

CHRONICLE OF A BLESSED YEAR

Every year presents its own challenges, and last year had been no different. As the year began, the nation was still firmly in the grip of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus that first emerged in late December 2019 and spread around the world, prompting lockdowns, global recession, deaths and upheaval on an unprecedented scale. The year was heavily defined by the emergence of multiple COVID-19 variants and the human efforts to negate the virus through the fastest vaccine development in history. The loosening mandates for mask-wearing and social distancing measures appeared to be a light at the end of the tunnel; but soon the arrival of more contagious variants of the virus dampened hopes for a return to pre-pandemic life. Vaccines and regular booster doses have become a way of life. Globally, over six million lives were lost to COVID-19 so far, and still counting. By end of the report year, UK's extensive vaccination programme proved to be a success, enabling the government to lift all COVID-19 restrictions and to implement a future roadmap to "living with COVID". The year also witnessed widespread unrest around the world – latest being the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces, triggering a massive exodus of civilians from the warfront. Amid the chaos, the uncertainty, and troubles, Carmel Mar Thoma Church Liverpool had a glittering year, experiencing blessing in abundance from our Heavenly Father. With a heart overflowing with thanksgiving and praise, I present to you the Annual Report of Carmel Mar Thoma Church for 2021-22.

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me." Psalm 138:7

Our Church:

The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar which was confined within the boundaries of India spread across the world with its mission through our diaspora communities, and established itself as a global church. The Mar Thoma Church as a worshipping community have been in existence in the UK since early 1950s. In 1957, regular Mar Thoma worship started at the Indian YMCA, London. Since that humble beginning, our church has steadily grown over the years and spread across the UK and Europe region. Currently we have 11 clergies, 13 parishes, and several congregations in the UK & Europe Zone.

In 2003, we started regular worship and Sunday School in Liverpool as a prayer group of St. John's Mar Thoma Church, Hounslow, London. In 2007, we were elevated to the parish status as Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Liverpool. As a Mar Thoma community, we have completed 18 years in this historic City of Liverpool. Lord has brought us here from different parts of the world and blessed us to flourish. His promise in Joshua 24:13 has fulfilled in our lives: "I gave you a land on which you had not laboured and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant."

Vicar:

Rev. Jacob K A completed his 3 years of blessed ministry with us in April 2021. The parish bid a hearty farewell to Rev Jacob K A, Mrs (Dr.) Christy John Jacob and their children Miss Joan Liz Jacob and Mast. Jonathan Abraham Jacob. Achen and family left to India on 8th May, to Carmel MTC, Punalur. On behalf of the parish, I place on record our heartfelt gratitude to Rev Jacob K A for his inspirational leadership and guidance for the last three years. I'm certain, the period of Rev. Jacob K A's ministry will be etched in gold in the history of our church, as God enabled us to complete some remarkable projects during this period. The highlights being, hosting the 37th Mar Thoma Family Conference of

UK & Europe, purchasing the Church and Vicarage, and taking up the charity house construction project. May God strengthen Rev Jacob K A to continue his blessed ministry wherever God places him.

In spite of the challenges and restrictions of the pandemic, Dr Binu Mathew K Thomas, our UKVI officer, successfully completed all paperwork required for the visa processing of the new vicar in a timely manner. On behalf of the parish, I thank Dr Binu Mathew K Thomas for his sincere efforts and hard work in this regard.

Rev Abu Cherian, our newly appointed vicar arrived in London on 17th May 2021, together with his wife Mrs Angela Elsa Joseph and their sons Anpin Cherry Abu and Arpan Joseph Abu. In compliance with government's COVID-19 legislation at that time, Achen and family were placed into mandatory hotel quarantine for 10 days. They eventually arrived in the parsonage on 28th May 2021. In addition to with Carmel Mar Thoma Church Liverpool, Rev Abu Cherian also serves as the vicar of St. Andrew's Mar Thoma Church, Edinburgh and Newcastle Mar Thoma Fellowship, which are part of the Liverpool-Newcastle-Edinburgh (LNE) Group of Parishes. The Episcopal synod has permitted Achen to pursue higher studies in the UK along with his ministry. With the grace and providence of God, coupled with Achen's diligent efforts, University of Durham miraculously opened their doors for him to enrol for Masters in Theology and Ministry. Let us uphold Rev Abu Cherian and family in our prayers for a blessed ministry amongst us.

On behalf of the parish, I would also like to extend our gratitude to Mr Varughese Mathew and family for helping with the drop-off and pick-up of our outgoing and incoming vicars to London and back. Thanks to Mr Thomas V Edayadiyil and Mast. Thomas Mathew for their assistance in this regard.

Membership:

During 2021-22 we experienced an exponential growth in our membership, as the numbers soared from 46 to 90 families! Doubling the membership in just 12 months is astonishing. This journey that started with less than 10 families in 2003, now nearing 100, shows God's handiwork, and underpins the fact He has a definite plan in bringing over His people for His great purpose. On behalf of the parish, I am delighted to extend a hearty welcome to all the members who joined us during the report year. May you be blessed by the fellowship, and may the church be enriched by your participation.

Dedication of the Church & Vicarage:

The long-cherished dream of worshipping in our own church was accomplished when the Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa consecrated our new church on 2nd May 2021 and celebrated Holy Communion. Vicar Rev. Jacob K A and Vicar of Tabor MTC Manchester, Rev. Aji John assisted in the ceremony. A commemorative plaque was unveiled and an Apple tree was planted in the church premises to mark the occasion. I praise God for His heavenly providence in guiding us to complete His temple in a beautiful fashion.

Since having the first resident vicar in Liverpool in 2014, there was a desire to buy a property for the Vicarage. This wish also came into fruition during the last report year. Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa blessed the Vicarage on 2nd May 2021, assisted by Vicar Rev. Jacob K A. A commemorative plaque was unveiled and an Apple tree was planted in the garden to mark the occasion.

As UK was under strict COVID-19 restrictions, we were forced to limit the number of participants attending the ceremonies, in line with the government mandate. Mr Suresh George, Dr. Binu Mathew K Thomas and Mr Tiju Philip functioned as the venue managers to organise the event in a safe and secure environment. Thank you for your efforts. On behalf of the parish, I would like to thank and congratulate the Vicar Rev. Jacob K A, Convenor of the Building Committee Dr V S Varughese, Building Committee Members, Office bearers and Executive Committee members for their dedicated services; all our selfless volunteers who came and helped at various stages of the refurbishment; all our members for their generous donations, support and constant prayer during this incredible journey. Throughout the course of these projects, we have witnessed the amazing hand, favour and providence of our heavenly father. Glory be to Him!

Charity House Construction Project:

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matt 25:40.

The charity house construction project that we took up during the previous report year came to completion this year, as the house was blessed on 19th October 2021. The house was built for Mr Thomas John and family of Bethel Mar Thoma Church, Kattodu, Thiruvalla. The cost of construction was Rs. 8.50 lakhs. We donated £9,158 for this project in the previous report year, which was raised through the generous contributions of our members. Thanks to all who have supported this noble cause.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Worship:

Since our beginning in Liverpool, the weekly service was held on Saturday at 4pm due to the unavailability of a place to worship on a Sunday. With the purchase of our own Church, the general body meeting held on 28th February 2021 decided to start worshipping on Sunday with the following timings, once the in-person service resumes:

Sunday School: Starting at 9am

Worship: Starting at 10am.

During the COVID-19 restrictions, churches were forced to suspend in-person worship and had to resort to online service. We resumed in-person worship with the consecration of the Church. Having our own church gave us the freedom and flexibility to conduct in-person service with necessary precautions to prevent spreading of the coronavirus. During this challenging period, many of our members went through the struggles of COVID-19 in their personal and work lives. Many had to go into shielding and isolation due to various vulnerabilities. Partaking in the Holy Communion and meeting fellow brethren after more than a year was a time of happiness and thanksgiving. Google forms and Eventbrite registration were used to manage the numbers adhering to Government's COVID-19 protocol. Later on, in line with the guidelines for places of worship, all restrictions were lifted and service returned to normalcy. We continue to hold the service in hybrid mode, live streaming the worship every week. On average, 95 people attend the worship and 60 people partake in the Holy Communion. Two services in a month are held according to the English order - Divine service on second week and Holy Communion on the fourth week. This arrangement has helped our young people to get more involved in worship and church activities.

Great Lent & Holy Week 2021:

We continued with online worship as we moved into the report year. Services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday were held over the online platform. St. Andrew's Mar Thoma Church Edinburgh and Newcastle Mar Thoma Fellowship also joined us in all the services.

Environmental Sunday:

We celebrated environmental Sunday on 20th June. Rev. Abu Cherian planted a Pear tree in the church compound commemorating the occasion.

Family Sports & Fun Day:

After the doom and gloom of the COVID-19 lockdown, we organised a Family Sports & Fun Day on 21st August. However, due to the inclement weather, we were forced to move the venue from Sefton Park to Church. The event was held indoors, with board games and fun activities. Everyone had an entertaining time, a good laugh and some delicious homemade food.

Harvest Festival & Back to School Prayer:

"And then celebrate the Harvest Festival, to honour the LORD your God, by bringing him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing he has given you." Deuteronomy 16:10.

We celebrated harvest festival on 29th August, thanking God for all the blessings from heaven. Wide range of items including garden produces, homemade delicacies and artefacts were brought in for fundraising. I place on record our gratitude to all members for bringing in the items, as well as very generously participating in the harvest festival. May God abundantly bless the work of your hands. Secretary Mr Raji Mathew John conducted the auction. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner were arranged in church. In the afternoon session, a bouncy castle was set up and the Youth Fellowship organised an array of games and fun activities for all ages. A special word of appreciation to our committed Sevika Sangham, the resourceful Youth Fellowship, the vibrant Sunday School children and our selfless Volunteers for all their support and assistance on the day, making it a memorable occasion. We raised over £11,000 through the harvest festival.

During the Holy Communion service, we conducted back to school prayer, as well as Sunday School teachers' dedication.

Zonal Convention & Zonal Sunday:

Zonal convention of the Mar Thoma churches in the UK and Europe Zone was held online on 24th & 25th September. Rev Mathew Scaria and Rev Siby Pallichira were the keynote speakers. 26th September was observed as Zonal Sunday. All Mar Thoma parishes and congregations in the UK and Europe Zone joined together in the online worship led by the Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa.

Annual Convention & Family Dedication Day:

Our 19th Annual Convention was held from 22nd to 24th October 2021. Rev. Thomas Baby, Vicar of Tabore MTC, Manchester delivered the message on 22nd and 23rd. Final day of the convention on 26th October was marked as family dedication day. Vicar Rev Abu Cherian celebrated the Holy Communion and delivered the convention's concluding message. Dedication prayer for families were held, and one day income donations were collected as offertory. A Bible Quiz was conducted based on the book of Hebrews. Mr Raji Mathew John & family won the 1st Prize and Mr. Philip Mammen & family won the 2nd Prize. Youth Fellowship organised a fundraising food stall providing lunch.

I place on record our gratitude to Rev. Thomas Baby and Rev Abu Cherian for their enriching convention messages.

North Centre Sunday School Teacher's Retreat:

We hosted the North Centre Sunday School Teacher's Retreat on 20th November 2021. 60 people including clergies and Sunday school teachers from the North Centre parishes and congregations attended the programme. Breakfast, lunch and refreshments were provided. Thanks to Sunday School teachers and volunteers for helping out with the arrangements.

Christmas:

After a COVID imposed break, this year our carol service was held on 18th December. Under the talented leadership of Dr. Binu Mathew K Thomas, each and every choir member put in a great effort resulting in a very impressive carol singing. Youth Fellowship and Sunday School performed carol songs, skits and various other Christmas themed programmes. Vicar Rev. Abu Cherian delivered the Christmas message. As usual, we had gift exchange for Sunday School children presented by their very own Father Christmas! Christmas dinner was arranged after the programme. Mr Robby Jacob & family sponsored Christmas cake for the evening.

On the Christmas day, we celebrated Holy Communion at 7am followed by Christmas breakfast. A Christmas cake and greeting card was presented to each family.

Our Choir participated in the Zonal Christmas Carol service which was held online on 28th December.

Watch Night Service:

As 2021 was fading away into history, we organised a Watch Night service on 31st December to offer thanks for all the blessings received in the past and asking for continued mercy and blessings for years ahead. The Watch Night Service started at 10pm carrying on into the break of New Year, culminating with the Holy Communion. A personal testimony session was also held at the time. Mr Suresh George & family sponsored cake for the evening.

Unity Sunday:

Unity Sunday is set apart to celebrate our communion relationship with the Anglican church. We celebrated Unity Sunday on 23rd January 2022. Rev Mike Coates, Vicar of All Saints Parish Church attended the service, celebrating the Holy Communion with our vicar and sharing the word of God. It was also a time to express our profound gratitude to the All Saints family for allowing us to worship in their church since our inception. Their support and assistance were instrumental in the growth and development of our journey in this City. A donation of £1,500 to All Saints Church was presented to their Vicar Rev Mike Coates, as a token of our gratitude and affection for their unrelenting support to Carmel Mar Thoma Church for the last 18 years.

Medical Mission Sunday:

Mar Thoma Church dedicates a day praying for healthcare workers and the medical mission ministry. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world acknowledged the decisive role healthcare workers played to keep people healthy and alive. On 6th February 2022, we observed Medical Mission Sunday in our church praying for healthcare workers and honouring their service. As a token of our appreciation for their dedicated services, a gift was presented to each family. Fr. Stephen Prichard, the Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church attended the honouring ceremony and presented the gift. Let us praise and thank God for all our healthcare workers as they toil in the frontline,

standing between us and the virus. May Lord protect and keep them safe from all harm. A lunch was arranged after the programme.

Great Lent 2022:

Evening Lent prayer was held in the church daily at 7pm from 28th February 2022 for the whole Lenten season. It was commendable to see our young people standing up in church and sharing the word of God. May God bless and guide them to grow in faith and be great ambassadors for Christ.

Mothering Sunday:

We celebrated Mother's Day on 27th March 2022, thanking and honouring the sacrificial lives of our mothers and motherly figures. A special worship was held in honour of mothers. The mothers in Carmel Mar Thoma Church were invited to the front to cut a cake and were presented with flowers by their children. Thank you, Mothers!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Official Meetings:

To transact various matters of the parish, 17 Executive Committee meetings, 2 General Body meetings and 2 Core committee meetings of the Liverpool-Newcastle-Edinburgh (LNE) Group were held during the report year.

Congratulations:

Our former Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos Episcopa and Rt. Rev. Joseph Mar Barnabas Episcopa were installed as the Suffragan Metropolitans of the Mar Thoma Church on 18th July. Carmel Mar Thoma Church congratulates the newly installed Suffragan Metropolitans, and pray that may God bestow upon them grace, acumen, strength and endurance to guide the flock entrusted in their care.

Distinguished Visitors:

During the report year, we were blessed by the visit of our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa for the dedication of our Church and Vicarage. We were also fortunate to have Rev. Aji John, Rev. Sijo John, Rev. Stanley Mathew John, Rev. K K Kuruvilla, Rev. Thomas Baby, Rev. Saju Chacko, Fr. Stephen Prichard, Rev. Mike Coates and Rev. Janet Bissex amongst us on various occasions.

Academic Excellence Award:

Academic Excellence Award for A-Level exam 2021 was presented to Miss Ancy Thomas and for GCSE exam was presented to Mr Aswin Shibu. On behalf of Carmel Mar Thoma Church, I would like to congratulate both students for their excellent achievements and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Holy Matrimony:

During the report year, four of our members entered into Holy matrimony. The first marriage in our new church was solemnised when Dr Jithin Thomas married Dr Tess Thomas on 16th October 2021. Miss Rinju Philip was married to Mr Anish Thomas; Mr Ashwin Varughese married Miss Sharon K Abraham and Miss Jeena Thomas was married to Mr Nebu Paul Thomas. On behalf of Carmel Mar Thoma Church, I wish the newly married couples a blessed wedded life.

Baptism:

During the report year, 4 baptisms were held in our church. Dr. Katie Thomas, W/o. Dr. Nibu Philip Thomas; Mast. Jonah Eden Thomas, S/o. Dr Nibu Philip Thomas and Dr. Katie Thomas; Baby Zuri Mariam Varghese, Grand-daughter of Mr. Suresh George and Mrs. Aleyamma George (D/o. Mr. Lijo Varghese and Mrs. Anu George); Mast. Josiah Majo Oommen, S/o. Mr. Majo Oommen and Mrs. Dalia Majo received baptism. Let us uphold them in our prayers for a blessed spiritual journey with Christ.

Gifts from Heaven:

We were blessed with two heavenly bundles of joy during the report year. Mr Lijo Mathew Samuel and Mrs Rincy Mary Cherian were blessed with a baby girl; Mr Robin John and Mrs Jaicy Mary James were blessed with a baby boy. May God bless and keep these families and their young babies safe and well.

Obituary:

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day"
2 Timothy 4:7-8

During the report year, the Mar Thoma Church deeply mourned the departure of His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan on 5th May 2021, after a blessed life of 103 years. His Grace was the world's longest serving bishop, serving for nearly 68 years. He was awarded India's third highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan, in 2018 for his distinguished service of a high order. His outstanding leadership and dedicated services to the Church and society were quite remarkable. He had inspired generations with his humour, charisma and passion for the church. On behalf of the parish, I extend our deepest condolences on the departure of His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan. Let us thank and praise God for His Grace's blessed life, ministry and contributions to the Church and the wider society.

Carmel Mar Thoma Church grieves the passing away of our beloved member Mrs. Jori George, who was taken to heavenly abode on 10th December 2021. Mrs. Jori George, affectionately known as Jori aunty, was a vibrant personality of our church and her departure left behind a huge void. She will be dearly missed, but her memories cherished with love. The funeral service was held in our church on 20th December. As a parish, we express our deepest condolences on her passing away and pray that Lord Almighty comfort and strengthen the bereaved family.

As a parish, we express our deepest condolences and pray for comfort and strength for the following families who went through bereavement of their close family members: Mr V T Thomas, father of Dr. Binu Mathew K Thomas; Mrs. Kunjamma Philipose, grandmother of Mrs. Sissy Biju; Mrs Annamma Abraham, mother of Mrs. Rajila Alexander; Mr Thomas Kurian, father of Mrs. Beena Varghese; Mr Thomas Mathew, father of Mr Varghese Mathew; Mrs Rachel George, mother of Mrs Aleyamma George.

Miss Amala Mary, the 5 year old daughter of Mr Asish Pariyarath and Mrs Angel Asish, members of St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church Liverpool, sadly passed way after 2 years of fight with leukaemia. We learned about the deep financial crisis the family was in, and raised £2,400 to support them. Vicar and Office Bearers visited the family and handed over the cheque.

Charity Donations:

During the report year, we took up several charity projects and donated funds to local charities and churches as a part of our Christian Mission. Following are the charity donations made during the year.

- Late Rev. Anup Mathew Family Aid: £3,225
- Late Miss Amala Mary Family Aid: £2,400
- All Saints Parish Church: £1,500
- St. Mary's Church Waterloo Park: £1,000
- Late Mr Sunny Abraham House construction: £1,597 (Rupees 1.60 Lakhs)
- CARD Flood Relief, Idukki: £2,350 (Rupees 2.33Lakhs)
- Two consignments of essential humanitarian supplies to Ukraine war relief: £895

In addition to the above, organisations of our parish were also involved in various other charitable activities stated later in the report.

Gift Aid:

As a registered Charity, we received £27,300.11 from HMRC as Gift Aid for the financial year 2020-21. On behalf of the parish, I thank and appreciate our trustees Mrs Sherly Varghese and Mr Thomas Edayadiyil for their exemplary work in this accomplishment. May God bless your efforts.

Finance:

Financial needs of our church are met by the generous contributions of our members. An internally audited statement of accounts for the year ended on 31st March 2022 is appended to this report.

During the report year, God has enabled us to repay the interest free loan of £22,000 that we borrowed from our members for the purchase of the church. I place on record our sincere gratitude to all families who stepped in to help us in our need.

By the grace of God, we were able to purchase a new car for the ministry of our Vicar during the report year.

In the current economic climate, our expenses are set to increase, as we move into an impending recession. However, with total dependence in Christ and with the generous support of our members, I am certain, we would be able to withstand any adversities that come our way. On behalf of the parish, I express our sincere gratitude to the treasurer Mr Thomas V Edayadiyil and the accountant Mrs Sherly Varghese for efficiently managing the finances. I would also like to thank our auditors Mr Robby Jacob and Mr Baby M Cherian for their dedicated effort and due diligence in completing the auditing in a timely manner.

Parish Register Update & Parish Directory:

We are in the process of updating the parish register, as it has not been updated recently. During the last year, we had many new members, new births, change of address and contact details, etc. For the smooth administration of the church, it is essential to have the Parish register with the correct and relevant details of all members. We are also setting up an e-Register to efficiently maintain a database of our members. On behalf of the Parish, I thank our Vicar Rev Abu Cherian for the initiative and the enormous work on this project.

Data collection is in progress for the Parish Directory, and we expect to publish the directory shortly. Executive Committee has been assigned as the Directory Editorial Committee, with Secretary Mr Raji Mathew John functioning as the Convenor.

A Note of Gratitude:

We are grateful for the leadership, guidance and support of His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan, Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa and all other bishops of our church. We thank the UK & Europe Zonal Council and all clergies in the Zone for their support and guidance.

I express our gratitude to Mr Ashwin Varghese, Mr Dennis Thomas and Mr Jeremiah Daniel for setting up and managing the Livestreaming, IT and PA system. To all the dedicated volunteers who help with the arrangements, cleaning the church and toilets, cutting the grass, and all the menial jobs that you do with a smile; may God bless you for all you have done for our parish. I would also like to extend heartfelt gratitude to all our members who wholeheartedly supported and donated to the various causes of the parish. Your contributions and efforts have not gone unnoticed – "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." May Lord almighty bless you abundantly.

ORGANISATIONS

Please see below an overview of the parish organisations' activities:

Edavaka Mission:

Edavaka mission serves as the missionary wing of our church. Our Edavaka mission is registered with the Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelistic Association, and have around 90 registered members. During the report year online prayer meetings of the Edavaka Mission were held on the 1st Friday of every month. Members of St. Andrews MTC and Newcastle Mar Thoma Fellowship also participated in the meetings. The meeting includes intercessory prayer and bible study led by the Vicar. Mr Prakash Philip served as the Edavaka Mission secretary and representative to the committee.

Sevika Sangham:

We are blessed with a dedicated Sevika Sangham that takes an active role in the spiritual life of the parish. Our Sevika Sangham looks after the hospitality of our church and provides refreshments after worship every Sunday. The organisation was involved in various charity activities lending a hand to the neediest in our society. Monthly meetings are held in Church on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Mrs Aleyamma George served as the secretary and representative to the committee.

Youth Fellowship:

The Youth fellowship continues to uphold the mission of the church through the four foundations: Witness, Study, Worship and Service. Monthly meetings are held in Church on the 1st Sunday of every month. The youth fellowship members assist in the English order of worship, lent services, youth Sunday and singing sessions. Our youths are actively involved in the Zonal and central level activities. I thank and appreciate our Youth members for taking a lead in organising activities in church especially for the church events, making it lively and memorable occasions. Mr Asish Varghese served as the secretary and representative to the committee.

Sunday School:

"Come to Jesus, bring every child to Jesus" is the motto of Mar Thoma Sunday School. Founded on this theme, our Sunday School plays a vital role in teaching the word of God to our children. We currently have 47 children in 11 classes with 13 teachers under the leadership of head teacher Mr Moby Mathew. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, face to face Sunday School lessons were suspended during the early part of the report year. Currently Sunday school classes are held in hybrid mode enabling students living in distant places to join online. On behalf of the Parish, I thank Mr Moby Mathew and all the Sunday School teachers for their dedicated time and efforts in teaching our children and bringing them to Jesus. Mrs Elcy Varughese served as the secretary and representative to the committee.

In connection with the World Sunday School Day, our Sunday School did a fundraising to support 'Healing Little Hearts' charity that performs life-saving heart surgery on babies and children in developing parts of the world born with congenital heart disease. Our Sunday school raised £2,100 towards this noble cause. This year also our Sunday School joined hands with 'Samaritan's Purse' – one of the world's largest children's Christmas projects to bring joy and happiness to millions of less fortunate children around the world. Our Sunday School sent 36 shoe boxes packed with gifts to share the love of Jesus with children in some of the most deprived parts of the world. I thank our Sunday School Students and their parents for their generous donations towards the above projects.

Our Sunday School also took part in online VBS programme and Zonal World Sunday School Day celebration.

Choir:

I am delighted to report that our Choir is now officially registered with the Department of Sacred Music and Communications (DSMC). Choir enriches the weekly worship with their melodious rendition. On behalf of the parish, I congratulate the choir leader Dr. Binu Mathew K Thomas, the singers and instrumentalists for the blessed carol singing and also for participating in the Zonal Christmas Carol service held online. Thank you for your dedicated time and efforts. Let us uphold choir in our prayers and support them in their ministry.

Prayer Groups:

With increasing number of members and considering the practicality of meeting at homes, the general body decided to re-organise prayer groups based on geographical area. Currently 5 area prayer groups are set up as follows, with a vision to gradually increase to 7 area prayer groups in due course.

1. Aintree – Norris Green
2. Capricorn Crescent-Turriff Road
3. Knotty Ash – Childwall
4. Old Swan & Wirral (to be split into 2 in due course)
5. Warrington & Blackpool (to be split into 2 in due course)

The new area prayer groups shall come into effect in the next reporting year, meeting at 5pm on Sundays.

CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a social and an economic crisis just as much as it has been a health one – its repercussions, severe and far-reaching, are being felt across the world. People from all walks of life felt its sting, as it caused sweeping changes in our personal, spiritual and work lives. Through all these challenges, the God who has called us have been faithful and sufficient. As a parish, Carmel Mar Thoma Church experienced God's amazing faithfulness throughout this period. Let us reflect, and praise God for He is good.

I thank Lord Almighty for giving me an opportunity to serve as the Secretary of Carmel Mar Thoma Church for another year, and to offer myself as an instrument for His heavenly purpose.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. Luke 5: 4-6

There is only one reason why Simon's last attempt at letting down his nets was a success. He had been trying all night, and had come up empty handed every time. Why was this time different? The answer is clear - the power of God was at work through him. Jesus Christ Himself had orchestrated this attempt to result in a big catch. In His sovereign power and authority, He had determined that the fish would be swimming in just the right direction at the right time, the current would be just enough to draw the fish into the net, and the timing would be perfect to illustrate His Lordship. Like Simon Peter, when we trust and obey Jesus, He empowers us to do miraculous things for His glory. Rather than spending our days blindly letting down our nets and seeing no results, let us listen to His voice, accept His invite and be led by His spirit, leaning on Him for true success. It is not our job to orchestrate the fish; that is for God to do. Our job is to trust and be obedient to our Saviour and to our calling, to be filled and empowered for the task before any net is dropped. And when the time comes, to trust that everything done in His power will accomplish His purposes. Praise the Lord.

Thank you.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Raji Mathew John

Raji Mathew John

Hon. Secretary

Carmel Mar Thoma Church



APPROVED

INTERNAL EXAMINERS REPORT
CARMEL MARTHOMA CHURCH, LIVERPOOL-
ACCOUNTS 2021/22
Charity Registration Number-1137808

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under sec 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the charities commission under sec 145 (5) (b) of the Charities Act and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention

Basis of the independent examiners report

Our 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 accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not include all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiners Statement

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which gives us cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with the section 130 of the charities act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

We have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr Robby Jacob
Mr Baby M Cherian

Dated: 01/07/2022
Liverpool

Robby
01/07/22

Baby M Cherian
01-07-2022

Carmel Mar Thoma Church
Supplementary Budget 2021-22

Expense	Budget 2021-22	Actual 2021-22	Excess
Salary, Tax & National Insurance	18,900.00	22,901.27	- 4,001.27
Motor Purchase	-	17,500.00	- 17,500.00
Accommodation & Utility	13,650.00	15,152.03	- 1,502.03
Honorarium to Achens / Visiting Speakers	1,000.00	1,282.80	- 282.80
Zonal Contribution/ Zonal Development Fund	3,000.00	7,900.00	- 4,900.00
Charity Contribution	5,000.00	14,421.14	- 9,421.14
Printing, Postage & Stationary	150.00	247.33	- 97.33
Sundry Expense	150.00	599.17	- 449.17
Altar Expense	50.00	478.76	- 428.76
Bank Charges	-	89.83	- 89.83
Awards & Felicitations	350.00	952.00	- 602.00
Christmas	850.00	1,873.28	- 1,023.28
Education Donation	-	250.00	- 250.00
IT/Audio/Visual Equipment	-	2,421.49	- 2,421.49
Sabha Tharaka	-	559.01	- 559.01
Depreciation	1,000.00	1,349.55	- 349.55
Loan Repayment	5,000.00	22,000.00	- 17,000.00
Total	49,100.00	109,977.66	- 60,877.66


Vicar


Trustee Finance



Trustee Accounts

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS 2021-22

Receipts	Amount (£)	Payments	Amount (£)
Opening Balance	41,090.89	Salary, Tax & National Insurance	23,109.04
Stewardship	21,126.00	Provident/Pension Fund	171.66
Tax Refund	27,300.11	Guest Expenses	250.00
Harvest Festival	11,070.00	Winter Expenses	170.00
General Offertory	21,900.13	Motor and Travel	3,103.00
Building Fund - Donations	3,242.49	Vicarage & Mortgage & Utility	15,152.03
General Donations	12,048.13	Honorarium to Achens / Visiting Speakers	1,200.00
Sabha Office Collections	1,344.00	Zonal Contribution/ Zonal Development Fund	7,900.00
Bank Interest	1.40	General Donations	15,421.14
Church Organisation Collections	3,762.91	Printing, Postage & Stationary	247.33
Church Dedication Gift	5,351.00	Chuch Events	3,392.62
NEA Contribution	15,000.00	Vicar Transfer Expense	16,240.60
Zonal Contribution	1,175.00	Sundry Expense	599.17
Refunds	1,144.50	Altar Expense	478.76
Sabha Tharaka	350.00	Bank Charges	89.83
		Church & Utility	4,723.10
		Awards & Felicitations	952.00
		Bibles	80.04
		Christmas	1,873.28
		Church Organisation Expense	2,669.17
		Episcopal Visit	3,204.91
		IT/Audio/Visual Equipment	2,421.49
		Sabha Tharaka	559.01
		Software	167.90
		Church Refurbishment	22,000.00
		Vicarage Refurbishment	17,500.00
Total Income	165,906.56	Total Expended	143,676.08
Surplus: Revenue over Expenses	22,230.48		


Vicar


Trustee Finance


Trustee Accounts


APPROVED

Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Liverpool UK
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

Description	Note	Amount 2021-22	Amount 2020-21
Current Assets			
Cash in Hand		251.77	-
Cash at Bank	18	22,230.48	41,090.89
Sub-Total Cash & Bank		22,482.25	41,090.89
Prepayments and Accruals	20	5,972.83	70.00
Gross Current Assets (A)		28,455.08	41,160.89
Current Liabilities			
PAYE/Ni Contributions (estimate)	19	566.55	774.32
Accrued Expenses 2021-22	19	1,066.00	10,785.00
Deferred Income	23	488.00	
Total current Liabilities (B)		2,120.55	11,559.32
Net Current Assets C = (A-B)		26,334.53	29,601.57
Fixed Assets:			
Motor Vehicle	17	20,890.00	1,572.86
Land & Property	17	215,950.00	215,950.00
Fixtures & Fittings	17	1,798.27	0.00
Plant & Equipment	17	3,599.92	1,664.35
Gross Fixed Assets (D)		242,178.19	222,392.42
Long Term Liabilities:			
Interest Free Loan from Members		22,000.00	22,000.00
Vicarage Mortgage - £85,000.00			
Less Repayments - £5,061.30		79,938.70	83,734.60
Total Long term liabilities (E)		79,938.70	105,734.60
Net Fixed Assets F = (D-E)		162,239.49	116,657.82
Total Assets G = (C+F)		188,574.02	146,259.39
Contributed by:			
Prepayment and Accruals		5,972.83	70.00
General Fund		0.00	28,768.36
Total Reserve Restricted Fund as on 31 Mar 2022		18,724.85	20,000.00
Designated Fund	21	3,757.40	3,245.75
Less: Current Liabilities(B)		-2,120.55	-11,559.32
Total Funds of the Charity		26,334.53	40,524.79
Net Fixed Assets (D-E)		162,239.49	105,734.60
		188,574.02	146,259.39


Vicar


Trustee Finance


Trustee Accounts

Receipts	Budget 2021-22	Actual Mar 2021-22	Thomas Church 2022-23	Liverpool - Budget 2022-23 Payments	Budget 2021-22	Actual 2021-22	Budget 2022-23
Stewardship	23,000.00	21,126.00	30,000.00	Salary, Tax & National Insurance	18,900.00	22,901.27	30,000.00
Tax Refund	25,000.00	27,300.11	20,000.00	Provident/Pension Fund	500.00	381.66	500.00
Harvest Festival	7,500.00	11,330.00	15,000.00	Guest Expenses	250.00	250.00	250.00
General Offertories				Winter Expenses	170.00	170.00	170.00
Church Service	8,000.00	9,217.90	12,000.00	Motor and Travel	3,250.00	3,020.20	5,000.00
Birthday	2,400.00	2,665.00	4,000.00	Motor Purchase	0.00	17,500.00	0.00
Wedding Anniversary	1,200.00	1,186.00	2,000.00	Vicarage & Mortgage & Utility	13,650.00	15,152.03	20,000.00
Special Offertories	6,150.00	9,015.00	12,000.00	Honorarium: Clergy/Speakers	1,000.00	1,200.00	1,500.00
Building Fund - Donations	1,200.00	3,242.49	1,000.00	Zonal Contr./ Zon.Dev.Fund	3,000.00	7,900.00	8,000.00
General Donations	4,250.00	12,116.13	5,000.00	General Donations	5,000.00	14,671.14	5,000.00
Sabha Office Dues	1,300.00	856.00	1,000.00	Printing, Postage & Stationary	150.00	247.33	1,000.00
Bank Interest	50.00	1.40	50.00	Chuch Events	6,750.00	3,392.62	4,000.00
Church Organisation Collections	3,000.00	3,762.91	4,500.00	Vicar Transfer Expense	16,000.00	11,547.43	0.00
Church Dedication Gift	0.00	5,351.00	0.00	Sundry Expense	150.00	599.17	500.00
NEA Contribution	18,000.00	20,642.83	16,000.00	Altar Expense	50.00	65.50	200.00
Zonal Contribution	2,500.00	1,175.00	5,000.00	Bank Charges	0.00	89.83	300.00
Refunds	0.00	1,144.50	0.00	Church & Utility	8,910.00	5,136.36	5,500.00
Sabha Tharaka	0.00	350.00	0.00	Awards & Felicitations	350.00	952.00	500.00
Carol Rounds	2,500.00	0.00	5,000.00	Bibles	750.00	80.04	300.00
Parish Directory	1,000.00	0.00	1,500.00	Christmas	850.00	1,873.28	3,000.00
Church Events	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	Church Organisation Expense:	0.00	2,669.17	0.00
Sneha Nidhi Fund	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	Edavaka Mission	300.00	0.00	300.00
				Choir	300.00	0.00	300.00
				Sevika Sangham	300.00	0.00	300.00
				Sunday School	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
				Youth Fellowship	500.00	0.00	500.00
				Episcopal Visit	4,100.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
				IT/Audio/Visual Equipment	0.00	2,421.49	500.00
				Sabha Tharaka	0.00	559.01	0.00
				Software	950.00	167.90	950.00
				Depreciation	1,000.00	1,349.55	6,000.00
				Loan Repayment	5,000.00	22,000.00	0.00
				Sabha Office Dues	1,200.00	856.00	900.00
				Parish Directory	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
				DBS	150.00	0.00	200.00
				Clergy Conference	0.00	0.00	150.00
				Building Development Fund	0.00	0.00	7,500.00
				Marthoma Meet Travel Expense	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
				CIO Registration	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
				Total Expenses	96,480.00	138,652.98	114,320.00
				Net Income (Expenditure)	13,320.00	-8,170.71	27,730.00
Total	109,800.00	130,482.27	142,050.00	Total	109,800.00	130,482.27	142,050.00


Vicar


Trustee Finance


Trustee Accounts


APPROVED