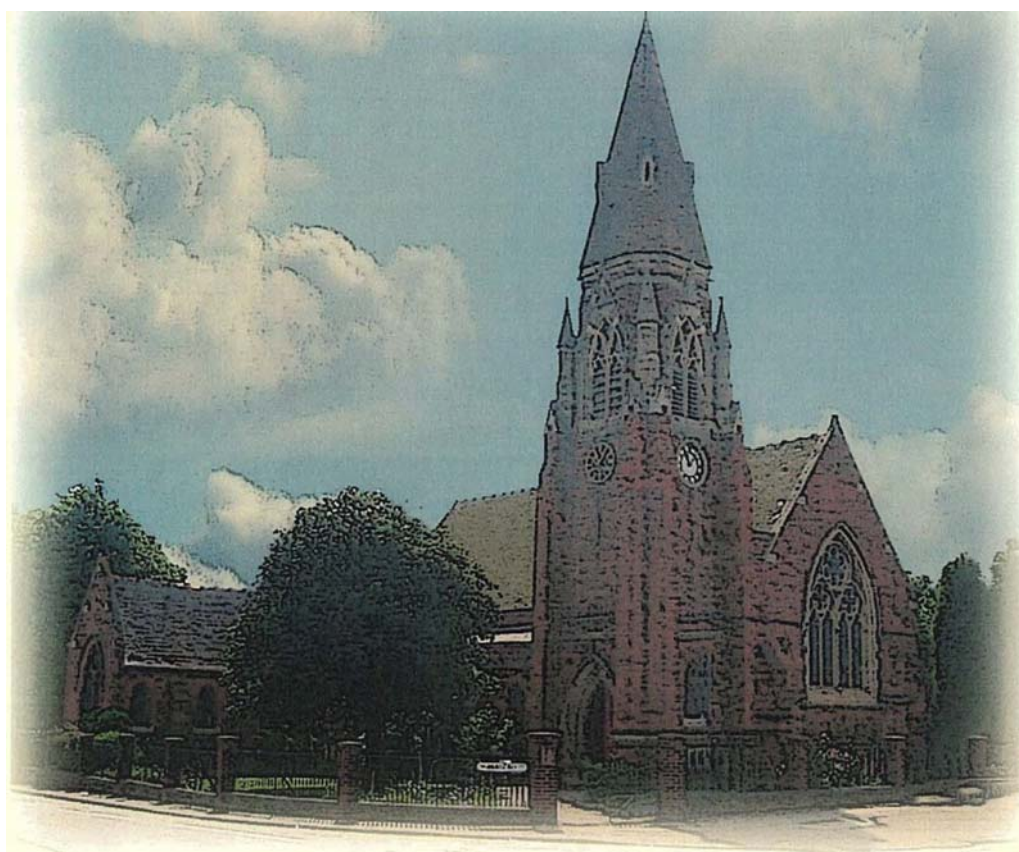


ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE
LONGFORD, NORTH COVENTRY
PARISH PROFILE



BISHOPS' INTRODUCTIONS

An Introduction to the parish of St Thomas, Longford by the Bishop of Ebbsfleet

This is an exciting post for a priest from the catholic tradition with a heart for mission and renewal. It is good to see that the Diocese of Coventry is willing to invest in the parishes which look to the Bishop of Ebbsfleet for extended episcopal care, in a very welcome spirit of partnership and co-operation.

The post is a challenging one, but there are real opportunities for an energetic priest to grow the congregation and reach out into the extensive new areas of the parish. Support will come from the other priests in the North Coventry Mission Partnership. It is essential that the new priest at St Thomas' is able and willing to work collaboratively.

It is not too far-fetched to say that the appointment at St Thomas' can be seen as something of a litmus test for the present state and future prospects of the catholic movement in the Church of England. Do we have priests ready to offer themselves for this sort of challenge, to be committed to parish ministry, growth and renewal? I pray, hope and trust that this is so.

+Jonathan Ebbsfleet

An Introduction to the parish of St Thomas, Longford by the Bishop of Coventry

The Diocese of Coventry has long had a reputation for imaginative approaches to ministry, a clear focus on the mission of the Church and a commitment to reconciliation in the Church and the World. This is very much in evidence in the creation of the North Coventry Mission Cluster and the hopes for the new Vicar of St Thomas Longford.

Coventry Diocese is committed to a common purpose of worshipping God, making new disciples and transforming communities and to developing the eight quality characteristics of healthy Church life in each Church community. You will see how St Thomas' has assessed itself according to these criteria and the priestly leadership it is looking for in each of them.

We are also committed to nurturing the best possible relationships between all of our parishes and priests. Here again you will see how Deanery and Diocese is seeking to support the traditional catholic parishes of North Coventry as they minister in demanding areas where the Church often lacks penetration. Personally, I am delighted to be able to work with Bishop Jonathan as we reach out to these parts of Coventry with the love of Christ and the faith of the Church.

It is really heartening to see the way the people of St Thomas are ready to face the next stage of their life with joy and confidence. There is much to build upon and many

opportunities to grasp. These faithful people are determined to move forward and are looking for a godly, faithful and imaginative priest to serve and lead them.

I commend this exciting post to you.

With my prayers

+ Christopher

COVENTRY NORTH DEANERY

Coventry North Deanery is one of the more deprived Deaneries within the Diocese of Coventry, including predominantly city centre, UPA and suburban parishes, with a few outlying villages. The Deanery has a huge potential for mission, and is fully committed to fulfilling the Diocesan Mission Purpose of Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities, using the 8 qualities of healthy churches.

There is a healthy range of church traditions, though the majority are in the evangelical or catholic traditions. Coventry Cathedral is part of the Deanery. Considering the range of traditions relationships between clergy in the Deanery are very good.

The Deanery is very keen to foster missional growth in all churches, and is in full support of the creation of a 'Mission Partnership' group of parishes who have opted for Extended Episcopal Care, whilst ensuring that this Mission Partnership Group remains fully within the Deanery.

Hence the Vicar/Priest in Charge of St. Thomas, Longford/St James', Ansty and St. Andrew's, Shilton, will be a welcome addition to the Chapter and we look forward to him playing an active and collaborative role in both the Mission Partnership and the wider deanery.

BACKGROUND TO POST

St. Thomas is a forward looking, traditionalist Catholic parish, serving a large parish (16,000 by 2012) in Coventry, including deprived areas and new housing estates. Despite a third of our congregation recently seeking to live out their Christian faith within the Ordinariate, including most of those who had significant areas of responsibility, morale remains high amongst those who have decided to remain at St Thomas. We wish to move forward together facing the challenges ahead *in confidence* with our new priest and build on the wonderful things we already have. We certainly want to keep the rumour of God alive in our parish!

The PCC has passed Resolutions A and B, Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993. It has also petitioned the Diocesan Bishop under the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993 that appropriate Episcopal duties are carried out in the parish by the Bishop of Ebbsfleet ('Resolution C'). This is the churchmanship which nearly all of our present congregation have been brought up with, are happy with, and wish to see maintained during the next phase of ministry.

We have excellent relationships with other existing 'Resolution C' churches (currently St. Luke's, Holbrooks, St Thomas' Longford, St. James', Ansty, St. Andrew's, Shilton, and St Nicholas, Radford), and also with the Deanery and Diocese. Again, we would wish all of these good relationships to continue.

Given the current context there are potential plans to create a 'Group' of these churches as a 'Mission Partnership', with Fr Kit Dunkley (Vicar of St Luke's, Holbrooks and currently Chair of SSC) as 'Primus Inter Pares' for the Group. The Vicar of St. Thomas will be an essential part of this Group, and, although having primary responsibility for St. Thomas', will be expected to assist across the group. The Vicar of St. Thomas will also be Priest-in-Charge of the small villages of Ansty and Shilton (held in plurality), but it is anticipated that he will be assisted in this role by a Chaplain attached to the Group, and by other priests approved by the 'Primus Inter Pares'.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- **Tradition.** As a parish with a modern Catholic tradition we pray that God is preparing a priest who is committed to, and will build upon, the parish's distinctive traditional liturgical style with a modern emphasis. He will have a passion for and track record of church growth within this tradition, and a *passion to model excellent ministry which will inspire the next generation of traditionalist Catholic priests in the Church of England*. He will need to continue the close working relationship with the churches in the Mission Partnership Group of 'Resolution C' churches (with Fr Kit Dunkley as 'Primus Inter Pares'). He will also maintain the parish's positive involvement in deanery, diocesan, and ecumenical life.
- **Mission Purpose.** He will be committed to fulfilling the Diocesan Mission Purpose expressed through the parish's vision statement, and be committed to creating a healthy environment for church growth based on the 8 key qualities for healthy growing churches (see further below).
- **Empowering Leadership/Gift-Oriented Ministry.** He should be a leader of people, based in devout prayer. He must be able to identify, train and empower others into leadership responsibilities and train people in their gifts. Secure in his identity in Christ he should have patience and courage in leadership and the resilience to respond constructively to, and learn from, setbacks.
- **Nurture and Encouragement.** Recognising recent events in the life of the congregation he will patiently nurture and encourage people in their faith and service. He will demonstrate a pastoral heart and love of people within both the church and the local community. He should have strong pastoral skills, particularly in listening, with the humility and ability to serve, empower and encourage others, yet with a sense of humour and capacity to rejoice in and enjoy life, whilst managing work and other commitments
- **Making New Disciples/Transforming Communities/Need Oriented Outreach.** He will help us build on existing links and opportunities for mission. He will engage positively with the local community, including schools and groups using the church centre. He will be comfortable working with all age groups and cultures and seek to see them reflected in the life of the church.

ST THOMAS AND THE DIOCESAN MISSION PURPOSE

The Mission Purpose of the Diocese of Coventry is:

- Worshipping God
- Making New Disciples
- Transforming Communities.

St. Thomas' is fully committed to fulfilling these three aspects and they are reflected in our existing Mission Statement:

'Our vision for the future is to become a worshipping community where people are nurtured in faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit to share God's love and to bring others into the faith'.

In all we do we must ask ourselves, "Will this fulfil the Mission Purpose in some way? Is what I am doing helping to fulfil the Mission Purpose in some way?"

Worshipping God

St. Thomas' roots lie in the Catholic tradition within the Church of England, with a distinctive liturgical style, but with a modern emphasis which has attracted all age ranges (1-90 years!) including younger families. The spread of age ranges currently in the congregation is 0 – 4 years, 4%, 5 – 17 years, 16%, 18 – 59 years, 40%, 60+ years, 40%. There has been a reduction in percentages within the younger age ranges but we are determined to continue to attract younger people and families. We intend to restart the Sunday school which meets in the Church Centre and uses Forward Teaching.

There are at present 52 names on the Electoral Roll, 80% of who live in the parish. The ethnicity of the congregation is mixed with those from Asian and African backgrounds making up around 10%. The Usual Sunday Attendance is currently around 38 adults.

We have a full set of modern vestments and altar frontals in all four liturgical colours. The sacrament is reserved in a tabernacle. Holy oils are kept in an aumbry.

St. Thomas' has excellent multimedia facilities which are fully utilised for our worship. Music is provided via a Hymn Technology HT-300 Hymnal Plus and laptop with 'SongPro' installed (a song projection management system working in conjunction with a projection device which displays lyrics of hymns, Bible text and liturgy on a retractable screen and sound system). We have a loop system. We have a large library of music for use during the Mass and other acts of worship. The technology is operated by a dedicated group of lay people.

We have held a daily Mass at St. Thomas' for many years. During the interregnum we have had limited weekday Masses, but are grateful to those, (mainly retired clergy) who have enabled us to do so. In the last year we have held 18 baptisms, which take place during the Parish Mass, 14 funerals and 6 weddings.

Although there is much that is positive we believe we still need to inspire the congregation to allow more time in their lives for preparation and participation in worship.

Making New Disciples

St Thomas has helped many new families, under the last Vicar, to integrate into the life of the church, though some of these have now joined the Ordinariate. We wish however to continue to attract younger people, families and new disciples to grow in faith to such a degree that *we inspire the next generation of modern traditionalist Catholic priests.*

With a large parish including deprived areas and new housing estates being built, the harvest field is indeed ripe. We seek a **visionary** priest who has the vision and imagination to lead us in reaching out effectively and also create a healthy environment for growth in the church.

There are a few existing areas which could be developed further in relation to mission, including:

- A coffee morning held every Saturday morning.
- Contact with families who have had a funeral for a loved one during the year, inviting them to a requiem Mass and a memorial service.
- Brownies and Guides meeting on Thursday evenings. We would like to improve our links with these.

We recognise the challenge we face to make more new disciples!

Transforming Communities

We need to build upon positive links we already have with:

- Usage of the Church Centre by Coventry City Council Social Services as a day care centre for older people.
- Norton House - a day centre for the homeless and vulnerable in the Coventry area run by the Coventry Cyrenians.
- Grangehurst Primary School. (The previous Vicar served as a Governor and the school is very positive about increasing the involvement of the church. See a fuller resume of the school by the Headteacher below)

A priority will also be meeting the needs of people on the new housing estate.

Our overseas mission links include sponsoring a child at the Helen Keller School in Jerusalem through Biblelands.

ST THOMAS LONGFORD IN RELATION TO THE 8 QUALITIES OF HEALTHY GROWING CHURCHES

Empowering Leadership

This is a vital area for us as a church with the recent loss of so many leaders from the church. We are very willing but lack much experience in leadership.

Gift-Oriented Ministry

Most of the emphasis on gifts in the church is concerned with activities currently in the church. Active all-age lay involvement in services is encouraged and we have a group of people who read at all Masses, a group of intercessors, a team of servers (mainly young people) and 6 Eucharistic ministers. We operate a church cleaning rota and have a small team of flower arrangers. We have Sunday school leaders who are ready and waiting to be used.

However, recognising the need for making more new disciples and transforming communities, and the loss of people to the Ordinariate who had many gifts and used them well, with appropriate encouragement and training, the remaining people, many of them unaware of their own particular gifts and callings, are waiting to be nurtured. However, since this time it has been encouraging to see people growing in faith and commitment.

Passionate Spirituality

We have good services but want to be enthusiastic about our spiritual life in the rest of the week too. We wish to grow spiritually and practise our faith with joy. We want to gain confidence in sharing our faith with others.

Inspiring Worship

We believe this is one of our strongest areas and has attracted a number of people to the church. A modern emphasis in traditional Catholic worship has been our hallmark, and we have been able to hold these two aspects together well. We wish this to continue.

The comfort of our worshippers would be enhanced by the addition of a new heating system for the church, which would be a top building priority.

Holistic Small Groups

We have no small group ministry at present although this was a successful and active part of our church life in the past. This is an area we need to work on.

Need-Oriented Outreach

We need help in becoming more aware of the needs of our community and in how to reach out more effectively, to the older housing sections of the parish and the new housing developments. We need help to re-vitalise our efforts in mission and evangelisation.

Loving Relationships

This is another area we believe we are strong in. Good relationships have been maintained within the church, and with those leaving for the Ordinariate. We also have good relationships in our Diocese, Deanery, and ecumenically with 3 Baptist Churches (two soon to merge) and a Methodist Church (closing in October 2011).

Functional Structures

We will need help to re-establish effective structures for the healthy running of the church. This will link with the current need for qualities of Empowering Leadership and Gift-Oriented Ministry as we seek new people to fulfil structural roles.

THE PARISH

History

One of the earliest references to Longford is in the 15th Century when it was stated that that there were houses and cottages in the area of Longford and Foxford. The area was later described as a hamlet on the desolate heaths that surrounded the large ancient parish of Foleshill. By 1730 Longford was a village of 20 houses. By 1801 there would have been a population of around 700/800 with the majority of this population (adults and children) being employed in the ribbon weaving trade. Extensive mining in the area and the arrival of the canals in 1769 had also contributed to the village's growth.

In the late 19th early 20th Century, Longford had several large houses and would have been an affluent area and until 1874 its occupants had worshipped at the parish church of Foleshill, but this church was becoming too small and money raised by public

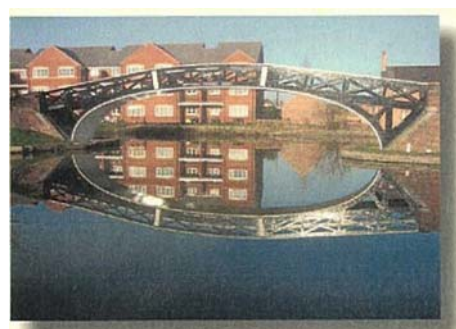
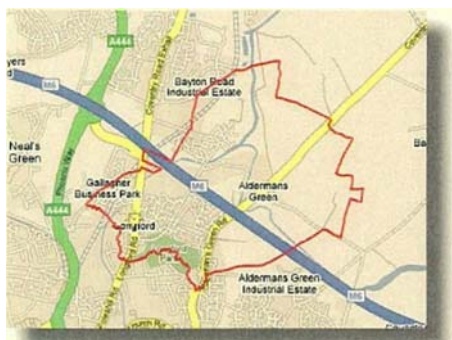
subscription allowed St Thomas's to be built as a Chapel of Ease to its mother church, St Lawrence's, Foleshill.

The parish of **Longford and Hawkesbury** was created in 1908 and at the same time St Thomas's took charge of Hawkesbury's Mission Church, later known as St Matthew's Mission, Hawkesbury. Because of disrepair St Matthew's was closed for worship in 1963 and the north aisle of St Thomas's was re-dedicated as St Matthew's aisle. In 1919 the patronage was transferred to the Bishop of Coventry. The parish is in the Coventry North Deanery.

Location

The Parish of Longford and Hawkesbury is situated on the City of Coventry's northern boundary adjacent to Nuneaton, Bedworth and Rugby. The parish covers the neighbourhoods of Longford Village, Foxford, Rowleys Green, Woodshires Green, Aldermans Green and Hawkesbury and is mainly residential. The River Sowe running through Longford Park and the Longford Community Nature Park forms the southern boundary of the parish. The north of the parish is mainly farmland. The Coventry and Oxford Canals pass through the parish meeting at Hawkesbury Junction, also known locally as 'Sutton Stop'. Public transport in the area is generally good and the proximity of the M6 gives easy access to wider areas.

h, but official statistics tell us a different story.



Population.

The latest available census figures updated in 2006, along with planned new development, suggest that the population will be about 15,000 by 2012 with approximately 8% being in the Hawkesbury area. Within the last ten years several major housing developments have been built, which have dramatically increased the population of the parish to its current level. Most of this new influx of people along with the existing population will commute to other areas of Coventry and beyond for employment.

Longford Ward is the third most deprived ward out of 18 in Coventry and the average household income is lower than that of Coventry as a whole. There is a higher percentage than the Coventry average claiming Disability Living Allowance. 62.7% of

the population is of working age and of these 21.7% claimed out of work benefits in 2009. However a higher percentage of people than the Coventry average are satisfied with their neighbourhood as a place to live (source – Coventry Corporate Research Team).

There are small pockets of light industry throughout the parish and the shops in Longford are small and independently owned. However, within a 10-minute drive is one of the largest out of town retail parks in Coventry. The parish also includes two sheltered or controlled complexes for older people, and two centres for adults with learning or behavioural difficulties.

There are 2 primary schools and a secondary school. All three have satisfactory OFSTED results. There is a school catering for children with severe learning difficulties between the ages of 3 and 11 years. There is also an Adult Learning Centre. It is hoped that the existing good relationships with the schools will be built upon.

Grangehurst Primary School (a note from the Headteacher)

Grangehurst Primary School has developed strong links with St Thomas' Church. During my Headship both Fr Gary and Fr Paul have played an important role in the school by coming into school to deliver assemblies to the children and also taking part in key celebrations such as the Harvest Festival, Christmas Carol Service and Easter assembly. In addition to this Fr Paul has also participated in the school's multicultural events such as Festival of Lights and Celebration of Cultures Day. The children visit St Thomas' Church throughout the year as part of their RE curriculum and benefit greatly from learning about St Thomas' history as well as Christian traditions, values and celebrations.

Through its relationship with St Thomas' Church the school has also developed strong links with St Thomas' Day Centre. The children visit throughout the year and bring Harvest gifts to the residents and entertain them with Christmas carols. The children also took part in the church's 100th anniversary when the school choir attended a celebratory event. I believe it is vital for the children to develop strong links with their community and to play a productive role.

I believe it is vital for the school to establish strong links with local churches and encouraged Fr Paul to become a Community Governor. He was very active in the life of the school both as a governor and as the parish priest. I would very much welcome

the new appointment to St. Thomas' to become involved in Grangehurst Primary and continue to develop strong links between the church, the community and the school.

Kerry Ward
Headteacher

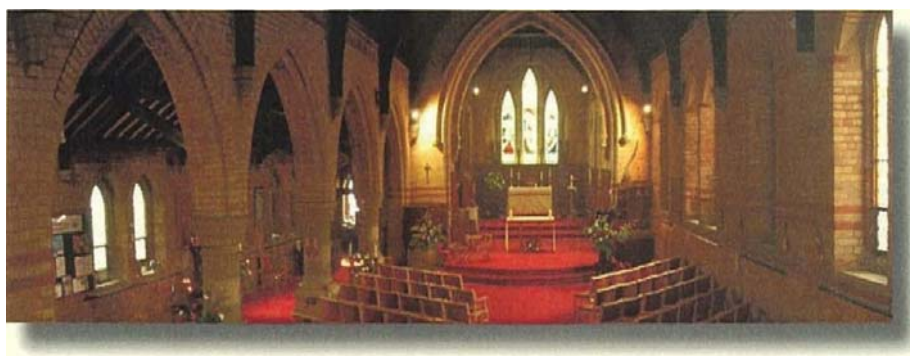
Buildings

Church

St Thomas' Church is a brick building in the early Gothic style with a tower and spire over the main entrance at the north-west corner of the building. The foundation stone was laid in 1872 and the church building was consecrated in April 1874. It is in a good state of repair with all recommendations from the last Quinquennial being fully implemented. In 2006 the interior of the church was fully reordered with the original pews being replaced by comfortable chairs and the whole flooring area re-carpeted.

Top of any future building needs agenda however has to be a new heating system for the church. The old inefficient under pew heating went out with the 2006 reordering and has not been suitably replaced.

The church gardens are low-maintenance, being lawn and block paving with pots of bulbs, flowers and shrubs providing some colour to enhance the outside of the church. The tower contains a chime of eight bells.



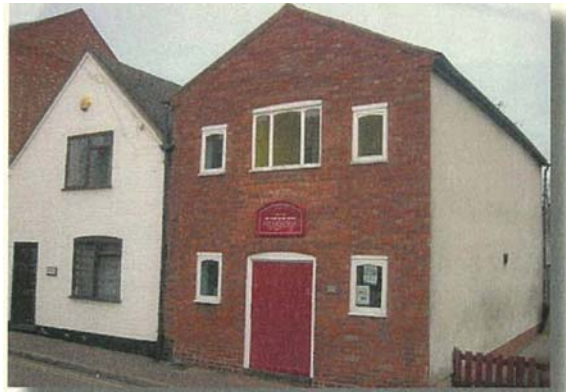
Church Centre

Built in 1893 this building was originally the Longford Church of England School closing in 1963. More recently, known as the Church Centre it is used as the St Thomas Day Centre for the Elderly run by Coventry City Social Services from Monday to Friday. The Centre is hired out to the community for a variety of uses and is weekly used for ARIBA (a slimming club organisation) and the uniformed organisations. A coffee morning is held every Saturday and the money raised on the second Saturday of every month is donated to Christian Aid with all the local churches participating. After Sunday Mass the congregation gather in the centre for coffee and biscuits. This means that this building is used seven days a week.



Parish Rooms

Donated to the Church in 1892 and now consisting of two rooms on two floors. On the ground floor there is a reception area, two toilets (one for the disabled) and an under stairs store room. Upstairs there is a landing and a small functional kitchen. Until recently the rooms were leased out as an art gallery. We are currently attempting to re-let the rooms to generate income



Vicarage

The Vicarage is a 5 minute walk away from the Church itself and was built in 1964. It is in good decorative order. Downstairs comprises an entrance hall, lounge/dining room, study, cloakroom, kitchen, toilet and a utility room off the kitchen. Upstairs comprises 4 bedrooms, a large bathroom and small multi purpose room. The Vicarage is surrounded on three sides by a good-sized garden and has a large garage and entrance drive that will accommodate up to six cars.



Services

The current pattern of services is as follows:

Parish Mass with Sunday school:	10.00am
Monday Mass:	7.00pm
Tuesday Mass:	7.00pm
Wednesday Mass:	6.30am (followed by breakfast)
Thursday Mass:	9.30am (followed by refreshments)
Saturday Mass:	10.00am

In the last year we have held 18 baptisms (which take place during the Parish Mass), 14 funerals and 6 weddings.

We have some Special Services during the year, including:

Christmas time - Crib Service on Christmas Eve and Midnight Mass. At Easter time - Palm Sunday and full Holy Week liturgies including the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and Holy Saturday evening Easter Vigil. We also hold a number of occasional services during the year including a Memorial Service for the faithful departed and Stations of the Cross.

We are involved in the following ecumenical services: Christian Unity, Remembrance Sunday, Pentecost "Walk of Witness" and a 9 Lessons and Carols Service.

Communication

Communication with the congregation and the community is carried out as follows:

- A weekly news-sheet with the readings and propers for the day on one side and news and events on the other. Spare copies are distributed to those unable to attend church.
- 2 noticeboards in the Church grounds, advertising regular and occasional events, and a further two noticeboards inside church.
- We leaflet the parish from time to time communicating special events.
- We have an updated website: www.stthomaslongford.co.uk

Finance and Stewardship

Our aim is to provide good stewardship and sound financial management. The total income for last year was £46,884 and expenditure was £50,578. An annual budget is

approved each year by the PCC to manage the day to day costs of the Parish. We aim to pay our Parish Share, £16,938.00 in 2011, but for 2010 we currently have a £6,865 shortfall. Nearly 20 of our number left to join the Ordinariate in March and this has left a significant hole in what were already struggling finances. We have, however, consulted widely with each other in order to share ideas of fund raising and are working actively to improve our financial position. Clergy expenses are met in full.

From 2011 parishes are expected to fund the costs of their own ordained ministry. This in effect means paying the full cost of all clergy. Currently a Vicar costs approximately £51,000/annum so St Thomas recognises there is a large shortfall between current contributions and the full costs. St Thomas' is grateful to those churches elsewhere in the Deanery and Diocese who help to support our ministry. It is our intention to contribute more ourselves towards these costs as the congregation grows.

A copy of our 2010 accounts is attached to this profile.

THE PARISH PROFILE
For
ST JAMES, ANSTY



and
ST. ANDREW'S, SHILTON



Background to Post

The parishes of Ansty and Shilton have been a joint benefice for some considerable time. Until a few years ago, they were linked to the parish of Bulkington. Because both parishes had passed resolutions A & B and petitioned for alternative Episcopal oversight under the Act of Synod, the members of the North Coventry Cluster agreed to take them under their wing. This link was formalised a couple of years ago by the then Vicar of Saint Thomas', Longford, being licensed as Priest-in-Charge of Ansty and Shilton. This was on the understanding that the actual pastoral and liturgical duties would be shared out among all the Cluster clergy.

It is intended that this arrangement will continue, with the Cluster now constituting itself as the **North Coventry Mission Partnership**. This is not merely a change of name, but a clear sign of the commitment of all the Partnership members to work collaboratively for the mission of the church.

In March 2011 the Vicar of St Thomas', Longford, left to join the newly-formed Anglican Ordinariate in the Roman Catholic Church, along with a substantial number of its membership and also members from Ansty and Shilton.

This has left all the parishes involved facing the challenge of continuing their church life and also aiming for growth by focussing on the newer areas of housing, particularly in Longford.

Person Specification

We are looking for someone who is:

- *Committed* to collaborative working within the Mission Partnership
- *Passionate* about the growth of the church through outreach and fresh initiatives
- *Gifted* in working with a variety of congregations and people.
- *Sensitive* to the particular needs and problems of small communities
- *Committed to spending time in the villages each month.*

The Joint Benefice of Ansty and Shilton and the Diocesan Mission Purpose

The Mission Purpose of the Diocese of Coventry is:

- * Worshipping God
- * Making New Disciples
- * Transforming Communities.

The Parishes of Ansty and Shilton are fully committed to fulfilling these three aspects.

Worshipping God

With very few occasional exceptions, the only act of worship is the Sunday Eucharist at 11.15 am. This alternates between the two churches and Evensong is held at Shilton at 6-30pm on the third Sunday of each month. The liturgy is in modern English and the style simple, catholic and congregational. Both churches are very small, which helps create an intimate and engaging atmosphere. Particularly at Ansty, there are always younger couples attending in order to be married at St James'. Few of these are normal regular churchgoers and this presents its own challenges and opportunities. The provision of musical accompaniment is a problem, since there is no regular organist, but other solutions, such as a digital music system are being explored.

Ansty Hall, adjoining St James is a high quality hotel and wedding venue, hence the number of weddings and also the regular presence of weekend visitors.

Making New Disciples

Some couples who have been married at either church have continued to attend and enter into full church membership. A start has been made in bringing them more closely into the ordering and leadership of the church, but this is an area which has more potential than is currently being realised. It is realised that there are great opportunities for introducing visitors and wedding couples to the Christian Faith. The main problems are that there are no resident clergy in either parish and that most people travel in from outside. However, some preliminary thought has been given to the possibility of running an introductory faith course, such as "Alpha", though the lack of an appropriate venue is a drawback, since neither church has at present any meeting facilities.

Transforming Communities

The leadership in both churches are all local people and are well-known and involved in the local community. Saint Andrew's, Shilton, are involved in a long-term project to do major work in the church, which would provide comfortable and modern meeting space for the whole community, with appropriate facilities. Both parishes have Social Clubs which are patronised regularly individually by members and corporately by the congregations, helping to make the churches prominent members of the local community.

Ansty and Shilton in relation to the 8 qualities of healthy growing churches

Empowering Leadership

There is very little progress on this, since the pool of people to draw on in the past has been very small. It is hoped that this purpose would arise as a natural result of work to draw younger attendees into the life of the church.

Gift-Oriented Ministry

This is a very new concept for churches which have had up till recently a very traditional country church life. Much of the focus has been, and continues to be, on simply keeping the churches open and coping with the problem of a small group of people maintaining historic buildings. This is an area in which we need a great deal of teaching and learning.

Passionate Spirituality

It would be fair to say that the main focus of regular members is the Sunday worship. It is also fair to say that both parishes are not supported equally by the residents of both villages and loyalty is often first to *their* parish church first. As time goes by, with a period of stability in both ministry and worship, it is hoped to develop a spirituality which is not specifically linked to any particular building. From this will grow a greater desire to practice Christian discipleship at other times and in other places.

Inspiring Worship

Because of the size of the buildings and worshipping communities and resources available, the worship has to be simple and straightforward. In addition, the frequent presence of a large number of visitors, sometimes outnumbering the permanent congregation adds its own dimension, since it is difficult to build up a consistent pattern and spirit. The regular rota of clergy providing services, however, adds a freshness and variety which in itself adds its own particular vigour.

Holistic Small Groups

There are occasional study courses on a one-off basis. Other opportunities are offered through joining in the activities of the other Partnership churches.

Need-Oriented Outreach

Neither parish has significant areas of need. It is hoped that the community project at Shilton (above) will provide a resource for the wider community.

At present, little is done to help draw visitors and newcomers to a deeper understanding of the faith. There are at present no facilities to provide something like after-service refreshments, which would allow both regulars and newcomers to interact. Most enquiries are referred to the clergy.

We are aware that more work needs to be done in encouraging us to look beyond the needs of maintenance towards a more growth-oriented outlook.

Loving Relationships

Both parishes are very small rural communities and people already know each other well. Better use could be made of joint social activities.

It would be fair to say that some people have still not adjusted to the idea that they will no longer have their own Vicar. This adjustment will happen in time, but more thought needs to be given to a more consistent pattern of ministry and involvement with leaders.

Functional Structures

We have some very loyal and hardworking people involved in different roles of leadership and service. However, some people frequently feel out of their depth and there needs to be a better understanding of how the parishes live and work in relationship to the Partnership, Deanery and Diocese. There needs to be more rigour in the setting of regular PCC meetings and organising an appropriate and better attended Annual Parochial Meeting. Some people are still not completely aware of the extent of their duties and roles.

At present, the PCCs of both churches meet separately, which presents a difficulty for clergy doubling up on meetings. Further rationalisation of this could be explored in the future.

The Parishes

The Joint Benefice of St James, Ansty and St Andrew, Shilton lies in the picturesque Warwickshire countryside close to Junction 2 of the M6 and the M69. The villages are surrounded by farmland and the Oxford canal runs through Ansty Village.

Ansty Village, with a population of 300 has a playing field, a Social Club and a Public House/Restaurant. Ansty Hall, which was once home to the Stopford Adams family and is now a fine Hotel, lies on the northern edge of its Village and many weddings are referred to St James Church from the hotel. This offers great potential for nurturing people in the faith and contributing to the growth of the worshipping communities. Shilton Village (population 600) has a Baptist Church and a pre-school nursery, a Community Car Park, a garage, a Village Hall and a Pavilion/Social Club which belongs to the adjoining playing field and is well used by both sports teams and for community events and a Public House/Restaurant. On the outskirts of the Village are two small industrial estates.

Part of Barnacle Village (population 200) is in the Parish of Shilton. Barnacle has a Village Hall and a Methodist Church.

There is a cross section of ages living in the villages, but the largest numbers are middle-age upwards and this on the whole is reflected in the congregations. The possibility of starting a Sunday School in Shilton is being discussed and will encourage the younger generations into the Church.

Bell ringing takes place in St Andrew's bell tower on Friday evenings and a number of youngsters from the local community take part. St Andrews is planning to build a new toilet in the planned extension to the North Aisle and Porch, which will assist the Church with events held there.

At present the two churches have separate PCC's, but work closely with each other and enjoy good support from the local communities. It is expected that when a priest is appointed he will spend time each month in the villages possibly attending the monthly coffee morning in Shilton Village hall, this is an opportunity to meet the local people also support the Communities in the three villages and encourage the congregations of the two churches to grow by allowing the residents of the villages to "get to know him". Over the last few years Shilton Church has supported the Heritage weekend at the beginning of September the church remaining open all day with refreshments being served to the visitors. Members of the church have taken part in Ride & Stride for the last two years as well.

Regular social events are held both in the church and local venues which are well-attended.

The Shilton & Ansty Trust was set up following the sale of Shilton School to administer the proceeds of the sale. The Trustees represent the Parish Councils of Shilton & Ansty and the churches of St James and St Andrew; when a new Priest-in-Charge is appointed he will become an ex-officio Trustee.

Both church buildings are very small, though historic and listed. The theft and subsequent replacement of the lead roof of St Andrew's, Shilton regrettably diverted hard-won funds from the extension project. Both churches have churchyards which are

closed. Rather ineffective electric heating is installed in both buildings, however this will improve when the proposed work to Shilton Church is carried out.

Services

Both churches alternate an 11.15 am Eucharist on Sundays. This is covered by a rota provided by the other clergy of the Partnership, with the valuable participation of a retired non-stipendiary priest. Evensong is held at Shilton Church at 6-30pm on the third Sunday of each month. Ansty had 20 weddings in 2011; Shilton about 5. There are funerals from time to time, but the number is relatively small.

Attendance at Ansty can be almost 40 or 50, depending on visitors, with average communicants at about 20; Shilton attracts a congregation of between 15 and 20, most of whom are communicants.

Summary of Financial Situation

Use the table supplied in the template that we send out. The attached financial report does not give any indication of giving, income, expenditure?