

Imagine

Imagine a visiting the St Thomas's, its former glory restored, imagine busy hands serving coffee, image children chatting and playing, while customers browse in the book shop, imagine a group sharing in study in the Lady chapel while the musicians practice in the Chancel. Imagine all this delivered in a way that has the least impact on the environment. This is the vision we have of St Thomas's future. We have a phased plan to undertake this work.

Accessibility for Inclusion – Summer 2026

Our first priority is to ensure that we have a building that is open and accessible to all. To this end in the Summer of 2026, you will see new level access being built to the front of the Church, with automated external and internal doors. The doors themselves will be made from beautiful oak with glazing, to enable passers by to glimpse in to the church.

This new access will mean that all are able to enter the church independently and in dignity. This project is only possible with grateful thanks to the Church of England's Accessibility funding and The Isle of Man Government Towns and Villages Restoration scheme.

Thermal comfort – Summer 2026

We appreciated that the journey to get to the Churches vision will be long. Our current oil-fired heating is not only desperately inefficient, but also damaging to the fabric of the building, particularly the murals and the organ. As shifts in temperature correspond to shifts in the relative humidity (RH) of the building causing long-term damage to the fabric of the building. In order to make the users of the Church comfortable now we are investing in Infrared radiant heaters to 'heat the people not the building'. These heaters will be fixed in a non-invasive way and are a medium-term temporary solution. This project was gratefully supported in a 'Give to Go Green' initiative ran by the church of England which matched congregation and St Thomas's friends donations.

Sealing the envelope – 2027

If you are familiar with St Thomas's you will know that there is an issue with damp and water ingress. The causes of this are failures in the fabric of the building. Cementitious mortar in the joints of the walls, leaking stained-glass, roof and lead repairs required. A lot of time consuming but essential work is required before we can think about the inside of this building. This project will not just be about masonry, stained glass and lead, it is also about leaping towards our vision with optimism. To

this end, part of the project will involve the installation of solar panels which will be commissioned in the subsequent phase.

Demonstrator Church – 2028/29

St Thomas's has been chosen (along with St German's Cathedral) by the Church of England as a Demonstrator church. This means that the works undergone at St Thomas's in its vision will be to Net Zero principles. The final phase of this set of works is the internal reordering. This means bringing the Islands only church bookshop into the body of the church where fairly traded goods will be available. This means bringing a café into the church where people will be able to refresh the body as well as the soul. This means developing the lady chapel into a quiet 'safe-space' for those with sensory needs, for small gatherings and for small workshops. This means having a main space that is comfortable warm and inviting for worship, concerts, events and installations. This project is currently in the design phase and more details will be available here in due course.

How to help?

If you share our vision and you would like to support the project financially using the QR code attached or with a gift of sponsorship please email us as below:



Meet the team

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Do YOU have skills to offer? Contact us.