



The Parish Church of
**St Thomas à Becket at
Cliffe with All Saints**
Lewes, East Sussex



PARISH PROFILE/STATEMENT
April, 2013



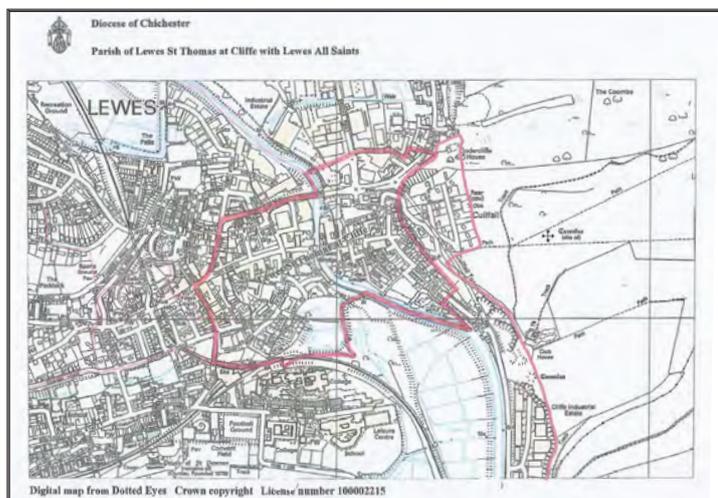
www.st-thomas-lewes.org.uk

The Benefice of St Anne, St Michael, and
St Thomas à Becket at Cliffe, with All Saints.



The Parish

The parish encompasses the former parish of All Saints in Lewes and extends from: Cuilfail and the Cliffe Industrial Estate in the east, to Station and Market Streets in the west; and from Davey's Lane in the north, to Court Road and the railway station in the south.



The parish boundary - (outer red line)

St Thomas' church is situated at the east end of Cliffe High Street at the bottom of the East Sussex county town, surrounded by small shops and residential accommodation, about a mile from St Anne's church and three-quarters of a mile from St Michael's.

The Community



Cliffe High Street is a vibrant area of Lewes, largely pedestrianized, with a variety of small shops and restaurants. At weekends, especially when there are market stalls, Cliffe

High Street can be very busy with townspeople and visitors enjoying the various antique and second-hand bookshops and pavement cafés. It is a very attractive place to wander, shop, eat and drink.

St Thomas is very much part of the Cliffe community. For example, we are pleased to welcome Harvey & Son's brewery for their annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service which is extremely popular with supporters from across the county.

The church is open throughout the day for visits and private devotions. We receive many appreciative comments from people who come in for times of quietness and prayer and from the many tourists who visit the historic town. Local residents, in particular, would be distressed if St Thomas were not open all day

as many people who many not attend services use the church regularly for times of peace and reflection.

The church is only used for worship, prayer and meditation: all other activities take place in Cliffe Hall next door.

The population of the parish is around 2,100 with average residential turnover. Dwellings comprise purpose-built flats, apartments above shops and smaller houses in residential streets. There are four units of retirement or sheltered accommodation, with Br George taking a monthly service at one as part of his outreach ministry to those who find it hard to get to church.

The age profile of the parish is varied: extending from young, growing families and people who commute to Brighton, Eastbourne and London, to older, retired people.

There are two medical practices and the Social Services Phoenix Day Care Centre in the parish. There are also three places of worship belonging to other Christian denominations.

Church Tradition and Services

The *Book of Common Prayer* is used for all services at St Thomas. The PCC is a corporate member of the Prayer Book Society while some of the congregation are personal members of the organisation. All readings are from the 1611 Authorised Version.

The congregation and PCC wish this (1662) traditional liturgy to continue. The only exception are baptisms, weddings and funerals when the families involved choose the liturgy.

The non-stipendary priest is the Revd George Linnegar (known as Brother George). He says matins and celebrates Holy Communion every morning (Monday to Saturday) and leads evening prayer daily; the Parish Eucharist service on Sunday; and Thursday mid-morning said Communion. (On Sunday mornings, the service is accompanied by Merbecke's organ setting and hymns are from the *New English Hymnal*.)

Br. George is a retired priest (with PTO) who has served at St. Thomas for about thirty years; he is well known for his pastoral work. All visiting



priests are welcome and it has been customary for the Rector to visit once a month or to send a representative to the Sunday morning service.

During the last twelve months, the Sunday Eucharist has generally been attended by 30 to 35 people.

The following numbers attended special services:



- three harvest services including the Harvey's Brewery Thanksgiving service: 267
- Remembrance Sunday: 48
- three Christmas services: 106
- six Holy Week services: 78.

One baptism, two weddings, four funerals and one memorial service took place during the last year.

Electoral Roll and Profile of the Congregation

There are 61 people on the Electoral Roll, 34 of whom live in the parish. Several people come from a distance for the *Book of Common Prayer* liturgy while some are from other denominations, and we are often joined by visitors to Lewes.

We strive to maintain the Prayer Book tradition as envisaged by the Church of England Liturgical Commission's report *Transforming Worship* (2007). The relaxed atmosphere encourages people who are in the process of returning to church attendance. Visitors often comment on the feeling of calm and friendliness.

Church Groups and Links With Other Churches

Church groups include a prayer circle and pre-Advent and Lenten Bible-study groups. There are flower and cleaning teams, and a team which organises refreshments after morning service each Sunday.

St Thomas supports a number of charities, listed in the Annual Report. This year local branches of Churches Together in the Lewes Area, Women's World Day of Prayer, the RAF and The Prayer Book Society's Chichester branch are holding their annual services at St Thomas. Once a month there is an ecumenical meditation group after the Thursday Eucharist.



The Russian Orthodox Church in Sussex use St Thomas for most of their services. This arrangement is valued by both groups and the proper agreements are in place.

The Church Building, Environs and Patronage

The church is in a conservation area and is Grade II* listed. Built of flint and stone, it is in the centre of the Cliffe which was a separate area until May 1881 when it was incorporated into the borough of Lewes.



The area known as "the Cliffe" is a marsh on the East side of the river Ouse. Possibly cultivated earlier, it was certainly settled in the Saxon period and may have had a chapel, as it is recorded that in the 9th century the Archbishops of Canterbury held "peculiar jurisdiction" over the Cliffe. Later, the Archbishops of Canterbury were granted the right to hold two fairs a year on the ground to the north of the church still known as the Fair Place.

It is recorded that in the late 12th century a chapel of the Fraternity of St Thomas, a cell of the Collegiate Church of St. Michael the Archangel at Malling, was erected here and dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury. It was probably used as a Chapel of Ease for the brothers as they journeyed to the Priory in Lewes.

The Patrons, Vicars and Rectors are recorded on the board in the Tower. The Patrons were: from 1349, the Dean and Canons of South Malling; from 1574, Archbishops of Canterbury; and from 1841, the Crown. St Thomas is still a Royal Peculiar.

The present church building dates from between Norman and Victorian periods. There has never been a burial ground beside the church, but there was one nearby on higher ground in Malling Street. In about 1970 due to road widening, the remains from it were re-interred in the Lewes cemetery.



The parish pump was placed by the church in 1804; the present metal case dates from 1830. Behind the church is the old fire station now used as a silversmith's studio.

Notable features inside include: the hagioscope (or squint) cut into the 12th century wall linking the chancel to the south aisle; the royal coats of arms of Elizabeth I, dated 1598, modelled in plaster and those of Georges I and II, painted on panel; and the board in the tower commemorating the foundation of the Feoffees trust of 1604.

The clock was made by James Locker of Ditchling in 1670; a new dial with a minute hand was installed in 1817. The ring of four bells includes one dated 1619. The font of 1754 is of Sussex marble. The painting of The Ascension, dated 1645, is possibly Spanish.

From time to time the tower moves; as it is built on a marsh, this movement prevents it from sinking. This has recently created cracks and crumbling stonework in the nave. The faculty for these repairs is in place and work is due to start in May 2013. Otherwise, the building is generally in good condition.

Day-to-day maintenance is undertaken by members of the congregation and the local community. The antiquity of the building, the peaceful atmosphere, the simple manner in which the interior, exterior and garden are maintained, are considered strong assets to the Cliffe by local residents.

The Cliffe Feoffees



This is a separate charity whose aim is to support those in need in the parish and the upkeep of the church. The Feoffees' generous support of the church includes a monthly

allowance, financial help with building repairs and free use of Cliffe Hall.

Cliffe Hall (a modern, purpose-built building adjacent to the church) is used by St Thomas and many other groups as a social centre for community activities.

The Fair Place and silversmith's studio also belong to the Cliffe Feoffees. It is part of the Churchwardens' duties to be Feoffee Trustees.

Communications and Social Events

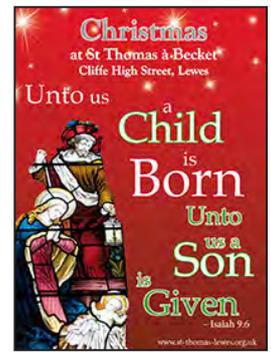
Parish News is distributed each month with details of services, events, dates and church news. The church also has its own web-site at www.st-thomas-lewes.org.uk which is updated at least monthly and includes a download section.



St Thomas' home page

We produce Christmas cards and Easter cards with a seasonal message and details of services, which are distributed widely.

Parish social and fundraising events include: summer and Christmas fairs, Shrove Tuesday pancake party, harvest supper, carol singing and social evening, coffee mornings and tea parties.



These events are important to us in maintaining our close links with the Cliffe community.

Mission and Evangelism

Our Mission Action Plan is enclosed.

A copy of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31.12.2012 is enclosed.

The Future

St Thomas values being part of the Benefice with St Anne and St Michael and looks for a new incumbent who will respect the existing arrangements, visiting St Thomas regularly and chairing the PCC meetings.

St Thomas values the ministry of the Revd. Judith Bevan and would welcome the opportunity for increased involvement from her.

It is essential that the new incumbent should respect and maintain St Thomas' Prayer Book tradition and afford Brother George whatever help he may require.

We will appreciate a new Rector who will give strong, sensitive leadership which:

- * respects the three churches' traditions and differences,
- * encourages collaborative working between the three churches,
- * enhances the Benefice as a whole and the constituent churches within, in reaching out to our various communities within the Benefice.

**ST THOMAS AT CLIFFE WITH ALL SAINTS,
LEWES**

MISSION ACTION PLAN

A planning group was formed to draft a Mission Action Plan for St Thomas à Becket Church. After seeking God's help, the group considered the extent of the parish boundaries (including All Saints) and community profile, recognising that we are a town centre church with shops and commercial activities nearby, as well as residential streets with a significant number of retirement dwellings.

The group felt that support and outreach to the elderly are an important part of our ministry. The frequent visitors to the church and their comments about valuing its quiet, contemplative atmosphere and the fact that the church is open for prayer throughout the day, are important considerations.

The group considered these facts, together with the facilities and resources of the church, and the following have been identified as areas to develop in accordance with the diocesan ABC structure.

A Attending to God – worship and spirituality, Christian giving and stewardship (1st Year)

Stewardship/Charitable Giving: St Thomas has a strong commitment to keep the church open throughout the day so that parishioners and visitors have the opportunity to enjoy the peaceful, reflective atmosphere of the church.

Mindful of this, the group have highlighted several stewardship issues to be addressed which include: reviewing the belfry area, keeping it “quietly welcoming”, and giving visitors the opportunity to view some of our charitable links (eg Family Support Work and Caring and Sharing) and find out other interesting facts about the church.

The PCC annually reviews the church's charitable giving in accordance with the PCC's agreed formula based on planned giving and collections.

Study Groups: The church monthly newsletters will detail St Anne's educational and fellowship activities (available for the benefice), as well as St Thomas' own Lent and pre-Advent Courses. Details will also be publicised in the church.

Library: Develop, publicise and maintain a small library of Christian books in the church for circulation, loan and visitors to enjoy, and to encourage discussion about Christian matters; to include consideration of the Bible Reading Fellowship notes.

B Building a Christian Community - Outreach and Mission (2nd Year)

Coffee and Fellowship mornings: Extend our present coffee and fellowship mornings to include a Christian enquirers' area with literature, where quiet conversation can take place with a member of the clergy. Also publicise the Saturday morning drop-in sessions for enquirers at St Anne's.

Young People: Identify and work closer with local families with young children and build on the church's existing Christmas Crib service and Carol Singing round the Parish, by organising special services for young people centred on the Easter story and at Harvest Festival time. Also publicise St Anne's monthly service for children on the first Sunday of the month.

Business Community: Promote and support Harvey's Harvest Festival Service and other links with the business community.

Flower/Art Festival: Arrange a Christian-themed Flower/Art Festival involving members of the local community. Arrange short organ recitals in the church during the day to attract local residents and other visitors.

Church Services - Publicity: Consider the publicity of the weekly services, especially festival services (eg Easter and Christmas) using the notice board outside the church and other means.

C Commending God's Love (3rd Year)

Pastoral Visits/Prayer in the Community: St Thomas already has a strong community spirit but intends extending its pastoral visits and prayer in the community and encouraging members of the parish to let us know if they are aware of anyone who may require a visit, has special needs or a prayer request. The monthly newsletter will include a paragraph highlighting this. A Prayer Circle has recently been set up.

The small working group will steer through the various action points and monitor our progress.

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS A BECKETT, LEWES
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012**

General (Unrestricted) Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	2012	2011
	£	£
Receipts		
<i>Voluntary Receipts</i>		
Planned giving - standing orders	6,283	9,763
Collections, wall safe & other giving	8,030	6,669
Income tax recovered	2,493	2,791
	<u>16,806</u>	19,223
<i>Receipts from activities for generating funds</i>		
Contribution from Cliffe Hall	1,800	1,800
Fairs, coffee mornings etc.	1,766	1,379
General fundraising activities		275
	<u>3,566</u>	3,454
<i>Receipts from Church activities</i>		
Fees	472	225
Received from Russian Orthodox Church	1,440	1,440
	<u>1,912</u>	1,665
<i>Receipts from investments</i>		
Bank interest	723	178
Dividends from CBF Investment Funds	7,617	4,524
	<u>8,340</u>	4,702
Total receipts	<u>30,624</u>	<u>29,044</u>
Payments		
<i>Church activities</i>		
Donations and gifts	177	277
Diocesan parish contribution	19,053	17,862
Church running expenses	2,236	4,190
Cost of services	1,647	1,832
Administration	640	345
Music	1,627	
Parish News	103	
Affiliations	78	
Buildings maintenance	3,192	1,299
	<u>28,753</u>	25,805
Total payments	<u>28,753</u>	<u>25,805</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1,871	3,239
Bank current and deposit accounts and cash at 1 January 2012	<u>35,931</u>	184,692
Bank current and deposit accounts and cash at 31 December 2012	<u>37,802</u>	35,931

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012
OTHER FUND**

Charity Fund Receipts and Payments Account

	2012	2011
	£	£
Receipts	0	265
Payments		
Miscellaneous donations	2,425	1,765
Excess of Receipts over Payments	<u>(2,425)</u>	<u>(1,500)</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts at 1 January 2012	<u>7,675</u>	<u>9,175</u>
Bank current and deposit accounts at 31 December 2012	<u>5,250</u>	<u>7,675</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST THOMAS A BECKETT, LEWES

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

	<i>Unrestricted General Fund</i>	<i>Restricted Charity</i>	<i>Totals</i>	
	£	£	2012 £	2011 £
Monetary assets				
Petty Cash	87		87	69
Barclays Bank current account	8,734	5,250	13,984	15,278
Barclays Bank tracker account	27,505		27,505	27,491
CCLA Deposit Fund	1,476		1,476	768
	<u>37,802</u>	<u>5,250</u>	43,052	43,606
Investment assets (at market value)				
1,443 CBF Investment Fund shares	16,380		16,380	14,900
11,399 CBF Investment Fund income shares	129,399		129,399	117,707
23,720 CBF Fixed Interest Securities Fund shares	39,241		39,241	38,847
Total assets	<u>222,822</u>	<u>5,250</u>	228,072	215,060
Liabilities	nil	nil	nil	nil

Notes

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments basis Payments basis.
- 2 No payments were made to PCC members or connected persons.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29 January 2013 and signed on its behalf

George Linnegar
Chairman

ST THOMAS at CLIFFE with ALL SAINTS, LEWES

ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OF THE

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ended 31 December 2012

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ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

St Thomas à Becket Church, Cliffe, Lewes, East Sussex

Rector of the Benefice of Lewes Saint Anne and Saint Michael and Saint Thomas at Cliffe with All Saints:

The Revd Phillipp Hamilton-Manon,
The Rectory, 57 Saint Anne's Crescent, Lewes,
East Sussex, BN7 1SD

Position vacant from September 2012

Priest of St Thomas:

The Revd George Linnegar, 20 Morris Road,
Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2AT

Independent Examiner:

Mr Ian Muldoon, 4 Thomas Street, Lewes, East
Sussex

Bankers:

Barclays Bank, The Old Bank, High Street,
Lewes, BN7 2JP

Parochial Church Council of St Thomas at Cliffe with All Saints, Lewes

Annual Report for 2012

The boundaries of the parish encompass the former parish of All Saints in Lewes and extend from: Cuilfail and the Cliffe Industrial Estate in the east, to Station and Market Streets in the west; and from Davey's Lane in the north, to Court Road and the railway station in the south. In 2010 we became part of a new single benefice with St Anne and St Michael in Lewes.

The parish is a charity but is exempted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the Charities Act 1993.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), from the date of the Annual Meeting:

<i>Rector:</i>	The Revd Phillipp Hamilton-Manon to September 2012
<i>Priest of St Thomas:</i>	The Revd George Linnegar (Chairman)
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	Imogen Stewart also Treasurer Carole Wright
<i>Deanery Synod Representatives:</i>	Sue Hammond also PCC Secretary Helen Turner also Electoral Roll Officer
<i>Elected Members:</i>	Martha Bush Trevor Butler Mary Chandler Ann Chisholm Ros Lucas to September 2012 Christine Mason to July 2012 Lois McBean Rosemary Muddle Philomela Parratt Barry Pointon Sally Taylor Hannah Thorne
<i>Parish Safeguarding Officer:</i>	Joanna Hill

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the Rector and the Priest of St Thomas, the churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod) and members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The primary objective of St Thomas' PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

St Thomas' is committed to ordering its worship in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer and each year we host a service for the Chichester branch of the Prayer Book Society. St Thomas' is a Corporate Member of the Prayer Book Society.

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector and our Priest, Brother George, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Services

Sunday	Sung Eucharist	9.45 am
	Evensong (said)	6.30 pm
Weekdays and Saturdays	Eucharist	7.00 am
	Evensong	6.00 pm
Thursdays	Eucharist	10.00 am

Electoral Roll and Church Attendance

There are currently 66 people on the Electoral Roll. Although 7 members have had to be taken off for various reasons during the course of the year, 5 new members have been added.

Attendance at Sunday morning service during 2012 has been on average 30 to 35 people.

Review of the Year

The PCC met five times during the year with an average level of attendance of twelve members.

Each meeting the PCC receives standing reports from the Rector, the Priest of St Thomas', Treasurer, Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives, Clerk of Cliffe Hall, Children's Society, Family Support Work and in respect of 'Caring and Sharing'.

Under the Pastoral Measure 1983, with effect from 1 March 2010, the benefice of Lewes St Anne and that of Lewes St Michael and St Thomas at Cliffe with All Saints were united to create a new single benefice in Lewes. The Revd Phillipp Hamilton-Manon, Rector of St Anne's, was the first incumbent of the new benefice. Whenever possible, Fr Phillipp joined us at morning Eucharist on the second Sunday of the month, until his retirement in September.

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church - Churchwardens' report

The Building

The central heating boiler, fire hydrants and organ have been serviced regularly and the gutters cleared. Regular safety checks are carried out.

The following building maintenance and essential repairs have been carried out; the first four repairs undertaken as itemised in the Quinquennial report:

the crumbling stone above the outer vestry door has been replaced;
the outer vestry, south and west doors have been painted or stained and treated for damp; they are now weather proof;
a wooden platform has been built in the tower to make clock maintenance safer;
the cracks on the outside of the east wall of the chancel have been repaired;
the step leading from the tower to the nave has been re-whitened;
the curtain rail over the South door has been raised so that it opens freely.

The application for the faculty for the repairs in the nave is going forwards.

Visits

A representative from Ecclesiastical Insurance made a routine visit. He did not find any problems and said that we clearly had a sense of responsibility. We have agreed that the outer vestry must be kept clear and only used to store essential items for the maintenance of the building and garden.

The Archdeacon made a visitation. He complimented Br. George on the keeping of the registers. He said that we should have a Log book, something that we have apparently never had and is useful when one person hands over to another. We should also revise the Terrier and Inventory. We are working on these time-consuming projects. He suggested that we should arrange another Growing Healthy Churches meeting for the PCC to review the Parish.

Security

More than £65 was taken from the wall safe. The matter is being dealt with by the police. We have said that we do not want to bring a charge.

The Archdeacon, Insurance representative and the Police have all agreed that owing to the fact that the church is in the centre of town, beside shops and residential buildings, it is perfectly acceptable for it to be kept open during the day.

Deanery Synod

Helen Turner and Sue Hammond attended Lewes and Seaford Deanery Synod which met four times during the year. Meetings are always of interest, covering updates on deanery and parish finances, pastoral strategy and discussions/information on current issues, eg: special activities to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, Olympics and 350th anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer; presentations by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer and Diocesan Communications Team; report on the Street Pastor Scheme in Seaford; Diocesan Conference on Christian Healing; updates on Family Support Work and Caring and Sharing.

Safeguarding

St Thomas' Parish Safeguarding Officer is Joanna Hill. The Parish Child Protection Policy Statement for 2012 was approved at the June meeting of the PCC. We have also registered with the CCPAS (Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service) for CRB checks. Joanna has attended Diocesan Foundation Safeguarding Training.

Cliffe Hall

2012 was eventful because of the refurbishments to the hall. The hall continues to be very busy and at the end of the year there were new hirers, which has expanded the types of groups in the hall to involve a wider community.

Caring and Sharing

Brother George reported to the PCC that contributions to the scheme continued steadily. We support the Olinda project in Brazil.

Mission Action Plan

The PCC approved St Thomas' Mission Action Plan (MAP) in 2011. The MAP has been passed back to the working group who had developed it, to steer through the action points, according to the following timetable:

1 st year	Attending to God – worship and spirituality; giving and stewardship
2 nd year	Building a Christian Community (outreach and mission)
3 rd year	Commending God's Love

A copy of the Plan is attached to this report.

Study

The Bible Reading Fellowship notes have been introduced and currently 12 members of the congregation are following the daily readings.

This year's Advent discussion group considered the nature and work of the Holy Spirit.

Social and Fundraising

Parish social and fundraising events have included: the late-Summer and Christmas Fairs; Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party and Beetle Drive; Harvest Supper; carol singing and social evening in the hall; several very successful coffee mornings and a most enjoyable Jubilee tea party.

St Thomas' is very much part of the Cliffe community and these events are important to us in maintaining these close links. The church remains open from dawn to dusk and we receive many appreciative comments from people who come in for times of quietness and prayer during the day. We are pleased to welcome Harvey's Brewery for their annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service and the Russian Orthodox Community who hold their services in the church on Sundays. We also value our close links with, and support of, the Cliffe Feoffees and the churchwardens attend their meetings.

A Newsheet is distributed each month with details of services, events, dates and news. This is also sent further afield to those who have moved away and want to keep in touch. We are grateful to Trevor Butler who now edits and produces the monthly Newsheet and has also developed an excellent web-site for the church (www.st-thomas-lewes.org.uk). This year festive cards giving the Christmas message and publicising our Christmas services were distributed to every dwelling in the parish and to shops, hotels and Tourist Information Centre.

We are grateful to all those who have kept the inside of the church and the brass so clean, well cared-for and welcoming – also to those who tend the garden. These are jobs which are undertaken regularly and faithfully week by week, which are important to all those visiting the church.

The PCC would also like to thank the flower team for the displays each week and, particularly, for the beautiful way in which the church is decorated on feast days and festivals. We also thank those who serve refreshments after services, arrange events and work for charities and, last but not least, Donald Bishop, our organist, whose choice of hymns and music contributes greatly to our worship.

Financial Review and Commentary

Income

In 2012 a total of £10,605 was given through the Planned Giving scheme, of which £7,206 was gift-aided (on which we are able to reclaim tax from HM Revenue & Customs of 25p for every pound donated). In 2012 nearly £2,500 was reclaimed from HMRC, which was a very welcome addition to church funds. We very much depend on Planned Giving and recognise the generous support of all those who are members of the scheme.

Over £1,700 was raised by our fairs and other fundraising activities, which is a credit to all the hard work of those involved.

In 2011, to increase the financial return on our investments, the PCC decided to reinvest a significant part of our savings in the Church Board of Finance (CBF) Church of England Fixed Interest Securities Fund and the Investment Fund. We are pleased to be able to report that in 2012 over £7,600 has been raised through the CBF investment funds, which has enabled us to avoid going into deficit each month.

Overall, the Total Receipts for the year (£30,624) compare favourably with those in 2011 (£29,044).

Expenditure

In 2012 the parish contribution to the diocese (including a benefice administrative charge) was £19,053 pa – see details below. This is the largest single outgoing payment which is likely to increase each year in the future.

Overall the Total Payments for the year (£28,753) were nearly £3,000 more than in 2011 (of which over £3,000 was in respect of essential building repairs), resulting in a more modest excess of receipts over payments of £1,871. (In 2011 this figure was £3,239).

Forecast

Although we have been able to break even each month in 2012, we can expect increasing pressure to maintain this position in view of the increasing costs of utilities, incidental expenses and payments to the diocese. We will continue to be very dependent on our Planned Giving and the return on our investments.

It is difficult to forecast building repairs although it is likely that the work on the nave will commence shortly in 2013.

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2012 are attached.

Parish Contribution

The diocese makes the arrangements to pay all clergy costs and most lay workers centrally. It also pays centrally for insurance of church buildings, training, parish support, clergy housing, administration etc. In total these centrally-paid items are called parish ministry costs. The money needed to support these is the basis of the parish contribution.

The full Parish Ministry Costs (PMC) for the united benefice in 2012 were £95,196. The benefice agreed to pay 100%, ie the full PMC, of which St Thomas' paid one fifth, which amounted to £19,039 per annum (£1,587 a month), excluding the benefice administrative charge.

Charitable Giving

The PCC agreed to donate 10% of our 2011 voluntary receipts (comprising planned giving, collections and tax recovered), distributed between the following charities:

The Anthony Pilcher Bone Cancer Trust
Family Support Work
Sussex Deaf Association
St Peter and St James Hospice
Lewes District Churches Homelink
St Cuthman's Light Centre

and a contribution to Mary Mapemba's work in Malawi.

Signed on behalf of the PCC

.....**Chairman**.....**date**