North Norfolk Conference Update
September 2023

- We still, as ever, meet weekly.
- One long-serving member has retired.
- We have one new Auxiliary member who regularly helps with the weekly Norwich soup run.
- The soup run is a weekly fixture supported by the Secular Franciscans; every fourth week the event is run by Norwich Justice and Peace members. It caters for 20 – 25 beneficiaries each time. Fr Andrew has brought young Fakenham parishioners to help a couple of times, and our own Fr Peter attended with some recently confirmed young parishioners, too.
- We continue to visit a half-dozen or so local people who are lonely, house-bound or care-home residents.
- We have bought a washing machine and tumble drier (c. £500) for one of them, and a bed, fridge and cooker (c. £300) for another who was introduced by the food bank.
- We spent £233 on various necessities for one of our Rosalie Rendu House residents who found permanent accommodation elsewhere.
- We now have a storage facility for furniture and white goods etc. that are donated for distribution. This is paid for by an anonymous benefactor. We are also using it to store possessions of homeless beneficiaries.
- We are supporting two individuals in danger of homelessness: one, a compulsive hoarder whose flat is now virtually uninhabitable and who has been sleeping in the woods through choice; another with mental health issues whose long-term sofa surfing arrangement is coming to an end soon, who we have referred to Mind, Citizens Advice and local supported housing through the NNDC.
- We found a homeless young man sleeping in the doorway of a local church; he said he had a job and accommodation in Norwich in a couple of weeks so we paid for bed and breakfast until then, but in the meanwhile he gave several conflicting stories to conference members and left two days early, claiming that he was going to the West Country.
- **Temporary Emergency Accommodation Project**

The conference continues to give Local Overall Guidance and much support to the £1.2million pound investment made by the Society in 3 houses in the Cromer and Sheringham area. Started in 2018, the houses provide Temporary Emergency Accommodation for homeless families and single people. In the last financial year the project protected 65 lives from homelessness comprising of 7 families with 27 children and 31 single people, most of whom moved on positively to permanent homes. In the current post Covid and high inflation economic situation there is an overwhelming demand for more family housing and a proposal is being considered to convert our house for single people into accommodation for 2 more families.