

Parish of Thundersley - Ministers' report 2025

The last twelve months have been a period of significant change for us as Parish. By far the most significant event of course came at the end of 2024 with the departure of our dear friends Andy and Lynn. Andy will always be remembered for being the "Vicar in the Van" amongst many other things including the Woodland Church events to name but two. We thank them for all that they did during their time here and ask God every blessing for them both and their family for the future.

The departure of our Rector has created both opportunity and challenge. Moving us from a situation where the "theory" or sharing ministry provision which has been discussed for some time has become a reality in very short order. We all understand the financial benefits of sharing ministry, that is a significantly reduced Parish Share, but the cost of that is something that we are slowly beginning to understand more clearly perhaps.

We will all be aware that some adjustments, are and will continue to be, necessary as we reflect upon how best to shape ourselves for mission and ministry in the next few years ahead as part of a bigger Team. When our new Team recruitment is complete we will be well resourced to explore developing new models of mission and ministry in our locality with stronger and healthier interdependent Parishes journeying together.

Services

Attendance at our usual Sunday services, St Peter's at 8am and 11am and St Michael's at 9.30am, has remained steady throughout the year. Pete began to take occasional services during the latter part of 2024 to help with the transition to a new ministry model and has been leading regularly since Andy's departure at the beginning of the New Year. Despite our Clergy team still being short of our full complement we have managed to maintain all of our services bar one mid-week service at St Peter's. There have thus far been minimal change to our service pattern each week. Split over the two churches in our Parish we are averaging a total of 16 services per month. This is double the number held at each of the other Parishes in the BTH Group.

Bishop Adam has visited the parish twice, once to carry out a Confirmation Service and then to take a Sunday service. Parade Services are held during the year on Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Remembrance Sundays.

Christmas is always a busy time, with Carol Services held for children from local schools, a Deanes Concert and a Remembering Service with Stibbards. This is in addition to Christingle services, Carol Services and a Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Working with our friends from Churches Together in Hadleigh, we hosted a service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held a service for the World Day of Prayer, and were part of the Walk of Witness on Good Friday.

Thanks go to all those who make the services possible each week; servers, readers, those who lead intercessions, flower arrangers, cleaners and welcomers. With the congregation they all make our churches a warm and friendly community of Christians, with worship to God at its heart.

Activities

The Parish has held an Agape supper on Maundy Thursday, a Christmas meal and has a Bible Study Group.

Our year included a number of social, outreach and fundraising events. Regular events are coffee mornings, a Fish and Chip Lunch monthly. The Handicraft Group held a coffee morning and craft sale which raised funds. A Harvest Meal was held in September, where not only were people from the parish invited but also many others who have helped the church out during the year. There was a table top sale, a night of magic, 2 meals at Latinos, a coach trip to The Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park, 2 Quiz Nights, a Soup Lunch and a Strawberry Tea with proceeds to Christian Aid.

We hosted the Allegro Choir who were raising funds for MND and the Police Band, raising funds for the British Legion. There is of course the regular coffee morning at St Peter's on a Saturday.

Communications

Although communication is something we will be looking to review during the next year one of our great ongoing successes is the continued distribution of 170 printed copies of the church magazine each month. The cost of this is entirely covered by advertising and donations.

Other stuff

As you are also aware Pete serves as Hadleigh Area Dean and continues to invest time and energy in developing the Chapter and Synod with his leadership. In addition to spreading himself across our 4 Parishes he has been supporting Canvey Team Ministry as their Parish reels from the impact of 5 years of uncertainty followed by revelation of the full extent of the abuse carried out by their former Rector.

It is also worth making you aware that in the last 12 months Pete has completed a Level 5 Diploma in Applied Therapeutic Practice (the equivalent of a Foundation Degree) as part of his Fostering CPD.

Conclusion

Just this week at our home group we listened to an inspiring talk by leader of the 24-7 Prayer movement Pete Greg. He quoted the famous song title of Bob Dylan's 1964 hit "The times they are a-changin'" suggesting that it is also an anthem for the times through which we are living today.

I want to suggest that the changes we are experiencing are not merely the result of circumstances impacting us from the secular world or even from the wider church. What I think I detect along with so many of my colleagues in church leadership is that, to steal a phrase from CS Lewis "Aslan is on the move".

In the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe the things that mark the arrival of Aslan, the Lion who represents Christ in the world of Narnia, are not immediately obvious. In that land where "It's always winter but never Christmas" a thaw began. Subtle but clear signs that Spring was coming. In a similar way we are perhaps starting to see such signs in our own culture and our own community that Jesus is on the move.

Such things will evoke in each of us a different reaction. Some will be afraid of the inevitable changes coming. Others will seek to grasp and control what is happening. Many will simply be stunned and yet others heartened and thrilled by the events. As we move into another year let us perhaps consider the signs we see around us and prayerfully reflect upon our response. Thereafter may we seek to embrace what God is beginning to do and look to engage and work with Him as he calls us.

They say Aslan is on the move- perhaps has already landed.

And now a very curious thing happened. None of the children knew who Aslan was any more than you do; but the moment the Beaver had spoken these words everyone felt quite different. Perhaps it has sometimes happened to you in a dream that someone says something which you don't understand but in the dream it feels as if it has some enormous meaning- either a terrifying one which turns the whole dream into a nightmare or else a lovely meaning too lovely to put into words, which makes the dream so beautiful that you remember it all your life and are always wishing you could get into that dream again.

It was like that now. At the name of Aslan each one of the children felt something jump in its inside. Edmund felt a sensation of mysterious horror. Peter felt suddenly brave and adventurous. Susan felt as if some delicious smell or some delightful strain of music had just floated by her. And Lucy got the feeling you have when you wake up in the morning and realise that it is the beginning of the holidays or the beginning of summer.

— C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Even so, Maranatha, come Lord Jesus!

New Thundersley St George Charity No - 1134854

Analysis of receipts and payments

Selected period: 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Receipts						
<i>Donations and legacies</i>						
Donations and legacies						
0101 - Gift Aid - Bank	32,109.00	—	—	—	32,109.00	39,039.58
0107 - CAF	1,000.00	—	—	—	1,000.00	54.00
0108 - Charitable Giving	713.00	—	—	—	713.00	693.00
0110 - Gift Aid - Envelopes	2,830.00	—	—	—	2,830.00	3,655.00
0201 - Other planned giving	3,110.00	—	—	—	3,110.00	3,060.00
0301 - Loose plate collections (GASDS)	3,127.24	—	—	—	3,127.24	2,863.06
0302 - Loose plate collections (Non GASDS)	650.00	—	—	—	650.00	430.00
0401 - Gift day	1,210.00	—	—	—	1,210.00	—
0410 - Donation box	54.72	—	—	—	54.72	—
0501 - One-off Gift Aid gifts	380.00	—	—	—	380.00	—
0550 - Donations appeals etc	563.40	—	—	—	563.40	510.00
0551 - Donations - Flowers	14.59	—	—	—	14.59	—
0552 - Donations - Sumup Gasds	875.80	—	—	—	875.80	523.15
0553 - Donations - Sumup Non Gasds	1,537.72	—	—	—	1,537.72	540.00
0601 - Tax recoverable on Gift Aid	8,554.64	—	—	—	8,554.64	12,425.59
0602 - Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS)	1,143.23	—	—	—	1,143.23	618.24
08A1 - Non-recurring one-off grants	—	—	—	—	—	2,521.15
0901 - Other funds generated	1,674.37	—	—	—	1,674.37	1,305.98
Donations and legacies Sub-totals	59,547.71	—	—	—	59,547.71	68,238.75
<i>Donations and legacies Totals</i>	59,547.71	—	—	—	59,547.71	68,238.75
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>						
Income from charitable activities						
0001 - tba	—	—	—	—	—	(20.00)
1101 - Fees for weddings and funerals	299.00	—	—	—	299.00	478.00
1210 - Bookstall sales to promote objectives	220.00	—	—	—	220.00	183.00
1230 - Hall hire	18,491.93	—	—	—	18,491.93	15,140.17
Income from charitable activities Sub-totals	19,010.93	—	—	—	19,010.93	15,781.17
<i>Income from charitable activities Totals</i>	19,010.93	—	—	—	19,010.93	15,781.17

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	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Investments						
Investments						
1020 - Bank and building society interest	16.39	—	—	—	16.39	—
Investments Sub-totals	16.39	—	—	—	16.39	—
Investments Totals	16.39	—	—	—	16.39	—
Receipts	78,575.03	—	—	—	78,575.03	84,019.92
Grand totals						

Payments

Raising funds

Raising funds

1730 - Costs of fetes & other events	1,869.33	—	—	—	1,869.33	1,688.39
1735 - Costs of Coffee Shop	126.42	—	—	—	126.42	62.75

Raising funds Sub-totals	1,995.75	—	—	—	1,995.75	1,751.14
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Raising funds Totals	1,995.75	—	—	—	1,995.75	1,751.14
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Expenditure on charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities

1801 - Mission giving	9,810.60	—	—	—	9,810.60	6,342.00
1910 - Ministry parish share etc	49,615.80	—	—	—	49,615.80	42,775.90
2002 - Honorarium	—	—	—	—	—	200.00
2101 - Working expenses of incumbent	—	—	—	—	—	35.00
2170 - Education	510.00	—	—	—	510.00	—
2201 - Parish outreach	1,155.26	—	—	—	1,155.26	1,030.36
2301 - Church running - insurance	1,187.76	—	—	—	1,187.76	1,133.70
2310 - Church office - telephone	1,718.49	—	—	—	1,718.49	1,868.24
2330 - Church maintenance	3,322.30	—	2,353.32	—	5,675.62	3,190.13
2331 - Church running - cleaning	2,378.30	—	—	—	2,378.30	2,244.19
2340 - Upkeep of services	831.69	—	—	—	831.69	917.18
2350 - Upkeep of churchyard and gardens	1,575.99	—	—	—	1,575.99	1,546.98
2360 - Administration	2,662.49	—	—	—	2,662.49	1,795.45
2361 - Sumup charges	41.58	—	—	—	41.58	66.63
2401 - Church running - electric	4,195.36	—	—	—	4,195.36	4,355.57
2420 - Church running - water	660.41	—	—	—	660.41	228.84
2515 - Hall running - management	1,800.00	—	—	—	1,800.00	1,800.00
2530 - Hall running - electricity	1,397.47	—	—	—	1,397.47	1,913.21
2540 - Hall running - gas	3,252.28	—	—	—	3,252.28	3,804.42
2550 - Hall running - insurance	2,396.23	—	—	—	2,396.23	2,282.61
2560 - Hall running - maintenance	1,043.86	—	—	—	1,043.86	934.89
2563 - Hall running - cleaning	3,615.36	—	—	—	3,615.36	3,489.10
2565 - Hall running - refuse collection	601.71	—	—	—	601.71	572.35
2580 - Hall running - water	95.03	—	—	—	95.03	77.81

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	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
2601 - Governance costs examination/audit fee	55.00	—	—	—	55.00	50.00
2820 - New Hall works	—	—	—	—	—	8,096.03
Expenditure on charitable activities Sub-totals	93,922.97	—	2,353.32	—	96,276.29	90,750.59
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	93,922.97	—	2,353.32	—	96,276.29	90,750.59
Payments Grand totals	95,918.72	—	2,353.32	—	98,272.04	92,501.73

Heed

13/3/25

New Thundersley St George Charity No - 1134854

Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Donations and legacies	59,547.71	—	—	—	59,547.71	68,238.75
Income from charitable activities	19,010.93	—	—	—	19,010.93	15,781.17
Investments	16.39	—	—	—	16.39	—
Total receipts	78,575.03	—	—	—	78,575.03	84,019.92
Payments						
Raising funds	1,995.75	—	—	—	1,995.75	1,751.14
Expenditure on charitable activities	93,922.97	—	2,353.32	—	96,276.29	90,750.59
Total payments	95,918.72	—	2,353.32	—	98,272.04	92,501.73
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	(17,343.69)	—	(2,353.32)	—	(19,697.01)	(8,481.81)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	30,000.00	30,000.00	—	—	60,000.00	—
Gross transfers between funds - out	(30,000.00)	(30,000.00)	—	—	(60,000.00)	—
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	(17,343.69)	—	(2,353.32)	—	(19,697.01)	(8,481.81)
Net movement in funds	(17,343.69)	—	(2,353.32)	—	(19,697.01)	(8,481.81)
Reconciliation of funds						
All assets at 01 January 2024	31,806.15	30,000.00	2,353.32	—	64,159.47	72,641.28
All assets at 31 December 2024	14,462.46	30,000.00	—	—	44,462.46	64,159.47
Represented by						
Unrestricted						
General fund	14,462.46	—	—	—	14,462.46	31,806.15
Designated						
PCC Reserve Fund	—	30,000.00	—	—	30,000.00	30,000.00
Restricted						
Church building fund	—	—	—	—	—	1,360.97
New Hall fund	—	—	—	—	—	992.35

Heed 13/3/25

New Thundersley St George Charity No - 1134854

Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by fund)
As at: 31 December 2024

		Balance	Previous balance
Cash at bank and in hand			
6501: Santander 090155 34216706 Church - Asset			
General fund	Unrestricted	14,462.46	31,806.15
New Hall fund	Restricted	—	764.40
Church building fund	Restricted	—	1,360.97
PCC Reserve Fund	Designated	—	30,000.00
		14,462.46	63,931.52
6503: NatWest 600943 79638074 Hall Fund - Asset			
New Hall fund	Restricted	—	227.95
		—	227.95
6505: Market Harborough B S - Asset			
PCC Reserve Fund	Designated	30,000.00	—
		30,000.00	—
Cash at bank and in hand		44,462.46	64,159.47
Grand Total		44,462.46	64,159.47

Heed

13/3/25

**Independent examiner's report to the PCC of New Thundersley St George –
Charity No - 1134854**

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, 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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