



Annual Reports AGM 2021

Report of the activities of St Thomas Osbaldwick with St James Murton from April 2020 to April 2021. Annual Financial Statement 2020 & Budget 2021.

Clergy report

I was licenced as Interim Priest-in-Charge (for three years) in October 2020, during a global pandemic. Despite the obvious challenges of the COVID-19 restrictions, I have felt warmly welcomed by our churches, and especially by our Churchwardens and our Readers. I soon realised that, together with the PCC, they have done an excellent job during the interregnum. I am immensely grateful for their continued service and ministry.

I have been greatly encouraged by your faithfulness in prayer and worship in this difficult year. When we were not able to meet in person, the church has been able to offer a range of opportunities for online worship. On some occasions (e.g. the Mary Ward Service) we have reached far more people than would have ever fitted in church!

Yet we all long for a return to 'normal', *without* masks, and *with* communal hymn singing, *with* a choir, and *with* refreshments to share after the service. As COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed, I look forward to opportunities to get to know you all a little better. I have heard rumours of teas and cakes and other lovely things, so I cannot wait to share in the social life of our church family!

I also hope and pray that our church finances will return to 'normal'. This year's sharp decline in church income caused me some concern. In July, the PCC took the difficult decision to cut our Freewill Offering contribution to the Diocese by 60%. We should remember that this loss of income for the Diocese does not come without a price – it directly affects the mission of the church elsewhere. But I do support the PCC in their decision. The sad fact is that over the past year many of our friends passed away or have been unable to attend church, and this has severely affected our income figures. However, after I wrote to you about our financial difficulties, I was encouraged by your response. We are starting the new financial year in a much better position than expected, and this is testimony of your resilience, commitment, and

faith. I hope and pray that our income figures continue to improve, and that soon our blessings may overflow to other churches in need.

Much of my time is spent in my diocesan role of Green Ambassador. Since my appointment in October, I have set up an Environment Steering Committee, prepared a draft Diocesan Environment Policy, and created a Roadmap to Net Zero 2030. I have fulfilled preaching appointments across the Diocese and continue to lecture at the York School of Ministry. The autumn of 2021 promises to be a busy time with many events leading up to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. However, I feel passionate about environmental issues, and I feel energised by role as Diocesan Environment Officer. Hopefully, in the year ahead, our parish will sign up to the Eco Church award scheme.

As 'normal' life resumes, I am keen to make sure we all share in the life and ministry of the church. Some of our church activities will resume, but others will not, to allow room for new initiatives to take root. We all will need to focus our energy where it is most effective for the growth of God's kingdom, both inside and outside of the church. Please pray for me, the Readers, the Churchwardens, and the PCC, as I pray for you.

Jan Nobel

Electoral Roll report

Since the last revision in November 2020, 7 names have been added and 1 name has been removed. Total number on the Roll is 61.

Anne Gray

Churchwardens Report

We are most grateful to everyone who helps to keep our churches vibrant and in good order. This covers every aspect of church life, services, events, flowers, upkeep of the church in so many ways and for giving their talents and money so generously.

Glenn Booth and Allan Dobson

Treasurer's Report

Please note: This report covers the financial year which ended 31st December 2020.

The then treasurer, Allan Dobson reported that the Receipts and Payments Audited Accounts for 2020 show a deficit of -£5006.59. This was due in the main to the effects of the COVID19 pandemic and the subsequent closing of Osbaldwick & Murton Churches during 2020. These closures have had a significant impact on our income from church collections, gift aid, fund raising events etc.

The PCC also agreed to refund monies raised by the Murton Centenary Committee due to both parties being unable to agree Terms of Reference. This action brought the matter to a close.

It was put to the PCC at the beginning of 2020 that we could not maintain the level of freewill offering given in 2019 and this was reduced from £3133 per month to £2500 from January 2020 up until June 2020. There followed a further reduction to £1000 which was considered and approved by the PCC due to the temporary church closures and the impact this was having financially. The action taken by the PCC enabled the church current account at 31st December 2020 to be only £2436 lower than the same period in 2019 and avoided the need to transfer funds from the deposit account in support.

A number of church members changed from giving by weekly envelopes to giving by bank standing order and some reviewed the amount they gave. Other members generously gave one-off donations. All these actions were very much appreciated.

Please see our attached audited accounts for details of expenditure and income during 2020.

I would like to thank Guy Raines our Honorary Examiner for all his work over many years. Guy along with myself stepped down at the end of 2020. My grateful thanks to all members who have supported me in any way over the last 8 years.

Finally, I would like to thank my successor Julian Gray for agreeing to take up the role of treasurer and wish him every success.

Allan Dobson

Fabric and Fabric Fundraising Report

The leak from the south side of St Thomas's has been resolved and we are fund-raising to help with the guttering repair on the north side, plus further repairs

and redecoration of both our churches. We had a meeting with Keith Halliday (DAC) to get his advice on the work that needs doing and are currently getting estimates on costs.

The fund-raising committee was formed in October 2019 with the specific aim to co-ordinate fundraising to address the issues raised in the 2017 Quinquennial Reports for St Thomas's and St James's. The reports were produced in February 2017 and highlighted that significant work was required to St Thomas's in particular, mainly to address water ingress. It estimated the cost of the work on both churches to be between £70k and £90k at that time, although some of the work was investigative in nature to identify the extent of the remedial work required.

By the time the committee was formed it was close to 3 years since the surveys were made and it is reasonable to expect the water damage to have worsened in that time. In terms of fundraising, we faced a perfect storm. A planned series of events set to start in early 2020 had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and it is only now that we can plan these again. We needed to raise this 'seed' money as most grants require the applicant to have already raised a percentage of the requested amount (often 50%). The committee is now active again and planning events and grant applications.

Planned fundraising events so far include a post lockdown raffle, a Summer Fayre, an Antiques Roadshow, Wine tasting – October (TBC), and a Fashion Show – February/March 2022.

Accessing funding from grants is challenging:

- Most grants require the applicant to have already raised a percentage of the requested amount (often 50%)
- Some grants are skewed to areas which feature more prominently in the Deprivation Index. Neither Osbaldwick nor Murton fall into this category
- There are more grant applications with less funding available
- Funding that is available tends to be focussed on COVID recovery

We have an application template with a 'backstory' that can be tailored to individual applications.

Glenn Booth, Allan Dobson and Nick Wainwright

Deanery Synod Report

At the beginning of 2020 Candlemas was celebrated at St Thomas's with the Area Dean presiding over the service. The Come and See Mission just missed lockdown, and most churches had one or two special services. Bishop Emma Ineson and her curate attended and took part in our Spa Church Service. There were no synod meetings during the first lockdown. We met in person for the October meeting where several new incumbents were welcomed into the Deanery, including our own new incumbent Jan Nobel. We were addressed by Canon Linda Ali on "Black Lives Matter - raising awareness in our communities", with a session for questions and answers afterwards which was well received.

Julie Wainwright and Jack Booth

Safeguarding Report

I confirm that this last year to the best of my knowledge, awareness, and effort in the Parish of St Thomas Osballdwick with St James Murton we have complied with the House of Bishops' Safer Recruitment practice guidance.

There have been no reportable incidents since Last report (AGM November 2020).

All Parish Church Council members are DBS verified.

I expect to see a refresh of Safeguarding training for every member of the PCC in 2021/22.

The Parish received a new Vicar in September 2020 and I confirm there were no Safeguarding issues to pass to the new Vicar.

Julian Gray

Fundraising and events

Due to the pandemic we had to postpone most of the events planned, but we had pancakes on Shrove Tuesday 2020 and we had a Sunday lunch just before the lockdown. We also managed to hold the annual Christmas Raffle in support of church funds.

Glenn Booth

Worship Group

The Worship Group met monthly to discuss the worship arrangements for the succeeding month. We did our best to provide suitable online worship provisions throughout the lockdowns, and where possible to have services from both St Thomas and St

James. Together with the vicar we have been preparing new liturgies for each season of the liturgical year. We hope to compile these liturgies into a single worship book later this year, to be reviewed by the PCC. At the AGM we will discuss the future of our regular worship pattern for St Thomas and St James.

Jan Nobel

Pastoral Group

Pastoral group have been busy during lockdown keeping in touch not just with church members but with those in the community who have been alone, and especially those who have been bereaved. It has been difficult not being able to visit people, but we have endeavoured to keep in touch by phone, email, and post. We welcomed Jan to the group in October. It became obvious that more members will be needed to join the group, and this will be addressed in 2021.

Julie Wainwright

Communications Group

Over the past year the group finalised the new website. Thanks are recorded to our webmaster Nick Wainwright for the many hours that he has spent building the new site. It looks fantastic! Thanks also to Nick and his wife Julie for developing our social media presence, we now have regular posts on Facebook and Twitter.

Due to the various lockdown situations over the last year the group hasn't met as much as we would have liked, but in the two years or so of our existence we have come a long way!

David Jackson

Parish Link

All thirty-two advertising spaces have been occupied, with additional advertisements on page 9. Prices were increased in January 2021 to reflect the fact that the Parish Link is now completely in colour and available online. All the delivery routes are covered with a few people who are happy to help when and if necessary. Due to lockdown, the Parish Link has been collated at Julie's house, but it is hoped that in due course it will go back into church and that new teams can be put together to help collating the magazines ready for delivery.

Julie Wainwright

OSBALDWIN & MURTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT - YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020

EXPENDITURE			£	p	INCOME			£	p
Freewill offering	2000.00								
Owing	1000.00	21000	-		Planned Giving	18240	60		
Fees. 15 D.S.F	689.00				Loose collections	2092	77		
Owing	134.00	823	-		Link Advertiser	4265			
To charities	913.56				Donations - Unrestricted	2775			
Owing	444.52	1358	38		- Restricted	1334	98		
Insurance premium		1183	16		Fees	4062	-		
Repair - Maintenance		1829	73		Fund Raising Events	1263	80		
Gas - St Thomas'		1360	01		Letting fees	192	-		
Electric "		660	36		Murton	600	-		
Cleaner		525	-		Early Fund Raising	68	42		
Organist / Music		587	-		Tax recovered	5411	75		
Link Magazine		1598	25		Bank Interest	46	50		
Fire Extinguishers		220	14		Building Fund	25	-		
Vicarage - Water	634.49								
Garden	1268.20				Total Income	40,377	82		
Gas/Electric	455.61	2388	30						
St. James, Murton									
Electric	334.77								
Insurance	564.15				DEFICIT for the Year	5006	59		
Water	35.24								
Churchyard	1743.00	2677	16						
Refund to Murton Parish Council		4728	21						
Weekly Envelopes		107	32						
Paper, Cartridges		230	55						
Photo Copier		3074	97						
Water		103	45						
Upkeep of Services		172	95						
Verge		140	-						
Leaflets, Magazine		100	85						
Fund Raising Events - Expenses		161	-						
Miscellaneous		353	99						
		45,384	41					45,384	41

OSBALDWICK + MURTON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	£	p		£	p
Funds from 2019	43,945	86	Assets:		
Less Deficit for 2020			Current Bank a/c	29,026	04
as shown on Page 1	5,006	59	Deposit Bank a/c	10,997	75
Funds carried forward	38,939	27	Cash in Transit	494	-
Amounts owing at 31 Dec					
Free will offering	1000.00				
To Charities	444.52				
DBF fees	134.00	1578 52			
	40,517.79			40,517	79

Signed *A. Dulan*
Hon. Treasurer

Hon. Examiners Report:

I certify that the foregoing Accounts are in accordance with the books + records of the Osbaldwick + Murton Parochial Church Council as produced to me for the year to 31st December 2020

Signed *J. Rains*
16 April 2021

Planning for 2021

	Outgoing	Incoming
Freewill Offering to Diocese	£30,000.00	
Utilities	£2,500.00	
Safety equipment such as Fire extinguishers	£200.00	
Clergy Expenses	£1,200.00	
Organist and Music	£1,400.00	
Fabric	£10,000.00	
Insurance	£2,000.00	
Worship Essentials (candles,wine, wafers etc	£500.00	
Stationary	£200.00	
Photo copier	£1,400.00	
Vicarage Costs (water etc)	£1,000.00	
Churchyard maintenance (Murton)	£1,400.00	
Payment Fees (Verger, cleaner etc)	£1,400.00	
Parish Link Printing	£3,600.00	
Fund Raising Expenses	£300.00	
Data management	£600.00	
Accountant fee	£150.00	
Collections (BSO, Env, Loose)		£30,000.00
Donations (Not elibgible for Gift Aid)		£10,000.00
Social Fund raising		£2,000.00
Church letting fees		£1,000.00
Parish Link Adverts		£5,000.00
Service fees		£4,500.00
Tax recovered & Bank interest		£6,000.00
Miscellaneous collections (GASDS applicable)		£500.00
Restricted Gifts (Not Gift aided)		£10,000.00
Total	£57,850.00	£69,000.00

- Are those present activities that we intend to continue organised as efficiently as possible?
- Are they necessary?
- Are there areas we could and should stimulate by spending more?
- Do these existing activities reflect our priorities?
- Are we doing things which would not be missed or would only have a marginal effect if we stopped doing them and used the resources elsewhere?
- Are the proportions between the areas of expenditure sensible, or are there areas where the cost is too high for the benefit being achieved?
- What are we not doing that we should?
- What would we like to do?

Finally, in approving the budget the church should be asking the vital questions: "Does what we as a church propose to do fit in with what Jesus Christ created the Church to do?" - "Are we fulfilling our mission?"