ST JAMES MAR THOMA CHURCH-UK

England & Wales · Charity number 1059210

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1996-11-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	167 Avery Hill Road New Eltham London SE9 2EX
Phone	02037305347
Email	londonstjamesmtcvicar@gmail.com
Website	stjamesmarthomachurch.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION; PROVIDE ITS MEMBERS WITH REGULAR CHRISTIAN WORSHIP SERVICES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRADITIONS OF THE MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH OF MALABAR; PROVIDE PASTORIAL CARE AND ORGANISE ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF ITS MEMBERS; MAKE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR EVANGELISTIC AND CHARITABLE WORK IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ABROAD- ESPECIALLY INDIA

Activities: To advance the christian faith, provide its members with pastoral care and organise activities to promote spiritual life of its members, enhance the ecumenical relationship within the local community and churches and make voluntary contributions for evangelical and charitable work in the UK and abroad.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNITED KINGDOM AND ABROAD-ESPECIALLY INDIA.
- India
- Throughout London

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£338,206	£285,103	-	-
2024-03-31	£323,529	£263,974	-	-
2023-03-31	£286,092	£231,979	-	-
2022-03-31	£227,156	£163,430	-	-
2021-03-31	£379,109	£347,918	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Soju Thomas	Chair	2023-05-05
Ajex John		2023-04-01
Aji Chacko		2021-10-31
Ajy Kavumpadickal Cheriyan		2025-06-08
Alex Puthukattu Sam		2021-10-31
Ashok Thomas		2022-07-31
Cyril John		2021-10-31
DInker Mathew Kurian		2025-06-08
Iju V Thomas		2021-10-31
Jickson Varghese George		2025-06-08
Jiku Thomas		2026-04-01
Jithin Rajan Chacko		2024-04-01
Mathews John		2025-06-08
Noble John Mathew		2021-10-31
PLACHIVILA KOCHUMMEN EDISON		2013-01-14
RASHMI ELEZABETH PHILIP		2024-04-01
SHEENA JOHN		2024-04-01
Sabu George		2023-04-01
Shajan Varampel Mathai		2021-10-31
Shanty Thomas		2024-04-01
Shiju Thomas		2019-04-01

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ST JAMES MAR THOMA CHURCH-UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1059210

Accounts

St James Mar Thoma Church, UK

Mar Thoma Centre, 167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

Annual Report & Accounts for the year 2024-2025

A parish of The Mar Thoma Syrian Church in the Diocese of UK, Europe & Africa
Member of the Churches Together in England
Member of the Churches Together in Britain & Ireland
Registered Charity No. **1059210**
www.marthomachurch.org.uk

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Annual Report 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

Introduction

A parish is the place where the people of God gather to offer thanksgiving and grow in deeper intimacy with Christ and the Church. It is where we welcome others and strive to build a family of love through our communion with Christ and one another, as a worshipping and sacramental community. God Almighty enables us to live with this vision and to bear witness to Christ Jesus.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of St. James Mar Thoma Church UK, it is with immense pleasure and a heart full of praise and gratitude to the Almighty Lord that we present to you the annual report and financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2025.

Let us thank the Lord Almighty for His guidance, mercy, and grace that we have experienced as a parish over the past twenty-nine years, and glorify His name for His faithfulness. We thank our Almighty God for giving us this wonderful opportunity to serve Him and our parish during the year.

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, the Charities Act 2011, and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102). The trustees have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have paid due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission in relation to activities carried out for the public benefit.

Historical Perspective of our Parish

St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK (SJMTC), is a parish of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, in the Diocese of the UK, Europe, and Africa.

Mar Thoma worship in the UK began in 1957 at the Indian YMCA, London. St. James Parish was based in Central London and continued the worship that had started in the 1950s to meet the spiritual needs of members residing in London and the Home Counties.

St. James Mar Thoma Church UK is a registered charity in the United Kingdom (Charity Reg. No: 1059210), with its registered office at St. James Mar Thoma Centre, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Our parish is now administratively placed in the Diocese of the UK, Europe, and Africa, and His Grace Rt. Rev. PD Dr. Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa is our Diocesan Bishop. We are blessed and thankful for His Grace's continuous support and leadership extended to our parish.

Mission and Objective

The mission and objective of the Church are to preserve and safeguard the faith as revealed by Christ and taught by the Apostles, and to promote the spiritual life of the faithful through the administration of the sacraments and the preaching of the Word.

Our mission is to serve people as servants of the resurrected Christ, without diluting or distorting the ethos of the Church. As a parish, we are committed to promoting the Christian faith, providing our members with regular Christian worship services in accordance with the traditions of the Mar Thoma Church, offering pastoral care, and organising activities to enhance and support the spiritual life of our members. We also aim to strengthen ecumenical relationships within the local community and other churches, and to provide financial support for evangelistic and charitable work in the United Kingdom and abroad, particularly in India.

Governing Document

St James Mar Thoma Church UK is governed by the constitution adopted on 27th October 1996 and as amended on 29th January 2006 and submitted to the Charity Commission and by the constitution of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, India.

Ecumenical Relations

While retaining many of the traditional characteristics of the ancient Eastern church, the Mar Thoma Church keeps very close relations with Christian churches in other parts of the world. The Church enjoys full intercommunion relationship with the world-wide Anglican Church and is a full member of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). Locally, we are also members of the Churches Together in New Eltham (CTNE)

Parish Membership& General Body participation

A parish register of all members is maintained by the Vicar and is kept updated. All persons above 18 years, who have their names on the parish register, receive Holy Communion in the parish and whose parish membership has not been barred, are entitled to be Edavaka Sangham members (General Body of the parish).

Our membership as of 31st March 2025 was 229families including new families who joined the parish during the reporting year. We welcome these new families to the fellowship of St James Mar Thoma Church, UK.

Vicar

We acknowledge the services of our Vicar Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas, his wife Mrs. Jessen Varghese and their two children, Eben Soju Thomas and Elmina Jessy Soju during this period. Vicar Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas has now completed two years of his service as the Vicar of our church. Vicar's spiritual leadership and pastoral care has made a significant impact to the members' spiritual life and wellbeing. Through Vicar's leadership and guidance, all organisations of the church and prayers groups are functioning well. Vicar has also taken an active role in the various activities of the Diocese. We thank the Vicar and family for their blessed ministry in our parish over the last two years.

Appointment of Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee)

The appointed Vicar of St James Parish is the President. The trustees (members of the Executive Committee) are elected or nominated every year before the commencement of the financial year. They are elected either by the General Body or by the members of the organisation whom they represent or nominated by the Diocesan Bishop. The Sabha Mandalam and the Diocesan Assembly members are elected/nominated and their terms of office to these bodies are for a period of three years. The appointment of Trustees is as per the constitution.

Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee) for the reporting year

The following members served as the Trustees of the Charity for the year 2024-2025.

President & Vicar	Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas	Appointed
Vice President	Mr. P.K. Edison	Elected
Secretary	Mr. Iju Thomas	Elected
Trustee Finance	Mr. Ashok Thomas	Elected
Trustee Accounts	Mr. Ajex John	Elected
Lay Leader 1	Mr. Shajan Varampel Mathai	Elected
Lay Leader 2	Mr. Jithin Rajan Chacko	Elected
Sabha Mandalam Member	Mr. Sabu George	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly Member	Mr. Cyril Abraham John	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly Member	Mr. Noble J Mathew	Nominated
Edavaka Mission Representative	Mr. Alex P Sam	Elected
Sevika Sangham Representative	Mrs. Shanty Thomas	Elected
Sunday School Representative	Mrs. Rashmi Philip	Elected
Youth Fellowship Representative	Mr. Thomas Rajan Chacko	Elected
Choir Representative	Mr. Aji Chacko	Elected
Area Prayer Group Representatives	Mr. Jeemon Eapen (Bury St Edmunds Area) Mr. Shiju Thomas (East Area) Mr. George K Easaw(Ipswich Area) Mr. Shabu Varughese(Kent Area) Mr. Stephen Varughese Joseph (South East Area) Mrs Sheena John (South Area)	Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected

The Executive Committee met 8 times during the year to discuss and deliberate on the day-to-day running of the Parish, as well as to execute the decisions of the General Body.

Other Officials

Data Protection Officer (DPO)	Mr. Jithin Rajan Chacko
Internal Auditors (Elected)	Mr. Mathews John Mr. James Malayil Varghese

General Body Meetings

Three general body meetings were held during the reporting year. All general body meetings were held in-person in our church.

The Annual General Body meeting (AGM) was held on Sunday 2nd June 2024to receive and approve the annual report and accounts for the year 2023-24 and to receive and approve the budget for the year 2024-2025. The general body approved the annual report and accounts forth year 2023-2024 and passed the budget for 2024-2025.

The second General Body meeting was held on 27thOctober 2024. In this meeting, the General Body decided to provide the remaining amount required to reach a total of INR Ten Lakhs to Evangelist in order to bring the housing aid to a closure and also authorised the Executive Committee to determine the use of the remaining budgeted INR Five Lakhs for the betterment of Evangelists

The third general body meeting was held on Sunday 23rd February 2025to elect the office bearers and auditors for the year 2025-2026. In this meeting, general body also accepted the proposal from Executive Committee to elect Data Protection Officer (DPO) and Data Controller Officer (DCO) from within the executive committee for 2025-26.

Risk Management

The Executive Committee have, from time to time, examined the major operational risks which the parish faces and confirms that systems have been established to enable regular review of steps that can be taken to reduce these risks. Risk management is reviewed and discussed at Executive Committee meetings.

For the safe running of the Church, a Health and Safety Policy has been adopted. A CCTV guideline is also followed for the use in Church.

Reserves Policy

St James Mar Thoma Church shall set aside reserves to provide financial stability and the means to sustain, improve and develop its mission and objects. As the flow of income is not uniform, reserves need to be set aside to meet expenses that are irregular in pattern. The Executive Committee has determined that the approximate level of free reserves should be equivalent to three months expenditure, approximately £53,000 and continued effort is taken to maintain this.

Financial Update

St James Mar Thoma Church is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of members and well-wishers. We are greatly indebted for their financial support. The full income and expenditure statement for the year 2024/25 and the balance sheet are attached. In spite of the current political and economic situations around the world, it is pleasing to note that our various collections have increased.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

We have adopted a policy, based on the requirements of the Children Act 1989, which is monitored and reviewed annually. DBS checks are being carried out on all individuals who take responsibility for children's activities.

Our Church recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for our children and young people. To accomplish this, we have also established a child protection policy and procedures and thereby fulfilling our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of our children and youth.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The GDPR came into to law on 25th May 2018. In compliance with the requirements, St James Mar Thoma Church have adopted and established a GDPR privacy policy. This policy is published on the Church website. All trustees have been briefed on the regulation and their responsibilities to be in compliance with the policy. Our parish is also registered with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Sunday Worship Services

The Sunday Worship services were held in person and also broadcasted via the online platform. On average about 180members attend the service regularly and an average 130 members participate in Holy Communion. We have Holy Communion service in both English and Malayalam. Our worship services are assisted by various area prayer group members on a rota basis. Both our Lay Leaders with the guidance from our Vicar did a commendable job in ensuring that there is equal participation from all areas to lead our church service. Our Church Choir play an active role in assisting our services. Sunday worship service conclude with a fellowship meal sponsored by our members. During the reporting year, Saturday evening Holy Communion services were also held once in a month in Ipswich. Members from nearby areas, Ipswich, Bury & St Edmunds, Norwich and Colchester attended the worship services in Ipswich.

Special Services & Prayers

Special services were conducted to celebrate Parish Day, Thanksgiving Day, Family Sunday, Diocesan Sunday, Edavaka Mission Sunday, Sevika Sangham Day, Youth Sunday, World Sunday School Day, Choir Sunday, Senior Citizens Day, 40th Friday service, Student Thanksgiving Day and Christmas during the respective days as per the church calendar.

Thanksgiving Sunday, Parish Sunday, Family Sunday and Parish Convention

In this reporting year, Thanksgiving Day was celebrated on Sunday, 12thMay 2024. Rev. Subin Mathew Parayil was our chief guest and celebrant for the service.

The Parish Day, Family Sunday and Annual convention was held on 8th, 9th and 10th November 2024. Rev. Johnson M John, Vicar of Switzerland congregation was the main speaker and guest of honour. The theme for the three-day convention was "**Transformed by Grace**". The first day session was held in Ipswich and the second and the final day were held at St James Mar Thoma Church. All sessions

were well attended and were a blessing to our members. Edavaka Mission led the singing session and all the arrangements for the convention.

Parish Picnic

A one-day parish picnic was organised on 31stAugust 2024. We visited the famous Norwich Cathedral, went for a boat ride at Wroxham and spent time at Yarmouth beach. Seventy of our members participated and we had a fun filled trip and joyful fellowship during the parish picnic. The convenor, Mr Jeemon Eapen co-ordinated all the arrangements for the picnic.

Harvest Festival

Over the years the Harvest Festival has evolved to be an event both young and old looks forward to with great enthusiasm. Harvest Festival food sale and fund collections were organised on Saturday, 7th September 2024. Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Councillor Jit Ranabhat was the chief guest for our Harvest Festival inaugural session. Councillor Patricia Greenwell and Councillor Lauren Dingsdale visited our food stalls. We also managed to conduct auctions after church service. Thanks to our Harvest Festival Convenors, Mr Jithin Rajan Chacko, Mrs Sheena John and Mr Shiju Thomas who organised the events well and helped to raise significant funds during these challenging times.

Diamond raffle - Church sky roof blinds project

There was a raffle held to raise funds for the Church sky roof blinds project with an exquisite diamond ring as the prize. This project was the first major infrastructure enhancement to our church building since its inception and it wouldn't have been possible to complete this project without the heartfelt participation and support of our members.

Formal Inauguration of UK, Europe & Africa Diocese

The formal inauguration of the UK, Europe & Africa Diocese took place on Sunday, September 29, 2024 at the Bethel Convention Centre, Birmingham. The event started with a Holy Communion led by His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan, Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos Suffragan Metropolitan and the following Bishops were present - Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Barnabas Suffragan Metropolitan, Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa and our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. PD Dr. Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa. Bishops from sister churches and distinguished guests were in attendance. Our Vicar Rev Soju M Thomas was the general convenor for this event. There was a huge participation from our members for this function.

House to House Carol Rounds

As part of the Christmas celebrations, house-to-house carol rounds were arranged. Carollers together with the Vicar visited homes of 139 members in London and Home Counties of Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Kent, East Sussex, Sussex, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk during the weeks leading to Christmas. The carol rounds started on 23rd November and completed on 22nd December. It was an opportunity to proclaim the Good News of Christmas through carols, Bible passages and prayer. As convenors, Mr Sabu George and Mr Stephen V Joseph together with area representatives deserve considerable credit for their dedication and tireless efforts in arranging the house to house carol rounds.

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service, organised by the church, was held on Sunday 15th December 2024 at St James Mar Thoma Church. Rev. Fr. Nithin Prasad Koshy, Vicar of St Gregorios Indian Orthodox

Cathedral, London was our chief guest for the service and delivered the Christmas message. It was a beautiful service of carols by our talented and dedicated senior and junior choir. We thank choir and junior choir for leading the melodious carol songs, Sunday school for the creative nativity play and youth fellowship for the beautiful church decorations.

Christmas Bells

Christmas Bells is an annual event of our church organized by the choir focusing on the theme of Christmas. This event gave opportunities to each area prayer groups to showcase their musical talents through Christmas carols. This year, Christmas Bells was held on Sunday, 22nd December 2024 immediately after the service.

Watch Night Service

Watch night service was held at 9 PM on the New Year's Eve at St James Mar Thoma Church. It was also an occasion of thanksgiving, praise, testimony, and worship especially during the tough economic times that the world was undergoing. The service concluded with the celebration of Holy Communion, marking a spiritually uplifting transition into the New Year.

Family Badminton tournament

A family badminton tournament was organised by Youth Fellowship on Saturday, 1st March 2025 at Erith Leisure Centre. Our members actively participated in the Family Badminton Tournament. The convenors were Miss Maria Linoy Cherian and Miss Rianne Thomas.

Family Retreat

We had our family retreat on Sunday, 9th March 2025 after worship service guided by the inspiring theme of Ephesians 3:14-15–"Celebrating Family – God's gift to us". Rev Thomas Joseph, Vicar of Germany congregation led the session. A separate programme for children was also hosted at church lead by Sunday School. The convenors for the family retreat were Mr Shabu Varughese and Mrs Rashmi Philip.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. During the year, we were able to support various missionary activities and lend a helping hand to those in deed. Through the generous support of our members, we were able to support the following charities and charitable projects and Institutions in India and here in UK.

They include the following:

- Housing aid charity project for evangelist (Evg V.J. Joseph)
- Educational aid and medical aid for five evangelists
- Educational support for five students
- House shelter project for two families
- Medical aid for five families
- Educational support for a student in St. Thomas Teachers Training Institute, Thiruvalla
- "Wings to Dream" project for ongoing educational support to two BSc nursing students and one general nursing student
- Donation to Wayanad disaster fund

- Donations in kind to Bexley food bank with support of Sunday school and youth fellowship
- Donation to Mayor of Greenwich's charity
- 34students were sponsored for Light to Life project by 30sponsors

Our church organisations have also supported various charity initiatives which are included in their respective reports

Matrimony

There were no matrimonies solemnised at our church during this year

Baptism

During the report year, we conducted four baptisms in our church. We welcome the newly baptised members to the Christian family and pray for their physical and spiritual growth.

Following are the names of those who were baptised in our church in the reporting year.

1) Jeremiah John Mathew (S/o Mr Nijo Mathew and Mrs Divya Verghese Mathew)
2) Evelyn Anne Lijin (D/o Mr Lijin Raji and Mrs Ancy Yohannan)
3) Anna Molly Chacko (D/o Mr Ashwin Mathew Chacko and Mrs Anisha Mary Varughese)
4) Ezra Mathew Thomas (S/o Mr Libin Varughese Thomas and Mrs Asha Mary Mathew)

Obituary

This year some of our members have lost their loved ones. Parish extended spiritual support for the consolation of these families. We place on record our condolences to all bereaved families.

1) Our member Mr Alexander Pappachan was called to eternity on 10th March 2025. The funeral was held on Thursday, 20th March 2025 at the Chapel, Croydon cemetery and the funeral service was led by our Vicar.

We give thanks to God Almighty for his life.

House Blessing

During this year, house blessing services were conducted at the homes of five of our members

St James Mar Thoma Centre

With a long-term vision to build and develop our own place of worship, in 2005, St. James MTC purchased 167 Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, spanning 4.6 acres in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, neighbouring the University of Greenwich campus.

The foundation stone laying service of the redevelopment of the Mar Thoma centre and Parsonage was held on 23rd August 2017. Our late Metropolitan His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan and Our Diocesan Bishop His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa led the service and laid the foundation stone in the presence of invited guests, clergy of sister parishes and members of the parish.

The consecration of our Church, Centre and parsonage was conducted on 8thMay 2021 by His Grace

Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa. On the following day, we had the first Holy Communion service at our newly built St James Mar Thoma Church.
By the Grace of Our good Lord, after years of collective prayers, hard work and perseverance, we accomplished this long-term vision of building our own place to serve as the St. James Mar Thoma Church Centre, with facility for worship, multi-use facility for community and sports activities and a parsonage.

In the last year, our football pitches have been rented out to Metrogas football club and Total football club. In addition, our facilities are popular in the local community for small event hires especially due to the availability of managed onsite parking.

The centre continues to be a blessing not just for our families, but also for the community as a whole and for the next generation.

Parish Organisations

The Parish is blessed with its organisations namely: Sunday School, Youth fellowship, Church Choir, Suvishesha Sevika Sangham and the Edavaka Mission. Each organisation has elected leaders to help carry out the administrative duties and responsibilities vested on them meaningfully. All these sub organisations of our Church work effectively to further the mission of our Church.

Sunday School

St. James Mar Thoma Sunday School supports parents in nurturing their children's spiritual growth, with guidance from our Vicar, Rev. Soju M Thomas, Head teacher Mrs. Rashmi Philip, and dedicated DBS-cleared teachers. Together, they ensure strong foundation in Christian faith and values.

In 2024-25, the Sunday School grew to 93 students and 23 teachers across 14classes. Sessions, held on Sundays from 9:00 AM to 10:25 AM, include lessons, worship, activities, and the Holy Qurbana. The curriculum is sourced from the Diocese of North America and Europe and the Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam. Throughout the year, various events promoted spiritual growth and community engagement.

- VBS 2024: The Vacation Bible School (VBS) with the theme "Go Pro" (2 Timothy 2:15) was a blessed event, with 100 children registered. The event included engaging activities, crafts, songs, and devotional lessons, all led by dedicated teachers and directors with continuous support from volunteers and the congregation.
- World Sunday School Day: The Sunday School children participated in the World Sunday School Day event by presenting a 10-minute skit with singing and performances, all supported by dedicated teachers.
- Christmas Carol Service: As in previous years, the Sunday School children presented a Nativity performance during the carol service, which was greatly appreciated by the congregation and guests.
- Christmas Bells: A festive celebration where children participated in performances, showcasing their creativity and spreading the Christmas cheer.
- Sunday School Charity Ventures: Our Sunday School community continues to demonstrate its commitment to service and charity through the following initiatives:
    - Food Sale: A successful fundraising event where half of the proceeds received were donated to the Mar Thoma Tibetan Border Mission.
    - Operation Christmas Child: Participation in this global mission, where the Sunday school children contributed gifts for children in need during the Christmas season.

- Monthly Donations to Bexley Food Bank: A continuous act of service, where the Sunday School regularly donates items to the local food bank, supporting those in need in our community.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2024-25

Head Teacher	Mrs Rashmi Philip	Treasurer	Mrs Susan Mathew
Secretary	Mr Stephen V Joseph	Auditor	Mrs Simi Mathew

Youth fellowship

The St. James Mar Thoma Youth Fellowship, guided by Rev. Soju M. Thomas, experienced a year of remarkable spiritual growth and active participation, with 60 registered members. Throughout the year, the youth engaged deeply in strengthening their Christian faith through regular monthly fellowship meetings, Bible studies, and meaningful discussions. A major highlight was the participation of 21 members at the 6th Mar Thoma Youth Conference, focused on the theme "Meeting God at Your Crossroads."

The Fellowship played a pivotal role in several parish events, including the Harvest Festival, Youth Sunday, and the Youth Convention, where they contributed through leading services, organising activities, and fundraising. Charitable initiatives remained central to their mission, as seen in the successful Wrap-up London coat collection and the Yeldho Lent collection, through which financial aid was distributed to causes such as the Bexley Food Bank, Roofing Project and Medical Aid in India. The youths wholeheartedly engaged in and actively participated throughout the Harvest Festival, displaying immense enthusiasm and energy. They set up vibrant and lively stalls, offering drinks, barbecues, henna designs and face painting. A variety of games were provided for both adults and children. Among the major attractions were the bouncy castle, which delighted many young children, and a newly introduced arcade-style prize stall, where participants could redeem prizes for taking part in the games.

The youths actively supported the wider church community through Christmas decorations, musical performances like "Mary, Did You Know" and by organising the Annual Family Badminton Tournament and Family Retreat, both of which saw high levels of participation. With 61 youths registered for the upcoming year, the Fellowship looks ahead with renewed commitment to Christ-centred leadership and service.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2024 – 25.

Vice President	Mr. Jickson V George	Treasurer	Mr. Sanu Sam Samuel
Secretary	Mrs. Greeshma Philip	Auditors	Mrs Anisha Varghese
Joint Secretary	Miss Rianne Thomas		Miss Hannah Thomas

Church Choir

The Choir of St. James Mar Thoma Church continues to be an integral part of the worship life of the parish, supporting the Vicar in regular and special services throughout the year. With a strength of 37 members—17 men and 20 women—the Choir is registered under the Department of Sacred Music and Communication (DSMC). Weekly practices are held on Sundays, and attendance is maintained as per DSMC guidelines.

Mr. Aji Chacko was elected as the Diocesan Choir Leader and led practices and performances for Diocesan events, including the Mar Thoma Meet. The Church Choir performed at the Diocesan Carol

Service in Tamworth on January 4, presenting one song each in English and Malayalam. On Choir Sunday, held June 2, 2024, members actively assisted in the service, using a special DSMC liturgy. The Christmas Carol Service, held on December 15 at New Eltham, featured six new carols three in English and three in Malayalam. The event also had a Junior Choir performance with two carols. The annual "Christmas Bells" program was held on December 22, encouraging participation from all prayer groups and church bodies through musical presentations.

The Choir maintained an active digital presence via its dedicated website and YouTube, releasing nine new songs—eight from the Carol Service and one tribute song in remembrance of former Choir Member Mr. Linoy Cherian. The Choir participated in two online competitions—Heavenly Harmonies (Season 1) and VMKD Canticles—earning the title of First Runner-Up in the former and winning an award for best social media engagement. The members are grateful for the God-given opportunity to sing His praises and remain committed to enhancing the worship experience through music.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2024-25:

Choir Leader	Mr. Aji Chacko	Treasurer	Mr. Jikku Thomas
Joint Choir Leader	Mr. Vishak Kurien Pattassery	Junior Choir Leader	Mrs Sayona Ann Alex
Choir Secretary	Mr. Jibin P Rajan	Auditors	Mrs Shanty Thomas Miss Ruth Thomas

Suvishesha Sevika Sangham

St. James parish is blessed with a vibrant Sevika Sangham that takes an active role in the spiritual life of the parish. Sevika Sangham members offered great mental and physical support for the family members of parish members in their sickness and in bereavement.

St James Mar Thoma Church Sevika Sangham meets on first Sunday of every month immediately after the church service. Our Sevika Sangham members participate in online chain prayers organised on every alternate Fridays, held from 5:30 AM in the morning till 11:00 PM. These chain prayers have been a blessing to our members who has participated and the wider community who has requested. The other alternate Fridays are observed as fasting prayer days. The Sevika Sangham led the online bible study, jointly with the Edavaka Mission, on first and third Wednesday of every month. This bible study is led by our Vicar and is open to all the members of the church.

Sevika Sangham played an active role in organising and preparing a wide variety of food for our Harvest Festival, held on the 7th of September 2024. Our Parish celebrated the Sevika Sangham day on 8thof September 2024. Our members assisted and helped to lead the service for the Sunday Holy Qurbana. Our member Mrs Mini Philip delivered the sermon on the day. On Sevika Sangham initiative, Onam was celebrated with a festive "Onam Sadhya" on 15th September 2024 after the Holy Communion service.

During this year, our Sevika Sangham heartly contributed towards various charity purposes. Sevika Sangham invited applications for all those who are in need of Education and Medical aid. From the applications received, the sub-committee appointed by the General Body selected the most deserving candidates. Sevika Sangham provided an Education Aid of INR 1,00,000/- each to two students and medical aid of INR 50,000 each to 2 women from the shortlisted applications

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2024 – 25:

Vice President	Mrs Gracy George	Treasurer	Mrs. Sheena John
Secretary	Mrs. Shanty Thomas	Auditor	Mrs Shiny Alex
Joint Secretary	Mrs Shirley Linoy		

Edavaka Mission

Every Marthomites has the responsibility to implant faith in God in the hearts of our fellow beings. One of the highest goals in our lifetime is to understand more about God and show him to others. Evangelization is spreading the gospel and strengthening others with the word of God. All of us are preparing our minds for the second coming of our saviour Jesus Christ. We need to engage our hearts in prayer to renew our relationship with God.

This past year Edavaka mission was very active under the leadership of our Vicar Rev. Soju M Thomas and we organized various activities throughout the year.

- Church Meetings: Sunday meetings held mostly on 3rd Sundays after service.
- Wednesday evening online Prayer: Online evening prayer and Bible study conducted with Sevika Sangham twice a month. Led by our Vicar, these sessions were spiritually enriching.
- Intercessory Prayer: Held every Sunday from 9:45–10:15 AM led by Mr. Shabu Varughese with singing, psalm reading, and prayer.
- House Visits: Visited several senior church members at their homes this year.
- Edavaka mission Sunday (Oct 27, 2024): Guided by Rev. Soju M Thomas Achen, members led the service. They also provided refreshments.
- Parish Convention (Nov 8–9, 2024): Edavaka mission took charge of planning and hosting led by Rev. Johnson M John (Vicar of Switzerland & Germany).
- Notable Visitors: Welcomed Rev. Byju Thomas, Rev. P T Jacob, and Evangelist Br. Joy Pullad.
- Membership Drive: Successfully increased membership of Edavaka mission to 101 members.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2024 – 25.

Vice President	Mr. Varughese Mathew	Treasurer	Mr James Malayil Varughese
Secretary	Mr. Alex P Sam	Auditor	Mr Cherian Koshy

Area Prayer Groups

The Parish is currently made up of various prayer groups. Regular prayer meetings were held at Bury St. Edmunds, East London, Ipswich, Kent, South East London and South London. Each prayer groups met regularly for Bible study, praise and intercessory prayers. Each prayer group has an elected prayer leader to assist the Vicar with the arrangements. The area prayers are a source of strength and enrichment to the lives of members both children and adults. The prayer groups also play a part in assisting with our worship services. Each elected prayer group leader has played a vital role in keeping the families informed and also supporting the lay leaders for Church assistance. Prayer groups also have elected treasurers to manage the offertory and any other special collections the groups may decide.

Diocese Representation

The parish members actively participated in the centre and diocesan meetings organized by the UK-Europe-Africa Diocese of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church and its organisations. This included the Diocesan Sevika Sangham Conference, Diocesan Youth Conference, World Sunday School Day Programme, Diocesan Christmas Carol Service, Edavaka mission Intercessory Prayer, and the Mar Thoma Meet.

Our members also took up leadership roles within the Diocese. Mr. Cyril Abraham John served as the Zonal Auditor, Mr. Aji Chacko served as the Diocesan Choir Leader, and Mrs. Susan Mathew served as the Diocesan Sunday School Treasurer for the financial year 2024–25. Additionally, Mr. Noble Mathew served as a member of the Diocesan Constitution Drafting Committee.

Church Website & Newsletter

The official website of the parish is www.marthomachurch.org.uk. The website continued to be regularly updated. It has been a source of information for both our members, new members and to others around the world.

The Church Newsletter is published weekly and distributed via email to members of the Parish. The Newsletter comprises the church programme calendar for each month and other information such as Sunday worship timings, Sunday lectionary, prayer schedules, special events, achievements by the parishioners, financial updates etc.

Visiting Bishops, Clergies and Evangelists

During the report year, following Bishops and Clergies visited our parish

- Rt. Rev PD Dr Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa
- Rev Byju Thomas
- Rev P T Jacob
- Rev Subin Mathew Parayil
- Rev Stanley Mathew John
- Rev Thomas Joseph
- Rev Johnson M John
- Rev Alexander M Isaac
- Rev David Israel, CSI (UTC, Bangalore)
- Evangelist Joy Pullad

His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan, Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos Suffragan Metropolitan, Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Barnabas Suffragan Metropolitan, Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa and Rt. Rev PD Dr Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa visited our parsonage and church in connection with the inauguration of the Diocese of UK, Europe and Africa. We would like to extend our gratitude to all the Bishops and Vicars and their parishes for the support.

Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee would like to place on record the grateful leadership, guidance and support of His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa.

We also respectfully thank His Majesty's Government and the London Borough of Greenwich for all their assistance during the reporting year.

We acknowledge the dedication and sincere services of the entire Executive Committee; from the leadership and guidance of our Vice President, the tireless and meritorious work of the Treasurer and Accountant, Lay leaders, internal auditors, convenors of the various programmes, office bearers of organisations, all the area prayer group leaders and all our family members and well-wishers who have supported the parish through their prayers and generous contributions and wholehearted support during the year. We are also grateful to all Sevika Sangham Area prayer group leaders and

families, who volunteer regularly to provide refreshments on Sundays after church service and on special occasions.

We affectionately remember with gratitude all our former and present Bishops, Vicars and their families, parish members and well-wishers. Let us thank and pray to our Lord Almighty for their services, able leadership and guidance, for their untiring work and contributions rendered for the growth of our Parish to this day.

Conclusion

We thank our God Almighty for the abundant mercies and provisions throughout this year, especially, during this unprecedented political and economic turmoil In the midst of our limitations, His bountiful blessings protected, preserved and strengthened us to be His witnesses.

Our membership is constantly increasing and many within our community enjoy the love, fellowship and services provided by our Parish. New members attending our service need wholehearted support, guidance and fellowship. As a parish we need to set our priorities so that we can support our community.

For the year under review, we conducted our regular worship services, prayer meetings, study sessions, and special events and activities. The parish has experienced God's enduring presence and Grace. God Almighty has provided us timely spiritual leadership through the Bishops, Clergies, and other lay leaders. We have also extended possible support to the sick, needy, and marginalized people. Let us rededicate ourselves to continue the mission and ministry of God Almighty through reflecting Christ's character of humility, love, integrity, generosity, and servant hood. The church is the community where individuals get support, guidance, skills, encouragement, and motivation to transform not only their own lives, but also assist others who are in need of meaning and wholeness. May the Almighty God continue to bless our parish and make all our efforts for His glory and extension of His Kingdom.

Let us be the torch bearers of faith, "light to the generations and salt of the earth" and move forward with the motto of the Mar Thoma Church, 'Lighted to Lighten'.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee / Charity Trustees.

Mr. Iju Thomas
(Hon. Secretary)

Read & Passed on the General Body held on 08th June 2025.

Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas
(Vicar & President)

ST. JAMES MARTHOMA CHURCH ★ LONDON-UK ★

Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of the charity on the accounts for the period ended 31st of March 2025.

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the period ended 31st of March 2025 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (effective January 2015) adapted to meet the needs of unincorporated organisations, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commission for England & Wales, effective January 2015 (The SORP), under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 24.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As described on Trustee's report, the charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Section 144(1) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply, and that there is no requirement in the governing documents of the charity for the conducting of an audit. As a consequence, the Trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under any legal provision, or otherwise, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

a) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;

b) follow the procedures in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and;

c) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Examiner's Statement and scope of work undertaken

I conducted my examination in accordance with the General Directions issued by the Charity Commission for England & Wales, under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, setting out the duties of an Independent Examiner in relation to the conducting of an Independent Examination. An Independent Examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and of the accounting systems employed by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of charity legislation and that the financial statements comply with the SORP, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit , and information supplied by the Trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the Independent Examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, in connection with my examination, I can confirm that :-

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under section 145 of the Act and in accordance with any directions given by the Commission under subsection (5)(b) of that section which are applicable;

and that no matter has come to my attention in connection with my examination 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 Charities Act 2011;

when preparing accounts on an accruals basis under s132 of the Charities Act 2011, to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the 2015 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts;

that the financial statements be prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (effective January 2015)

I have no concerns and in my opinion not come across any matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in my report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jitender Kaur FCA

ICAEW Member - 2266283

Faith House, Main Street Little Stretton LE2 2FS

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts (Internal)

Report to the Trustees /members of St James Mar Thoma Church UK (Charity No. 1059210) on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 21 to 35

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) (b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Direction 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 the 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 statement below.

Independent examiners' statement

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

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

We have 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.

Mr. Mathews John
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

ST. JAMES MARTHOMA CHURCH LONDON-UK

Mr. James Malayil Varghese
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Statement of Financial Activities for 2024-25

		Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Actual 2024-25	Budget 2024-25	Actual 2023-24
Income							
1.	Stewardship		88,191		88,191	90,000	81,401
2.	Tax Refund		49,071		49,071	25,000	43,938
3.	General Offertory	3a	65,361		65,361	60,000	63,223
4.	General Offertory - Thanksgiving			5,828	5,828	3,000	3,000
5.	Specific Offertory and Collections	3b		4,552	4,552	6,000	7,389
6.	Harvest Festival	4	26,487	2,850	29,337	25,000	28,500
7.	Christmas Carol Rounds		11,400		11,400	15,000	9,850
8.	MTC Enhancement Fund		4,000		4,000	100,000	0
9.	MTC Additional Principal Repayment Fund			2,680	2,680	24,000	3,260
10.	Insurance Claim						18,900
11.	Donations		322		322	4,000	5,998
12.	Special Event Donations	3c	11,068		11,068	10,000	5,658
13.	Diocesan Contribution Collection			6,551	6,551	9,590	6,035
14.	MTC Hire of Hall and Grounds	20	15,488		15,488	15,000	14,355
15.	Bank Interest		994		994	250	939
16.	Church Organisation Collections			8,549	8,549	0	4,698
17.	Diocesan Contra Collections			3,450	3,450		1,250
18.	Charitable Donation Collections	18a		14,735	14,735	25,000	12,649
19.	Church Fellowship Fund	19		16,631	16,631	15,000	12,486
Total Income			**272,382**	**65,825**	**338,206**	**426,840**	**323,529**

ST. JAMES MARTHOMA CHURCH LONDON-UK

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Actual 2024-25	Budget 2024-25	Actual 2023-24
Direct Charitable Expenditure						
1. Salary, Tax and National Insurance	17	31,641		31,641	34,500	28,934
2. Provident and Pension Fund		689		689	750	675
3. Guest Expenses		995		995	1,000	980
4. Motor and Travel	10	2,950		2,950	5,000	2,650
5. Motor Insurance	10	867		867	1,500	1,270
6. Accommodation and Utility	7	5,200		5,200	9,000	5,388
7. Church Building & Contents Insurance		1,617		1,617	3,000	2,244
8. Visiting Clergy		1,625		1,625	4,000	1,257
9. New Vicar's Relocation (Winter) Allowance				0		1,000
10. New Vicar's Driving License				0		890
11. Diocesan Contribution	5	2,640	6,551	9,190	9,190	9,190
12. Specific Offertory and Collections	3b		4,552	4,552	6,000	7,389
13. Harvest Festival Expenses and Grants	4	840	2,850	3,690	3,500	5,280
14. Thanksgiving Offertory as Maintenance Reserve Fund			5,828	5,828	3,000	3,000
15. Printing, postage and Stationary		196		196	250	101
16. Special Events, Parish Day / Convention	3d	20,092		20,092	10,000	10,337
17. Provision for Vicars Transfer Cost (Including Relocation Allowance &Drivers License)	14	16,000		16,000	16,000	12,063
18. Church Organisation Grants	9	3,500		3,500	3,500	3,500
19. Ecumenical Membership	5	400		400	400	400
20. Sundry Expenses		363		363	500	125
21. Altar Expense		275		275	500	145
22. Carol Rounds Expenses		1,755		1,755	1,500	1,358
23. Bank Charges		876		876	1,500	1,435
24. Family / Clergy Conference		40		40	1,000	120
25. MTC Maintenance Charges	8	21,756		21,756	30,000	28,057
26. Bank Loan Repayment & Interest (Fixed E.M.I)	11	47,985		47,985	79,572	86,575
27. MTC Additional Principal Repayment			2,680	2,680	50,000	3,260
28. MTC Enhancement				0	100,000	0
29. Church Organisation Payments			8,549	8,549	0	4,698
30. Diocesan Contra Payments			3,450	3,450		1,250
31. Professional Fees		1,650		1,650	5,000	14,873
32. IT Infrastructure		256		256	2,000	395
33. Charitable Donation Payments	18b		14,735	14,735	25,000	12,649
34. Church Fellowship Expenses	19		16,631	16,631	15,000	12,486
Total Expenditure		**164,210**	**65,825**	**230,034**	**422,162**	**263,974**
Excess of Income over Expenditure		**108,172**	0	108,172	4,678	59,555
Less: Depreciation	12	**55,069**	0	55,069	0	51,438
Net Surplus	15	**53,103**	**0**	**53,103**	**0**	**8,117**

Balance Sheet As At 31st March 2025

	Notes		2025		2024
FIXED ASSETS		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	**12**		2,356,693		2,379,856
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at Bank- General		98,223		76,124	
Cash at Bank– Building Fund	**15**	10,668		10,668	
		108,891		**86,792**	
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors & Accruals	**13**	147,933		137,441	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			**-39,042**		**-50,648**
			2,317,652		**2,329,208**
Less: Bank loan (Kingdom Bank)	**11**		646,690		730,608
Less: Provision for Vicar's transfer cost	**14**		26,000		10,000
NET ASSETS			**1,644,962**		**1,588,600**
Represented by :					
Unrestricted					
General Funds	**15**		711,665		655,302
Building Fund	**15**		930,263		930,263
Restricted					
Social Emergency Fund	**15**		3,035		3,035
			1,644,962		**1,588,600**

The financial statements were passed by the Board Trustees on 16th May, 2025 and were signed on its behalf by;

Rev. Soju M. Thomas
(Vicar/President)

Mr. Ashok Thomas
(Hon. Trustee)

Mr. Ajex John
(Hon. Trustee)

Read & Passed on the General Body held on 08th June 2025.

Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas
(Vicar & President)

ST. JAMES MARTHOMA CHURCH LONDON-UK

1. Accounting Policies

a. Basis of accounting
These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

b. Recognition of income
Income included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:
- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

c. Tangible fixed assets for use by charity
These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and are valued at cost.
Depreciation is provided on the following rates.
- Freehold property 2% on cost
- Fixtures and fittings 20% on reducing balance
- Computer and other equipment 25% on reducing balance
- Car 10% on straight-line basis

d. Tax reclaims on donations and gifts
Gift aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor.

2. Stewardship

Stewardship consists of voluntary contribution. **176** families made such contributions during the year

3.

3a. General Offertory

General	2025	2024
Church Service	28,857	31,033
Birthday, Wedding Anniversary	15,809	12,962
Baptism (Offertory & Donations)	907	215
Marriage (Offertory & Donations)	0	1,500
Parish Day \ Thanksgiving Sunday	7,985	6,030
Family Sunday Tithe	10,111	9,593
Students Thanksgiving Service	1,482	1,610
House Dedication Service	210	280
Total	**65,361**	**63,223**

3b. Specific Offertory

Specific Offertory and Collections	2025	2024
General Offertory :Suvishesha Nidhi Collection	159	229
Specific Offertory Collection : Vaidika Seminary	0	325
Specific Offertory Collection : Metropolitan Fund	100	137
Specific Offertory Collection : Choir Sunday	153	131
Specific Offertory Collection : Mission Sunday	83	116
Specific Offertory Collection : Education Sunday	136	127
Specific Offertory Collection : World Sunday School Day	210	115
Specific Offertory Collection : Voluntary Evangelist Day	78	98
Specific Offertory Collection : Bible Sunday	111	111
Specific Offertory Collection : Outside Kerala Mission	111	225
Specific Offertory Collection : Medical Mission Sunday	130	194
Specific Offertory Collection : Clergy Medical Aid	111	168
13 Sundays Collection	**1,382**	**1,974**
Specific Offertory Collection : Youth Sunday	168	231
Specific Offertory Collection : Self Denial	2,035	3,524
Specific Offertory Collection :Recessa	507	574
Specific Offertory Collection : Good Friday	0	801
Specific Offertory Collection :Sevika Sangham Day	460	284
Total	**4,552**	**7,389**

Offertories and other collections made specifically during various church services will be disbursed as required.

3c. Special Event Donations

Event Donations	2025	2024
Passion Week	480	
Episcopal Visit	0	
Thanksgiving Sunday	0	
First Holy Communion	2,710	
Parish Picnic	2,958	3,630
Zonal Mar Thoma Meet \ Diocesan Inauguration	4,350	645
Carol Service	0	350
Parish Day	0	
Christmas Bells	0	
Family Retreat	570	1,033
Total	**11,068**	**5,658**

3d. Special Event Expenses

Event Expenses	2025	2024
Passion Week	900	
Episcopal Visit	798	
Thanksgiving Sunday	768	780
First Holy Communion	2,676	1,470
Parish Picnic	2,790	3,649
Zonal Mar Thoma Meet \ Diocesan Inauguration	7,121	1,500
Parish Day & Convention	1,549	1,245
Carol Service	1,015	910
Christmas Bells	600	480
Family Retreat - 2024 & 2025	1,875	303
Total	**20,092**	**10,337**

4. Harvest Festival

	2025	2024
Sale Of Tickets	9,040	8,020
Auctions	7,429	5,960
Food and Games Stalls	12,548	10,665
Donations	320	2,805
Donations from previous year	0	1,050
Total	**29,337**	**28,500**
Restricted Fund	2,850	2,580
Less: Expenses	840	2,700
Surplus	**25,647**	**23,220**

5. Diocese / Sabha Office Dues

Diocesan Dues	2025	2024
Nithyachilavu	1,490	1,490
Zonal Fund	2,980	2,980
Episcopal Travel	745	745
Zonal Day Collection Offertory	2,235	2,235
Salary Adjustment Fund	250	250
Higher education Scholarship	1,490	1,490
Ecumenical Subscription Fees	400	400
Total	**9,590**	**9,590**

6.

7. Accommodation Expenses

	2025	2024
Lighting & Heating	2,018	2,467
Council Tax & Water Rates	2,347	2,217
Telephone & Internet	125	188
Television Licence	180	158
Repairs and Sundry Household Items	530	358
Total	**5,200**	**5,388**

8. Mar Thoma Centre Expenses

	2025	2024
Rates and Water	1,608	2,416
Light and Heat	4,401	3,341
Cleaning	2,482	2,533
Premises Licence	235	415
Ground Maintenance	8,289	7,986
Building Works (Insurance related)		12,415
Building Maintenance	3,487	0
Waste Collection	812	773
Gardening	444	87
Sundry	0	42
Total Expenses	**21,756**	**30,008**
Utilities Refund	0	1,951
Total	**21,756**	**28,057**

9. Church Grant for Church Organisations

	2025	2024
VBS	500	500
Sunday School	500	500
Sevika Sangham	500	500

Youth League	1,000	1,000
Choir	500	500
Edavaka Mission	500	500
Total	**3,500**	**3,500**

10. Motor and Travel Expenses

	2025	2024
Public Transport	50	200
Fuel Charges & Parking	1,901	1,331
Motor Repairs	631	794
Tax & Toll Charges	368	326
Total Motor and Travel	**2,950**	**2,650**
Motor Insurance	867	1,270
Total Motor Expenses	**3,817**	**3,921**
Refund	0	0
Total	**3,817**	**3,921**

11. Bank Loan Repayment & Interest

This relates to loan received from Kingdom Bank and is secured on the Freehold Property Kingdom Bank at Gospel Partner Prime Discounted Rate of 6.2% (for five years). The new rate of interest from April 2025 is 6.05%.

Lumpsum repayments of £3,260 (received from members towards MTC Additional Principal Repayment in 2023-24) and £49,071.45 (received as Gift Aid for 2023-24, paid as per GB decision of 2 June 2024) was made along with existing monthly instalments of £6,631.

A further sum of £3,040 (£2,680 received from members towards MTC Additional Principal Repayment in 2024-25 and £360 released from non-utilised accrual for building architect), has been set aside to be paid towards the outstanding principal.

	2025	2024
Interest Paid - BOI		72,175
Interest Paid - Kingdom Bank	47,985	14,400
Total Interest	**47,985**	**86,575**
Capital Repaid - BOI		22
Capital Repaid - Kingdom Bank	31,587	5,882
Additional Capital Repaid (Gift Aid) - Kingdom Bank	49,071	43,938
Additional Capital Repaid (Members) - Kingdom Bank	3,260	
Total Capital Repaid	**83,918**	**49,842**
Total Paid	**131,903**	**136,417**
Mortgage Outstanding - 31 March	726,262	810,180

12.Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property	Fixtures & Fittings	Motor Vehicle	Computer & Office Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	2,458,443	156,568	12,641	6,048	2,633,700
Additions	0	30,760	0	1,147	31,907
At 31st March 2025	**2,458,443**	**187,328**	**12,641**	**7,195**	**2,665,607**
Depreciation	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	144,592	101,064	2,528	5,660	253,844
Charge for the Year	36,169	17,253	1,264	384	55,069
At 31st March 2025	**180,761**	**118,317**	**3,792**	**6,044**	**308,914**
Net Book Value	£	£	£	£	£
At 31st March 2025	**2,277,682**	**69,011**	**8,849**	**1,151**	**2,356,693**
At 31st March 2024	2,313,851	55,504	10,113	388	2,379,856

Included in cost of Freehold land and building is freehold land of £650,000 which is not depreciated
Included in the additions to Fixtures & Fittings are Church Blinds at £28,582

13. Creditors & Accruals

	2025	2024
Restricted Funds	60,021	51,119
General Accruals	8,340	6,390
MTC Building Project Accruals	0	360
Bank Loan Repayable within 12 Months	79,572	79,572
	147,933	**137,441**

Included in the Restricted fund above is the remaining legacy amount £4,133 of the total amount received from the estate of a Late member of the parish and this amount will be disbursed in accordance with his wishes.

14. Provision For Vicar's Transfer Cost

	2025	2024
Brought forward at 1st April	10,000	8,000
Visa application expense - 2023		189
Travel Arrangements for outgoing Achen		831
Severance Bonus for outgoing Achen		7,402
Travel Arrangements for incoming Achen		1,642
Total expended as at 31 March	**0**	**10,063**
Funds remaining	10,000	-2,063
Provision for the year	16,000	10,000
Total Charge for the year	**16,000**	**12,063**
Carried forward at 31 March	26,000	10,000

This is to provide for the travel, settlement and other related costs of the vicar and family, on their transfer to and from this parish.

15. Movements in Funds

	General Fund	MTC Building Fund	Social Emergency Fund	Total
Unrestricted	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2024	655,302	930,263		
Net Surplus for the Year	53,103			
Accrued Mar Thoma Centre Principal Repayment Fund	3,260			
As at 31 March 2025	**711,665**			**711,665**
As at 31 March 2025		**930,263**		**930,263**
Less expended this year		0		
Less expended previous years (2018,2019,2020, 2021, 2022)		919,595		
Held at Building Fund Bank Account		**10,668**		
Restricted				
At 1 April 2024			3,035	
New Funds received in the Year				
Distributed in the year				
As at 31 March 2025			**3,035**	**3,035**
				1,644,963

15a. **Social Emergency Fund:** This is a Fund for helping disadvantaged individuals affected by natural disasters, war or factors outside of their control and the collection consists of voluntary contributions from members. The balance is held for future distributions and new contributions will be added to this Fund.

16.Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Total (£)
Tangible Fixed Assets	2,356,693		2,356,693
Current Assets	105,856	3,035	108,891
Current Liabilities	-173,933		-173,933
Long Term Liabilities and Provisions	-646,690		-646,690
Assets	**1,641,927**	**3,035**	**1,644,962**

17. Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

The vicar who served the parish during the year was remunerated in accordance with the terms agreed prior to the appointment. The charge in the accounts include net monthly stipend to the vicar of **£2,213.00** thereafter, tax and national insurance contributions on the stipend and on the value of taxable benefits in kind. The vicar who also acts as manager of the Mar Thoma Centre is provided with accommodation and all expenses incurred on pastoral and management duties were reimbursed to him. Except for the above, no remuneration, either directly or indirectly, out of the fund of the church was paid or payable for the year, to any trustee nor to any person or persons known to be connected with any trustees. No expenses were reimbursed to trustees for carrying out their duties during the year.

18.

18a. Charitable Donation Collections

	2025	2024
House Building Support for Evangelist V. J. Joseph - Ranni	200	6,488
Mar Thoma Evangelist Aid		
Educational & Medical Aid	4,125	3,165
Wings 2 Dreams	2,500	2,750
Educational Support for student at TTI	215	246
Wayanad Aid	1,700	
Home Shelter Projects	5,165	
Bexley Food Bank	830	
Greenwich Mayor Charity		
Total	**14,735**	**12,649**

18b. Charitable Donation Payments from Collections

	2025	2024
House Building Support for Evangelist V. J. Joseph - Ranni	200	3,412
Mar Thoma Evangelist Aid (5 beneficiaries)		
Educational & Medical Aid (10 beneficiaries)	4,125	3,116
Wings 2 Dreams (3 beneficiaries)	2,500	2,403
Educational Support for student at TTI	215	246
Wayanad Aid	1,700	
Home Shelter Projects (2 beneficiaries)	5,163	
Bexley Food Bank	416	
Greenwich Mayor Charity		
Total	**14,320**	**9,177**

18c. Charitable Donation Payments from Accruals

	2025	2024
House Building Support for Evangelist V. J. Joseph - Ranni	2,216	3,670
Mar Thoma Evangelist Aid (5 beneficiaries)	4,543	
Educational & Medical Aid (10 beneficiaries)	49	
Wings 2 Dreams (3 beneficiaries)	145	
Educational Support for student at TTI	0	
Wayanad Aid		
Home Shelter Projects (2 beneficiaries)		
Bexley Food Bank		
Greenwich Mayor Charity	500	
Total	**7,453**	**3,670**

18d. Restricted Charitable Donations Accrued

	2025	2024
House Building Support for Evangelist V. J. Joseph - Ranni		3,076
Mar Thoma Evangelist Aid	0	
Educational Aid & Medical Aid	0	49
Wings 2 Dreams	0	347
Educational Support for student at TTI		
Wayanad Aid		
Home Shelter Projects	2	
Bexley Food Bank	414	
Greenwich Mayor Charity	0	
Total	**415**	**3,472**

19. Church Fellowship Fund

	2025	2024
Income		
Collection	16,631	12,486
Accrued from previous year	371	0
Total	**17,002**	**12,486**
Fellowship Lunch Expenses	13,072	12,115
Fund at hand	**3,930**	**371**

20. MTC Hire of Hall and Grounds

	2025	2024
Car Park	1,188	1,035
Football Pitch	12,440	8,560
Hall Hire	1,860	4,760
Total	**15,488**	**14,355**

21. Restricted Funds

	2024			2025	
	General	Restricted	Movement	General	Restricted
Sports Facility Fund	3,470			3,470	
Specific Charity Initiative Fund		12,129			12,129
Self Denial Collection Fund		0	2,035		2,035
Late Mr P T George Charity Fund		4,133			4,133
Harvest Festival General Charity Project Fund		3,952	2,850		6,802
House Building Support for Evangelist V. J. Joseph - Ranni		2,216	-2,216		0
Mar Thoma Evangelists Support Fund		4,543	-4,543		0
Bexley Food Bank		654	414		1,068
Greenwich Mayor Fund		500	-500		0
Educational Aid & Medical Aid		49	-49		0
Wings to Dreams		347	-145		202
Fellowship Fund		371	3,559		3,930
Home Shelter Projects		0	2		2
Maintenance Reserve Fund (Thanksgiving Offertory)		9,647	5,828		15,475
Mar Thoma Centre Principal Repayment Fund		3,620	-580		3,040
Recessa Collection		1,595	507		2,102
13 Sunday &Suvishesha Nidhi Collection		6,921	1,382		8,303
Good Friday Collection		801			801
P11D Accruals	1,762			1,762	
External Examiner Fees	0		1,500	1,500	
Pension Fund	1,158		450	1,608	
Total	**6,390**	**51,479**	**10,492**	**8,340**	**60,021**

Read & Passed on the General Body held on 08th June 2025.

Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas
(Vicar & President)

ST. JAMES MARTHOMA CHURCH LONDON-UK

AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Please note that the audited account statements of all organisations are included for informational purposes only. These accounts have been audited by the internal auditors of the respective organisations and have been presented to and approved by their respective general bodies.

St James Mar Thoma Church UK - Edavaka Mission

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

Income	2025	2024
1. Grant from Church	500.00	500.00
2. Offertory	16.00	
3. Registration\Donations	1,040.00	481.49
4. Europe trip	7,350.00	
Total Income	**8,906.00**	**981.49**

Expenses	2025	2024
1. Sent Off Gift		250.00
2. Stationary Expenses (R/Book and Stamp)		21.49
3. Fellowship Meals	330.00	298.80
4. Europe trip (paid to Mantra Holidays)	7,350.00	
Total Income	**7,680.00**	**570.29**
Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,226.00	

	2025	2024
Opening Balance as at 1st April	963.08	551.88
Total Income	8,906.00	981.49
Total Expense	-7,680.00	570.29
Closing Balance as on 31st March	**2,189.08**	**963.08**

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on Sunday, 18th May 2025 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd
Vicar/President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd
Trustee - Mr. James Malayil Varghese

Sd
Auditor – Mr. Cherian Koshy

St James Mar Thoma Church Youth Fellowship

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

Income	2025	2024	Budget
1. Badminton Tournament	1,200.00	-	1,000.00
2. Christmas Decoration	-	205.00	-
3. Church Grant	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
4. Donations	340.00	340.00	100.00
5. Harvest Festival	795.00	10.00	-
6. Membership Fee 2024/2025	25.00	420.00	-
7. Membership Fee 2025/2026	650.00	-	500.00
8. Yeldho Lent Collection	950.00	710.00	-
9. Youth Conference Fee	410.00	-	-
10. Youth Sunday Offertory	168.00	231.12	-
11. [4] Cancelled Cheque - Zonal Youth Conference Share 2023-24	300.00	-	-
12. [4] Cancelled Cheque - Zonal Youth Membership Fee 2023-24	51.00	-	-
13. Cancelled Cheque - Youth Sunday Offertory - 2023-24	231.12	-	-
Total Income	**6,120.12**	**2,916.12**	**2,600.00**

Expense	2025	2024	Budget
1. Badminton Tournament	(682.00)	-	(1,000.00)
2. Christmas Decoration	-	(212.50)	-
3. Church Sky Blinds Project Donation	(2,500.00)	-	-
4. Gift / Token	(20.99)	(83.13)	(200.00)
5. Harvest Festival	(1,045.63)	(413.33)	(250.00)
6. Sunday Refreshments	(400.00)	(330.00)	(400.00)
7. Shaka Registration 2024/2025	-	(94.27)	-
8. Shaka Registration 2025/2026	(94.23)	-	(100.00)
9. Sundry	(7.95)	-	(200.00)
10. Yeldho Lent Donation 2023/2024	(710.00)	-	(710.00)
11. Yeldho Lent Donation 2024/2025	(950.00)	-	(500.00)
Total Expense	**(6,410.80)**	**(1,133.23)**	**(3,360.00)**

ST. JAMES MARTHOMA CHURCH LONDON-UK

	2025	2024
Opening Balance	7,105.19	5,494.76
Income	6,120.12	4,051.12
Expense	- 6,410.80	- 2,440.69
Closing Balance	**6,814.51**	**7,105.19**
Cash in bank	6,814.51	8,162.55
Cheque Awaiting to clear	-	- 1,057.36
Cash and Bank Balance - Closing Balance	**6,814.51**	**7,105.19**

Restricted

Yeldho Lent Donation 23-24	-	710.00
Youth Sunday Offertory 23-24	231.12	-
Youth Sunday Offertory 24-25	168.00	-
Youth Conference Fee 24-25	410.00	-
Badminton Excess 24-25	518.00	-
Total Reserve	**1,327.12**	**710.00**

Available Balance

Total Available Balance	**5,487.39**	**6,395.19**

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on Sunday, 27th April 2025 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd

Vicar/President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd

Trustee – Mr Sanu Sam Samuel

Sd

Auditor – Mrs Anisha Mary Varughese

Sd

Auditor – Miss Hannah Thomas

St James Mar Thoma Church Sunday School

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

INCOME

	2025	2024	Budget
1. Grant From Church - Sunday School (500)	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
2. +VBS (500)			
3. Student Collection/Donation	£1,466.00	£1,137.46	£1,150.00
4. World Sunday School Day	£870.00	£1,595.00	£1,000.00
5. SS Offertory Collection	£662.28	£702.00	£700.00
6. VBS Registration/Donation/Offertory	£5,376.06	£2,918.50	£2,740.00
7. SS Food Sale	£2,068.00	£1,755.00	£1,500.00
8. DBS	£33.96	£247.50	£250.00
9. Christmas Shoebox Appeal	£37.00	-	
10. St Peters WSSD	£73.78	-	
11. Talent Fest	-	-	-
Total Income	**£11,587.08**	**£9,355.46**	**£8,340.00**

EXPENSES

1. DBS	£33.96	£247.50	£250.00
2. SS Expense/SS Food	£484.99	£661.52	£1,100.00
3. WSSD Expenses	£1,210.00	£2,276.69	£1,500.00
4. Stationary/Books	£830.00	£936.00	£800.00
5. Stationary/Attendance Tracker	-	£27.86	£0.00
6. Annual SS Diocesan Contribution	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00
7. Honorary Awards	-	£746.60	£900.00
8. Christmas Shoebox Appeal	£37.00	£37.00	£0.00
9. VBS Expense/Offertory	£5,427.47	£1,670.15	£3,620.00
10. Charity (Tibetan Border Mission)	£1,100.00	£819.70	£700.00
11. Gifts (Father's Day/Mother's Day)	£62.39	£270.73	£350.00
12. Farewell Gift (KK)	-	£150.00	£0.00
13. SS Retreat(Gift for the leaders)	£59.99		
14. SS Xmas 24	£40.00		
15. Food sale Exp	£126.00		
16. Talent Fest			
Total Expense	**£9,561.80**	**£7,993.75**	**£9,370.00**
Net Surplus/Deficit	**£2,025.28**	**£1,361.71**	**-£1,030.00**
Balance brought forward from last year	£5,104.72	£3,743.01	£5,104.72
Balance carried forward to the year 2025-26	£7,130.00	£5,104.72	£4,074.72

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on Sunday, 27th April 2025 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd

Vicar/President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd

Trustee - Mrs Susan Mathew

Sd

Auditor –Mrs Simi Mathew

St James Mar Thoma Church Choir, UK

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

Income	2025	2024	Budget
1. Choir membership fee	200.00	180.00	200.00
2. Choir Notation Books (Sing Along/DSMC)	-	-	
3. Grant from church	500.00	500.00	500.00
4. Choir Equipment Sale			
5. Charity			
6. Audition expense			
7. Video & Audio equipment purchase	50.00	-	150.00
8. Choir tablet (Ipad)		282.00	
9. Choir Equipment (Piano)			400.00
10. Refreshments	410.00	144.00	
11. Christmas expenses			
12. Choir Affiliation		10.00	
13. Carol day dinner (or Choir Sunday)	300.00	180.00	
14. Garshom Entry Fee			
15. Video and audio editing expense			
16. Christmas Bells			
17. Zonal Choir practice refreshments		130.00	
18. Other Expenses			
Donations			
19. : Baptism/Wedding (Donation)	200.00	250.00	500.00
20. : Charity (Donation)	-	-	
21. : Others (Donation)	-	-	
22. Non-budgeted Items			
23. Retreat Gift			
Total	**1,660.00**	**1,676.00**	**1,750.00**

Expenses	2025	2024	Budget
1. Choir membership fee			
2. Choir Notation Books (Sing Along/DSMC)			
3. Grant from church			
4. Choir Equipment Sale			
5. Charity	0	173	
6. Audition expense	300	0	300
7. Video & Audio equipment purchase	49.64	95	300
8. Choir tablet (Ipad)		282	
9. Choir Equipment (Piano)		0	1000
10. Refreshments	549.66	228.83	375
11. Christmas expenses	246.02	234	150
12. Choir Affiliation	8	10	10
13. Carol day dinner (or Choir Sunday)	302.5	350	
14. Garshom Entry Fee		50	
15. Video and audio editing expense			100
16. Christmas Bells			150
17. Zonal Choir practice refreshments		175	
18. Other Expenses		95.39	50
Donations			
19. : Baptism/Wedding (Donation)			
20. : Charity (Donation)			
21. : Others (Donation)			
22. Non-budgeted Items			
23. Retreat Gift		150	
Total	**1455.82**	**1843.22**	**2435.00**

	2025	2024
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	204.18	-167.22
Net balance carried forward from prior year	2049.67	2216.89
Balance carried forward to next year	**2253.85**	**2049.67**

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on Sunday, 13th April 2025 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd

Vicar/President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd

Trustee –Mr Jikku Thomas

Sd

Auditor – Miss Ruth Thomas

Sd

Auditor – Mrs Shanty Thomas

St James Mar Thoma Church Sevika Sangham UK

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

INCOME	2025	2024	Budget
1. Grant from Parish	500	500	500
2. Yearly collection from members	4,096	3,875	4,500
3. Onam lunch	2,535	2,155	3,000
4. Sevika Sangham Day Offertory	460	284	700
5. Food Sale/Fund Raising	1,882		2,000
6. Retreat/Picnic			1,000
7. Offertory	30	10	200
8. Donations		30	500
9. Diocesan Sevika Sangham meetings	480	1,610	2,000
Total Income	**9,983**	**8,464**	**14,400**

EXPENSES	2025	2024	Budget
1. Annual payments to Sevika Sangham Sabha Office	454.46	500	500
2. Sponsorship to Balika Bhavan, Elanthoor		150	150
3. Education/Medical/ Family Support/New home	2,809.30	1,907.52	3,000
4. Payment to Zonal Sevika Sangham Activities	460	284	700
5. Honorarium for guests			300
6. Onam Lunch	1,532	1,685.50	3,000
7. Church/Parsonage expenses	1,564	461.17	1,000
8. Refreshments/Stationeries/other Misc expenses	1,161.76	1,410.5	2,500
9. Retreat/Picnic			2,000
10. Diocesan Sevika Sangham meetings	980	2,805.01	3,500
11. Leaving gift to Remi kochamma	500	500	
		(500)	
Total expenses	**9,461.52**	**9,203.70**	**16,650.00**
Net Surplus/Deficit for the year	521.48	739.70	2,250
Balance B/F from the year 2023-24			
Cash in Hand - 119.15	14,994.60	15,734.30	
Cash at Bank - 14875.49			
Balance C/F to the year 2025-26			
Cash in hand - 765.81	15,516.10	14,994.60	
Cash at bank - 14750.31			

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on Sunday, 18th May 2025 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd

Vicar/President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd

Trustee –Mrs Sheena John

Sd

Auditor – Mrs Shiny Alex

--- End of Report ---

This whole document is presented before the General Body of the St James Mar Thoma Church, UK held on 08th June 2025 and was passed as mentioned in the minutes.

Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas
(Vicar & President)
08-06-2025

ST JAMES MAR THOMA CHURCH-UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1059210

Accounts

St James Mar Thoma Church, UK

Mar Thoma Centre, 167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

Annual Report & Accounts for the year 2023-2024

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Annual Report and Accounts 2023 – 2024

Independent Examiner's Report (Internal)

Statement of Financial Activities

Balance Sheet

Notes to the Accounts

The following pages are for private circulation only

List of expenses incurred exceeding budget 2023 – 2024

Budget forecast 2024 - 2025

Notice of Annual General Body Meeting

To all Members of the St. James Mar Thoma Church General Body,

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Body meeting of St James Mar Thoma Church UK will be held on Sunday, 2nd June 2024, 12:00 PM in person at St James Mar Thoma Church, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX to transact the following business.

1. To receive and adopt the Annual Report for the year 2023/24.
2. To approve expense exceeding budget 2023/24.
3. To receive and adopt the audited Annual Accounts for the year 2023/24.
4. To receive approve the Budget for the year 2024/25
5. To appoint an external firm/individual as the External Independent Examiner
6. To confirm the appointment of the Executive Committee members for 2024/25 as required by the charity commission.
7. Any other business (AOB) with the prior permission of the Chair (see notes below).

-sd-

Mr. Iju Thomas
Hon. Secretary

Notes forming part of the notice:

- The Annual Report, Accounts and Budget will be sent by email by Friday 17-May-2024. If you have any trouble in receiving the emails or prefer to have a hard copy of these documents, please inform the Secretary or the Vicar in writing by Wednesday 22-May-2024 5:00 PM and you may collect the hard copy from Secretary in person on Sunday 26-May-2024 after church service.

- Questions and clarification on the annual report or accounts or budget that should be answered by reference to the records should be notified in writing to the Vicar and Secretary before 5:30 PM on Wednesday 29-May-2024. Please email to londonstjamesmtcvicar@gmail.com (Vicar's email ID) and stjameslondonmtcsecretary@gmail.com (Secretary's email ID)

- If any member is interested in bringing up any item under the item "Any other business" (AOB), Please contact the Vicar in writing before 5:30 PM on Thursday 30-May-2024

Annual Report 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

Introduction

A parish is the place where the people of God gather to offer thanksgiving and where they grow in deeper intimacy with Christ and the Church. It is where we welcome others and we strive to build a family of love by our communion with Christ and one another as a worshipping community and sacramental community. God Almighty enables us to live with such a vision and be witness to Christ Jesus.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of St. James Mar Thoma Church UK, it is with immense pleasure and a heart full of praise and gratitude to the Almighty Lord that we present to you the annual report and financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2024, of St. James Mar Thoma Church UK

Let us thank Lord Almighty for His guidance, mercy, and grace we have experienced as a parish through the last twenty eight years and glorify His name for His faithfulness. We thank Our Almighty God for giving us this wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord and Our Parish during the year.

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, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities statement of Recommended Practice, (FRS102). The trustees have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in relation the activities being for the public benefit.

Historical Perspective of our Parish

St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK (SJMTC) is a Parish of The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, in the Diocese of UK, Europe and Africa. Previously, the parish was part of North America-Europe Diocese until 31-Dec-2023 led by Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa.

The Mar Thoma worship in the UK started in 1957. St James Parish was based in Central London and was a continuation of the worship that started in Central London in the fifties to meet the needs of members residing in London and the Home Counties.

St. James Mar Thoma Church UK is a Registered Charity in the United Kingdom (Charity Reg. No: 1059210.), with the registered office at St James Mar Thoma Centre, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Our Parish is now administratively placed in the Diocese of UK, Europe and Africa, and His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa is our Diocesan Bishop. We remain blessed and thankful for His Grace's continuous support and leadership provided for our Parish.

Mission and Objective

The mission and objective of the Church is to keep and safeguard the faith as revealed by Christ and taught by the Apostles, to promote the spiritual life of the faithful through the administration of the sacraments and the preaching of the word.

Our Mission is to serve the people as servants of the resurrected Christ without diluting and deluding the ethos of the Church. We as a parish are embodied to promote the Christian religion, provide our members with regular Christian worship services in accordance with the traditions of the Mar Thoma Church, provide pastoral care and organise activities to enhance and support the spiritual life of its members, enhance the ecumenical relationship within the local community and Churches, provide financial support for evangelistic and charitable work in the United Kingdom and abroad, especially India.

Governing Document

St James Mar Thoma Church UK is governed by the constitution adopted on 27th October 1996 and as amended on 29th January 2006 and submitted to the Charity Commission and by the constitution of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, India.

Ecumenical Relations

While retaining many of the traditional characteristics of the ancient Eastern church, the Mar Thoma Church keeps very close relations with Christian churches in other parts of the world. The Church enjoys full intercommunion relationship with the world-wide Anglican Church and is a full member of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI). Locally, we are also members of the Churches Together in New Eltham (CTNE)

Parish Membership & General Body participation

A parish register of all members is maintained by the Vicar and is kept updated. All persons above 18 years, who have their names on the parish register, receive Holy Communion in the parish and whose parish membership has not been barred, are entitled to be Edavaka Sangham members (General Body of the parish).

Our membership as of 31st March 2024 was 210 families including new families who joined the parish during the reporting year. We welcome these new families to the fellowship of St James Mar Thoma Church, UK.

Vicar

We acknowledge the services of our previous Vicar Rev. K. K. Kuruvila, his wife Mrs. Remi Kuruvila and their two daughters, Ms. Rhema Eliza Kuruvila & Ms. Kerigma Susan Kuruvila from 2019 to 2023.
There was a farewell meeting held on 23rd April 2023 to thank Rev K.K. Kuruvila and family for their services over the past four years.

We acknowledge the services of our Vicar Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas, his wife Mrs. Jessen Varghese and their two children, Eben Soju Thomas and Elmina Jessy Soju during this period. Vicar Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas has now completed a year of his service as the Vicar of our church. Vicar's spiritual leadership and pastoral care has made a significant impact to the members' spiritual life and wellbeing. Through Vicar's leadership and guidance, all organisations of the church and prayers groups are functioning well. Vicar has also taken an active role in the various activities of the zone. We thank Vicar and family for their blessed ministry in our parish over the last year

Appointment of Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee)

The appointed Vicar of St James Parish is the President. The trustees (members of the Executive Committee) are elected or nominated every year before the commencement of the financial year. They are elected either by the General Body or by the members of the organisation whom they represent or nominated by the Diocesan Bishop. The Sabha Mandalam and the Diocesan Assembly members are elected/nominated and their terms of office to these bodies is for a period of three years. The appointment of Trustees is as per the constitution.

Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee) for the reporting year

The following members served as the Trustees of the Charity for the year 2023-2024.

President & Vicar	Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas	Appointed
Vice President	Mr. P.K. Edison	Elected
Secretary	Mr. Iju Thomas	Elected
Trustee Finance	Mr. Ashok Thomas	Elected
Trustee Accounts	Mr. Ajex John	Elected
Lay Leader 1	Mr. Rajan Chacko	Elected
Lay Leader 2	Mr. Regi C Philip	Elected
Sabha Mandalam Member	Mr. Sabu George	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly Member	Mr. Cyril Abraham John	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly Member	Mr. Noble J Mathew	Nominated
Edavaka Mission Representative	Mr. Alex P Sam	Elected
Sevika Sangham Representative	Mrs. Sherly Linoy	Elected
Sunday School Representative	Mrs. Sherine George	Elected
Youth League Representative	Mr. Thomas Rajan Chacko	Elected
Choir Representative	Mr. Aji Chacko	Elected
Area Prayer Group Representatives	Mrs. Aswathy Varghese (Bury St Edmunds Area) Mr. Shiju Thomas (East Area) Mr. Abraham Isac (Ipswich Area) Mr. Shajan Varampel Mathai (Kent Area) Mr. Stephen Varughese Joseph (South East Area) Mr. Praveen Mathew (South Area)	Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected

The Executive Committee met 15 times during the year to discuss and deliberate on the day-to-day running of the Parish, as well as to execute the decisions of the General Body.

Other Officials

Authorizing officer and Key contact for UKBA	Mr. Iju Thomas Mr. P. K. Edison
Data Protection Officer (DPO)	Mr Cyril Abraham John
Internal Auditors (Elected)	Mr. Mathews John Mrs. Mercy Mathew

General Body Meetings

Two general body meetings were held during the reporting year. All general body meetings were held in-person in our church.

The Annual General Body meeting (AGM) was held on Sunday 11th June 2023 to receive and approve the annual report and accounts for the year 2022-23 and to receive and approve the budget for the year 2023-2024. The general body approved the annual report and accounts for the year 2022-2023 and passed the budget for 2023-2024. The general body agreed to raise and donate INR 15 Lakhs to fund the housing aid charity project for evangelist.

The second general body meeting was held on 29th October 2023. In this meeting, general body approved the decision to remortgage the property with Kingdom Bank.

The third general body meeting was held on Sunday 25th February 2024 to elect the office bearers and auditors for the year 2024-2025. In this meeting, general body also accepted the proposal from Executive Committee to elect Data Protection Officer (DPO) and Data Controller Officer (DCO) from within the executive committee for 2024-25.

Risk Management

The Executive Committee have, from time to time, examined the major operational risks which the parish faces and confirms that systems have been established to enable regular review of steps that can be taken to reduce these risks. Risk management is reviewed and discussed at Executive Committee meetings.

For the safe running of the Church, a Health and Safety Policy has been adopted. A CCTV guideline is also followed for the use in Church.

Reserves Policy

St James Mar Thoma Church shall set aside reserves to provide financial stability and the means to sustain, improve and develop its mission and objects. As the flow of income is not uniform, reserves need to be set aside to meet expenses that are irregular in pattern. The Executive Committee has determined that the approximate level of free reserves should be equivalent to three months expenditure, approximately £53,000. For various reasons, we were not able to fully maintain this level

of reserves. As result of actions taken, we were able to make some progress on our reserves. However, a continued effort is needed to maintain this.

Financial Update

St James Mar Thoma Church is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of members and well-wishers. We are greatly indebted for their financial support. The full income and expenditure statement for the year 2023/24 and the balance sheet are attached. In spite of the current political and economic situations around the world, it is pleasing to note that our various collections have increased. Whilst this is welcome news, we have a significant way to go before we can get to the level of reserves we need to have for the smooth running of the affairs of the parish, meet various financial obligations and to maintain our Mar Thoma Centre, New Eltham.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

We have adopted a policy, based on the requirements of the Children Act 1989, which is monitored and reviewed annually. DBS checks are being carried out on all individuals who take responsibility for children's activities.

Our Church recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for our children and young people. To accomplish this, we have also established a child protection policy and procedures and thereby fulfilling our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of our children and youth.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The GDPR came into to law on 25th May 2018. In compliance with the requirements, St James Mar Thoma Church have adopted and established a GDPR privacy policy. This policy is published on the Church website. All trustees have been briefed on the regulation and their responsibilities to be in compliance with the policy. Our parish is also registered with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Sunday Worship Services

The Sunday Worship services were held in person and also broadcasted via the online platform. On average about 180 members attend the service regularly and an average 130 members participate in Holy Communion. We have Holy Communion service in both English and Malayalam. Our worship services are assisted by various area prayer group members on a rota basis. Both our Lay Leaders with the guidance from our Vicar did a commendable job in ensuring that there is equal participation from all areas to lead our church service. Our Church Choir play an active role in assisting our services. Sunday worship service conclude with a fellowship meal sponsored by the respective area prayer group members. During the reporting year, Sunday evening worship services were also held once in a month in Ipswich. Members from nearby areas, Ipswich, Bury & St Edmunds, Norwich and Colchester attended the worship services in Ipswich.

Special Services & Prayers

Special services were conducted to celebrate Parish Day, Thanksgiving Day, Family Sunday, Diocesan Sunday, Edavaka Mission Sunday, Sevika Sangham Day, Youth Sunday, World Sunday School Day, Choir Sunday, Senior Citizens Day, 40th Friday service, Student Thanksgiving Day and Christmas during the respective days as per the church calendar.

Thanksgiving Sunday, Parish Sunday, Family Sunday and Parish Convention

In this reporting year, Thanksgiving Day was celebrated on 21st May 2023. Rev. Merin Mathew was our Chief Guest and Celebrant for the service.

The Parish Day, Family Sunday and Annual convention was held on 20th, 21st and 22nd October 2023. Rev. Thomas Baby, Vicar of Tabore Mar Thoma Church, Manchester was the main speaker and guest of honour. The theme for the three-day convention was "**The family as a Kingdom of God. A rereading**". The first day session was held in Ipswich and the second and the final day were held at St James Mar Thoma Church. All sessions were well attended and was a blessing to our members.

Harvest Festival

Over the years the Harvest Festival has evolved to be an event both young and old look forward to with great enthusiasm. Harvest Festival food sale and fund collections were organised on Saturday, 23rd September 2023. Deputy Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, Councillor Jit Ranabhat was the chief guest for our Harvest Festival inaugural session. Councillor Patricia Greenwell visited our food stalls. We also managed to conduct auctions after church service. Raffle ticket sales were done during the last quarter with good participation from our members. Thanks to our Harvest Festival Convenors, Mr Shajan Varampel Mathai, Mr. Praveen Mathew and Mrs Sherly Linoy who organised the events well and helped to raise significant funds during these challenging times.

Parish Picnic

A one-day parish picnic was organised on 30th September 2023. We visited Longleat Safari Park, Warminster. Seventy of our members participated and we had a fun filled trip and joyful fellowship during the parish picnic. The convenors Mrs Soumya Abraham, Mrs Bindu Annie Jacob and Mr Shiju Thomas co-ordinated all the arrangements for the picnic.

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service was held on Sunday 17th December 2023 at St James Mar Thoma Church. Rt Rev Saju Muthalaly, the Bishop of Loughborough was our chief guest for the service and delivered the Christmas message. It was a beautiful service of carols led by our talented and dedicated senior and junior choir. The Sunday school children presented the nativity story with new and contemporary themes. We appreciate and extend our gratitude to the choir leadership and choir members, Sunday school teachers and the children for their dedication and hard work.

Christmas Bells

Christmas Bells is an annual event of our church organized by the choir focusing on the theme of Christmas. This event gave opportunities to each area prayer groups to showcase their musical talents through Christmas carols. This year, Christmas Bells was held on the 24th December 2023 immediately after the service. The Christmas raffle draw also took place on this occasion.

House to House Carol Rounds

As part of the Christmas celebrations, house-to-house carol rounds were arranged. Carollers together with the Vicar visited homes of 140 members in London and Home Counties of Middlesex, Berkshire,

Buckinghamshire, Essex, Kent, East Sussex, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk during the weeks leading to Christmas. The carol rounds started on 25th November and completed on 23rd December. It was an opportunity to proclaim the Good News of Christmas through carols, bible passages and prayer. As convenor, Mr Sabu George, together with area representatives deserve considerable credit for their dedication and tireless efforts in arranging the house to house carol rounds.

Watch Night Service

Watch night service was held on the New Year's Eve at St James Mar Thoma Church. It was also an occasion of thanksgiving, praise, testimony, and worship especially during the tough economic times that the world was undergoing. Holy Communion was celebrated on the eve of the New Year 2023.

Great Lent and Passion Week

During this reporting year, our church observed the Great Lent with Easter being celebrated on the Sunday, 9th April 2023 last year and Sunday 31st March 2024 this year. The passion week services, Good Friday services and Easter services were well attended last year as well as this year.

Apart from the passion week services, our church observed the Great Lent by dedicating all the area prayer meetings during the Lent season as Great Lent prayer sessions.

Family Retreat

We had our one day family retreat on March 16th 2024 guided by the inspiring theme of Ephesians 4:1 - Lead a life worthy of calling. Acclaimed speaker Mr Sunny Stephen lead the session, offering insights on mental renewal, spiritual strength, and the power of fellowship both in church and in family life. A separate program for children under the age of fifteen was also hosted at church lead by Sunday School. The convenors for the family retreat were Mr Aji Chacko and Mr Regi Philip.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. During the year, we were able to support various missionary activities and lend a helping hand to those in need. Through the generous support of our members, we were able to support the following Charities and Charitable projects and Institutions in India and here in UK.

They include the following:

- Housing Aid Charity Project for Evangelist
- Educational support for five nursing students
- Provided medical aid for three individuals
- Educational Support for a student in St. Thomas Teachers Training Institute, Thiruvalla
- Set up "Wings to Dream" project for ongoing educational support to two BSc Nursing students and one general nursing student
- Donations in kind to Bexley Food Bank led by Sunday School
- 37 students were sponsored for Light to Life project by 33 sponsors

Our church organisations have also supported various charity initiatives which are included in their respective reports

Matrimony

During the report year, the marriage of Eric Edison & Tatiana Giller was solemnised at our church. The marriage banns was published and Deshakuri was issued for the marriage of Tevin Mathew & Merlin Anna Reji. No Objection Certificates were issued for the marriage of Jerry Rajan Chacko & Richu Susan Philip, Jyothis Varampel Shajan & Midhun Dev Devkumar Anitha. We congratulate the newly married couples and wish them long and happy married life.

Baptism

During the report year, we conducted 2 baptisms in our church. We welcome the newly baptised members to the Christian family and pray for their physical and spiritual growth.

Following are the names of those who were baptised in our church in the reporting year.

1) Tatiana Giller
2) Mevisri Chiranjeevi Damala (D/o Chiranjeevi Damala and Meenakshi M Gollar)

Obituary

This year some of our members have lost their beloved Parents/Siblings/Relatives. Parish extended spiritual support for the consolation of these families. We place on record our condolences to all bereaved families.

1) Mr Linoy Cherian was called to eternity on 5th September 2023 and funeral service was conducted at our church
2) Dr K G Mathai was called to eternity on 1st December 2023

We give thanks to God Almighty for their life, especially their services and contributions to St. James Mar Thoma Church and the love and fellowship they shared amongst our community.

House Blessing

During this year many of our members have acquired new homes and three house blessing services have been conducted.

St James Mar Thoma Centre

With a long-term vision to build and develop our own place of worship, in 2005, St. James MTC purchased 167 Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, spanning 4.6 acres in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, neighbouring the University of Greenwich campus.

The foundation stone laying service of the redevelopment of the Mar Thoma centre and Parsonage was held on 23rd August 2017. Our late Metropolitan His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan and Our Diocesan Bishop His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa led the service and laid the foundation stone in the presence of invited guests, clergy of sister parishes and members of the parish.

The consecration of our Church, Centre and parsonage was conducted on 8th May 2021 by His Grace

Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa. On the following day, we had the first holy communion service at our newly built St James Mar Thoma Church.

By the Grace of Our good Lord, after years of collective prayers, hard work and perseverance, we accomplished this long-term vision of building our own place to serve as the St. James Mar Thoma Church Centre, with facility for worship, multi-use facility for community and sports activities and a parsonage.

In the last year, our football pitches have been rented out to Metrogas football club and Total football club. In addition, our facilities are popular in the local community for small event hires especially due to the availability of managed onsite parking.

The Centre will continue to be a blessing not just for our families, but also for the community as a whole and for the next generation.

Parish Organisations

The Parish is blessed with its organisations namely: Sunday School, Youth League, Church Choir, Suvishesha Sevika Sangham (The Women's Mission) and the Edavaka/Parish Mission. Each organisation has elected leaders to help carry out the administrative duties and responsibilities vested on them meaningfully. All the organisations of our Parish functions effectively to further the mission of our Church.

Sunday School

"Train a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it"
Proverbs 22: 6

St James MTC Sunday school supports the SJMTC parents in their responsibility of bringing up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord with the help of God-fearing, dedicated and committed DBS-cleared Sunday school teachers under the guidance of our Vicar Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas.

The office bearers for the year 2023/24 were elected on 05th March 2023

Headmistress:	Mrs Sherine George
Secretary:	Mrs Jessen Joseph
Treasurer	Mrs Susan Mathew

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND CLASSES

There are 77 children registered in our Sunday school in 2023-24, who attend lessons under the guidance and training of 25 teachers. Our weekly Sunday school session structure emphasizes worship, education, and service as the three-fold components of Christian living. The Sunday school Session is from 9.00am to 10.15am, starting with class lessons, followed by Sunday school Collective Worship session. Thereafter Sunday school Collective Activity session takes place for all age groups. The children prayerfully attend the Holy Qurbana service at 10:30am.

ACTIVITIES HELD DURING 2023 -24

- VBS 2023 from 27th May to 29th May 2023 with 87 VBS registrations at our parish. The theme was: "Root & Fruit" Isaiah 37:31. We thank VBS 2023 Director Mr Jickson V George and his team for all their efforts.
- VBS Refresher Retreat on 18th Feb 24 with theme Strengthening Roots to bear Consistent Fruits led by Mr Jickson V George.
- Annual exam on 2nd July 23.
- Student and Teachers Dedication on 10th Sept 23
- Annual Day 22-23 & Prize distribution on 10th Sept 23 to celebrate the efforts and achievements of all Sunday School children in the competitions and Annual exams.
- 12 Teachers attended the Sunday School Teachers Retreat at St Johns MTC, Hounslow on 14th Oct 2023
- Attended WSSD 2023 at Cardiff on 4th Nov 23 hosted by Cardiff Sunday School.
- Music Accompanied Singing sessions: Throughout the year, various Children with passion for music accompanies the singing/activity sessions with music on their preferred instrument
- Sunday School Charity Ventures: Because of the generous and prayerful contributions of the Sunday School parents and our parish members we have been able to:

1. Participate in Operation Christmas Child in Nov 23. Children across our parish felt very blessed to be part of this amazing project where they were able to bless children in need across the world by sending them 48 shoeboxes filled with toys, personal care items, school supplies, and fun gifts.
2. Donate regularly to Bexley Food Bank on a monthly basis. Bexley foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local community.
3. Raise funds through Food sale on 28th Jan 24 for Marthoma High School for the deaf, Cherkala, Kasargod, India. We raised £1570/- of which we donated Rs 87000/- for this worthy cause.

Under the able leadership of our Vicar, the Year 23-24 was a blessed year with innumerable and blessed opportunities to learn about our Lord, to worship Him with all our hearts, to serve Him and His children and to proclaim the Gospel to many. We are extremely grateful to our Lord for this incredible privilege! We thank God for enabling us by His grace to serve you all with love, truth, enthusiasm and God's love in our hearts. We thank you for your prayers and continued support and encouragement.

Youth League

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.''

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Almighty Lord and Saviour for his grace and mercy bestowed upon us throughout the year. It was indeed a blessing to witness Youth fellowship members dedicatedly serving the lord through various activities and events.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2023 – 24:

Secretary	Mrs Nisha Mary Philip
Joint Secretary	Ms Rianne Thomas
Treasurer	Mr Ashwin Chacko

Youth fellowship meetings were held on every 2nd Sunday of the month, where the youths actively participated and also prayerfully served for the Youth Sunday Service.

The Youth Committee organised a one-day outing to Thorpe Park during the summer break involving all the university students and school students, the excursion was aimed to bring fellowship, enjoyment and fun amongst the youths.

The Youths organised various entertaining game sessions for the family retreat held in the church premises. They also lent a hand during the harvest festival by organising the drinks, games and entertainment stall. The Youths joined hands and beautifully decorated the church for Christmas which was appreciated by all. There was also a skit and a song presentation by the Youths in the Christmas Bells program. The Youths actively engaged in online sessions organised by the diocese. Under the leadership of Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas, we had a meaningful Youth Convention, led by Rev. Thomas Baby.

We thank the Vicar, Executive Committee, Senior Parish members and all the Youth members for their support and participation throughout the year.

Church Choir

The Choir of St. James Mar Thoma Church plays a vital role in our worship services, actively assisting the vicar and leading various events, including the Parish Convention & Parish Day, First Holy Communion, Thirumenis' visit, Christmas carols service, Watch Night service, and Passion Week services. Affiliated with DSMC, our choir boasts 37 members, comprising 18 males and 19 females, who also participate in organisations like Sevika Sangham, Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, and Edavaka Mission.

Junior choir was led by the Junior choir leader Mr. Jickson V George who did a wonderful job in leading the children. This was a great platform for the young children to begin their journey into learning and singing music and also be part of the overall choir. This year junior choir had the maximum number (28) of participation from the Sunday school children

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2023 – 24:

Choir Leader	Mr. Aji Chacko
Joint choir leader	Mr. Vishak Kurien Pattassery
Choir secretary	Mrs. Nisha Mary Philip
Treasurer	Mr. Jiku Thomas

Activities for the year 2023-24

The Choir Sunday service was held on the 18th June 2023. Choir members took a major lead in assisting the service. There was a special order of worship by DSMC that was used during the service. Choir members also presented a special song. Rev. Mathews George, Faculty from Dharma Jyoti Vidyapeeth led the service and gave the sermon. Choir dedication was also held on the same Sunday. In this year, choir has conducted 3 choir fellowship meetings and a choir retreat was held on 25th June 2023. Apart from our Choir Leads, Mr. Aji and Mr. Vishak, choir has also invited the musician and singer Mr. Rinosh Noble to provide vocal training, staff notation and site reading. A choir meeting was also held to share the feedback for the carol service.

Choir practice for the Christmas carol service started in the month of September and there was a total of 18 practice sessions. The Christmas carol service was held on 17th December 2023 at New Eltham. The Chief guest for the day was Rt. Rev. Saju K Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough, Suffragon Bishop of Leicester along with the other guests Rev. Daniel Kirk and Patricia Green, councillor of new Eltham and Avery Hill. Bishop inspired us with a refreshing and thought-provoking Christmas message. The choir sang 6 new carols this year, 4 Malayalam and 2 English.

The Junior choir put in yet another stellar performance and which was highly appreciated by all. The junior choir sang 2 carols, one in English and one in Malayalam. The Sunday school children also presented an innovative nativity scene combined with a relevant message concerning today's world situation.

As part of continued efforts to spread His glory across digital platforms, Choir has released 11 new songs in YouTube during Christmas and Passion week.

St. James Mar Thoma Church Choir also participated in additional activities like Zonal carols service which took place on 26th December at Peterborough, Open stage choir competition organised by Garshom TV for all the ecumenical churches in UK in Coventry on 9th December 2023, Mar Thoma CHOIR FEST 2023' organised by DSMC, Zonal choir-organised 'Virtual Choir 2023'

Our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mrs. Shirley Linoy Cherian for the untimely demise of our choir member Mr. Linoy Cherian who was an enthusiastic musician and an expert bass vocalist. Choir leader expressed condolences message along with a song by the choir during his celebration of Life.

Suvishesha Sevika Sangham (The Women's Mission)

St. James parish is blessed with a vibrant Sevika Sangham that takes an active role in the spiritual life of the parish. Sevika Sangham members offered great mental and physical support for the family members of parish members in their sickness and in bereavement.

St James Mar Thoma Church Sevika Sangham meet on first Sunday of every month immediately after the church service. Our Sevika Sangham members participate in online chain prayers organised on every alternate Fridays, held from 5:30 AM in the morning till 11:00 PM. These chain prayers have been a blessing to our members who has participated and the wider community who has requested. The other alternate Fridays are observed as fasting prayer days.

In addition to the above, this year the Sevika Sangham started an online bible study, jointly with the Edavaka Mission, on first and third Wednesday of every month. This bible study is led by our Vicar and is open to all the members of the church.

Our Sevika Sangham members attended the Zonal Sevika Sangham Conference held at the St Thomas Mar Thoma Church Bristol on 24th June 2023. Our members also took part in the singing competition held on the day. Our members also attended the Annual Sevika Sangham Conference held at the Hermon Mar Thoma Church, Midlands on 07th October 2023. Our members took part in the Quiz competition held on the day, and secured third place.

Sevika Sangham played an active role in organising and preparing a wide variety of food for our Harvest Festival, held on the 23rd September 2023. Our Parish celebrated the Sevika Sangham day on 17th of September 2023. Our members assisted and helped to lead the service for the Sunday Holy Qurbana. Our member Mrs Shiby Varughese delivered the sermon on the day. On Sevika Sangham initiative, Onam Sadhya was also served after the church service.

During this year, our Sevika Sangham heartly contributed towards various charity purposes. Sevika Sangham invited applications for all those who are in need of Education and Medical aid. From the applications received, our Vicar and the sub-committee, appointed by the General Body, selected the most deserving candidates. Sevika Sangham provided an Education Aid of Rs.1,00,000 to a nursing student and medical aid of Rs.50,000 each to 2 women from the shortlisted applications.

Our vicar Rev Soju Mathai Thomas served as the President of the St. James Sevika Sangham for the year 2023-24. The following members served as office bearers for the year 2023 – 24.

Vice President	Mrs Laly Abraham
Secretary	Mrs. Shanty Thomas
Joint Secretary	Mrs. Bindu Annie Jacob
Treasurer	Mrs. Sheena John
Representative to EC	Mrs. Sherly Linoy
Auditor	Mrs Carmel Mathew

Edavaka/Parish Mission

Acts 1:8, "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Edavaka Mission has a prominent role of spreading the Gospel and leading the mission activities of the Parish. The functioning of this organisation is based on the motto 'Every Marthomite is an Evangelist' and it was called to promote various activities of the Parish. Evangelism is the responsibility of every member of the Church and not that of the clergy alone.

Under the guidance of Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas, the Parish Mission thrived this past year with various activities aimed at spiritual growth and community engagement.

Activities

- Church Meetings: Regular Parish Mission meetings were held after select Sunday services.
- Wednesday Evening Prayer: A fruitful online evening prayer and Bible study were initiated, alternating leadership with Sevika Sangam.
- Intercessory Prayer: The intercessory prayer was reinstated, providing a blessed start to Sunday mornings.
- Cottage Fasting Prayer: Cottage fasting prayers were organized, fostering deeper spiritual connections.
- House Visits: Visits were made to the homes of elderly members, ensuring their inclusion and care.
- Parish Mission Sunday: The Parish Mission led the celebration of Parish Mission Sunday on October 1, 2023, with various members contributing to the service and refreshments.
- Medical Information Session: A valuable session on CPR was conducted by Dr. Jagan John, Dr. Jason John, and Dr. K John, enhancing preparedness in emergencies.
- Parish Convention: The Parish Mission took the lead in organizing the Parish convention and Rev. Thomas Baby from Tabore Marthoma Church, Manchester was the chief guest and key speaker.

- Diocesan Intercessory Prayer: Hosting the Diocesan intercessory prayer further strengthened our bond with the broader Mar Thoma community.
- Membership Drive: Parish Mission office bearers undertook a membership drive to widen the participation of our church members in the activities of the Parish Mission

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2023 – 24.

Vice President	Mr. Varughese Mathew
Secretary	Mr. Alex P Sam
Treasurer	Mrs Ancy Sunnymon
Auditor	Mrs Shiney Alex

The Edavaka Mission remains always as the body for helping the spiritual awakening of the Parish. We thank our Vicar and all the Edavaka Mission committee members. May God's continuing guidance be with the Church and all Edavaka Mission activities.

Area Prayer Groups

The Parish is currently made up of various prayer groups. Regular prayer meetings were held at Bury St. Edmunds, East London, Ipswich, Kent, South East London and South London. Each prayer groups met regularly for Bible study, praise and intercessory prayers. Each prayer group has an elected prayer leader to assist the Vicar with the arrangements. The area prayers are a source of strength and enrichment to the lives of members both children and adults. The prayer groups also play a part in assisting with our Worship services. Each elected prayer group leader has played a vital role in keeping the families informed and also supporting the lay leaders for Church assistance. Prayer groups also have elected treasurers to manage the offertory and any other special collection the groups may decide.

Zonal Meetings

The parish members participated in the Mar Thoma UK and Europe zonal meetings. This included the Zonal Sevika Sangham Meet, World Sunday School Day, Zonal Christmas Carols, Zonal Parish Mission Intercessory Prayer and Zonal Mar Thoma Meet. Our members have also taken up leadership roles in the Zone. Mr. Cyril Abraham John was elected as Zonal Auditor and Mrs. Susan Mathew served as the Zonal Sunday School Treasurer

Church Website & NewsLetter

The official website of the parish is www.marthomachurch.org.uk. The website continued to be regularly updated. It has been a source of information for both our members, new members and to others around the world.

The Church Newsletter is published weekly and distributed via email to members of the Parish. The Newsletter comprises the church programme calendar for each month and other information such as Sunday worship timings, Sunday lectionary, prayer schedules, special events, achievements by the parishioners, financial updates etc.

Visiting Bishops and Clergies

During the report year, following bishops and clergies visited our parish

- Rt Rev Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa
- Rt Rev Dr Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa
- Rt Rev Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough
- Rev Merin Mathew
- Rev Abu Cherian
- Rev M J Cherian
- Rev Thomas Baby
- Rev Sunny Thomas
- Rev V G Varghese
- Rev M J Joseph
- Rev Sijo John
- Rev Daniel Kirk

We would like to extend our gratitude to all the Bishops and Vicars and their parishes for the support.

Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee would like to place on record the grateful leadership, guidance and support of His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan, our current Diocesan Bishop Rt Rev. Dr Joseph Mar Ivanios Episcopa as well as our previous Diocesan Bishop Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa. There was a farewell meeting organised on 12th Nov 2023 at church for our outgoing Diocesan Bishop Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa to thank Episcopa for his dedicated service in the Diocese over the last seven years.

We also respectfully thank His Majesty's Government and the London Borough of Greenwich for all their assistance during the reporting year.

We acknowledge the dedication and sincere services of the entire Executive Committee; from the leadership and guidance of our Vice President, the tireless and meritorious work of the Treasurer and Accountant, Lay leaders, internal auditors, convenors of the various programmes, office bearers of organisations, all the area prayer group leaders and all our family members and well-wishers who have supported the parish through their prayers and generous contributions and wholehearted support during the year. We are also grateful to all Sevika Sangham Area prayer group leaders and families, who volunteer regularly to provide refreshments on Sundays after church service and on special occasions.

We affectionately remember with gratitude all our former and present Bishops, Vicars and their families, parish members and well-wishers. Let us thank and pray to our Lord Almighty for their services, able leadership and guidance, for their untiring work and contributions rendered for the growth of our Parish to this day.

Conclusion

We thank our God Almighty for the abundant mercies and provisions throughout this year, especially, during this unprecedented political and economic turmoil where we have faced with various challenges. In the midst of our limitations, His bountiful blessings protected, preserved and strengthened us to be His witnesses.

Our membership is constantly increasing and many within our community enjoy the love, fellowship and services provided by our Parish. New members attending our service need wholehearted support, guidance and fellowship. As a parish we need to set our priorities so that we can support our community.

For the year under review, we conducted our regular worship services, prayer meetings, study sessions, and special events and activities. The parish has experienced God's enduring presence and grace. God Almighty has provided us timely spiritual leadership through the Bishops, Clergies, and other lay leaders. We have also extended possible support to the sick, needy, and marginalized people. Let us rededicate ourselves to continue the mission and ministry of God Almighty through reflecting Christ's character of humility, love, integrity, generosity, and servant hood. The church is the community where individuals get support, guidance, skills, encouragement, and motivation to transform not only their own lives, but also assist others who are in need of meaning and wholeness. May the Almighty God continue to bless our parish and make all our efforts for His glory and extension of His Kingdom.

Let us be the torch bearers of faith, "light to the generations and salt of the earth" and move forward with the motto of the Mar Thoma Church, 'Lighted to Lighten'.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee / Charity Trustees.

-sd-

Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

(Vicar & President)

-sd-

Mr. Iju Thomas

(Hon. Secretary)

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts (Internal)

Report to the Trustees /members of St James Mar Thoma Church UK (Charity No. 1059210) on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on pages 21 to 33

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) (b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Direction 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 the 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 statement below.

Independent examiners' statement

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

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

We have 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.

-sd-

Mr. Mathews John
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

-sd-

Mrs. Mercy Mathew
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Date: 27th April 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

		Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Actual 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23
Income							
1.	Stewardship		81,401		81,401	90,000	74,127
2.	Tax Refund		43,938		43,938	25,000	33,732
3.	General Offertory	3a	63,223		63,223	40,000	53,031
4.	General Offertory - Thanksgiving			3,000	3,000	3,000	3,490
5.	Specific Offertory and Collections	3b		7,389	7,389	5,000	7,023
6.	Harvest Festival	4	25,920	2,580	28,500	20,000	25,891
7.	Christmas Carol Rounds		9,850		9,850	10,000	6,870
8.	Mar Thoma Centre Enhancement Fund				0	100,000	1,430
9.	Mar Thoma Centre Additional Principal Repayment Fund			3,260	3,260	24,000	0
10.	Mar Thoma Centre Maintenance Fund				0	20,000	0
11.	Insurance Claim		18,900		18,900		
12.	Donations		5,998		5,998	4,000	0
13.	Event Donations	3c	5,658		5,658	6,000	7,793
14.	Zonal Contribution Collection			6,035	6,035	9,590	4,350
15.	MTC Hire of Hall and Grounds	20	14,355		14,355	10,000	5,550
16.	Bank Interest		939		939	250	286
17.	Church Organisation Collections			4,698	4,698	0	5,136
18.	Zonal Contra Collections			1,250	1,250		
19.	Church Worship Book Donations						10
20.	Zonal Development Fund						42,840
21.	Charitable Donation Collections	18a		12,649	12,649	25,000	4,900
22.	Church Fellowship Fund			12,486	12,486	10,000	9,632
Total Income			**270,182**	**53,347**	**323,529**	**401,840**	**286,092**

		Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Actual 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23
Direct Charitable Expenditure							
1.	Salary, Tax and National Insurance	17	28,934		28,934	33,600	30,635
2.	Provident/Pension Fund		675		675	750	750
3.	Guest Expenses		980		980	1,000	990
4.	Motor and Travel	10	2,650		2,650	5,000	2,715
5.	Motor Car Leasing & Final Payment				0	0	2,085
6.	Motor Insurance	10	1,270		1,270	1,500	1,165
7.	Accommodation and Utility	7	5,388		5,388	9,000	5,357
8.	Church Building & Contents Insurance		2,244		2,244	2,000	1,747
9.	Visiting Clergy		1,257		1,257	4,000	3,750
10.	New Vicar's Relocation (Winter) Allowance		1,000		1,000	1,000	
11.	New Vicar's Driving License		890		890	2,000	
12.	Zonal Contribution	5	3,155	6,035	9,190	9,190	9,190
13.	Specific Offertory	3b		7,389	7,389	5,000	7,023
14.	Harvest Festival Expenses and Grants	4	2,700	2,580	5,280	2,500	3,723
15.	Charity Contribution from Thanks Giving			3,000	3,000	3,000	3,490
16.	Printing, postage and Stationary		101		101	250	28
17.	Special Events, Parish Day / Convention	3d	10,337		10,337	6,000	6,168
18.	Provision for Vicars Transfer Cost	14	12,063		12,063	10,000	11,761
19.	Mandalam and Assembly Meeting TA					1,000	0
20.	Church Organisation Grants	9	3,500		3,500	3,500	2,750
21.	Ecumenical Membership	5	400		400	400	400
22.	Sundry Expenses		125		125	500	51
23.	Altar Expense		145		145	500	279
24.	Carol Rounds Expenses		1,358		1,358	1,500	1,140
25.	Bank Charges		1,435		1,435	1,500	1,284
26.	Family / Clergy Conference		120		120	500	0
27.	Mar Thoma Centre Maintenance Charges	8	28,057		28,057	24,000	13,607
28.	Bank Loan Repayment & Interest	11	86,575		86,575	79,572	52,912
29.	Mar Thoma Centre Additional Principal Repayment			3,260	3,260	24,000	
30.	Mar Thoma Centre Enhancement				0	100,000	0
31.	Donations		0	0	0	500	0
32.	Church Organisation Payments			4,698	4,698	0	5,136
33.	Zonal Contra Payments			1,250	1,250		
34.	Zonal Development Fund						48,150
35.	Professional Fees		14,873		14,873	5,000	1,000
36.	IT Infrastructure		395		395	2,000	190
37.	Charitable Donation Payments	18b		12,649	12,649	25,000	4,900
38.	Church Fellowship Expenses	19		12,486	12,486	15,000	9,605
Total Expenditure			**210,627**	**53,347**	**263,974**	**380,262**	**231,979**
Excess of Income over Expenditure			59,555	0	59,555	21,578	**54,113**
Less: Depreciation		12	51,438	0	51,438	0	52,975
Net Surplus		15	**8,117**	**0**	**8,117**	**0**	**1,138**

Balance Sheet As At 31st March 2024

	Notes		2024		2023
FIXED ASSETS		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	**12**		2,379,856		2,423,565
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at Bank- General		76,124		56,099	
Cash at Bank– Building Fund	**15**	10,668		10,668	
		86,792		**66,767**	
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors & Accruals	**13**	137,441		121,399	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			**-50,648**		**-54,632**
			2,329,208		**2,368,933**
Less: Bank loan (BOI)	**11**				780,450
Less: Bank loan (Kingdom Bank)	**11**		730,608		
Less: Provision for Vicar's transfer cost	**14**		10,000		8,000
NET ASSETS			**1,588,600**		**1,580,483**
Represented by :					
Unrestricted					
General Funds	**15**		655,302		647,185
Building Fund	**15**		930,263		930,263
Restricted					
Social welfare Fund	**15**		3,035		3,035
			1,588,600		**1,580,483**

1. Accounting Policies

a. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

b. Recognition of income

Income included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

c. Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and are valued at cost. Depreciation is provided on the following rates.

- Freehold property - 2% on cost
- Fixtures and fittings - 20% on reducing balance
- Computer and other equipment - 25% on reducing balance
- Car - 10% on straightline basis

d. Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor.

2. Stewardship

Stewardship consists of voluntary contribution. **156 family members** made such contributions during the year

3. Offertory

3a - General Offertory

General	2024	2023
Church Service	31,033	25,993
Birthday, Wedding Anniversary	12,962	10,724
Baptism (Offertory & Donations)	215	631
Marriage (Offertory & Donations)	1,500	500
Parish Day \ Thanksgiving Sunday	6,030	5,848
Family Sunday Tithe	9,593	7,745
Students Thanksgiving Service	1,610	1,040
House Dedication Service	280	550
Total	**63,223**	**53,031**

3b - Specific Offertory

Specific Offertory and Collections	2024	2023
General Offertory : Suvishesha Nidhi Collection	229	130
Specific Offertory Collection : Vaidika Seminary	325	270
Specific Offertory Collection : Metropolitan Fund	137	139
Specific Offertory Collection : Choir Sunday	131	117
Specific Offertory Collection : Mission Sunday	116	183
Specific Offertory Collection : Education Sunday	127	311
Specific Offertory Collection : World Sunday School Day	115	114
Specific Offertory Collection : Voluntary Evangelist Day	98	202
Specific Offertory Collection : Bible Sunday	111	204
Specific Offertory Collection : Outside Kerala Mission	225	127
Specific Offertory Collection : Medical Mission Sunday	194	336
Specific Offertory Collection : Clergy Medical Aid	168	123
13 Sundays Collection	**1,974**	**2,255**
Specific Offertory Collection : Youth Sunday	231	222
Specific Offertory Collection : Self Denial	3,524	3,549
Specific Offertory Collection : Recessa	574	393
Specific Offertory Collection : Good Friday	801	
Specific Offertory Collection : Sevigha Sangham Day	284	605
Total	**7,389**	**7,023**

Offertories and other collections made specifically during various church services will be disbursed as required.

3c - Event Donations

Event Donations	2024	2023
Family Retreat	1,033	1,310
Zonal Carol Service		2,189
Episcopal Visit		2,505
Zonal Mar Thoma Meet	645	575
Parish Picnic	3,630	
Carol Service	350	
Other	0	1,214
Total	**5,658**	**7,793**

3d - Event Expenses

Event Expenses	2024	2023
Family Retreat	303	975
Zonal Carol Service		1,993
Episcopal Visit	1,470	1,448
Zonal Mar Thoma Meet	1,500	1,500
Parish Picnic	3,649	
Parish Day	1,245	
Carol Service	910	252
Christmas Bells	480	
Thanksgiving Sunday	780	
Other	0	
Total	**10,337**	**6,168**

4. Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival	2024	2023
Sale Of Tickets	8,020	10,525
Auctions	5,960	5,548
Food and Games Stalls	10,665	8,863
Donations	2,805	955
Donations from previous year	1,050	
Total	**28,500**	**25,891**
Restricted Fund	2,580	2,463
Less: Expenses	2,700	1,260
Surplus	**23,220**	**22,168**

5. Zonal/ Sabha Office Dues

Zonal Dues	2024	2023
Nithyachilavu	1,490	1,490
Zonal Fund	2,980	2,980
Episcopal Travel	745	745
Zonal Day Collection Offertory	2,235	2,235
Salary Adjustment Fund	250	250
Higher education Scholarship	1,490	1,490
Ecumenical Subscription Fees	400	400
Total	**9,590**	**9,590**

6.

7. Accommodation Expenses

	2024	2023
Lighting & Heating	2,467	3,316
Council Tax & Water Rates	2,217	1,464
Telephone & Internet	188	236
Television Licence	158	159
Repairs and Sundry Household Items	358	181
Total	**5,388**	**5,357**

8. Mar Thoma Centre Expenses

	2024	2023
Rates and Water	2,416	2,525
Light and Heat	3,341	4,538
Cleaning	2,533	2,577
Premises Licence	415	55
Ground Maintenance	7,986	4,223
Building Works	12,415	
Building Maintenance	0	405
Waste Collection	773	402
Gardening	87	102
Sundry	42	336
Christmas Decorations		70
Total Expenses	**30,008**	**15,234**
Utilities Refund	1,951	1,627
Total	**28,057**	**13,607**

9. Church Grant for Church Organisations

	2024	2023
VBS	500	500
Sunday School	500	500
Sevika Sangham	500	500
Youth League	1,000	1,000
Choir	500	0
Edavaka Mission	500	250
Total	**3,500**	**2,750**

10. Motor and Travel Expenses

	2024	2023
Public Transport	200	515
Fuel Charges & Parking	1,331	1,750
Motor Repairs	794	23
Tax & Toll Charges	326	427
Total Motor and Travel	**2,650**	**2,715**
Motor Car Leasing	0	2,085
Motor Insurance	1,270	1,265
Total Motor Expenses	**3,921**	**6,065**
Refund	0	100
Total	**3,921**	**5,965**
Motor Car Final Payment (Note 12)		12,641

11. Bank Loan Repayment & Interest

This relates to loan received from Bank of India and is secured on the Freehold Property together with personal guarantees given in favour of the bank by two of our church members, Mr P K Edison & Mr Reji Mathew. Interest is charged at SOFR plus 4% and the loan is repayable by monthly instalments of £6,631.

As of 20th December 2023, the remaining borrowing of £860,000 has being remortgaged for term of 30 years by Kingdom Bank at Gospel Partner Prime Discounted Rate of 6.2% (for five years) repayable by monthly instalments of £5267.23.

A lumpsum repayment of £43,938.05 (received as GiftAid for 2022-23) made along with existing monthly instalments of £6,631 has reduced the term by 13 years and 7 months. A further amount of £3260 collected from members towards MTC Additional Principal Repayment has been set aside to be paid to the bank in April 2024.

	2024	2023
Interest Paid - BOI (Upto 20/12/2023)	72,175	52,912
Interest Paid - Kingdom Bank (20/12/2023 - 31/03/2024)	14,400	
Total Interest	**86,575**	**52,912**
Capital Repaid - BOI	22	26,660
Capital Repaid - Kingdom Bank	49,820	
Total Capital Repaid	**49,842**	**26,660**
Total Paid	**136,417**	**79,572**
Mortgage Outstanding - 1 April	810,180	860,022

12. Fixed Assets

	Freehold Property	Fixtures & Fittings	Motor Vehicle	Computer & Office Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2023	2,458,443	148,839	12,641	6,048	2,625,971
Additions	0	7,729	0	0	7,729
					0
At 31st March 2024	**2,458,443**	**156,568**	**12,641**	**6,048**	**2,633,700**
Depreciation	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2023	108,423	87,188	1,264	5,531	202,406
Charge for the Year	36,169	13,876	1,264	129	51,438
At 31st March 2024	**144,592**	**101,064**	**2,528**	**5,660**	**253,844**
Net Book Value	£	£	£	£	£
At 31st March 2024	**2,313,851**	**55,504**	**10,113**	**388**	**2,379,856**
At 31st March 2023	2,350,020	61,651	11,377	517	2,423,565

Included in cost of Freehold land and building is freehold land of £650,000 which is not depreciated

13. Creditors & Accruals

	2024	2023
Unrestricted	£	£
Restricted Funds	51,119	35,527
General Accruals	6,390	5,940
MTC Building Project Accruals	360	360
Bank Loan Repayable within 12 Months	79,572	79,572
	137,441	**121,399**

Included in the Restricted fund above is the remaining legacy amount £4,133 of the total amount received from the estate of a Late member of the parish and this amount will be disbursed in accordance with his wishes.

14. Provision For Vicar's Transfer Cost

	2024	2023
	£	£
Brought forward at 1st April	8,000	16,000
Visa extension expense - 2022	0	7,391
Visa application expense - 2023	189	10,865
Travel Arrangements for outgoing Vicar	831	1,505
Severance Bonus for outgoing Vicar	7,402	0
Travel Arrangements for incoming Vicar	1,642	0
Total expended as at 31 March	**10,063**	**19,761**
Charge for the year	12,063	11,761
Carried forward at 31 March	10,000	8,000

This is to provide for the travel and other related costs of the vicar and family, on their transfer to and from this parish.

15. Movements in Funds

	General Fund	MTC Building Fund	Social Welfare Fund	Total
Unrestricted	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2023	647,185	930,263		
Net Surplus for the Year	8,117			
Transfer to Building Account				
As at 31 March 2024	**655,302**			**655,302**
As at 31 March 2024		**930,263**		**930,263**
Less expended this year		0		
Less expended previous years (2018,2019,2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)		919,595		
Held at Building Fund Bank Account		**10,668**		

Restricted		
At 1 April 2023	3,035	
New Funds received in the Year		
Distributed in the year		
As at 31 March 2024	**3,035**	**3,035**
		1,588,600

16. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted (£)	General Restricted (£)	Total (£)
Tangible Fixed Assets	2,379,856		2,379,856
Current Assets	83,757	3,035	86,792
Current Liabilities	-147,441		-147,441
Long Term Liabilities and Provisions	-730,608		-730,608
Assets	**1,585,565**	**3,035**	**1,588,600**

17. Trustees Remuneration and Expenses

The vicar who served the parish during the year was remunerated in accordance with the terms agreed prior to the appointment. The charge in the accounts include net monthly stipend to the vicar of **£1,850.74 to October 2023 and £2,213.00 thereafter**, tax and national insurance contributions on the stipend and on the value of taxable benefits in kind. The vicar who also acts as manager of the Mar Thoma Centre is provided with accommodation and all expenses incurred on pastoral and management duties were reimbursed to him. Except for the above, no remuneration, either directly or indirectly, out of the fund of the church was paid or payable for the year, to any trustee nor to any person or persons known to be connected with any trustees. No expenses were reimbursed to trustees for carrying out their duties during the year.

18. Charitable Donations

18a. Charitable Donation Collections

	2024	2023
Light To Life Project		2,160
House Building Support for Evangelist - Ranni	6,488	2,100
Educational Aid	2,015	
Medical Aid	1,150	
Wings 2 Dreams	2,750	
Educational Support for student at TTI	246	240
Turkey Earthquake Fund		100
Mission Field : Andimadam		300
Total	**12,649**	**4,900**

18b. Charitable Donation Payments from Collections

	2024	2023
Light To Life Project		2,160
House Building Support for Evangelist - Ranni	3,412	0
Educational Support (5 Students)	2,012	
Medical Aid (3 Families)	1,104	
Wings 2 Dreams	2,403	
Educational Support for student at TTI	246	240
Mission Field : Andimadam		300
Total	**9,177**	**2,700**

18c. Charitable Donation Payments from Accruals

	2024	2023
House Building Support for Evangelist - Ranni	3,670	0
Educational Support for student at TTI	295	0
Friends of Vellore, UK - Support for safer birth		500
Total	**3,965**	**500**

18d. Restricted Charitable Donations in Accruals

	2024	2023
House Building Support for Evangelist - Ranni	3,076	2,100
Turkey Earthquake Fund		100
Educational Aid	3	
Medical Aid	46	
Wings to Dreams	347	
Total	**3,472**	**2,200**
Self Denial (2021-22) allocated to House Building Support for Evangelist - Ranni		1,570

19. Church Fellowship Expenses

	2024	2023
Fellowship Lunch	12,115	9,605
Total	**12,115**	**9,605**

20. MTC Hire of Hall and Grounds

	2024	2023
Car Park	1,035	200
Football Pitch	8,560	2,900
Hall Hire	4,760	2,450
Total	**14,355**	**5,550**

AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Please note that the audited account statements of all organisations are included for informational purposes only. These accounts have been audited by the auditors of the respective organisations and have been presented to and approved by their respective general bodies.

St James Mar Thoma Church UK - Edavaka Mission

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	INCOME	Actual 2023-24
1	Grant from church	£500.00
2	Registrations/Donations	£481.49
	Total Income	**£981.49**

	EXPENSES	Actual 2023-24
1	Sent Off Gift	£250.00
2	Stationary Expenses (R/Book and Stamp)	£21.49
3	Fellowship Meals	£298.80
	Total Expenses	**£570.29**

Net Surplus/Deficit for the year	**£411.20**
Balance brought forward from last year	**£551.88**
Balance carried forward to next year	**£963.08**

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on 28-April-2024 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd-
President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd-
Trustees - Ancy Sunnymon

Sd-
Auditor - Shiney Alex

St James Mar Thoma Church Youth Fellowship

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	INCOME	Actual 2023-24	Actual 2022-23	Budget 2023-24
1	Badminton Tournament		£815.00	£1,000.00
2	Church Grant	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
3	Donations	£340.00	£570.00	£100.00
4	Harvest Festival	£10.00	£100.00	
5	Football / Ecumenical Sports Event			£2,000.00
6	Membership Fee 2023/2024	£465.00	£625.00	£500.00
7	Membership Fee 2024/2025	£420.00	£0.00	
8	General St James Youth Activities/Retreat			£1,000.00
9	General St James Youth Fundraising/Sales Income			£1,000.00
10	Thorpe Park Trip	£670.00		
11	Yeldho Lent Collection	£710.00	£425.00	
12	Youth Sunday Offertory	£231.12	£232.00	
13	Zonal Triathalon		£125.00	
14	Zonal Youth Retreat			
15	Christmas Arrangement	£205.00		
	Total Income	**£4,051.12**	**£3,892.00**	**£6,600.00**

	EXPENSES	Actual 2023-24	Actual 2022-23	Budget 2023-24
1	Badminton Tournament	£55.34	£714.38	£1,000.00
2	Gift / Token	£83.13	£196.97	£200.00
3	Harvest Festival	£413.33	£153.66	£250.00
4	Football / Ecumenical Sports Event			£2,000.00
5	General St James Youth Activities/Retreat			£1,000.00
6	Shaka Registeration 2024/2025	£94.27		
7	Sunday Refreshments	£330.00	£325.00	£400.00
8	Thorpe Park Trip	£670.00		
9	Youth Sunday Offertory*	£231.12	£232.00	
10	Zonal Triathalon		£560.00	
11	Zonal Youth Conference Share*	£300.00		

12	Zonal Youth Membership Fee*	£51.00	£53.00	£300.00
13	Zonal Youth Retreat			
14	Christmas Arrangement	£212.50		
	Total Expenses	**£2,440.69**	**£2,235.01**	**£5,150.00**

	RESTRICTED FUNDS	**Actual 2023-24**	**Actual 2022-23**	**Budget 2023-24**
	Yeldho Lent Donation	710	425	
	Total Restricted Funds	**£710.00**	**£425.00**	

	Net Surplus/Deficit for the year	£900.43	£1,231.99	£1,450.00
	Balance brought forward from last year	£5,494.76	£4,262.77	
	Balance carried forward to next year	£6,395.19	£5,494.76	
	Total Balance (including restricted funds) carried forward to next year	**£7,105.19**	**£5,919.76**	

*Payments made to the Zone

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on 28-April-2024 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd-
President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd-
Trustees - Ashwin Chacko

Sd-
Auditor - Nithin Jacob

St James Mar Thoma Church Sunday School

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	INCOME	Actual 2023-24	Actual 2022-23	Budget 2024-25
1	Grant From Church - Sunday School +VBS	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
2	Student Collection/Donation	£1,137.46	£993.95	£1,150.00
3	World Sunday School Day	£1,595.00	£7,193.34	£1,000.00
4	SS Offertory Collection	£702.00	£540.00	£700.00
5	VBS Registration/Donation/offertory	£2,918.50	£2,682.00	£2,740.00
6	SS Food Sale	£1,755.00	£0.00	£1,500.00
7	DBS	£247.50	£0.00	£250.00
	Total Income	**£9,355.46**	**£12,409.29**	**£8,340.00**

	EXPENSES	Actual 2023-24	Actual 2022-23	Budget 2024-25
1	DBS	£247.50	£0.00	£250.00
2	SS Expense/SS Food	£661.52	£777.64	£1,100.00
3	WSSD Coach	£1,500.00	£7,843.34	£1,500.00
4	WSSD Hall Booking	£325.00	£0.00	£0.00
5	WSSD -Food Expense	£420.00	£0.00	£0.00
6	WSSD (Stage Light)	£31.69	£0.00	£0.00
7	Stationary/Books	£936.00	£683.50	£800.00
8	Stationary/Attendance Tracker	£27.86	£0.00	£0.00
9	Annual SS Diocesan Contribution	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00
10	Honorary Awards	£746.60	£910.34	£900.00
11	Christmas Shoebox Appeal	£37.00	£0.00	£0.00
12	VBS Expense/Offertory	£1,670.15	£1,892.30	£3,620.00
13	Charity (Marthoma Institutions for the Deaf)	£819.70	£500.00	£700.00
14	Gifts (Father's Day/Mother's Day)	£270.73	£0.00	£350.00
15	Farewell Gift (KK)	£150.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Total Expenses	**£7,993.75**	**£12,757.12**	**£9,370.00**
	Net Surplus/Deficit for the year	**£1,361.71**	**-£347.83**	**-£1,030.00**
	Balance brought forward from last year	**£3,743.01**	**£4,090.84**	
	Balance carried forward to next year	**£5,104.72**		**£4,074.72**

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on 12-May-2024 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd-
President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd-
Trustees - Susan Mathew

Sd-
Auditor - Shiney Alex

St James Mar Thoma Church Choir, UK

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	INCOME	Actual 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23
1	Choir membership fee	£180.00	£200.00	£170.00
2	Choir Notation Books (Sing Along/DSMC)			£45.00
3	Grant from church	£500.00	£250.00	
4	Choir Equipment Sale			
5	Charity		£100.00	
7	Video & Audio equipment purchase		£150.00	
8	Choir tablet (Ipad)	£282.00	£150.00	
9	Choir Equipment (Piano)		£400.00	
10	Refreshments	£144.00		
11	Christmas expenses			
12	Choir Affiliation	£10.00		£8.21
13	Carol day dinner (for church)	£180.00		£485.00
17	Zonal Choir practice refreshments	£130.00		
19	Donations			
	: Baptism/Wedding (Donation)	£250.00		
	: Charity (Donation)			£1,120.00
	: Others (Donation)		£500.00	£20.00
	Total Income	**£1,676.00**	**£1,750.00**	**£1,848.21**

	EXPENSES	Actual 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23
1	Charity	£173.00	£173.00	£1,320.00
2	Audition expense		£300.00	£200.00
3	Video & Audio equipment purchase	£95.00	£300.00	£64.95
4	Choir tablet (Ipad)	£282.00	£300.00	
5	Choir Equipment (Piano)		£1,000.00	
6	Refreshments	£228.83	£375.00	£137.85
7	Christmas expenses	£234.00	£150.00	£123.48
8	Choir Affiliation	£10.00	£10.00	£8.21
9	Carol day dinner (for church)	£350.00		£412.50
10	Garshom Entry Fee	£50.00		
11	Video and audio editing expense		£100.00	
12	Christmas Bells		£150.00	
13	Zonal Choir practice refreshments	£175.00		
14	Other Expenses	£95.39	£50.00	
15	Non-budgeted Items			
16	Retreat Gift	£150.00		£94.14
	Total Expenses	**£1,843.22**	**£2,908.00**	**£2,361.13**
	Net Surplus/Deficit for the year	**-£167.22**		**-£512.92**
	Balance brought forward from last year	**£2,216.89**		**£2,729.81**
	Balance carried forward to next year	**£2,049.67**		**£4,074.72**

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on 21-April-2024 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd-

President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd-

Trustees - Jiku Thomas

Sd-

Auditor - Joyan Chacko Jacob

Sd-

Auditor - Adita Susan Aji

St James Mar Thoma Church Sevika Sangham UK

Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

	INCOME	Actual 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23
1	Grant from Parish	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
2	Yearly Collection from members	£3,875.00	£5,000.00	£3,510.00
3	Onam Lunch	£2,155.00	£3,000.00	£1,540.00
4	Sevika Sangham Day Offertory	£284.00	£700.00	£605.00
5	Food sale/Fund Raising		£3,000.00	£1,710.00
6	Retreat		£500.00	
7	Offertory	£10.00	£200.00	£44.00
8	Donations	£30.00	£1,000.00	£279.15
9	Vishranti Bhavan Building Fund Thiruvalla			£240.00
10	Zonal Meet	£1,610.00	£1,000.00	£391.00
	Total Income	**£8,464.00**	**£14,900.00**	**£8,819.15**

	EXPENSES	Actual 2023-24	Budget 2023-24	Actual 2022-23
1	Annual payments to Sevika Sangham Sabha Office	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
2	Sponsorship - Balika Bhavan, Elanthoor	£150.00	£150.00	£150.00
3	Education/Medical/Family Support/New home	£1,907.52	£3,000.00	£2,000.00
4	Payment to Zonal Sevika Sangham Activities	£284.00	£700.00	£605.00
5	Honorarium for guests		£500.00	
6	Onam Lunch	£1,685.50	£3,000.00	£1,137.50
7	Church/Parsonage Expenses	£461.17	£2,200.00	£160.57
8	Refreshments/Stationeries/other Misc expenses	£1,410.50	£2,000.00	£1,123.09
9	Payment to Vishranti Bhavan			£320.00
10	Retreat		£500.00	
11	Zonal Meet	£2,805.01	£1,000.00	£750.00
12	Leaving gift to Remi kochamma - Cheque no 100175 (dated 2/4/23) Cheque not cashed - Accrued to 2024-25	£500.00		
	Total Expenses	**£9,703.70**	**£13,550.00**	**£6,746.16**
	Net Surplus/Deficit for the year	**-£1,239.70**	**£1,350.00**	**£2,072.99**
	Balance brought forward from last year	**£15,734.34**		**£13,661.35**
	Balance carried forward to next year	**£14,494.64**		**£15,734.34**

Accounts presented and approved in General Body held on 12-May-2024 at St James Mar Thoma Church UK, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Sd-
President - Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas

Sd-
Trustees - Sheena John

Sd-
Auditor - Carmel Mathew

--- End of Report ---

ST JAMES MAR THOMA CHURCH-UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1059210

Accounts

St James Mar Thoma Church, UK

Mar Thoma Centre, 167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

Annual Report & Accounts for the year 2022-2023

Annual Report 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

Introduction

A parish is the place where the people of God gather to offer thanksgiving and where they grow in deeper intimacy with Christ and the Church. It is where we welcome others and we strive to build a family of love by our communion with Christ and one another as a worshipping community and sacramental community. God Almighty enables us to live with such a vision and be witness to Christ Jesus.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of St. James Mar Thoma Church UK, it is with immense pleasure and a heart full of praise and gratitude to the Almighty Lord, the annual report and financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2023 of St. James Mar Thoma Church UK is presented to you.

Let us thank Lord Almighty for His guidance, mercy, and grace we have experienced as a parish through the last twenty seven years and glorify His name for His faithfulness. We thank Our Almighty God for giving us this wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord and Our Parish during this historical major milestone.

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, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities statement of Recommended Practice, (FRS102). The trustees have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in relation the activities being for the public benefit.

Historical Perspective of our Parish

St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK (SJMTC) is a Parish of The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, in the Diocese of North America and Europe, which has its head office in Thiruvalla, Kerala, India.

The Mar Thoma worship in the UK started in 1957. St James Parish was based in Central London and was a continuation of the worship that started in Central London in the fifties to meet the needs of members residing in London and the Home Counties.

St. James Mar Thoma Church UK is a Registered Charity in the United Kingdom (Charity Reg. No: 1059210.), with the registered office at St James Mar Thoma Centre, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Our Parish is administratively placed in the UK and Europe Zone, in the Diocese of North America and Europe, and His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Issac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa is our Diocesan Bishop. We remain blessed and thankful for His Grace's continuous support and leadership provided for our Parish.

Mission and Objective

The mission and objective of the Church is to keep and safeguard the faith as revealed by Christ and taught by the Apostles, to promote the spiritual life of the faithful through the administration of the sacraments and the preaching of the word.

Our Mission is to serve the people of this land as servants of the Crucified Lord without diluting and deluding the ethos of the Church. We as parish are embodied 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 supports the spiritual life of its members, enhances the ecumenical relationship within the local community and Churches, provides financial support for evangelistic and charitable work in the United Kingdom and abroad, especially India.

Governing Document

St James Mar Thoma Church UK is governed by the constitution adopted on 27th October 1996 and as amended on 29th January 2006 and submitted to the Charity Commission and by the constitution of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, India.

Ecumenical Relations

While retaining many of the traditional characteristics of the ancient Eastern church, the Mar Thoma Church keeps very close relations with Christian churches in other parts of the world. The Church enjoys full intercommunion relationship with the world-wide Anglican Community and is a full member of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).

Parish Membership & General Body participation

A parish register of all members is maintained by the Vicar and is kept updated. All persons above 18 years, who have their names on the parish register, receive Holy Communion in the parish and whose parish membership has not been barred, are entitled to be Edavaka Sangham members (General Body of the parish).

Our membership as of 31st March 2023 was 193 families with a total of 615 members, including new families who joined the parish during the reporting year. We welcome these families to the fellowship of St James Mar Thoma Church, UK

Vicar

We acknowledge the services of our Vicar Rev. K. K. Kuruvila, his wife Mrs. Remi Kuruvilla and their two daughters, Ms. Rhema Eliza Kuruvilla & Ms. Kerigma Susan Kuruvilla during this period. Achen has now completed four years of his service as the Vicar of our church. Achen's spiritual leadership and pastoral care has made a significant impact to the members' spiritual life and wellbeing. Through Achen's leadership and guidance, all organisations of the church and prayers groups are functioning well. Achen has also taken an active role in the zonal activities of the church, especially as the President of the zonal Sevika Sangham. We thank Achen and family for their blessed ministry in our parish for the past 4 years.

Appointment of Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee)

The appointed Vicar of St James Parish is the President. The trustees (members of the Executive Committee) are elected or nominated every year before the commencement of the financial year. They are elected either by the General Body or by the members of the organisation whom they represent or nominated by the Diocesan Bishop. The Sabha Mandalam and the Diocesan Assembly members are elected/nominated and their terms of office to these bodies is for a period of three years. The appointment of Trustees is as per the constitution.

Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee) for the reporting year

The following members served as the Trustees of the Charity for the year 2022-2023.

President & Vicar	Rev. Kuruvila K Kochumepurathu	Appointed
Vice President	Mr. P.K. Edison	Elected
Secretary	Mr. Shiju Thomas	Elected
Trustee Accounts	Mr. Shiju Thomas	Elected
Trustee Finance	Mr. Ashok Thomas	Elected
Lay Leader 1	Mr. Alex P Sam	Elected
Lay Leader 2	Mr. Regi C Philip	Elected
Sabha Mandalam Member	Mr. Iju V Thomas	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly	Mr. Cyril Abraham John	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly	Mr. Noble J Mathew	Nominated
Edavaka Mission Representative	Mr. Rajan Chacko	Elected
Sevika Sangham Representative	Mrs. Bindu Annie Jacob	Elected
Sunday School Representative	Mrs. Sherine George	Elected
Youth League Representative	Mr. Nithin Jacob Theckadathu	Elected
Choir Representative	Mr. Aji Chacko	Elected
Area Prayer Group Representatives	Mrs. Aswathy Varghese (Bury St Edmunds Area) Dr. K. John (East Area) Mr. Sam V John (Ipswich Area) Mr. Shajan Varampel Mathai (Kent Area) Mr. Ashwin Mathew Chacko (North & West Area) Mr. Stephen Varughese Joseph (South East Area) Mr. Praveen Mathew (South Area)	Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected

The Executive Committee met 16 times during the year to discuss and deliberate on the day-to-day running of the Parish, as well as to execute the decisions of the General Body.

Other Officials

Authorizing officer and Key contact for UKBA	Mr. Shiju Thomas Mr. P. K. Edison
Internal Auditors (Elected)	Mr. Mathews John Mr. Ajex John

General Body Meetings

Two general body meetings were held during the reporting year. All general body meetings were held in-person in our church.

The Annual General Body meeting (AGM) was held on Sunday 31st July 2022 to receive and approve the annual report and accounts for the year 2021-22 and to receive and approve the budget for the year 2022-2023. The general body approved the annual report and accounts for the year 2021-2022 and passed the budget for 2022-2023. The General Body approved the proposal from trustees to open a new Bank Account. The General Body also decided to celebrate "Thanks Giving Day" in May and Parish Day in October every year.

The second general body meeting was held on Sunday 26th February 2023 to elect the office bearers and auditors for the year 2023-2024. In this meeting, General Body accepted the updated GDPR Consent Form and GDPR Privacy Policy and agreed to share both documents to all members of the parish. The General Body also accepted a proposal to implement parking management system to manage car parking within the church premises. Further, this meeting accepted the proposal from Executive Committee to elect Data Protection Officer (DPO) and Data Controller Officers (DCO) from within the executive committee.

Risk Management

The Executive Committee have, from time to time, examined the major operational risks which the parish faces and confirms that systems have been established to enable regular review of steps that can be taken to reduce these risks. Risk management is reviewed and discussed at Executive Committee meetings.

For the safe running of the Church, a Health and Safety Policy has been adopted. A CCTV guideline is also followed for the use in Church.

Reserves Policy

St James Mar Thoma Church shall set aside reserves to provide financial stability and the means to sustain, improve and develop its mission and objects. As the flow of income is not uniform, reserves need to be set aside to meet expenses that are irregular in pattern. The Executive Committee has determined that the approximate level of free reserves should be equivalent to four months expenditure, approximately £54,000. For various reasons, we were not able to fully maintain this level of reserves. As result of actions taken, we were able to make some progress on our reserves. However, a continued effort is needed to maintain this.

Financial Update

St James Mar Thoma Church is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of members and well-wishers. We are greatly indebted for their financial support. The full income and expenditure statement for the year 2022/23 and the balance sheet are attached. In spite of the current political and economic situations around the world, it is pleasing to note that our various collections have increased. Whilst this is welcome news, we have a significant way to go before we can get to the level of reserves, we need to have for the smooth running of the affairs of the parish, meet various financial obligations and to maintain our Mar Thoma Centre, New Eltham.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

We have adopted a policy, based on the requirements of the Children Act 1989, which is monitored and reviewed annually. DBS checks are being carried out on all individuals who take responsibility for children's activities.

Our Church recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for our children and young people. To accomplish this, we have also established a child protection policy and procedures and thereby fulfilling our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of our children and youth.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The GDPR came into to law on 25th May 2018. In compliance with the requirements, St James Mar Thoma Church have adopted and established a GDPR privacy policy. This policy is published on the Church website. All trustees have been briefed on the regulation and their responsibilities to be in compliance with the policy. Our parish is also registered with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). During the reporting year, we have updated the GDPR Privacy Policy as approved in the General Body held on 26th Feb 2023.

Sunday Worship Services

The Sunday Worship services were held in person and also broadcasted via the online platform. On average about 170 members attend the service regularly and an average 90 members participate in Holy Communion. We have Holy Communion service in both English and Malayalam. Our worship services are led by various area prayer group members on a rota basis. Both our Lay Leaders with the guidance from our Achen did a commendable job in ensuring that there is equal participation from all areas to lead our church service. Our Church Choir play an active role in leading our services. Sunday worship service conclude with a fellowship meal sponsored by the respective area prayer group members. During the reporting year, Sunday evening worship services were also held once in a month in Ipswich. Members from nearby areas, Ipswich, Bury & St Edmunds, Norwich and Colchester attended the worship services in Ipswich.

Special Services & Prayers

Special services were conducted to celebrate Parish Day, Family Sunday, Diocesan Sunday, Edavaka Mission Sunday, Sevika Sangham Day, Youth Sunday, World Sunday School Day, Choir Sunday, Senior Citizens Day, Student Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day during the respective Sundays as per the church calendar.

Parish Sunday, Family Sunday and Parish Convention

In this reporting year, Parish Day was celebrated on 29th May 2022. Rev. Jobi Koruthu, Vicar of St. Peters Mar Thoma Church, East London, was our Chief Guest and Celebrant for the service.

The Family Sunday and Annual convention was held on 28th, 29th and 30th October 2022. Rev. Abu Cherian, vicar of Carmel Mar Thoma Church was the main speaker and guest of honour. The theme for the three-day convention was "**Chemistry of a Blessed Christian Family**". The first day session was held in Ipswich and the second and the final day were held at St James Mar Thoma Church. All sessions were well attended and was a blessing to our members.

Harvest Festival

Over the years the Harvest Festival has evolved to be an event both young and old look forward to with great enthusiasm. Harvest Festival food sale and fund collections were organised on Saturday, 08th October 2022. Former Mayor of Loughton, Mr Philip Abraham was the chief guest for our Harvest Festival inaugural session. Councillor Patricia Greenwell visited our food stalls. We also managed to conduct auctions after church service and raffle ticket sales, with good participation from our members. Thanks to both our Harvest Festival Convenors, Mr. Cyril Abraham John and Mr. Iju V Thomas, who organised the events well and helped to raise significant funds during these difficult times.

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service was held on Sunday 11th December 2022 at St James Mar Thoma Church. The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port was our chief guest for the service and delivered the Christmas message. It was a beautiful service of carols led by our talented and dedicated senior and junior choir. The Sunday school children presented the nativity story with new and contemporary themes. We appreciate and extend our gratitude to the choir leadership and choir members, Sunday school teachers and the children for their dedication and hard work.

House to House Carol Rounds

As part of the Christmas celebrations, house-to-house carol rounds were arranged. Carollers together with the Vicar visited homes of our members in London and Home Counties of Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Kent, East Sussex, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk during the weeks leading to Christmas. The carol rounds started on 26th November and completed on 18th December. It was an opportunity to proclaim the Good News of Christmas through carols, bible passages and prayer. As convenors, Mr Alex P Sam and Mr Shajan V Mathai, together with area representatives deserve considerable credit for their dedication and tireless efforts in arranging house visits for the first time after the pandemic.

Zonal Christmas Carol Service

We the St. James Mar Thoma Church got the privilege to host this year's Zonal Carol Service on Tuesday 27th December 2022 at our church. Choirs from 8 different parishes from all over UK participated in this blessed service. Rev. Fr. Nithin P Koshy, Vicar of St. Gregorios Orthodox church was the chief guest.

This was the first major Zonal event organised in our newly built church, inviting choir teams from all Mar Thoma parishes in UK.

Watch Night Service

Watch night service was held on the New Year's Eve at St James Mar Thoma Church. It was also an occasion of thanksgiving, praise, testimony, and worship especially during the tough economic times that the world was undergoing. Holy Communion was celebrated on the eve of the New Year 2023.

Great Lent and Passion Week

During this reporting year, our church observed the Great Lent with the Easter being celebrated on the Sunday, 17th of April 2022. The passion week services, Good Friday service and Easter service were well attended both in person at our Church and online by our families.

Our church observed the Great Lent services for the year 2023 by conducting 12 Online Evening Prayer meetings. These online prayer meetings were managed by the Edavaka Mission and led by various area prayer groups.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. During the year, we were able to support various missionary activities and lend a helping hand to those in need. Through the generous support of our members, we were able to support the following Charities and Charitable projects and Institutions in India and here in UK.

They include the following :

- Light To Life Project, Sponsor a Child
- Friends of Vellore: Support for Safer Birth in the Jawadhi Hills appeal
- Educational Support for a student in St. Thomas Teachers Training Institute Thiruvalla
- Andimadam Mar Thoma Mission Field, Tamil Nadu

Matrimony

During the year one of our members entered into family life. The service was conducted in their respective Parishes in Kerala and UK. We congratulate the newly married couple and wish them long and happy married life.

- Mr. Jithin Rajan Chacko & Mrs.Greeshma Philip

Baptism

During the report year, we conducted 3 baptisms in our church. We welcome the newly baptised children to the Christian family and pray for their physical and spiritual growth.

Following are the list of children who were baptised in our church in the reporting year.

1) Nina Isabel Abraham (D/o Dr. George Abraham & Mrs. Charlotte Alice Abraham)
2) David Ryan George (S/o Mr. Frenji John Koshy & Mrs. Priyanka Cherian)
3) Levi Joshua George (S/o Mr. Frenji John Koshy & Mrs. Priyanka Cherian)
4) Joshua Stephen Varughese (S/o Mr. Stephen Varughese Joseph & Mrs. Shiny Marin Varughese)

Metropolitan Visit

His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan visited UK during the month of February 2023. This was Thirumenis first visit to our newly built church. Thirumeni led our Sunday worship service on Sunday, 12th February 2023.

First Communion Service

15 children attended the first communion service and received Holy Communion on Sunday, 12th March 2023 and became communicant members of the church. Prior to the first communion service, our vicar had conducted a series of classes for all first communicants, starting from the month of January 2023.

His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan was the celebrant during the first communion service.

Obituary

This year some of our family members have lost their beloved Parents/Siblings/Relatives. Parish extended spiritual support for the consolation of these families. We place on record our condolences to all bereaved families.

Mrs Elizabeth Mathew (Liz), wife of Mr. Anil Mathew was called to eternity on 11th November 2022. Mrs Thankamma Mathew, one of the senior members, was called to eternity on 13th February 2023

We give thanks to God Almighty for their life, especially their services and contributions to St. James Mar Thoma Church and the love and fellowship they shared amongst our community.

House Blessing

During this year several of our members have acquired new homes and the house blessing services have been conducted.

St James Mar Thoma Centre

With a long-term vision to build and develop our own place of worship, in 2005, St. James MTC purchased (167 Avery Hill Road, New Eltham), spanning 4.6 acres in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, neighbouring the University of Greenwich campus.

The foundation stone laying service of the redevelopment of the Mar Thoma centre and Parsonage was held on 23rd August 2017. Our late His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan and Our Diocesan Bishop His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa led the service and laid the foundation stone in the presence of invited guests, clergy of sister parishes and members of the parish.

The consecration of our Church, Centre and parsonage was conducted on 8th May 2021 by His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa. On the following day, we had the first holy communion service at our newly built St James Mar Thoma Church.

By the Grace of Our good Lord, after years of collective prayers, hard work and perseverance, we accomplished this long-term vision of building our own place to serve as the St. James Mar Thoma Church Centre, with facility for worship, multi-use facility for community and sports activities and a parsonage.

The Centre will continue to be a blessing not just for our families, but also for the community as a whole and for the next generation.

Parish Organizations

The Parish is blessed with its organizations namely: Sunday School, Youth League, Church Choir, Suvishesha Sevika Sangham (The Women's Mission) and the Edavaka/Parish Mission. Each organization has elected leaders to help carry out the administrative duties and responsibilities vested on them meaningfully. All the organisations of our Parish functions effectively to further the mission of our Church.

Sunday School *Mrs. Sherine George – Sunday School Headmistress*

"Train a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it"
Proverbs 22: 6

Another year has passed with seismic shifts and challenges in so many areas of life. Yet through all of it we experienced God's constancy and provision within our church and Sunday school ministry. This report covers for the period of April 2022 –March 2023.

The Administration staffs for the year 2022/23 were elected on 22nd August 2022 were as follows:

Headmistress: Mrs Sherine George	Treasurer: Mrs Susan Mathew
Secretary: Mrs Jessen Joseph	Auditor: Mrs. Meridith Babu

SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND CLASSES

There are 82 children registered in our Sunday school in 2022-23, of which 50-55 children attended the classes regularly under the guidance and training of 20 teachers. Classes are held from 9.00am – 10.15am in church. The classes were divided into Nursery, Kindergarten, Grade1 to Grade11/12. After the classes, children attended the church service.

ACTIVITIES HELD DURING 2022 -23

- The Sunday school calendar year started with Students dedication held on 11/9/2022.
- St James MTC SS hosted the South Zone WSSD on 5th Nov 2022 @ Joe Richardson Community Centre Hall which was attended by 502 participants from all churches of the South Zone centre.
- The World Sunday school day was celebrated in our church on the 6th November 2022. We followed the special worship order provided by the Samajam at the start of the service.
- Various planned annual competitions were held from January 2023.
- For outreach charity project work a sum of £400 has been donated to Mar Thoma Dayara Samooham .
- Sunday school is continuing the support to the local food bank (Bexley Food Bank) and children brought non-perishable tin food items on every Sunday. £100 was also donated to buy food to the food bank.

Youth League *Ms. Nisha Mary Philip - Youth Secretary*

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Almighty Lord and Saviour for his grace and mercy bestowed upon us throughout the year. It was indeed a blessing to witness Youth League members dedicatedly serving the lord through various activities and events.

11 Youth Fellowship meetings were successfully held in the last financial year. The youths also participated and engaged in the Youth Sunday Service with prayerful dedication. The Youth League were able to collect a sum of £465 for the Dayara mission in India as part of the Yeldho Lent collection. The Youths actively participated and organised various entertaining game sessions in both indoor and outdoor format for the church retreat. They also lent a hand during the harvest festival by organising the drinks, games and entertainment stall. The youths joined hands and beautifully decorated the church for Christmas which was appreciated by all, there was also a skit presentation by the youths in the Christmas Bells program. As a supportive gesture, a WhatsApp group was created for all the migrating students and youngsters in order to guide and support them for their new phase of life in UK. The Youths also had active participation at Zonal Level in events like Zonal Youth Retreat & Zonal Triathlon, where we won 1 st position in aptitude and 2 nd position in Quiz. The Youths and their respective family members actively engaged in online sessions organised by the Zone on the theme - Tackling Addictions. Under the leadership of Rev. K.K Kuruvila, we had a meaningful Youth Convention, led by Rev. Abu Cherian.

We thank the Vicar, Executive Committee, Senior Parish members and all the Youth members for their support and participation throughout the year

Church Choir *Mr. Preet Wilson – Choir Secretary*

The Choir is an integral part of the worship service of our Church and plays a very active role in assisting the vicar and leading the worship services, special services and events which include the Parish Convention & Parish Day, First holy communion and Thirumeni's visit, Christmas carols service, Watch Night service and Passion Week services.

St James choir is affiliated with DSMC and has a strength of 36 choir members, 16 males and 20 females. Choir consists of members who are part of various organisations like Sevika Sangham, Sunday School, Youth League, Edavaka Mission etc.

Junior choir was led by the Junior choir in charge Mr. Jickson V George who did a wonderful job in leading the children. This was a great platform for the young children to begin their journey into learning and singing music and also be part of the overall choir.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2022 – 23.

Choir Master	**Mr. Aji Chacko**	Choir secretary	**Mr. Preet K. Wilson**
Asst. Choir Master	**Mr. Jiku Thomas**	Treasurer	**Mr. Nithin Jacob**

Activities for the year 2022-23

The **Choir Sunday** service was held on the 22nd May 2022. Choir members took a major lead in assisting the service. There was a special order of worship by DSMC that was used during the service. Choir members also presented a special song. Mr. Preet Wilson gave the sermon for the service.

In 2022/23, two **choir auditions** were held. The first was a full audition for existing and new members on April 2, 2022, resulting in 16 male and 20 female selections. The second audition on March 25, 2023, added 5 male and 7 female members to the choir.

Our choir began practising for the **Christmas carol service** in September. The service was held on December 11, 2022, in New Eltham, with Lord Griffiths of Burry Port as the chief guest who gave the sermon. The choir performed 7 new carols, 4 Malayalam and 3 English, and the Junior choir sang 2 new carols, all of which were well received. The event was recorded and released on YouTube. The Sunday school children presented a thought-provoking skit.

Christmas Bells is an annual event organized by the choir focusing on the theme of Christmas. This year, Christmas Bells was held on the 18th December 2022 at Church. The presentations by the church prayer groups and organisations were commendable and we would like to thank all the area group representatives, and everyone involved for their participation, effort and support.

The **Zonal carols service** took place on December 27 at St. James Mar Thoma church, featuring choirs from 8 different parishes. Rev. Nithin P Koshy, Vicar of St. Gregorios Orthodox church, gave the sermon. The choir took an active part in the service and took leadership in organising the event. The choir extends its gratitude to the church office bearers and committee for organizing the event successfully.

By the Grace of God, Choir members, family and friends were able to go over the budget this year and donate a total of £1320 for a couple of blessed charity initiatives: £670 to MTC Aluva for those in need of dialysis and £650 to MCRD Thelliyoor.

Suvishesha Sevika Sangham (The Women's Mission)

Mrs. Bindu Annie Jacob – Sevika Sangham Secretary

St. James parish is blessed with a vibrant Sevika Sangham that takes an active role in the spiritual life of the parish. Sevika Sangham members offered great mental and physical support for the family members of parish members in their sickness and in bereavement. Chain prayers and fasting prayers were observed every alternate Fridays by Sevika Sangham members. Sevika Sangham played an active role in organising and preparing a wide variety of food for our Harvest Festival. Our Sevika Sangham members organised Onam Sadhya after church service on the 9th of October 2022 which was well attended. An amount of £1540 was collected on the day. On the 5th of February 2023, we organised a one-off food sale to raise money towards our charity fund. This was a remarkable success and we managed to raise £1710.

A Bible quiz competition was held at church between the under versus the over 40's. Our Kochamma was the quiz master and the Over 40's members came out winners on the day.

Our Parish celebrated the Sevika Sangham day on the 4th of September 2022.Our members assisted and helped to lead the service for the Sunday Holy Qurbana on the day. Our Kochamma Mrs Remy Kuruvila delivered the sermon on the day on the theme 'Women - Defenders of Faith'.

Our vicar Rev K.K Kuruvilla served as the President of both the St. James Sevika Sangham and the UK & Europe Zone Sevika Sangham.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2022 – 23.

Vice President	Mrs. Ashwathy Varghese	Treasurer	Sheena John
Secretary	Mrs. Bindu Annie Jacob	Auditor	Mrs. Shiney Alex
Joint Secretary	Mrs. Shanty Thomas		

Edavaka/Parish Mission *Mr. Rajan Chacko– Edavaka Mission Secretary*

Acts 1:8, "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Edavaka Mission has a prominent role of spreading the Gospel and leading the mission activities of the Parish. The functioning of this organisation is based on the motto 'Every Marthomite is an Evangelist' and it was called to promote various activities of the Parish. Evangelism is the responsibility of every member of the Church and not that of the clergy alone.

Edavaka mission took initiative in organizing this year's lent Online evening prayer meetings. Edavaka mission organized a three-day Parish Convention on October 28,29 & 30th. Rev. Abu Cherian, vicar of Carmel Mar Thoma Church was our Convention speaker. The Theme for the convention was "Chemistry of a Blessed Christmas Family". All three days of the convention was very well attended.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2022 – 23.

Vice President	Mr. Varughese Mathew	Treasurer	Dr. Shiney Susan Reji
Secretary	Mr. Rajan Chacko	Auditor	Mrs. Shiny Alex

The Edavaka Mission remains always as the body for helping the spiritual awakening of the Parish. We thank our Achen and all the Edavaka Mission committee members. May God's continuing guidance be with the Church and all Edavaka Mission activities.

Area Prayer Groups

The Parish is currently made up of seven prayers groups namely: Bury St. Edmunds, East London, Ipswich, Kent, North & West London, South East London and South London. Each prayer groups met once a month for Bible study, praise and intercessory prayers. Each prayer group has an elected prayer leader to assist the Vicar with the arrangements. The online area prayers are a source of strength and enrichment to the lives of members both children and adults. The prayer groups also play a part in assisting with our Worship services. Each elected prayer group leader has played a vital role in keeping the families informed and also supporting the lay leaders for Church assistance. Prayer groups also have elected treasurers to manage the offertory and any other special collection the groups may decide.

Zonal Meetings

The parish members participated in the Mar Thoma UK and Europe zonal conventions and prayer meetings. This included the Zonal convention, Zonal Youth Convention, Zonal Youth meetings, Zonal Sevika Sangham Meet, Zonal Christmas Carols and Zonal Mar Thoma Meet. Few of our members have taken up leadership role in the zone. Mr. Noble J. Mathew continued as the Zonal Secretary, and Mrs. Sherine George served as the Zonal Sunday School Treasurer. Mr Aji Chacko served as the DSMC Management Committee member.

Church Website & NewsLetter

The official website of the parish is www.marthomachurch.org.uk. The website continued to be regularly updated. It has been a source of information for both our members, new members and to others around the world.

The Church Newsletter was re-designed and is published weekly and distributed via email to members of the Parish. The Newsletter comprises the church programme calendar for each month and other information's such as: Sunday worship timings, Sunday lectionary, prayer schedules, special events, achievements by the parishioners, Financial Updates etc.

Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Defender of the Faith, who was called to eternity on 08th September 2022, was the longest-serving monarch of the United Kingdom.

We are indeed saddened by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. While the country has lost a remarkable figurehead, a family has lost a dedicated mother, a grandmother and a great grandmother. Her Majesty The Queen served the nation with compassion, integrity and dignity, throughout her reign. Her Majesty's legacy will be the abiding and steadfast stability she provided the country, steering it through periods of significant political, cultural and social change over the last 70 years.

On behalf of all members at St James Mar Thoma Church, we extend our profound sympathy and sincere condolences to the entire Royal Family.

Visiting Clergies

During the report year, following bishops and clergies visited our parish and led worship services:

- Rev Saju Chacko
- Rev Joby Koruthu
- Rev. Sijo John
- Rev Abu Cherian
- Rev Mathews Mathunny
- Rev Sunny Thomas

We would like to extend our gratitude to all the vicars and their parishes for the support.

Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee would like to place on record for the grateful leadership, guidance and support of His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and our Diocesan Bishop Rt Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa.

We also respectfully thank His Majesty's Government and the London Borough of Greenwich for all their assistance during the reporting year.

We acknowledge the dedication and sincere services of the entire Executive Committee; from the leadership and guidance of our Vice President, the tireless and meritorious work of the Treasurer

and Accountant, Lay leaders, internal auditors, convenors of the various programmes, office bearers of organisations, all the area prayer group leaders and all our family members and well-wishers who have supported the parish through their prayers and generous contributions and wholehearted support during the year. We are also grateful to all Sevika Sangham Area prayer group leaders and families, who volunteer regularly to provide refreshments on Sundays after church service and on special occasions.

We affectionately remember with gratitude all our former and present Bishops, Vicars and their families, parish members and well-wishers. Let us thank and pray to our Lord Almighty for their services, able leadership and guidance, for their untiring work and contributions rendered for the growth of our Parish to this day.

Conclusion

We thank our God Almighty for the abundant mercies and provisions throughout this year, especially, during this unprecedented political and economic turmoil where we have faced with various challenges. In the midst of our limitations, His bountiful blessings protected, preserved and strengthened us to be His witnesses.

We are in a period where the next generation of our Mar Thoma community are coming over to this country. Our membership is constantly increasing and many within our community enjoy the love, fellowship and services provided by our Parish. New members attending our service need wholehearted support, guidance and fellowship. As a parish we need to set our priorities so that we can support our community.

For most part of the year under review, we conducted our regular worship services, prayer meetings, study sessions, and special events and activities, the parish has experienced God's enduring presence and grace. God Almighty has provided us timely spiritual leadership through the Bishops, Clergies, and other lay leaders. We have also extended possible support to the sick, needy, and marginalized people. Let us rededicate ourselves to continue the mission and ministry of God Almighty through reflecting Christ's character of humility, love, integrity, generosity, and servant hood. The church is the community where individuals get the support, guidance, skills, encouragement, and motivation to transform not only their own lives, but also assist others who are in need of meaning and wholeness. The church can effectively ensure that transformation is more than self-help, selfish, and without social grounding. May the Almighty God continue to bless our parish and make all our efforts for His glory and extension of His Kingdom.

Let us be the torch bearers of faith, "light to the generations and salt of the earth" and move forward with the motto of the Mar Thoma Church, 'Lighted to Lighten'.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee / Charity Trustees.

Rev. Soju M Thomas
(Vicar & President)

Shiju Thomas
(Hon. Secretary)

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts (Internal)

Report to the Trustees /members of St James Mar Thoma Church UK (Charity No. 1059210) on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 19 to 28

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) (b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Direction 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 the 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 statement below.

Independent examiners' statement

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

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

We have 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.

Mr. Mathews John
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Mr. Ajex John
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Date: 25th May 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Actual 2022-23	Budget 2022-23	Actual 2021-22
Income						
Stewardship		74,127		74,127	90,000	74,825
Tax Refund		33,732		33,732	25,000	24,684
General Offertory	3a	53,031		53,031	40,000	41,457
General Offertory - Thanksgiving			3,490	3,490	3,000	2,771
Specific Offertory and Collections	3b		7,023	7,023	5,000	4,952
Harvest Festival	4	23,428	2,463	25,891	20,000	23,327
Christmas Carol Rounds		6,870		6,870	10,000	0
Mar Thoma Centre Enhancement Fund		1,430		1,430	100,000	2,680
Church Motor car collection				0	13,000	0
COVID 19 Council Grant		0		0	0	6802
Donations	3c	7,793		7,793	4,000	7,164
Diocesan Dues Collection (Zonal Contribution)			4,350	4,350	8,750	4,370
MTC Hire of Hall and Grounds		5,550		5,550	10,000	
Bank Interest		286		286	100	154
Church Organisation Collections			5,136	5,136	0	500
Souvenir Donations				0	0	10,125
Church Worship Book Donations		10		10	0	765
Zonal Development Fund			42,840	42,840	48,150	1,850
Charitable Donation Collections	18a		4,900	4,900	18,000	14,245
Church Fellowship Fund		9,632		9,632	10,000	1,085
Total Income		**215,890**	**70,202**	**286,092**	**405,000**	**221,756**

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Actual 2022-23	Budget 2022-23	Actual 2021-22
Direct Charitable Expenditure						
Salary, Tax and National Insurance	17	30,635		30,635	33,600	25,812
Provident/Pension Fund		750		750	750	422
Guest Expenses		990		990	1,000	940
Motor and Travel	10	2,715		2,715	5,000	1,379
Motor Car Leasing & Final Payment	10	2,085		2,085	15,000	4,110
Motor Insurance	10	1,165		1,165	1,300	1,216
Accommodation and Utility	7	5,357		5,357	9,000	7,079
Church Building & Contents Insurance		1,747		1,747	1,800	1,608
Visiting Clergy		3,750		3,750	2,500	950
Zonal Contribution	5	4,840	4,350	9,190	8,350	8,350
Specific Offertory	3b		7,023	7,023	5,000	4,952
Harvest Festival Expenses and Grants	4	1,260	2,463	3,723	2,500	4,103
Charity Contribution from Thanks Giving			3,490	3,490	3,000	2,771
Printing, postage and Stationery		28		28	250	59
Special Events, Parish Day / Convention		6,168		6,168	3,500	3,190
Provision for Vicars Transfer Cost	14	11,761		11,761	8,000	6,000
Mandalam and Assembly Meeting TA		0		0	1,000	0
Church Grant	9	2,750		2,750	3,000	3,250
Ecumenical Membership	5	400		400	400	400
Sundry Expenses		51		51	500	225
Altar Expense		279		279	500	301
Carol Rounds Expenses		1,140		1,140	1,500	0
Bank Charges		1,284		1,284	1,500	857
Family / Clergy Conference		0		0	500	0
Mar Thoma Centre Expenses	8	13,607		13,607	24,000	16,916
Bank Loan Repayment & Interest	11	52,912		52,912	79,572	38,073
Mar Thoma Centre Enhancement Expenses					100,000	
Donations		0	0	0	500	2,529
External Accountancy Fees				0	0	0
Church Organisation Payments			5,136	5,136	0	300
Church Opening Ceremony Expenses		0		0		3,647
Souvenir Expenses		0		0		1,400
Zonal Development Fund		5,310	42,840	48,150	48,150	1,850
Professional Fees		1,000		1,000	5,000	
IT Infrastructure		190		190	2,000	119
Election Expenses		0		0	0	2,378
Transfer to MTC Building Fund					0	2,680
Charitable Donation Payments	18b		4,900	4,900	18,000	14,245
Church Fellowship Expenses		9,605		9,605	10,000	1,318
Total Expenditure		**161,777**	**70,202**	**231,979**	**396,672**	**163,429**
Excess of Income over Expenditure		54,113	0	54,113	8,328	**58,327**
Less: Depreciation	12	52,975	0	52,975	0	55,256
Net Surplus	15	1,138	0	1,138	0	**3,071**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
FIXED ASSETS		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	**12**		2,423,565		2,462,494
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at Bank- General		56,099		38,907	
Cash at Bank– Building Fund	**15**	10,668		10,668	
		66,767		**49,575**	
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors & Accruals	**13**	121,399		109,614	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			**-54,632**		**-60,039**
			2,368,933		**2,402,455**
Less: Bank loan (Bank of India)	**11**		780,450		**807,110**
Less: Provision for Vicar's transfer cost	**14**		8,000		16,000
NET ASSETS			**1,580,483**		**1,579,345**
Represented by :					
Unrestricted					
General Funds	**15**		647,185		646,047
Building Fund	**15**		930,263		930,263
Restricted					
Social welfare Fund	**15**		3,035		3,035
			1,580,483		**1,579,345**

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 03rd June 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Rev. Soju M Thomas	**Mr. SHIJU THOMAS**	**Mr. ASHOK THOMAS**
(President)	**(Hon. Trustee)**	**(Hon. Trustee)**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

b. Recognition of income

Income included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

c. Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and are valued at cost. Depreciation is provided on the following rates.

Freehold property	2% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	20% on reducing balance
Computer and other equipment	25% on reducing balance
Car	10% on reducing balance

d. Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor.

2. STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship consists of voluntary contribution. 157 family members made such contributions during the year (Tax Year 2022 : 149 family members).

3. OFFERTORY

3A. General Offertory	2023	2022
Church Service	25,993	15,615
Birthday, Wedding Anniversary	10,724	10,303
Baptism	631	2,312
Wedding	500	50
Parish Day	5,848	5,911
Family Sunday tithe	7,745	5,940
Students Thanksgiving Service	1,040	856
House Dedication Service	550	50
Family Get-together	0	420
Total	**53,031**	**41,457**

3B. Specific Offertory and Collections	2023	2022
General Offertory : Suvishesha Nidhi Collection	130	10
Specific Offertory Collection: Vaidika Seminary	270	0
Specific Offertory Collection: Metropolitan Fund	139	141
Specific Offertory Collection : Choir Sunday	117	276
Specific Offertory Collection: Mission Sunday	183	221
Specific Offertory Collection: Education Sunday	311	334
Specific Offertory Collection: World Sunday School Day	114	330
Specific Offertory Collection: Voluntary Evangelist Day	202	380
Specific Offertory Collection: Bible Sunday	204	298
Specific Offertory Collection: Outside Kerala Mission	127	218
Specific Offertory Collection: Medical Mission Sunday	336	329
Specific Offertory Collection: Clergy Medical Aid	123	157
13 Sundays Collection	**2,255**	**2,692**
Specific Offertory Collection: Youth Sunday	222	255
Specific Offertory Collection : Self Denial	3,549	1,570
Specific Offertory Collection : Recessa	393	158
Specific Offertory Collection : Sevika Sangham Day	605	277
Total	**7,023**	**4,952**

Offertories and other collections made specifically during various church services will be disbursed as required.

3C. Donations	2023	2022
Family Retreat	1,310	0
Zonal Carol Service	2,189	0
Episcopal Visit	2,505	0
Zonal Mar Thoma Meet	575	0
Other	1,214	7,164
Total	**7,793**	**7,164**

4. HARVEST FESTIVAL

	2023	2022
Sale Of Tickets	10,525	12,935
Auctions	5,548	3,301
Food and Games Stalls	8,863	5,741
Donations	955	1,350
Total	**25,891**	**23326.59**
Restricted Fund	2,463	2,136
Less: Expenses	1,260	1,967
Surplus	**22,168**	**19,224**

5. DIOCESAN DUES / SABHA OFFICE DUES

Diocesan Dues	2023	2022
Nithyachilavu	1,490	1,350
Zonal Fund	2,980	2,700
Episcopal Travel	745	675
Zonal Day Collection Offertory	2,235	2,025
Salary Adjustment Fund	250	250
Higher education Scholarship	1,490	1,350
Ecumenical Subscription Fees	400	400
Total	**9,590**	**8,750**

6.

7. ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES

	2023	2022
Lighting & Heating	3,316	2,905
Council Tax & Water Rates	1,464	3,204
Telephone & Internet	236	447
Television Licence	159	159
Repairs and Sundry Household Items	181	364
Total	**5,357**	**7,079**

8. MAR THOMA CENTRE EXPENSES

	2023	2022
Rates and Water	2,525	2,392
Light and Heat	4,538	5,868
Cleaning	2,577	2,250
Premises Licence	55	235
Ground Maintenance	4,223	1,815
Building Maintenance	405	2,074
Waste Collection	402	668
Gardening	102	0
Sundry	336	872
Christmas Decorations	70	742
Total Expenses	**15,234**	**16,174**
Utilities Refund	1,627	784
Total	**13,607**	**15,390**

9. CHURCH GRANT FOR CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

	2023	2022
VBS	500	500
Sunday School	500	500
Sevika Sangham	500	500
Youth League	1,000	1,000
Choir	0	500
Edavaka Mission	250	250
Total	**2,750**	**3,250**

10. MOTOR AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

	2023	2022
Public Transport	515	450
Fuel Charges	1,750	879
Motor Repairs	23	0
Tax & Toll Charges	427	50
Total Motor and Travel	2,715	1,379
Motor Car Leasing	2,085	4,105
Motor Insurance	1,265	1,194
Total Expenses	**6,065**	**8,057**
Refund	100	784
Total	**5,965**	**7,273**
Motor Car Final Payment (Note 12)	12,641	0

11. BANK LOAN

This relates to loan received from Bank of India and is secured on the Freehold Property together with personal guarantees given in favour of the bank by two of our church members, Mr P K Edison & Mr Reji Mathew. Interest is charged at SOFR plus 4% and the loan is repayable by monthly instalments of £6,631.

	2023	2022
Interest Paid	52,912	38,073
Capital Repaid	26,660	41,499
Total Paid to Bank	**79,572**	**79,572**
Mortgage Outstanding - 31st March	860,022	886,682

12. FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Fixtures & Fittings	Motor Vehicle	Computer & Office Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2022	2,458,443	147,434	0	6,048	2,611,925
Additions	0	1,405	12,641	0	14,046
					0
At 31st March 2023	**2,458,443**	**148,839**	**12,641**	**6,048**	**2,625,971**
Depreciation	£	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2022	72,254	71,775	0	5,402	149,431
Charge for the Year	36,169	15,413	1,264	129	52,975
At 31st March 2023	**108,423**	**87,188**	**1,264**	**5,531**	**202,406**
Net Book Value	£	£	£	£	£
At 31st March 2023	**2,350,020**	**61,651**	**11,377**	**517**	**2,423,565**
At 31st March 2022	2,386,189	75,659	0	646	2,462,494

*Included in cost of Freehold land and building is freehold land of £650,000 which is not depreciated.

13. CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

	2023	2022
Unrestricted	£	£
Restricted Funds	35,527	23,527
General Accruals	5,940	6,155
MTC Building Project Accruals	360	360
Bank Loan Repayable within 12 Months	79,572	79,572
	121,399	**109,614**

Included in the Restricted fund above is the remaining legacy amount £4,133 of the total amount received from the estate of a Late member of the parish and this amount will be disbursed in accordance with his wishes.

14. PROVISION FOR VICAR'S TRANSFER COST

	2022-23	2021-22
Brought forward at 1 April 2022	16,000	10,000
Visa extension expense - 2022	7,391	
Visa application expense - 2023	10,865	
Flight Tickets for outgoing Achen	1,505	
Total expended as at 31 March 2023	**19,761**	
Charge for the year	11,761	6,000
Carried forward at 31 March 2023	8,000	16,000

This is to provide for the travel and other related costs of the vicar and family, on their transfer to and from this parish.

15. MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	General Fund	MTC Building Fund	Social Welfare Fund	Total
Unrestricted	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2022	646,047	930,263		
Net Surplus for the Year	1,138			
As at 31 March 2023	**647,185**			**647,185**
As at 31 March 2023		**930,263**		**930,263**
Less expended this year		0		
Less expended previous years (2018,2019,2020, 2021, 2022)		919,595		
Held at Building Fund Bank Account		**10,668**		
Restricted				
At 1 April 2022			3,035	
New Funds received in the Year				
Distributed in the year				
As at 31 March 2023			**3,035**	**3,035**
				1,580,483

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General		
	Unrestricted (£)	**Restricted (£)**	**Total (£)**
Tangible Fixed Assets	2,423,565		2,423,565
Current Assets	63,732	3,035	66,767
Current Liabilities	-129,399		-129,399
Long Term Liabilities and Provisions	-780,450		-780,450
Assets	**1,577,448**	**3,035**	**1,580,483**

17. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The vicar who served the parish during the year was remunerated in accordance with the terms agreed prior to the appointment. The charge in the accounts include net stipend to the vicar of **£23516.94**, tax and national insurance contributions on the stipend and on the value of taxable benefits in kind. The vicar who also acts as manager of the Mar Thoma Centre is provided with accommodation and all expenses incurred on pastoral and management duties were reimbursed to him. Except for the above, no remuneration, either directly or indirectly, out of the fund of the church was paid or payable for the year, to any trustee nor to any person or persons known to be connected with any trustees. No expenses were reimbursed to trustees for carrying out their duties during the year.

18 a CHARITABLE DONATION COLLECTIONS

	2022-23
House Building Support for Evangelist - Ranni	2,100
Light To Life Project	2,160
Mission Field : Andimadam	300
Educational Support for student at TTI	240
Turkey Earthquake Fund	100
Total	**4,900**

18 b CHARITABLE DONATION PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTIONS

	2022-23
Light To Life Project	2,160
Mission Field : Andimadam	300
Educational Support for student at TTI	240
Total	**2,700**

18 c CHARITABLE DONATION PAYMENTS FROM ACCRUALS

	2022-23
Friends of Vellore, UK - Support for safer birth in the Jawadhi Hills Appeal	500
Total	**500**

18 d RESTRICTED CHARITABLE DONATIONS IN ACCRUALS

	2022-23
House Building Support for Evangelist - Ranni	3,670
Turkey Earthquake Fund	100
Bexley Food Bank	400
Greenwich Mayor Charity - The Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice	750
Total	**4,920**

ST JAMES MAR THOMA CHURCH-UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1059210

Accounts

St James Mar Thoma Church, UK

Mar Thoma Centre, 167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

Annual Report & Accounts for the year 2021-2022

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"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" *Ephesians 3: 20-21.*

Introduction

A parish is the place where the people of God gather to offer thanksgiving and where they grow in deeper intimacy with Christ and the Church. It is where we welcome others and we strive to build a family of love by our communion with Christ and one another as a worshipping community and sacramental community. God Almighty enables us to live with such a vision and be witness to Christ Jesus.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of St. James Mar Thoma Church UK, it is with immense pleasure and a heart full of praise and gratitude to the Almighty Lord, the annual report and financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2022 of St. James Mar Thoma Church UK is presented to you.

Let us thank Lord Almighty for His guidance, mercy, and grace we have experienced as a parish through the last twenty-six years to glorify His name for His faithfulness. I thank Our Almighty God for giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord and our Parish during the year.

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, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities statement of Recommended Practice, (FRS102). The trustees have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in relation the activities being for the public benefit.

Historical Perspective of our Parish

St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK (SJMTC) is a Parish of The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, in the Diocese of North America and Europe, which has its head office in Thiruvalla, Kerala, India.

The Mar Thoma worship in the UK started in 1957. St James Parish was based in Central London and was a continuation of the worship that started in Central London in the fifties to meet the needs of members residing in London and the Home Counties.

Since 7th March 2021, we have been fully congregating in our newly built Church at 167 Avery Hill Road, New Eltham.

St. James Mar Thoma Church UK is a Registered Charity in the United Kingdom (Charity Reg. No: 1059210.), with the registered office at St James Mar Thoma Centre, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Our Parish is administratively placed in the UK and Europe Zone and His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa is our Diocesan Bishop. We remain blessed and thankful for His Grace's continuous support and leadership provided for our Parish.

We affectionately remember with gratitude all our former and present Bishops, Vicars and their families, parish members and well-wishers. Let us thank and pray to our Lord Almighty for their services, able leadership and guidance, for their untiring work and contributions rendered for the growth of our Parish to this day.

Mission and Objective

The mission and objective of the Church is to keep and safeguard the faith as revealed by Christ and taught by the Apostles, to promote the spiritual life of the faithful through the administration of the sacraments and the preaching of the word.

Our Mission is to serve the people of this land as servants of the Crucified Lord without diluting and deluding the ethos of the Church. We as a parish are embodied 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 support of the spiritual life of its members, enhances the ecumenical relationship within the local community and Churches, provides financial support for evangelistic and charitable work in the United Kingdom and abroad, especially India.

Governing Document

St James Mar Thoma Church UK is governed by the constitution adopted on 27th October 1996 and as amended on 29th January 2006 and submitted to the Charity Commission and by the constitution of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, India.

Ecumenical Relations

While retaining many of the traditional characteristics of the ancient Eastern church, the Mar Thoma Church keeps very close relations with Christian churches in other parts of the world. The Church enjoys full intercommunion relationship with the world-wide Anglican Community and is a full member of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).

Parish Membership & General Body participation

A parish register of all members is maintained by the Vicar and is kept updated. All persons above 18 years, who have their names on the parish register, receive Holy Communion in the parish and whose parish membership has not been barred, are entitled to be Edavaka Sangham members (General Body of the parish).

Our membership as of 31st March 2022 was 193 families with a total of 615 members, including new families who joined the parish during the reporting year. We welcome these families to the fellowship of St James Mar Thoma Church, UK

Appointment of Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee)

The appointed Vicar of St James Parish is the President. The trustees (members of the Executive Committee) are elected or nominated every year before the commencement of the financial year. They are elected either by the General Body or by the members of the organisation whom they represent or nominated by the Diocesan Bishop. The Sabha Mandalam and the Diocesan Assembly

members are elected/nominated and their terms of office to these bodies is for a period of three years. The appointment of Trustees is as per the constitution.

Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee) for the reporting year

Based on the decision made by the General Body held on 7th March 2021, the election of the office bearers and auditors was held on 26th June 2021 by means of secret ballot for the posts of Vice President, Secretary, Trustee Accounts, Lay Leaders (1 & 2), Internal Auditors (1 & 2).

The following members served as the Trustees of the Charity for the year 2021-2022.

President & Vicar	Rev. Kuruvila K Kochumepurathu	Appointed
Vice President	Dr. K. John	Elected
Secretary	Mr. Sibu D. Thomas	Elected
Trustee Accounts	Mr. P.K. Edison	Elected
Trustee Finance	Mr. Shiju Thomas	Elected
Lay Leader 1	Mr. Alex P. Sam	Elected
Lay Leader 2	Mr. Reji C. Philip	Elected
Sabha Mandalam Member	Mr. Iju Thomas	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly	Mr. Cyril John	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly	Mr. Noble Mathew	Nominated
Edavaka Mission Representative	Mrs. Laly Abraham	Elected
Sevika Sangham Representative	Mrs. Shiby Varughese	Elected
Sunday School Representative	Mrs. Sherine George	Elected
Youth League Representative	Mr. Ashwin Chacko	Elected
Choir Representative	Mr. Aji Chacko	Elected
Area Prayer Group Representatives	Mr. Chanda Pillai Baby (Burys Area)	Elected
	Ms. Tina Susan Paul (East Area)	Elected
	Mr. Samuel Varghese (Ipswich Area)	Elected
	Mr. Shajan Varampel (Kent Area)	Elected
	Mr. Abin Varughese (North & West Area)	Elected
	Mr. Rajan Chacko (South East Area)	Elected
	Mr. Reji Mathew (South Area)	Elected

The Executive Committee met 15 times during the year to discuss and deliberate on the day-to-day running of the Parish, as well as to execute the decisions of the General Body.

Other Officials

Authorizing officer and Key contact for UKBA	Mr. Sibu D. Thomas Mr. P. K. Edison

Internal Auditors (Elected)	Mr. Thomas Rajan Chacko Mr. Shiju Thomas (Basildon)
Venue Managers	Mr. Sibu D. Thomas Mr. Shiju Thomas

General Body Meetings

Three general body meetings were held during the reporting year. All general body meetings were held in-person in our Church.

First, the annual general body meeting (AGM) was held on Sunday 31st October 2021 to receive and approve the annual report and accounts for the year 2020-21 and to receive and approve the budget for 2021-2022. The general body was also presented with the building project completion summary and building accounts. The general body approved the annual report and accounts for 2020-2021 and passed the budget for 2021-2022.

The second general body meeting was held on 14th November 2021 to change the Church timings and also to dissolve the building project committee.

The third general body meeting was conducted on 27th February 2022 to elect the office bearers and auditors for the year 2022-2023.

Risk Management

The Executive Committee have, from time to time, examined the major operational risks which the parish faces and confirms that systems have been established to enable regular review of steps that can be taken to reduce these risks. Risk management is reviewed and discussed at Executive Committee meetings.

For the safe running of the Church, a Health and Safety Policy has been adopted. A CCTV guideline is also followed for the use in Church.

Reserves Policy

St James Mar Thoma Church shall set aside reserves to provide financial stability and the means to sustain, improve and develop its mission and objects. As the flow of income is not uniform, reserves need to be set aside to meet expenses that are irregular in pattern. The Executive Committee has determined that the approximate level of free reserves should be equivalent to four months expenditure, approximately £48,000. For various reasons, we were not able to fully maintain this level of reserves. As result of actions taken, we were able to make some progress on our reserves. However, a continued effort is needed to restore this.

Financial Update

St James is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of members and well-wishers. We are greatly indebted for their financial support. The full income and expenditure statement for the year 2021/22 and the balance sheet are attached. In spite of the continued impact of the pandemic, it is pleasing to note that our various collections, including stewardship contributions have increased. Whilst this is welcome news, we have a significant way to go before we can get to the level of

reserves, we need to have for the smooth running of the affairs of the parish, meet various financial obligations and to maintain our Mar Thoma Centre, New Eltham.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

We have adopted a policy, based on the requirements of the Children Act 1989, which is monitored and reviewed annually. DBS checks are being carried out on all individuals who take responsibility for children's activities.

Our Church recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for our children and young people. To accomplish this, we have also established a child protection policy and procedures and thereby fulfilling our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of our children and youth.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The GDPR came into to law on 25th May 2018. In compliance with the requirements St James Mar Thoma Church have adopted and established a GDPR policy. This is published on the Church website. All trustees have been briefed on the regulation and their responsibilities to be in compliance with the policy. The parish is also registered with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Worship Services

For most part of the year, the Sunday Worship services were held in person and also broadcasted via the online platform. On average 100-120 members attend the service regularly. In person worship service commenced in our new Church from 7th March 2021, following all the government covid guidelines.

Special Services & Prayers

Special services were conducted to celebrate Parish Day, Family Sunday, Diocesan Sunday, Edavaka mission Sunday, Sevika Sangham Day, Youth Sunday, World Sunday School Day, Choir Sunday, Senior Citizens Day, Student Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day during the respective Sundays as per the church calendar.

Parish Day and Convention

The Parish Day and annual convention was held online on 26th, 27th and 28th November 2021. Rev. Jacob Mathew was the main speaker and guest of honour. All sessions were well attended and was a blessing to our members.

Harvest Festival

Over the years the Harvest Festival has evolved to be an event both young and old look forward to with great enthusiasm. We managed to conduct our first Harvest Festival food sale and fund collections in our new Centre on 11th September 2021. Cllr. Pat Greenwell was our chief guest. We also managed to conduct auctions after service via online and raffle ticket sales, with good participation from our members. Thanks to both our Harvest Festival convenors Mr. Shajan Varampel and Mr. Abin Varghese who organised the events well and helped raise funds during these difficult times.

Christmas Carol Service

The Carol Service was held on Sunday 12th December 2021 in the Church. The Choir took the leadership role in organising the Carol service. Rev. Dr. Jacob Thomas from Belfast was our chief guest for the evening and delivered the Christmas message. It was a blessed service of carols led by our dedicated senior and junior choir. The Sunday school children presented the nativity story with new and contemporary themes. We appreciate and extend our gratitude to the choir members, Sunday school teachers and the children for their dedication and hard work.

Watch Night Service

Watch night service was held on New Year's Eve in our Church and the service ended at 10pm. It was also an occasion of thanksgiving, praise, testimony, and worship especially during the tough times that the world was undergoing. It was well attended.

Great Lent and Passion Week

During this reporting year, St James observed the Great Lent with the Easter being celebrated on 17th April 2022. Post that, the great lent for 2022 started with daily evening prayer meetings online commencing leading up to the Passion Week. The passion week services, Good Friday service and Easter service were well attended both in person at our Church and online by our families.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. During the year under review, we were able to support various missionary activities and lend a helping hand to those in need. Especially, we were able to support students and youths affected at the start of the Covid pandemic in UK. Through the generous support of our members, we were able to support the following Charities and Charitable projects and Institutions in India and here in UK.

They include the following in UK:

- Santhigiri project – Covid relief project
- Light to Life project
- Anup Achen Fund
- Sijo Samuel Kidney fund
- Friends of Vellore
- Roots for life UK
- Shreyas charity
- Ashwas de-addiction centre
- Tramshed Greenwich Mayor charity

Marriage

During the report year two banns of marriage were published and Desakuri (no objection certificates) were issued to the following members.

1) Mr. Sajan Koshy and Mrs. Anvy Thankam Jacob
2) Mr. Sijo John and Mrs. Betsy Merlin George

All marriages were solemnised in their respective home/host parishes in India. We congratulate the newly married couples and wish them long and happy married life.

Baptisms

During the report year, we conducted 8 baptisms in our new Church. We welcome the newly baptised children to the Christian family and pray for their physical and spiritual growth.

First Communicants

First communicants' classes were conducted online by the Vicar. Ten of our teenagers participated in the dedication service and received Holy Communion on the 9th May 2021 and became communicant members of the church.

Our Diocesan Bishop His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa was the celebrant during the first communicant service.

Obituary

This year some of our family members have lost their beloved Parents/siblings. Parish extended spiritual support for the consolation of these families. We place on record our condolences to the following members and their bereaved families.

1) Mrs. Aleyamma Cherian (89 years)
2) Mr. Saji Jacob (55 years)
3) Mrs. Elizabeth Varghese (Prema) (73 years)

We give thanks to God Almighty for their life, their services and the love they shared. We place on record our sincere condolences to their respective families.

House Blessing

During this year several of our members have acquired new homes and the house blessing services have been conducted.

Church Souvenir

To mark the occasion of our Church dedication, we launched a Church Souvenir. Thanks to Mr. Cyril John (Convenor), the Souvenir editorial board members, Mr. Manoj Isaac (Designer) and everyone who helped to make this a success and also for helping raise funds.

St James Mar Thoma Centre

With a long-term vision to build and develop our own place of worship, in 2005, St. James MTC purchased (167 Avery Hill Road, New Eltham), spanning 4.6 acres in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, neighbouring the University of Greenwich campus.

The foundation stone laying service of the redevelopment of the Mar Thoma centre and Parsonage was held on 23rd August 2017. Our late His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan

and Our Diocesan Bishop His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa led the service and laid the foundation stone in the presence of invited guests, clergy of sister parishes and members of the parish.

By the Grace of Our good Lord, after years of collective prayers, hard work and perseverance, we accomplished this long-term vision of building our own place to serve as the St. James Mar Thoma Church Centre, with facility for worship, multi-use facility for community and sports activities and a parsonage.

Consecration of our Church, Centre and Parsonage

The consecration of our Church, Centre and parsonage was conducted on 8th May 2021 by His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa. On the following day, we had the first holy communion at St James Mar Thoma church & centre. Over the year, almost all our members have been able to come together and congregate and also attend the Holy Qurbana services.

Let us thank all the hands and souls that tirelessly and sincerely supported and worked towards accomplishing the building of Our Lord's Temple and also paving a way for our next generations to serve the wider community. Let us thank the Lord Almighty for His Guidance, Grace and Mercy we have experienced as a parish all through these years and glorify His name for his faithfulness.

The Centre will continue to be a blessing not just for our families, but also for the community as a whole and for the next generation.

Parish Organizations

The Parish is blessed with its organizations namely: Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Church Choir, Suvishesha Sevika Sangham (The Women's Mission) and the Edavaka/Parish Mission. Each organization has elected leaders to help carry out the administrative duties and responsibilities vested on them meaningfully. All the organisations of our Parish functions effectively to further the mission of our Church.

Sunday School *Mrs. Sherine George – Sunday School Headmistress*

"Train a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22: 6

We thank almighty for all the blessings that He had showered upon our Sunday school children and teachers in enabling the children to be closer to God in faith and practice during the year under review.
The following members served as office bearers for the year 2021-2022:

Headmistress: Mrs. Sherine George	Secretary: Mrs. Jessen Sajith
Treasurer: Mrs. Susan Mathew	

Many of our church family members serve in our Sunday school ministry as teachers and we are so thankful for your services which have enabled us to minister to our children and young adults. During the past year we adopted and implemented a different procedure in teaching due to the onset of the pandemic. The transition to teaching via online platform has gone well and we have seen a remarkable improvement in the attendance of children.

There were 65 children registered in our Sunday school in 2021-22, of which 35-40 children attended the classes regularly under the guidance and training of 20 teachers. Classes were held from 9.00am – 10.15am. The St James MTC Sunday School this year followed the curriculum provided by the Diocese of North America and Europe. We began our Sunday school with prayer followed by a singing session. The classes were divided into Nursery, Kindergarten, and Grade 1 to Grade 11/12. After the classes, children attended the church service. The following activities were held during this term.

- The Sunday school calendar year started with student's dedication held on 5/9/2021.
- Various planned annual competitions which got cancelled due to pandemic have been rescheduled from March 2022.
- The World Sunday school day was celebrated on the 31st October 2021.
- An amount of £500 has been donated to MCRD Thelliyoor children's charity.
- St James Sunday school continued the donation of Shoe box gifts to the 'Operation Christmas Child', programme of a charity called Samaritan's Purse.
- Sunday school is supporting the local food bank (Bexley Food Bank) and children brought in non-perishable tin food items on every Sunday.
- Sunday School Annual Examination took take place on 3rd July 2022.

Suvishesha Sevika Sangham *Mrs Shiby Varughese – Sevika Sangham Secretary*

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2021-2022:

Vice President: Mrs. Mini Edison	Secretary: Mrs. Shiby Varughese
Treasurer: Mrs. Princy Thomas	

St. James parish is blessed with a vibrant Sevika Sangham that takes an active role in the spiritual life of the parish. Two and half years since the pandemic, the Sevika Sangham are pleased to be an organisation that has supported various charity activities to the needy in UK. We have been able to support the "Ukraine crisis", through World Vision UK. This was only made possible by the diligent contributions from our members. We continue to support the educational fund and charities in India. Sevika Sangham prayer meetings were held on the first Sunday of every month with Bible study under the leadership of our vicar Rev K. K. Kuruvilla. Chain prayers and fasting prayers were observed every Fridays by Sevika Sangham members. Sevika Sangham members offered great mental and physical support for the family members of parish members in their sickness and in bereavement. Our vicar Rev K.K Kuruvilla served as the President of both the St. James Sevika Sangham and the UK & Europe Zone Sevika Sangham.

Edavaka/Parish Mission *Mrs. Laly Abraham – Edavaka Mission Secretary*

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Cor. 15:58

Praise be to God. At St. James Marthoma Church we keep the motto of the Edavaka Mission. ''Every Marthomite is an evangelist ''.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2021-2022:

Vice President: Mr. Varughese Abraham	Secretary: Mrs. Laly Abraham
Treasurer: Mrs. Shiney Regi	

Edavaka Mission has been very active under the leadership of Rev. K. K. Kuruvilla. Edavaka Mission took initiatives in monthly Bible study which were held every third Sunday after service. Edavaka Mission took initiative in raising money for Mr. Sijo Samuel's Kidney Transplant. Edavaka Mission along with Executive committee members organised a 3-day Parish convention held on 26th, 27th, 28th November 2021. Our guest Speaker was Rev. Jacob Mathew. Edavaka mission along with church committee took initiative in organising 40 days lent evening prayers on online platform and organised senior citizen communion service on 40th Friday.

Due to covid situations Edavaka Mission was unable to organise fasting prayer in houses. We take this opportunity to thank Achen, all Edavaka mission committee members, executive committee members and all members for your support and prayers.

Church Choir *Mr. Preet Wilson – Choir Secretary*

The Choir is an integral part of the worship service of our Church and plays a very active role in assisting the vicar and leading the congregation sing together and experience the presence of God in our midst.

The following members served as office bearers for the year 2021-2022:

Choir Leader: Mr. Aji Chacko Asst. Choir Leader: Mrs. Carmel Mathew Junior Choir Leader: Mrs. Princy Thomas	Secretary: Mr. Preet Wilson
	Treasurer: Mr. Jiku Thomas

The Choir Dedication Sunday service was held on the 27th June 2021. Due to Covid-19 attendance restrictions, the year started with the choir only having up to 5 members singing for Sunday worship. During these restrictions, practices were held online. Many choir members took the initiative to teach new songs during online practice sessions. In person practices were conducted once the restrictions were lifted. Younger generation are the future of the choir, once again they were encouraged by assigning worship songs to play musical instruments during service. Our Choir also actively participated in the special services which included the Church Consecration service, Parish Convention, Parish Day, Christmas Carol service, Watch Night service, Zonal choir events and the Passion Week services. Our choir participated in Zonal choir events by presenting songs for passion week and Christmas. The choir also participated in New Eltham Churches Together Christmas carols and presented one song. Our choir is affiliated with DSMC and has a strength of 32 choir members, 12 males and 20 females. The Choir conducted an audition on 8th August 2021 to enrol new members. We were blessed to have 10 new members joined - 4 male and 6 female voices into the choir. We would like to thank all the Choir Members for their continued dedication and support throughout the year that led to the success of all activities undertaken by our Choir.

Youth Fellowship *Mrs. Anugraha Ann Varughese - Youth Secretary*

Vice President: Miss Aneeta John	Secretary: Mrs. Anugraha A Varughese
Joint Secretary: Mr. Joyal Shajan	Treasurer: Mr Jithin Chacko

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. God has been gracious and blessed us, the St James Mar Thoma Youth League, with another year through unprecedented times. Despite all the uncertainty faced this year, our God has stood firm beside us. After spending more than a year in lockdown and being affected by the pandemic, the focus this year was to show gratitude and support to those in need.

As St James youths, we take pride in volunteering and participating in events organised by the church. Furthermore, the youths are always leading on various new initiatives to build an engaging community. The youths participated in Wrap Up London, which is a charitable initiative hosted by Hands On London. The initiative was organised to collect winter coats for the needy. St James youths donated over 60 coats as part of the drive to the London community. As part of the Lent season before Christmas all youth members were encouraged to set apart £1 a day, which is £25 by Christmas Day to support the needy. The donations were raised to support Christian Agency for Rural Development (CARD)charity in India.

Our monthly youth meetings included bible studies, topical discussions, debates and intercessory prayers. This year we also had two guest speakers delivering sessions with our youth. We celebrated Youth Sunday on 24th October 2022. We thank all the senior members of our church and all our youth members for their active participation in the youth mission.

Area Prayer Groups

The Parish is currently made up of seven prayers groups namely: Bury St. Edmunds, East London, Ipswich, Kent, North & West London, South East London and South London. Each prayer groups met once a month for Bible study, praise and intercessory prayers. Each prayer group has an elected prayer leader to assist the Vicar with the arrangements. The online area prayers are a source of strength and enrichment to the lives of members both children and adults. The prayer groups also play a part in assisting with our Worship services. Each elected prayer group leader has played a vital role in keeping the families informed and also supporting the lay leaders for Church assistance. Prayer groups also have elected treasurers to manage the offertory and any other special collection the groups may decide.

Zonal meetings

The parish members participated in the Mar Thoma UK and Europe zonal conventions and prayer meetings. This included the Zonal convention, Zonal Youth convention, Zonal Youth meetings, Christmas celebration and special prayers. Four of our members have been serving in the zonal roles. Mr. Noble J. Mathew served as the Zonal Secretary, Mrs Shiby Varughese served as the Sevika Sangham Zonal Secretary for UK & Europe Mar Thoma zone and Mrs. Sherine George served as the Zonal Sunday School Treasurer.

Church Website & Bulletin

The official website of the parish is www.marthomachurch.org.uk. The website continued to be regularly updated. It has been a source of information for both our members, new members and to others around the world.

The Parish Newsletter was published weekly and distributed via email to members of the Parish. It comprises the church programme calendar for each month and other information's such as: worship

timings, Sunday lectionary, prayer schedules, special events, achievements by the parishioners, Birthday and Wedding Anniversary greetings, Financial Updates etc.

Visiting Clergies

During the report year, we had the following clergies visit us.

Rev. Dr. P. G. George
Rev. Sijo John
Rev. Stanley Mathew John
Rev. Fr. Joseph Mathew S.J
Rev. Dr. Jacob Thomas, Belfast

We would like to extend our gratitude to all the vicars and their parishes for the support.

COVID-19 impact

The impact of Covid-19 pandemic continued into this financial year. By the Grace of our Almighty Lord, the impact on our finances was limited, as majority of the members continued or commenced to make donations by online bank transfer. The charity was also able to conduct some of our regular fundraising events. We were also able to support various charitable work during 2021-22. During this period, the Church and all organizations continued to operate both in-person and using digital platforms.

Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee would like to place on record for the grateful leadership, guidance and support of His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and our Diocesan Bishop Rt Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa.

We also respectfully thank Her Majesty's Government and the London Borough of Greenwich for all their assistance during the reporting year.

We acknowledge the services of our Vicar Rev. K. K. Kuruvilla, kochamma Mrs. Remi Kuruvilla and their two daughters, Ms. Rhema Eliza Kuruvilla & Ms. Kerigma Susan Kuruvilla during this period. Achen's leadership and focus on pastoral care, his prayerful guidance and approach to managing the affairs of the church has been invaluable over the last few years – especially during the tough times of the pandemic.

We acknowledge the dedication and sincere services of the entire Executive Committee; from the leadership and guidance of our Vice President, the tireless and meritorious work of the Treasurer and Accountant, Lay leaders, internal auditors, convenors of the various programmes, office bearers of organisations, all the area prayer group leaders and all our family members and well-wishers who have wholeheartedly supported the parish through their prayers and generous contributions throughout the year. We are also grateful to the Sevika Sangham, prayer groups and families who volunteer regularly to provide refreshments on Sundays after service and on special occasions.

Conclusion

As a Parish, we have experienced God's abundant mercies and provisions throughout this year. Especially, during this unprecedented COVID 19 pandemic times, we passed through tough times; bidding farewell to some of our loved ones to eternal rest, financial challenges and other worries. In the midst of our limitations, His bountiful blessings protected, preserved and strengthened us to be His witnesses. Our good Lord comforted and kept us all safe and helped us all to overcome the fragilities and frustrations of the pandemic.

During the financial year, we witnessed the dedication of the Mar Thoma Centre and Church. We now have the God given opportunity use it as a place of worship for the glory of God and for carrying out community activities to fulfil the mission entrusted to us.

For most part of the year under review, we conducted our regular worship services, prayer meetings, study sessions, and special events and activities, the parish has experienced God's enduring presence and grace in our new Church and using online media. God Almighty has provided us timely spiritual leadership through the Bishops, Clergies, and other lay leaders. We have also extended possible support to the sick, needy, and marginalized people. Let us rededicate ourselves to continue the mission and ministry of God Almighty through reflecting Christ's character of humility, love, integrity, generosity, and servant hood. May the Almighty God continue to bless our parish and make all our efforts for His glory and extension of His Kingdom.

Let us be the torch bearers of faith, "light to the generations and salt of the earth" and move forward with the motto of the Mar Thoma Church, 'Lighted to Lighten'.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee / Charity Trustees

Rev. K. K. Kuruvilla
Vicar & President

Sibu D. Thomas
Hon. Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts (Internal)

Report to the Trustees /members of St James Mar Thoma Church UK (Charity No. 1059210) on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 18 to 28

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) (b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Direction 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 the 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 statement below.

Independent examiners' statement

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

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

We have 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.

Mr Thomas Rajan Chacko
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Mr Shiju Thomas
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Date: 06 Jul 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	MTC Building Fund	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2020-21
Income						
Stewardship		74,825			74,825	66,073
Tax Refund		24,684		0	24,684	61,853
General Offertory	3	41,457			41,457	29,927
General Offertory - Thanksgiving			2,771		2,771	1,060
Specific Offertory and Collections	3		4,952		4,952	3,207
Harvest Festival	4	21,191	2,136		23,327	15,120
Christmas Carol Rounds		0			0	727
MTC Building Project - Collections	6			2,680	2,680	164,334
MTC Building Project - Gift in Kind				0	0	30210
COVID 19 Council Grant		6,802			6,802	
Donations		5,135	2,029		7,164	3,450
Diocesan Dues Collection	5		4,370		4,370	1,480
MTC Hire of Hall and Grounds						
Bank Interest		154			154	174
Church Organisation Collections			500		500	450
Souvenir Donations		10,125			10,125	675
Church Worship Book Donations		765			765	370
Zonal Development Fund			1,850		1,850	
Charitable Donation Collections	18a		14,245		14,245	
Fellowship Retreat Fund		1,085			1,085	
Total Income		**186,222**	**32,854**	**2,680**	**221,756**	**379,109**

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	MTC Building Fund	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2020-21
Direct Charitable Expenditure						
Salary, Tax and National Insurance	17	25,812			25,812	26,618
Provident/Pension Fund		422			422	422
Guest Expenses		940			940	1,000
Motor and Travel	10	1,379			1,379	287
Motor Leasing		4,110			4,110	4,105
Motor Insurance		1,216			1,216	1,194
Driving Lessons / Licence		0			0	866
Accommodation and Utility	7	7,079			7,079	13,456
SKCC Licence Fee		0			0	1,500
Church Building & Contents Insurance		1,608			1,608	1,771
Visiting Clergy		750	200		950	0
Zonal Contribution	5	3,980	4,370		8,350	8,350
Specific Offertory	3		4,952		4,952	3,207
Harvest Festival Expenses and Grants	4	1,967	2,136		4,103	2,592
Charity Contribution from Thanks Giving			2,771		2,771	1,060
Printing, postage and Stationary		59			59	0
Special Events, Parish Day / Convention		3,190			3,190	652
Provision for Vicars Transfer Cost	14	6,000			6,000	5,000
Mandalam and Assembly Meeting TA		0			0	0
Church Grant	9	3,250			3,250	0
Ecumenical Membership	5	400			400	400
Sundry Expenses		225			225	670
Altar Expense		301			301	0
Carol Rounds Expenses				0	0	0
Bank Charges		857			857	620
Family / Clergy Conference		0			0	0
Mar Thoma Centre Expenses	8	16,916			16,916	6,181
Transfer to MTC Building Fund				2,680	2,680	232,225
Bank Loan Interests		38,073			38,073	32,458
Donations		500	2,029		2,529	0
Church Worship Book Expenses		0			0	1,196
External Accountancy Fees					0	1,440
Church Organisation Payments			300		300	450
Church Opening Ceremony Expenses		3,647			3,647	
Souvenir Expenses		1,400			1,400	
Zonal Development Fund			1,850		1,850	
IT Infrastructure		119			119	198
Security Camera						0
Election Expenses		2,378			2,378	
Charitable Donation Payments	18b		14,245		14,245	
Fellowship Retreat Expenses		1,318			1,318	
Total Expenditure		**127,896**	**32,854**	**2,680**	**163,430**	**347,918**
Excess of Income over Expenditure		58,326	0	**0**	58,326	**31,192**
Less: Depreciation	12	55,256	0	0	55,256	59,963
Net Surplus	15	3,070	0	0	3,070	**-28,771**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
FIXED ASSETS		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	**12**		2,462,494		2,515,253
					0
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at Bank- General		38,907		52,414	
Cash at Bank– Building Fund	**15**	10,668		8,115	
		49,575		**60,529**	
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors & Accruals	**13**	109,614		154,324	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			**-60,039**		**-93,795**
			2,402,455		**2,421,458**
Less: Bank loan (Bank of India)	**11**		807,110		**848,609**
Less: Provision for Vicar's transfer cost	**14**		16,000		10,000
NET ASSETS			**1,579,345**		**1,562,850**
Represented by :					
Unrestricted					
General Funds	**15**		646,047		634,232
Building Fund	**15**		930,263		925,583
Restricted					
Social welfare Fund	**15a**		3,035		3,035
			1,579,345		**1,562,850**

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 10/07/2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

Rev. K K KURUVILA	**Mr. P K EDISON**	**Mr. SHIJU THOMAS**
(President)	**(Hon. Trustee)**	**(Hon. Trustee)**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

b. Recognition of income

Income included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

c. Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and are valued at cost. Depreciation is provided on the following rates.

Freehold property	2% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	20% on reducing balance
Computer and other equipment	25% on reducing balance

d. Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor.

2. STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship consists of voluntary contribution. 149 family members made such contributions during the year (Tax Year 2021 : 143 family members).

3. OFFERTORY

General	2022	2021
Church Service	15,615	14,082
Birthday, Wedding Anniversary	10303	5,070
Baptism	2312	0
Wedding	50	0
Parish Day	5911	6,561
Family Sunday tithe	5940	4,174
Students Thanksgiving Service	856	40
House Dedication Service	50	0
Family Retreat	420	0
Total	**41,457**	**29,927**

Specific Offertory and Collections	2022	2021
Specific Offertory Collection : Recessa	158	245
General Offertory : 13 Sundays	2,682	0
General Offertory : Suvishesha Nidhi Collection	10	200
Specific Offertory Collection : Youth Sunday	255	0
Specific Offertory Collection : Self Denial	1570	2,763
Specific Offertory Collection : Sevigha Sangham Day	277	
Total	**4,952**	**3,207**

Offertories and other collections made specifically during various church services were disbursed as required.

4. HARVEST FESTIVAL

	2022	2021
Sale Of Tickets	12,935	11,895
Auctions	3,301	800
Food and Games Stalls	5,741	0
Donations	1,350	2,425
	23,327	15,120
Restricted Fund	2,136	1,392
Less: Expenses	1,967	1,200
Surplus	**19,224**	**12,528**

5. DIOCESAN DUES / SABHA OFFICE DUES

Diocesan Dues	2021	2020
Nithyachilavu	1,350	1,350
Zonal Fund	2,700	2,700
Episcopal Travel	675	675
Zonal Day Collection Offertory	2,025	2,025
Salary Adjustment Fund	250	250
Higher education Scholarship	1,350	1,350
Ecumenical Subscription Fees	400	400
Total	**8,750**	**8,750**

6. MTC BUILDING PROJECT DONATIONS

From:	2022	2021
Members	2,680	129,717
Sevika Sangham		5,000
Sunday School		1,000
Youth League		1,500
North West Prayer Group		500
South East Area Prayer Group		500
Others (Non Members)		25,117
Total	**2,680**	**164,334**
Tax Refund	0	37,681
Gift In Kind	0	30,210
Total	**2,680**	**232,225**

7. ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES

	2022	2021
Rent	0	8,250
Lighting & Heating	2,905	2,324
Council Tax & Water Rates	3,204	2,208
Telephone & Internet	447	518
Television Licence	159	157
Repairs and Sundry Household Items	364	0
Total	**7,079**	**13,456**

8. MAR THOMA CENTRE EXPENSES

	2022	2021
Rates and Water	2,392	699
Light and Heat	5,868	4,876
Cleaning	2,250	0
Premises Licence	235	220
Ground Maintenance	1,815	747
Heating Maintenance	2,074	
Waste Collection	668	
Miscellaneous	872	423
Christmas Decorations	742	
Total Expenses	**16,916**	**6,965**
Utilities Refund	0	784
Total	**16,916**	**6,181**

9. CHURCH GRANT FOR CHURCH ORGANISATION

	2022	2021
VBS	500	500
Sunday School	500	500
Sevika Sangham	500	500
Youth League	1,000	1,000
Choir	500	250
Edavaka Mission	250	0
Total	**3,250**	**2,750**

10. MOTOR AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

	2022	2021
Public Transport	450	40
Fuel Charges	879	191
Motor Repairs	0	56
Toll Charges	50	0
Total	**1,379**	**287**

11. BANK LOAN

This relates to loan received from Bank of India and is secured on the Freehold Property together with personal guarantees given in favour of the bank by two of our church members, Mr P K Edison & Mr Reji Mathew. Interest is charged at LIBOR plus 4% and the loan is repayable by monthly instalments of £6,631.

12. FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer & Office Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2021	2,456,316	147,064	6,048	2,609,428
Additions	2,127	370		2,497
				0
At 31st March 2022	**2,458,443**	**147,434**	**6,048**	**2,611,925**
Depreciation	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2021	36,127	52,861	5,187	94,175
Charge for the Year	36,127	18,914	215	55,256
At 31st March 2022	**72,254**	**71,775**	**5,402**	**149,431**
Net Book Value	£	£	£	£
At 31st March 2022	**2,386,189**	**75,659**	**646**	**2,462,494**
At 31st March 2021	2,420,189	94,203	861	2,515,253

*Included in cost of Freehold land and building is freehold land of £650,000 which is not depreciated

12 a MTC BUILDING PROJECT EXPENSES

	2021-22
Direct Expenses	2,497
DCL Payments - St James (Final Payment)	28,000
Total	**30,497**
Less Accrued last year and paid this year	-28000
Total	**2,497**
Less Furniture. Fixtures & fittings (see Note 12)	370
Additions to Freehold Property (see Note 12)	**2,127**

13. CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

	2022	2021
Unrestricted	£	£
Restricted Funds	23,527	18,341
General Accruals	6,155	26,051
MTC Building Project Accruals	360	30,360
Bank Loan Repayable within 12 Months	79,572	79,572
	109,614	**154,324**

Included in the Restricted fund above is the remaining legacy amount £4,133 of the total amount received from the estate of a Late member of the parish and this amount will be disbursed in accordance with his wishes.

14. PROVISION FOR VICAR'S TRANSFER COST

This is to provide for the travel and other related costs of the vicar and family, on their transfer to and from this parish.

	2021-22	2020-21
Brought forward at 1 April 2021	10,000	5,000
	10,000	5,000
Charge for the year	6,000	5,000
Provision for the year carried forward at 31 March 2022	16,000	10,000

15. MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	General Fund	MTC Building Fund	Social Welfare Fund	Total
Unrestricted	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2021	634,232	925,583		
Net Surplus for the Year	3,070			
Remaining Accrued Final Retention Payment		2000		
Adding back Diocesan Fund accrued before (2017-18)	8,745			
Transferred to MTC Building Fund		2,680		
As at 31 March 2022	**646,047**			**646,047**
As at 31 March 2022		**930,263**		**930,263**
Less expended this year		2,127		
Less expended previous years (2018,2019,2020, 2021)		917,468		
Held at Building Fund Bank Account		**10,668**		
Restricted				
At 1 April 2021			3,035	
New Funds received in the Year				
Distributed in the year				
As at 31 March 2022			**3,035**	**3,035**
				1,579,345

15a. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Social Welfare Fund : This is a Fund for helping disadvantaged individuals primarily in India and the collection consists of voluntary contributions from members. The balance is held for future distributions and new contributions will be added to this fund.

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

		General	
	Unrestricted (£)	**Restricted (£)**	**Total (£)**
Tangible Fixed Assets	2,462,494		2,462,494
Current Assets	46,540	3,035	49,575
Current Liabilities	-125,614		-125,614
Long Term Liabilities and Provisions	-807,110		-807,110
Assets	**1,576,310**	**3,035**	**1,579,345**

17. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The vicar who served the parish during the year was remunerated in accordance with the terms agreed prior to the appointment. The charge in the accounts include net stipend to the vicar of £18,966, tax and national insurance contributions on the stipend and on the value of taxable benefits in kind. The vicar who also acts as manager of the Mar Thoma Centre is provided with accommodation and all expenses incurred on pastoral and management duties were reimbursed to him. Except for the above, no remuneration, either directly or indirectly, out of the fund of the church was paid or payable for the year, to any trustee nor to any person or persons known to be connected with any trustees. No expenses were reimbursed to trustees for carrying out their duties during the year.

18 a CHARITABLE DONATION COLLECTIONS

	2021-22
Anup Achen Fund	2,430
Shanthigiri Project & Light To Life Project	8,340
Sijo Samuel Kidney Fund	3,255
Ukraine Fund	220
Total	**14,245**

18 b CHARITABLE DONATION PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTIONS

	2021-22
Shanthigiri Project	6,340
Light To Life Project	2,000
Anup Achen Fund	2,430
Sijo Samuel Kidney Fund	3,255
Total	**14,025**

18 c CHARITABLE DONATION PAYMENTS FROM ACCRUALS

	2021-22
Shanthigiri Project (made from the legacy payments from Late Mr P T George)	2,000
Light To Life Project (made from the legacy payments from Late Mr P T George)	2,000
Sijo Samuel Kidney Fund	738
Friends of Vellore, UK	500
Roots4Life	750
Shreyas Charity	500
Aswas De-addiction Centre	500
Tramshed - Greenwich Mayor Charity	700
CARD	250
Total	**7,938**

ST JAMES MAR THOMA CHURCH-UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1059210

Accounts

St James Mar Thoma Church, UK

Mar Thoma Centre, 167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

Annual Report & Accounts for the year 2020-2021

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"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be teachers, to prepare God's people for work of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4: 11-13.

Introduction

A parish is the place where the people of God gather to offer thanksgiving and where they grow in deeper intimacy with Christ and the Church. It is where we welcome others and we strive to build a family of love by our communion with Christ and one another as a worshipping community and sacramental community. God Almighty enables us to live with such a vision and be witness to Christ Jesus.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of St. James Mar Thoma Church UK, it is with immense pleasure and a heart full of praise and gratitude to the Almighty Lord, the annual report and financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2021 of St. James Mar Thoma Church UK is presented to you.

Let us thank Lord Almighty for His guidance, mercy, and grace we have experienced as a parish through the last 25 years and glorify His name for His faithfulness. I thank Our Almighty God for giving me this wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord and Our Parish during this historical major milestone.

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, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities statement of Recommended Practice, (FRS102). The trustees have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in relation the activities being for the public benefit.

Historical Perspective of our Parish

St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK (SJMTC) is a Parish of The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, in the Diocese of North America and Europe, which has its head office in Thiruvalla, Kerala, India.

The Mar Thoma worship in the UK started in 1957. St James Parish was based in Central London and was a continuation of the worship that started in Central London in the fifties to meet the needs of members residing in London and the Home Counties.

All these years, we maintained a cordial relationship with the Guild Council of St Katharine Cree Church (SKCC) and used it under licence as our primary place of worship until March 2020. Since then, we have discontinued using SKCC and have commenced using our new Church at 167 Avery Hill Road, New Eltham since 7th March 2021.

St. James Mar Thoma Church UK is a Registered Charity in the United Kingdom (Charity Reg. No: 1059210.), with the registered office at St James Mar Thoma Centre, 167 Avery Hill Road, London SE9 2EX.

Our Parish is administratively placed in the UK and Europe Zone and His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Issac Mar Philoxenos Episopa is our Diocesan Bishop. We remain blessed and thankful for His Grace's continuous support and leadership provided for our Parish.

Our Parish completed Silver Jubilee this year and we affectionately remember with gratitude all our former and present Bishops, Vicars and their families, parish members and well-wishers. Let us thank and pray to our Lord Almighty for their services, able leadership and guidance, for their untiring work and contributions rendered for the growth of our Parish to this day.

Mission and Objective

The mission and objective of the Church is to keep and safeguard the faith as revealed by Christ and taught by the Apostles, to promote the spiritual life of the faithful through the administration of the sacraments and the preaching of the word.

Our Mission is to serve the people of this land as servants of the Crucified Lord without diluting and deluding the ethos of the Church. We as parish are embodied 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 supports the spiritual life of its members, enhances the ecumenical relationship within the local community and Churches, provides financial support for evangelistic and charitable work in the United Kingdom and abroad, especially India.

Governing Document

St James Mar Thoma Church UK is governed by the constitution adopted on 27th October 1996 and as amended on 29th January 2006 and submitted to the Charity Commission and by the constitution of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, India.

Ecumenical Relations

While retaining many of the traditional characteristics of the ancient Eastern church, the Mar Thoma Church keeps very close relations with Christian churches in other parts of the world. The Church enjoys full intercommunion relationship with the world-wide Anglican Community and is a full member of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).

Parish Membership & General Body participation

A parish register of all members is maintained by the Vicar and is kept updated. All persons above 18 years, who have their names on the parish register, receive Holy Communion in the parish and whose parish membership has not been barred, are entitled to be Edavaka Sangham members (General Body of the parish).

Our membership as of 31st March 2021 was 189 families with a total of 601 members, including new families who joined the parish during the reporting year. We welcome these families to the fellowship of St James Mar Thoma Church, UK

Appointment of Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee)

The appointed Vicar of St James Parish is the President. The trustees (members of the Executive Committee) are elected or nominated every year before the commencement of the financial year. They are elected either by the General Body or by the members of the organisation whom they represent or nominated by the Diocesan Bishop. The Sabha Mandalam and the Diocesan Assembly members are elected/nominated and their terms of office to these bodies is for a period of three years. The appointment of Trustees is as per the constitution.

Trustees of the Charity (Executive Committee) for the reporting year

The following members served as the Trustees of the Charity for the year 2020-2021.

President & Vicar	Rev. Kuruvila K Kochumepurathu	Appointed
Vice President	Dr. K. John	Elected
Secretary	Mr. Sibu D. Thomas	Elected
Trustee Accounts	Mr. P.K. Edison	Elected
Trustee Finance	Mr. Shiju Thomas	Elected
Lay Leader 1	Mr. Alex P. Sam	Elected
Lay Leader 2	Mr. Ashwin Chacko	Elected
Sabha Mandalam Member	Mr. Iju Thomas	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly	Mr. Cyril John	Elected
Diocesan Zonal Assembly	Mr. Noble Mathew	Nominated
Edavaka Mission Representative	Mrs. Laly Abraham	Elected
Sevika Sangham Representative	Mrs. Shiby Varughese	Elected
Sunday School Representative	Mrs. Sherine George	Elected
Youth League Representative	Mr. Rony Eappen	Elected
Choir Representative	Mr. Aji Chacko	Elected
Area Prayer Group Representatives	Mr. Ajay Cherian (Burys Area) Ms. Tina Susan Paul (East Area) Mr. George Easow (Ipswich Area) Mr. Shajan Varampel (Kent Area) Mr. Ashok Thomas (North & West Area) Mr. Rajan Chacko (South East Area) Mr. Reji Mathew (South Area)	Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected Elected

The Executive Committee met 15 times during the year to discuss and deliberate on the day-to-day running of the Parish, as well as to execute the decisions of the General Body.

Other Officials

Authorizing officer and Key contact for UKBA	Mr. Sibu D. Thomas Mr. P. K. Edison
Project Key Contact	Mr. Sibu D. Thomas
Internal Auditors (Elected)	Mr. Thomas Rajan Chacko Mr. Shiju George
Venue Managers	Mr. Sibu D. Thomas Mr. Shiju Thomas
Independent Examiner (External)	Abraham and Associates Ebenzer House 41 Clarence Street Southend on Sea Essex, SS1 1BH

General Body Meetings

Three general body meetings were held during the reporting year. Due to Covid restrictions, all general body meetings were held online.

First, the annual general body meeting (AGM) was held on Sunday 6th December 2020 online to receive and approve the annual report and accounts for the year 2019-20 and to receive and approve the budget for 2020-2021. The general body was also presented with the building project completion summary and GDPR adoption updates. The general body approved the annual report and accounts for 2019-2020 and passed the budget for 2020-2021. In addition, Mr. Shiju Thomas & Mr. Sibu D. Thomas were elected to be the Venue Managers for the Mar Thoma Centre at New Eltham. This enabled the parish to plan and operate safely in accordance with the government guidelines.

A follow up general body meeting was also conducted on 14th February 2021 to further clarify the with the building project update and GDPR adoption updates. However, the minutes of this were recorded but not passed.

The general body met on 7th March 2021 to transact the process of the election of office bearers and auditors for the year 2021-2022. Accordingly, it was decided to conduct the election of the office bearers and auditors on 26th June 2021 by means of secret ballot.

Risk Management

The Executive Committee have, from time to time, examined the major operational risks which the parish faces and confirms that systems have been established to enable regular review of steps that can be taken to reduce these risks. Risk management is reviewed and discussed at Executive Committee meetings.

For the safe running of the Church, a Health and Safety Policy was adopted and maintained. A CCTV guideline was also implemented and maintained for the use in Church.

Reserves Policy

St James shall set aside reserves to provide financial stability and the means to sustain, improve and develop its mission and objects. As the flow of income is not uniform, reserves need to be set aside to meet expenses that are irregular in pattern. The Executive Committee has determined that the approximate level of free reserves should be equivalent to four months expenditure, approximately £48,000. For various reasons, we were not able to fully maintain this level of reserves. As result of actions taken, we were able to make some progress on our reserves. However, a continued effort is needed to restore this.

Financial Update

St James is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of members and well-wishers. We are greatly indebted for their financial support. The full income and expenditure statement for the year 2020/21 and the balance sheet are attached. In spite of the tough pandemic situation, it is pleasing to note that our various collections, including stewardship contributions have increased. Whilst this is welcome news, we have a significant way to go before we can get to the level of reserves, we need to have for the smooth running of the affairs of the parish, meet various financial obligations and to maintain our Mar Thoma Centre, New Eltham.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

We have adopted a policy, based on the requirements of the Children Act 1989, which is monitored and reviewed annually. DBS checks are being carried out on all individuals who take responsibility for children's activities.

Our Church recognises the need to provide a safe and caring environment for our children and young people. To accomplish this, we have also established a child protection policy and procedures and thereby fulfilling our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of our children and youth.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The GDPR came into to law on 25th May 2018. In compliance with the requirements St James Mar Thoma Church have adopted and established a GDPR policy. This is published on the Church website. All trustees have been briefed on the regulation and their responsibilities to be in compliance with the policy. Consent form on information usage was also received from 105 families. The parish also registered this year with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Leadership Retreat

The St James Mar Thoma church conducted a one-day retreat for all the committee members and the office bearers of every organisation on the 12th of September 2020. This was a blessed and reviving occasion which was ably led by our Very Rev. P. T. Thomas achen remotely from Bristol. The retreat enlightened and enabled the new committee to take charge and conduct all Parish related activities with zeal and aligned to the vision of the wider Mar Thoma church.

Worship Services

For most part of the year, the Sunday Worship services were held via the online platform. On average 100-150 members attend the service regularly across geography. In person worship service commenced in our new Church from 7th March 2021, following all the government covid guidelines.

Special Services & Prayers

Special services were conducted to celebrate Parish Day, Family Sunday, Diocesan Sunday, Edavaka mission Sunday, Sevika Sangham Day, Youth Sunday, World Sunday School Day, Choir Sunday, Senior Citizens Day, Student Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day during the respective Sundays as per the church calendar.

In addition, special prayer meetings were also held on the bereavement of our late lamented His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan and our late lamented Metropolitan, His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma metropolitan.

Parish Day and Convention

The Parish Day and annual convention was held online on 23rd, 24th and 25th October 2020. Rev Dr. Sham P Thomas Achen was the main speaker and guest of honour. The theme for the three-day convention was “Sign posts in the journey of Faith”. All sessions were well attended and was a blessing to our members.

Harvest Festival

Over the years the Harvest Festival has evolved to be an event both young and old look forward to with great enthusiasm. Due to the unprecedented restrictions and inability to meet in person, we were unable to conduct our usual Harvest Festival food sale and fund collections. However, we still managed to conduct auctions after service via online and raffle ticket sales, with good participation from our members. The draw of the raffle tickets was held in December 2020 at our parsonage. Thanks to both our Harvest Festival convenors Ms. Tina Paul and Mr. Ashok Thomas who organised the events well and helped raise funds during these difficult times.

Christmas Carol Service

The Carol Service was held on Sunday 20th December 2020 via the online platform with the presence of Rt. Rev. Dr Euyakim Mar Coorilos Episcopa as the chief guest. Thirumeni delivered the Christmas message all the way from his home town in India. It was a beautiful service of carols led by our talented and dedicated senior and junior choir. The Sunday school children presented the nativity story with new and contemporary themes. We appreciate and extend our gratitude to the choir leadership and choir members, Sunday school teachers and the children for their dedication and hard work.

Watch Night Service

Watch night service was held on New Year’s Eve again via the online platform at 10pm. It was also an occasion of thanksgiving, praise, testimony, and worship especially during the tough times that the world was undergoing. It was well attended.

Great Lent and Passion Week

During this reporting year, St James observed 2 Great Lents with the first Easter being celebrated online on the 12th of April 2020. Post that, the great lent for 2021 started with daily evening prayer meetings online commencing from the 14th of February 2021 leading up to the Passion Week. The passion week services, Good Friday service and Easter service were well attended both in person at our Church and online by our families.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. During the year under review, we were able to support various missionary activities and lend a helping hand to those in need. Especially, we were able to support students and youths affected at the start of the Covid pandemic in UK. Through the generous support of our members, we were able to support the following Charities and Charitable projects and Institutions in India and here in UK.

They include the following in UK:

- FOV UK (Friends of Vellore, UK)

Marriage

During the report year three banns of marriage were published and Desakuri (no objection certificates) and one letter of transfer were issued to the following members.

- Mr. Allan Eapen Varghese
- Ms. Merin Jeemon
- Mr. Binish Thomas George

All marriages were solemnised in their respective home/host parishes in India. We congratulate the newly married couples and wish them long and happy married life.

Baptism

During the report year, due to the covid restrictions, we were not able to conduct any baptisms.

Obituary

This year some of our family members have lost their beloved Parents/siblings. Parish extended spiritual support for the consolation of these families. We place on record our condolences to the bereaved families.

House Blessing

During this year several of our members have acquired new homes and the house blessing services have been conducted.

St James Mar Thoma Centre - God's gift for our next generation

With a long-term vision to build and develop our own place of worship, in 2005, St. James MTC purchased (167 Avery Hill Road, New Eltham), spanning 4.6 acres in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, neighbouring the University of Greenwich campus.

The foundation stone laying service of the redevelopment of the Mar Thoma centre and Parsonage was held on 23rd August 2017. Our late His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan
and Our Diocesan Bishop His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa led the service and laid the foundation stone in the presence of invited guests, clergy of sister parishes and members of the parish.

By the Grace of Our good Lord, after years of collective prayers, hard work and perseverance, we accomplished this long-term vision of building our own place to serve as the St. James Mar Thoma Church Centre, with facility for worship, multi-use facility for community and sports activities and a parsonage.

On 19th May 2020, we got the practical completion certificate and keys for the building. Since then, we worked tirelessly to complete the remaining works and also achieve building regulation certificate. This enabled our Vicar and family to move into the new parsonage on 10th October 2020.

Due to the pandemic, we were restricted in opening the Mar Thoma centre for any activities. It was not until 7th March 2021, a year since we last congregated in person at SKCC, we finally commenced Worship service in our new Church with restricted numbers. We also had a blessed passion week with Worship services held, thus enabling a restricted number of members to come together and congregate, while others attended the service online. Almost all our members have since attended the Holy Qurbana service.

At the time of writing this report, I am pleased to record that the consecration of our Church & Centre was conducted on 8th May 2021 by His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa.

Let us thank all the hands and souls that tirelessly and sincerely supported and worked towards accomplishing the building of Our Lord's Temple and also paving a way for our next generations to serve the wider community. Thanks to all the members and well-wishers for their spiritual and financial support rendered towards accomplishing this work.

Let us thank the Lord Almighty for His Guidance, Grace and Mercy we have experienced as a parish all through these years and glorify His name for his faithfulness.

The Centre will continue to be a blessing not just for our families, but also for the community as a whole and for the next generation.

Parish Organizations

The Parish is blessed with its organizations namely: Sunday School, Suvishesha Sevika Sangham (The Women's Mission), Edavaka/Parish Mission, Church Choir, Young Family Fellowship and Youth group. Each organization has elected leaders to help carry out the administrative duties and responsibilities vested on them meaningfully. All the organisations of our Parish functions effectively to further the mission of our Church.

Sunday School

Mrs. Sherine George – Sunday School Headmistress

"Train a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22: 6

We thank almighty for all the blessings that He had showered upon our Sunday school children and teachers in enabling the children to be closer to God in faith and practice during the year under review.

Many of our church family members serve in our Sunday school ministry as teachers and we are so thankful for your services which have enabled us to minister to our children and young adults. During the past year we adopted and implemented a different procedure in teaching due to the onset of the pandemic. The transition to teaching via online platform has gone well and we have seen a remarkable improvement in the attendance of children.

There were 61 children registered during 2020-21, of which 45-55 children attended the classes regularly every Sunday under the guidance and training of 20 teachers. Classes were held from 9.30am to 10.15am.

The St James MTC Sunday School this year followed the curriculum provided by the Diocese of North America and Europe. We began our Sunday school with prayer followed by a singing session. The classes were divided into Nursery, Kindergarten, and Grade1 to Grade11/12. After the classes, children attended the church service. The following activities were held during this term.

- The Sunday school calendar year started with Students and dedication.
- Various planned annual competitions were cancelled due to pandemic & lockdown.
- St James Mar Thoma Church Sunday School children attended the Zonal VBS, held from 29th to 31st Oct 2020. We registered 42 children, attended the online VBS sessions.
- The World Sunday school day was celebrated on the 1st November 2020. We followed the special worship order provided by the Samajam at the start of the service.
- An amount of £250 has been donated to MCRD Thelliyoor children's charity.
- St James Sunday school continued the donation of Shoe box gifts to the 'Operation Christmas Child', programme of a charity called Samaritan's Purse. Our children were a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.
- The Sunday school students actively participated in the Christmas Carol Service held on 20th December 2020 show casing an online nativity programme.
- Annual Sunday School examination took take place on 4th July 2021.

Suvishesha Sevika Sangham (The Women's Mission)

Mrs Shiby Varughese – Sevika Sangham Secretary

St. James parish is blessed with a vibrant Sevika Sangham that takes an active role in the spiritual life of the parish. Amidst the pandemic too, the organisation was involved in various charity activities lending a hand to the neediest in our society. We have been able to support the 'REFUGE 'in UK with the generous contributions from our members. We also supported the educational fund and charities in India. Sevika Sangham members offered great mental and physical support for the family members of parish members in their sickness and in bereavement. Sevika Sangham prayer meetings

were held on the first Sunday of every month with Bible study under the leadership of our vicar Rev K K Kuruvilla. Chain prayers and fasting prayers were observed every Fridays by Sevika Sangham members. Our vicar Rev K.K Kuruvilla served as the President of both the St. James Sevika Sangham and the UK & Europe Zone Sevika Sangham.

Edavaka/Parish Mission

Mrs. Laly Abraham – Edavaka Mission Secretary

''Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. " Isaiah 41:10

Edavaka mission was very active under the leadership of Rev. K.K. Kuruvilla. Due to Covid 19 restrictions in person meeting where not possible. We conducted once weekly intercessory prayers on every Wednesday evening. Each area representatives took initiative in organizing the same. Each area representatives took initiative in contacting elderly members in their respective areas. Edavaka mission took initiative in organizing this year's lent daily evening prayer over 40 days of Lent.

During this period many of our parish member been affected by Covid 19, special prayers conducted for those people affected and also conducted bereavement prayers. Edavaka mission organized with the help of Executive committee a three-day online Parish Convention took place in October 23,24,25th. Rev. Dr Sham P. Thomas was our Convention speaker. The Theme for the convention was Sign posts in the journey of faith. The Edavaka Mission members actively participated in Church building completion, organizing church dedication services and continuing their participation in all church activities.

By God's Grace all the activities accustomed on Edavaka Mission was successfully met for the past year. Thank you Achen and all the Edavaka Mission committee members. May God's continuing guidance be with the Church and all Edavaka Mission activities.

Church Choir

Mr. Jiku Thomas – Choir Secretary

The role of the Choir is to lead the worship and help the congregation sing together and experience the presence of God in our midst. Leading the congregation in hymns, songs and prayers is essential for worship as praise is much desired by God.

This year was a very difficult one for our Church as a whole, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced us to conduct services and choir practices online for almost the whole year. In spite of such humungous obstacles, the choir regularly held practices online every Sunday which was well attended by all the choir members. Our Choir also actively participated in the special services which included the Church Consecration service, Christmas Evening service, Watch Night service, Zonal choir events and the Passion Week services. The Choir Dedication Sunday service was held on the 27th September 2020. The Christmas Carol Service was held on 20th December 2020 as an online service. Our choir participated in an ecumenical Christmas Carol concert presented by the Union Christian Association, Chennai. The online concert, named Gloria, was held on 13th December 2020, and included 9 choirs from around the world. The choir published two songs on the choir Youtube channel. The choir took the initiative in creating the worship books for the church, for use of the congregation.

Our choir is affiliated with DSMC and has a strength of 32 choir members, 12 males and 20 females. The choir was led by Choir Leader Mr. Aji Chacko and Joint Choir Leader Mrs. Carmel C Mathew. Junior Choir for the children was led by the Junior Choir Leader Mrs. Princy Thomas who did a fantastic job in leading the children this year. We would like to thank all the Choir Members for their continued dedication and support throughout the year that led to the success of all activities undertaken by our Choir.

Youth Fellowship

Ms. Aneeta John - Youth Secretary

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. God has been gracious and blessed us, the St James Mar Thoma Youth League, with another year through unprecedented times. Despite all the uncertainty faced this year, our God has stood firm beside us. During this period, the youth fellowship adapted to the needs of the pandemic by hosting virtual meetings and reaching our youths through different forms of social media. Online youth meetings included bible studies, topical discussions (body image, living a purposeful life, being resilient Christians, Christian influence), debates, quiz and intercessory prayers. This year we also had two guest speakers delivering sessions with our youth. We have also participated in many zonal youth events such as the intercessory prayer cell, Christmas skit, zonal youth quiz (4th Place to St James) and monthly talks. During the lockdown, our youths came together to produce a podcast “Our Voice, His Grace”. We released a total of 19 episodes on our YouTube channel, well done to all those who participated. The Youth mentorship scheme was created to develop a closer fellowship between amongst our youth, encourage spiritual growth and develop a Christian support group. We were able to recruit 8 senior youths as mentors to guide the 10 younger youths that registered for the programme. We thank all the senior members of our church and all our youth members for their active participation in the youth mission.

Area Prayer Groups

The Parish is currently made up of seven prayers groups namely: Bury St. Edmunds, East London, Ipswich, Kent, North & West London, South East London and South London. Each prayer groups met once a month for Bible study, praise and intercessory prayers. Each prayer group has an elected prayer leader to assist the Vicar with the arrangements. The online area prayers are a source of strength and enrichment to the lives of members both children and adults. The prayer groups also play a part in assisting with our Worship services. Each elected prayer group leader has played a vital role in keeping the families informed and also supporting the lay leaders for Church assistance. Prayer groups also have elected treasurers to manage the offertory and any other special collection the groups may decide.

Zonal meetings

The parish members participated in the Mar Thoma UK and Europe zonal conventions and prayer meetings. This included the Zonal convention, Zonal Youth convention, Zonal Youth meetings, Christmas celebration and special prayers. Four of our members have taken up leadership role in the zone. Mr. Noble J. Mathew was appointed as the Zonal Secretary, Mrs Shiby Varughese was elected as the Sevika Sangham Zonal Secretary for UK & Europe Mar Thoma zone. Mr. Rony Eappen was elected as the Zonal Youth Secretary and Mrs. Sherine George served as the Zonal Sunday School Treasurer.

Church Website & Bulletin

The official website of the parish is www.marthomachurch.org.uk. During this term, a complete revamp of our website was done to make it a responsive design compatible on all digital media and has since been regularly updated. It has been a source of information for both our members, new members and to others around the world.

The Parish Newsletter was also re-designed and is published weekly and distributed via email to members of the Parish. It comprises the church programme calendar for each month and other information's such as: worship timings, Sunday lectionary, prayer schedules, special events, achievements by the parishioners, Birthday and Wedding Anniversary greetings, Financial Updates etc.

COVID-19 impact

Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the charity operations since mid-March 2020. This has led to suspension of church worship services and other programs within the church.
Several of our family members and extended families were critically ill and even lost their beloved ones. The pandemic also witnessed the selfless sacrifices made by several of our own health care and key workers, playing a significant role in helping the communities.

During these tough times, the trustees implemented measures to ensure safety of members based on UK Government guidelines on this matter. Until, 7th March 2021, all the worship services and gatherings had to be conducted on online platform. By the Grace of our Almighty Lord, the impact on our finances was limited, as majority of the members continued or commenced to make donations by online bank transfer. The charity was not be able to conduct any of the regular fundraising events and it impacted our opportunity to support various charitable work during 2020-21. The trustees are continuously monitoring the situation to ensure the charity responds to the challenges and to continue to support various activities. During this period, the Church and all organizations adopted to operate using digital platforms.

Tribute

Late Lamented, Most Rev Dr Joseph Mar Thoma, 21st Mar Thoma, was called to his eternal home on 18th October 2020. His Grace's close association with our Parish started from the time His Grace was a student at St Augustine College, Canterbury and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. His Grace has played a pivotal role, as priest, bishop and metropolitan, in establishing congregations and parishes and eventually the zone of UK and Europe in UK and Europe is a fulfilment of his vision. We fondly remember his visits to our Parish, especially his keen interest in visiting our Church in New Eltham from the time we purchased the premise. His Grace was with us in October 2019. In spite of it being a wet and rainy day, Thirumeni did a full tour of our building during construction phase and provided his spiritual leadership and guidance specifically for the design of our Altar and finally did short prayer on site in the midst of the project work, which was exactly a year before his passing. We join the worldwide Mar Thoma community in moaning the passing of the 21st Mar Thoma and thank God for his life, witness, pastoral and spiritual care and leadership.

Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee would like to place on record the blessing of our late lamented Metropolitan, The Most Rev. Dr Joseph Mar Thoma, and the Episcopal Synod for facilitating the growth of our parish. We are especially grateful for the leadership, guidance and support of His

Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and our Diocesan Bishop Rt Rev. Dr Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa.

We also respectfully thank Her Majesty's Government and the London Borough of Greenwich for all their assistance during the reporting year.

We acknowledge the services of our Vicar Rev. K. K. Kuruvilla, his wife Mrs. Remi Kuruvilla and their two daughters, Ms. Rhema Eliza Kuruvilla & Ms. Kerigma Susan Kuruvilla during this period. As part of his pastoral duties, Achen has reached out to all families, especially the sick and needy all over and offered his daily bible teachings as a comfort to the parishioner's. Achen's leadership and focus on pastoral care and his prayerful approach to leading and managing the affairs of the church have been invaluable at this critical time.

We acknowledge the dedication and sincere services of the entire Executive Committee; from the leadership and guidance of our Vice President, the tireless and meritorious work of the Treasurer and Accountant, Lay leaders, internal auditors, convenors of the various programmes, office bearers of organisations, all the area prayer group leaders and all our family members and well-wishers who have supported the parish through their prayers and generous contributions and wholehearted support during the year.

Conclusion

As a Parish, we have experienced God's abundant mercies and provisions throughout this year. Especially, during this unprecedented COVID 19 pandemic times, our dreams and imaginations were shattered. We heard the voices of the sick and the lost. We passed through tough times; bidding farewell to some of our loved ones to eternal rest, financial challenges and other worries. In the midst of our limitations, His bountiful blessings protected, preserved and strengthened us to be His witnesses. Our good Lord comforted and kept us all safe and helped us all to overcome the fragilities and frustrations of the pandemic.

For most part of the year under review, we conducted our regular worship services, prayer meetings, study sessions, and special events and activities, the parish has experienced God's enduring presence and grace using online media. God Almighty has provided us timely spiritual leadership through the Bishops, Clergies, and other lay leaders. We have also extended possible support to the sick, needy, and marginalized people. Let us rededicate ourselves to continue the mission and ministry of God Almighty through reflecting Christ's character of humility, love, integrity, generosity, and servant hood. May the Almighty God continue bless our parish and make all our efforts for His glory and extension of His Kingdom.

The year also witnessed the completion and dedication of the Mar Thoma Centre and Church. We now have the God given opportunity use it as a place of worship for the glory of God and for carrying out community activities to fulfil the mission entrusted to us.

Let us be the torch bearers of faith, "light to the generations and salt of the earth" and move forward with the motto of the Mar Thoma Church, 'Lighted to Lighten'.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee / Charity Trustees

Rev. K. K. Kuruvilla
Vicar & President

Sibu D. Thomas
Hon. Secretary

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St James Mar Thoma Church UK

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of St James Mar Thoma Church UK for the period ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 19 to 28

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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.

I 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 financial statements to be reached.

Xavier Abraham

Xavier Abraham FCCA
Abraham and Associates
Chartered Certified Accountants
Ebenezer House
41 Clarence Street
Southend on Sea
Essex
SS1 1BH

Date: 07/10/2021

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts (Internal)

Report to the Trustees /members of St James Mar Thoma Church UK (Charity No. 1059210) on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 19 to 28

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:
- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) (b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiners' statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Direction 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 the 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 statement below.

Independent examiners' statement

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

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

We have 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.

Mr Shiju George
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Mr Thomas Rajan Chacko
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Date: 03 Oct 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	MTC Building Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
Income						
Stewardship		66,073			66,073	60,188
Tax Refund		24,172		37,681	61,853	86,009
General Offertory	**3**	29,927			29,927	31,056
General Offertory - Thanksgiving			1,060		1,060	1,776
Specific Offertory and Collections	**3**		3,207		3,207	6,624
Harvest Festival	**4**	13,728	1,392		15,120	17,865
Christmas Carol Rounds		727			727	8,715
MTC Building Project - Collections	**6**			164,334	164,334	273,886
MTC Building Project - Gift in Kind				30,210	30,210	15878
Donations		3,450			3,450	3,960
Diocesan Dues Collection	**5**		1,480		1,480	3,475
MTC Hire of Hall and Grounds						
Bank Interest		174			174	404
Church Organisation Collections			450		450	1,773
Church Opening Ceremony Donations						
Souvenir Donations		675			675	
Church Worship Book Donations		370			370	
Zonal Development Fund						
Total Income		**139,295**	**7,589**	**232,225**	**379,109**	**511,609**

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	MTC Building Fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
Direct Charitable Expenditure						
Salary, Tax and National Insurance	**17**	26,618			26,618	29,965
Provident/Pension Fund		422			422	422
Guest Expenses		1,000			1,000	1,000
Relocation / Winter Expenses		0			0	1,000
Motor and Travel	**10**	287			287	1,940
Motor Leasing		4,105			4,105	7,348
Motor Leasing - Additional Mileage		0			0	2,597
Motor Insurance		1,194			1,194	1,138
Driving Lessons / License		866			866	948
Accommodation and Utility	**7**	13,456			13,456	25,522
SKCC License Fee		1,500			1,500	18,000
Church Building & Contents Insurance		1,771			1,771	386
Visiting Clergy		0			0	2,200
Zonal Contribution	**5**	6,870	1,480		8,350	8,350
Specific Offertory	**3**		3,207		3,207	6,624
Harvest Festival Expenses and Grants	**4**	1,200	1,392		2,592	3,866
Charity Contribution from Thanks Giving			1,060		1,060	1,776
Printing, postage and Stationary		0			0	378
Special Events, Parish Day / Convention		652			652	2,593
Provision for Vicars Transfer Cost	**14**	5,000			5,000	5,884
Church Grant	**9**				0	2,750
Ecumenical Membership	**5**	400			400	400
Sundry Expenses		670			670	1,312
Altar Expense		0			0	96
Carol Rounds Expenses					0	1,144
Bank Charges		620			620	1,155
Family / Clergy Conference		0			0	380
Mar Thoma Centre Expenses	**8**	6,181			6,181	1,151
Transfer to MTC Building Fund				232,225	232,225	375,498
Bank Loan Interests		32,458			32,458	15,635
Donations					0	500
Church Worship Book Expenses		1,196			1,196	0
External Accountancy Fees		1,440			1,440	1,440
Church Organisation Payments			450		450	1,773
IT Infrastructure		198			198	0
Security Camera						0
Total Expenditure		**108,104**	**7,589**	**232,225**	**347,918**	**525,172**
Excess of Income over Expenditure		**31,192**	0	**0**	31,192	**-13,563**
Less: Depreciation	**12**	59,963	0	0	59,963	-1,112
Net Deficit	**15**	**-28,771**	0	0	-28,771	**-12,451**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

	Notes		2021		2020
FIXED ASSETS			£		£
Tangible Fixed Assets	**12a**		2,515,253		457,075
MTC Build Project (Work in Progress)	**12b**				1,619,347
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at Bank- General		52,414		70,469	
Cash at Bank– Building Fund	**15**	8,115		29,401	
		60,529		**99,870**	
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors & Accruals	**13**	154,324		225,581	
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES			**-93,795**		**-125,711**
			2,421,458		**1,950,711**
Less: Bank loan (Bank of India)	**11**		848,609		**765,643**
Less: Provision for Vicar's transfer cost	**14**		10,000		5,000
NET ASSETS			**1,562,850**		**1,180,068**
Represented by :					
Unrestricted					
General Funds	**15**		634,232		488,122
Building Fund	**15**		925,583		689,010
Restricted					
Social welfare Fund	**15**		3,035		2,935
			1,562,850		**1,180,068**

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 29/08/2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Rev. K K KURUVILA	**Mr. P K EDISON**	**Mr. SHIJU THOMAS**
(President)	**(Hon. Trustee)**	**(Hon. Trustee)**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these accounts

ST. JAMES MARTHOMA CHURCH LONDON-UK

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognized at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and with the Charities Act 2011.

b. Recognition of income

Income included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability

c. Tangible fixed assets for use by charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and are valued at cost. Depreciation is provided on the following rates.

Freehold property	2% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	20% on reducing balance
Computer and other equipment	25% on reducing balance

d. Tax reclaims on donations and gifts

Gift aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor.

2. STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship consists of voluntary contribution. 143 members made such contributions during the year (132 members contributed in 2019/20 tax year).

3. OFFERTORY

General	2021	2020
Church Service	14,082	11,756
Birthday, Wedding Anniversary	5,070	8,705
Baptism	0	140
Marriage	0	525
Parish Day	6,561	3,670
Family Sunday tithe	4,174	5,345
Students Thanksgiving Service	40	715
House Dedication Service	0	200
Total	29,927	31,056

Specific	2021	2020
Offertories and other collections made specifically during various church services were disbursed as required.	3,207	6,624

4. HARVEST FESTIVAL

	2021	2020
Sale Of Tickets	11,895	6,804
Auctions	800	4,557
Food and Games Stalls	0	4,889
Donations	2,425	1,615
	15,120	17,865
Restricted Fund	-1,392	-1,552
Less: Expenses	1,200	-2,341
Surplus	**12,528**	**13,972**

5. DIOCESAN DUES / SABHA OFFICE DUES

Diocesan Dues	**2021**	**2020**
Nithyachilavu	1,350	1,350
Zonal Fund	2,700	2,700
Episcopal Travel	675	675
Zonal Day Collection Offertory	2,025	2,025
Salary Adjustment Fund	250	250
Higher education Scholarship	1,350	1,350
Ecumenical Subscription Fees	400	400
Total	**8,750**	**8,750**

6. MTC BUILDING PROJECT DONATIONS

From:	**2021**	**2020**
Members	129,717	225,069
Choir		0
Sevika Sangham	5,000	0
Sunday School	1,000	0
Youth League	1,500	6,000
Edavaka Mission		1,100
East Area Prayer Group		500
Kent Area Prayer Group		876
Ipswich Prayer Group		1,859
North West Prayer Group	500	0
South East Area Prayer Group	500	0
Others (Non-Members)	25,117	38,481
Total	**164,334**	**273,886**

		0
Tax Refund	37,681	64,164
Gift In Kind	30,210	15,878
Harvest Festival	0	16,313
Christmas Carol	0	8,715
Total	**232,225**	**378,955**

7. ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES

	2021	2020
Rent	8,250	19,800
Lighting & Heating	2,324	2,208
Council Tax & Water Rates	2,208	2,310
Telephone & Internet	518	917
Television License	157	153
Repairs and Sundry Household Items	0	134
Total	**13,456**	**25,522**

8. MAR THOMA CENTRE EXPENSES

	2021	2020
Rates and Water	699	1,056
Light and Heat	4,876	539
Cleaning	0	
Premises License	220	180
Ground Maintenance	747	
Miscellaneous	423	
Total Expenses	**6,965**	**1,775**
Utilities Refund	784	624
Total	**6,181**	**1,151**

9. CHURCH GRANT FOR CHURCH ORGANISATION

	2021	2020
VBS		500
Sunday School		500
Sevika Sangham		500
Youth League		1,000
Choir		250
Edavaka Mission		0
Total	**0**	**2,750**

10. MOTOR AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

	2021	2020
Public Transport	40	236
Fuel Charges	191	1,507
Motor Repairs	56	54
Toll Charges	0	144
Total	**287**	**1,940**

11. BANK LOAN

This relates to loan received from Bank of India and is secured on the Freehold Property together with personal guarantees given in favour of the bank by two of our church members, Mr P K Edison & Mr Reji Mathew. Interest is charged at LIBOR plus 4% and the loan is repayable by monthly instalments of £6,631.

12. FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Property	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer & Office Equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2020	629,095	33,364	6,048	668,507
Additions	1,827,221	113,700		1,940,921
				0
At 31st March 2021	**2,456,316**	**147,064**	**6,048**	**2,609,428**
Depreciation	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2020	177,220	29,311	4,901	211,432
Prior year charges eliminated (Note15)	-177,220			-177,220
Charge for the Year	36,127	23,550	286	59,963
At 31st March 2021	**36,127**	**52,861**	**5,187**	**94,175**
Net Book Value	£	£	£	£
At 31st March 2021	**2,420,189**	**94,203**	**861**	**2,515,253**
At 31st March 2020	451,875	4,053	1,147	457,075

*Included in cost of Freehold land and building is freehold land of £650,000 which is not depreciated

12 a MTC BUILDING PROJECT EXPENSES

	2021
Direct Expenses	169,227
Gifts in Kind Received	30,210
DCL Payments - St James (Final Payment)	74,300
DCL Payments via Bank Loan (Final Payment)	132,000
Total	**405,737**
Less Accrued last year and paid this year	-114,523
	291,214
Retention Payment to Builder accrued	30,000
Professional Services accrued	360
	321,574
Work iin Progress b/fwd at 1/4/20	1,619,347
Total	**1,940,921**
Less Furniture. Fixtures & fittings (see Note 12)	113700
Additions to Freehold Property (see Note 12)	**1,827,221**

13. CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Restricted Funds	18,341	11,702
General Accruals	26,051	19,785
MTC Building Project Accruals	30,360	114,523
Bank Loan Repayable within 12 Months	79,572	79,572
	154,324	**225,581**

Included in the Restricted fund above is a legacy amount of £8,133 received from the estate of a Late member of the parish and this amount will be disbursed in accordance with his wishes.

Since the balance sheet date, amounts totalling £4,000 had been distributed to 'Light to Life' education project and 'Shantigiri Covid Hospital' project both of which are in Kerala, India.

14. PROVISION FOR VICAR'S TRANSFER COST

This is to provide for the travel and other related costs of the vicar and family, on their transfer to and from this parish.

	2021	2020
Brought forward at 1 April 2020	5,000	10,793
Paid in the Year (Travel / Visa Costs)	0	-11,677
	5,000	-884
Charge for the year	5,000	5,884
Provision for the year c/fwd at 31 March 2021	10000	5,000

15. MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS

	General Fund	MTC Building Fund	Social Welfare Fund	Total
Unrestricted	£	£	£	£
At 1 April 2020	488,122	689,010		
Net Surplus for the Year	-28,771			
Prior year depreciation charges eliminated (Note12)	177,220			
Transferred to MTC Building Fund		232,225		
Transferred from COIF Account	-4,348	4,348		
Write back Accrued Clergy Conference	2,009			
As at 31 March 2021	**634,232**			**634,232**
As at 31 March 2021		**925,583**		**925,583**
Less expended this year		273,737		
Less expended previous years (2018,2019,2020)		643,731		
Held at Building Fund Bank Account		**8,115**		
Restricted			2,935	
At 1 April 2020			100	
New Funds received in the Year				
Distributed in the year			3,035	
As at 31 March 2021			**2,935**	**3,035**
				1,562,850

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	General		
	Unrestricted (£)	Restricted (£)	Total (£)
Tangible Fixed Assets	2,515,253		2,515,253
Current Assets	57,494	3,035	60,529
Current Liabilities	-154,324		-154,324
Long Term Liabilities and Provisions	-848,609		-858,609
Assets	**1,559,815**	**3,035**	**1,562,850**

17. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The vicar who served the parish during the year was remunerated in accordance with the terms agreed prior to the appointment. The charge in the accounts include net stipend to the vicar of £18,966, tax and national insurance contributions on the stipend and on the value of taxable benefits in kind. The vicar who also acts as manager of the Mar Thoma Centre is provided with accommodation and all expenses incurred on pastoral and management duties were reimbursed to him. Except for the above, no remuneration, either directly or indirectly, out of the fund of the church was paid or payable for the year, to any trustee nor to any person or persons known to be connected with any trustees. No expenses were reimbursed to trustees for carrying out their duties during the year.