

## **Minister's Report 2023**

Just after Easter of 2022 we were in a position, as a Parish, where we had prepared our Parish Profile and were looking for a new Priest in Charge. Unfortunately as a new one was not available, we had to make do with a reconditioned model and so, after interview, I was duly appointed as Priest in Charge of St George's on a half-time basis. Sorry about that! Having already outlined our vision for 2023 and into 2024, we didn't really need anything new by way of direction but instead we proceeded with seeking to follow through on our sense of calling towards service of our community. In this way we continue to seek to share the gospel with every opportunity.

Shortly after my appointment as Minister I was asked, by the Archdeacon and the Bishop of Chelmsford, if I would consider serving as Hadleigh Area Dean and I agreed to take on this task. You can be relieved that I have not yet been invited to become a Canon of the Cathedral and, although the post of Bishop of Bradwell is now vacant, I have no plans to apply!

### **Outreach**

In addition to our regular outreach activities, Seniors Tuesday Club, Toddler Group, Legacy XS, we have held special events through the year. These included a Jubilee Cream tea to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Church Anniversary event, half term junk modelling and the ever popular Christmas Fair. Indeed this last event was probably the biggest we have seen and included Santa's grotto being open for Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs on the Friday evening. We have had several men's breakfasts over the last few months with inspiring speakers and it has been good to see many men who do not normally come to church services or events join in and be challenged by God's love.

### **Services**

This year we have continued with our pattern of Sunday services which has hopefully created some variety in our times together as well as making space for Sharing, Extended times of Prayer, a healthy focus on the Lord's Table and a friendly welcome to Guests. Our monthly Sunday evening gatherings in the Hospitality Hub have proved to be wonderful times of prayer and intimate worship as we spend time with Jesus together. These have been opportunities for refreshing and closeness which have served to feed those who have gathered and inspire us to press deeper into God and his loving presence by the Spirit. They are an opportunity to pray together as is the Tuesday morning prayer time hosted by Ian and Lynda.

It has been good to welcome back the Uniformed organisations for parade services which are always fun and hopefully gives the youngsters an opportunity to engage in church life. Remembrance Sunday saw us gathering outside again and

this more recent development seems to be attracting members of the local community as well as reserving time for us to maintain our worship focus on God when we return inside.

On 8th September 2022 we were all saddened to hear of the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The church bell was rung when news of her death broke and on the day of her funeral. The week following the announcement, 14th September, we held a special service of thanksgiving for her life here in church. A book of remembrance was opened and for a month members of the church and local community wrote their messages of condolence and thanksgiving in a book in the foyer.

Our Christmas services saw a healthy growth in attendance this year as peoples' confidence in mixing post-Covid grew. The Chaos Round the Crib service proved popular and this may be linked to the growth in Messy Church ministry seeing our connections to young families expand.

### ***Home groups & pastoral care***

Our home groups continue to be places of fellowship, learning and mutual support and ministry. Post-Covid two of the groups have closed down due to members circumstances having changed and in some cases members having passed away. Other groups have grown in number and an additional group started up last Autumn. These home groups remain the primary channel through which pastoral care is delivered and we would encourage everyone to consider becoming part of a group if that is not already the case.

In the last few weeks we have re-formed a small Pastoral Care team with the aim of better supporting individuals who are not part of a home group. Referrals of pastoral care needs should be made to me and I will then be able to share the load with the other members of the team.

### ***Children's ministry***

Both before and after the summer we took the decision to redouble our energies expended on Messy Church with the idea that, if numbers did not begin to creep up, we would re-think our strategy. Given that running Messy Church is a good 5 hours of work on the day, with preparation time on top of that, I think part of us was hoping it would become obvious that Messy Church's time was over. However, God clearly has other ideas and we have seen steady growth in attendance and the energy levels at the sessions is through the roof! Messy Church is only possible because of the dedication of leaders and volunteers such as Nichola, Jenni, Margaret, Jen and all those others who lead activities, cook food, move furniture and wash dishes!

The recent Easter holiday saw a successful space themed holiday club which, though always hard work, is also always very rewarding. Thanks of course go to Jenni, Hazel and the rest of the team for all their efforts throughout Holy Week.

Alongside these aspects of our work with children you should also be aware that we have seen a rebuilding of our relationship with Woodham Ley. I have been in to lead assemblies on a number of occasions and we have welcomed groups of children here into church regularly throughout the year. I am building a good rapport with the Head and the rest of his team which is a lovely opportunity for me to represent the church as The Vicar to the local children.

Having served as Chair of Governors at The Appleton School for 10 years, and longer as a Governor, I will be stepping aside from this role in June. However, I will be continuing by involvement with the school as I am now serving as a member of the Compass Multi Academy Trust board which oversees Appleton, Billericay, Bromfords, and soon, Woodlands schools. I do all this of course as a representative of God's church here at St George's and therefore on your behalf.

Similarly, of course, although Jen and I foster as private individuals it is well known by the fostering community that I am also the local Vicar so speaks loudly to the wider community of the Church's concern for children in need of love and compassion. I am speaking at two events this year on the theme of fostering wearing my collar so, again this is an opportunity to witness on your behalf.

### ***Hall refurbishment***

Following the successful cladding of the church hall we became painfully aware that whilst outside looked like 2023, inside it was still 1975. So the decision was taken to refurnish the main hall, installing brand new heating, lighting, ceiling together with cladding the walls and replacing window treatments. The small hall was redecorated with lighting and window treatments also replaced. Both kitchens were completely gutted and replaced with modern easy clean finishes and brand new stainless steel units and appliances. This was a very large undertaking and I would like to thank all those who gave up time to undertake the work especially Matt Rose, Jon and Hazel together with my foster sons Bailey and Alex (the latter two being less "volunteers" and more resigned members of the press gang!). In part, as a result of this work, hall bookings have increased and the satisfaction of the hall users is much improved. It should also be said that the works are a clear signal to the local community of our desire to serve them the best we can as God's people.

### ***Hospitality hub & Grounds***

Towards the end of 2022 we launched the Hospitality Hub which operates out of the small hall and which is open each Wednesday morning. Matt Rose has been co-opted from Legacy XS to oversee this project and he is supported by a team of volunteers. Although not as busy as we would like numbers using the hub are beginning to grow and we hope to have an external seating area operating on the grassed area outside for the Summer.

Speaking of which, our church grounds are well maintained by Martin Nunn to whom huge thanks are offered for his hours of service. Martin intends to continue to cut the grass (supported by Brian when Martin is away) but the beds and shrubs now need to be taken on by others. If you are able to volunteer for regular grounds maintenance duties we'd be grateful to hear from you but otherwise we will be contracting this work to a firm from the next couple of weeks to ensure they look their best.

### ***Celebration of Ministry***

Due to my prior 3 years service to the Parish as Associate Minister I requested a low key Licensing to the post of Priest in Charge which took place in August at the home of the Archdeacon. Instead we held a Celebration of Ministry service to coincide with the completion of the refurbishment works to the Hall and were joined by local Councillors and the Archdeacon of Southend. We were able to celebrate and give thanks for Ministry which is carried out in Jesus' name in this Parish and for the financial provision to refurbish the hall to a high standard.

### ***Conclusion***

Now I am going to be entirely honest with you all and remind you of what I have said on numerous occasions over the years when asked. That is that I have never really wanted to be a Parish Priest. However, despite that I appear to have been doing that job for the best part of 4 years now. And I have to say that I am very much enjoying serving the Parish of St George's. We all know that the church is not the building, it is the family of people who form part of the community. It is all of you that make this such a pleasure and privilege.

There have been too many "highs" to describe in a report like this. But these stick in my mind as a snapshot:- Being Santa for the Uniformed groups, Leading the Community Act of Remembrance, Baptising my friend Ruben and pronouncing the blessing in Lingala! Building a castle model of the Tower of London, being "The Vicar" at the cream tea afternoon. Being ridiculously larger than life at Messy Church and Chaos round the crib, Presiding at the funerals of aged Saints who have now passed to glory such as Phylis, Terry and Kola. Seeing God move in power in services or worship, experiencing us grow in understanding and depth of prayer, preaching God's word and, of course, Presiding at the Lord's table.

So whilst I never really wanted to be a Parish Priest, it would seem that I was wrong and that the key to experiencing blessing is not to simply pursue our own dreams and interests, but rather to seek to be obedient and available to God.

Thank you to all of you for playing your part in the family of God's church here at St George's. You are valued, you belong and you are essential. And, in case I hadn't mentioned it before, it would be very boring without you!

## **Independent examiner's report to the PCC of New Thundersley St George**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are attached.

### **Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner**

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiners Statement.**


My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an opinion on the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
  - to prepare accounts, which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Daniel Keech  
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9/2/23

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**New Thundersley St George Charity No - 1134854**  
**Receipts and payments**  
**Selected period: 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022**

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2022 31 December 2022	01 January 2021 31 December 2021
<b>General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund</b>			
<b>Income and endowments</b>			
Donations and legacies			
Gift Aid - Bank		43,428.00	42,677.00
Gift Aid - Envelopes		5,850.00	7,855.90
Other planned giving		2,732.00	3,424.00
Loose plate collections (GASDS)		3,672.38	2,797.56
Loose plate collections (Non GASDS)		849.00	700.00
One-off Gift Aid gifts		1,500.00	252.00
Donations appeals etc		90.00	990.63
Donations - Flowers		—	(156.60)
Donations - Sum up		159.30	68.24
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		11,631.92	12,445.48
Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)		937.13	629.89
Other funds generated		1,152.38	653.49
	<i>Total Donations and legacies</i>	<u>72,002.11</u>	<u>72,337.59</u>
Income from charitable activities			
Fees for weddings and funerals		36.33	203.00
Bookstall sales to promote objectives		293.00	235.00
Hall hire		13,443.78	8,962.12
	<i>Total Income from charitable activities</i>	<u>13,773.11</u>	<u>9,400.12</u>
Other trading activities			
Bookstall sales - fund raising		—	50.00
	<i>Total Other trading activities</i>	<u>—</u>	<u>50.00</u>
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>85,775.22</b>	<b>81,787.71</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Raising funds			
Costs of fetes & other events		1,549.05	250.46
	<i>Total Raising funds</i>	<u>1,549.05</u>	<u>250.46</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities			
Mission giving		6,718.00	6,628.25
Ministry parish share etc		33,239.46	37,653.70
Parish Administrator		—	4,167.54
Working expenses of incumbent		431.37	354.51
Vicarage expenses		61.23	108.10
Parish outreach		617.22	453.30
Church running - insurance		1,102.00	1,100.60
Church office - telephone		1,605.50	1,307.47
Church maintenance		5,307.38	1,192.19
Church running - cleaning		1,923.37	1,874.45
Upkeep of services		611.13	703.63
Administration		2,064.33	1,394.05
Church running - electric		4,310.17	1,695.11
Church running - water		123.30	102.70
Hall running - management		1,800.00	1,800.00
Hall running - electricity		1,245.49	1,424.35
Hall running - gas		1,922.20	1,409.59
Hall running - insurance		2,204.31	2,164.10
Hall running - maintenance		999.53	120.00



Note

From	01 January 2022	01 January 2021
To	31 December 2022	31 December 2021

PCCReserve - PCC Reserve Fund (Designated) Fund

Brought forward balance	30,000.00	—
Transfers to/(from)	—	30,000.00
<b>Total carried forward balance</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>





**New Thundersley St George Charity No - 1134854**  
**Statement of Financial Activities - summary**  
**For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022**

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Total income	85,775.22	—	30.30	—	85,805.52	81,817.76
Total expenditure	68,302.10	—	88,423.94	—	156,726.04	68,462.45
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	17,473.12	—	(88,393.64)	—	(70,920.52)	13,355.31
Gross transfers between funds - in	—	—	3,000.00	—	3,000.00	30,000.00
Gross transfers between funds - out	(3,000.00)	—	—	—	(3,000.00)	(30,000.00)
Net movement in funds	14,473.12	—	(85,393.64)	—	(70,920.52)	13,355.31
Total funds brought forward	17,718.81	30,000.00	95,842.99	—	143,561.80	130,206.49
Total funds carried forward	32,191.93	30,000.00	10,449.35	—	72,641.28	143,561.80
Unrestricted						
General fund	32,191.93	—	—	—	32,191.93	17,718.81
Designated						
PCC Reserve Fund	—	30,000.00	—	—	30,000.00	30,000.00
Restricted						
Church building fund	—	—	1,360.97	—	1,360.97	1,357.67
New Hall fund	—	—	9,088.38	—	9,088.38	94,485.32

New Thundersley St George Charity No - 1134854

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)  
As at: 31 December 2022

		Balance	Previous balance
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>			
<b>6501: Santander 090155 34216706 Church - Asset</b>			
General fund	Unrestricted	32,191.93	17,718.81
New Hall fund	Restricted	764.40	750.40
Church building fund	Restricted	1,360.97	—
PCC Reserve Fund	Designated	30,000.00	30,000.00
		<b>64,317.30</b>	<b>48,469.21</b>
<b>6503: NatWest 600943 79638074 Hall Fund - Asset</b>			
New Hall fund	Restricted	8,323.98	93,734.92
		<b>8,323.98</b>	<b>93,734.92</b>
<b>6510: CCLA (CBF) Building Fund 608381001D - Asset</b>			
Church building fund	Restricted	—	1,357.67
		<b>—</b>	<b>1,357.67</b>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>		<b>72,641.28</b>	<b>143,561.80</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>72,641.28</b>	<b>143,561.80</b>

