



Registered Charity No 1136866

## **ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2019-20**

**A Parish of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of UK & Europe Zone**

**Member of the Churches Together in England**

**Member of the Churches Together in Britain & Ireland**

**A Registered parish Church with the Diocese of London, Willesden area,  
Church of England.**

**Diocesan reference: 2402A**

**(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)**

**Registered Office:**  
15 Hampden Road  
Harrow, HA3 5PP



**Worshipping at:**  
All Saints' Harrow Weald  
Middlesex, HA3 6DQ

**Telephone: 020 3674 9964 / 07976 781890**

**[www.sinaimarthomachurch.org.uk](http://www.sinaimarthomachurch.org.uk)**

## **Annual Report**

### **Introduction**

We are in an unprecedented time, facing an unimaginable threat to our humankind due to a Pandemic viral illness called COVID-19. We thank God for protecting us and giving us healing and strength throughout the year. With thanksgiving and gratitude to God for all the blessings showered upon the Sinai Mar Thoma Church North London, the Executive Committee presents the Annual Report for the year 2019-2020.

### **Church History & Present**

Mar Thoma Syrian Church traces her origins to the evangelistic works of St Thomas the Apostle, who came to India in AD 52. The church is at present blessed by the able leadership of 11 Bishops and is headed by the Most Rev. Dr Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan. The Church is served by 1037 clergy through 13 dioceses. The headquarters is located at SCS Campus, Thiruvalla, Kerala, India.

Sinai Mar Thoma Church comes under the Diocese of North America and Europe (from January 2018 onwards, under the UK and Europe zone) and the Rt Rev Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa is its Diocesan Bishop.

In the UK, the Mar Thoma community began their worship in 1957. Sinai Mar Thoma Church came into being on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010 and the Most Rev. Dr Joseph Mar Thoma conducted a Thanksgiving and Dedication service on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Sinai Mar Thoma Church UK (MTC) is a registered charity in United Kingdom (Charity Reg. No. 1136866) with its registered office at 15 Hampden Road, Harrow, HA3 5PP, UK. The Church of England (COE) recognises Sinai Mar Thoma Church as a part of its institution and the Church of England's, London Diocesan (Willesden Area) number for Sinai MTC is 2402A. We appreciate the fellowship and support given by Bishop Pete Broadbent the Bishop of Willesden in the Diocese of London.

We gather for worship at the All Saints Church at Harrow Weald. We appreciate the partnership with All Saints community, especially for the collegiality and support of the Vicar Rev. John Barker, the Church Wardens and office staff.

### **Office Bearers**

Rev Dr P G George	Vicar/President
Mr. V M Abraham	Vice President
Mrs. Sonu Ann Jacob	Hon. Secretary
Mr. Rohit Christopher	Trustee Finance
Mr. Prasad Jacob	Trustee Accounts

### **Executive Committee Members**

Mr. Sajimon Samuel	Lay Ministrant (Malayalam)
Mr. Cherian Mathew	Lay Ministrant (English)
Mr. Joji Mathew	Assembly Member
Dr. Zac Varghese	Assembly Member
Mrs. Susamma Mathew	Mandalam Member
Mrs. Salimol Alex	Edavaka Mission Representative
Mrs. Deepa John	Sevika Sangham Representative



Mr. Joshua K Cherian	Youth Representative
Mrs. Diana Agnelo Fernandes	Sunday School Representative
Ms. Tanya Abraham	Choir Representative
Mrs. Valsa Kurien	Barnet – Area Prayer Group Representative
Mr. Abraham Jacob	Harrow & Slough – Area Prayer Group Representative
Mr. George Thomas	Watford – Area Prayer Group Representative
Mr. Sam Varghese	Northampton & Milton Keynes – Area Prayer Group Representative

### **Non-Executive Committee Members**

Mrs. Swapna Solomon	Young Couples Fellowship
Mr. Abraham Jacob	Senior Citizens Fellowship

### **Independent Examiners**

Mr. George Abraham	Independent Examiner
Dr. Jacob Kurien	Independent Examiner

### **Membership**

Sinai Mar Thoma Church UK maintains a parish register. All persons aged above 18 years and who have their names in the Parish Register receive Holy Communion in the parish and all persons whose parish membership has not been barred are entitled to be Edavaka Sangham members (General Body of the parish). Our membership as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 is 107 families with a total of 340 members including children. 7 new families joined the parish and a few families were transferred to sister Parishes or left the country during the year. We welcome the new members and look forward to their total participation and fellowship.

### **Vicars**

A Farewell meeting was held for the Very Rev V. T. John on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Very Rev V T John left for Kerala after three years of successful ministry in the Sinai Parish. As the Senior Vicar in the UK Europe Zone, he gave valuable leadership to the Zonal activities.

Rev Dr P. G. George arrived as the new Vicar on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019 as the Parsonage was repainted and furnishing was done. He is serving as the Ecumenical Officer of the UK Europe Zone and represent the Mar Thoma Church in the Churches Together in England (CET) and Churches Together in Great Britain & Ireland. He attended the Anglican-Orthodox Roundtable meeting at Lambeth Palace on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and World Diaspora Conference at Hope University, Liverpool on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019. He also represented the parish at the Dedication of the Tabore Mar Thoma Church, Manchester.

Rev. Dr P. G. George received permission by the Church of England under the Overseas and other Clergy, under the Diocese of Willesden area, in the Diocese of London to officiate in the Diocese of London. He also received the DBS clearance and took the necessary Safeguarding training from the Diocese of London.

### **Baptism and Marriage:**

Two Baptisms took place in the Parish. We happily welcome Jackson Sherwood Mathews and Ethan

John Mathew to the fellowship of the Sinai Parish church. No weddings took place here, but *Desakuri*, (a certificate) was given from this Parish to solemnise the Holy Matrimony in another parish, and No Objection Certificates were given for marriages in India.

#### **Obituary:**

Mrs. Mariamma Abraham, wife of Mr. Abraham Jacob, was called to her eternal home on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Funeral service was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 at the All Saints Church. May God bless the family with hope and peace.

#### **Meetings:**

- **General Body Meetings**

- i. Annual General Body Meeting was held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019.
- ii. General Body Meeting to elect the office bearers of the parish for the year 2020-21 was held on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020.

- **Committee Meetings**

Four committee meetings were held during this reporting year.

- **Committee Retreat**

We had one committee retreat which was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019 in the parsonage. The committee decided the theme for 2019-20 is '**Year of the Children**' and for 2020-21 is '**Year of the Family**' respectively.

- **Emergency Committee Meeting**

We had an Emergency Committee Meeting on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to discuss the Coronavirus pandemic. During the meeting, future plans to manage the spread of the Virus among the community was discussed. It was decided to adhere to the directives from the Government and guidance from the Church of England.

#### **Sunday Worship & other services**

Holy Communion services in English took place on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and in Malayalam on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is normally used for UK Centre meetings held at different locations. Divine service was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday when Vicar's participation in UK Centre meetings. However, when Vicar is available, Holy Communion Service was held in English.

Holy Communion service were held in Milton Keynes/Northampton on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays. Special services were held during the year to celebrate Sevika Sangham Day, Youth Sunday, Choir Sunday, Senior Citizens Day, Family Sunday, World Sunday School Day, Parish Day and Holy Week.

#### **Sacraments/Services**

##### **(i) Holy Communion Services**

- All Saints' Harrow Weald: 50
- Northampton/Milton Keynes: 6
- Joint Service with All Saints: Nil



- Holy Communion services and other public gatherings were suspended due to Corona Pandemic from Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

#### (ii) Divine Services – 2

During the Great Lent, evening services using the “Liturgy for Lent” was conducted at the Parsonage. Some of the church members attended them before the introduction of ‘social distancing’ due to the Corona pandemic.

#### Area Prayer Meetings

The four main area prayer groups are *Harrow-Slough Area, Watford Area, Barnet Area and Northampton/Milton Keynes Area* as agreed in the Annual General Body 2018-19. The prayer meetings in all the four areas were planned by the Area Prayer Group leaders and were conducted according to the convenience of the members. We appreciate the leaders and the host families for the meetings and the good attendance.

#### Organisations

##### • Sunday School

Sunday school has grown to 46 children, of which 44 children are registered and attend regularly, under the guidance and training of 7 teachers and 4 teaching Assistants. Sunday School Classes are held on Sundays at the Blackwell Hall. We had 7 classes for the year 2019-20. For the year 2019-20, our Sunday school adopted a new theme: “The Fruit of the Spirit” and each class was named after it. Several activities were planned throughout this period based on the theme.

This year we introduced the Sundays School Order of Worship and started the practice of taking offertory during Sunday School on every Sunday since 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020.

Sunday School Mid-Term Examination was held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Blackwell Hall. For the first time, Sinai Sunday School participated in the Zonal Exam which was held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Children from Grade 3 and above took the written exam and others took the verbal exam. 34 children participated out of which 14 children were awarded. We had 6 A\*, 5A and 3 B\*. A and A\* children received their trophies during World Sunday School Day that was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019.

Sunday School presented songs during the Sunday service and a special song was presented on Mother’s Day. They also presented a beautiful Farewell song at the Farewell meeting of Very Rev V T John and Family on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

World Sunday School Sunday was observed on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 where children and teachers took active part in the worship service. Children sang a special song and Ms Sandra Santhosh from Year 9 gave the sermon. Sinai Mar Thoma Sunday School Annual Day was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Sunday school children participated at the Zonal Meet on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Birmingham. World Sunday School Day was hosted by St Johns Church, Hounslow on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 at Didcot, Oxfordshire. 55 members including teachers and parents participated from our church. We are privileged to host the next World Sunday School Day on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

Sunday school children presented beautiful performances during the Carol service held on 15<sup>th</sup>



December 2019. Sunday School Christmas party was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Sunday School presented a special Father's Day song and Father's Day cards were distributed to all Sinai Dads during the church service.

Sunday School Competitions for the year 2019-2020 were conducted in the month of September 2019 and the prizes were awarded.

On 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Sunday School at Woods was held at Blackwell Hall due to bad weather. The theme was "Lord make me an instrument." The First Sunday School Picnic was on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the beautiful Golder's Hill Park.

Sunday School teachers attended the First South Zone Teachers Retreat on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at St. Andrews Church, Kent. All the Sunday School teachers had document verification for DBS with Mary Abbott from All Saints Church on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

VBS was conducted from 4<sup>th</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at All Saints Church, in which 40 children attended. Mrs Princey Santhosh served as the VBS leader. The theme was "God's Masterpiece."

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Sunday School held a special prayer led by Mrs Mini Santhosh for children writing GCSE and A level Exams.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019, Mrs Jency Sharlay led a special session for the youths on Drug and Substance Awareness.

- **Edavaka Mission:**

Mrs Salimol Alex served as the representative for Edavaka Mission Prayer meeting. We had a few prayer meetings held at the residence of church members.

- **Sevika Sangham:**

Mrs Deepa John served as the Sevika Sangham Representative. Sevika Sangham Day was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019 with a special order of service. Mrs. Jeny Elizabeth Joy delivered the message during the Holy Communion service.

Sevika Sangham held a sale of home cooked food on 10th November, 2020 after the Holy Communion Service. The event was to raise money for the organisation activities. Special thanks to Sevika Sangham committee for organising this event and to everyone who contributed by bringing in food as well as purchasing the food to make this event a big success.

The Sevika Sangham team also took part in leading the service during Sevika Sangam Day on 8th September, 2019. We express our gratitude to Sevika Sangham for their selfless efforts and service. Sevika Sangham contributed towards Dialysis Project. They also contributed for the expenses incurred during the South Center Youth Fellowship retreat hosted by Sinai Mar Thoma Youths on 22nd Feb, 2020.

Sevika Sangham started a Prayer Buddy arrangement in which each member will pray for the key workers and other church members who are sick during the Corona Virus pandemic times.

- **Choir:**

Choir was led by the talented young Choir leader and conductor Ms. Tanya Abraham who had



taken a lot of efforts to train the Choir members.

Special songs were sung by the Choir at the Combined Parish Day and Farewell service for the Very Rev V.T. John on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

The Sinai Choir was invited to sing in the service as part of the joint choir with All Saints at the Installation service of Father John Barker as the Vicar of All Saints on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The Sinai Choir also partook in the All Saints Carol Service held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 by singing a Malayalam song and reading one of the Bible passages.

The Sinai Choir led the Sinai Carol service held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 by singing a range of both Malayalam and English festive songs.

- **Youth Fellowship:**

Mr. Joshua Cherian served as the Youth Fellowship Representative. Youth Sunday was celebrated on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Youth Volunteer Ms Anju Varghese of Carmel Mar Thoma Church gave the Sermon in our Church. All the Youth Members also took part in leading the church service.

Sinai Youth, led by Mr. Justin James and Joshua Cherian, hosted a successful South Centre Youth Fellowship Retreat on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020 at All Saints Church and Blackwell Hall. 74 Youths across 7 churches from South Centre Zone attended the Youth Fellowship Retreat. Sinai Mar Thoma Youth bagged Second Prize in the Quiz Competition held during the Retreat.

Youth outings were held to bring the Youth closer together and we have had a few youth prayer meetings.

- **Young Couples Fellowship:**

Young couples of the Parish have been actively involved with various activities of the Church.

- **Senior Citizens Fellowship:**

Mr. Abraham Jacob served as the Senior Citizens representative. Prayer meetings have been regularly conducted once a month. Thanks to all families who hosted the prayer meetings.

### **Parish Activities:**

#### **Worship Lounge:**

Worship Lounge, led by Mrs Jessie George, was introduced every Sunday from 11am to 11:50 am at Blackwell Hall. It is a time of singing, testimony and prayer.

#### **Support Group:**

Sinai Church members has created a volunteer group under the initiative and leadership of Mr. Ashley Challackal, to help our members who might need support during the COVID-19 Pandemic. At present, the group has around 15 members covering various areas across greater London.

#### **Onam Celebration:**

Onam celebrations was organised in Blackwell hall on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. The event started with a sumptuous Onam meal after the Holy Communion Service. This was followed by a host of cultural and other entertainment programmes which was enjoyed by all the attendees. We thank all who supported for the success of the Sinai Onam celebration.



**Relationship with All Saints':**

Sinai church members were invited to attend the Induction and Installation of Rev John Barker as the new Vicar of All Saints Church, which was held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

All Saints Church had their Christmas Tree Festival inauguration on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Sinai Church had participated in the Christmas Tree Festival and put up a Christmas tree. Many of the Sinai church members had generously contributed to the Fund raising for the Half Vitality Marathon held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

Sinai Church had planned to conduct a joint service with All Saints this year on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This gives us an opportunity to consolidate our relationship with All Saints and also for members of both congregations to interact with each other. However due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the joint service had to be unfortunately cancelled.

Two Quarterly Joint meetings were held between the All Saints Church representatives and Sinai Church office bearers to discuss the future activities of the Church. This is also an opportunity to discuss things which are going good as well as a forum to raise any issues from both sides.

**Christmas Carol Rounds:**

This year's Christmas carol rounds took place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019. The carol rounds reached out to homes of our members spread across Watford, Slough, Ilford, Bedford and Harrow and raised money for the church. It was a blessing to experience the warmth and love from every home that we visited during this festive period. We express our sincere gratitude to Rev Dr P G George, the convenors –Mr Prasad Jacob and Mr Dileep Cherian and to all members who participated in the carolling rounds, especially the homes that provided us with the refreshments which kept us going.

**Christmas Carol Service:**

The Christmas Carol Service took place on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at All Saints'. Rev John Barker of All Saints Church was our chief guest this year. Our choir presented some melodious songs in English and Malayalam. This year it was a 24-member choir. We thank Ms Tanya Abraham for her efforts in teaching the songs for the Carol Service.

The Sunday school children also presented beautiful performances. We express our thanks to the Choir, Sunday School teachers, volunteers, and children for their tireless efforts in making the event a great success.

All Saints Church members were also invited for Sinai Christmas Carol service. All Saints Choir members presented a beautiful performance. The Fellowship Dinner was served at the Blackwell Hall after the Carol service.

**Wednesday Intercessory prayer:**

Intercessory prayer was held every Wednesday evening with members voluntary participation from their homes.

**Fasting/Chain Prayer:**

Fasting prayer was held voluntarily every Friday by members and a few members contributed an amount to the Parish as Fasting prayer offertory.



**Fusion Fest 2020 and Sinai Church's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program Celebration:**

Fusion Fest and Sinai Church's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration programme was planned to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 at Westfield Academy Hall. However due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this had to be unfortunately cancelled.

**Sponsoring of Students:**

As a follow up from the previous General Body decision to sponsor a nursing student (who is now in Final year) and 3 B. Com students, our parish has been continuing to support and sponsor the studies of the 4 students in India this year.

**Harvest Festival:**

Harvest festival was held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019 along with Family Sunday celebrations. Every earning member was requested to contribute one day income towards harvest festival collection. Additionally, all church members were requested to bring small items for auction so that we can revive the festivity of Harvest Festival. Funds collected from auction was earmarked for Church Development Fund. A fellowship meal was provided to all members after the Holy Communion Service.

**UK & Europe Family Conference:**

The UK & Europe Family Conference was held from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Yarnfield hosted by the Liverpool Carmel Parish and we had a great participation from our church members. Our Vicar Rev. Dr P. G. George was one of the main leaders.

**Zonal Youth Camp, Yarnfield:**

The Zonal Youth Camp was held at Yarnfield from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2019. We had a great participation from our Youth Members. Our Vicar, Rev. Dr P. G. George, attended the event and gave leadership.

**Churches Together in Wealdstone and Harrow Weald and Harrow Interfaith:**

Mr Abraham Mathews represented Sinai MTC at Churches Together in Wealdstone and Harrow Weald. There was the Churches Together service held at the Trinity Church in Harrow with beautiful Gospel songs with musical instruments. It was very uplifting and divine.

Sinai Mar Thoma Church has been a member of Harrow Interfaith and has had the active role as Membership Secretary on the Executive Board for the last 7 years to date. Harrow has the maximum diverse Faith Communities in UK where Harrow Interfaith ensures harmony and peaceful co-existence, respecting and acknowledging the different Faiths in the Borough. All Faith meetings are held at the Civic Centre in Harrow.

Harrow Interfaith meeting was held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November at the Council Chamber of the Harrow Civic Centre where five Faith Leaders talked on Conflict Resolution from their Faith teachings. The Christian Faith talk was presented by our Vicar on 'Love' being the remedy to Conflicts. Subsequently, all Faiths displayed their 'idols' and prayer books, literature etc on their own tables in the adjacent hall. Sinai had our Wooden Cross, the Pulpit and standard Bible, the censor and displayed the Lord's Prayer and the 10 Commandments. A few of our members and Vicar were presented to the Mayor and other Faith Members.

In January 2020, Harrow Interfaith conducted the Holocaust Memorial meet which is an annual event held at Harrow Arts Centre, Hatch End. The event was attended by Holocaust victims who survived and gave their testimony. Our church was represented by our Vicar and a few Sinai members. During the event, in front of about 500 people, all Faiths representatives were on stage to light a candle and the candle for the Christians was lit by our Miss Esther Daniel. It was a proud day for our Church.

### **Feeding the Homeless in Harrow**

All Saints Church was allotted three days to give food to the homeless in the Harrow area. Out of these, they have given us one day to help the homeless in our neighbourhood. This year we fed the homeless in Harrow on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We appreciate the leadership of Mr Abraham Mathews.

### **Tenth Anniversary Celebration**

Decisions were made to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Sinai Mar Thoma Church with different projects and programmes. Bishop John Fenwick was invited to be the Chief Guest of the Inauguration of the Tenth Anniversary. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was postponed to another convenient date.

### **Guests and Visitors:**

1. Rev. Fr. John Barker, Vicar of All Saints
2. Rev. Dr George Mathew
3. Rev. M. C. Skariah
4. Mrs Princey Santhosh Kochamma
5. We thank all visitors including parents of our members from time to time added goodness and beauty to the Sinai Family fellowship.

### **Conclusion**

We thank God for His grace and goodness showered upon us over the past 10 years. Sinai Mar Thoma Church started from a humble beginning, but we are growing from strength to strength by God's grace. Appreciation and gratitude are recorded to Rev. Dr P G George, office bearers and all members of the Sinai family for their contribution of time and talent in making our Parish grow confidently in strength, love, and fellowship.

We maintain an extremely good relationship with All Saints Church, Harrow Weald, and we sincerely thank Rev. John Barker and the All Saints Church PCC and congregation for all the support and help given to us.

For and on behalf of the Executive committee 2019-20,

*Read and passed*

*PN*

Rev. Dr. P G George  
Vicar/President



*Sony*

Sonu Ann Jacob  
Hon. Secretary



## **Trustees Report**

Sinai Mar Thoma Church North London is registered with the Charity Commission as Charity No 1136866. The trustees present the charity's report and financial statements for the year commencing 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The trustees have prepared the accounts adopting the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document and the Charities Act 2011.

### **Structure, Governance and Management:**

Rev Dr P G George is the Vicar and President supported by Mr V M Abraham as Vice President, Mrs Sonu Jacob as the Secretary, Mr Rohit Christopher as Trustee/Treasurer and Mr Prasad Jacob as Trustee/Accountant and an Executive Committee consisting of elected Trustees named below constitute the management structure of the charity

### **Reference and administrative information:**

**Charity Name:** Sinai Mar Thoma Church North London, UK

**Registered Address:** 15 Hampden Road, Harrow HA3 5PP

**Registration Number:** 1136866

**Vicar**

Rev Dr P G George

Vicar/President

**Office Bearers**

Mr. V M Abraham

Vice President

Mrs. Sonu Ann Jacob

Hon. Secretary

Mr. Rohit Christopher

Trustee Finance

Mr. Prasad Jacob

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Mr. Sam Varghese

Northampton &amp; Milton Keynes – Area Prayer Group Representative

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Mrs. Swapna Solomon

Young Couples Fellowship

Mr. Abraham Jacob

Senior Citizens Fellowship

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank Plc, Station Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

**Independent Examiner**

Dr. Jacob Kurien and Mr. George Abraham

**Governing Document**

Sinai Mar Thoma Church is governed by the constitution submitted to the Charity Commission and by the constitution of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar.

**GDPR Compliance Statement**

The trustees have implemented procedures and policies to notify members and donors of the information held by the charity and also implemented opt-in/opt-out processes.

**Safeguarding Statement:**



The charity has a safeguarding policy which is displayed on the church's notice board and it is reviewed annually. It also has a named safeguarding officer and a Child Protection Policy with contact details displayed for easy access.

#### **Risk Assessment and Management:**

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirmed that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to reduce those risks.

Risk assessment, risk management policies and insurances are regularly reviewed during the year and our processes will continue to ensure that new risks are properly identified, reported, and evaluated.

The systems of financial controls are considered adequate and any short-term risks are taken into consideration in the preparation of the annual budget.

#### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The charity has adapted its activities to ensure compliance with Government and Church of England directives on this matter. The trustees have discussed and implemented measures to ensure safety of members, donors, and volunteers following guidelines as suggested by the above bodies.

The budget and expenditure plans have considered lockdown for the full year 2020-2021. Due to the lockdown, planned events like Fusion Fest was cancelled in April/May 2020 which impacts our opportunity to support local charity work in the 2020-2021 period. The trustees continue to monitor the evolving situation to ensure the charity responds accordingly and continue to support our activities.

Despite the lockdown and social distancing measures, the charity continues to adapt and provide pastoral care, support and volunteering activities using web conferencing and streaming platforms. Such activities are conducted in accordance with the relevant controls to ensure safety, security and privacy of our members and donors.

The trustees would like to thank the members and donors for their continued support especially during these difficult times.

#### **Organisational Structure:**

The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the Vicar, Secretary, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Accountant. The trustees have scheduled quarterly meetings to review accounts and discuss upcoming activities for the next quarter.

In addition, ad-hoc meetings are also organized to discuss and decide on unplanned/unexpected matters during the quarter.

**Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees:**

The trustees are elected every year before the commencement of the new financial year. They are elected by the General Body or by the members of the organisation whom they represent. The recruitment and appointment of Trustees are as per the constitution of the Mar Thoma Church.

**Plans for the Future:**

We are planning to work more closely with the All Saints Church to ensure that we can carry on this beautiful partnership well into the future. Various shared activities including spiritual and social activities are planned along this line. We also aim to further develop our activities for the Edavaka Mission, youth fellowship, Sevika Sangham and the Sunday school.

**Mission & Objectives:**

The objective of Sinai Mar Thoma Church is to promote the Christian religion, provide its members with regular Christian worship services, in accordance with the traditions of the Mar Thoma Church; provide pastoral care and organise activities to enhance the spiritual life of the members; enhance the ecumenical relationship within the local community and churches; and make voluntary contributions to evangelistic and charitable work in the United Kingdom and abroad.

**Reserve's Policy:**

The reserves held are considered to be the prudent minimum to ensure that the work of the charity continues unhindered for at least 3 months in an orderly manner from year to year, even when donations may fluctuate downwards. The trustees aim to increase the reserves to allow 4 months of unhindered work by the end of the current financial year (2020 – 2021).

**Principal Sources of Funding:**

The majority of funding comes through subscriptions, offertory and other donations by the members.

**Volunteers:**

A substantial contribution to the activities of the church is in the form of voluntary services. The financial benefit of these non-cash donations has not been recognised in these accounts, as by their nature it would be impractical to quantify these in monetary terms.

**Investment Policy:**

The trustees have the authority to make any investments which they think appropriate and beneficial for the work of the charity subject to ratification by the membership body. However, at present the church has no significant surplus finances to make any investment.

**Trustees Induction & Training:**



Both old and new trustees were reminded of their fiduciary responsibilities as trustees. They regularly review income and expenditure statements, meet regularly to delegate tasks and formulate strategy and policies in achieving its objectives and were also made aware that the ultimate responsibility for the charity rests with them.

#### **Financial Review:**

The Trustees met regularly during the financial year to review the various operations of the charity. The trustees are mindful of the reserves policy and the targets to keep its administrative costs to an absolute minimum.

#### **Trustees' Responsibilities:**

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position, the trustees should follow best practice and:

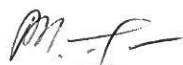
- a. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- b. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- c. State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- d. Prepare the financial statements on going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ascertain the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law and regulations. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **Declaration of serious incidents:**

We solemnly declare that during the reporting year (1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020) there were no serious incidents or other matters affecting the administration, finance and accounting practice to our charity. We make this declaration in accordance with section 169 of the Charity Act 2011.

For and on behalf of the managing committee,



Rev Dr P G George  
Vicar/President

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2020



Sonu Ann Jacob  
Hon. Secretary

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees and Members of Sinai Mar Thoma Church North London.**

We report to the trustees on our examination of the accounts of Sinai Marthoma Church (the charity/Trust) for the year ended 31st March 2020 which are set out on pages 19 to 26 of the Annual Report.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities [Accounts and Reports] Regulation 2008. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters that we are required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's report, and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our work or for this report.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and the independent examiners.**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is required.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures and applicable Directions from the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

### **Basis of report**

We report in respect of our examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out our examination we have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act including:

- a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records
- consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and our report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Additionally, it should be noted that our examination was affected by the lockdown, social distancing and other measures instituted to control the current Coronavirus Pandemic, namely restricting our ability to scrutinise physical accounting records and other paper records. The



scrutiny was carried out using the internet, computer held records, telephone and by video conferencing.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's statement.**

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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 no concerns and 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.

Dr. Jacob Kurien (Independent Examiner):



Mr George Abraham (Independent Examiner):



**Dated:** 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020



**Sinai Mar Thoma Church North London**  
**Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31st March 2020**

		Fig in £	£	£	£
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31st March 2020	Total Funds 31st March 2019
<b>Income</b>					
Subscription	2	35,893		35,893	33,797
Offertory	3	17,160	900	18,060	17,193
Harvest festival		4,727		4,727	5,601
Fusion Fest		0		0	5,425
Christmas Carol Visits		2,356		2,356	3,471
Tax Refund		18,382		18,382	16,357
Other Receipts	4	8,341	5,589	13,930	15,225
Donation for Parsonage	5		1,500	1,500	1,500
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>86,859</b>	<b>7,989</b>	<b>94,848</b>	<b>98,569</b>

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31st March 2020	Total Funds 31st March 2019
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Staff Cost		16,342		16,342	15,809
Parsonage Expenses	6	9,734		9,734	4,283
Vehicle Expenses		1,431		1,431	1,495
Vicar's Transfer Cost	7	4,000		4,000	3,000
Rent	8	7,200		7,200	7,275
Diocesan Payments	9	3,000	50	3,050	3,865
Sabha Office Payments		250		250	1,000
Visiting Bishops & Clergy		300		300	600
Insurance		753		753	662
Printing, Postage, Stationery		427		427	263
Telephone & Internet		1,080		1,080	1,041
Altar Expenses		550		550	25
Interest On Loan		0		0	153
Travel-Conferences etc		0		0	0
Fusion Fest Expenses		330		330	2,403
Professional Fees		1,040		1,040	500
Charity & Donations	10	720	1,919	2,639	4,547
Church Activity Expenses	11	6,172		6,172	10,840
Centre Meeting - Expenditure		100		100	0
Sundry Expenses	12	65		65	-36
Depreciation	13	3,268		3,268	3,338
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>56,763</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>58,732</b>	<b>61,065</b>
<b>Net Surplus for the Year</b>		<b>30,096</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>36,116</b>	<b>37,504</b>

The attached notes 1 - 18 form part of the accounts.



# SINAI MAR THOMA CHURCH NORTH LONDON

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2020

	Notes	31st March 2020		31st March 2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	13		300,878		304,145
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	14		926		792
Cash at Bank and in hand			51,138		34,034
			<u>52,064</u>		<u>34,826</u>
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors and Accruals	15		1,660		742
Due within one year					
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>50,404</u>		<u>34,084</u>
			351,282		338,229
Less					
Unsecured Loan	16		10,000		30,000
Provision for Vicar's relocation cost	7		4,927		7,991
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	18		<u>336,355</u>		<u>300,238</u>
Represented by:					
Designated Funds (ear marked)	17		20,077		18,100
Unrestricted Funds	17		302,643		276,992
Restricted Funds	17		13,634		5,146
			<u>336,355</u>		<u>300,238</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:

### For and on behalf of the trustee's

Rev Dr P G George - President

Mr. Rohit Christopher- Trustee(Treasurer)

Mr Prasad Jacob - Trustee (Accountant)

*M. T.*

*Rohit Christopher*

*Prasad Jacob*



## 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Basis of preparing the financial statements

#### a. General

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Update Bulletin 2 (October 2018) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' EFA, and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when received.

#### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accrual's basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### b. Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on fixed assets on straight line basis using the following rates:

Free hold Property	1% on cost
Motor Vehicles	20% on cost
Computer and office equipment	25% on cost
Furniture and fittings	25% on cost

#### c. Tax recovered

Income tax recovered on covenants and gift aid contributions are recognized when received

## 2 SUBSCRIPTION

This consist of voluntary contribution by members by monthly standing order in most cases.



<b>3 OFFERTORY</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Church Service	10,215	8,475
Birthday Offertory	4,750	4,363
Wedding Anniversary	1,580	2,075
Baptism	200	730
Fasting Offertory**	900	780
Thanks Giving Etc.	415	660
Special Offertory	0	110
	<b>18,060</b>	<b>17,193</b>
<b>** Restricted Funds</b>		
<b>4 OTHER RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Donation	7,246	9,898
Sevika Sangam	1,054	1,260
Sevika Sangam **	500	
Donation received for ASSH project **	3,390	4,060
Donation for Sunday School **	194	
Donation for Youth Fund	750	
Donation for Church Development Fund **	755	
Interest received	41	6
<b>** Restricted Funds</b>	<b>13,930</b>	<b>15,225</b>
<b>5 DONATION FOR PARSONAGE</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Parsonage Purchase **	1,500	1,500
<b>** Restricted Funds</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>6 PARSONAGE EXPENSES</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Repair & Maintenance	5,348	0
Heating, Lighting & Water	2,448	2,594
Television Licence Fee	155	
Council Tax	1,785	1,689
	<b>9,734</b>	<b>4,283</b>
<b>7 PROVISION FOR VICAR'S TRANSFER COST</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Balance brought forward 1st April 2019	7,991	6,438
Provision made in the year	4,000	3,000
Less: Utilised Fund During the Year	-7,064	-1,447
Balance carried fwd. 31st March 2020	<b>4,927</b>	<b>7,991</b>
<b>8 RENT</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Rent (Church)	7,200	7,275
	<b>7,200</b>	<b>7,275</b>
<b>9 Diocesan Payments</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	£	£
Zonal Contributions	1,610	3,465
Zonal Payments (Diocesan Payments)	1,390	
Sevikasangham payment for Dialysis**	50	
Kerala Flood Relief		400
<b>** Restricted Funds</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>3,865</b>

10	Charity/Donation etc.	2020	2019
	<i>General</i>	£	£
	Nursing Students**	909	1,665
	Naveejan Centre (B.Com students)**		982
	KIDS**	610	500
	Harrow Food Bank**	200	400
	St. Luke's Hospice**	200	200
	<i>Sevika Sangham</i>		
	Medical Treatment**		300
	<i>Others</i>		
	Father James (All Saints) Farewell		500
	Rev V T John - Farewell Gift	630	
	KIDS	90	
	** Restricted Funds	<u>2,639</u>	<u>4,547</u>

11	CHURCH EXPENSES	2020	2019
		£	£
	Sunday School	2,093	1,560
	Church Activity Expenses	1,336	
	Special Occasion Meals + Catering	2,428	6,651
	Choir Expenses	217	303
	Youth Activity	98	2,326
	** Restricted Funds	<u>6,172</u>	<u>10,840</u>

12	SUNDRY EXPENSES	2020	2019
		£	£
	Clergy Conference	100	260
	Prior year adjustment	-35	-386
	Bank Charges & Other Incidental Expenses	0	90
		<u>65</u>	<u>-36</u>

13	FIXED ASSETS	Office Equipment	Furniture & Fitting	Motor Vehicle	Freehold Property	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
	Cost					
	At 01/4/2019	2,688	8,670	9,454	326,797	347,610
	At 31/03/2020	0	0	0	0	0
		<u>2,688</u>	<u>8,670</u>	<u>9,454</u>	<u>326,797</u>	<u>347,610</u>
	Less: Depreciation					
	At 01/4/2019	2,688	8,670	9,454	22,652	43,464
	Charge for the year	0	0	0	3,268	3,268
		<u>2,688</u>	<u>8,670</u>	<u>9,454</u>	<u>25,920</u>	<u>46,732</u>
	Net Book Value					
	At 01/4/2019	0	0	0	304,145	304,145
	At 31/03/2020	0	0	0	300,877	300,878

14	DEBTORS	31st March 2020	31st March 2019
		£	£
	Prepayments	383	221
	Other Debtors / Parsonage Insurance	543	571
		<u>926</u>	<u>792</u>



	31st March 2020	31st March 2019
	£	£
<b>15 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS</b>		
Creditors (Students sponsorship - 2018-19/2019-2020)	982	35
Accruals	678	708
	<u>1,660</u>	<u>742</u>

	31st March 2020	31st March 2019
	£	£
<b>16 UNSECURED LOAN FOR PARSONAGE</b>		
Interest Free Loan		
Repayable within ten Years from Jan 2013-Dec2023	<u>30,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
	<u>30,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>

Loan with interest at 5% gross per annum		
Repayable within ten Years from Jan 2013-Dec2023	<u>0</u>	<u>16,493</u>
	<u>0</u>	<u>16,493</u>
Total Unsecured Loan Before Repayment	<b>A</b> 30,000	56,493

Less Repaid During the Year

Interest Free Loan Repayable in five Years from Jan 2013-Dec2018		
Interest free Loan repayable in ten years from Jan 2013-Dec2023	20,000	10,000
Interest bearing Loan repayable in ten years from Jan 2013-Dec2023	<u>0</u>	<u>16,493</u>
	<b>B</b> <u>20,000</u>	<u>26,493</u>
Total Unsecured Loan Balance After Repayment	<b>A-B</b> 10,000	30,000

#### 17 FUNDS MOVEMENT

	General Fund *	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total Fund
	£	£	£	£
As at 1st April 2019	276,992	18,100	5,146	300,238
Net Surplus for the year	20,846	9,250	6,020	36,116
Utilised from Other designated funds	100	-100		
Utilised for Vicar's relocation	7,064	-7,064		0
Prior Year adjustment (Gen Fund)	-2,359	-109	2,468	0
As at 31st March 2020	<u>302,643</u>	<u>20,077</u>	<u>13,634</u>	<u>336,355</u>

\* Unrestricted Funds

#### DESIGNATED FUNDS

	£	£	£	£
	Vehicle Fund	Vicar's Transfer cost Fund	Other Designated Funds	Total Fund
As at 1st April 2019	10,000	8,100	0	18,100
Transfer from General Funds	2,000	4,000	3,250	9,250
Prior year adjustment		-109		-109
Less Transfer to General Funds		-7,064	-100	-7,164
As at 31st March 2020	<u>12,000</u>	<u>4,927</u>	<u>3,150</u>	<u>20,077</u>

18 **NET ASSETS ALLOCATION BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets	300,878		300,878
Current Assets	38,430	13,634	52,064
Current Liabilities	-1,660		-1,660
Less Unsecured Loan	-10,000		-10,000
Provisions for Vicar's relocation	-4,927		-4,927
	<b>322,721</b>	<b>13,634</b>	<b>336,355</b>

**Movement in Restricted and Designated Funds**

	2017-2018	2018-2019		2019-2020(to 31.03.2020)				
	Balance	Allocation/ Receipts	Payments	Balance	Allocation/ Receipts	Payments	Balance	
Vicar Relocation Fund	£6,438.00	£3,000.00	£1,446.94	£7,991.06	£4,000.00	£7,063.75	£4,927.31	Note 7
Motor Vehicle Fund	£8,000.00	£2,000.00		£10,000.00	£2,000.00		£12,000.00	Note 17
Youth Funds					£750.00		£750.00	Note 17
Family Conference				£0.00	£1,000.00		£1,000.00	Note 17
Centre Meeting				£0.00	£1,500.00	£100.00	£1,400.00	Note 17
Local Charity (Fusion Fest)	£1,100.00	£1,010.00	£1,100.00	£1,010.00	£0.00	£1,010.00	£0.00	Note 17
<b>Sub Total</b>							<b>£20,077.31</b>	
***Fasting Offertory***	£2,585.00	£1,005.00	£2,647.09	£942.91	£900.00	£908.79	£934.12	Note 17
***Sevika Sangham***	£300.00	£650.00	£845.00	£105.00	£500.00	£50.00	£555.00	Note 17
***ASSH-Fund***	£2,245.74	£4,060.00		£6,305.74	£3,390.00		£9,695.74	Note 17
***Sunday School***					£193.99		£193.99	Note 17
***Parsonage purchase***	£0.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00		£1,500.00	Note 17
***Church Development Fund***				£0.00	£755.00		£755.00	Note 17
<b>Sub Total</b>							<b>£13,633.85</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£14,230.74</b>	<b>£10,225.00</b>	<b>£6,092.09</b>	<b>£18,363.65</b>	<b>£12,488.99</b>	<b>£2,068.79</b>	<b>£33,711.16</b>	Note 17

\*\*\* Restricted Funds

19. **TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

No remuneration was paid or payable directly or indirectly out of the funds of the church during the year, to any trustees or to any persons known to be connected with the church except the Vicar. The Vicar's stipend was reviewed, rated in accordance with the agreed terms of appointment and the Vicar was also provided with accommodation. All actual expenses incurred by the Vicar for pastoral and management duties were reimbursed to him.

20. **RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2020.



## Sinai Mar Thoma Church North London

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT		
	31st Mar 2020	31st March 2019
<b>Net income</b>	<b>36,116</b>	<b>37,504</b>
Assets addition	0	
Depreciation charge	3,268	3,338
Increase/(Decrease) in debtors	-134	-352
Increase/(decrease) in creditors falling due within one year	918	-30
Decrease in creditors falling due in more than one year (Loan repaid)	-20,000	-26,493
Increase in provision for Vicar's transfer cost fund	-3,064	1,553
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>17,104</b>	<b>15,521</b>
Cash and bank balance at the beginning of the year	34,034	18,513
<b>Cash and bank balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>51,138</b>	<b>34,034</b>