

**The First
CENTURY OF
ST. THOMAS'S ANGLICAN
CHURCH, ISINKAN, AKURE**
(CHURCH OF NIGERIA-ANGLICAN COMMUNION)



1916 - 2016

**The First
CENTURY OF
ST. THOMAS'S ANGLICAN
CHURCH, ISINKAN, AKURE**
(CHURCH OF NIGERIA-ANGLICAN COMMUNION)



1 9 1 6 - 2 0 1 6

All right reserved. Except for the private study as permitted under the copyright law. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the consent of the author.

Author
St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan
P. O Box 7
Akure, Ondo State.

Published and Printed:
ABGRAPHICS + PIRNTS
Alagbaka, Akure, Ondo State.
Tel: +234 (0) 803 439 9015
e-mail: abgraphicsnig@gmail.com

Dedication



This book is dedicated to the Glory of God, the faithful Saints (The Saints triumphant and Saints militant) who had labored and suffered for the propagation of Christianity in our community (Akure). I give glory and adoration to God Almighty for the labour of our fathers had not been in vain.

Beloved children of God, let us learn from the Christian heroes mentioned in the book and surrender ourselves and whatever we have for the service of God our creator who made heaven and earth so that we can inherit the internal kingdom of God.

Chief Akin Omoseebi (J.P)

Chairman Centenary Main Committee

Foreword



To God be the glory, great things He hath done.

We are highly enthused to write the foreword to this book of history. St. Thomas's Church has grown through the thick and thin of life as a church which is the body of Christ and large family of families.

These one hundred years of experience are full of events that should not just be forgotten; these are events that should indeed challenge our faith as 21st century Christians, that will quicken our spirits and invigorate us to be firm and stronger in our faith especially in the midst of a highly polluted environment and corrupt society where moral decadence, indiscipline and apathy to religious commitment have taken over community.

The works done by the century committee in getting us details of how the church had survived through all the trends and the experiences of the past are tools that we could use to assist us as parishes and even individuals to forge ahead in our race to the promise land. No resting, no waiting, no retreat but forward ever and backward never should be our slogan.

Do not just read this book without endeavoring to move forward in your faith and be stronger in your Christian commitment.

The records of this book shows the systematic growth of St. Thomas's Church as Parish - firstly as Holy Trinity Church, Imogun/Isinkan in 1916 and later changed to St. Thomas's Church, Isinkan, which like the biblical mustard seed has grown to become a force to be reckoned with in the Diocese of Akure and beyond. As one of the foremost parishes in our Diocese, her contributions to evangelism and Church planting is second to none.

I commend this beautiful write-up to all the Saints as a document for their perusal to renew their commitment and set them on fire for the Lord in the mission of witnessing and soul winning.

Rt. Revd. Simeon O. Borokini, Ph.D
Lord Bishop of Akure Diocese
November 2016

Acknowledgement

The story of Saint Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure, could not have been possible, if not for the ever-present guiding hand of the Almighty God and the abiding faith of our founding members and the successor generations. Therefore, our gratitude to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit cannot be enough.

In the early years, when it was inconvenient and unpopular to be different for Christ, the Triune God led our forebears through very difficult times to start this Church for His purposes and calling. Shortly after the establishment of the Church in 1916, the Church, then called Holy Trinity Anglican Church, was ravaged by the 1918 influenza when many of the members died. The living had their faith shaken and returned to our mother church, Saint David Anglican Church, Ijomu, Akure. To God be the Glory that those pioneers, in renewed faith, were led by God to come back and re-establish the Church and renamed it Saint Thomas's Anglican Church. That was in re-awakened faith like our Patron Saint, Thomas Didymus, first doubting, but when he saw the Risen Christ, he confessed the faith and said "My Lord and My God" John 20:28.

We acknowledge the torch bearers of faith amongst whom were Samuel Obasuyi, Samuel Ago, Elijah A. Aguda, Johnson Babalola, R.S. Fatosin, Jacob Ajayi, Daniel Ige, Daniel Ogunkua Oguntolu, Daniel Akerele, Gabriel Otokiti, Josuha Sukute Idemuhem, Jacob Igbinofia, Joshua Aga, Daniel Osanyinbi, Daniel Ojo Adejuyigbe, Joseph Olojuomo Faloye, Comfort Olasokan, Clara Ajayi, Abigail Oluwatosin,

Esther Ayere, Martha Oloruntowo, Ruth Ogesan Osatuyi, Deborah Fasuhanmi and Alice Omojolagbe. Without their commitment and dedicated foundation laying, the current Centenary would not have happened.

The successor generations also deserve our recognition from those who built the first sanctuary roofed on 5th December, 1925, led by Catechist A. A. Isijola to men and women whose collective efforts provided the first bell commissioned on 5th March, 1926; the first wooden pulpit dedicated on 24th July, 1927, led by Catechist J.D. Adegoroye, who preached the first sermon on the pulpit on 31st July, 1927. The burial ground which was acquired in 1948. We acknowledge the collective efforts of the Priests and Parishioners who contributed to the two extensions blessed by Archdeacon I.O.S Okunsanya on 9th February, 1958, and the immense contribution to that success by the then Vicar of the Church, Reverend (later Archdeacon) I.E.O. Alegbeleye.

The need for the current picturesque Sanctuary was then recognized by the members of the Church. The foundation was laid on 31st October, 1970 and the new Sanctuary was dedicated on 31st October, 1981, by the Most Reverend T.O. Olufosoye. In that regard, we acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the then Canon (Later Archdeacon) M.D. Dare. His capacity to inspire the cooperation and contribution of parishioners to the building effort was only matched by the enthusiasm his leadership generated amongst the members who sang "E ma je ko duro, ko ni duro".

We commend the selfless contribution and labour of love of parishioners and friends of the Church too numerous to mention by name or because of the limit of human remembrance. We pray that the Lord Jesus, who we serve would remember their generations for good. We commend also the efforts that led to the construction of

the first vicarage in 1934, replaced with a storey building in 1954 until recently used by Curates. The foundation of the current Vicarage was laid on 27th April, 1986, and was dedicated on 21st December, 1987.

We acknowledge the contributions of our generation of Priests and Parishioners, too many to mention, in the last three and a half decades (1981 -2016) for the tremendous progress and development of the Church which included the Office Building; A new Church Hall and Christian Education Centre; acquisitions of various lands, some of which contain the 15 Churches that the Church has planted including the Igbo Anglican Church now moved to Ijomu and our current baby, the Isoko-Urhobo Church and the Event Center, the best in Akure and environs.

In all the harvest of progress, we salute all Parishioners, members of various Societies and Ministers too numerous to mention, successive generations of Parish Church Council members, starting from the first in 1926 to the current Parish Church Council of 2016; generations of Church Choir, Guild of Stewards, Wardens, Vergers and other Church workers. We recognize Venerable S.M.A Adetiba and Venerable M.O. Adenuga in strengthening the spiritual development of the Church and their leadership in physical development, during their tenure and the indomitable Chief R. Akin Omoseebi for Church Planting.

We acknowledge the various contributions of the leadership of the Church, throughout the last one hundred years, especially the role of the Oloyes, the House of Chiefs, in the early years and the remarkable fortune of the current Oloyes for being part of this celebration. We commend the unique contribution in philanthropy, guidance and provision for varied needs of members by the current Iya Ijo, Chief (Mrs.) D. A. Akingbade and also that of her late consort, Chief J.K. Akingbade.

We acknowledge the fatherly support and spiritual guidance of successive Diocesans, especially since the creation of Akure Diocese, namely The Right Reverend Dr. E.B.Gbonigi, The Right Reverend M.O. Ipinmoye and the current Lord Bishop of Akure, The Right Reverend, Simeon Oluwole Borokini. We pray that their days will be full of light and God's abundant blessings. Our current Vicar, Venerable John Olugbemiga Omotayo, for centenary leadership and wisdom. We pray for continued grace on him, his wife, Mrs L.M. Omotayo, family members and all the assisting priests; Ven. Dr. M. A. Adetunmbi, JP., Ven. Prof. E. R. I. Afolabi, Revd. Canon J. O. Oso, Revd. A. A. Adefila, Revd. Joseph Oluwasanmi Ojo.

We acknowledge the contributions and dedication of the members of the Centenary Main Committee led by its remarkable Chairman, Chief R. Akin Omoseebi and all the members, the Chairmen and Chairpersons of the 16 Sub-Committees. We recognize the great work done by the Reverend A.A. Adefila, the Secretary of the Centenary Main Committee, who provided the draft for some sections of this History. Chief K. Adegbule Adesida, who did a yeoman job of arrangement and compilation of this work. We are grateful to Mr. Oluwafemi Samuel Abe and the entire staff of Abgraphics for their patience, cooperation and commitment to the production of this work inspite of seemingly impossible deadline. We thank all of you most sincerely for selfless service and commitment to God's work. We affirm that it is good to serve the Lord and that "when the righteous rejoice, there is great glory" Proverbs 28:12.

The work also drew substantially from the past records; documents of the Church; logbook of past priests and also The First Century of Christianity in Akure Diocese, Church of Nigeria. With regard to the latter publication, any similarity in rendition of any part of the work is here acknowledged.

We apologise to those who should have featured in these acknowledgements but due to lack of space or unreliability of human cognition were left out. We pray that the Lord Jesus Himself will remember you when men forget you. We pray that your labours of love in the service of God will be rewarded in abundance and in ways unimaginable.

We are grateful to God that we are witnesses of the epochal celebration of the first one hundred years of our Church, Saint Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure, and that with the foundation of Christian rectitude laid by our forebears and strengthened by our generation, our children will celebrate the next Centenary in 2116 and many more jubilees. We pray that the good Lord will grant His grace to our generation and successive generations to continue the propagation of the gospel in love and greet each other with Shalom and Hallelujah. We are centurions of Christ's apostolic work.

HAPPY CENTENARY CELEBRATION!!!

O. O. O. Ogunkua, OON, mni

Baba ijo, Saint Thomas's Anglican Church,
Isinkan, Akure.

13th November, 2016.

Table of Contents

DEDICATION	ii
FORWARD	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	v
Part One	
EARLY BEGINNING AND DEVELOPMENT	
EARLY BEGINNING	1
ESTABLISHMENT OF ST THOMAS'S CHURCH, IMOGUN/ ISINKAN	1
FIRST CHURCH BUILDING	4
NEW CHURCH BUILDING	4
VICARAGE	4
OFFICE BUILDING	10
A NEW CHURCH HALL AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CENTRE	10
LAND ACQUISITION	12
BURIAL GROUND	14
EVENT CENTRE	15
Part Two	
CHURCH SERVICES	
SUNDAY SERVICES	17
HARVEST FESTIVALS, FAMILY HARVEST THANKS GIVING AND TITHING	18
ENGLISH SERVICE	20
SUNDAY SCHOOLS/BIBLE STUDY	21
CHILDREN SERVICE	21
IGBO SERVICE	22
BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION SERVICES	23
HOLY COMMUNION	25
THE CHOIR	25
ORDINATION	30

Part Three

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATION	30
FINANCE	33
CHURCH TREASURER	36
PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES	36
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY FROM 1976-2015	37
CHURCH CHIEFS	38
CHURCH COMMITTEES	42
SERVING GROUPS	44
CHURCH WORKERS	48
LAYREADERS	52

Part Four

GENERAL

SOCIETIES	53
BOYS BRIGADE	57
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP	59
MOTHERS' UNION	60
YOUNG WIVES	60
EDUCATION	61
SYNOD SESSIONS	63

Part Five

EVANGELISM

EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION (E F A C)	63
EQUIPPING THE SAINTS (E T S)	65
PRISON VISITATION/EVANGELISM	67
PRAYER WARRIORS	67
VISITATION GROUP	68
CHURCH CLINIC	68
WELFARE SERVICES	69
EGBE AJUMOGBADURA (MORNING PRAYER BAND)	69
	70

Part Six

**CHURCHES FOUNDED BY ST. THOMAS'S ANGLICAN CHURCH,
ISINKAN, AKURE**

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, OKE – ARO (1985)	72
ALL SOUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, OKE ARO TITUN, ARATUNGIN (1989)	73
BISHOP EMMANUEL GBONIGI ANGLICAN CHURCH, IDANRE ROAD (SEPT 29, 2007)	75
CHRIST THE KING ANGLICAN CHURCH, AJIPOWO, AKURE (SEPT 2005)	76
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF REDEMPTION, GAGA, AKURE (JULY 2005)	78
AKIN OMOSEEBI ANGLICAN CHURCH, ONDO ROAD, AKURE (MAY 2009)	79
EMMANUEL ANGLICAN CHURCH, OLA-OLODUMARE, AKURE (DEC. 2009)	81
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ANGLICAN CHURCH, ITA-ONIYAN, AKURE (APRIL 2010)	82
ISOKO/URHOB0 ANGLICAN CHURCH	83

APPENDICES

- A. CENTENARY SONG 85
- B. PHOTO GALLERY 86

Early Beginning



From 1897 to 1915, during the Advent of Christianity in Akure, the only Christian Congregation in existence was St David's Church, Ijomu, Akure. One of the suggested locations for the establishment of a new Church was Isikan/Imogun. Sequel to that, a Church was built in 1916 at Imogun and christened Holy Trinity Church, Imogun.

The establishment of the Church was led by members of St David's Church resident in the Eyinke, Eruoba, Isikan, Oke Aro, Imogun and Oke Igaan areas of Akure. Members at St. David's Church who lived in these areas joined hands with other strong Christians with roots and connections in Isikan, Eruoba and Oke-Aro. One of them was then a member of "Egbe Iforiti" in St. David's Church as well as the Seriki of the Church whilst another was a Layreader from the same Church. The site acquired for the Church was between Eru Oba, Eyinke and Isikan at the junction of Imogun. The nearest notable feature to the area was Imogun where some traditional rites and rituals were usually performed especially when the Deji of Akure-land joined his ancestors. Just south of Imogun was located a blacksmith shed. The Church land started from the edge of the blacksmith shed and extended inwards to areas which formed part of Isikan.

The Church building was at the Imogun end of the plot, hence for a long time it was customary to refer to it as the Church at Imogun. But the Church was built partly on Isikan land during the reign of Oba Obe, the Iralepo of Isikan, who was an Uncle to late Madam Deborah Fasu Aguda. Hence Isikan finally replaced Imogun as the name of the Church location.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, IMOGUN/ ISINKAN

Scanty oral records indicated that the Church started around 1914 with the few members were meeting in house fellowship groups. However, the first Church building at Imogun/Isikan was built and put

into use in 1916 when the Church was Christened 'Holy Trinity' Church. The congregation flourished there until 1918 when many of the members died during the influenza epidemic. As a result of the incident, the remaining members abandoned the site and returned to St David's Church, Ijomu.

In 1923, the members who had previously worshipped at Holy Trinity Church resolved to rebuild the Church at Imogun/Isikan consequently, funds were raised and a new building erected partly from communal labour and partly from contributions by the elders of the Church. Occasional help was rendered by members of St David's Church. The building was thatch roofed. The seats in the Church were made of raised mud (pepe). The new Church was completed and put into use in 1924.

However, the members decided to drop the old name, Holy Trinity and adopt St. Thomas's as the new name. On 5th December 1925, Bishop J.M. Jones of the Diocese of Lagos Reverend S.T. Oloyede and Mr. J. S. Adejumo (later Reverend) visited and dedicated the Church. The Bishop presented to the Church a Bible, a Hymn book, a Prayer book and the sum of five British pounds sterling (£5). The total amount contributed towards the Church building was put at £33.4s (Thirty three pounds and four shillings).

The pioneers who led the establishment of St Thomas's Church, Imogun included the following:

MALE

1. Samuel Obasuyi – Layreader
2. Elijah. A. Aguda (First Baba Egbe)
3. Johnson Babalola (1st Balogun)
4. R.S. Fatosin (1st Seriki)
5. Jacob Ajayi (1st Baale)
6. Daniel Ige (1st Baba Isale)
7. Daniel Jacob Ogunkua Oguntolu (1st Church Secretary)

8. Daniel Akerele
9. Gabriel Otokiti
10. Joshua Sukute Idemuhen
11. Jacob Igbinofia
12. Joshua Aga
13. Daniel Osanyinbi
14. Daniel Ojo Adejuyigbe
15. Odiase Eleoribi
16. Joseph Olojuomo Faloye

FEMALE

1. Comfort Olasokan (1st Iya Egbe)
2. Clara Ajayi (1st Iyalode)
3. Abigail Oluwato (1st Seriki Obinrin)
4. Comfort Oni (1st Ajigbeda)
5. Esther Ayere
6. Martha Oloruntowo
7. Ruth Yeye
8. Deborah Fasuhanmi
9. Alice Omojlagbe

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE WEEK

This is an annual Anniversary week observed in memory of the Apostle after whom the Church is named - St. Thomas the Apostle, one of the Twelve Disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ who initially doubted the resurrection of the Lord but later believed (John 20:24-29). He has been the Patron Saint of the Church. Saint Thomas Week is usually observed in the Christendom in the month of November every year. Thus, St. Thomas week is usually celebrated in the Church as a living testimony to our faith. The one week programme of activities usually consisted of Bible Quiz, Football, Lectures, Love feast, Revival services and Thanksgiving service on Sunday.

DEVELOPMENT

FIRST CHURCH BUILDING

The first major development of the Church was its being roofed with corrugated iron sheet on 5th December 1925, during the time of Catechist A. A. Isijola. The first Church bell was commissioned for use in March 4, 1926 while the first wooden Pulpit was dedicated on July 24, 1927 during the evening service, the first sermon on the Pulpit was delivered by Mr J.D. Adegoroye, the Catechist, on July 31, 1927.



The Sketch of the old Church Building constructed & put to use 1916 (Christened "Holy Trinity" Church, Imogun)



The old Church building of St. Thomas's Anglican Church Isinkan Akure used from 1924 to 1981; before it was demolished

The old church building was extended twice. First, the main building was extended eastwards towards the blacksmith shed. When the congregation grew larger, another extension was constructed on the northern side of the building. The extension was blessed on February 9, 1958 by Archdeacon I.O.S. Okunsanya, assisted by the then Vicar of the Church Revd I.E.O. Alegbeleye.

NEW CHURCH BUILDING

After the completion of the extension, the Church commenced to raise funds for a new Church building. The collection for the building fund was first made during the morning service on February 16, 1958. The efforts led to the construction of the present Church building, the foundation of which was laid on October 31, 1970 and



New Church under construction



Archbishop T. O. Olufosoye and the Deji of Akure (Oba Adelegan Adesida III) Welcoming Governor Ajassin to the Dedication Service of the new St. Thomas's Anglican Church Isinkan Akure on 31/10/1981, two other Bishops are Akintemi and Aderin.

dedicated on October 31, 1981 by the then Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Nigeria, the Most Revd. T.O. Olufosoye, assisted by Bishop S. O. Aderin of Ondo Diocese and a large number of Church dignitaries, including Revd. Canon M.D. Dare, the Vicar of the Church.



Unveiling the Plaque of the New Church
by Governor Adekunle Ajasin on 31st Oct., 1981



New Church on dedication day (October 31, 1981)



Inner view of the church during Dedication Service (October 31, 1981)

The new Church building was constructed at a cost of about One and half million naira (₦1.5m).

BUILDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN 1981

1. Chief J. Olu Akinnola
2. Mr. W. A. Arije – Secretary
3. Mrs. F. O. Ogunkua
4. Chief J. B. Adewole – Chairman
5. Revd. Canon M. D. Dare – Vicar
6. Mrs. (Later Chief) M. A. Adeyemi
7. Mr. Samuel Folorunso Awotuse – Financial Secretary
8. Engr. Chief J. A. Jeje – Treasurer
9. Mr. M. I. Adejuyigbe
10. Mr. W. B. Ojo
11. Engr. E. A. Komolafe
12. Engr. V. Olu Adegunleye
13. Mr. W. O. Ibronke
14. Mr. (later Chief) M. O. Alofun
15. Mr. (later Chief) G. A. Bobola
16. Engr. Ife Adejuwon
17. Mr. B. A. Ige
18. Mr. (later Chief) J. A. Faleye
19. Mr. (later Chief) R. A. Omoseebi

DEDICATION COMMITTEE OF THE NEW CHURCH IN 1981

1. Chief J. K. Akingbade – Chairman
2. Revd. Canon M. D. Dare
3. Mrs. F. O. Ogunkua
4. Chief J. A. Faleye
5. Chief Adewole Atandeyi
6. Mr. W. A. Arije
7. Chief R. A. Omoseebi
8. Chief S. A. Osatuyi – Secretary

VOLUNTARY DONORS TO THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING IN 1981

Towards the completion of the new Church building by way of providing essential furniture in the Church ready for dedication on 31st October, 1981, the following willing donors are for ever appreciated:

1. Chief J. A. Adebowale – The Aro of Akure – Marble Pulpit.
2. The Children of the late Pa Daniel Ojo Adejuyigbe in memory of their late father – Marble Lectern.
3. Chief Dr. T. Akinnola Aguda – The Baba Ijo – Marble Holy Table.
4. Christian Friendly Society (CFS) – Baptismal Font.
5. Chief S. Boboye Fagbote – Stained Glass (lower one) at the alter end.
6. Mr. Olajide Faloye – Engraved glass work above Eastern door.
7. Mrs. F. O. Ogunkua and her children in memory of their late husband and father Mr. L. A. Ogunkua – Marble Credence Table.
8. Mr. Ibukun Adejuyigbe (Alias Kekere Owo) – Brass Railings round the Chancel.
9. Hon. Justice A. O. Ogunleye (President of YMCA) of the Church – Furniture of long table and upholstered chairs for the Church Committee Room.
10. Mr. J. A. Faleye and Family – Furniture in the Chancel including Bishop's chair and Warden's chairs.
11. His Royal Highness Adelegan Adesida III – Choristers pews on one side.
12. Oba Joseph Olu Ojo – The Iralepo of Isinkan – Deji's Seat and Choristers pews on the other side.
13. Professor Ayodele Onifade – Public Address System.
14. Aseyisamodun Society – All the fans in the new Church.
15. Chief and Chief Mrs. J. K. Akingbade – Marble Reading Desk and Chairs.
16. Chief J. Olu Afe – Balogun of the Church – Marble Reading Desk and Chairs in memory of his late mother.
17. Mr. B. K. Faloye – Upper stained glass at the Altar end.
18. Mr. W. O. Ibronke – Three carved doors.
19. Mr. (later Chief) & Mrs. (later Chief) Wumi Adegbonmire – Holy Communion elements.
20. Chief R. Akin Omoseebi – Electric Cross on the Church Tower.

VICARAGE

Mr J.D. Adegoroye, the first Catechist lived in his own house at Eru-Oba while Mr. A. Isijola and Mr. S.I. Obafemi lived in rented accommodation near the Church. Later, the congregation started to construct accommodation for Church Workers. The first of such



Foundation laying of the Vicarage by Bishop Gbonigi

building was constructed in 1934. It provided accommodation for the Catechist and some of the Teachers in the newly established Primary School. Years later, the building was replaced with a storey building constructed from 1952 to 1954 as accommodation for the Vicar only. After the new Church building was dedicated in 1981, the Congregation decided to construct a third and larger vicarage for the Vicar while the old one would be used by a Curate. The foundation of the new vicarage building was laid on April 24, 1986 and it was dedicated on December 21, 1987 by Rt. Revd. Dr. E.B. Gbonigi



Dedication of the Vicarage by Bishop E. B. Gbonigi

and Ven. M.D. Dare was the first Vicar to occupy it. The new vicarage has a small Chapel and an annex to accommodate an Assistant Priest.

OFFICE BUILDING

The Young Men Christians Association (YMCA) of the Church made a donation of ₦10,000:00 (ten thousand naira) to the Church in 1984 for the purpose of setting up a fund for the purchase of a pipe organ; but the Vicar, Ven. M.D. Dare, after due consultation considered the



Dedication of the Office Building now Accommodation for Asst. Priest

erection of an office building a priority. The amount donated by the YMCA was supplemented by contributions from the Anglican Youth Fellowship (AYF) and other members of the congregation of the Church to erect the office complex for the use of the parish of St. Thomas's Church and the Akure South Archdeaconry. The foundation of the office complex was laid on March 9, 1985, and the building was dedicated on December 14, 1985 by Rt. Revd. E.B. Gbonigi. The building was later converted to accommodation for the Assistant Priest in 2005.

A NEW CHURCH HALL AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CENTRE

In 1994, the Parish Church Council resolved to reconstruct an old School building then used as Sunday School Church to Church Hall

and Christian Educational Centre. To implement the decision, the old School building was pulled down and the foundation for the Church Hall/Christian Education Centre was laid on March 31st 1995 by the Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Revd. Dr. E. B. Gbonigi during the tenure of Ven. J. A. Olagbuji.

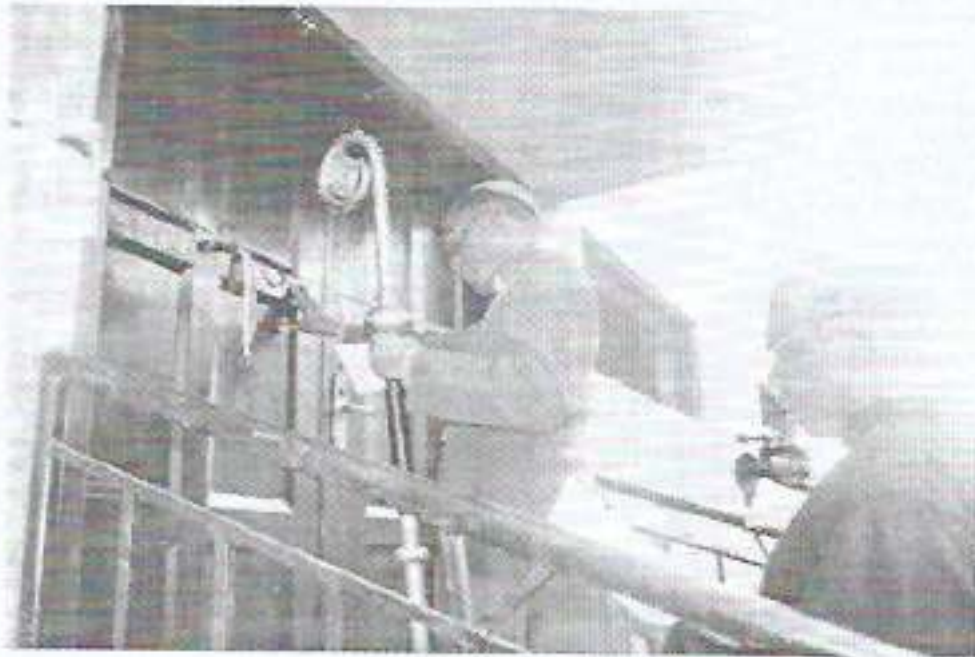


Dedication of the Church Hall and Christian Education Centre on 7th July, 2005 by Bishop M. O. Ipinmoye assisted by Ven. S. M. A. Adetiba

Unfortunately the building collapsed while still under construction on 30th September, 1998. A new foundation was re-laid on 30th September 1999 by the Diocesan Bishop in the tenure of Ven. (later Provost) Justus Olufemi Olugasa. The building was dedicated on 7th July, 2005 by the Rt. Rev. M.O. Ipinmoye while Venerable S.M.A. Adetiba was the Vicar.

The building which was the first of its kind in the Diocese has the Sunday School Church Hall at the basement. The ground floor is the Church Hall. The first floor comprises the Vicar's office, Administrative offices, Priest offices, Church Library, Board Room, Store etc.

and Christian Educational Centre. To implement the decision, the old School building was pulled down and the foundation for the Church Hall/Christian Education Centre was laid on March 31st 1995 by the Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Revd. Dr. E. B. Gbonigi during the tenure of Ven. J. A. Olagbuji.



Dedication of the Church Hall and Christian Education Centre on 7th July, 2005 by Bishop M. O. Ipinmoye assisted by Ven. S. M. A. Adetiba

Unfortunately the building collapsed while still under construction on 30th September, 1998. A new foundation was re-laid on 30th September 1999 by the Diocesan Bishop in the tenure of Ven. (later Provost) Justus Olufemi Olugasa. The building was dedicated on 7th July, 2005 by the Rt. Rev. M.O. Ipinmoye while Venerable S.M.A. Adetiba was the Vicar.

The building which was the first of its kind in the Diocese has the Sunday School Church Hall at the basement. The ground floor is the Church Hall. The first floor comprises the Vicar's office, Administrative offices, Priest offices, Church Library, Board Room, Store etc.

The Second floor served as the Guest Chalets which were later converted to residential accommodation for Priests and Church Workers in the year 2015.

LAND ACQUISITION

Right from inception, St Thomas's Church had been aware of the need to have land for future development. To this end in 1948, the Church acquired a piece of land on Ondo Road, part of which is currently used as Cemetery, the new Church Event Centre occupies the remaining part of the land. Also in 1955, St Thomas's Church acquired another piece of land at Oke-Aro, where Messiah Secondary Modern School, now Omolurogbo Grammar School, was located and part of which is now occupied by Holy Trinity Church, Oke-Aro. Another piece of land was acquired along Ijoka Road, Akure in March 1983, but later that piece of land was released to Akure North Archdeaconry in 1996, for the construction of St Philip's Church, Ijoka Road Akure. The Church later acquired another piece of land at Oke-Aro which now accommodates St John's (now Mega) Primary School, one of the network of Primary Schools affiliated to St Thomas's Church.

Further land acquisition processes by St Thomas's Church are itemized below:-

- I. Two plots of land at Gaga area in Akure for the construction of Anglican Church of Redemption, Gaga, Akure on 15th June 2005.
- II. Part of the land acquired for St Thomas' Comprehensive High School, Akure was released by the Church in 2000, for the construction of All Soul's Anglican Church, Aratusin, Oke-Aro Titun, Akure
- III. Two plots of land at Ajipowo Layout, Ondo Road, Akure, for the construction of Christ the King Anglican Church, Ajipowo, Akure on 22nd February 2007.
- IV. Four plots of land at Ita-Oniyan for the construction of St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Ita-Oniyan in 2012.
- V. A landed property at 162, Arakale Road, Akure, formerly the

- estate of the family of late Pa Daniel Ige, very close to the Church premises. The property thereon was demolished and the land is used currently as a Church Parking Lot.
- VI. Two plots of land donated by Late Chief E.O. Adejuwon at Ola Olodumare Estate, Aponmu Old Road, to St Thomas's Church, Isinkan, Akure for future expansion purpose in 2009.
- VII. Twelve plots of land at Ola Olodumare Estate, Aponmu Old Road, Akure, from the estate of Late Chief Emmanuel Olawale Adejuwon on 25th December, 2010.
- VIII. A plot of land at Afunbiowo Housing Estate, Akure, for the proposed Bishop Simeon Oluwole Borokini Anglican Church (The Paschal Assembly) in 2015. The Church at Afunbiowo Estate presently operates as a House Fellowship Centre every Sunday.
- IX. At 30years Remembrance Thanksgiving Service in the Church by the children of late High Chief J. A. Adebowale on 21st August, 2016, the family bequeathed six and half plots of land to St Thomas's Church at Iwoye Village, off Idanre Road, Akure South Local Government Area.

PROPERTIES

- i. Egbe Ajumogbadura (Prayer Band) in the Church under the name of "St. Thomas's Church" acquired a landed property containing a bungalow of ten rooms in 2004 at Oke Aro area, Akure.
- ii. The Women Organization of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure – under the leadership of Mrs. M. O. Adenuga built a Shopping Complex within the Church premise in 2008.
- iii. The Women Organization of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure, also built a Creche for the care of children within the Church premise on 11th September, 2011. However, the Creche has been converted to a Church Health Clinic in 2016.
- iv. A landed property at Oshinle Quarters, Akure (Close to 'B' Division of Nigeria Police Force, Oke Aro area) was

- bequeathed to St. Thomas's Church, Isikan in 2012 by Late Chief (Mrs.) Beatrice Bolajoko Uke-Fayanju. The building has three flats of three bedrooms each. It has since been let out for commercial purposes.
- v. A Church building on a plot of land at Ola-Olodumare Estate, Aponmu Old Road, Akure, was bequeathed to St. Thomas's Church by Late Chief E. O. Adejuwon in 2009.
 - vi. A Three bedroom flat at Ola-Olodumare Estate, Aponmu Old Road, Akure was also bequeathed by the Late Chief E. O. Adejuwon to St. Thomas's Church, in 2009.
 - vii. The children of Late Chief James Kolawole Akingbade (JP) donated a landed property containing a Diagnostic Medical Centre (DMC) at Eyinke Street to St. Thomas's Church as a special gift for immortalizing the name of their father. The building is fully equipped with all laboratory facilities to operate as a Diagnostic Centre.
 - viii. A Church building named "Akin Omoseebi Anglican Church, at Church Road, Opposite Army Barracks, Ondo Road, Akure was built and donated by Chief Rufus Akinwumi Omoseebi to Anglican Communion at Akure. The Church was dedicated for use by Rt. Revd. M. O. Ipinmoye, the Diocesan Bishop on March 9, 2013.

BURIAL GROUND

St. Thomas's Church established the first cemetery in 1926 within the Church premises and located near the Primary School built some years later in 1934.. Mr. Samuel Ago was the first person buried there on May 4, 1926.

In September 1926, fence wires were procured to separate the Cemetery from the Church. On 27th February 1927 Rt. Revd. J.M. Jones, the Bishop of Lagos Diocese came on a visit to Akure and dedicated the cemetery.

However, in 1940, the Church decided to shift the cemetery to another place and a piece of land was acquired along Ondo Road for the purpose and the new cemetery was dedicated in 1948. Mr. Ezekiel Majagbe was the first person buried there in 1949.

In recent years, the Church began the construction of standard grave for the burial of their departed ones at a prescribed fees approved by the Church Council.

EVENT CENTRE

The desire to improve the economic base of the Church led to the construction of an Event Centre on the un-utilized portion of the Church land along Ondo Road, Akure. The Church Development Committee was saddled with the responsibilities of putting up the magnificent edifice. The Committee started by engaging the services of seasoned and experienced Architects who eventually designed a unique building 'Thermo's Flask' shape which was pegged on 28th April, 2010.

The foundation laying ceremony was performed by the Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Revd. M.O. Ipinmoye on 11th June, 2010 during the tenure of Venerable Dr. M.O. Adenuga. A demarcating fence was constructed to separate the Event Centre from the Cemetery, knowing that the activities in each half of the land are not usually complementary.

A 150KVA Perkins generator was installed to power the air conditioners and electrical facilities in the Event Centre on September 2014. A borehole was sunk to take care of the water needs. The Event Centre was dedicated on 23rd December 2014 by Rt. Revd. S.O. Borokini, the Diocesan Bishop with Ven. M. O. Adenuga as the Vicar.

The total Church investment on the Event Centre as at December, 2015 was put at Eighty Million Naira (N 80 million). The construction of Event Centre was effectively and thoroughly monitored and supervised from conception to completion and dedication by the underlisted Committees:-

MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

1. Engr. Chief J.A Jeje
2. Engr. Chief V.O Adegunleye
3. Otunba Engr. O.O. Sonuga
4. Engr. E.O Komolafe
5. Engr. Dele Ogunwolere
6. Arc.(Dr.) F.I. Akinseye
7. Revd. Canon Engr. I.A. Omololu
8. Engr. Chief V.O Ola

MEMBERS OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga - *Former Vicar*
2. Ven. J. O Omotayo - *Present Vicar*
3. Mr. J. S. Jemilugba - *Chairman*
4. Chief M.O Alofun - *Vice Chairman*
5. Mr. Ayo Dare - *Secretary*
6. Chief (Mrs.)R. O. Olujohungbe - *Former People's Warden*
7. Mr. Ayo Ajana - *People's warden*
8. Engr. Chief J.A. Jeje - *Member*
9. Mr. S. O. Ojo - *Member*
10. Chief Kayode Adegbule Adesida - *Member*
11. Engr. Chief V. O. Ola - *Member*
12. Rev. Canon Engr. I. A. Omololu - *Supervising Engineer*

CHURCH SERVICES**SUNDAY SERVICES**

In the early days, Church Services were held twice every Sunday at 9:00am (0900 hrs) and 4:00pm (1600 hrs). The record of the first service held in St Thomas's Church, available from the Preacher's Book was that of the morning service held on Sunday 3rd May, 1925. The attendance at that service indicated 127 worshippers comprising 54men, 22 women, 31 boys and 20 girls and the preacher was Mr. S. Obasuyi, the Catechist.

At the evening service that day, there were 88 worshippers. And the preacher was Elijah Aguda who later became the first Baba Egbe of the Church. Usually, attendance at Church services was higher at the morning than at the evening. The highest number of worshippers normally came at New Year day. Earlier it was common to have more men than women and more boys than girls at Church services but the trend changed in late 1970. The number of worshippers on normal Sunday service is shown on the following data from the Church records for selected years.

ATTENDANCE AT MORNING SERVICE ON SUNDAY 1925-1996)

YEAR	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
1925	60	18	22	20	120
1926	14	3	12	10	39
1930	65	25	15	12	117
1935	54	34	48	39	175
1955	90	50	146	77	363
1975	111	135	89	87	422
1995	164	222	70	84	540
1996	207	242	57	45	551

Students of some Anglican Institutions in Akure used to participate in the Sunday Service in the Church. In late 1930, Students of the

Women's Training Centre, Akure (now Archbishop Vining College of Theology, Akure) accompanied by the Principal Miss Mars and other members of staff frequently worshipped in the Church. From 1953 – 1958, the students of Oyemekun Grammar School Akure worshipped in the Church every Sunday as well as those of St. Peter's College Akure who were of the Anglican Communion until these Institutions had their own worship centres.

HARVEST FESTIVALS, FAMILY THANKSGIVING AND TITHING

HARVEST FESTIVALS

The first harvest thanksgiving service in St Thomas's Church, Akure was held on October 9, 1927. The preacher was Revd. E.O Ajibola. Thereafter, general harvest thanksgiving services were held annually until 1951 when Juvenile harvest thanksgiving was instituted whereby children had their celebrations on different days from the adults.

In 1967, separate dates were set aside for adult male and female harvest thanksgiving. A main feature of the harvest celebration then was the introduction of Bazaar where goods brought for the harvest were sold. It was the practice to appoint congregation members to be "Chairmen" at the Bazaar. The practice of holding separate harvest thanksgiving and bazaar by the men and women of the Church encouraged the spirit of wholesome rivalry and competition among them and annually increased the proceeds of the harvest and consequently the income of the Church. However, the practice of Bazaar during harvest season has been discontinued in the Church, Akure Diocese and Nigeria Anglican Communion.

A TABLE SHOWING HARVEST INCOME FOR THE PERIODS 1994 - 2015

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	PRY SCHOOLS	ENGLISH	WOMEN	MEN	HOUSEHOLD THANKSGIVING	TOTAL
1994	10,094.00	9,765.00	5,699.00	80,334.00	203,349.00	15,754.50	324,995.50
1995	3,983.00	25,012.50	7,425.00	123,900.00	168,211.00	173,445.50	501,977.00
1996	15,509.50	25,064.50	7,627.00	229,132.00	228,394.00	78,690.50	584,417.50
1997	27,544.00	39,155.00	114,488.00	101,700.00	187,799.00	269,636.00	739,282.00
1998	9,657.00	62,488.00	19,356.00	230,947.00	331,090.00	118,413.00	771,951.00
1999	15,881.00	90,509.00	6,717.00	202,180.50	275,821.50	624,525.00	1,215,634.00
2000	14,516.00	97,331.00	37,770.00	298,933.50	490,836.50	1,31,845.00	2,254,232.00
2001	55,925.00	174,697.50	92,220.00	411,245.00	355,997.00	2,025,601.00	3,115,667.50
2002	61,551.00	215,388.00	305,595.00	778,177.00	969,401.00	2,340,713.50	4,670,765.50
2003	21,250.00	308,736.00	194,937.50	1,362,560.00	1,097,145.00	2,240,131.00	5,224,759.50
2004	70,120.00	142,270.00	455,750.00	737,900.00	608,625.00	2,591,495.00	4,606,160.00
2005	-	176,180.00	1,360,965.00	1,497,035.00	2,004,130.00	2,548,185.00	7,586,495.00
2006	1,000.00	217,645.00	436,090.00	2,491,200.00	1,172,890.00	3,581,545.00	7,900,370.00
2007	-	186,105.00	431,585.00	1,300,600.00	1,021,700.00	6,011,535.00	8,951,525.00
2008	112,330.00	172,135.00	1,047,205.00	2,749,575.00	1,558,590.00	5,940,170.00	11,580,005.00
2009	68,765.00	199,380.00	748,120.00	2,928,800.00	1,22,380.00	6,203,135.00	11,370,580.00
2010	84,315.00	314,310.00	2,068,125.00	1,942,350.00	3,042,095.00	6,847,055.00	14,298,250.00
2011	161,315.00	294,925.00	2,877,210.00	8,700,175.00	2,414,750.00	8,668,870.00	23,117,245.00
2012	83,155.00	336,895.00	2,185,025.00	2,337,065.00	676,860.00	8,890,335.00	14,509,335.00
2013	305,226.00	293,945.00	2,389,515.00	4,594,945.00	3,146,365.00	8,793,565.00	19,523,561.00
2014	126,370.00	313,244.00	3,257,510.00	2,174,045.00	3,769,930.00	8,759,520.00	18,400,619.00
2015	218,000.00	206,840.00	3,138,795.00	3,251,315.00	6,500,010.00	8,191,343.00	21,506,303.00

FAMILY THANKSGIVING

The Family thanksgiving service started in November 1964 and it came at the end of all the harvest celebrations. However, from 1995 the family thanksgiving was re-organized to hold from February to December, annually, whereby a number of families were scheduled for family thanksgiving every Sunday.

TITHING

In 1992, the payment of tithes was introduced whereby members pay their tithes according to individual earnings and pledges. The pledges or "Majemu" as it was referred to then was eventually replaced with tithe cards for accountability and proper record keeping and members fully complied and embraced the payment.

ENGLISH SERVICE

On February 5, 1978, the practice of holding an early morning service for an hour (8:00am – 9:00am) in English was inaugurated. It was attended by parishioners and boarding school students of Anglican Communion namely; Oyemekun Grammar School, St. Peter's Teacher Training College, Homaj Secondary School and others. The resource persons then for the English Service were Remi Ojuri, Kunle Olofinyeku, Agagu and some students who came regularly from Archbishop Vining College of Theology, Akure. Mr. F. O. Orogun (Later Venerable) co-ordinated the English Service from 1978 to 1983).

Lay preachers were often invited to give the address at such services. The Vicars at the inception of English Service was Revd. S.A.M. Alabi assisted by Revd. C.A. Ajepe. The Service had become attractive to many young people who prefer it to the regular mattins in Yoruba. Some of the people that relocated to the state capital with the creation of Ondo State in 1976 preferred a service that would be short and very early on Sunday. Worshippers were expected to wait for Bible study after service but only few people waited. Later on the Bible study was built in to the Service. Many other improvements had to be accommodated in the Service. In 2004 the time of service was changed to 7:30am – 9:30am. There was a very weak fraternal relationship among the English Service congregation up till 2008, when Ven. S.M. A. Adetiba re-organized them into a Fellowship with the following officers.

Rotarian Femi Balogun
Mr. Ayo Ajana
Mr. Funsho Faloye
Mr. Femi Akinnanu

Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary
PRO

From December 2005 to December 2008, Ven. S. M.A. Adetiba handed over the co-ordination of the English service to Ven. W. O. Aladekugbe (now Bishop). The Fellowship meetings hold every last Sunday of the month in the Church hall after the service. Likewise, the Women and the Youths also have their separate meetings on the same day. Also, the Youth wings of both the English and Yoruba congregations formed the Church Marshals, a voluntary organization, which is responsible for security of members' vehicles during worship services.

The formation of the fellowship provided the tonic needed for English congregation to take its rightful place in the Church. It has grown to become one of the most organized English congregation groups in the Diocese of Akure. It already has a roster for annual harvest up to 2018 and has been making substantial contributions to Church projects and offering economic empowerment to the youths as well as assisting in the Education of some students.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY

Sunday School classes started in 1927. It was always held from 3:00 pm – 4:00pm - an hour before evening service and attendance was for all ages and the numbers was generally lower than the regular evening service. Thus, the Sunday School was later discontinued. However, in 1991, the Akure Anglican Diocese instituted a new Sunday School/Bible Study scheme for all Churches in the Diocese and incorporated the programme into the main Sunday worship service and St. Thomas's Church complied at both Yoruba and English worship services.

CHILDREN SERVICE

The first children service was held on 3rd May, 1936. Since then all children have been encouraged to worship at the Sunday School specially designated for them. The main feature is that it pays attention to teaching the children various passages of the Bible and

teachers of St. Thomas's Primary School usually conducted the services at the early days. Since 1970, the conduct of children worship service had been carried out by adult members of the congregation who volunteered for such duties. Notable among these are Chief & Mrs. J. Olu Abe, Mr. & Mrs. S. A. Oloye, Mrs. F. M. Omoseebi, Mrs. Bukola Owolabi, Mrs. E.O. Fagbamila, Mrs. Yemisi Ajewole, Mrs. C. Folorunso, Mrs. I. A. Adenipe, Mrs. S. A. Oloye and Mrs. Julianah Titilayo Adeyanju. The English group holds their children worship services at the basement of the Church Hall and are arranged in groups that is, kindergarten, ages 3-6, 7-9, 10-12 and teenagers to be able to nourish them with word of God by the level of their understanding and spiritual growth.

The past teachers include the following; Dr. (Mrs.) M. O. Jemilugba, Mrs. Taiye Adeniyi, Dr. (Mrs.) Dele Dada, Mr. Taiwo Mayowa and the names of the present teachers are Mr. Idowu Sajuwa, Mr. Ayo Aderemi, Mr. J. S. Jemilugba, Mr. Oluwafemi Abe, Mr. Omolade Ajewole, Mr. Israel Fayose, Mrs. Mary Ekundayo, Mrs. Taiye Fayose, Mrs. Olajumoke Aderemi, Mrs. Erenifu, Mrs. Ojo, Mrs. Agu, Miss Omolayo Abe, Mrs. Oluwaseun Ige, Mr. J. J. Kajero, Mrs. Oluchi Oluwafemi-Abe. It is customary for the children to worship in the main Church during the harvest and on other special occasions as the Vicar considers fit. Permanent venue for children worship service is now at the basement of the New Church Hall/Christian Education Centre.

IGBO SERVICE

An Igbo Church had earlier been in existence in Akure since 1964 but the outbreak of the Civil/Biafra War in 1967 collapsed the Church as the Igbo members migrated. However, as peace and normalcy were restored several years after the civil war, St. Thomas's Church became the facilitator for the re-emergence of the Igbo Anglican Church in Akure on August 14, 1983 in the sanctuary and premises of St. Thomas's Church for the Igbo Community.

The Service was held by 8:00am at St. Thomas's Church Hall. However, members of the congregation expressed a desire for a Church building.

Hence in November 1990, with substantial financial assistance from St. Thomas's Church, the Igbos moved to All Saint's Church Hall at Ijomu, where they had since been holding their worship services. Revd. Honest Nwosu (later Venerable) was the Pioneer Priest of the Church.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION SERVICES

The first baptism service held in the Church was conducted on July 5, 1925 when Elizabeth Omowaiye and Michael Adebayo Fadero were baptized by Revd. E.O. Ajibola. Since then, baptism of members both young and old, had been conducted regularly usually at Christmas and Easter every year except for Saints days approved by the Vicar.

Records indicated that members of the Church were usually prepared for confirmation and presented along with the candidates of St. David's Church, Ijomu until October 7, 1956 when the first confirmation service was conducted in St. Thomas's Church by Rt. Revd. S. O. Odutola during the tenure of Revd. I.E.O. Alegbeleye as the Vicar. Since then, Church members had been confirmed every year and at special services approved by the Diocesan Bishop.

Since the establishment of Akure Diocese in 1983, the Diocesan Bishop had conducted confirmation service every year. The number of people confirmed at such services in the Church each year since 1983 is shown below.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE FROM 1983- 2015

DATE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
July 10, 1983	52	52	104
July 15, 1984	50	5	135
June 23, 1985	70	35	105
June 15, 1986	47	71	118
June 14, 1987	73	88	161
May 15, 1988	48	68	116
May 28, 1989	44	54	98
July 15, 1990	15	26	41
May 12, 1991	31	33	64
May 17, 1992	30	63	93
June 13, 1993	42	43	85
May 29, 1994	23	37	60
June 11, 1995	27	32	59
June 2, 1996	35	35	70
May 25, 1997	39	28	67
June 14, 1998	29	33	62
June 6, 1999	16	22	38
July 22, 2001	36	67	103
July 28, 2002	12	34	46
Nov. 2, 2003	14	6	20
Sept 15, 2004	2	23	25
Dec 19, 2005	9	16	25
Sept 9, 2007	18	43	61
Dec 12, 2008	17	23	40
Jan 28, 2010	13	22	35
April 3, 2012	23	58	81
Jan 19, 2014	3	24	27
Nov 15, 2015	14	18	32

HOLY COMMUNION

The first record of Holy Communion celebration was on October, 1929 at which 22 men and 28 women participated and until 1950, the Holy Communion service was held behind closed doors so that non-communicants would not enter nor see what was being done. The practice was changed in 1958 when Revd. I.E.O. Alegbeleye celebrated the Holy Communion at the morning service with the whole congregation watching.

The celebration of Holy Communion now takes place on the first Sunday of the month during the morning service, at both the English and Yoruba services. It is also celebrated on every Saint's Day within the year.

THE CHOIR

The Organization of Choir is as old as the Church herself. The Choir consisted of volunteers, both old and young, who always attended hymn song practices regularly on Tuesday and Thursday every week in the Church but additional sessions are organized for important festivals or ceremonies. However, on January 1, 1935, New Year day, the Choir started wearing new surplices at the morning service. Thereafter, the choir wore surplices until the 1960's when cassocks were added to their dresses.

Between 1939 and 1942, the Catechist, Mr. J. O. Daramola was both the Choirmaster and Organist. From 1942, members of the congregation had volunteered to be Organists and Choirmasters and members of the choir were regularly drawn from St. Thomas's Primary School until the 1970's when adults joined the Choir. An Annual festival of songs started in 1952 and has continued since then except for 1960 and 1961. St Thomas's Church Choir had always participated in Choir Festivals and competitions at Archdeaconry and Diocesan levels and had won several awards and prizes.

The Church had continued to appreciate the selfless service and sacrifice of members of the Choir throughout its existence. It is noteworthy to state that many of them had risen to high positions in various aspects of our national life. The Choir had always been trained by Organists and Choir-masters, notable among them were Mr. Afelumo (1942-1945) Mr Efionaiye (1946-1948). Others are: Mr. L. A. Ogunkua (1950-1957): Mr. Eda (1957-1958 and 1961-1963): Mr. Olowu (1957-1966): Mr. J.A. Adefila and Mr Makinde (1964-1965): Mr. R.B. Adetayo and Mrs. Ade Ojo (1966-1977): Engr. J.A. Jeje (1977-2003): Chief J.K. Akingbade (1978-2008): Architect S.O. Longe (1978): Mr. T.F. Akinyemi (1970 - 2008): Mr. Orubuloye (1976-1977). However, Mr. T.F. Akinyemi has been the longest serving Organist having functioned in that capacity for about 38 years



ST. THOMAS'S CHOIR

However, in 2004, during the tenure of Ven. S.M.A. Adetiba as Vicar, a Music Committee of the Church was established to assist the Vicar and the P.C.C. on Music, the Choir and the recruitment of Organists and Choirmaster. Chief Adewole Atandeyi was the first Chairman. Other members of the Committee are Mr. E.A. Ajana, Engr. Chief Victor Ola and Chief Mrs. T.M. Fajuru. Anytime they wanted to recruit an organist, they made use of Engr. Chief J.A. Jeje as Consultant to the interview panel.

A TABLE SHOWING THE ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTER OF ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH CHOIR

S/N	YEAR	ORGANIST	ASSISTANT ORGANIST	CHOIRMASTER	ASSISTANT CHOIRMASTER	CATECHIST/VICAR
1	1939-1942	Mr. J. O. Daramola	-	Mr. J. O. Daramola	-	Mr. J.O. Daramola
2	1942-1945	Mr. Afelumo	-	Mr Afelumo	-	Mr. J.O. Daramola
3	1945-1948	Mr E fionaiye	-	Mr E fionaiye	-	Mr Okunmiyide/ Mr Alabi
4	1950-1953	Mr. L. A. Ogunkua	-	Mr. L. A. Ogunkua	-	Rev. .S.A.Adebusuyi and Rev. J.A. Osuntuyi
5	1954	Mr.D.Ade Eda	-	Mr.D.Ade Eda	-	Revd.I.E.O. Al egbeleye
6	1955-1959	Mr.Effionay e	-	Mr. D. Ade Eda and Mr. Effionay e	-	Revd.I.E.O. Alegbeleye
7	1960-1961	Mr.B.B. Funmilayo	Mr.D.Ade Eda	Mr.D.Ade Eda	-	Revd.I.E.O. Alegbeleye
8	1962	Mr.D.Ade Eda	Mr. Odumakin	Mr.Akin Omoseebi	-	Revd.I.E.O. Alegbeleye
9	1963	Mr S. O. Olowu	-	Mr.W.A. Arije	-	Revd.I.E.O. Alegbeleye
10	1964	Mr.Makinde	Mr.J.A. Arogundade	Mr.W.A. Arije	-	Revd.I.E.O. Alegbeleye
11	1965	Mr.J.A. Adefila	-	Mr. W.A. Arije	-	Revd S. O. Oluwatosin
12	1966	Mr.R.B. Adetayo	Mr.S.A. Adejo	Mr.N.A. Oyedeji	-	Revd.S.O.Ohida & Revd.M.A. Akinduko
13	1967-1968	Mr. Ade Adefila	-	Mr. W.A. Arije and Mr. Osewa	-	Revd. M. D. Dare
14	1969	Mr. Oso	Mr. Makinde	Mr. Osewa	-	Revd. M. D. Dare
15	1970	Mr. Oso	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Mr. W.A. Arije	-	Revd. M. D. Dare
16	1971-1975	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	-	Mr. W.A. Arije	-	Revd. J. O. Olawumi
17	1976	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Mr. J. A. Jeje	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. W. A. Arije	Revd. Oyekusibe & Canon C. O. Ajepe
18	1977	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje & Mr. M. O. Orubuloye	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. W. A. Arije	Revd. S. A. M. Alabi & Canon C. O. Ajepe
19	1978	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi & Mr. M. O. Orubuloye	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. W. A. Arije Mr. R. S. A. Ajayi	Revd. S. A. M. Alabi & Canon C. O. Ajepe

20	1976	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Mr. J. A. Jeje	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. W. A. Arije	Rev. Oyekusibe & Canon C. O. Ajepe
21	1977	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje & Mr. M. O. Orubuloye	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. W. A. Arije	Rev. S. A. M. Alabi & Canon C. O. Ajepe
22	1978	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi & Mr. M. O. Orubuloye	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. W. A. Arije Mr. R. S. A. Ajayi	Rev. S. A. M. Alabi & Canon C. O. Ajepe
23	1979	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi & Mr. M. O. Orubuloye	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. W. A. Arije Mr. S. A. Ajewole	Rev. I. O. Komolafe
24	1980	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi & Mr. M. O. Orubuloye	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. W. A. Arije Mr. S. A. Ajewole	Rev. Canon M. D. Dare
25	1981 - 1982	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi & Mr. M. O. Orubuloye	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. S. O. Ogunsakin Mr. R. S. A. Ajayi	Rev. Canon M. D. Dare
26	1983	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. Victor Ade Ajayi Mr. S. O. Ogunsakin	Ven. M. D. Dare
27	1984	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Chief J. K. Akingbade Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. Victor Ade Ajayi Mr. R. S. A. Ajayi	Ven. M. D. Dare
28	1985 - 1987	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Chief J. K. Akingbade Arc. S. O. Longe Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. Victor Ade Ajayi Mr. R. S. A. Ajayi	Ven. M. D. Dare
29	1988 - 1991	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Chief J. K. Akingbade Arc. S. O. Longe Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Ven. M. D. Dare and Ven. J. A. Jaiyeoba
30	1992 - 1994	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Chief J. K. Akingbade Arc. S. O. Longe Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Mr. A. B. Adepoju	Mr. A. B. Adepoju	Ven. J. A. Olagbuji
31	1995 - 1996	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Chief J. K. Akingbade Arc. S. O. Longe Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. G. O. Ayodele	Ven. J. A. Olagbuji
32	1997	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Chief J. K. Akingbade Arc. S. O. Longe Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Chief B. A. Ojo	Ven. J. A. Olagbuji
33	1998 - 1999	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Chief J. K. Akingbade Arc. S. O. Longe Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. J. S. Fadogba	Ven. J. O. Olugasa

34	2000- 2002	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Chief J. K. Akingbade Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje	Mr. M. I. Joseph	Ven. J. O. Olugasa Ven. S. M. A. Adetiba
35	2003	Mr. Sola Adaraloye	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Engr. J. A. Jeje Mr. Sola Adaraloye	-	Ven. S. M. A. Adetiba
36	2004- 2008	Mr. Sola Adaraloye	Mr. T. F. Akinyemi	Mr. Adeleke Ajayi	-	Ven. S. M. A. Adetiba
37	2009	Mr. Sola Adaraloye	Mr. Felix Akinmejiwa	Mr. Sola Adaraloye	Mr. Felix Akinmejiwa	Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga
38	2010	Mr. Sola Adaraloye Mr. Gideon Idowu	Mr. Gideon Idowu Mr. Felix Akinmejiwa	Mr. Sola Adaraloye	Kehinde Fasakin A.C. I Mrs. J. Adebuseye A.C. II	Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga
39	2011- 2012	Mr. Adegoke Adenipe	Mr. Gideon Idowu	Mr. Adegoke Adenipe	Kehinde Fasakin A.C. I Mrs. J. Adebuseye A.C. II	Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga
40	2013- 2014	Mr. Adegoke Adenipe	Mr. Asekunowo Johnson Mr. Gideon Idowu	Mr. Adegoke Adenipe	Y. Adeokin A.C. I. T. Osatuyi A.C. II	Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga
41	2015- 2016	Mr. Adegoke Adenipe	Mr. Asekunowo Johnson	Mr. Adegoke Adenipe	T. Osatuyi A.C. II Mr. Asekunowo Johnson	Ven. J. O. Omotayo

ORDINATION

Members of the Church had showed keen interest in becoming Church Workers from 1940. However, the first members to become Priests were Revd. J.O.A. Adedipe and Revd. E.A. Ogunsusi who were ordained in Ibadan and Ondo respectively on November 18, 1960. Thereafter, many members of the Church were ordained Priests at various times before the creation of Akure Diocese in 1983. They are: Revd. J. O. Daramola (later Ven.), Revd. Canon E. A. Orimoloye, Revd. J. A. Adaramola, Revd. (Later Ven) S. F. Ayita, Revd. Canon C. O. Ajayi, Revd. J. B. Adewole, Prof. Ven. Victor Adedipe, Ven. Ebenezer Adedipe, Ven. William O. Faloye, Ven. A. Adejuwon. The first ordination service held in St. Thomas's Church was conducted by Rt. Revd. E.B. Gbonigi on December 16, 1984 during which eight men were ordained as Deacons and Priests.

ADMINISTRATION

Originally, St. Thomas's Church, Imogun/Isikan functioned as a branch of St. David's Church, Ijomu, where members worshipped regularly until 1924. Thereafter, Mr. J. A. Adegoroye, the Catechist administered the Church and assisted by some elders like J. O. Daramola, Elijah Aguda and others until 31st January, 1928 when the first vestry meeting was held and two Church Wardens and three Vergers were elected, they were Joseph Bewaji, James Falarungbon, Moses Abidakun, Jacob Fagbe and Daniel Ojo Ajayi. Also, St. Thomas's Church first sent representatives to the Diocesan Synod in Lagos in 1929 and the first Synod report was delivered on July 27, 1929 to the congregation during the morning service. The Synod reports were always recited from memory by delegates and confirmed as accurate by Church Workers who took notes of the Synod proceedings. The most notable of such delegates was Pa Daniel Ojo Adejuyigbe who represented the Church in Lagos Diocese, Ondo/Benin Diocese and Ondo Diocese. He usually impressed the congregation with the recitation of proceedings of each Synod session. The delegates usually trekked for two days from Akure to Oshogbo before travelling by train from Oshogbo to Ebute Meta in Lagos. They returned to Akure via the same route.

However, since 1960, most regular Synod delegates from the Church had become well educated and were able to participate actively in all Synod deliberations.

GRANT OF PARISH STATUS

From early years, St Thomas's Church members had been involved in the spread of the Gospel and had encouraged House Fellowship within the environment most of which later became new Churches under St Thomas's Anglican Church. By 1950, a number of these churches had emerged and were encouraged to form an Area Committee, known as St. Thomas's Church Area Committee. The first meeting of the Area Committee was held on 30th October, 1959 in St. Thomas's Church with nine Churches in attendance namely: St. James's Church, Oda, St. Stephen's Church at L.A. School, Akure, St. Peter's Church, Olobi/Olokuta, St. Mary's Church, Adofure and other smaller churches in Adejubu, Isagba, Igunsin, Igbatoro Kajola and Igbatoro Familugba.

However, records showed that the Church was granted Parish status on October 12, 1965 when Revd. I.E.O. Alegbeleye (later Venerable) was the Vicar of the Church.

Below is the list of Churches within the Parish at that time:

1. St. James's Church, Oda
2. St. Peter's Church, Olobi
3. Emmanuel Church, Igbatoro-Familugba
4. Holy, Trinity Church, Oda Board, Oda
5. St. Andrew's Church, Igbatoro Kajola
6. St. Michael's Church, Isagba
7. St. Peter's Church, Adejubu
8. St. Mary's Church, Adofure
9. Ebenezer Church, Kajola Ehinala
10. St. Paul's Church, Aule
11. All Soul's Anglican Church, Aratusin

GRANT OF DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL STATUS

The Church continued further development with the desire to be constituted into a separate District Church Council. The pressure for the realization of this goal was led by Chief Olu Akinnola (a Lay reader) during the tenure of Revd. S. A. Alabi. However, the desire was granted during the tenure of Revd. J. O. Komolafe when St. Thomas's Parish was elevated to the status of a District Church Council on 20th May, 1980.

The announcement of the new status was made by the Diocesan Bishop Rt. Revd. E.O. Idowu during a sermon in St. Thomas's Church, at the morning service. The elevation meant that the Vicar of the Church also became the Superintendent of the Akure South D.C.C., Revd. Canon M.D. Dare was the first and only holder of that post and he was inducted on Sunday, August 24, 1980 with an assistant Priest, Revd. M.O. Lumade.

GRANT OF ARCHEDEACONRY STATUS

When the Diocese of Akure was created under the leadership of Rt. Revd. Dr. E.B. Gbonigi on 2nd March, 1983, only two Archdeaconries existed in the Diocese. Later, five new Archdeaconries were created through the granting of Archdeaconry status to the District Church Councils of Ilara, Ijare, Iju, Ita-ogbolu and Akure South. Thus, on August 1, 1983, Akure South District Church Council was elevated as Akure South Archdeaconry with the seat of the Archdeacon at St. Thomas's Church, Akure, Venerable M.D. Dare became the first Archdeacon. Below is the list of Churches under Akure South Archdeaconry since it was inaugurated in 1983.

1. St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure
2. St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Oyemekun, Akure
3. Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Oke-Aro, Akure
4. All Soul's Anglican Church, Aratunsin, Akure
5. Emmanuel Anglican Church, Igbatoro Familugba
6. St. Peter's Church, Olobi Igbaratoro, Akure
7. St. Andrew's Church, Kajola
8. Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Oda Board
9. St. James's Anglican Church, Oda
10. Anglican Church of Redemption, Gaga, Akure

11. Christ the King Church, Ajipowo, Akure
12. Bishop Emmanuel Gbonigi Anglican Church, Idanre Road, Akure
13. St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Ago-Ada
14. Isoko/Urhobo Congregation, St. Thomas's Church, Isikan, Akure
15. St. John's The Baptist Anglican Church, Ita-Oniyan, Old Aponmu Road, Akure
16. Emmanuel Anglican Church, Ola-Olodumare, Old Aponmu Road, Akure
17. Akin Omoseebi Anglican Church, off Ondo Road, Akure.

FINANCE

The main sources of the Church revenue are as follows: Collections and Thanks-Offerings at Church services on Christmas, Sundays, New Year, Easter, Family and Society thanksgiving, Harvest proceeds and Pastorate Funds. In addition, members of the congregation make special contributions towards specific projects.

The amount collected at various times was a reflection of the members purchasing power as well as the state of the economy and the size of the congregation. In the early years, from the records of the Preacher's Book, collections at Sunday services were usually about Three to Four shillings every week such that the total Sunday collections from May to December 1925 was £4;9s; 1d (Four pounds, Nine Shillings and one penny) whilst thanksgiving was £03s;6d (Three Shillings and Six pence) making a total of £4:12s:7d (Four pounds, Twelve shillings and seven pence). Voluntary contributions by members specifically recorded in the Preacher's Book included the following:

- a. Twenty shillings by Egbe Iforiti Ihinrere on February 24, 1935 for commencement of the School building
- b. Ten shillings by Chief E.A. Aguda, the Baba Egbe, on December 8, 1935 towards the School building.
- c. Two shillings by Egbe Gbangba on January 6, 1936 for their Class Fees (now Pastorate) for 1936.

The value of such contributions could be appreciated from the fact that they amounted to more than the salaries of some Church Workers and they were used to purchase a lot of materials for the Church.

The funds collected by the Church had been used for the following purposes; Church Development i.e. Church and School buildings, Land acquisition, Residence for Staff, Staff salaries, Payment of Diocesan assessments and Charitable purposes.

Moreover, in the early years, contributions were made for the Jews from 1929-1932 as follows:-

COLLECTION FOR JEWS (1929-1932)

- March 29, 1929 - One shilling and two and half pence (1s 2¹/₂nd)
- April 18, 1930 - One shilling and seven and half pence (1s 7¹/₂^d)
- April 3, 1931 - One shilling and nine and half pence (1s 9¹/₂^d)

The above amounts represented the total Good Friday collections for the dates. The collection for Israeli Jews was done apparently as a show of solidarity and financial assistance by the CMS Churches in Nigeria for the resettlement and re-establishment of the Nation of Israel in Palestine in 1948 which confirmed the scriptures that the land was their God given and ordained. Also it has been the practice to use collections at Holy Communion service to assist needy members of the congregation and for charity.

Among the most historic contributions of St. Thomas's Church to other Churches were the following: Three shillings and four pence on July 7, 1933 towards the building of Christ Church Cathedral, Lagos and Five pounds in June 1934 towards the building of the old St. David's Church, Ijomu, Akure.

Since the creation of Akure Diocese in 1983, St. Thomas's Church has usually paid about seven percent of the funds budgeted for the Diocese annually. A more realistic idea of the recent growth in the revenue of the Church can be seen from the income and expenditure accounts in the table below:

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT OF ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, 1983-2015

YEAR	RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS			CLOSING BALANCE (C/D)	REMARK
	OPENING BALANCE	INCOME/PROCEEDS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT	OTHER INTERNAL EXPENSES	TOTAL EXPENSES		
	₦	₦	₦	₦	₦	₦		
1983	(9,475.02)	113,996.30	113,051.28	29,920.00	71,497.30	101,417.30	11,633.98	
1984	11,633.98	126,567.06	138,201.04	27,880.00	105,905.27	128,785.27	9,415.77	
1985	9,415.77	167,034.36	176,450.13	26,390.00	134,594.52	160,784.52	15,665.61	
1986	15,665.61	141,796.11	157,461.72	25,640.00	122,492.97	148,132.97	9,328.75	
1987	9,328.75	194,728.03	284,856.78	24,700.00	168,611.94	193,311.94	18,744.84	
1988	18,744.84	211,154.36	221,899.20	27,380.00	169,054.53	196,434.53	25,464.67	
1989	25,464.67	260,201.66	285,665.73	43,092.00	181,880.72	226,972.72	58,693.01	
1990	58,693.01	239,058.62	297,751.63	51,648.00	248,433.59	300,081.59	(2,329.96)	
1991	(2,329.96)	308,020.70	305,690.74	58,949.00	175,809.48	234,758.48	70,932.26	
1992	70,932.26	578,805.01	649,737.27	65,290.00	395,559.39	460,849.39	188,887.88	
1993	188,887.88	848,010.55	1,036,898.43	131,430.00	520,843.29	652,273.29	384,625.14	
1994	384,625.14	1,311,672.96	1,696,298.10	166,430.00	797,773.38	964,203.38	732,094.72	
1995	732,094.72	2,885,020.00	3,617,114.72	292,380.00	1,672,089.00	1,964,469.00	1,652,645.72	
1996	1,652,645.72	2,909,186.58	4,561,832.30	548,390.00	3,055,376.66	3,603,766.66	958,065.64	
1997	958,065.64	2,208,474.79	3,166,540.43	548,390.00	1,448,344.79	1,996,734.79	1,169,805.64	
1998	1,169,805.64	3,732,591.93	4,902,398.57	548,390.00	2,608,523.69	3,156,913.69	1,745,484.88	
1999	1,745,484.88	4,906,739.65	6,652,224.53	720,000.00	3,826,960.08	4,546,960.08	2,105,264.45	
2000	2,105,264.45	8,568,402.43	10,673,666.88	960,000.00	6,595,133.48	7,555,123.48	3,118,543.40	
2001	3,118,543.40	10,996,776.03	14,115,319.43	874,000.00	10,517,976.27	11,391,976.27	2,723,343.16	
2002	2,723,343.16	13,648,733.81	16,372,076.97	1,014,000.00	11,896,206.24	12,910,206.24	3,461,870.73	
2003	3,461,870.73	12,591,746.01	16,053,616.74	1,917,000.00	10,975,898.11	12,892,898.11	3,160,718.63	
2004	3,160,718.63	12,758,771.96	15,919,490.59	2,196,000.00	11,176,440.21	13,372,440.21	2,547,050.38	
2005	2,547,050.38	15,257,939.92	17,804,990.30	2,196,000.00	10,580,768.88	12,776,768.88	5,028,221.42	
2006	5,028,221.42	15,882,422.31	20,910,643.73	3,100,000.00	13,720,767.59	16,820,767.59	4,089,876.14	
2007	4,089,876.14	17,095,700.76	21,185,576.90	3,450,000.00	13,579,212.75	17,029,212.75	4,156,364.15	
2008	4,156,364.15	22,206,949.18	26,363,313.33	4,800,000.00	14,835,784.26	19,635,784.26	6,727,529.07	
2009	6,727,529.07	26,315,242.26	33,042,771.33	4,800,000.00	16,813,445.47	21,613,445.47	11,429,325.86	
2010	11,429,325.86	43,212,709.67	54,642,035.53	4,850,000.00	17,856,697.26	22,706,697.26	31,935,338.27	
2011	31,935,338.27	46,581,159.00	78,516,497.27	4,850,000.00	48,217,366.00	53,067,366.00	25,449,131.27	
2012	25,449,131.27	36,684,397.00	62,133,528.27	5,250,000.00	38,331,142.00	43,581,142.00	18,552,386.27	
2013	18,552,386.27	48,066,267.00	66,618,653.27	6,521,400.00	42,579,748.00	49,100,748.00	17,517,905.27	
2014	17,517,905.27	52,826,724.00	70,344,629.27	6,702,500.00	52,252,851.00	63,955,352.00	6,389,277.27	
2015	6,389,277.27	57,722,635.00	64,111,912.27	6,701,704.00	28,633,772.00	35,335,476.00	28,776,436.27	

CHURCH TREASURERS

In the early years, the amount of money collected was kept by the Catechist, who later handed it over to the Vicar of St. David's Church, Ijomu, Akure. For example on December 26, 1926, it was reported that all money collected for the year totaling of £8:13s2d (Eight Pounds, Thirteen Shillings and Two Pence) was received from Mr. J. D. Adegoroye, the Catechist by Revd. E. O. Ajibola. Also on February 6, 1927 the Catechist reported that he started submitting Church collections to the Priest every month. The above practice later changed and funds were kept with members of the congregation who served as Treasurers. Among those who performed this role were Chief Daniel Ige, Pa Daniel Ojo Adejuyigbe and Pa Cornelius Balogun Falade.

Since Bank became available in Akure, the funds of the Church have been lodged in Bank Accounts by the Treasurer. In accordance with the practice in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), the People's Warden had been the Treasurer. (Notable among those who have functioned in that capacity are Chief J. O. Afe, Mr. B. A. Ige and Chief G. A. Bobola who was the Treasurer from 1984 to 2008. Chief Mrs. R. O. Olujohungbe was the first female People's Warden/Treasurer from 2009-2016 and Mr. Ayo Ajana is the current People's Warden/Treasurer.

PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES

St. Thomas's Church, Akure started to enjoy professional Auditing Service in 1976 when Chief J. A. Faleye was elected the Church Auditor at the vestry meeting. As a Chartered Accountant and Managing Partner of the firm of Joseph Faleye and Company (Chartered Accountants), Chief J. A. Faleye involved his firm in the performance of the statutory audit of the Church Accounts. Throughout the period of twenty years 1970-1996, the firm of Joseph Faleye and Company undertook the assignment and produced the annual statutory Audit Reports free of charge. Mr. J. A. Oye was elected to assist in auditing services between 1982 and 1986.

Below is the list of the Church Auditors from 1976-2015

1. Chief Joseph A. Faleye & Co (January 1976 to December 1996)
2. Messrs S. A. Obata & J. S. K. Jemilugba (January 1997 to December 2001)

3. Messrs S. A. Obata, J. A. Daramola & J. S. K. Jemilugba (January 2002 to December 2006)
4. Messrs S. A. Obata, J. S. K. Jemilugba & S. A. Omosebi (January 2007 to December 2008)
5. Messrs S. A. Obata & Ayo Ajana (January 2009 to December 2009)
6. Prince Dayo Faloye (January 2010 to December 2011)
7. Prince Dayo Faloye & Chief F. A. Adeniyi (January 2012 to December 2014)
8. Dare Ajayi & Co (External Auditors) (January 2014 to December 2014)
9. Messrs Adeoye Dare & Ajilore Taiwo (January 2015 to December 2015)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY FROM 1983 - 2015

S/N	YEAR	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
1	1983	120,644:00	105,149:00
2	1984	128,761:00	119,711:00
3	1985	146,997:00	125,267:00
4	1986	218,399:00	210,612:00
5	1987	262,465:00	146,055:00
6	1988	285,009:92	190,338:03
7	1989	260,201:06	190,293:78
8	1990	247,392:00	240,863:00
9	1991	312,658:00	301,706:00
10	1992	520,473:00	381,546:00
11	1993	831,950:00	580,565:00
12	1994	1,336,357:50	714,279:90
13	1995	1,997,824:00	1,101,373:00
14	1996	2,906,537:00	1,284,426:10
15	1997	2,208,474:79	1,351,592:79
16	1998	3,732,592:93	1,690,405:69
17	1999	4,903,739:65	2,705,324:15
18	2000	8,568,402:43	3,358,317:28
19	2001	10,896,776:03	4,296,951:06
20	2002	13,058,733:81	4,920,591:46

CHURCH CHIEFS

The appointment of Chiefs in the Church started very early in her existence when some of the founders were appointed as Baba Egbe, Baba Isale, Baale, Seriki, Balogun, Iya Egbe, Iyalode etc. The Chiefs play advisory role in the Church. From 1983, Church Chiefs have been appointed as specified in the Diocesan Constitution. Below are the lists of Church Chiefs from the pioneers in 1925 to the present.

PIONEER CHIEFS IN 1925/1926 AT CATECHIST J. D. ADEGOROYE'S TENURE

MALE

1. Elijah A. Aguda – (The First Baba Egbe until 1973)
2. Johnson Babalola – (The first Balogun)
3. R. S. Fatosin – (The first Seriki)
4. Jacob Ajayi – (The first Baale)
5. Daniel Ige – (The first Baba Isale)

FEMALE

1. Comfort Olasokan – (The first Iya Egbe)
2. Clara Ajayi – (The first Iyalode)
3. Abigail Oluwato – (The first Seriki Obinrin)
4. Comfort Oni – (The first Ajigbeda)

2ND SET OF CHURCH CHIEFS IN 1954 AT REVD J. O. OSUNTUYI'S TENURE

MALE

1. Elijah Aguda – Baba Egbe
2. Daniel Ige – Baba Isale
3. Nathaniel Aga – Balogun
4. Daniel Ojo Ajayi – Seriki

3RD SET OF CHURCH CHIEFS 1ST APRIL 1956 AT REVD I. E. O. ALEGBELEYE'S TENURE

MALE

1. Samuel Gbangba – Asaaju
2. Joseph Orimoloye – Baale
3. J. Omotade – Amona Okunrin
4. Daniel Akerele – Otun Ijo Okunrin
5. J. Onifade – Alatunse Okunrin
6. Cornelius Balogun Falade – Osi Ijo Okunrin

FEMALE

1. Ruth Ogesan Osatuyi – Iya Egbe
2. Felicia Oye – Alatunse Obinrin
3. Felicia Bolaji – Amona Obinrin
4. Dorcas Oni – Osi Ijo Obinrin

4TH SET OF CHURCH CHIEFS 23RD APRIL, 1978 AT REVD S. A. M. ALABI'S TENURE

MALE

1. Hon. Dr. Timothy Akinola Aguda – Baba Ijo
2. Josiah Oluwadare Afe – Balogun Ijo Okunrin
3. E. A. Aduloju – Otun Ijo Okunrin

FEMALE

1. C. A. Ajayi – Asiwaju Ijo Obinrin
2. F. A. Ogunleye – Otun Ijo Obinrin

5TH SET OF CHURCH CHIEFS 8TH APRIL 1985 AT REVD CANON M.D. DARE'S TENURE

MALE

1. Daniel Aghedo Adeniran – Majeobaje Okunrin
2. Rufus Akinwumi Omoseebi – Baba Ewe
3. Joseph Olojuomo Faloye – Osi Ijo Okunrin
4. Samuel Boboye Fagbote – Alatunse Okunrin



The Church Chiefs up to the tenure of Revd. Dare in 1985

FEMALE

1. J. A. Adedokun – Iyalode Ijo-Obinrin
2. Bolajoko Uke Fayanju – Majeobaje-Obinrin
3. Mercy Abeo Adeyemi – Otun Egbe Aya Bisobu
4. Felicia Akoluyi – Osi Egbe Aya Bisobu
5. Lucia Oludolapo Ogunleye – Iya Ewe

**6TH SET OF CHURCH CHIEFS 23RD MAY, 1998 AT VEN J. A. OLAGBUJI'S
TENURE**

MALE

1. Adewole Atandeyi – Osi Ijo Okunrin
2. Samuel Akinola Osatuyi – Asiwaju Ijo Okunrin
3. Michael Omotayo Alofun – Alatunse Ijo Okunrin

FEMALE

1. Dorcas Ajoke Akingbade – Iya Ijo Obinrin
2. Grace Modupeore Aguda – Osi Ijo Obinrin
3. Dorcas Mopelola Otiko – Alatunse Obinrin
4. Olusola Opeyemi Adejuyigbe – Iya Ewe
5. Mercy Abeo Adeyemi – Iya Egbe Aya Bisobu
6. Effuah Ayodele Adejuyigbe – Otun Egbe Aya Bisobu

**7TH SET OF CHURCH CHIEFS 19TH JUNE, 2004 AT VEN S. M. A.
ADETIBA'S TENURE**

MALE

1. Adeduro Ige – Otun Ijo Okunrin
2. Kayode Adegbule Adesida – Asiwaju Ijo Okunrin
3. Gabriel Adebo Bobola – Majeobaje Okunrin
4. Rufus Tunji Afolayan – Aloore Ihinrere Okunrin
5. Abayomi David – Aloore Igbagbo Okunrin

FEMALE

1. Victoria Oluremi Jegede – Otun Ijo Obinrin
2. Beatrice Olanireti Kikiowo – Osi Ijo Obinrin
3. Rachael Olufunke Olujohungbe – Aloor Ore Ihinrere Obinrin
4. Felicia Modupe Orimoloye – Aloor Ore Ore-Ofe Obinrin

28TH AUGUST 2004

MALE

1. Olusegun Olujimi Ologunbe Ogunkua - Baba Ijo

PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2016/2017 CENTENARY YEAR

1. Ven. John Olugbenga Omotayo – Vicar
2. Revd. Canon J. O. Oso - Assistant Priest
3. Revd. M. S. Omoyeni – Assistant Priest (Transferred)
4. Revd. A. A. Adefila – Assistant Priest
5. Revd. Joseph O. Ojo – Assistant Priest
6. Mr. J. B. Falaju – Evangelist (Left for Theological Studies)
7. Chief O. O. O. Ogunkua – Baba Ijo
8. Chief Mrs. D. Ajoke Akingbade – Iya Ijo
9. Mr. Ayo Ajana – People's Warden/Treasurer
10. Mr. Dare Williams Adeoye – Pastor's Warden
11. Chief R. Akin Omoseebi – Bishop's Nominee
12. Chief Mrs. 'Sola Adegbonmire – Bishop's Nominee
13. Mr. Ayodele Dare – Synod Delegate
14. Chief Adewole Atandeyi – Synod Delegate
15. Mrs. F. F. Ige – Synod Delegate
16. Dr. Kayode J. Fakinlede – Synod Delegate
17. Mr. Tola Olokungbemi – Representing English Congregation
18. Mrs. M. A. Lashaodo - Representing English Congregation
19. Mr. Israel D. Ifelola - Representing Yoruba Congregation
20. Mr. Ranti Fakinlede - Representing Yoruba Congregation

21. Chief K. Adegbule Adesida - Representing Yoruba Congregation
22. Chief Mrs. P. F. Adegunleye - Representing Yoruba Congregation
23. Chief Mrs. R. O. Olujohungbe - Representing Yoruba Congregation
24. Mr. Gabriel O. Olorunmola – Representing the Youths
25. Mr. Omoniyi Adeyeye – Representing the Youths
26. Prof. Dare Ajewole – Representing Yoruba Congregation (Secretary)

PCC SECRETARIES – PAST AND PRESENT

Available records indicated that the following served as Secretary to the Church Council at various times as stated below:

1. Mr. Daniel Jacob Ogunkua-Oguntola (First Church Secretary)
2. Mr. J. B. Asoko – 1961-1963
3. Mr. J. K. Bello – 1964-1968
4. Mr. (Later Chief) S. A. Osatuyi – 1980
5. Mr. W. B. Ojo – 1982-1988
6. Mr. W. O. Aghedo – 1990
7. Mr. (Later Chief) Kayode Adegbule Adesida – 1991-1993, 2009
8. Mr. J. S. Jemilugba – 1994
9. Mr. (Later Chief) V. O. Ola – 1995-2008
10. Prof. Dare Ajewole – 2010 till date.

CHURCH COMMITTEES

St. Thomas's Church had since inception been appointing distinguished members to serve in various committees. These members of congregation rendered voluntary services for the welfare and development of the Church and approved by the Parish Church Council. All the Committees submit regular monthly reports to the Parish Church Council for consideration and approval. The most notable of the committees and their functions are:

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This Committee was previously called Building Committee and its functions include direct responsibility for the supervision of all construction work and maintenance of Church properties and report to the Parish Church Council. It emerged for the first time during the construction of the old Vicarage in 1950, since then, many people have served on the Committee among whom were the following Chairmen: Messer's I. O. Ige, Olu Akinnola, J. B. Adewole, Akin Osatuyi, J. A. Faleye, Prof. Omolade Adejuyigbe and Engr. J. S. Jemilugba, and currently Engr. Dele Ogunwolere.

HARVEST COMMITTEE

The Main function of this Committee is the organization of Church Harvests, arrangement for the Bazaar before it was discontinued and production of the Harvest programmes as well as submitting a report to the Parish Church Council. Many members of the congregation have served on the Committee as Chairmen/Chairperson namely: Messer's Olu Akinnola, Boboye Fagbote, Chief James Kolawole Akingbade, Chief Kayode Adegbule Adesida and currently Chief Mrs. Sola Adegbonmire.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Committee has the responsibility for preparing the draft of the Annual budget for the Church and submitting same for the approval of the Parish Church Council. It also monitors the performance of the Budget. The Committee was first established in 1993 with Chief J. K. Akingbade as the first Chairman while Mr. J. A. Faleye was the Church Auditor. Currently, we have Prince J. A. Adaramola as Chairman and Messer's W. Dare Adeoye and Ajilore Taiwo as the Church Auditor.

SERVING GROUPS

These are also Church Members who volunteer to serve in the underlisted groups to ensure order, peace and progress during worship services.

GUILD OF STEWARDS

This group known as Side-Men and Ladies or Ushers, are men and women of different ages who volunteer to direct movement of people and maintain order during worship services in the Church. Currently, there are over 80 volunteers who are arranged into four groups. The groups serve in turn every Sunday and at all



Guild of Stewards

worship services in the week. The following group will take over on the next Sunday. However, for special Church Events and Worship services where the attendance may be large, two or more groups may serve together. The group had been coordinated by Late Chief J. K. Akingbade and late Chief Dr. G. A. Arije. Chief Adewole Atandeyi, is the current Assistant Coordinator, Mr. S. A. Obata is the Secretary and Chief Mrs. D. A. Akingbade is the Patron.

CURRENT LIST OF GUILD OF STEWARDS

Group 1

Mr. W. A. Arije
 Mrs. C. F. Jeje
 Mr. S. O. Falade
 Mrs. F. K. Adesida
 Mrs. V. M. Adedipe-Arifalo
 Mrs. C. W. Atandeyi
 Mr. Victor Bamidele
 Mrs. F. O. Olateru-Oagbegi
 Mrs. J. Ade Arije
 Mrs. A. E. Olajorin
 Mr. E. O. Aina
 Mrs. A. M. Ofobutu
 Mrs. Sefunmi Ogini
 Mrs. Popoola Mary A.
 Mrs. V. O. Falusi
 Mrs. Iseoluwa Olaseni

Group 2

Engr. (Chief) V. o. Adegunleye
 Chief Mrs. P. F. Adegunleye
 Mrs. Dele Osanyingbemi
 Mrs. A. M. Molehin
 Mrs. F. F. Awotuse
 Mrs. S. A. Obata
 Mrs. F. A. Adetomiwa
 Mrs. F. B. Oni
 Mrs. O. H. Fayanju
 Miss Omotunde Soyoye
 Mrs. M. I. Awosika
 Mrs. E. O. Akinpeloye
 Mrs. E. B. Akinduro
 Mr. Akinbode Falusi
 Mrs. Titi Okunware
 Mr. Monebi Adebowale

Group 3

Chief Adewole Atandeyi
 Chief K. Adegbule Adesida
 Mrs. F. F. Arije
 Mrs. Y. Alade
 Prof. M. O. Ajewole
 Mrs. V. O. Ifelola
 Mrs. D. O. Kumuyi
 Mrs. G. O. Akindusoye
 Mrs. Florence Adesoye
 Mr. W. Dare Adeoye
 Mrs. Funke Williams
 Mrs. C. O. Omolabi
 Mrs. R. M. Adeniran
 Mrs. Victoria Olaseni
 Mrs. C. T. Agunloye
 Mrs. Peju Adebowale-Adeniyi

Group 4

Prince Wale Olateru – Olagbegi
 Chief Mrs. W. F. Akanle
 Mrs. F. M. Omoseebi
 Chief Mrs. Dupe Olomolehin
 Chief Mrs. Sola Adejuyigbe
 Chief Mrs. B. O. Kikiowo
 Mrs. M. O. Adeuga
 Mrs. C. A. Ojo
 Mrs. F. E. Owonibi
 Mrs. E. T. Oladapo
 Mr. Busayo Oladapo
 Mrs. I. O. Ekunsunmi
 Mrs. C. Fadekemi Adeoye
 Mr. Sola Adedipe
 Mrs. V. F. Awolumate
 Mr. Tunde Orimoloye

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

They are men and women who volunteer to serve as Teachers and Assistant Teachers at Children Sunday worship services to explain the passages of the Bible and guide them to understand the doctrine of the Anglican Communion. They worship in Children's Sunday School Hall at the Basement of the Church Hall and Christian Education Centre building. They sometime worship with the Adult Congregation in the main Church Auditorium on Special occasions such as Harvest Thanksgiving Service and other occasions as approved by the Vicar.

BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

The Diocese at inception in 1983 introduced regular Bible Study sessions every Sunday where some men and women have volunteered to be Bible Study Leaders. The leaders are required to study the prescribed passages and lead the Bible Study groups each Sunday. The Church is divided into groups to allow participation by all worshippers including youths.

WARDENS AND VERGERS

St. Thomas's Church had since inception been blessed with dedicated members who had been serving as People's Warden, Pastor's Warden and Vergers. On 31st January, 1928, during the tenure of Catechist J. A. Adegoroye, the first Vestry meeting was held and two Church Wardens and three Vergers were elected namely: Mr. Joseph Bewaji, Mr. James Falarungbon, Mr. Moses Abidakun, Mr. Jacob Fagbe and Mr. Daniel Ojo Ajayi.

Thereafter, from 1950 many people had continued to serve in the positions as elected at succeeding vestry meetings notable among these were the following; Mr. Oluwadare Adejuyigbe – People's Warden, Mr. J. O. Afe – Pastor's Warden, Mr. Ben A. Ige – People's

Warden, Mr. W. K. Oniya - Pastor's Warden, Mr. Mabiaku - People's Warden, Mr. J. A. Adeyemi - People's Warden, Mr. Akin Falaiye - People's Warden, Chief Olu Kolade - Pastor's Warden, Mr. W. O. Ibiroke - Pastor's Warden, Chief E.A. Aduloju - People's Warden, Mr. (later Chief) R. A. Omoseebi – Pastor's Warden, Mr. (later Chief) G. A. Bobola – People's Warden, Mr. (later Chief) J. K. Akingbade – Verger, Mr. S. O. Ojo – Verger.

However, among the longest serving officers are Chief Rufus Akinwumi Omoseebi – Pastor's Warden who served for fifty two years (1960-2012) and Chief Gabriel Adebo Bobola – People's Warden, for twenty four years (1984 – 2008). Currently the Pastor's Warden is Mr. William Dare Adeoye, Mr. Ayo Ajana is the People's Warden while Messers Adeyeye Omoniyi, Oluwatuyi Olakunle and Deji Falodun are Vergers.

CHURCH MARSHALS

St. Thomas's Church Marshals was inaugurated on the 6th April, 2014 by Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga. This is a group of volunteer youths under the leadership of Mr. Adeyeye Omoniyi who serve as Marshals to control vehicular traffic within the Church premises during worship services.

Since inception, the Church Marshals had officiated every Sunday at Church services and other special Church events including Diocesan programmes. Its membership is open to all volunteer Church members who are twenty five years old and above and must be of a proven character. The Marshals meet every last Sunday of the month to plan and review their activities and also at the last Thursday of each month to pray for spiritual development.

The group has the following members as its Pioneer Executive:

Mr. Falusi Akinbode – *Coordinator*

Mr. Ajetomobi Idowu – *General Secretary*

Mr. Aluko Omololu – *P.R.O*

Mr. Ayodeji Falodun – *Financial Secretary*

Mr. Adetoro George

Mr. Akeju Tosin

Mr. Adeyeye Omoniyi – *Former Youth President*

The Church Marshals has its own constitution. The Patron is Chief V. O. Ola while the Matron is Princess Adejoke Adebusoje.

CHURCH WORKERS

Late Mr. J. D. Adegoroye came as the first Catechist in 1926. He initiated the founding of the first school but did not achieve much success. The next Church Worker, Mr. A. A. Isijola, who was also a Catechist, built the old Vicarage (a bungalow) during his tenure. Mr. A. A. Isijola and Mr. S. I. Obafemi came on board as Catechists in 1933 and started the first school called St. Thomas's CMS Primary School, Imogun/Isikan, Akure, in 1934.

Mr. Bakare took over in 1936. He was succeeded by Catechist J. O. Daramola (who later became an Archdeacon) 1938-1944. It was during his time that the first school building was completed. He was the Catechist cum Headmaster cum Choirmaster/Organist. He was succeeded by Catechist Orekoya in 1945. Catechist Okunmuyide succeeded him in 1946. Catechist S. A. Alabi came on board in 1947. Catechist S. A. Adebusoje (later Venerable) took over in 1950.

The first Clergyman Church Worker was Revd J. O. Osuntuyi (1952-1954) during whose tenure the one storey old vicarage building was completed and the School was upgraded to standard six. He was succeeded by Revd. I. E. O. Alegbeleye (later Archdeacon) 1954-1964. He effected the extension of the old Church building. When Revd. Alegbeleye travelled overseas for further training, Revd. S. O. Oluwatoba and Revd. S. O. Ohida held fort for him. He was succeeded by Revd. Canon M. A. Akinduko (1965-1966) and by Revd. (later Ven.) M. D. Dare (1966-1970) and many others in succession.

The list of Church Workers is as stated below:

LIST OF THE CHURCH WORKERS

NO	NAMES	STATUS	FROM	TO
1	S. OBASUYI	LAY READER	1924	1925
2	J.D. ADEGOROYE	CATECHIST	JAN. 1926	MARCH 1928
3	A. A. ISIJOLA	CATECHIST	MARCH 1928	MARCH 1933
4	S. I. OBAFEMI	CATECHIST	APRIL, 1933	JUNE 1936
5	BAKARE	CATECHIST	JULY, 1936	1937
6	J. O. DARAMOLA	CATECHIST	1938	DEC. 1944
7	OREKOYA	CATECHIST	1945	1945
8	OKUNMUYIDE	CATECHIST	JAN. 1946	DEC. 1946
9	S.A. ALABI	CATECHIST	1947	1949
10	S.A. ADEBUSUYI (LATER VEN.)	CATECHIST	1950	1951
11	REVD. J. O. OSUNTUYI	VICAR	1952	1954
12	REVD. I. E. O. ALEGBELEYE (LATER VEN.)	VICAR	1954	SEPT. 1964
13	REVD. S. O. OLUWATOBA	VICAR	SEPT. 21, 1964	JAN. 1965
14	REVD. S. O. OHIDA	VICAR	JAN. 1965	OCT. 1965
15	REVD. E. O. ALEGBELEYE (LATER VEN.)	VICAR	NOV. 1965	DEC. 30, 1965
16	REVD. M. A. AKINDUKO (LATER VEN.)	VICAR	DEC. 30, 1965	SEPT. 12, 1966
17	REVD. M. D. DARE (LATER VEN.)	VICAR	SEPT. 17, 1966	NOV. 30, 1970
18	REVD. J. O. OLUWAWUMI	VICAR	NOV. 30 1970	DEC. 28, 1976
19	REVD. J. O. OYEKUSIBE	VICAR	DEC. 29, 1976	JULY 10, 1977
20	REVD. S. A. M. ALABI	VICAR	JULY 11, 1977	SEPT. 15, 1978
21	REVD. C. A. AJEPE	ASSIST PRIEST	JAN. 1977	JULY 1978
22	REVD. I. O. KOMOLAFE	VICAR	SEPT. 1978	JULY 30, 1980
23	REVD. CANON M.D. DARE (LATER VEN.)	VICAR	AUG. 1, 1980	DEC. 27, 1989
24	REVD. M. O. LUMADE	ASSIST PRIEST	APRIL 1, 1982	OCT. 15, 1982
25	REVD. S. A. BORISANMI (LATER VEN.)	ASSIST PRIEST	OCT. 1982	JULY 15, 1984
26	REVD. T. OPE KUJERO (LATER VEN.)	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY 15, 1984	OCT. 31, 1986
27	REVD. C. A. OSO	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY 1, 1985	OCT. 31, 1986
28	REVD.. H. NWOJU (LATER VEN.)	ASSIST	JULY 12, 1987	OCT. 31, 1989
29	VEN. J. JAIYEGBA	VICAR	JULY 27, 1989	SEPT. 16, 1991
30	REVD. CANON OYET	ASSIST PRIEST	NOV. 1, 1989	OCT. 31, 1990
31	REVD. J. O. ADEBAYO (LATER VEN.)	ASSIST PRIEST	OCT. 1985	AUG. 1991
32	REVD. A. O. OLISA	ASSIST PRIEST	AUG. 1986	DEC. 1990
33	REVD. W. O. FALOYE (LATER VEN.)	ASSIST PRIEST	JUNE 1987	DEC. 1990
34	CANON J. O. A. ADEDIPE	VICAR	SEPT. 16, 1991	DEC. 30, 1991
35	REVD. J. B. AJEWOLE	ASSIST PRIEST	JAN. 1992	JULY 1, 1992
36	REVD. J. A. AKINFADÉ	ASSIST PRIEST	AUG. 1991	OCT. 8, 1992
37	VEN. J. A. OLAGBUJI	VICAR	DEC. 31, 1991	JULY 30, 1998
38	REVD. J. T. AKEREDOLU	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 1992	DEC. 29, 1992
39	REVD. S. O. A. DABI	ASSIST PRIEST	DEC. 29, 1992	JULY 1, 1995
40	REVD.. E. A. ADE OGUNSAKIN	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY 1, 1995	JULY 22, 1997
41	REVD.. CANON E. A. ALIEU	ASSIST PRIEST	NOV. 1, 1992	MARCH 17, 1996

THE FIRST CENTURY OF ST. THOMAS'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, ISINKAN, AKURE

42	REVD. AYO ATOWOJU	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY 22, 1997	JULY, 1998
43	VEN. A. O. AKINLALU (Now Bishop)	ASSIST PRIEST	JAN. 1996	JAN 1998
44	VEN. J. O. OLUGASA (LATER PROVOST)	VICAR	JULY 30, 1998	JULY 30, 2001
45	REVD. H. A. AJAYI (LATER VEN.)	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 1998	NOV. 2001
46	REVD. J. I. ADEFILA	ASSIST PRIEST	AUG 9, 1999	NOV. 1999
47	CANON ONAMUTI	ASSIST PRIEST	1998	
48	CANON M. A. ADEWUMI	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY 19, 2001	JULY 30, 2001
49	REV. J. A. OGUNSUSI	ASSIST PRIEST	1998	2003
50	REV. R. F. ONI	ASSIST PRIEST	1999	28 TH FEB, 2000
51	REV. DR. S. A. FAGBEMI	ASSIST PRIEST	2000	2002
52	VEN. S. M. A. ADETIBA	VICAR	AUG 1, 2001	DEC 29, 2008
53	VEN. ALABA AKEREDOLU	ASSIST PRIEST	OCT 27, 2001	NOV 2001
54	VEN. ADEKANYE	ASSIST PRIEST	2002	
55	REV. M. O. ADENUGA	ASSIST PRIEST	NOV. 2001	JULY, 2005
56	REVD. G. S. AWOSOGA	ASSIST PRIEST	NOV. 2001	JULY, 2003
57	REVD. E. A. ADEWALE	ASSIST PRIEST	JUNE, 2001	NOV. 2001
58	REVD. CANON BOLA AKINJO	ASSIST PRIEST	NOV. 2001	2005
59	REV. T. O. OGUNTUNJI	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 2002	JUNE, 2003
60	REV. CANON HONEST NWOSU	ASSIST PRIEST	SEPT. 2002	JUNE, 2003
61	REV. BOLA ILORI	ASSIST PRIEST	AUG. 2003	DEC. 2004
62	REV. ROY FAKOREDE	ASSIST PRIEST	JUNE, 2003	AUG. 2005
63	REV. B. O. ADEDIRAN	ASSIST PRIEST	DEC. 2006	
64	REV. M. O. DUROJAIYE	ASSIST PRIEST	JUNE 3, 2003	28 TH DEC., 2003
65	REV. I. O. FAMILUJI	ASSIST PRIEST	JAN. 2004	SEPT. 2005
66	VEN. F. E. O. OLOJEDE	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 2004	
67	REV. C. O. OBE	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 2005	NOV. 2006
68	REV. J. S. KOMOLAFE	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 2005	JULY, 2008
69	VEN. W. O. ALADEKUGBE (NOW BISHOP)	ASSIST PRIEST	DEC. 2005	DEC. 2008
70	REVD. SOLA OLUGASA	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 2005	JULY, 2014
71	REV. E. O. DADA	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 27, 2008	JULY, 2009
72	REV. Z. O. ASABI	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 2006	DEC. 2006
73	CANON V. O. OMOLA (LATER VEN)	ASSIST PRIEST	JAN. 2007	DEC. 2008
74	REV. S. K. OYEWOLE	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY 21, 2008	JULY, 2009
75	VEN. C. A. ALUKO	ASSIST PRIEST		
76	VEN. DR. M. O. ADENUGA	VICAR	DEC 29, 2008	DEC 28, 2014
77	REV. VICTOR FAMILUA	ASSIST PRIEST	JAN. 2009	JULY, 2009
78	REV. M. O. DUROJAIYE	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY 20, 2009	AUG., 10, 2012
79	CANON B. B. OLUWASEUN (LATER VEN)	ASSIST PRIEST	AUGUST, 2009	SEPT. 2011
80	VEN. E. B. B. OMOWAYE	ASSIST PRIEST	JAN. 2010	DEC. 2012
81	REV. S. A. SANMI	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 2010	JULY, 2012
82	REV. M. O. DUROJAIYE	ASSIST PRIEST	FEB., 18 2013	MAY 1, 2014
83	REVD. B. A. OYEDELE	ASSIST PRIEST	SEPT. 2012	DEC 28, 2014
84	REVD. V. I. B. ADEOLA	ASSIST PRIEST	MAY 1, 2014	JULY, 2015
85	VEN. PROF. E. R. I. AFOLABI	ASSIST PRIEST	JUNE, 2013	TILL NOW
86	VEN. DR. M. A. ADETUNMBI	ASSIST PRIEST	MARCH, 2014	TILL NOW

87	VEN. J. O. OMOTAYO	VICAR	DEC 28, 2014	TILL NOW
88	REVD. A. A. ADEFILA	ASSIST PRIEST	DEC 28, 2014	TILL NOW
89	REVD. M. S. OMOYENI	ASSIST PRIEST	JULY, 2015	JULY, 2016
90	CANON J. O. OSO	ASSIST PRIEST	18 TH JULY, 2016	TILL NOW
91	REVD. J. O. OJO	ASSIST PRIEST	18 TH JULY, 2016	TILL NOW

Church Vicars



Ven. I. E. O. Alegbelaye



Ven. M. D. Dare



Ven. J. A. Jaiyeoba



Canon J.O.A Adedipe



Ven. J. A. Otagbuji



Ven. J. O. Olugasa (Later Provost)



Ven. S.M.A. Adetiba



Ven. Dr. M.O. Adenuga



Ven. J.O. Omotayo

LAYREADERS

In 1924, the first Church Worker posted to St. Thomas's Church was a Layreader, Mr. S. A. Obasuyi, who served for a year, after which CMS Agents and Catechists were posted to the Church.

However on 5th December, 1925, Bishop J. M. Jones of Lagos Diocese visited Akure and during the service in the Church inducted the first licensed Layreaders namely; Messrs Familoni and Gabriel A. Awoyomi. Since then, Layreaders had featured prominently in the Church worship services to assist the Vicars. On 16th September 1958, Layreaders Conference and Retreat was held in Akure Archdeaconry and St. Thomas's Church participated actively.

The Diocese of Akure on inception in 1983 saw the need to organise training programmes for her Layreaders hence a School of Layreaders was established in 1985 by the then Lord Bishop, Rt. Revd. Dr. E. B. Gbonigi as the President and co-ordinated initially by the Provost, Ven. J. O. Olugasa, later by Ven. J. A. Olagbuji and currently by Ven. S.M.A. Adetiba assisted by Revd. Canon G. S. Awosoga. The School usually organized annual seminar for the Layreaders to train them to be effective in the work of Worship Services, Evangelism and Visitation. Below is the list of Layreaders who had served in the Church from 1980 to the present:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Chief Olu Akinnola | 10. Chief Mrs. D. M. Otiko |
| 2. Chief J. B. Adewole (later Revd) | 11. Mrs. G. M. Adesida |
| 3. Chief. M. O. Alofun (later Chief) | 12. Mrs. V. A. Alegbeleye |
| 4. Mr. S. I. Ojo | 13. Mr. S. F. Awotuse |
| 5. Mr. J. O. Osasona | 14. Mrs. M. K. Aladenola |
| 6. Mr. Ogunmokun | 15. Mrs. B. B. Obata |
| 7. Mrs. F. F. Ige | 16. Mrs. B. A. Remi Adesida |
| 8. Chief Omoniyi Famubo | 17. Dr. (Mrs) M. O. Jemilugba |
| 9. Mr. R. A. Akerele | 18. Mrs. O. M. Omisami |

SOCIETIES

Two basic societies existed in St Thomas's Church from inception namely: the Church-based Societies and the Social-based Societies both comprised male and female. The first Church-based Societies, were established on June 7, 1925, while the Social-based joined from time to time. Most of the Social-based Societies (Egbe Ibile) were age grade groups and have since fizzled out as their members became old and departed or passed away. The Church-based Societies have names which reflect Christianity or religious background. Among these are: Christian Friendly Society (CFS), Christian Ladies Circle (CLC), Egbe Ayanfe Kristi and Egbe Gbotoluwa, Egbe Aseyisamodun, Egbe Ajumogbadura etc.

Other Church-based Societies are branches of Diocesan, National or International Christian Organizations e. g. Women's Guild, Mothers' Union, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Anglican Youth Fellowship (AYF) and Christian Unity Band of Nigeria (CUBN), Fountain of Hope International (FOHI) etc. The societies hold monthly meetings, usually hosted by members, either in their homes or in the Church according to an agreed roster. At the meetings, members discuss the progress of the Church and other matters of interest including Bible Study usually led by a member. Each Church-based Society performs annual Thanksgiving service in the Church as well as hold anniversary party according to the Church Calendar.

Below are the list of the Societies both past and present:-

PAST SOCIETIES

(MALE)

1. AGBA OKUNRIN
2. AJOLAIYE
3. AJINDE
4. ALADURA
5. AJIBARERENILE OLUWA
6. AYEBA
7. EMILERE EYINKE
8. EGBE AGBA
9. FIWASAIYE
10. GBANGBA
11. GBOTOLUWA AGBA
12. GBOTOLUWA II
13. ILOSIWAJU ERO MIMO
14. IRETI OGO KRISTI
15. ITESIWAJU OLUWA
16. IFETAYO EYINKE
17. IFELODUN
18. IFETAYO
19. ITESIWAJU OKUNRIN
20. IRETI OGO
21. IREPODUN
22. JOLLY I
23. JOLLY II
24. MICHAEL ADEDAYO
25. OGOBO
26. OLUWASEFUNMI
27. SEKOYE
28. YOUNG OSATUYIS
29. YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
30. YOUTH ASSOCIATION

FEMALE

31. ALAFIA
32. AJIDOLORO
33. ALICE OMOJOLAGBE
34. AROWOSAYE (PHEBEAN AJOKE)
35. ABIYAMO
36. AYANFE KRISTI
37. ANIFOWOSE MARY ADELEYE
38. AGBA OBINRIN
39. AROWOSAYE
40. AROWOSAYE COMFORT OLADEPE
41. AYILARAN
42. AROWOSAIYE DUPE
43. ADEBAYO ESTHER
44. AROWOSAIYE AJINDE
45. AINA EBE
46. ALAFIA IMOGUN
47. AKINOLA GBOTOLUWA OBINRIN
48. ALAFIA EYINKE (RACHAEL FOLORUNSHO)
49. ELIZABETH IBITOKUN (FORMERLY FELICIA BOLA)
50. EUNICE EBE
51. EMILERE
52. ESTHER EMIOLA
53. EGBE REWOLA
54. FEHINTOLUWA
55. FELICIA JOLADE
56. FELICIA SEKOYEMI
57. IYA EGBE
58. IMOLETAN

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 59. IFELERE | 76. MORNING STAR |
| 60. IYALODE | 77. ORI ARAN FUNKE |
| 61. IRAWO OWURO | 78. OMOLERE |
| 62. IBITOKUN | 79. OLAIYA OMOLERE |
| 63. IBUKUN OLUWA | 80. OLOKOJU |
| 64. IRANLOWO OLUWA | 81. OLUWABASIRI |
| 65. IFE | 82. OMOLUKA |
| 66. IWALEWA | 83. ORI ARAN ODOJOKA |
| 67. IDAPO MIMO | 84. RACHAEL (ALAFIA EYINKE) |
| 68. ILOSIWAJU OJUWA | 85. SURULERE |
| 69. IRANLOWO KRISTI – ORI ARAN | 86. SERIKI |
| 70. JANE ADEKEMI | 87. SEKOYE FELICIA |
| 71. JOSE AIYEMEMI | 88. VICTORIA KOLADE |
| 72. JIMULO | 89. KAJOLA |
| 73. LYDIA OLUWAREMILEKUN | 90. WURAOLA |
| 74. MAFAROSERE (AJAYI SASERE) | |
| 75. MARY ANIFOWOSE | |

PAST SOCIETIES (BOTH MALE AND FEMALE)

- 91 IGBO YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
- 92 MERCY PROGRESSIVE UNION
- 93 O. P. U.
- 94 ST. THOMAS' YOUTH CLUB
- 95 YOUTH FORUM
- 96 CHURCH WORKERS ASSOCIATION (CWA)
- 97 SCHOOL STAFF
- 98 OMO OGUN
- 99 ALEJO
- 100 KOLEGBE
- 101 ANGLICAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP (AYF)
- 102 STUDENTS

CURRENT SOCIETIES

MALE

1. ASEYISAMODUN
2. YOUNG MEN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YMCA)
3. AJOLAIYE
4. MEN CHRISTIAN LEAGUE
5. MEN FELLOWSHIP (ENGLISH SERVICE)

FEMALE

1. ALATUNSE
2. CHRISTIAN FRIENDLY SOCIETY (CFS)
3. CHRISTIAN LADIES CIRCLE (CLC)
4. MOTHER'S UNION
5. WOMEN'S GUILD
6. YOUNG WOMEN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YWCA)
7. AYANFE KRISTI
8. YOUNG WIVES
9. WOMEN FELLOWSHIP (ENGLISH SERVICE)
10. CHRISTIAN LADY SOCIETY (CLS)
11. CHRISTIAN SISTERS SOCIETY (CSS)

MALE AND FEMALE SOCIETIES

1. CHRISTIAN UNITY BAND OF NIGERIA (CUBN)
2. YOUNG CHRISTIAN UNITY BAND OF NIGERIA (Y.C.U.B.N.)
3. FOUNTAIN OF HOPE INTERNATIONAL (F.O.H.I)
4. EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION (EFAC)
5. ANGLICAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (ACF)
6. OLOYE IJO
7. AJUMOGBADURA (MORNING PRAYER GROUP)

BOYS BRIGADE

Boys Brigade was inaugurated in St. Thomas's Church, Akure on 30th June 1968, when thirty boys were enrolled into the 7th Akure Company of the Boys Brigade of Nigeria at the Mattins Service in the Church by Bishop E. B. Gbonigi. The inauguration programme was preceded by Guard of Honour for Hon Justice T. A. Aguda, their Patron. He gave a



Inauguration of the Boys Brigade
by Bishop Gbonigi, assisted by Revd. M.D. Dare

special donation of Two Pounds Sterling (£2) to launch the group. Total donations collected that day was £ 9.3.8d (9 pounds 3 shillings 8 pence) which were forwarded to the Boys Brigade International Camp at Sagamu. Since inauguration, they have participated in the following Boys Brigade activities within and outside Akure:

- i. Zonal conference of the Boys Brigade of Nigeria from Ondo, Oyo and Ogun States held at St. Helen's College, Ondo on 16th July 1982. Four officers attended from the 7th Akure Company of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure.

- ii. On 15th July 1983, Boys Brigade camp held at Igbatoro Kajola attended by twenty five members led by Mr. Julius Oguntoye.
- iii. In May 1985, the National General Secretary of Boys Brigade Revd B. B. Udom from Lagos visited Akure and paid a courtesy visit to the Ondo State Governor accompanied by the Vicar of St. Thomas's Church, Isinkan, Akure, Ven. M. D. Dare.
- iv. The installation of Ondo State Boys Brigade President – Major General Olufemi Olutoye (Rtd) at St. David's Cathedral Church, Ijomu, Akure on 27th April 1986.
- v. The Boys Brigade Band of the 7th Akure Company bought a set of musical equipment at a cost of N10,000:00, which was dedicated by the Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Revd. Dr. E. B. Gbonigi and launched by Late Commodore M. B. Otiko (Rtd) on 21st February 1988. Also present at the ceremony were Major General Olufemi Olutoye (Rtd), President Ondo State Boys Brigade, The State Commissioners for Youths represented by Chief P. S. Gboyega, Mr. Alani, Chief Executive and Zonal Secretary Ondo, Oyo and Ogun States.
- vi. Eleventh Zonal Conference of Oyo, Ondo and Ogun States held at Divisional Teacher Training College, Ilaro, from 1st to 3rd May 1987.
- vii. An International Camp to mark the 80th Anniversary of the Boys Brigade of Nigeria, held from 3rd to 12th December, 1988 at Shere Hills, Jos. The Camp attracted over 4,000 officers from Nigeria and other parts of the world. Ondo State contingent was represented by eighty officers of which officers from St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Akure actively participated.
- viii. The 7th Akure Company of the Boys Brigade of Nigeria, held membership enrolment for 59 persons at St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure on 23rd September 1990.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Historically, the Youth as a group or arm of St. Thomas's Anglican Church was first organized under the umbrella of a Youth Club led by Prince Kunle Olofinyokun during the tenure of Revd. Canon M. D. Dare in 1988. The group later transformed to Youth Forum with Bro (Now Chief) Tunji Afolayan as pioneer President between 1992-2000.

Thus, the Youths became more active in Church programmes and events. As the Church grew, the youths were later organized into two sections namely: Youth Forum and AYF (Anglican Youth Fellowship) Star and both groups have continued to participate actively in Diocesan and National programmes.

In 1997, at AYF National Conference held in Lagos, 2 members of St. Thomas's Youth, Sis Sola Badmus and Bro Bayode Atandeyi of AYF Star, participated in the National competition and won laurels (1st Positions both in Adult and Star bible Quiz).

In 2006, when the Primate of Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion ordered that only members who are 40 years and below should be in the youth department; the two groups, Youth Forum and AYF, were merged.

Today, we have a standard and viable Youth Fellowship which is formidable and performs excellently in virtually all the sensitive areas of the Church which include Guild of Stewards, Choir, Boys Brigade, Girls Guide, Bible Study, Sunday School Teachers and the Church Marshals. The Youths are at the fore front in evangelism through various outreach, seminars and weekly fellowships.

Furthermore, God has raised vibrant Christians among St. Thomas's Youths, who are lifting the banner of Christ in different walks of life. Many became ordained Priests, others became successful professional leaders and business men.

Past and Present Presidents – Youth Forum

Prince Kunle Olofinyokun founded Youth Club

Bro (Now Chief) Tunji Afolayan –1992-2000

Bro Wale Falowo – 2000-2002

Bro Oluwaseyi Abe – 2002-2004

Bro Gbenga Alofun – 2004-2006

Bro Oluwafemi Abe – 2006-2009

Bro Omoniyi Adeyeye – 2009-2014

Bro Gabriel Olorunmola – 2014 till date

AYF Star Coordinators

Sis Bukky Ojo

Bro Mayowa Taiwo

Bro Wale Falowo

Bro Bayode Atandeyi

Bro Taiwo Adejuwon

Bro Oluwafemi Abe

MOTHER'S UNION

On 10th May 1981, the first enrolment service of Mothers' Union took place in the Church with about 28 members and attended by Late Chief (Mrs) Funke Ajasin, wife of the late former Governor and Mrs. L. O. Ogunleye, Mrs. Fasoranbaku, the Diocesan Enrolling Officer and the Secretary Mothers' Union, Mrs. A. A. Adepoju. Since then, the Mother's Union has been participating in all Diocesan Women Conferences and other Mothers' Union programmes which include the following:

- i. Card Service held at Bishop's Court every December.
- ii. Redemption Service in January/February every year.
- iii. All Saints Day Service – Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary every year.
- iv. The Annual get together of the Mothers' Union.
- v. Quiet Day Service and the wave of Prayer Service held annually.
- vi. Regular Seminars and Health talks by invited guests and visit to Motherless and Old People's Homes.

YOUNG WIVES

The Young Wives of St. Thomas's Church was inaugurated on June 2011 during the tenure of Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga, under the banner of Association of Young Women in Akure Diocese whose marriages are below ten years. Engr. Muyiwa Sonuga and Mrs. Abimbola A. Esho were appointed as Patron and Matron of the organization respectively.

The Young Wives usually perform Drama/Playlet once a month in both English and Yoruba services on Sundays. They have monthly programmes which include Prayer meetings, Testimonies, Health Talks, Bible Study, Visitation and Evangelism, Love Feast, Exchange of gifts and Training and Seminars. They also participate actively in Diocesan Women Programmes.

ELDERLY FELLOWSHIP

The idea of Elderly Fellowship in St. Thomas's Church was initiated and co-ordinated with the support and approval of the then Vicar, Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga in February 2012. The Fellowship had since held its programme on every third Tuesday of each month inside the Church Hall. The Fellowship comprises members who are Sixty-Five years old and above from the Akure South Archdeaconry. The Fellowship programme runs from February to November each year; beginning with Holy Communion Service in February and ending with Thanksgiving Service in November, which holds annually in the Church Sanctuary. Other Fellowship programmes include Prayer Session and Exhortation, Spiritual Talks, Medical and Health Talks with Check-ups, Excursion/Visitation, Sports and Games.

All the activities are to encourage and sustain healthy old-age and spiritual well being of members. Attendance at the Fellowship programmes have been very encouraging and impactful as membership has been growing steadily. The Co-ordinator Mrs. F. F. Ige always invited seasoned professionals to address the Fellowship on various topics of interest to healthy and happy living and relationship. The Co-ordinator is assisted by Mr. P. M. Oyegoke and Mrs. A. F. Falusi.

EDUCATION

Records showed that St. Thomas's CMS Primary School, Isikan, Akure was established on April 24, 1934 when Mr. S. I. Obafemi was the Catechist cum Headmaster with other teachers, Messer's Ade Ojo

and Alarapon. The School started with 25 pupils and continued to be the only one until 1996 when the Church established more Schools namely:

St. Andrew's Primary School and St. John's now Mega Primary School and two Secondary Schools, St. Thomas' Comprehensive High School and Messiah Secondary Modern School, now Omolurogbo Grammar School.

The Education Committee of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isikan, Akure was established in 1996 during the tenure of Ven. J. A. Olagbuji to oversee both the physical and spiritual development and welfare of all the Schools founded by the Church namely:

1. St. Thomas's CMS Primary School now St. Thomas's Anglican Primary School, Isikan, Akure founded April 24, 1934 during the tenure of Catechist S. I. Obafemi.
2. Messiah Secondary Modern School, now Omolurogbo Grammar School, Oke-Aro established in 1956 during the tenure of Revd (later Ven) I. E. O. Alegbeleye.
3. St. John's Anglican Primary School, Idi-Iroko, Oke-Aro, Akure established on 21st January, 1980 during the tenure of Rev. I. O. Komolafe, now renamed St. John's Mega Caring Heart Primary School by the Ondo State Government.
4. St. Thomas's Comprehensive High School, Aratusin, Akure established on 1st Sept. 1980 during the tenure of Revd. Canon (later Ven) M. D. Dare.
5. St. Andrew's Anglican Primary School, Isinkan, Akure established on 21st Nov. 1982 during the tenure of Revd. Canon (later Ven) M. D. Dare.

Moreover, the Education Committee had been organizing the award of Bursary and Scholarship to the Church youths in both Secondary and Tertiary Institutions.

The Pioneer Chairman of the Committee was late Chief S. A. Osatuyi who served from 1996-2002, later Mrs. F. F. Ige who served between 2003-2007, Chief R. A. Omoseebi served in the same capacity from 2008-2012. The current Chairman, Mrs. F. F. Ige took over again from 2013 till date.

The Committee, with the support of the Church Priests, mentors the spiritual growth of both pupils, students and staff of these Schools by conducting Morning Prayer devotion at least once a week in all the Schools. Also, the Church through the Committee gives financial assistance for the maintenance and renovation of some facilities in the Schools, as well as releases rebates of Harvest proceeds to all the Primary Schools for development and encouragement to the Staff.

SYNOD SESSIONS

Since the creation of Akure Diocese in 1983, the sessions of the Diocesan Synod have been rotated among the Cathedral and the seats of Archdeacons. Under the arrangement St. Thomas's Church, Imogun/Isikan as the seat of the Akure South Archdeaconry has hosted the sessions of the Diocesan Synod as follows:

The Second Session of the Second Synod held from July 22, 1987 to July 26, 1987. The Second session of the Third Synod held from July 19 to July 22, 1990. Again, the Second session of the Eight Synod of Akure Diocese was hosted by the Akure South Archdeaconry from 7th to 12th July, 2005 in St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Akure.

EVANGELISM

Evangelism had been taken seriously by St. Thomas's Church from its' early days. Initially Evangelism was in the form of open air worship services held in different parts of its catchment area viz: Eyinke, Isikan, Irowo, Oke-Aro, Eruoba, Odo Ijoka, Imuagun etc. The first open

EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP IN ANGLICAN COMMUNION (EFAC)

The Pioneer Bishop of Akure Diocese, the Rt. Revd. Dr. E.B. Gbonigi (Retired) introduced the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion (EFAC) to the Diocese of Akure in 1983. The EFAC group started in St. David's Cathedral Church, Ijomu, Akure. EFAC meetings were held every Wednesday at Ijomu, later. St. Thomas's Church started her Church EFAC Fellowship in 1986 with the following as pioneers Mrs. Phebean Uke Fayanju, Mrs. Beatrice Jayanola, Chief (Mrs.) M. A. Adeyemi, Mrs. F. F. Ige, Mr. and Mrs. Ogunsanmi and others.

The aims and objectives of EFAC rest on the conviction that a strong biblical witness is essential for the life and health of the Anglican Communion within the context of seeking first God's Kingdom and building up His people. Thus, the then Diocesan, the Rt. Revd. Dr. E.B. Gbonigi declared in 1991, the year of Evangelism in Akure Diocese.

A strong team was set up in the Diocese for training in Evangelism and Soul winning which brought about the principle of "The Four Spiritual Laws" of the Great Commission movement. Revd. Mewa Ijatuyi (later Venerable) led the St. Thomas's Church group.

Activities of the group included prayer meetings been led by a Prayer Group known as Prayer Warriors which intercedes for the Church in all aspects of life. The members meet every Friday night for vigil. The group is the power house of EFAC. The Bible Study Group meet every Monday to deliberate on the Bible study outline prepared by the EFAC National Bible Study Committee.

The Drama group is another arm of EFAC that conveys the Evangelism messages in drama, choral or music format. The Evangelism team goes out on visitation and street revival programmes at least twice a year especially during Epiphany week and at the end of the year.

Later, the EFAC group started to hold monthly Night vigils, Printing and distribution of tracts, Welfare visitation and House fellowship. Through EFAC House fellowship, the underlisted new Churches were established.

- i. The House fellowship in Mr. H.A. Oyewole's residence at New Town which later developed to Bishop Emmanuel Gbonigi's Anglican Church, Idanre Road, Akure.
- ii. The House Fellowship in Mrs. J. B. Aghedo's residence, Ondo Road later became Akin Omoseebi Anglican Church, Church Road, Opposite Army Barracks, Ondo Road, Akure.
- iii. The House Fellowship in Dr. Banji Olowosusi's residence at Afunbiowo Housing Estate, Idanre Road, pastored by a student from Archbishop Vining College of Theology, Akure is yet to develop in to a Church.
- iv. The House Fellowship recently started at the residence of Mr. Sam Omoseebi at Fanibi layout and the House Fellowship in Mr. and Mrs. Gbenga Adu's residence at Ijigba will soon give birth to new Churches.

Other various groups within the EFAC that had contributed immensely to the growth of the Church spiritually and numerically includes:-

- i. The Evangelical and Mission group
- ii. ETS-Equipping the Saints
- iii. Prison Ministry
- iv. Community Health Evangelism (CHE) - is a new dimension in Church Evangelism established, to assist congregation members improve their health, so that they can become whole, physically and spiritually. St. Thomas's Church is actively participating in the programme as a leading Church in the Diocese of Akure.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS (ETS)

Equipping the Saints is an organization developed to help Churches and Mission Agencies train Disciples to do the work of the Ministry and bring Christians to maturity.

Equipping the Saints (ETS) programme was introduced by Major General Olufemi and Professor (Mrs.) Olutoye (now Oba of Idoani) in St. David's Cathedral Church, Ijomu, Akure, in 2004. The facilitators were Pastor Oluyemi, Evangelist Mrs. Olusoga and Evangelist Oyinlade; Ven. S.M.A. Adetiba, then Vicar of the Church supported and encouraged members to enroll for the programme in St. Thomas's Church in February 2008 and Twenty four people first participated in the training programme. The programme runs for nine months that is from February to October every year and thus far Eighty four people had taken part in the programme within the Church.

PRISON VISITATION/EVANGELISM

Prison Ministry in St. Thomas's Church began in 2010 during the tenure of Ven. Dr. M.O. Adenuga. It was co-ordinated by Mrs. F.F. Ige until 2014 when Mr. Tola Olokungbemi took over the leadership. The team of Prison Evangelists takes the Gospel to Prison Inmates, Prison Warders and others around the prison yard. The Team believes that no life is beyond the reach of God's power and envisioned a future in which Prisoners, Ex-prisoners and their families would be restored through the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Every Thursday the team meets by 3:00-4:00pm to discuss the Bible topic to minister the Word of God to the Prison Inmates. They hold quarterly prayer meetings in the Church to review their activities. The team is also part of Akure Prison Fellowship of Nigeria which meets monthly at Akure Prison Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) office at Oke-Ijebu. The Church through the visitation team had rehabilitated and sponsored some released prisoners to learn trades and empowered them to be self-employed for better living.

PRAYER WARRIORS

The Prayer Warrior Group was established in 2009 when Ven. Dr. M.O. Adenuga was the Vicar of the Church. The group holds prayer meetings regularly to pray on all aspects of Church life. They could be likened to the Biblical Aaron and Hur who lifted up the hands of Moses on the mountain when the Israelites waged war against the Amalekites and defeated them (Exodus 17:8-16).

They meet every Friday for night vigil and also organize a 24-hour non-stop intercessory prayer twice a year in June and December and they regularly assist during revival programmes in the Church.

VISITATION GROUP

Available Church records indicated that house visitation began in St. Thomas's Church in 1926 during the time of Catechist J. D. Adegoroye. He paid regular visits to the Church members on daily basis to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and encourage them to attend Church services on Sunday. He extended his visitation to neighbouring towns and villages such as Oda, Irese, Ijare, Oba-Ile etc, to visit the Churches there or to resolve conflicts. The tradition of visitation to the neighbourhood and other areas in Akure Kingdom continued with the Catechist and his successors for a longtime.

The Visitation Group was reorganized in 1996 with the coming into existence of "WE CARE AND VISITATION GROUP" which comprised sixteen people namely: Chief (Mrs) B.O. Kikiowo, Mrs. F.F. Ige, Mrs. J.B. Aghedo, Mrs. M. K. Aladenola, late Pa B. A. Idowu, late Mr. A. O. Fagbamila, late Mrs. F. Okunniyi and late Mrs. V.I. Olutimehin, Mrs. C. F. Jeje, Mrs. E. B. Akinduro, Mrs. E. O. Ige, Mrs. V.M. Agboola, Late Mrs. M. O. Orimoloye, Mrs. E. A. Adeleye, Mrs. Yetunde Alade and Mrs. Florence Adesoye.

The group is saddled with the responsibilities of taking care of the Widows, Orphans and Less privileged members of the congregation through donations. The group usually goes round every week to monitor the welfare of Church members and also pray for them.

CHURCH CLINIC

The Church Clinic was established in 2007 to give the First Aid treatment for emergency cases that may occur in the Church during worship services. Thus, the Church provided a room near the Baptismal Font to serve as the Clinic furnished with beds, cupboard, table, chairs and a bench for attending to patients.

The Clinic also cares for members of congregation especially the old people in the Church, by checking their blood pressure every Sunday. Those who need further treatment are referred to the State Specialist Hospital, Akure, for thorough investigation, management and follow up. The Church Clinic has now been relocated to former Mothers' Union Crèche building in January 2016.

In 2009, the Church introduced the Health Sunday Programme which entailed the provision of medical examination and health talk for the parishioners. During the programme, guest lecturers discuss health topics of interest to the congregation while Doctors, Nurses and Medical Attendants conduct medical examination for all Parishioners and the programme holds in May and October each year.

The Church Clinic is currently managed by a Medical Team supervised by Mrs. C.W. Atandeyi and a Medical and Health Committee headed by Dr. Banji Olowosusi.

WELFARE SERVICES

St. Thomas's Church strongly believes that health is wealth and the propagation of the gospel thrives well with the provision of welfare services to members of the congregation. The welfare services were established to provide support to the needy, the handicapped, widows, youths and medically disadvantaged members of the congregation including bursary awards to students and staff.

On 10th January 1984, the Church extended her welfare programme to the Lepers' Settlement at Ago Ireti, the School for the Deaf and Dumb in Akure. The Women's Guild within the Church also assisted the handicapped and needy people from within and outside Akure. In

1986, the service was extended to the mentally challenged patients of Neuropsychiatric Specialist Hospital, Akure, for which the State Hospital Management in Akure expressed deep appreciation.

In 2007, the House of Chiefs in St. Thomas's Church began an annual welfare package for Widows and Orphans within the Church.

In September 2009, the Church constituted a Youth Welfare Committee to oversee Youths welfare in terms of education, employment, guidance and counseling etc, under the Chairmanship of a Church Priest.

In 2013, the Church instituted an empowerment programme by providing financial aid to some needy members to start their small and medium scale businesses.

In 2014, the Church established a Youth Empowerment Programme named "Talenti Scheme" initiated by Baba Ijo, O.O.O. Ogunkua. The scheme offers revolving loans to the Youths for micro business enterprises.

Similarly, it is important to recognize and appreciate the welfare package of the Iya Ijo, Chief Mrs. Dorcas Ajoke Akingbade, which covers various empowerment schemes designed to benefit Church members.

EGBE AJUMOGBADURA-(PRAYER BAND)

This group of early morning worshippers took off in St Thomas's Church in 1955 during the tenure of Revd. I.E.O. Alegbeleye. The morning prayers were usually held between 5:00am and 6:00am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The prayer meetings became a daily affair from January 1964 and were always well attended and led by the Vicars of the Church.



Ile Egbe Ajumogbadura

Mr. Zaccheus Olugosi was the Pioneer Chairman until his death in 1978 and by January 1979, Mr. M.O Alofun (later Lay Reader and Church Chief) became the Chairman of the Egbe Ajumogbadura and the posts of Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Auditors were created and the following were the past and present holders namely: Mr. Chief J. O. Abe, Mrs. F. F. Ige, Mr. Sam Omoseebi, Engr. Segun Kajero and Mrs. C. Folorunso. The Society opened an account with the National Bank in 1979 where all income from collections were lodged. Currently, the Society has its account with the UBA since National Bank had gone moribund.

In 1986 the group became a Church Society and began to hold their Annual Anniversary and Thanksgiving as a special Sunday service in July every year during which Guest preachers were invited.

in 2004, the Society acquired a landed property containing a bungalow of ten rooms at Oke Aro, opposite Damilak Filling Station along Idanre Road for a sum of One Million Naira (N1,000,000:00). The bungalow was renovated and hired out on an annual rent to a Private School.

In 2009 during the tenure of Venerable M.O. Adenuga, the Society acquired two plots of land at Igoba for the sum of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N350,000:00). Also in 2015, a member donated another two plots of land very close to the two plots already acquired to the Society thus making it four plots together. The Prayer Band has been very much involved in Evangelism, both inside and outside the Church.

CHURCHES FOUNDED BY ST. THOMAS'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, AKURE

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, OKE-ARO, AKURE

The Church was established in November 1985 by St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, during the tenure of Ven. M. D. Dare.



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, OKE-ARO, AKURE

It was located inside Omoluorogbo Grammar School, Oke-Aro, with Revd. (later Ven.) Mewa Ijatuyi as the first Priest. In her early life, the Church was faced with land dispute which culminated in Ven. M. D. Dare appearing before a popular Television programme in Akure "Ijoko-Ojogbon" and later litigation in Law Court when Revd. S. O.

Falebita was the Priest.

However, the court case ended following the demise of the Plaintiff. To forestall future encroachment, the Church secured the approval of the Ondo State Government to fence the portion ceded to the Church by the School. The fencing project was completed during the time of late Revd. Canon S. A. Aladejimokun.

A Vicarage and Sunday School Hall were built and an access road was constructed to link the Church with adjacent streets. The Church continued to be vibrant in its worship services, Bible Study class, Evangelism and its membership has continued to grow. Revd. Canon J. A. Odufuye is the current Priest.

The following are Pioneer Layreaders in the Church namely:

- i. Nelson Fadoju (Later Venerable)
- ii. Mr. Olu Olajide (Later Revd. Canon)
- iii. Mr. Dele Ogunyewo (Later Revd. Canon)
- iv. Mr. Gabriel Olayinka (Later Venerable)
- v. Mrs. E. O. Ijogun (Later Diocesan Layreader)

The past and present Priests who served in the Church are:

- i. Revd. Adaramewa Ijatuyi (Pioneer Priest later Venerable)
- ii. Revd. W. O. Faloye (Deceased later Venerable)
- iii. Revd. S. O. Falebita (Retired as a Venerable)
- iv. Revd. S. A. Aladejimokun (Deceased later Canon)
- v. Revd. M. A. Adewumi (Deceased later Canon)
- vi. Revd. E. A. Adepoju
- vii. Revd. A. A. Adebanjo
- viii. Revd. Canon L. K. Komolafe
- ix. Revd. Canon J. A. Odufuye (present Priest)

ALL SOUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, ARATUSIN, AKURE

In 1989, the Parish Church Council of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure resolved to establish a Church at the premises of St. Thomas's Comprehensive High School, Akure. A letter of permission to use the School's hall for the take off of the Church was written by

Ven. M.D Dare on the 10th July 1989. The Authority of the School gave the approval to use the School hall.



ALL SOUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, ARATUSIN, AKURE

Worship services started with the families of Messrs A. B. Olotu and J. O. Subulola under a theological student on vacation, an Army Sergeant S. B. Oni (later Reverend) from the period of 16th July to 20th August 1989. He was accommodated at the residence of Chief Engr. J. A. Jeje (an Organist of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure). Mr. H. A. Adebayo (now late) a Layreader took over the Leadership of the Church from 10th September to 12th November 1989.

On 24th October, 1989, Ven. John Jaiyeoba (now late) Vicar of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure with the consent of the Bishop Rt. Revd. Dr. E. B. Gbonigi transferred the Layreader Mr Nelson David Fadoju (Later Venerable) from Holy Trinity Anglican Church. Mr. Nelson D. Fadoju became the first ordained Priest of the Church on 1st July, 1990.

Later, an approved letter of permission written through the Lord Bishop Rt. Revd. Dr. E. B. Gbonigi received authorization to build the Church at the Southern part of St. Thomas's Comprehensive High School from the Ondo State Ministry of Education, Akure and the Church was named "All Soul's Anglican Church" on the 20th December, 1991. The foundation of the Church was laid by the Diocesan on 22nd December 2000. The Congregation through different levies and donations finished the building. The Vicar, Revd. Oluwole Dare Abel who served from 2nd August 1998 to 22nd June 2003 used his technical

expertise to supervise the structural design of the Sanctuary. Revd. Canon Bola Akinjo another Vicar posted to the Church served from the period 23rd June 2003 to 6th April 2008 completed the roofing of the Sanctuary on 17th June, 2006.

As a result of the delay in completing the Sanctuary, a pre-dedication service was held on the 26th November, 2006, by Ven. S.M.A. Adetiba the Archdeacon of Akure South Archdeaconry.

Eventually, both the Church Sanctuary and the Vicarage were fully completed and dedicated by the Rt. Revd. Dr. S. O. Borokini on 23rd July, 2016.

Other Vicars who worked in the Church were Revd. P. S. Ogunsakin from 13th April 2008 to 20th June 2010. He was succeeded by Revd. Rotimi Oguntomilayo who served between 27th June 2010 and 27th April 2014. Revd. R. A. Akinola the current Vicar was posted to the Church from 1st May 2014 till date.

BISHOP EMMANUEL GBONIGI ANGLICAN CHURCH, IDANRE ROAD, AKURE

The Church started as a House Fellowship at Mr. H. A. Oyewole's house in July 2001 as part of the Evangelism programme of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure. Thereafter, the first Church service began in a temporary shed on the 12th January, 2003 led by Rt. Revd. M. O. Ipinmoye, then Bishop of Akure Diocese and assisted by Mrs. V. O. Aladenola. The ceremony was performed in the presence of Venerables S.M.A. Adetiba, S.I.O. Amure, E. O. Owoeye, W. O. Faloye and other Clergymen from Akure South Archdeaconry. Also present were foundation members of the new Church.



BISHOP EMMANUEL GBONIGI ANGLICAN CHURCH, IDANRE ROAD, AKURE

St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure, the mother Church provided the first plastic chairs, one Lectern, one bell, two prayer desks, one Holy Bible and table spreads that were used to start the normal Sunday Services in the Church. Clergymen from St. Thomas's Anglican Church conducted Church Services on Sundays and during the week before a Priest was posted to the Church. The first Sunday service was conducted on 19th January, 2003, by Revd. T. O. Oguntunji. The first Holy Communion service was celebrated by Ven. S. M.A. Adetiba on 1st April, 2003. Later Revd. Deji Olugboji (later Canon) was posted as the first Priest of the Church on 13th July, 2003. The first Episcopal Visit by the then Diocesan, Rt. Revd. M. O. Ipinmoye, was on the 20th October, 2003 and the first anniversary of the Church was marked with Holy Communion service. The Church hosted two visitors from Liverpool Diocese on 25th May, 2004.

Within six months of the establishment of the Church, the population of members had increased significantly, which gave rise to the need to acquire a plot of land close to her temporary place of worship. St. Thomas's Church, Isinkan, made substantial contribution towards the purchase of the land.

The foundation laying ceremony of the Church Building on the permanent site was performed by the Diocesan, Rt. Revd. M. O. Ipinmoye, on 2nd November, 2004, and was dedicated by the same Diocesan on 1st December, 2005. Thereafter, Revd. Canon C. A. Ibidunmoye was transferred to the Church as a Priest in April 2013 and Revd. A. A. Adebajo succeeded him on 31st May, 2014, and he is still the current Priest.

CHRIST THE KING ANGLICAN CHURCH, AJIPOWO, AKURE

Christ the King Anglican Church, Ajipowo, Akure came into being on

September 2005, when Chief (Mrs) Esther Adegoroye allowed the use of her living room as temporal place of worship.



CHRIST THE KING ANGLICAN CHURCH, AJIOWO, AKURE

On 11th September 2005, the first service was held and conducted by Revd. Bola Komolafe (a Deacon) with seven worshippers in attendance. The list of the worshippers were Chief Akin Omoseebi, Mrs. F. M. Omoseebi, Chief (Mrs) Esther Adegoroye, Mr. Segun Omoseebi, Mrs. M. O. Ojo, Miss Jadesola Ojo and one other worshipper. The collection taken on that day was N300.00 and Mrs. M. O. Ojo was requested to keep the Church Account and was later appointed the Church Treasurer.

Chief Akin Omoseebi donated to the Church one Holy Bible, a Preachers' Book and two Church Sign Posts. Other people and well wishers donated plastic chairs, Pulpit and so on. Since inception, Church Workers were sent from St. Thomas's Church, Isinkan, to conduct worship services every Sunday. However, in July 2007, Revd. B. A. Famoyegun was posted there as the first Priest assisted by Agents and Layreader.

In 2007, the St. Thomas's Church acquired two plots of land and donated same the Church. the foundation was laid by Rt. Revd. M. O. Ipinmoye on 1st September 2007 and the Church was named "Christ

the King Anglican Church". Revd. Canon Engr. I. A. Omololu was later posted to the Church as Priest in July 2008 till date.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF REDEMPTION, GAGA, AKURE

St. Thomas's Church, as part of her Church planting programme set up a Committee chaired by Chief Akin Omoseebi to locate areas where new Churches could be planted. The Church at Gaga later named Anglican Church of Redemption was a fruit of that endeavour.

The inaugural service of the Church was held on the 17th July, 2005, in a classroom at the Gaga Community Primary School Akure with Seven people in attendance.

A site at Gaga comprising two plots of land was donated by St. Thomas's Church.

On 25th September, 2005 Ordinard O. Odewale (later Revd.) was posted to the Church and assisted by a Layreader, Mrs. F. O. Ogunrinde who still serves till present date.

On 23rd July, 2006 Revd. B. A. Famoyegun was posted to the Church. He was succeeded by Revd. later Ven. Alaba Akeredolu on 22nd July, 2007 who was posted to the Church alongside with a Church agent Mr. Familuji (later Reverend). On 29th September, 2007, the Church was christened "Anglican Church of Redemption".



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF REDEMPTION, GAGA, AKURE

On 27th July, 2008, Revd. Rotimi Oguntomilayo was posted to the Church. He was succeeded by Revd. Canon E. A. Borokini (later Venerable) who was posted to the Church on 31st December, 2008. As the Church continued to grow, the building structure was completed and roofed. Plastic chairs were bought, Drum sets, loudspeakers and microphones were installed at various times. The Church finally moved from the classroom at the Gaga Community Primary School to its permanent site.

On 5th May, 2013, Ven. Alaba Akeredolu was reposted to the Church and has served till present date. The Church sign posts were erected, the concrete floor was done, aluminum windows were installed while the plastering of the Church was still in progress. The current numerical strength of membership is about Fifty comprising both the youths and adults, with thirty five of them being communicants.

AKIN OMOSEEBI ANGLICAN CHURCH, AKURE

The Church Planning Committee of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Akure under the Chairmanship of Chief R. Akin Omooseebi located an area along Ondo Road, Akure, where there was no Anglican Church and started a House Fellowship at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Olasoji Aghedo where the first worship service was conducted on 31st May 2009 by Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga, the Vicar of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Akure. Chief Akin Omooseebi donated six Yoruba Hymn Books and a Yoruba Bible during the service.



AKIN OMOSEEBI ANGLICAN CHURCH, ONDO ROAD, AKURE

Later, St. Thomas's Anglican Church acquired six plots of land opposite the Aghedo's residence where a temporary shed was constructed for the take-off of the new Church on 9th June 2009.

On 2nd December 2010, the foundation of the new Church building was laid by the Rt. Revd. M. O. Ipinmoye, then Bishop of Akure Diocese and the new Church was built single-handedly by Chief Akin Omoosebi and dedicated on 9th March 2013 by the Diocesan who named the Church "AKIN OMOSEEBI ANGLICAN CHURCH".

The Church Workers who had served in the Church included the following:

Mr. (now Revd) David Aladetoyinbo – First Church Agent from 30/8/2010-27/8/2012

Mr. Idowu Akindejoye – Church Agent from 27/8/2012 – 19/10/2013

Mr. Babatunde Johnson Matanmi Falaju – Church Agent from 19/10/2013 – 15/7/2015

Revd. E. A. Adepoju – the First Priest from 15/7/2015 – 18/7/2016

Revd. Dimeji Banwo – Priest from 18/7/2016 till date.

The first Holy Communion service was celebrated in the Church by Revd. M. O. Durojaiye on 23rd May 2010 and was attended by some Chiefs from St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Akure.

The new Church received generous donations both in cash and materials from the following:

1. The Children of Chief Akin Omoosebi donated 1 Marble Pulpit (Aga Iwaasu).
2. Mrs. F. M. Omoosebi donated 1 Marble Baptismal Font.
3. Church Chiefs, St. Thomas's Ang. Church, Akure donated 2 Marble Prayer Desks and Chairs.
4. Mrs. J. B. Aghedo donated 1 Marble Lectern.
5. Chief Mrs. R. O. Olujohungbe donated 1 Marble Lectern.
6. Chief Mrs. D. M. Otiko donated Marble Altar Railing.

7. Chief O. O. O. Ogunkua donated 1 Marble Altar Table.
8. Chief G. Adebo Bobola donated 1 Golden Altar Table Cross.
9. Revd. Canon M. A. Adewumi donated the First Preacher's Book.
10. Mr. Segun Omoseebi donated 2 Wall Clocks,
11. Chief K. Adegbule Adesida donated 24 Plastic Chairs.
12. Mrs. J. B. Aghedo donated 36 Plastic Chairs.
13. Mrs. J. O. Adeyelu donated 12 Plastic Chairs.
14. Mrs. O. A. Adaramola donated 1 set of Drums.

EMMANUEL ANGLICAN CHURCH, OLA-OLODUMARE

In December 2009, Late Chief E. O. Adejuwon donated a Church building at Ola Olodumare Estate, Aponmu Old Road, Akure, to St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Isinkan, Akure, for worship services and for future development and evangelism.



EMMANUEL ANGLICAN CHURCH, OLA-OLODUMARE

Thus on 17th January 2010, the Church was inaugurated by Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga, those in attendance were Chief E. O. Adejuwon (the donor), his family members, Chief Akin Omoseebi, Chief & Mrs. D. O. Akanle, Mr. Olukolade Oderinwale, Mrs. F. F. Ige, Mr. Ayo Ajana, Mrs. F. M. Omoseebi, Mrs. F. B. Adejuwon, Oba Joseph Olu Ojo, the Iralepo of Isinkan, Olori R. M. Ojo, Chief (Mrs) Sola Adejuyigbe, Chief K. Adegbule Adesida, Engr. (Chief) V. O. Ola to mention a few. Mr. Olukolade Olabanji Oderinwale was the first Church Agent who served there from January to December 2010. Others are Mr. (Now Reverend) David Aladetoyinbo 2011-2012, Mr. Tola Ayodele 2012-2015, Mr. Samuel Akinlami 2015 till date.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ANGLICAN CHURCH, ITA-ONIYAN

The Church at Ita-Oniyan was first established in 1959 by Revd. I.E.O. Alegbeleye (later Venerable) but the Church did not survive long as it soon went moribund. However, the Evangelical Committee of St. Thomas's Church, Isinkan, Akure, took up the challenge of reviving the Church through Bible Study group and House Fellowship.

On 14th July, 2009, the Evangelical group led by Mr. S. F. Williams, Mr. I. D. Ifelola, Mrs. A. F. Falusi and others started Worship Services regularly in one of the classrooms of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School, Ita-Oniyan every Tuesday at 4:00pm during which farmers in the village gather for Biblical exhortation and spiritual knowledge of the Word.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ANGLICAN CHURCH, ITA-ONIYAN

On 11th April, 2010, members of St. Thomas's Church, Isinkan attended the Church in sufficient number to conduct Sunday worship service which the villagers joined them. In addition, the group also went round for Street Evangelism on Tuesdays. This expectedly began to yield positive results with villagers turning up for services.

Open air Crusades were conducted together with the regular Tuesday Bible Studies at the same venue. Later, four plots of land were acquired for building of the permanent Church.

On 19th April 2012, the foundation laying ceremony of Ita-Oniyan Anglican Church was performed by the then Vicar, Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga with several members of St. Thomas' Church, Isinkan in attendance. On 20th July, 2014, the first Baptismal service involving forty two parishioners was conducted by Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga.

On 29th April 2015, Ita-Oniyan Anglican Church was named St. John the Baptist Anglican Church by the Lord Bishop, the Rt. Revd. Dr. S. O. Borokini. Church agents that have worked in the Church were Mr. Olukolade Oderinwale (from 2009 to March 2012), Mr. Idowu Akindejoye (from April 2012 to September 2013), Mr. Tola Ayodele (from November 2013 to August 2016), Mr. Segun Olowokere is the current Church Agent .

ISOKO / URHOBO ANGLICAN CHURCH, AKURE

The Isoko/Urhobo indigenes of Anglican Communion in Akure were desirous of establishing a Church for Worship services and started with a House Fellowship at the residence of Mr. Francis Aghaleya at 21B, Irowo Street, Akure on 31st October 1999. The Sunday Worship Services were conducted by students from Archbishop Vining College of Theology, Akure, led by Ordinards Johnson A. Oduoke, Joseph Agba, Simon O. Efedhoma, Mr S. I. Abro and others.



ISOKO / URHOBO ANGLICAN CHURCH, AKURE, UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Later Revd. Canon M. A. Adewumi celebrated the first Anniversary of founding the Isoko/Urhobo Anglican Church in Akure on Tuesday 31st October, 2000 and announced the relocation of the Church to a classroom in St. Thomas's Anglican Primary School, Akure. The Church held her first worship service in the School's classroom on Sunday 5th November, 2000. The movement to St. Thomas's Anglican Church premise was made possible by the approval of Venerable Justus O. Olugasa and the Church Council at the request of Revd. Canon M. A. Adewumi, Revd. Henry Ajayi and Ordinards J. O. Odukpe and Joseph Agba.

The Church held her first Baptism when twelve people were baptized on 28th July 2000 and later five persons were confirmed on 5th August 2000. The Church also held the first vestry meeting on 28th November 1999 when Mr. F. O. R. Okoro was elected Elder and People's Warden, Mr. Francis Aghaleya as Pastor's Warden and Mr. Vincent E. Oluowho as Secretary, among others.

In 2008, the Church moved to a more spacious accommodation in St. Thomas's Church Hall and Christian Education Centre Building to conduct Sunday Worship Services during the tenure of Ven. S. M. A. Adetiba, the Vicar of St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Akure.

In 2013, Revd. Michael Olufemi became the first residential Priest posted to head the Church by Rt. Revd. Dr. S. O. Borokini until late in 2014. Revd. A. A. Adebajo is the current supervising Priest.

On March 3, 2010 the Church acquired a piece of land for the construction of its permanent Church Building at Olugboyega Family Layout, Oke Odo, Ondo Road, Akure and the foundation laying ceremony was performed by the then Diocesan Bishop Rt. Revd. M. O. Ipinmoye, represented by Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga on 19th April, 2012 and the building project is still in progress. The Isoko/Urhobo Anglican Church, Akure, had benefited immensely from the leadership and spiritual contributions of the following who had helped to oversee the growth and development of the Church from inception to the present:

1. The Retired Very Revd. Justus O. Olugasa
2. Ven. S. M. A. Adetiba
3. Ven. Dr. M. O. Adenuga
4. Ven. J. O. Omotayo

The Church congregation usually joined the St. Thomas's Anglican Church congregation to celebrate special services such as Father's Day, Mothering Sunday, Rain of Blessing, Mercy Assembly etc.

It is praise worthy to note that the congregation of the Isoko/Urhobo Anglican Church, Akure, has continued to increase steadily and for this we give God the glory.

Photo Gallery

CENTENARY SONG

Words in Yoruba

1. Ìjọ Tómasì t'Ìsìnkàn Akurẹ
Aláseyorí n'iwọ nse
F'ogorun ọdún kini t'o ti d'áiyé
Olọrun nikan l'a yìn.

2. Ni tànká 'hìn rere
Egbegbèrùn ọkàn mọ Ọ.
'Nu Ìjọ ti o dá sílè
Ni Agbègbè nlá tírẹ.

3. Wọ ti tójú opó,
A lài-lobi a t'alaini
Ọmọ 'le ẹkọ rẹ ti sìn
Ile yi pèlú òótọ, èrù Baba
Tè síwájú 'nu sé rere

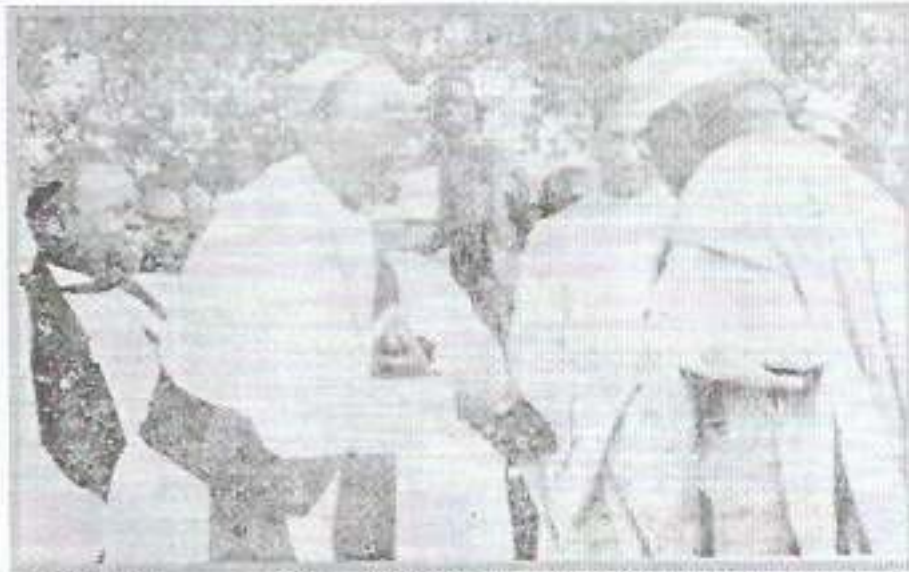
Solfa of Tune

Key E. Flat

- (1) s: d': d'.r.t: m.,r.d.r.m.f.s:
f: f: m: m: r.d.r.f.m: r:
s: s: d': m.,m.r.d.m. f.s: s:
s: f: m.,r.,d.,d.,d.: t: d:-
- (2) s, : s: l': s: d': s, :
f: f: m: m: r: d, : s': s:
s: s: l': l: s, : s: d': s, :
f: m: r: d: d: t: d:-
- (3) f': f: f: f: f: m:
f: m: r.d.r.f.m: r:
s.,s.s.s.l': s, : d':
d': d: s, : f: f: m: m, : m.fe: fe: s:
s': m, : d, : d: f: m: r:-
f, : s'.m: r.d.,d :-t:-d, :-t:-t:-

Words in English

1. Saint Thomas's Church Isikan, Akure,
You have been a success story,
In the first hundred years of your existence:
God Almighty alone be praised.
2. In spreading Christ's Gospel,
You have touched thousands of souls...
Through the Churches you have planted,
In your Archdeacon...ry.
3. You have cared for widows,
Orphans and the needy;
Products of your schools have served
This Nation with honesty and fear of God;
Continue with these good works,
Till your Lord Jesus Christ-shall-come...



Bishop I.O.S. Okusanya, Oba Ademuagun Adesida II and Rev. M. D. Dare
at the foundation laying ceremony of the present
St Thomas's Anglican Church Isinkan Akure on 31st October 1970,



From the left Mr. M.O. Alofun and Rev I.O. Komolafe (1978)

OUR DEPARTED PARISHIONERS WHO BECAME PRIESTS



Ven. Ezekiel Adewolu Ogunsusi
1916 - 2002



Revd Canon J.O.A. Adedipe
1916 - 2009



Ven. Samuel Folorunso Ayita
1925 - 2012



Revd Joshua Bosede Adewale
1924 - 2005



Revd Canon & Mrs. Ezekiel Orimoloye
1928 - 1988



Revd Canon Cornelius Olanrewaju Ajayi
1928 - 2016



Ven. William Olusola Faloye
1932 - 2012

OUR LIVING PARISHIONERS WHO ARE PRIESTS NOW



Revd. Canon Joseph Abayomi Ogunsusi
Son of Venerable E. A. Ogunsusi



Venerable Professor V. O. Adedipe & Wife
Son of Canon J. O. Adedipe



The Ven. James Ayoola & Mrs. Adejuwon
Son-in-Law of Bishop Bolanle Gbonigi



The Ven. Ebenezer and Mrs. Adedipe
Son of Canon J.O.A. Adedipe



Mr. Julius Olodeniji Adego (1943-2001)



Chief Cornelius Balogun Falade
Osi Ijo, 1956 -1979.



Pa Elijah Aguda
(First Baba Egbe 1925 - 1973)



Ven. & Mrs. J. O. Daramola (1938-1944)



Arch & Mrs. Alegbeleye 1969



Late Mr. M.O.
Orubuloye (Organist 1978)



Hon. Justice Dr.
Timothy Akinola Aguda (1923-2001)



High Chief J. A. Adebowale (1920-1986)
Aro of Akure for over 16 years.



Hon. Chief Daki Johnson (1943-2010)



Hon. Justice & Mrs. Ayoola Oluwale Ogunleye (1935-2000)



Professor & Mrs. Michael Akin Bankole



Engr. J. A. Jeje as an Organist (1977-2003)



Professor Olusanya Adejuyigbe



Governor Bamidele Otiko and his wife Mopelola



Paa Matthew Ibukun Adejuyigbe
Alias "Kekereowo" (1922-2013)



Mr. Julius Olatomeji Adegoa (1943-2001)



Chief Cornelius Balogun Falade
Osi Ijo, 1956 -1979.



Pa. Elijah Aguda
(First Baba Egbe 1925 - 1973)



Ven. & Mrs. J. O. Daramola (1938-1944)



Arch. & Mrs. Alegbeleye 1969



Late Mr. M.O.
Orubuloye (Organist 1978)



Hon. Justice Dr.
Timothy Akínola Aguda Oik. 1923-2001.



High Chief J. A. Adeniyi (1920-1986)
Ara of Akure for over 16 years.



Hon. Chief Diew Johnson (1943-2010)



Mr. Benjamin Abiodun Ige,
Peoples' Warden for over 15 years.



Professor Omolade Adejuyigbe (1936-2001)



Chief Samuel Akinola Osatuyi (1931-2002)



Choir Anniversary 1978



Professor David and Dr. Mrs. Risi Oke



Christian Friendly Society founded 1960



Chief Olotin Ogunkua (Blacksmith) receiving ₦900.00 cash for his shed



Front Row: W. Anjo, Chf. Akoluyi, Chf. Falade, Revd. Daramola, Chf. Mrs. Ajayi, Revd. Alabi, Chf. J. O. Afe, Chf. Mrs. R. Osatuyi, Chf. E. O. Onimolayo and F. W. Uka Fayanjio
Back Row: Mr. R. A. Omoseebi, Mrs. M. A. Adesoro, Mr. W. Ibinke, Mrs. F. E. Ige, X, Layreader Adewola, Engr. J. A. Jeje, Mr. M. J. Afe, X, X, Mad. Phoban Ajase Uke, Mr. Olaye, Mrs. A. Ogunsi & Mr. S. A. Ije



The P.C.C. That started English service in 1978
Standing from left

1. Mr. Akin Omoseebi - Pastor's Warden 2. 3. Engr J.A. Jeje 4 Mrs F.F Ige, 5. Mr. M. J. Afe , 6.
7. Mr. S. A. Osatuyi & Mr. B.A. Ige - People's Warden
Sitting from left 1. Chief C. B. Falade - Osi Ijo 2. Revd. S.M. Alabi - Vicar 3. Chief Mrs. Adetinu Ajayi Asiwaju Obinrin
4. Revd. C.A. Ajepe Asst. Priest, 5. Madam Ruth Osatuyi - Iya Ijo, 6. Revd J.O. Daramola - Asst. Priest, 7. Mr. W. Uka Fayanjio

THE FIRST CENTURY OF ST. THOMAS'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, ISINKAN, AKURE



Send Forth Ceremony for Rev. S. O. Ohida in 1965



Isoko/Urhobo Anglican Church in St. Thomas's Premise



Development Committee Members of
St. Thomas's Church at the Event Centre, Ondo Road in 2014

THE FIRST CENTURY OF ST. THOMAS'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, ISINKAN, AKURE



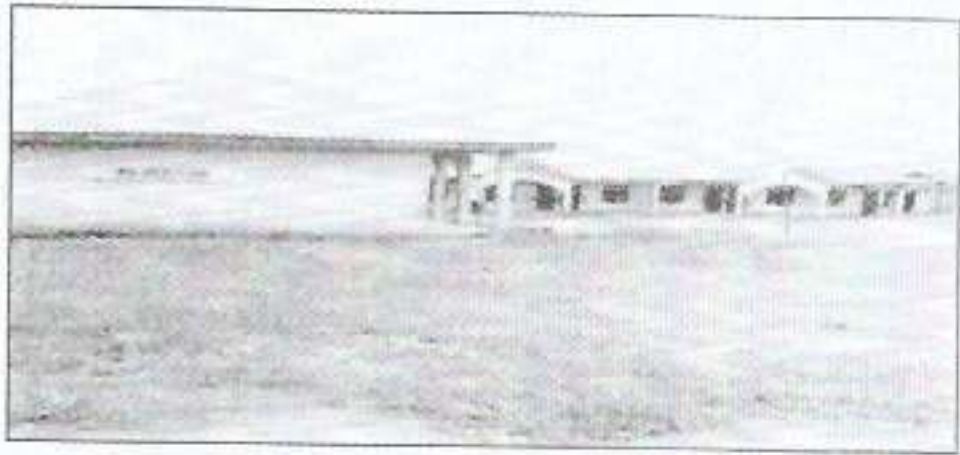
Different views of the present St. Thomas's Anglican Church building dedicated on 31-10-1981.



St. Thomas's Church Office Complex. now used for Church Workers' accommodation.



St. Thomas's Church Crèche foundation laid on 02-12-2009 and dedicated on 11-09-2011



St. Thomas's Pry School buildings - UBEC-2007.



St. Andrew's Pry School building, Isinkan Akure ODSG Project 2008.



St. John's Anglican Mega Primary School, Idi-Iroko, Akure



St. Thomas's Comprehensive High School, Oke-Aro, Akure



St. Thomas's Anglican Church Women Organisation Shopping Complex, foundation laid 15-02-2003 and dedicated 20-01-2008 to THE GLORY OF GOD.



St. Thomas's Church Hall & Christian Education Centre on 3 Floors now been used as Offices, Priests Residences and Education Unit. Foundation laid 30th Sept., 1999 and dedicated 7th July, 2005



St. Thomas's Church old storey Vicarage



St. Thomas's Church Event Centre, foundation laid 11/06/2010 and dedicated 23/12/2014



ABgraphics + Prints



08034399015