

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1123807

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2019
for
St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

Thomas David Accountancy & Taxation
550 Filton Avenue
Bristol
BS7 0QG

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

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St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31st March 2019

Church Activities:

- **Worship Services:** We conduct Holy Communion services in Malayalam and English on every 2nd and 4th Sunday respectively every month and divine services on rest of the weeks.
- **Students Dedication & Thanksgiving Service:** The student dedication and thanksgiving service was held on 9th September 2018 as part of Holy Communion service with special worship order with an intention to encourage children participation in church worship.
- **Parish Day:** We celebrated our Parish Day on 8th April 2018. The occasion was blessed with the presence of Rev. Sijo John from Canterbury who conducted Holy Communion service and delivered the special message.
- **Harvest Festival:** We celebrated our Harvest Festival on 8th September 2018 at St. Luke's Church, Baxter Road, Ilford.
- **Cultural Program:** We conducted our cultural program on 13th October 2018 at North Romford Community Centre, Collier row, Romford.
- **Charity Collection:** We have undertaken a charity collection of food, clothes and financial assistance for the flood affected people in Kerala and were able to deliver essential items to the affected areas on time.
- **Parish convention:** We conducted our parish convention on 27 and 28 of October 2018. The main speaker of the convention was Evg. Babykutty Pullad.
- **Family Sunday and Sunday School Anniversary:** We celebrated Family Sunday and Sunday School Anniversary together on 11th November 2018 at St. Luke's Church. Our Chief Guest was Rev. Stanley Thomas, vicar of St. James MTC. Holy Communion service was conducted in English and the sermon was delivered by Rev. Stanley Thomas. We felicitated all our Sunday school kids on this occasion.
- **House to House carol singing:** We conducted our House to House carol services all prayer groups actively participated in visiting and sharing the good news about the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Carol Rounds started on 7th December 2018.
- **Bishops Visits:** Our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Issac Mar Phelixinos Episcopa visited our parish on 9th December 2018. Thirumeni conducted the Holy Communion service and blessed the occasion with his sage thoughts. The day was more blessed with the presence of Vicar General Rev. V T John and Rev. Shibu Kurian, vicar of St. John's MTC who attended the service. We were even more blessed by celebrating Thirumeni's birthday on this occasion.
On 26th of May Rt. Rev. Abraham Mar Paulose Episcopa visited our Parish.
- **Christmas Night and Carol Service:** We conducted our Christmas carol service on 23rd December 2018 and Rev. John Brown, vicar of St. Luke's Church delivered the Christmas message.
- **Watch Night Service:** We conducted our Watch Night Service on 31st December 2018. Evg. Sajeew Daniel delivered a meaningful New Year message for us.
- **Youth League:** We hosted the South Zonal Youth Retreat at St. Luke's Church on 23rd February 2018. Youths from various churches in UK attended the retreat with Rev. Sijo John and Mr. Ashish Chacko as main speakers. .
- **VBS (Vacation Bible School):** Our VBS was held from 31st May to 2nd June 2018 at St. Luke's Church, Ilford. Around 80 children participated both from our parish and other churches.
- **Edavaka Mission:** Edavaka mission conducted several prayers in houses and church for spiritual growth.
- **Sevika Sangham:** Sevika Sangham is an integral part of Mar Thoma Church and plays a vital role in church activities
- **Church Picnic:** Church conducted one day picnic to Clacton - on - sea.
- **Prayer Meeting:** We regularly conduct area prayer meetings to support and enhance spiritual growth.
- **Lent season Prayers:** Sandhya Namaskaram prayers were conducted in all areas under the leadership of prayer groups from 4th March 2019 onwards.

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

**Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31st March 2019**

Reference and Administrative Details

Principal address

154 Clockhouse Lane
Collier Row
Romford
Essex
RM5 2TJ

Office Bearers for year 2018-2019

President	:	Rev. Dr Jacob Abraham
Vice President	:	Mrs. Bindumole Skaria
Secretary	:	Mr. Eby Baby
Trustee Finance	:	Mr. Jobin K Jacob
Trustee Accounts	:	Mrs. Mithu M Varghese

Lay Leader- Malayalam	:	Mr. Skaria George
Lay Leader- English	:	Mr. Jacob K Mathews
Sabha Mandalam Representative	:	Mr. Reji Thankachan
Diocesan Assembly Representative	:	Mrs. Elizabeth Varghese

Choir Representative	:	Mrs. Jyothi Joseph
Sunday School Secretary	:	Mrs. Jessin Sarah Koshy
Edavaka Mission Secretary	:	Mr. Binu George
Youth League Secretary	:	Ms. Caroline Benoy
Sevika Sangham Secretary	:	Mrs. Julie Joseph

Area representatives

North London	:	Mr. Siby George
East Ham	:	Mr. Shinu K. Varghese
Romford	:	Mrs. Lizamma Baby
Harlow	:	Mr. Philip Varghese
Chelmsford	:	Mrs. Rachel Samson Abraham

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 set out on pages four to nine.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any 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 the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr Thomas David FCCA
Thomas David Accountancy & Taxation
550 Filton Avenue
Bristol
BS7 0QG

Date: 28/01/2020

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2019 Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
	Notes				
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		43,283		43,283	52,751
Other activities	2	9,694		9,694	7,740
Other income		<u>20,535</u>	<u> </u>	<u>20,535</u>	<u>20,536</u>
Total		73,512		73,512	81,027
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Church Running Costs		55,921		55,921	77,058
Other		<u>1,725</u>	<u> </u>	<u>1,725</u>	<u>2,321</u>
Total		57,646	<u> </u>	57,646	79,379
NET INCOME		15,866		15,866	1,648
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		184,351		184,351	182,703
Transfer between funds		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>200,217</u>	<u> </u>	<u>200,217</u>	<u>184,351</u>

CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

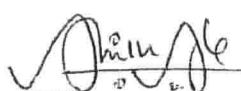
The notes form part of these financial statements

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

Balance Sheet
At 31 March 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2019 Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	287,341		287,341	289,066
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	9,213		9,213	11,296
Cash at bank and in hand	8	<u>30,059</u>		<u>30,059</u>	<u>18,674</u>
		39,272		39,272	29,970
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(18,203)		(18,203)	(18,140)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>21,069</u>		<u>21,069</u>	<u>11,830</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		308,410		308,410	300,896
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(108,193)		(108,193)	(116,545)
NET ASSETS		<u>200,217</u>		<u>200,217</u>	<u>184,351</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	13			200,217	184,351
Restricted funds					
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>200,217</u>	<u>184,351</u>

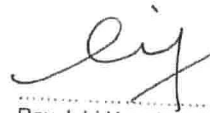
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on and were signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Mithu M Varghese
(Trustee-Accountant)



Mr Jobin K Jacob
(Trustee- Finance)



Rev. Jobi Koruthu
(Vicar and President)

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

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) '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, the 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 once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

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 accruals 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.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	- not provided
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance basis
Motor vehicles	- 25% on reducing balance basis
Computer equipment	- 33.33% on reducing balance basis

The trustees have carried out a full impairment review in accordance with FRS 102, as a result of which no depreciation charge is made in respect of Freehold Property on the ground that the estimated residual value is not materially different from its carrying value in the Balance Sheet.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2019	2018
	£	£
Fundraising -Harvest Festival	<u>9,694</u>	<u>7,740</u>

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2019 nor for the year ended 31 March 2018 other than the ministerial stipend and other related living expenses paid to the vicar for his pastoral duties.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2019 nor for the year ended 31 March 2018.

4. INVESTMENT POLICY

The trustees have the power to transfer money from the current account to a deposit account to maximise the income received from interest.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to its operations, personnel and finances, and are satisfied that the systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to major risks. The trustees to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity periodically review these procedures.

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST					
At 1 April 2018	282,282	6,865	10,048	1,589	300,784
Additions					
At 31 March 2019	<u>282,282</u>	<u>6,865</u>	<u>10,048</u>	<u>1,589</u>	<u>300,784</u>
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 April 2018		4,838	5,650	1,230	11,718
Charge for year		<u>507</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>1725</u>
At 31 March 2019		<u>5,345</u>	<u>6,750</u>	<u>1,348</u>	<u>13,443</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 March 2019	<u>282,282</u>	<u>1,520</u>	<u>3,298</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>287,341</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>282,282</u>	<u>2,703</u>	<u>4,398</u>	<u>359</u>	<u>289,066</u>

7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2019 £	2018 £
Debtors		
Gift Aid Tax Receivable	8,741	10,411
Prepayments	<u>472</u>	<u>645</u>
	<u>9,213</u>	<u>11,296</u>

8. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	General fund £	Restricted Fund £	2019 Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
Cash in hand				
Lloyds Account	29,743		29,743	16,051
CCLA- Building Capital Fund	51		51	51
Barclays Account	265		265	2,572
Total	<u>30,059</u>		<u>30,059</u>	<u>18,674</u>

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2019 £	2018 £
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 13)	8,195	8,195
Social security and other taxes	1,033	1,070
Creditors & Accruals	450	350
Provisions for Vicar's transfer Cost	8,525	8,525
	<u>18,203</u>	<u>18,140</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2019 £	2018 £
Bank loans (see note 11)	108,193	116,545

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church
Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

11. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2019 £	2018 £
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	<u>8,195</u>	<u>8,195</u>
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable by instalments:		
Bank Loan	<u>108,193</u>	<u>116,545</u>

12. SECURED DEBTS

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	2019 £	2018 £
Bank loans	<u>116,388</u>	<u>124,740</u>

The Bank loan is fully secured by first legal charge over the freehold property at 154 Clock House Lane, Romford, Essex, RM5 2TJ.

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.18 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.19 £
Unrestricted Funds				
General fund	181,434	16,043		197,477
Edavaka Missison	378			378
Youth League	96	(7)		89
Sevika Sangam	2,362	(180)		2,182
Sunday School Fund	81	10		91
	<u>184,351</u>	<u>15,866</u>		<u>200,217</u>
Restricted Funds				
Jubilee Project				
	<u>184,351</u>	<u>15,866</u>		<u>200,217</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	70,816	(54,773)	16,043
Sevika Sangam	120	(300)	(180)
Sunday School Fund	680	(670)	10
Edavaka Missison			
Youth League	<u>1,896</u>	<u>(1,903)</u>	<u>(7)</u>
	<u>73,512</u>	<u>57,646</u>	<u>15,866</u>

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2019.

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2018

	2019 £	2018 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Stewardship	18,123	16,720
General Offertory	2,960	4,360
Wedding/Birthday Donations	1,784	1,568
Recessa/Uposhanam/Diocesan Sun	1,230	1,040
General Donations	277	833
Christmas Carol	1,735	1,735
Charity Donations/Spl Offer	2,756	1,840
VBS Donations	1,513	1,298
Special Events	3,051	1,025
Sevika Sangam	120	671
Sunday School Income	720	650
Jubilee Project		9,708
Gift Aid Tax Refund	9,014	11,303
Parsonage Fund		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	43,283	52,751
Other trading activities		
Fundraising -Harvest Festival	9,694	7,740
Other income		
Contributions from churches	20,535	20,536
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total incoming resources	73,512	81,027
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Ministerial Stipend	23,479	23,628
Provident Fund	382	379
Travel & Subsistence	3,369	2,965
Vicarage Expenses	4,948	4,788
Visiting Clergy, Bishops & Evang	1,400	2,000
Motor Expenses	1,646	2,648
Vicars TA for Dio/Centre Meeting	210	
Church/Hall Rent	2,484	2,663
Printing, Postage & Stationery	492	251
Vicar's Transfer Funds	1,188	5,000
Sunday School	1,094	1,137
Choir- Sound Hire	250	158
Recessa,Diocesan & Mandalam	218	121
Special Events/Refreshments	1,488	1,425
Altar Expenses		58
Immigration & Work Permit	753	179
Vacation Bible School	1,767	2,892
Sundry Expenses	35	
Bureau Costs	330	463
Sevika Sangam	300	1,296
Youth League	1,857	423
Accountancy	450	350
Carried forward	48,140	52,824

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 March 2019

	2019 £	2018 £
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	48,140	52,824
Donations	500	500
Membership Fees (COMPE)		2,250
Diocesan Central Meetings		
Charitable Donations		903
Jubilee Project		13,556
Insurance	956	544
Bank Loan Interest & Charges	6,325	6,481
	<hr/> 55,921	<hr/> 77,058
Other		
Fixtures and fittings	507	676
Motor vehicles	1,099	1,466
Computer equipment	119	179
	<hr/> 1,725	<hr/> 2,321
Total resources expended	57,646	79,379
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income	<u>15,866</u>	<u>1,648</u>



St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, London. UK 2018-2019

St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, London. UK 2018-19

13th ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

(For the year ended 31st March 2019)



A Parish of The Mar Thoma Syrian Church in the Diocese of North America and Europe

Member of the Churches Together in England

Member of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Charity Registration Number: 1123807

Place of Worship
St. Luke Church, Baxter Road,
Ilford, Essex IG1 2HN

Vicarage
154, Clock House Lane,
Collier Row –RM5 2TJ

Website: www.marthomachurchlondon.com

Tel: 01708 564 908 / 07825 988 500



St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, London. UK 2018-2019

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018-2019

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY) 2018-19

The members of the Executive Committee during the year and their appointing body where appropriate are as follows:

Rev. Dr. Jacob Abraham	President	Appointed
Mrs. Bindu mol Skaria	Vice-President	Elected
Mr. Eby Baby	Secretary	Elected
Mr. Jobin K Jacob	Treasurer	Elected
Mrs. Mithu M.Varghese	Trustee Accountant	Elected
Mr. Skaria George	Lay Ministrant	Elected
Mr. Jacob Mathew	Lay Ministrant	Elected
Mr. Reji Thankachan	Sabha Mandalam Representative	Elected
Mrs. Elizabeth Varghese	Diocesan Assembly Representative	Elected
Mrs. Jyoti Joseph	Choir Representative	Elected
Mrs. Jessin Sarah Koshy	Sunday School Representative	Elected
Mrs. Julie Joseph	Sevika Sangham Representative	Elected
Mr. Binu George	Edavaka Mission	Elected
Mrs. Rachel Samson Abraham	Area Representative (Chelmsford)	Elected
Mr. Shinu K Varghese	Area Representative (Eastham)	Elected
Mr. Sibi George	Area Representative (North London)	Elected
Mrs. Lizamma Baby	Area Representative (Romford)	Elected
Mr Philip Varghese	Area Representative (Harlow)	Elected

All the committee members are elected in and by the General Body (Edavaka Sangham) after Holy Communion Service or appointed by their respective organisations for a period of one year, except for the President (Vicar) and the representatives to Sabha Mandalam and Diocesan Assembly. The Vicar holds the position of the President and is appointed. The representatives to the Sabha Mandalam and Diocesan Assembly are elected by the general body for a period of three years.

Auditors:

Auditor 1 Thomas Alexander
Auditor 2 Mrs. Mary Benoy

BANKERS:

LloydsTSB
102-104, high road Ilford,
Essex. IG1 1DS.

Barclays Bank
36/38 South Street
Romford – RM1 1RM



St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, London. UK 2018-2019

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 -19

"And I tell you, you are peter, and this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

We must learn that whatever we give up for the obedience and glory of God has tremendous potential to be turned into miracle that will not only bring freedom and deliverance to us, but to others as well. As Moses threw down the rod, it was almost like a throwing down of his past efforts, abilities, and works. Then, God began to work miracles, and in the picking of it back up, God was preparing Moses to see powerful miracles as now He was the one in control!

The Executive Committee has pleasure in presenting the Thirteenth Annual Report of St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church East Area, London- UK for the year ended 31st March 2019.

INTRODUCTION:

The Mar Thoma Church owes its origin to the evangelistic works of St. Thomas the Apostle, who came to India in AD 52. The Church is Eastern in worship, Episcopal in tradition, Democratic in administration, Ecumenical in vision and Catholic in mission and follows the St. James's liturgy. The relationship between the Anglican Church and the Mar Thoma Church goes back to the reformation of the Church in India in 1836. The two churches have since 1974 been in full communion with one another and are frequently represented at each other's celebrations and conferences. The Mar Thoma Church is a full member of the World Council of Churches and always plays active roles including the Presidency in WCC. The Mar Thoma Church was granted membership of the Churches together in England (CTE) and the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). The Marthomites started worshipping in the UK in 1957. St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church was originally formed as the MarThoma Congregation East Area - UK in April 2006 and then as a Parish from May 2007.

MISSION, VISION & OBJECTS:

The motto of the Mar Thoma Church is "Lighted to Lighten". St Peter's Mar Thoma Church East Area, London- UK is a Parish of The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, with its head office in Thiruvalla, Kerala, India. The church is fully committed to serve the spiritual needs of the Mar Thomachristians residing in the East Area of England, promoting Christian harmony and fellowship. We aim to play an important role in passing our faith, traditions, culture and beliefs to our future generation.

As St Peter's Mar Thoma Church, our sole aim is to bear witness the love and sacrifice of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ who died in cross for our sins, providing us hope to have eternal life by faith. We will endeavour to become the beacon in UK especially in the East Area in providing spiritual enrichment to individuals and families through fellowship, prayer and bearing each other's (fellow brethren's) burden under the vision of the Mar Thoma Church. We will seek to support evangelistic work reaching people in the East of London and England and provide pastoral care and serve their spiritual needs.



St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, London. UK 2018-2019

Parish History:

St Peter's Mar Thoma Church was first formed as a Mar Thoma Congregation in the East Area of London, United Kingdom. A committee was established in November 2005, with the aim to establish a new Parish, geographically based in the East Area of UK.

The committee then organised 2 public meetings during December 2005 and January 2006, at St. Michael's Church, Froud Community Centre, Manor Park, where families and individuals residing in the East were invited to express their views. Due to the immense positive backing of these families during this meeting, the committee was subsequently able to collect 35 signatures of support.

In a meeting held on 31st Jan 2006, we submitted a signed list of names to our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Revd. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos, at St. John's Mar Thoma Church, and in April 2006, our Bishop issued a Directive (Kalpana) formally establishing a congregation in the East Area. Rev. Benu John was appointed as our first vicar on 2nd April 2006.

Parish Status:

On 4th March 2007, the General Body unanimously authorised the church committee to request our Diocesan Bishop to establish us as a parish. Eventually signed list of names was forwarded to our Diocesan Bishop. Following a synod meeting in 2007, a Directive (Kalpana) was sent from His Grace the Most Revd. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Metropolitan establishing us as a Parish with effect from 1st May 2007.

St Peter's Mar Thoma Church East Area, London- UK is a registered charity in the United Kingdom with Charity Registration Number 1123807.

Place of Worship:

Presently we worship at St. Luke's' Church, Baxter Road, Ilford, IG1 2HN. We are very grateful to Revd. John Brown and the committee members of St. Luke's Church for their constant support for us and allowing us to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ whole heartily since September 2009. Occasionally we hold special programs at 'Desmond Tutu Hall' beside the Church. Earlier we used to worship at St. Michaels Church Manor Park London between the periods of April 2006 to August 2009.

Reserve Policy:

The parish will set aside reserves to provide financial stability and the means for the sustenance and development of our mission and objectives. The Executive Committee approved that the approximate level of free reserves should be equivalent to four months expenditure. We are pleased to report that the required reserves have been maintained and we continue to operate prudently to build up funds for our future endeavours and developments.

Child Protection Policy:

We have adopted a policy from the Diocese of Chelmsford, based on the requirements of the Children Act 1989, which will be monitored and reviewed annually. All the executive members of the parish and those working closely with children have undertaken DBS (CRB) checks in line with legislative procedures. Currently our DBS checks and application are done through "DBS checks and safeguarding support for Churches and Christian organisations". Mrs. Elizabeth Varghese has been elected as DBS Officer by the executive committee.



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Health and Safety Policy:

The Health and Safety Policy has been adopted by our church and a manual which is updated regularly is maintained.

Sponsorship License:

As a registered charity, according to the UK Immigration Laws, our parish is required to obtain the Sponsorship license from UKBA (United Kingdom Border Agency) for bringing our Vicar under Tier 2- Minister of Religion category which will be granted on the basis of certain eligibility criteria set up by the UKBA. The Home Office granted us the Sponsorship license with the Rating A

Our vicar and family were granted entry visa on the basis of Sponsorship Certificate under the Sponsorship Management System. Our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos appointed Mr. Reji Thankachan as Authorising Officer and Mrs Mithu M.Varghese as key contact person.

Membership:

All baptised persons who have their names in the Parish Register of St Peter's Mar Thoma Church East Area, London - UK are members of parish. All members over the age of 18 and who partake in the Holy Communion constitutes the General Body of the parish. Our membership as on 31st March 2019 is 55 families.

OUR VICARS:

- Rev. Benu John – from April 2006 to April 2007
- Rev. Abraham Mathew – from May 2007 to April 2010
- Rev. Sabu C Mathew – from May 2010 – April 2013
- Rev. Vinoj Varghese – from May 2013 – April 2016
- Rev. Dr. Jacob Abraham – from May 2016 – April 2019
- Rev. Jobi Koruth - From May 2019- present

Diocese Bishops :

St. Peter's Mar Thomas church is under the leadership of UK & Europe Mar Thomas Zone and has been an active part of the council of the Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE) there are 17 parishes and congregations in the UK, Europe Zone. Further we whole heartedly want to thank Rt. Rev Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos our dioceses bishop who took charge on 1st April 2016, who continually helps and guides us in all church activities. May God almighty provide him with all the blessings to continually guide and nurture us.

VICARAGE:

The Annual General Body Meeting of St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church held on 17th August 2014 suggested the executive committee, to study the feasibility of the purchase of a parsonage through a Bank Mortgage payment. A subcommittee consisting of 5 members to find a suitable house was constituted. A house on sale at Collier Row (154, Clock House Lane RM 5 2TJ), at a distance of 7 miles from the St Luke's Church was selected as the new Vicarage. The purchase was completed on 30/06/2015 and by the grace of God the Parsonage was dedicated on 14/08/2015 by our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa. As on 31st March 2019 the outstanding amount as loan is £116,388



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UK CENTRE & EUROPE REGION:

Our members are taking active leadership in various organisations under UK Centre and Europe Regional set up of the church.

COMPE (Council of Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe):

Our Parish is a contributing member of Council of Marthoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE) which was inaugurated in June-2018. The formation of the Council Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE) is based on the long term needs of a region, which is 4000 miles away from the administrative headquarters, at Merrick, New Jersey, of the North America and Europe Diocese, The Council of the Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE) is a unique instrument of the MarThoma Church, instituted for transacting effective administrative coordination of all parishes and congregations within the newly formed UK and Europe Zone.

CTE & CTBI Membership:

We, St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, London have membership in both Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Briton and Ireland (CTBI).

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Worship Services:

The Holy Communion services are celebrated in Malayalam and English on the Second and the Fourth Sundays of the month respectively. Divine services are conducted on First, Third and Fifth Sundays (as in case of 5th Sundays in a month). During the year we conducted 55 services of which 26 were Holy Communion services (including 4 at Chelmsford), 23 Divine worship services, 1 Christmas Carol Service, 1 Year-End Watch night service.

Parish Convention and Fasting Prayer:

We conducted two days convention on 27th and 28th October 2018 at St. Luke Church. Convention Speaker was Evg. Babykutty Pullad.

Student dedication & Thanksgiving Service:

Student dedication and thanksgiving service was held as part of Holy Communion Service with special worship order promoting children participation in church worship on 9th September 2018.

Christmas Carol Service:

Christmas Carol Service held on 23th of December 2018. The Christmas message was delivered by Rev. John Brown, Vicar of St. Luke Church, Ilford. The service was well attended by parish member and few members from our sister parishes as well. The Church Choir electrified the evening by their wonderful melodious songs praising and sharing the good news about the birth of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Programs also were presented by Sunday school children, Savikasangam, Edvakamission and prayer groups.

Our Choir members were participated the Ecumenical Carol Service on 29th December 2018 at Hounslow. Hosted by St. Thomas MTC Hounslow.

House to House carol singing:

House to house carol singing was conducted and all areas actively participated in visiting and sharing the good news about the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Carol Rounds Started on 7th of December 2018. Mr. Shiju Thomas coordinated the carol rounds. On Behalf of Executive committee, We would like to thank you all the area representative for their great support in making house to house carols singing a great time of joy and participation.



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Watch Night Service:

We had the Watch Night service on 31st December 2018 at 10:00 pm at St. Luke's Church, Baxter Road, Ilford. New year message given by Evg. Sajeev Daniel. The service was well attended by many of our members, thanking and praising Lord Jesus for allowing them another new year with their families and friends.

Harvest Festival:

The Harvest Festival was celebrated on 8th of September 2018 at St. Luke Church Ilford. Sevika Sangham organised various stalls with Kerala delicacies. The youth league organised various games and other activities. Auctions of home-made products and other items played a key role in fund raising activity of the day. We raised a total amount £9,694. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the families for their generous support in Auction. We express our special thanks to our the convenors Anil Cherian and Mithu M Varghese for their effort, at the same time appreciate the hard work of Mrs Julie Joseph (Sevika Sangham Secretary) and the team in effectively coordinating and planning the food allocation between families.

Cultural Program:

Cultural Program was conducted on 13th of October 2018 at Romford Community Centre. Collier row. Convener was Samson Abraham and programs were conducted by respective prayer groups.

We take pride in dressing up in traditional Kerala cloths and perform traditional dance and acts. Our children, youths, and adults show case their talents reflecting rich Kerala tradition. There after every one sit down, to enjoy the traditional Kerala meal specially served on banana leaves with 22 to 27 different types of side dishes including at least two type of sweet dish.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the families, especially children and youths for their whole hearted high volt participation in our cultural festival. We would like to thank our coordinator Mr. Samson Abraham for his wonderful event management and highly organised way of doing things.

Parish Day:

We celebrated our parish day on 8th of April 2018. We invited Rev. Sijo John as chief guest for our Parish Day Service. A brief report of Parish activities was read.

Family Sunday and Sunday School Anniversary

We celebrated Family Sunday and Sunday School Anniversary together on 11th of November 2018 at St. Luke Church. Chief Guest on that day was Rev. Stanley Thomas Achen Vicar of St. James Marthoma Church, London. Holy Communion Service in English Celebrated by Rev. Stanley Thomas Achen. He delivered message and distributed prizes for Sunday school Students.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Our V.B.S. (Vacation Bibles School) was held from 31st May and 1st and 2nd June at St. Luke's Church, Ilford and the theme was "Transformer". Around 80 children both from our parish and other churches as well. As VBS directors were Mr. Issac Samuel and Shija Issac from Bristol Mar Thoma Church. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of Mr. Varghese Abraham (VBS convener) and all the Sunday teachers for their support throughout the VBS. It was a great time for children as they thoroughly enjoyed the VBS and are eagerly waiting for the next year. As part of VBS, children raised 500 to support charity work. On 23th of December 2018 as part Christmas Carol Service, Trustee Accounts Mrs. Mithu M Varghese handed over the amount to Revd. John Brown Vicar of St. Luke's Church, Ilford.



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PRAYER GROUPS:

St. Peter's Mar Thoma church presently has 6 active prayer groups. Prayer groups elect a representative for the executive committee and the representative coordinate area prayer meetings and other activities in the particular area.

Chelmsford –

Mrs. Rachel Samson was elected as area representative for Chelmsford area prayer group. Chelmsford area prayer group conduct Holy Communion Service as an outreach mission activity (as part of St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church London) to support spiritual growth among believers in and around Chelmsford and from our church participate in Holy Communion Service held bi-monthly (once in two month) in Chelmsford. Regular monthly prayer meetings, intercessor prayer for sick and needed and Sandaya Namaskaram prayer in the month of Great Lent. Chelmsford Family Retreat was conducted after the Holy communion service held on 9th of December by Rev. Jacob Abraham and classes for Children and parents are given by Tim, Youth minister in Chelmsford cathedral

Eastham –

Mr. Shinu K Varghese was the elected area representative of Eastham area prayer group. Regular prayer meetings were conducted in the area to support spiritual growth of the members in the area.

Ilford –

Prayer meetings and sandhya namaskarams were conducted in this area to support spiritual growth of the members in the area.

North London –

Mr. Siby George was the elected area representative of North London area prayer group. Regular prayer meetings are conducted in the area to support spiritual growth of the members in the area.

Romford –

Mrs. Lizamma Baby was the elected area representative of Romford area prayer group. Romford area prayer group conduct prayer meetings twice in month.

Harlow –

Mr Philip Varghese (Binu) was the elected as area representative of Harlow. Mr Philip Varghese had been instrumental in planning and arranging regular prayer meetings in Harlow area to support spiritual growth among Harlow members.

Let's unite in thanking God Almighty for our 6 prayer groups and their wonderful support in all spiritual activity including Holy Communion service, Sandaya Naskaram, Carol service, etc and other activities like harvest festival, cultural festival, carol rounds etc.

Bishops Visits:

Our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Issac Mar Phelixinos Episcopa visited our parish on 9th December 2018. Thirumeni conducted the Holy Communion service and blessed the occasion with his sage thoughts. The day was more blessed with the presence of Vicar General Very reverend V T John and Rev. Shibu Kurian, vicar of St. John's MTC who attended the service. We were even more blessed by celebrating Thirumeni's birthday on this occasion.

Church Picnic:

Church conducted one day picnic to Clacton - on - sea.

Visiting other Parishes:

We participated for the Zonal Inauguration and First Zonal meet of UK and Europe was held on 9th of June 2018 at Tamworth. We attended the All Saints Mar Thoma church dedication service on 2nd of February 2019. Our church members attended Badminton tournament hosted by St. Johns MTC Hounslow on 20th October 2018.



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Kerala flood Support:

Our parish organised a special prayer on Sunday in flood affecting period. Church collected food and other necessary items and hand over to St. John's church to support. Church also collected donations from members.

Matrimony:

No matrimony reported in this period.

BAPTISM:

We conducted two baptism ceremonies this year.

CHURCH and its ORGANISATIONS

Sunday School:

Sunday school classes are being held every week under the guidance of a dedicated team of teachers. There are 42 students and 14 teachers (full time and part-time). Under the leadership of Mrs. Elizabeth Varghese (head teacher) Sunday School is running actively. Sunday school is conducted regularly and we follow curriculum designed by North America & Europe Diocese. Sunday school final exam held on 2nd July. Word Sunday School held on 3rd of November 2018 at All Saints MTC , Peterborough. Our Sunday school Students presented a skit on that day.

Sevika Sangham (The Women's Mission)

Suvishesha Sevika Sangham or Sevika Sangham is an integral part of Mar Thoma Church and plays a vital role in church activity. Every woman above the age of 18 years is a member of the Sevika Sangham. Sevika Sangham organises regular Bible study and fasting prayer on every 2nd Saturday of the month. They participate in centre meetings and programs organised by sister church from time to time. Sevika Sangham under the leadership of Mrs Julie Joseph has done commendable work in the area of Fasting prayer, Chain prayer and Charity. By the Grace of God, Sevika sangham have a great deal of involvement in Harvest festival, and Christmas Carol services. We really appreciate the group effort and hard work of the team members.

Youth Fellowship:

Youths have their regular cottage prayer meetings. They also have bible studies and take active part in the choir and worship services. Youth members participate in programmes organised by our sister parishes. Youth league member participate and support various church programs under the leadership of youth secretary Miss. Caroline Benoy.

The first Zonal youth retreat hosted by St. Peter's MTC. London. at St. Luke's Church on 23rd Feb 2019.

The theme for the retreat was "Feasts and Fasts of the Mar Thoma Church". The speakers of the day were Rev. Stanley Thomas, Rev. Sijo John, Mr. Ashwin Chacko. 95 youths were attended this meeting from various parishes.



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Choir:

Choir takes active part in Sunday Services. The choir practices one hour every Sunday before the worship service. It's very encouraging seeing the choir leaders nurturing young talents and supporting them to sing and play musical instruments. The choir always update themselves by learning new hymns and tunes published by the DSMC of Mar Thoma church.

Choir Dedication Service was held on 24th of June as part of Holy Communion Service. Melody is at its best when it comes to Christmas carols, as choir members start practicing songs well in advance. They also participated in the ecumenical service held at St John's Mar Thoma Church, Hounslow on the 31st of December 2018. We highly value the dedication of all choir members in ensuring that we have a graceful service on Sundays. Ms. Sneha Skaria was elected Secretary of our church choir. Mrs. Jyothi Joseph and Mr. Suraj Alex served as the Malayalam and English choir leaders respectively.

Edavaka (Parish) Mission (Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelistic Association -MTEVA)

With the sole motto of every marthomite, all the members above 18 years of age is considered to be members of EdavakaMission. Edavaka mission is instrumental in organising prayer meetings and bible classes. They also give leadership in organising Family Retreats. Edavaka mission conducted prayers in various houses during the year. Edavaka mission secretary was Mr. Binu George and Trustee was Mr. Anil Cherian.

Committee and General Body Meetings:

The executive committee met 9 times during the year to plan and advice necessary guidance for the regular and other activities of the parish. Three General body meetings were held during the year to decide various policy matters regarding several activities of the parish.

A joint committee meeting was held at St. Luke's Church between St. Peter's MTC and All Saints MTC committee members to plan future programs.

WEBSITE:

The Parish web site is www.marthomachurchlondon.com, which is regularly updated with useful information for our church members. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Varghese Abraham for the timely web updates.

NEWS LETTER / PROGRAMME DIARY:

The St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church newsletter is published quarterly with programme dairy of all services and events, Epistle and Bible Reading portions, names of members who are to read the lessons and those assisting the Vicar. The newsletter keeps our members informed of all future events.

FINANCE:

The audited statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019 is appended to this report together with the statement by the Independent Examiners appointed under the Charities Act 1993 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2000.

Our sincere gratitude to Trustees, internal auditors and Thomas David Accountancy and Taxation, Bristol for their timely preparation of accounts, auditing work undertaken and reports.



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VISITING BISHOPS, CLERGY AND EVANGELISTS:

We are very grateful to all who visited our parish and blessed us by sharing the gospel of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, especially to:

- Rt. Rev. Issac Mar Phelixinos Episcopa
- Rt. Rev. Abraham Mar Paulose
- Very reverend V.T John
- Rev. Stanley Thomas
- Rev. Shibu Kurian
- Rev. Sijo John

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Our sincere gratitude are due to all those who guide us and support us, particularly to:

- The Most Revd. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostam Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan
- The Most Revd. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan
- The Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt. Revd. Stephen Cottrell
- The Diocesan Bishop Rt. Revd. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius.
- The Diocesan Bishop Rt. Revd. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
- Revd. John Brown, The Anglican Parish of St. Luke's Great Ilford.

We acknowledge the contributions of various leaders who prayerfully supported the mission and vision of St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church.

We are indebted to all our Parish Members for their generosity and active participation in all the programmes. The executive committee extends our heartfelt appreciation to all convenors, coordinators, office bearers for their prayerful support towards spiritual growth.



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CONCLUSION:

By the grace of Our Heavenly Father, Our saviour Lord Jesus Christ and The Holy Spirit, we have completed yet another year as Parish in the East Area of London. We are continuously being blessed with new members. God has been so kind and good to all of us, graciously blessing us in all our endeavours and without God's providence we would not have reached this far.

We are obliged to Rev. Dr. Jacob Abraham in guiding us and also to Reena Kochamma and children who had taken time and effort to actively participate in our church activities.

The Executive Committee is grateful for the prayer and financial support of each and every member of St. Peter's Mar Thoma church and sister parishes in United Kingdom. Let us be an example to others by being a community extending warm welcome to all guests and newcomers, offering every possible help and support, binding each other with the chord of love gifted to us by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

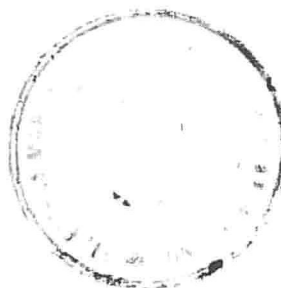
"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1Corinthians 3:11)

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

Mr. Eby Baby

(Secretary – St. Peter's Mar Thoma Church, Ilford, London)

Date: 31st March 2019.



Read & Passed:-

Rev. Jobi Kollam