

## CHRISTWAY CHURCH BASILDON



Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Philippians 3:12

#### LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear my sheep,

Apostle Paul writes to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice...the Lord is near." In the midst of a broken and hurting world, we can rejoice because the Lord is indeed near to us and his generosity is overwhelming. As I write to you, to present the Annual Report for Christway Church Basildon for this past 2020-21 Fiscal Year,

I once again marvel at the generosity of God and the blessings he has bestowed upon our parish.

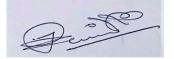
God's love and grace have been at work in you and in your willingness to share your talents and your resources to build up the Body of Christ at Christway. The parish continues to grow in numbers and grace. We are blessed to have a parish full of believers and Kids who are Christ centric and deep routed in Christian Faith. This brings great richness to our celebrations of the Sunday Mass, our Faith Formation programs and our outreach efforts.

Over this past year we have been able to undertake, not very but at least a few new initiatives in addition to all the regular things we do as a parish even in the difficult times of this pandemic. Things like this can only happen when people like you live out your faith and put it into practice by stepping forward to build up our parish with your time, talent and financial resources. So, I want to thank you for being so supportive of our Church and being such great witnesses to our faith. I feel very blessed to serve as pastor of such a wonderful Church.

This annual report reflects this past fiscal year's efforts, activities, initiatives and many more together with the financial report for our Church and the breadth of our programs, but it cannot begin to reveal what happens in our hearts when we turn our lives over to God. It can only describe a fraction of the wonderful work God does through you at Christway.

Thank you and may God continue to bless you for your generosity and love.

In Christ,



Jain Thomas

Dear Members and Friends,

In last year, Ps. Jain Thomas began weekly Sunday service together with Colchester Sharon Fellowship Church and it went through the Online Platform Zoom for many months. Eventually, God brought together some believers with similar vision in Basildon and in Chelmsford who were interested in seeing a flourished church established in Basildon.

Finally, on the 3rd Sunday of May, we re-launched our first in-house worship service at Ingaway Chruch Building, Basildon. Over these all the weeks and months, till this moment, we experienced a time of intense grace, where we saw many people regaining their faith in Christ and the Church and we witnessed Miracles and Wonders all through what we went on.

Christway continues its transition from being a single, centralized church to becoming an influential congregation to the Church in Colchester and the believers in Chelmsford too. And the goal goes beyond that, because the vision is for multiple congregation, launching other sites and worshipping communities until Christway is a united family of congregations and churches of all sizes, working together to love and serve our city and nation.

I want to thank those of you who have been on this journey with Christway, some of you even from day one. Still I would like to call all who has gathered here as the pilot team assigned by Father God for giving hand and shoulders to the Man of God ordinated with the Heavenly Vision, Pastor Jain Thomas. And I welcome those of you who have recently come into this community. Thanks for all for your sacrificial love, work and giving.

#### The Public face of Christway

We have a God-given mission to make disciples of all nations. In short, warmth is nothing less than showing the love of God to others. It can be as simple as acknowledging people with a smile as you pass them in the hallway, or calling someone you haven't seen at church in a while to check on them. Warmth tells people they matter to God and to us. As Christians, we are called to be known by our love (John13:35). So look for ways to express and extend the love of God to others. It will likely make a bigger difference in their lives than you know. And it should extend even out of the walls and pillars of the Church

So we are taking up the theme "Thy Kingdom Come" as our point of focus for the new ministry year. We looked at Jesus's parables and, in particular, the parable of the mustard seed showed us that the signature paradox of the kingdom is that it is both far bigger and far smaller than we think. Like the mustard tree, it is far bigger than we think in its scope and impact. Therefore, our prayers are culpably small. But like the mustard seed, it is also far smaller than we think. It moves forward quietly through humility and weakness. It doesn't require grand heroic deeds from us, just ordinary acts of faithfulness. So our aim for the year ahead would be:

"Pray big, bold prayers. Do small, but faithful things."

Because, one of the core values of Christway is to be a church community where our friends who are not believers find their questions welcomed and addressed, their doubts and concerns respected. We want to be a community where there are always many spiritual inquirers in our midst — a church whereanyone can enter Christian community and see the beauty of the gospel.

Three questions:

How often do you pray for non-Christians? How often do you invite non-Christian friends to church events? How often do you share the gospel in a year?

These three questions remains yet to be answered and will be wonderfully answered with highest hope in the next year by Christway.

#### HOPE THAT'S WITHIN IN ACTION

70 +

33

15

25

20

9

2

Christway conducted 70+ weeks Sunday Services through Zoom platform during the Pandemic and as much as Thursday evening meetings.

### 80+ Our congregation is reaching to a count of 100 soon with almost 75+ members all together.

33 In-house Sunday worships we have conducted so far at Ingaway Church Building, Basildon and as many Thursday meetings too. 2 series of Fasting prayers also we conducted and an year ending meeting of 2020.

We have an efficient body of Sunday school with beautiful, charming and energetic 15 students under the leadership of Br.Liju Thomas. On behalf of all the Parents and the church, I thank all the teachers who have put their best effort to train the Army.

We had 3 Youth meetings this year so far. Christway Youth Movement(CYM) and its initiatives led by Br. Jemcy Joy was astonishing with limited resources and challenges. Our parents also generously participated to make all meetings magnificent. There would be more outreach programs, camps and more in the upcoming year.

The Angels of Christway gathered to form an incredible Naomi's House. Our dreams for the future of NH and how our program can impact women are endless! We are praying that God will give us the opportunity to serve many women who are in distress over the next year.

The Worship and Music Ministry carried out meaningful experiences of worship, including music which is marvelous even Angels are jealous about. Christway have a wonderful choir team led by Neethu, Lisha, Jubin and Jerome

A fully efficient Multimedia team has been there with Christway all through the journey led by Br:Liju Thomas assisted By Br: Arun to whom also church is thankful about.

### Caring, Sharing and Giving Ministry Team

Church generously contributed to Pastors, believers and other families who were really in need due may difficult times they have undergone, especially due to the pandemic during the last year.

Now we have team to make it more efficient and generous. We continue to grow pledge giving for the church through outreach, work with other ministry teams to support church ministries in and out UK. And continue to provide guidance of good stewardship practices to the congregation. Teaming with Fellowship Committee would coordinate and sponsor the annual church picnic which we have in plan next year.

# Thank you