team whose enthusiastic dedication allows us to open twice weekly under normal circumstances. A big thank you to all those who have so generously donated their books, long may we continue!

Geoff Bishop.

Care and Connect

Our monthly meetings of Care & Connect have continued during the year, apart from the month of August. Our numbers have fluctuated, but we have a total membership of 15. Some of our guests are collected by the Wiltshire Community Transport bus, whilst others make their own way, firstly to St Michael's Room in church, where we provide coffee, and a time for conversation and a short talk, which is normally given by a member of the clergy. Then a 2-course lunch is provided in St Thomas's House. Those who attend obviously value this outreach and the meals are well received, as well as the opportunity of meeting with others. We enjoyed 2 outings during the year; in the summer, afternoon tea in the New Forest and afternoon tea with a Christmas theme at the Britford Farm Shop in December. As ever, grateful thanks must be extended to those who chaperone

and help, those who cook and prepare food (with special thanks to Sheila Holt) and to all who help to make this valued ministry continue.

As always, we are eager to hear from those who could help to cook, serve, table-lay or just be on standby once a month to help Care & Connect.

Please hold Care & Connect and its members and helpers in your prayers.

Di Durnford

Churchwardens' Report

After a somewhat brief apprenticeship under John and Netia we were elected your Church Wardens in April 2018. Mayor making was thrust upon us and it was then that we realised the substantial amount of work put into the notes prepared by John and Netia and previous Wardens.

We have had huge support from the re-constituted Wardens Team, which has allowed us both to lead relatively normal lives, for family functions and obligations. All members of the Team have acted for us at the main Sunday service, as well as being available at weddings, funerals and baptisms. This has greatly reduced the number of duties that Churchwardens have to do and the time we spend on Church duties.

What has impressed us greatly is the respect with which the office is regarded by members of the congregation. Furthermore, we had no idea it would be such fun, busy yes, but a lot of fun and a lot of satisfaction also. We know that being elected as your Wardens is a huge privilege and we endeavour to be accessible and hopefully problem solving for the many queries that are presented. It is a continuous learning process for both of us.

The public face of Wardening is of course the 10:15 Sunday service. This gives us the opportunity to meet so many of the congregation, albeit too briefly on many occasions, and to ensure that the service runs smoothly. This we have achieved on a surprising number of occasions!

Behind the scenes, we are busy, attending various church committees, together with PCC and the Standing Committee. We work closely with Robert Lewis and his excellent Team of Assistant Vergers, and much of the work undertaken by former Wardens now falls under his authority. The Archdeacon's Triennial Visitation in the Summer of 2018, which re-evaluates documentation and Church assets, noted a few issues to be resolved, but generally passed without major mishap.

We have both taken part in training appropriate to our role, particularly relating to Finance and Safer Recruiting. Our financial processes have always been secure, and it is good that we have a clear understanding of these. However, the Safer Recruiting process is relatively new to us, but this is now robust and applied to all appointments within St Thomas's. There will be occasions when this process, together with the appropriate Safeguarding requirements, will appear frustrating

and unnecessary to many volunteers who have been known to St Thomas's for many years. Please bear with us on this as processes and procedures have changed hugely in recent years. It is of paramount importance that St Thomas's, and indeed all Churches, are places of safety for people who visit and those who receive visitors.

Other highlights of the year have been Remembrance, planning for Advent and Christmas and liaising with the many groups that used the Church during that season. The Christmas Tree Festival was again an outstanding success, generating interest and money, which allowed us to publicly demonstrate our Mission to the City at the Carols for Busy People Service. Compliments for the building, the welcoming atmosphere of St Thomas's and the organisation of services and facilities have been universal.

We look forward to continuing to serve for a further year and are so grateful for your ongoing support.

Fi Green

Michael Humphreys

Contemplative Community

Contemplative Community meets every Wednesday evening in St Thomas's House at 7.30.

As we meet week by week, so we have the privilege of listening to one another's faith journey and stumble towards an expression of our own experience of relationship with God. In today's busy world we don't have many opportunities to try and express who we really are and the things that are important to us, and to be listened to with love and compassion; this experience is greatly valued by members of the group.

The pattern of our meetings revolves around centering prayer which we practice every other week. Through centering prayer, a form of contemplative prayer, we practice letting go, and letting God's will be done in our lives. On the weeks in between, we rotate between lectio divina, and a more general "community" meeting at which we might have a longer time of sharing or a discussion.

Through the year members have come and gone and we have also welcomed those who just want to try us out for a week, and those who are staying in the area for a few weeks. We are an open and friendly bunch, and with two Methodists and a Catholic among our number, we are an ecumenical group as well. We would welcome anyone who is interested in exploring spirituality and community.

The Choir

Several special services and concerts have taken place in which the Choir have been involved – even being heard on television across the world! - the latter occasion being the Service of Renewal following the events in The Maltings. During the Easter season we sang the Litany of the Thorns by John Harper and later Our Saviour by local composer, Harry Brockway, who started his musical career in the choir at St Thomas's. We later encored it at Stratford-sub-Castle church. In September the choir performed a concert for the Quest 2020 Appeal entitled A Royal Celebration. The music included extracts from Handel's Coronation Anthems, including Zadok the Priest and Hubert Parry's I Was Glad. In October we took part in the Salisbury Diocesan Festival Service in Salisbury Cathedral. At that service, Katharine James and Toby Ransome were presented with their Dean's Awards, both passing with distinction! Several other members have gained their medals through the RSCM Voice for Life scheme.

On Remembrance Day the choir took part in the Centenary Commemorations in the Guildhall Square and in church. At the evening Eucharist, Fauré's Requiem was sung during the service. On the previous day the choir were involved in a lunchtime concert commemorating the 100 years anniversary of the First World War with poems, secular songs and anthems which raised a substantial sum of money for the Earl Haig Fund and Quest 2020.

There have been other lunchtime concerts with some choir participation which have raised thousands of pounds shared between the Lent Appeal, Quest 2020 and various charities. One of the highlights of the concert season was given by the junior choristers with outstanding performances vocally and instrumentally. The Christmas season is always busy. The Choir sang for several organisations including Wessex Stoma, Salisbury Trust for the Homeless and at Archers Court and Elizabeth Court. A new venture was a lunchtime Christmas Delights concert which was particularly enjoyable and successful. Church events revolved around the Christmas Tree Festival, Nine Lessons and Carols, and the Christmas Day services. The season finished with our annual visit to Salisbury Cathedral to sing Evensong.

Musical skills and knowledge are gained through being a member of the choir and it is particularly beneficial for the all-round education of children. Choir numbers have increased, but more children would be welcome to the main choir and the junior choir, who sang with great gusto at the Christingle Service. It is a privilege and very rewarding to be part of the choir which plays an important part in enhancing the worship at St Thomas's.

John Dempster
Director of Music

Christian Aid

Once again St Thomas's members donned their winning smiles and knocked on doors around the city during Christian Aid Week. This time we raised a

remarkable £2027 from door-to-door collecting, a Saturday coffee morning and a collection in church. Also record-breaking was the Christian Aid Quiz (January 2019) which raised £912, with all the tables sold out. New rounds such as 'Identify the tree' and 'Climate Change' got our brain cells fizzing.

On a balmy Sunday afternoon last July Christian Aid held a Strawberry Tea in the Bishop's Garden. There were challenging speeches from Bishop Nick, Amanda Mukwashi (Christian Aid's CEO), and our MP John Glen – and a lot of scones and tea were consumed.

Mr Glen was on the receiving end of a delegation in November, presenting signatures from across the churches in Salisbury. It is 10 years since the ground-breaking Climate Change Act and this legislation now needs to be updated to bring it in line with the Paris Accord, as well as recent scientific findings. Many of Christian Aid's partners around the world are affected by climate change in the form of cyclones, flood and desertification; yet the growth in renewables demonstrates how our energy usage can change for the better, if the policies are right. Mr Glen agreed that new legislation should commit us to reducing net carbon emissions to zero by 2050, and he committed to write to the prime minister and climate change minister expressing this.

Clare Tawney

St Thomas's Cleaning Teams

It has been a busy year of scaffolding, extra services and a greater use of the church, - which is important.

There are five cleaning teams and all of them have been faithful in turning up and have risen to the challenges. I should like to thank them all. There is always room for more – so if you would like to join us please contact Rosemary Cox on 01722 332373

St. Thomas & St. Edmunds Charity

PCC St Thomas & St Edmund Fricker Charity

Two charitable funds are distributed under the auspices of the parish: (a) the St. Thomas & St. Edmunds Charity and (b) the parish's share of the Fricker Charity. The Trustees of the St. Thomas & St. Edmunds Charity are: The Rector (ex officio), Sally Vaughan (PCC Nominee and Secretary), Nigel Orchard (Co-opted, Treasurer), Bobbie Chettleburgh (Salisbury City Council nominated) and Martin Inglis (Co-opted). The Rector of St. Thomas's is the designated recipient and distributor of the parish's share of the Fricker Charity funds; Kelvin has chosen to continue the practice of recent years of using the St. Thomas's Charity trustees to advise him on distribution of the Fricker funds.

So that the charities can respond quickly to cases of need, the Secretary circulates details by email with a short deadline for Trustees to reply. If an application receives majority approval, then the Secretary and Treasurer will make

the payment. Only if an objection by a Trustee cannot be resolved by email will the application be held over to a meeting. The Trustees met four times in 2018.

The St. Thomas & St. Edmund income comes from a Charities' Commission ethical fund (COIF) into which were consolidated the investments from 11 old charities ranging from The Charity of John Eyre (founded by a will dated 13th July 1599) to The Charity of Richard Earlsman for Six Poor Men dated 1st October 1940. Only the income is distributed by the trustees; the capital is left intact. The St. Thomas & St. Edmunds Charity funds are restricted to the parish and to Bemerton Heath.

The income from the Fricker Charity (arising from the rental of a shop in Salisbury and distributed according to the terms of a will made in 1696) is passed equally to the rectors of St. Thomas's and St. Martin's and the trustees of The Trinity Hospital, Salisbury. The Fricker distribution area covers the entire city, Laverstock and Harnham.

The trustees would welcome anyone drawing their attention to potential recipients. Grants may be made to needy individuals or organisations serving the needy in the area of the two charities. The contact email is: StTCharities@btinternet.com or phone the parish office in the first instance: 322537.

In 2018, the St. Thomas & St. Edmunds Charity had an investment income of £3804 and distributed £6241, having carried over unspent funds of £2968 from 2017. As usual, a distribution was made at Christmas to certain needy parishioners. The Fricker fund income was £10,000 and £12,012 was distributed in 27 grants. The trustees prefer to make grants on application from organisations so that they can vouch for the need, confirm that other sources of funding (where relevant) have also been approached and ensure that the grants are spent effectively and for the purpose intended. The trustees aim to distribute the full amount of the income taking one year with another. No expenses are incurred in the administration of these funds by the parish.

Each year the accounts of both funds are subject to independent examination. Copies of the accounts are available on request.

Nigel Orchard
Treasurer

Coffee Mornings **Tuesday Coffee Mornings**

Despite the upset we all experienced in March and losing the café area when the organ was dismantled, we had our usual busy year with church pews used to great effect for our guests.

Apart from Tuesday mornings we helped with the Flower, Art and Music Festivals and the 2020 Appeal Coffee Mornings and not forgetting our help at the Christmas

Tree Festival which is always a joy and a pleasure. In the autumn we ran the cake stall at the Guildhall sale.

In total we raised over £8,000 for church funds thanks to the support of our customers and friends. We continue to enjoy welcoming everyone from near and far and look forward to 2029 being another happy year.

Jill Bushnell.

Saturday Coffee Mornings

There is nothing to beat a regular Saturday morning meeting place which has the certainty of warm friendliness, cheerful chatter, a good cup of coffee and fabulous cake on offer. How fortunate we are in St Thomas to be able to provide this.

The rota progresses as usual, although, as I write, there are still three vacancies for charity mornings. This is quite an unusual situation, but they may well be filled by the time this is printed.

The 2020 Guild take the third Saturday each month, the Bellringers take the second, Jonathan Plows has three bookings for Community Engagements and church activities occupy many of the remaining dates, which leaves just three unreserved as we go to press.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement is a network within the Parish concerned with: Christian Formation (See the Adult Education Report), Christian Aid campaigning and education (see Christian Aid Report), Ministry on the Streets – including Street Pastors, Parish giving to organisations (see the budget), Sudan and South Sudan, Eco Church and our support for Community groups.

The three-monthly Parish Prayer Sheet continues to be circulated.

The Parish continues to support the work of Alabaré in Salisbury; the BID.; the Salisbury City Neighbourhood Tasking Group, the Salisbury Refuge, Safer and Supportive Salisbury, Trussell Trust with the Salisbury International Pancake Race, Salisbury Baroque; the Salisbury Sinfonia; Alzheimer's Society and the Dementia Action Alliance; the Salisbury Homeopathy College, Headway and many other local organisations who make considerable use of St Thomas's House. St Thomas's remains a supporter of Fair Trade.

As a parish we continue to pray regularly for the Sudan especially as internal conflict continues. The Parish supported the 2018 Sudan Garden Party with our famous Bottle Stall.

Through the Friends, St Thomas's supported the Juno Theatre Group which has completed phase 1 of a writing project based on the timeline of our church building. Community Engagement Coffee Mornings continue and I wish to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped staff these Coffee Mornings – it has been hugely appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Parish Office for all their magnificent administrative support over the year, my Ministry Team colleagues, the Choir. It has been much appreciated. Together we continue to make a difference

Rev'd Jonathan Plows

Craft'nChat

Craft'nChat meets at 2pm every third Friday in the Canterbury Room of St Thomas's House. We have been meeting for several years and have become good friends even though we are not all church members and have become a small mutually reliant group. We help each other with encouragement both with craft and life problems and all enjoy tea and biscuits. We would welcome you!

Sara Getley

Christmas Tree Festival 2018

The 2018 Christmas Tree Festival – the fourteenth of its kind – was again a very popular and successful community event in the first week of December.

We would like to express our very grateful appreciation to all the exhibitors, musicians, technicians, stewards, caterers, money counters and many other individuals who contributed their time and talents to the Festival. This year for the first time there were popular workshops in St Thomas's House for making Christmas wreaths and table decorations and an Ikebana demonstration

At the Carols for Busy People Service on 18th December the beneficiary charities, Safe Haven and Wessex Cancer Care Trust, each received a cheque for £5,000. The residue of the proceeds of £5,341 went to St Thomas's general purposes fund.

Many thanks are due to the generosity of over 15,000 visitors to the Festival and to our sponsors for helping us to raise such a total.

Comments from the Visitors' Book: Tremendous!.. What a lovely church and Christmas Tree Festival!.. Always a joy to visit... So very special to see the trees in the late afternoon and have time to read the messages.... Another brilliant year, bringing Christmas nearer. What a wonderful place.

Diane Emsley and John Cox, Christmas Tree Festival Co-organisers on behalf of the hard-working Festival Committee

**Fabric Report
Doom Plus Project**

1. The key achievement of the year has been the obtaining of a faculty on 22 January 2109 for the Doom Plus Project:
 - a. The stabilisation of masonry in the south clerestory
 - b. The conservation and stabilisation of the Doom painting
 - c. The cleaning of stonework to the chancel arch and that of the two easternmost bays of the nave
 - d. Conservation and cleaning of the Eyre family monuments together with the oak reredos and railings and the painted ceiling in the Lady Chapel
2. Considerable interest from the Church Buildings Council and the DAC led to the committee, supported by Peter Martindale the conservator, hosting a meeting on 12 June to explain the scope of the project.
3. The PCC and the Guild have supported the work and subject to final confirmation work will commence on 1 July 2019.

Preparatory Work for the Appeal

4. To obtain reliable estimates for work earmarked to be funded by the Appeal a number of studies were undertaken:
 - a. Test work on the Eyre Memorials and screen and the roof of the Lady Chapel by McNeillage Conservation produced some exciting results. Consequently, the committee is tasking them to undertake conservation of the Northern memorial in May 2019.
 - b. Simon Knight of Lux Lucis Lighting has been developing a scheme for the future lighting of the church. The priority has been the area around the new altar and associated performance requirements, the aim being to obtain a faculty in time to conduct the installation at the same time as the Doom Plus project.
 - c. Martin Thomas Associates have prepared a plan for heating in the West end in order to mitigate the down draught from the West windows. They are also preparing a scheme for the rest of the church.
 - d. The approach to the West Door is not compliant with current access regulations. The Church Architect has produced an outline design with a revised ramp layout which will be worked up in 2019. Automation of the glass doors to facilitate access is also being considered.
 - e. If the church is to make increased use of its facilities once reordering is completed then additional WCs is an essential requirement. The committee has devised a scheme to move forward the current 'Pod' in the north-eastern chancel

which would provide increased catering capacity and 4 WCs. This will now move into a detailed design and costing phase.

Maintenance

5. St Thomas' House was repainted in February together with minor upgrades to the WCs.

6. The previous service contractor for the maintenance of the church boiler had proven unsatisfactory. The new one undertook a thorough inspection and minor amendments to the system. A further upgrade is due in the spring of 2019. The current boilers are reaching the end of their economical life and will be closely monitored. Replacement would be in the order of £25K and this has been noted by the PCC.

7. After a survey of the electrics in the East end of the church an upgrade to include a new consumer unit for the organ was completed.

St Thomas's Flower arrangers.

We are a group of 20 happy flower arrangers. Sadly, we are shortly going to lose two of our members who have been flower arrangers at St Thomas's for many years. But I'm happy to say we have been joined by two new ladies. We are a group of arrangers who are always happy to help each other out, whether it's with supplying greenery, advice or just good old-fashioned support!!!!

We have had a very busy year, the highlight being the organisation of the Festival of Flowers, Art and Music. We had a team of approximately 80 people arranging flowers for the Festival. They came from all around the Salisbury area to happily help decorate our beautiful church. I am eternally grateful for all their support and fantastic skills.

We also have had several workshops, making wreaths etc. They have been very well supported and we hope to have more in the future.

We had a stall at the Autumn Fayre which was also very successful. We hope to make arrangements/hand tires to sell at forthcoming coffee mornings to raise more funds for the church.

The most important part of our role is to decorate the church for special events, weddings, funerals, Harvest, Easter and of course Christmas, something we all very much enjoy doing.

If anyone is interested in joining our happy band of flower arrangers, please get in touch and come along and see what we get up to!!!!

**Jill Clark. Co-ordination of the flower arrangers.
St Thomas's Church.**

The Garden Team

We have been very busy during the year, as is usual when we have a close association with Nature. The winter months allow us to take stock, plan what we should do next and have a little breather until the long-awaited spring arrives. Then the garden wakes up and starts to blossom again and we embark on a new garden year.

Some small changes took place in St Thomas's House garden. We have removed some of the older 'leggy' plants on the left-hand side (looking from the house) and replaced them with some new plants. We hope they will enlarge and fill this area with flowers and various green growth and this will, crucially, improve the view from the house.

We have also removed an overgrown woody bush which is on the patio and was spreading over the area. We will be replacing that with a wooden trellis to grow a variety of climbing clematis against the house wall.

Unfortunately, early into 2018 we became aware of problems with our garden hut! Some water ingress became evident and we were worried that we would have to find the money to buy a replacement, which would have been a costly purchase! Luckily, Nigel Orchard came to our rescue; he deduced that the problem was merely the roof, which needed new felt. So, a roll was purchased, and Nigel spent a sunny afternoon nailing the new material to the wooden roof. It was a difficult job to do especially on a hot sunny day. We hope the shed will last a bit longer now it has been repaired.

In July, we were lucky enough to be given several lovely pottery plant pots for the garden, as one member of the congregation was moving house and did not have the space in her new abode which had a small garden. We were able to place these around the garden beds, tucking them in-between the foliage which gave a much-needed splash of colour to the borders.

At the end of a hot summer, we purchased three wooden tubs for the South Churchyard which had to be replaced as they were falling apart. One was next to the Church wall and two which stood each side of the bell tower steps, those were slightly bigger. We replaced the plants in these planters and put in new soil.

The south churchyard is enjoyed by many people, especially local office staff and shop workers, this space offering a much-earned sanctuary in a busy city. However, it had also attracted people who were not respectful of this lovely space. The police were advised of problems that had occurred and they recommended

that we remove some of the shrubbery to open up the area, so everything can be easily viewed.

This year's Christmas tree at the entrance to the Church was a beautiful specimen and was admired by those who visited St Thomas's Christmas Tree Festival. This was purchased from Wilton Garden Centre. We bought two new sets of lights and decorated it with red baubles.

We lost Guy Wilkinson from the garden team, as he has retired to his house in Shropshire, he will be greatly missed. But a new person has recently asked to join the team and will be starting to work with us when we return to our duties in early spring.

On Saturday 29th December, we were able to hold a coffee morning to raise funds for the garden purchases. As usual, our friends in St Thomas's supported our morning event, despite it being so near to Christmas.

There is always something to do in a garden! If you would like to join the team, please contact Meryl in the office and she can pass on your name to me, Ann Horwood.

"We are grateful that Wilton Garden Centre support St Thomas's Garden Team with a 10% discount on all purchases we make on behalf of the Church."



RoseMary, Ann, Jonathan, Clive, Bob and Malcolm

Grapevine

Grapevine is a social group for men, mostly, but not invariably, from St Thomas's Church, which meets on a monthly basis at St Thomas's House. Our evenings start with a glass of wine and a few nibbles, usually followed by a speaker and questions.

We had a most interesting year in 2018. Gerry Lynch, who was the Diocesan Director of Communications and has now started training for the Ministry, started us off in January with tales of his trip to Ukraine. In similar vein we have had Larry Hollingworth talking about his work with UNHCR, and Alan Cane entertained us with his work with VSO. We also had talks of an agricultural nature, with Roger Kent, formerly Farm Manager on the Longford Estate, giving us his views on animal husbandry and our home-grown Hadrian Cooke gave a fascinating talk about the evolution of the New Forest.

We also had meetings of a more social nature, in the winter months, fish and chips and a quiz allows lots of social interaction, and we were also entertained at Winterbourne for an evening of petanque. The weather held off, sadly it did not rain so we were unable to repair to the pub! Nevertheless, a lovely evening was had by all and thanks are due to Peter Ostli-East and his wife Marie who hosted the event. Our Summer Social was a BBQ to which wives were invited.

Mike Winterman again organised our well-attended Annual Dinner, held in the White Hart at the end of November. Our thanks to him for doing this.

"As part of the Quest 2020 Appeal, Grapevine members will be serving coffee and cake in the Church on Saturday 20th April 2019. If any man is contemplating joining Grapevine, this would be a good opportunity to meet members. Otherwise do please contact Peter Horwood or me".

Michael Humphreys.

humphreys.m@clara.co.uk

Lay Pastoral Assistant Team

2018 brought just a couple of changes to the LPA team since last year's report. We were pleased to welcome John Blake back onto the team, so he now continues with his Home Communion ministry. Bridget Trump decided to stand down from LPA as well as from being our Parish Safeguarding Officer – we give huge thanks for all she has done in both roles, and Rosie Norman has taken over the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Training opportunities continue both within the Diocesan provision of Continuing Ministerial Development, which covers a wide range of options such as Quiet Days, Listening to Dementia, Safeguarding, Baptism preparation, and many more, and with options to provide our own training in other areas as requested. We continue to meet as a team at regular intervals. This gives us opportunity to share our training and experiences and learn from each other, as well as looking at how we might strengthen our ministries.

We are extremely blessed at St Thomas's to have such a dedicated group of people. Their commitment to the welfare of others and to each other is a privilege to be around. They bring a huge and varied amount of life skills which they offer to enrich our lives through their ministries and their prayers for us all.

The Diocese welcomes enquiries within their Vocations Team from anyone wishing to explore LPA or other ministries. We would welcome some additions to our team. So, if you think this might be something you are called to offer, please do get in touch either directly with the Diocese Vocations Team to begin the discernment process, or through initial contact with either myself or Kelvin. Or look for the leaflets pinned to the photo board for more information. There are no specific time requirements, it all depends on what area of ministry you offer for

and your time availability. You will also find photos on the board of all our current LPA team along with the many areas of ministry covered.

Rev'd Wendy Cooper

The Olive Branch

The Olive Branch has had another entertaining year. We started the year with an afternoon meeting of tea and chat, followed by very interesting monthly talks on a variety of subjects.

Brenda Parry, one of our members, talked about My Life in Newspapers; Alex Lomas recounted his trip to Israel; we had a very enlightening talk on 'Your body and how physiotherapy can help you'; Fiona Hulbert's inspiring talk on working as a volunteer at a Wildlife Park in South Africa followed by Animal Voice a charity dealing with smaller wildlife. We enjoyed a summer outing to Houghton Lodge near Stockbridge and in September we were in awe of Martha Inglis's talk to us about her six months volunteering in Malawi. Our last talk of the year was given by a gentleman speaking about his work with the United Nations entitled 'From khaki to pinstripes'. Finally, a very nice lunch was enjoyed by all at the White Hart Hotel. A coffee morning was held to raise money to donate to our speakers for a charity of their choice. We would be very pleased to welcome new members and to hear from anybody with a story to tell.

Jan Winterman

Organ Refurbishment Project

As planned, the organ was taken out of service just after Easter, stripped down and the components taken to the contractors' workshops for refurbishment. A second-hand electronic organ was bought as a stand-in. Richard Laughton (the church's electronics expert) made it possible for this organ to be played through the church's PA system which saved a considerable sum as we did not then have to buy separate loudspeakers for it.

Examination of the many pipes in the organ suggested that the Choir section could be rebuilt close to the original eighteenth century Samuel Green configuration. Consultations were held and a revision to the faculty approved. This change is interesting both historically and tonally.

Further detailed design work suggested an improved air distribution arrangement to deliver better pressures and reduce the chance of pressure oscillations. Again, this was subject to consultation and the faculty further amended.

The blower, hidden in the depths of the basement but essential to the instrument, was removed, completely refurbished, modified and reinstalled as was the humidifier.

Two visits by the Technical Adviser on the contract confirmed that the new and refurbishment work is being done to a high standard.

Several large refurbished components (the main and Swell air reservoirs and the Swell and Great soundboxes) have been reinstalled in the organ early in 2019.

Unfortunately, the estimated completion date for the work has slipped twice; once from end November 2018 to end February 2019 and again to late April 2019. This is frustrating but we still expect to get an instrument that will be reliable, good to listen to and a pleasure to play.

Nigel Orchard
Project Manager

Praying Together

Our weekly Praying Together meetings at St Thomas's on Tuesdays between 10.00 and 10.30 am in St Michael's Room have continued throughout the year. Our numbers attending fluctuated, but I wish to record my thanks to the faithful core group who regularly attended, setting aside time to share in the prayer ministry, taking time in sharing prayers for many concerns, e.g. Our ministry team, our Prayer Diary, Quest 2020, other events, the life, work and mission our church and the worldwide church, for people in need, praying for our world, our city during a time of great challenge and for our nation. I would like to record my thanks to them all for their prayers, support and encouragement.

We also received prayer requests throughout the year from members of our church, which were dealt with in a confidential manner. Another privilege has been the responsibility of praying over the written prayer requests placed upon the Prayer Board in the Lady Chapel. We have seen an increase in the use of this outward outreach.

We had many prayers placed upon the Prayer Tree set up during the Christmas Tree Festival - a visible tangible sign of need.

Praying Together continues Tuesdays weekly. Perhaps you might be encouraged to come along to give this time of prayer a chance and experience it for yourself. We would always be delighted to welcome you.

Pat Inglis

Quest 2020 Appeal

We launched the Appeal in January 2018, but progress during the year was frustratingly slow, as we endured the labyrinthine processes of opening a bank account, registering the Guild of St Thomas and St Edmund as a charity, and negotiating Gift Aid clearance from HMRC. However, all this is behind us, and we are looking forward to the first phase of work being started in the second half of 2019. This will be the clerestory repair, the restoration of the Doom painting, and the cleaning of the first two bays of the ceiling. So, if all goes according to plan, you should see the scaffolding being erected in July 2019, ready for this work to be done.

Early in 2020, we plan to clean the wood block floor, repairing where necessary before removing the pews and replacing them with the benches and chairs that we have chosen. That's Stage 1 of the Redevelopment work. We plan to follow

that with Stage 2 (the installation of the new altar and dais) and Stage 3 (the installation of the new font), later in 2020.

The costs of each of these elements are as follows:

Clerestory, Doom and two ceiling bays	£124,775
Redevelopment Stage 1	£225,000
Redevelopment Stage 2	£57,400
Redevelopment Stage 3	£23,400
Contingency (10%)	£43,057
TOTAL	£473,632

And our current income and expenditure looks like this:

INCOME (given or pledged)	
Congregational giving	£36,986
Trusts	£12,000
Church funds	£265,000
Events	£27,088
TOTAL	£341,074

EXPENSES INCURRED SO FAR

Professional fees	£15,070
Staff costs	£977
Publicity	£15,522
TOTAL	£31,569

Our income has come from the congregation, from church funds, and from various events that have been held during the year. These included several concerts, a Festival of Flowers Music and Art, an Autumn Fair held in the Guildhall, a barn dance, and the launch of two important initiatives – the 2020 Club (a monthly draw) and the boxes in which we are all collecting 20p pieces between now and the end of 2020.

We have also started our applications to Grant Making Bodies. So far this source of income has yielded more than £12,000, but we hope to increase this figure substantially during the year. The largest application will be to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We have produced three monthly reports on the progress of the Campaign. These are distributed at Sunday services, are available in the church, and are also posted on our website.

John Bruce-Ball

St Thomas's Church Community Recorder Group

The group has continued to grow in number, totalling 20 regular players by the beginning of December 2018 (and 22 by the end of the year!). We now have players of all instruments and of all levels of experience, from all Three Churches

(St T's, Salisbury Methodist Church, and Salisbury United Reformed Church) as well as several players from other churches and from the wider community, and this adds to the richness not only of the music but also to the social 'life' of this burgeoning group. 'Subgroups' have sprung up around Salisbury and are to be heard regularly at fetes and concerts, and a small number of us were particularly pleased to be able to join with Keith Thomasson's New Sarum Singers in July, to provide recorder interludes at that choir's concert in aid of the RNLI. The players work hard, and improvements are noted month on month!

The group has enjoyed making regular bi-monthly contributions to Evensong at St Thomas's, performing music from several centuries, and in August enjoyed the opportunity to lead a complete service, which they did after a great deal of hard work and with much aplomb! Providing the



music for a complete service gives the players an insight into the liturgy of the whole service and broadens the range of music which we can contribute to the life of the church; it is something the group very much enjoys doing.

I very much look forward to our rehearsals on the second Friday-afternoon of each month, and new players are always welcome, as are those who would like to sit and enjoy listening to the music-making as we rehearse: we can make room for everybody!

Louise Stewart

Redevelopment Project Team.

You may wonder what we have been up to in 2018, and even whether we exist as we have remained very quiet about our work. We do still exist, and our membership remains the same—John Foster (chair), Ute Schwarting, Di Durnford, The Rector, Martin Marriott, Antony Feltham-King (architect), and Nigel Orchard (faculties). There has not been any visible evidence of our ongoing work as we have not had the funding to progress and the Rector has wanted time to make sure that both the PCC and congregation are 'on board' with the plans. We have a faculty in place (granted in 2017) to do the next stage of the redevelopment when funding is available. Most of 2018 has been spent on preparing the ground for the two remaining faculties—the first for the altar and dais, and the final one for the

proposed new font, the removal of the present one and putting cupboards round the south west corner.

I hope that I might be able to report a much more active year for 2019.

John Foster

Sacristan Team

2018 has been another year of quiet dedicated work from the Sacristan team. The team consists of eight people who set up and wash up for the Eucharist services in church, and two people who wash all the small white linen. Unfortunately, this year we have lost a couple of the team members through health problems. I am so grateful for all the time they gave whilst they were able to be part of the team. The good news is that Sue Job has joined us, leaving us with just one vacancy for a new sacristan. Talk to me if you are interested in finding out more.

My thanks this year also go to Alison Orchard who has made some more fine new purificators.

Diana Ruddle

St Thomas's Toddlers

Our Toddlers group at the moment has an especially cosy, friendly feel to it. Maybe almost too pleasantly relaxed?

But can this be a fault in such an activity? Our numbers are restricted to twelve – especially when indoors - and the present pretty regular group of around seven or eight all know each other so well (both toddlers and the parents/grandparents) that it really becomes the pure pleasure of weekly re-union of friends.

Everyone helps in clearing-up because everyone knows where everything lives! It is a joy to have welcomed some members as quite tiny babies, watched their progress of becoming toddlers, welcomed younger siblings to our group and finally sent them on their way to start proper school.

Jennie Hoare for the TT Team

Welcomers at St Thomas's

In January 2018 we instituted a group of parishioners to be Welcomers. The reason for doing this was because we felt that it would be a good idea if we could greet as many as possible of those who come to visit our church during the year to make them feel welcome to our church and to help them understand its history and current role in the city.

We started with 18 people who each decided which hour or two they would like to be on duty each week between 10am and 4pm from Monday to Friday, always working in pairs. We greeted 336 people in our first month. Since then the number of Welcomers has grown to 24 and so has the number of visitors. In July we welcomed 1676 people. During the year we have, between us, put in 1196 hours and have welcomed 11,212 people from all over the world, an average of just over 1000 a month as we didn't operate in December.

I think all of us would agree that this is a very rewarding activity as we meet people from all over the world and are able to enhance their enjoyment in visiting the church. It also, incidentally, seems to have increased the giving to the church quite significantly! If any members of the congregation would like to join this group, they would be very welcome.

Martin Marriott