

THE ORTHODOX EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY IN SOUTH LONDON

Registered charity number 1105211

Address for contact: Birchenhoe, Crowfield, Brackley NN13 5TW

ANNUAL REPORT

for the calendar year 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

Trustees

In the year, the following persons served as Trustees of the Orthodox Eucharistic Community in South London (**“the Charity”**):

Very Reverend Archpriest Alexander Fostiropoulos (Chair)

Ms. Carol S. Graves

Mr. Alexis Martinowsky

Ms. F.M.H. Rattray

Mr. R.A. Hookway

Mr. K.M.S. Alton Honeywell

The Charity does not act as a custodian trustee.

Structure and Administration

The Charity was established by a Trust Deed dated 20 June 2004 and its object is to advance the Orthodox Christian Faith, as defined in the Trust Deed. It does this through its support for the canonical Orthodox Parish of St. Peter and St. Paul, Clapham, London SW4 which is a Parish within the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople headed by His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople. The Parish is part of the Deanery in the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, headed by His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas.

The Trust Deed permits a maximum of twelve trustees, all of whom must be communicant members of the Orthodox Church.

New Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees when necessary or when a vacancy occurs. The Trustees hope that new, younger, Trustees will be appointed in the next few years.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commissioners' advice and consider that the activities of the Charity are in the public benefit.

Vulnerable Beneficiaries

The Trustees have adopted formal policies for the protection of children and vulnerable beneficiaries, details of which are readily available to those attending the worship and activities of the Parish.

Review of the Year: Activities and Performance

Our parish is served by its rector, the Very Reverend Archpriest Alexander Fostiropoulos, and the non-stipendiary priests the Reverend Ian Page and (until the end of December 2024) Reverend Stefan Strekopytov.

In 2024 we sought to continue to build on the work of previous years but have still not been able to achieve our ultimate goal of offering weekly Liturgies as we are sharing the facilities of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Clapham Manor Street. Securing a dedicated place of worship continues to be a very high priority as we are unlikely to be able to extend our opportunities for worship without such an arrangement. However, we are deeply grateful to the PCC and parishioners of St. Peter's Church for their hospitality. Negotiations are continuing with the PCC of St. Peter's Church to secure a longer-term agreement to enable us to stay there and have more services, and for facilities available to us to be improved. We are now paying St. Peter's PCC £15,000 a year for our use of the Church premises.

Our services presently consist of the Divine Liturgy on the second, fourth and fifth (when one occurs) Sunday of each month with the Vigil service on the evening before the second Sunday. They are primarily conducted in English with some Church Slavonic and Greek. At the Liturgy, the Lord's Prayer is sung first in English, then Slavonic, Greek, and Romanian, and sometimes other languages, reflecting the countries and backgrounds of most of our parishioners. Extra services are celebrated during Great Lent and in Holy Week. We also aim to celebrate Vespers Liturgies on the eve of the Great Feasts.

Near the end of the Sunday Liturgy, after Holy Communion, we have classes for our children, run by parents under the guidance of Father Alexander. The children's ages range from toddlers up to early teens. The numbers taking part vary with holidays and half-terms but average some fifteen children. Our adult members are nurtured in the Christian faith by the sermon during each Sunday Liturgy, the didactic nature of the liturgical services and by our well-stocked bookstall which also sells icons, which is staffed before and after the Sunday Liturgy by volunteers from the parish.

Our priests continued the pastoral care of our parishioners by visiting them regularly, especially those who have had to move some distance away, are elderly, in ill-health, or incapacitated.

Our parish now cares for over 300 souls including almost 100 children and young people, and our Sunday Liturgy now has typically over 80 worshippers. A growing number of mainly young men and women have started worshipping with us and a series of in-person Catechism sessions are offered for those wishing to be baptised or be received in the Orthodox Church. Our main opportunity to get to know each other is our 'bring and share' lunch on Sunday. Additional opportunities are given at the annual Parish Sale & Celebration at the start of the year and at the Patronal Festival at the end of June. The Parish Advisory Council are continuing to look at ways of encouraging more people to work together in the service of the church. An occasional publication "Reflections" is also offered to everyone in an effort to nourish our collective experience of faith.

We are especially grateful to Margaret Haig, Vitalie and Maria Rotaru, Caitlin Kelly and John Goldie-Scott for their dedicated and expert leadership of the singing during the celebration of the services.

Christine Brown is the Parish Warden, and we are all most grateful to her and to Carol Graves and Christian Mititelu, her two assistants, for all that they do in this exacting role.

Summer Camp, and involvement in the local and wider community

The Summer Camp of the Deanery took place at its normal location in South Wales in 2024.

Several children and helpers from our parish participated in the camp, which was run under the guidance and pastoral supervision of our parish rector. It is staffed entirely by volunteers and offers children 9-16 years old, almost all of them living in cities, the unique opportunity to experience nearly 2 weeks of real tent camping in the countryside, where they can develop practical and leadership skills. No child is refused a place on account of their race, religion, or financial situation. Although the cost is kept minimal, bursaries are given to any child in financial need. The children attending the camp come from the whole of the U.K and in a few cases from abroad.

Our Parish is an active member of the Churches Together in Clapham (CTiC), a group of some 13 churches of different denominations in Clapham which continues to support and works with the following community-based projects:

The Hub, a safe place for vulnerable people through Friday and Saturday nights.

The Robes, which offers an overnight shelter for the homeless during the winter months.

A number of community groups including Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA), meet regularly at St. Peter's Church and the facilities used by these groups have been refurbished by our Parish.

The Parish also supports the work of the Ace of Clubs charity, a local Day Centre which helps homeless and vulnerable people by providing hot meals, showers, clothing, advice, and friendship,

by organising money collections, especially at Christmas, and selling tickets to parishioners which they can give to homeless people to enable them to have a meal at the Ace of Clubs.

We collect food donated by parishioners after every Liturgy and the food is taken by Christian Mititelu to the Olive Tree Aid, which was founded by St. Nectarios Orthodox Parish in Battersea.

Members of our parish participate annually in the Clapham area service for the international World Day of Prayer.

The rector of the parish also works as a Chaplain in Higher Education, based at King's College, London and at the London School of Economics. In addition, one weekend a month he normally serves the Liturgy for two of our Deanery Communities based in Canterbury and in Lamberhurst in Kent.

Financial support and place of worship

Our finances continue to be robust (see attached report). We are, however, still aware that we need to raise more money by regular donations, preferably made under the Gift Aid scheme. Our long-term aspiration remains to have a dedicated place of worship whilst ideally continuing to pay for the services of a housed and dedicated full-time priest.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have been so generous in donating money to our parish and to the Priest-in-Charge, people, and PCC of St. Peter's Church for their hospitality.

Trustees 'Policies

The Trustees have adopted the following policies:-

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding policy follows that of the Deanery in the Archdiocese of Thyateira. This was last updated in November 2023 and can be viewed at <https://thyateira-deanery.uk/node/235>.

Conflicts of Interest

Trustees must declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest and abstain from voting on any matters in which they may have a contrary interest to that of the Charity.

Internal Financial Controls, policy and procedures

The Treasurer must authorise all payments and ensure that annual accounts are produced, and if necessary, a report must be obtained from an Independent Examiner.

Financial Reserves, and investing charity funds, policies and procedures

The Trustees aim to keep reserves at a constant level and will only invest funds not needed for immediate use, on professional advice.

Complaints, Bullying and Harassment, policies and procedures

Any such matters will be referred to the Rector of the Parish for investigation and resolution. If the Rector is himself the subject of the reference, the matter will instead be referred to the Dean of the Deanery or in his absence the Archbishop.

Serious Incidents, policies and procedures

Any serious incidents must be referred to the Trustees who will consider the matter, take professional advice where appropriate, and contact the statutory authorities and make a report to the Charity Commission.

Trustees' Expenses

Trustees are entitled to be repaid their proper expenses, and those incurred in attending meetings of the Trustees, using public transport (standard class fares) or mileage rates as approved by H.M. Revenue and Customs. Claims should be submitted to the Treasurer.

Social Media

The Charity does not have any social media accounts.

Engaging External Speakers at Charity events

The Charity does not undertake this. Occasionally an Orthodox cleric from another community might be asked to preach at a service, but this is a matter for the Parish clergy rather than the Trustees.

30 August 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

The Orthodox Eucharistic Community in South London

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1105211

Set out on pages

3 and 4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 12 / 2024**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me 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.

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 accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

15 July 2025

Name:

Philippe BELOT

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

--

Address:

26 ENGLEWOOD ROAD
LONDON SW12 9NZ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
The Orthodox Eucharistic Community in South London

Charity No
1155211

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start date
01 Jan 24

To

Period end date
31 Dec 24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Service Collection	7,658		-	7,658	5,006
Service Collection through Gift Aid envelopes	5,216		-	5,216	3,744
Other Donation (other services)	1,103		-	1,103	941
Other Donation with Gift aid form / envelope			-	-	2,319
Other Donation (Extra-ordinary, e.g. Chaplaincy)	20,000	5,641	-	25,641	20,389
Other Donation with GA (Extra-ordinary)			-	-	41,000
Standing Order with Gift Aid forms	14,970		-	14,970	13,650
Standing Order - Other	2,450		-	2,450	780
Bank interests + Investment income	37,142		-	37,142	28,449
Gift Aid	6,327		-	6,327	6,344
Books	2,460		-	2,460	852
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	97,326	5,641	-	102,968	123,473
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	97,326	5,641	-	102,968	123,473
A3 Payments					
Pastoral Care	42,260		-	42,260	42,257
Running Expenses - Church	10,215		-	10,215	10,911
Venue	15,000		-	15,000	15,750
Books	2,630		-	2,630	669
Donation	6,733		-	6,733	2,622
Running Expenses - Camp		289	-	289	291
			-	-	-
			-	-	-
Sub total	76,838	289	-	77,127	72,500
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
New Assets	100,000		-	100,000	100,000
			-	-	-
Sub total	100,000	-	-	100,000	100,000
Total payments	176,838	289	-	177,127	172,500
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 79,511	5,352	-	- 74,159	- 49,027
A5 Transfers between funds					
	246,020		-	246,020	295,047
A6 Cash funds last year end					
Cash funds this year end	166,509	5,352.24	-	171,861	246,020

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
CAF Cash	83,076	5,352	-
HSBC	82,746	-	-
Cash	687	-	-
Total cash funds	166,509	5,352	-

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Savills - 20%			
Cazenove - 80%		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Burial Place		-	-
Set of Icons		-	-
Oak Cross		-	-
Icon Stands		-	-
Liturgical Vestment		-	-
Icon of Marie from Paris		-	-
Various Camp equipment (BBQ,		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

B5 Liabilities

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval



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	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

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		-	
		-	
		-	
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