



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





St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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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 (SJMTCC), 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.





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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 229 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 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.





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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

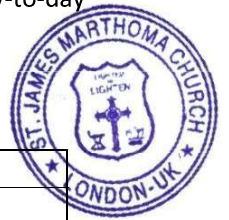
The following members served as the Trustees of the Charity for the year 2024-2025.

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





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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 2024 to 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 for the year 2023-2024 and passed the budget for 2024-2025.

The second General Body meeting was held on 27th October 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 2025 to 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.





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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 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, 12th May 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



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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 31st August 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. Carolers 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



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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





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

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

Matrimony

There were no matrimony 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 8th May 2021 by His Grace



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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 14 classes. 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.



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- 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



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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 8th of 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 heartily 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		



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Edavaka Mission

Every Marthomite 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.





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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



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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)





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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.



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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



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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)



Mr. James Malayil Varghese
(Hon. Independent Examiner)



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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





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	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





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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. Ajax John
(Hon. Trustee)

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

Rev. Soju Mathai Thomas
(Vicar & President)





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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.





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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.





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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



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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



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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



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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.





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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

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St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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.





St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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





St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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





St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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 Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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 Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

	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, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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





St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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





St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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





St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

Trustee –Mr Jikku Thomas

Sd

Auditor – Miss Ruth Thomas

Sd

Auditor – Mrs Shanty Thomas





St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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			





St. James Mar Thoma Church, UK

167, Avery Hill Road, New Eltham, SE9 2EX

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

