SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1107634

Details

Other names	SYRIAC ORTHODOX CHURCH, SYRIAC ORTHODOX CHURCH UK, SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH UK
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04766548
Registered	2005-01-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	7-11 Armstrong Road Acton London W3 7JL
Phone	02087495834
Email	Enquiry.24@syriacorthodox.church
Website	www.syriacorthodox.church

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TEACHINGS AND PRACTICES OF THE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH.

Activities: Regular church servicesTeaching of the Aramaic/Syriac languageTalks and lectures about the church's spirituality and its people's history, culture and heritageAssist new Christian refugees

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED. IN PRACTICE, WORLDWIDE.
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-31	£451,548	£285,107	-	-
2024-05-31	£458,635	£285,517	-	-
2023-05-31	£531,310	£315,017	£3,842,809	2
2022-05-31	£610,518	£219,279	£3,625,268	2
2021-05-31	£487,053	£275,032	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BAN HASSO KASSIR		2017-11-19
Dr AYAD AL-KHOURY		2017-11-19
Dr SUNDUS HENDERSON		2017-11-19
MITHAL KHOORY		2017-11-19

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SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1107634

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1107634

Company Registration No. 04766548 (England and Wales)

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

FRIDAY

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A8 20/03/2026 #263

COMPANIES HOUSE

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Dr A Al-Khoury Dr S Henderson Mrs B Kassir Mr M Khoory Dr Z Shamoon (resigned 26 January 2026)
Secretary	Dr A Al-Khoury
Charity number (England and Wales)	1107634
Company number	04766548
Registered office	7-11 Armstrong Road London W3 7JL
Auditor	Knight Goodhead Limited Chartered Accountants 7 Bournemouth Road Chandlers Ford Hampshire SO53 3DA

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2025, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity Name:

The legal name of the charity is: Syrian Orthodox Church

The charity is also known by its operating name, Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac Orthodox Church UK, Syrian Orthdox Church UK or SOC UK.

The Charity's Areas of Operation and UK Charitable Registration

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with the charity number 1107634.

Legal Structure of the Charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all, trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The Principal Operating Address, Telephone Number, Email and Web Addresses of the Charity

The Syriac Centre
7-11 Armstrong Road
London
W3 7JL

Telephone: 020 87495834

Email Address: Enquiry.24@syriacorthdox.church

Web address: www.syriacorthodox.church

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

The Trustees in Office on the Date the Report was approved were:

Dr A Al-Khoury
Mrs Z Hanna (Resigned 12 May 2025)
Dr S Henderson
Mrs B Kassir
Mr M Khoory
Dr Z Shamoon (Resigned 26 January 2026)
At the Annual General Meeting no trustees retire from office.

All the trustees are members of the church.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)".

Objectives and Activities of the Charity:

The Purposes of the Charity as Specified in its Governing Document:

The objects of the Charity, as stated in the governing document of the Charity, are to advance and promote the Christian Faith in accordance with the teachings and practices of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch.

The Main Activities Undertaken in Relation to Those Purposes during the Year:

The Charity seeks to provide opportunities for people to contribute to the objectives, and offer the church's facilities for worship, and the church hall and centre hall for educational, cultural and social activities.

Significant activities are; Bible study, pastoral visits, ecumenical meetings, Language study, cultural lectures, festive gatherings, refreshments after the main church services, helping the elderly, few parties over the course of the year to bring the community together as well as supporting the church's youth with their activities.

Also, it provides the church halls for use by other people from the community as well as its use by a full day nursery by the local community.

The Main Activities Undertaken During the Year to Further the Charity's Purpose for the Public Benefit.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity shall provide and maintain places of Christian worship to enable the officiating of sacraments and for the due performance of the rites of baptism, marriage, burial and other ceremonies according to the principles of the Syrian Orthodox Christian Faith.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity may exercise the following powers:

1. To provide and maintain the ministerial services of clergy (such as a bishop, corepiscopos, priest(s), or monk(s) including the provision of a residence(s).
2. To expand and sustain its religious meetings and conferences.
3. To hold and otherwise promote religious meetings and conferences.
4. To help the needy in the United Kingdom and abroad.
5. To provide and expand the spiritual, social, cultural and educational activities.
6. To teach and promote the Syriac/Aramaic language and heritage.
7. To participate in ecumenical discussions.
8. To participate in local/national events as appropriate.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in managing the activities of the charity.

The Short Term and Longer Term Aims and Objectives:

The main objective of the Charity for the year 31 May 2025 (as always) was to ensure that the Charity remained solvent, accessible, and modern and at the heart of the community and the Syriac people living in the United Kingdom. To this end the Charity intend to keep a close control on the finances, trying to reduce unnecessary expenditure and to enhance surplus monies by investing in its properties and reducing the mortgage loans.

Also, the Charity ensures that it provides services to the community to meet its objectives as highlighted in its Governing Document.

In the financial review section of this report there is a description of the investment policies and objectives established by the trustees and the extent to which social environmental or ethical considerations are taken into account.

Additionally, the Charity aims to:

- Continue being a self-sustainable enterprise.
- Achieve and maintain a good working relationship amongst the trustees and with the clergy, staff, volunteers and parishioners.
- Continue to interact with the church parishioners and community with the aim of regular consultation to identify demands of provision and services.
- Encourage the church youths to take more active roles in the life of the church so they can contribute to its success by bringing their own ideas. They can also be trained to take the responsibilities of running the church charity in the future
- Support the Syriac Scouts music group.

The Charity's Strategies for Achieving Its Aims and Objectives in the Future:

The main objective of the Charity is to maintain and provide places of worship to the Syrian Orthodox parishioners. St Thomas Cathedral building at 1 Armstrong Road is continuing to provide ample space to allow the Syriac parishioners to attend church services. St Mary's Chapel on the first floor is used mainly by the youth for educational purposes e.g. Sunday School Education and Music Lessons to the Syriac Scouts group that subscribes to the British Scouts Association.

Furthermore, the charity continues to liaise with sister churches in the Greater London area and in other cities to hire church buildings to help conduct church services. This is due to the increase in the number of the parishioner outside London. Regular monthly service are being held in places like New Malden, Brighton, Manchester and Birmingham.

How the Activities Undertaken During the Year Contributed to the Achievement of the Aims and Objectives:

The cathedral building has provided large space to allow more parishioners to attend the church services. The small church hall on the side with its moving partition has been fully utilised not only for refreshments, wakes and social activities but also provide further rental income due to the expansion of full day nursery.

The charity has organised several social events throughout the year such as boxing day party for the youth, new year party and Valentine party, as well as picnics and pilgrimage trips, as well as educational activity trips for the youths. The events brought the community together and allowed them to meet others of the same denomination who settled in the UK recently or from sisterly churches.

Use the charity's rural property (The Oak, Bar Lane, Southwater, RH13 9DL) to provide spiritual retreat for meditation and some church services as well as conference facilities.

Resources Used in the Activities Undertaken During the Year:

The hire of the big church hall at the Syriac Centre was restricted to church functions and large wakes during the weekends. The hall has been used for a couple of Folklore and fundraising events.

The small hall holds the weekly serving of refreshments after the church services, as well as Language tuition once/twice a week by a local sister church

The charity has also subsidised the church's youth's activities during the year - including youth workshops, online tuition and music tuition.

The Charity ensures adherence to Health & Safety issues, by updating its policies, raising awareness of opportunities to train and supporting its volunteer officers and maintenance staff as and when required to do so.

Social Investment Policies and How These Contributed to the Achievement of Charity's Aims and Objectives During the Year:

The investment properties owned by the Charity are rented out to elderly parishioners and needy households. The elderly parishioners are benefiting of being in close proximity to the church and enjoying being socially close to each other. The business start-up in one of the flats, continued to pay regular rent despite some difficulties towards the end of the financial year.

The hall at the Syriac Centre is rented to a Nursery for the local community to benefit from during week days. At the weekend the hall used for wakes by the parishioners and fundraising social events.

The provision of the rural property benefited the clergy to take respite from city life and to use it as a base to administer to the congregation in that area. It was used to house a summer conference for the youth. It also provided a vast expanse for the community to gather for picnics, games, cultural performances and fundraising events. We also used the Coptic Church Centre in Stevenage for the conference of the Syriac youth from the UK and Europe, and our charity made a donation in-lieu.

The Contribution of Volunteers during the Year:

The charity is run and administered by the volunteering trustees of the charity. They are assisted by other volunteers from within the church community and organised into committees / teams. The volunteering teams help with some of the activities such as; providing refreshments, organising social gatherings, parties and social trips; Sunday school duties, media and communications, engineering advice, and buildings' maintenance, insurance advice and liaison, cashiers and bookkeeping, as well as the Health & Safety and Fire protection duties. Some volunteers also come together occasionally to do thorough cleaning of religious areas and icons especially before special occasions and festivities.

Achievements and performance

The Main Achievements and Performance of the Charity during the Year:
The Charity relies on regular donations from its members as well as grant aid from donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued.

The main achievements and performance of the charity in the year ending 31-May-2025:

1. The charity has managed pay off the HSBC mortgage shortly after the year end on St Thomas Cathedral building (1 Armstrong Road, London, W3 7JL) and releasing the charge on it.
2. Maintained the existing policies.
3. Maintained and monitored the DBS for all people in positions of responsibility.
4. Ensured that the maintenance and upkeep of the charity's properties.
5. Continue to support British Syriac Scouts music band.
6. Ensured the salaries of the clergy are in line with minimum wage rules.
7. Contributed towards the English language tuition for a prospective deacon to become a future clergy during his visit to the UK for six months.
8. Continued funding support for London North West NHS for research into Covid-19.

The Difference the charity's Performance during the Year has made to the Beneficiaries of the Charity and Wider Society:

During the year the Charity has:

1. Sustained places of worship according to the Syriac Orthodox Rite for the people.
2. Maintained the ministerial services of the clergy.
3. Arranged meetings and conferences to publicise the Christian Faith according to the Syriac Orthodox Faith and to promote and educate about the Syriac language, culture and heritage.
4. Provided assistance for the needy people in the United Kingdom and abroad.
5. Letting the nursery to big Centre hall. Thus enabling the local families of all faiths and none to benefit their children and also to volunteer.
6. Enhanced the safety of its properties and provided prompt and consistent maintenance support for its tenants, and keeping the area in good standard.
7. Sourcing local services and shops for catering facilities and maintenance.
8. The success of the Syriac scouts music group has attracted more children to join thus enhancing their confidence and sense of worth and belonging to the community.
9. Inviting and attending multi-faith and multi-function meetings and events by the clergy or members of the Syriac community.
10. Implement the necessary policies and reviewing the remaining ones.

The degree to which the achievements and performance during the year have benefited wider society:

Within the Christian wider society, the charity provided services in different cities like Brighton, Hove, Manchester, Birmingham, Coventry, Wales, Scotland. Some of those were of mixed denominations mainly Orthodox and Catholic who share the same culture and language and who put denominational difference aside. This is a positive step towards unity in Christ.

Visiting clergy from outside the UK continue to benefit from hospitality at the Syriac Centre.

The Scouts Association benefited from our membership as St Thomas Syriac Scouts.

The charity shared its views and culture with other faiths and denominations to enhance an atmosphere of peace and tolerance.

Donation to our sisterly St Mary Assyrian Cathedral (Ealing, London).

The Significant Charitable Activities Undertaken in the Year:

The Charity assists with the smooth running of the church to allow the parishioners to practice their faith. Also, it assists with publishing news about the church activities its members.

It helps to provide the facilities for the parishioners as well as the local community to use the Charity's premises such as a day care nursery.

The Charity, from time to time, oversees the collection of donations from its members, other supporters and organisations to help the needy and displaced people and those suffering from natural disasters abroad.

The Charity with help from its members organises social events, parties and trips.

The Charity attends meeting of other similar organisations and collaborate with other churches to help the people in need.

The Charity, through its clergy, participates in meetings to promote the spirit of ecumenism and to advance peace in the world especially the Middle East.

The Charity is still contributing financially to support NHS research efforts on Covid-19.

How the Achievements during the Year Measure up to the Objectives Set:

1. The provision of further sustainability to the Charity income and helped to meet the demand of the local community.
2. The rental properties are bringing in sustainable income and satisfied tenants.
3. The upstairs church (1st floor at 1 Armstrong Road) is being used for Educational and cultural purposes: Sunday school, music lessons etc.
4. The Rural property is providing support for the spiritual welfare of the clergy and also a welcome retreat for the congregation during the spring and summer months.

Investment Performance against the Investment Objectives:

The income from the rent of the flats in the Syriac Centre (now 7 in total) plus the Nursery as well as from the rent of the two properties at 33 Old Oak Road and 52 First Avenue, continue to provide the charity's financial plan. This is in addition to the continuous generous donations from parishioners and friends.

Structure, governance and management

The Methods Used to Recruit and Appoint New Charity Trustees:

Trustees are selected based on the Members section of the Charity's Article of Association. New trustees can be added provided that their total number does not exceed eight at present. The existing trustees announce the need to elect new trustees to the charity within a reasonable time.

Nominations are invited from eligible parishioners by submitting brief CV and future working plan on how to help improve the running of the charity.

During a General Meeting, the charity members will vote to elect the trustees if the number of the nominations exceeds seven, otherwise, if the number is seven or less, then the nominees will be considered elected.

The Policies and Procedures for the Induction and Training of Trustees:

The procedure for the training of trustees is to provide each one with "The Essential Trustee" publication that is provided by the Charity Commission.

The Charity's policies are:

1. Health and Safety Policy (published).
2. Fire Policy (published).
3. Safeguarding Policy (published).
4. Equality Policy (published).
5. Finance (published).
6. Complaints Policy (under review).
7. Recruitment Policy (under review).
8. GDPR and Confidentiality Policy (under further review).

The Charity has seven approved DBS personnel. Provision are being prepared for all those who will be in contact with vulnerable people to obtain DBS checks. A new safeguarding procedure has been circulated to the trustees.

Fire Risk Assessment has been updated and being implemented accordingly. A Fire Policy, and Evacuation procedure are in place.

Installation of a defibrillator, which registered and monitored, inside St Thomas Cathedral building.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Charity's Organisational Structure and How the Charity Makes Decisions and Delegates:

The Charity's board of Trustees acts as a Management Team.

The Board of Directors (Trustees) can form sub-groups. The sub-groups can be led by one or more trustees and joined by volunteering members of the charity appointed in consultation with the Bishop from within the parishioners to form joint committees. The joint committees will help the Trustees in the day to day running of various church activities and responsible for implementing policies.

The final decisions are taken by the charity trustees and sometimes after consulting the church's archbishop.

The Trustees along with those members of the committees can also form other sub committees with other volunteers from within the church parishioners to look after spiritual, social, cultural and other needs and requirements of the church and its people in different parts of the UK.

The Chief Executive Officer and Other Senior Management Personnel to Whom Day to Day Management is Delegated:

All the Trustees of the Charity work collectively to manage the day to day work of Charity.

Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel:

All the charity trustees are volunteers. They do not receive payment or remuneration from the charity.

Employment of Disabled Persons:

The charity employs clergy personnel only. At present, the charity employs less than 5 and none of them is registered as a disabled person to the Charity's best of knowledge.

Whenever posts will be available there will be no discrimination towards applicants either as permanent members of staff or as volunteers.

The Charity as a Part of a Wider Network:

The Charity has no responsibility for nor is it answerable to any other organisation.

The Charity as part of its relationships with other groups, charities and individuals is prepared to provide them with space and support when required if it is possible, for which they will incur a fee.

Occasionally, the Charity may provide the space at a reduced rate depending on need and ability to pay with the provision that the applicant should be member of the Charity, local community or charities of benefit to our Charity or local community.

The Charity's Relationships with Related Parties:

The Syrian Orthodox Church is a charitable company and does not have subsidiaries.

Financial review
The Trustees' Bankers and Advisors:

Bankers: HSBC Bank, 184 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1HE
Barclays Bank PLC, Barclays Business, 81/83 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4PD

Solicitors Attwells Solicitors LLP, 88 St John's Wood High Street, London, NW8 7SH

Accountant Bassam Sara, B.S Accounts Ltd,
15 Ranfurly Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3JB

The Charity's Financial Position at the End of the Year Ended 31 May 2025

The financial position of the charity at 31 May 2024 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income	166,441	200,577
Unrestricted Revenue Funds available for the general purposes of the charity	4,692,150	4,527,289
Restricted Revenue Funds	1,580	0
Total Funds	**4,693,730**	**4,527,289**

The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31 May 2025 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

The Statement of Financial Activities show net incoming resources for the year of a revenue nature of £166,441 (prior year - £200,577) and net realised incoming resources of a capital nature of £nil (prior year £nil), making net overall realised incoming resources of £166,441 (prior year - £200,577).

The total reserves at the year's end stand at £4,693,730 (prior year £4,527,289)

Free unrestricted liquid reserves were £184,106 (prior year £103,688).

Specific changes in fixed assets are detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Policies on Reserves:

The charity has total free unrestricted liquid reserves of £184,106 at the year end, non liquid reserves of £4,508,044 of which is invested in the charity's properties. The trustees have resolved to establish reserves excluding funds required for the property to provide for future activities, and to provide funding for the expected unrestricted expenditure for six month ahead in the sum of £160,000.

Availability and Adequacy of Assets of Each of the Funds:

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund, when taken with known future income streams.

Investment Policy and Investment Objectives:

The current financial policy is to use the new renovated building and the income generated by the existing and future assets to further the objects of the charity.

Risks and Uncertainties Facing the Charity:

The identified risks are those related to continuous renovation work and improvements.

The income from renting the hall to the day nursery may be affected by Ofsted special measures. This could lead to reduction in the money generated by the rent.

This risk is mitigated by the fact that; the charity owns its assets, which are freeholds, and it has a pro-active management committee to oversee all future reviews and developments.

Furthermore, the professional image of the charity is well established. This is illustrated by the expansion of its assets and the amount of donations contributed by its members and other donors. Moreover, the charity has been acknowledged by other organisations and several high profiled people.

There is a difficulty in getting members to commit time for the meetings and actual work. This leads to the work load being shouldered by few members.

Risks may arise relating to the differences between the Christian faith and secular Government policies. The Charity will have to abide by the Church's Christian dogma.

Factors Likely to Affect Future Financial Performance:

The church parishioners are known to rally around if there will be future project to help the community or in response to an appeal to help needy people, or to raise donations or provide loans when there is a need to purchase or renovate a property.

Principal Funding Sources in the Year and How These Support the Key Objectives of the Charity:

Donations were received from a variety of sources, and these are set out in detail in the notes to the accounts.

Plans for the Future

Summary of Plans for the Future and the Trustees' Perspective of the Future Direction of the Charity:

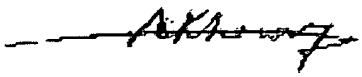
1. Installation of a defibrillator, which registered and monitored, inside St Thomas Cathedral building.
2. Plans to upgrade the rural property buildings and enhance the community activities to use the space more effectively.
3. To recruit one more priest and/or religious worker to support the congregations outside London.
4. Plan and assist the clergy to establish more parishes UK wide.
5. To form Scout groups in other parishes.
6. Ensure continued support for overseas families especially victims of disasters.

Details of the Auditor:
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Knight Goodhead Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor
The trustees state that so far as each of the trustees at the time this report was approved are aware:

1. There is no relevant audit information (as defined by section 418(3) of the Companies Act 2006) of which the auditors are unaware, and,
2. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Dr A Al-Khoury
Trustee
Dated: 9 January 2026

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

The charity's trustees (who are also directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

The Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to:

- prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business on that basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the auditor in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, the report is consistent with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Syrian Orthodox Church for the year ended 31 May 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cashflow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2025, and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw your attention to Note 24 to the financial statements which describes the restatements of prior year balances as a result of misstatements for the year ended 31 May 2024 that were identified during our audit. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the company has not kept adequate and sufficient accounting records, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with trustees and other management and we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Knight Goodhead Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



17-Mar-2026

CJ Goodhead FCA
Senior Statutory Auditor
Knight Goodhead Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
7 Bournemouth Road, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO53 3DA

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Restated Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	187,997	9,675	197,672	215,138
Investments	4	253,876	-	253,876	243,497
Total income		441,873	9,675	451,548	458,635
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	277,012	8,095	285,107	258,058
Total expenditure		277,012	8,095	285,107	258,058
Net income and movement in funds		164,861	1,580	166,441	200,577
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 June 2024		4,527,289	-	4,527,289	4,326,712
Fund balances at 31 May 2025		4,692,150	1,580	4,693,730	4,527,289

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MAY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	Restated 2024 £	Restated 2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**11**		3,450,665		3,507,589
Investment properties	**12**		1,610,000		1,610,000
			5,060,665		5,117,589
Current assets					
Debtors	**13**	19,838		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		164,505		105,360	
		184,343		105,360	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**15**	(163,129)		(36,449)	
Net current assets			21,214		68,911
Total assets less current liabilities			5,081,879		5,186,500
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**16**		(388,149)		(659,211)
Net assets			4,693,730		4,527,289
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**18**		1,580		-
Unrestricted funds	**19**		4,692,150		4,527,289
			4,693,730		4,527,289

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

AS AT 31 MAY 2025

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 16-Mar-2026

Mrs B Kassir

Trustee

Company Registration No. 04766548

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	22		(29,671)		30,892
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(14,447)		(10,599)	
Investment income received		253,876		243,497	
Net cash generated from investing activities			239,429		232,898
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		(172,995)		(308,365)	
Interest on loans		22,382		30,000	
Net cash used in financing activities			(150,613)		(278,365)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			59,145		(14,575)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			105,360		119,935
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			164,505		105,360

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Syrian Orthodox Church is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 7-11 Armstrong Road, London, W3 7JL.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Direct costs that are specifically related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Shared direct costs and support costs are apportioned between activities.

The basis for apportionment, which is consistently applied, and proportionate to the circumstances, is :-

Staffing - on the basis of time spent in connection with any particular activity.
Premises related costs - on the proportion of floor area occupied by a particular activity.
Non specific support costs - on the basis of the usage of resources, in terms of time taken, capacity used, request made or other measures
Estimation techniques used in apportioning costs - none

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold buildings	2% on a straight line basis
Plant and equipment	20% on a straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% on a straight line basis
Freehold land	Not depreciated

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Investment property

Investment properties that form part of the same estate as the tangible charitable fixed assets are included within fixed assets. Other investment properties are shown at their market value at the balance sheet.

The FRS102 SORP at paragraph 10.47 permits this treatment in relation to a mixed freehold estate.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Other	187,997	9,675	197,672	215,138	-	215,138

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2025	2024
	£	£
Rental income from investment property	253,825	243,460
Interest receivable	51	37
	253,876	243,497

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Restated
	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Direct costs		
Staff costs	71,879	68,122
Depreciation and impairment	71,371	73,591
Cost of goods and services	3,300	2,551
Loan interest	22,382	30,000
Accountancy fees	4,314	3,108
Sundry expenses	5,904	4,385
Other charitable expenditure	42,271	36,964
	221,421	218,721
Share of support and governance costs (see note 6)		
Support	49,192	36,367
Governance	14,494	2,970
	285,107	258,058
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	277,012	258,058
Restricted funds	8,095	-
	285,107	258,058

6 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2025	Support costs	Governance costs	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates and water charges	4,682	-	4,682	5,019	-	5,019
Light heat and power	17,178	-	17,178	9,183	-	9,183
Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	18,265	-	18,265	13,525	-	13,525
Property insurance	6,954	-	6,954	6,590	-	6,590
Stationery and printing	-	-	-	1,140	-	1,140
Equipment expenses	1,105	-	1,105	220	-	220
Software licences and expenses	908	-	908	690	-	690
Sundry expenses	100	-	100	-	-	-
Audit fees	-	5,400	5,400	-	2,820	2,820
Legal and professional	-	9,094	9,094	-	150	150
	49,192	14,494	63,686	36,367	2,970	39,337
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	49,192	14,494	63,686	36,367	2,970	39,337

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £5,400 (2024- £2,820) for audit fees.

7 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	5,400	2,820
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	71,371	73,591

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
	2	2

9 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	67,597	64,080
Other pension costs	4,282	4,042
	71,879	68,122

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 June 2024 (restated)	4,158,523	101,250	22,420	4,282,193
Additions	-	14,447	-	14,447
At 31 May 2025	4,158,523	115,697	22,420	4,296,640
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 June 2024 (restated)	655,097	97,321	22,186	774,604
Depreciation charged in the year	66,170	4,968	233	71,371
At 31 May 2025	721,267	102,289	22,419	845,975
Carrying amount				
At 31 May 2025	3,437,256	13,408	1	3,450,665
At 31 May 2024	3,503,426	3,929	234	3,507,589

12 Investment property

	2025
	£
Fair value	
At 1 June 2024 and 31 May 2025	1,610,000

Investment property was valued on 7 June 2021 by White + Co Chartered Surveyors. The value of £1,610,000 relates to 52 First Avenue, W3 7JW and 33 Old Oak Road, W3 7JW. The historical cost of the properties were £1,372,931. 7-11 Armstrong Road was part rental property part church. This is included within fixed assets.

13 Debtors

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	19,838	-

14 Loans and overdrafts

	2025	Restated 2024
	£	£
Bank loans	274,212	364,825
Loans due to members	265,000	325,000
	539,212	689,825
Payable in less than one year	151,063	30,614
Payable after one year	388,149	659,211

The bank loans are secured by fixed charges over the properties of Syrian Orthodox Church.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	Restated 2024
	£	£
Bank loans	151,063	30,614
Other taxation and social security	909	909
Trade creditors	4,614	960
Accruals and deferred income	6,543	3,966
	163,129	36,449

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2025	Restated 2024
		£	£
Loans	14	388,149	659,211

17 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2025 £	2024 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	4,282	4,042

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 June 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 May 2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted fund Lent 25	-	9,675	(8,095)	1,580

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 June 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 May 2025
	£		£	£	£
Designated funds					
Property	4,423,601	-	(88,552)	172,995	4,508,044
General funds	103,688	441,873	(188,460)	(172,995)	184,106
Total unrestricted funds	4,527,289	441,873	(277,012)	-	4,692,150

Designated property funds represent the net book value of property less outstanding loans.

Previous year: Restated	At 1 June 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 May 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds					
Property	4,207,785	-	(96,170)	311,986	4,423,601
General funds	118,927	458,635	(161,888)	(311,986)	103,688
Total unrestricted funds	4,326,712	458,635	(258,058)	-	4,527,289

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
At 31 May 2025:		£	£
Tangible assets	3,450,665	-	3,450,665
Investment properties	1,610,000	-	1,610,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	19,634	1,580	21,214
Long term liabilities	(388,149)	-	(388,149)
	4,692,150	1,580	4,693,730

20 Analysis of net assets between funds (Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£
At 31 May 2024:			
Tangible assets	3,507,589	-	3,507,589
Investment properties	1,610,000	-	1,610,000
Current assets/(liabilities)	99,525	-	99,525
Long term liabilities	(689,825)	-	(689,825)
	4,527,289	-	4,527,289

21 Related party transactions

The following amounts were outstanding at the reporting end date:

	Amounts owed to related parties 2025	Restated 2024
	£	£
Trustees	125,000	125,000

22 Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Surplus for the year	166,441	200,577
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(253,876)	(243,497)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	71,371	73,591
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(19,838)	740
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	6,231	(519)
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(29,671)	30,892

23 Analysis of changes in net (debt)/funds

	At 1 June 2024	Cash flows	At 31 May 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	105,360	59,145	164,505
Loans	(689,825)	150,613	(539,212)
	(584,465)	209,758	(374,707)

24 Restatement of prior year

The prior year comparatives have been restated to include investment properties at market value. The impact of the restatement was an increase in unrestricted funds of £511,362.

The increase in funds relates to an increase in the cost of the assets of £237,069 and a reversal of depreciation previously charged of £274,293.

In addition the prior year comparatives have been restated to split bank loans due within one year and those due after more than one year. This does not impact the total funds.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1107634

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1107634

Company Registration No. 04766548 (England and Wales)

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

Fawley Judge & Easton
Chartered Certified Accountants
1 Parliament Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 2AS

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Dr A Al-Khoury Mrs Z Hanna Dr S Henderson Mrs B Kassir Mr M Khoory Dr Z Shamoon
Secretary	Dr A Al-Khoury
Charity number	1107634
Company number	04766548
Registered office	7-11 Armstrong Road London W3 7JL
Auditor	Fawley Judge & Easton Chartered Certified Accountants 1 Parliament Street Hull East Yorkshire HU1 2AS

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2024, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity Name:

The legal name of the charity is: Syrian Orthodox Church

The charity is also known by its operating name, Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac Orthodox Church UK, Syrian Orthdox Church UK or SOC UK.

The Charity's Areas of Operation and UK Charitable Registration

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with the charity number 1107634.

Legal Structure of the Charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all, trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The Principal Operating Address, Telephone Number, Email and Web Addresses of the Charity

The Syriac Centre
7-11 Armstrong Road
London
W3 7JL

Telephone: 020 87495834

Email Address: Enquiry.24@syriacorthdox.church

Web address: www.syriacorthodox.church

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

The Trustees in Office on the Date the Report was approved were:

Dr A Al-Khoury
Mrs Z Hanna
Dr S Henderson
HH C Karim (Resigned 30 November 2023)
Mrs B Kassir
Mr M Khoory
Dr Z Shamoon
At the Annual General Meeting no trustees retire form office.

All the trustees are members of the church.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and Activities of the Charity:

The Purposes of the Charity as Specified in its Governing Document:

The objects of the Charity, as stated in the governing document of the Charity, are to advance and promote the Christian Faith in accordance with the teachings and practices of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch.

The Main Activities Undertaken in Relation to Those Purposes during the Year:

The Charity seeks to provide opportunities for people to contribute to the objectives, and offer the church's facilities for worship, and the church hall and centre hall for educational, cultural and social activities.

Significant activities are; Bible study, pastoral visits, ecumenical meetings, Language study, cultural lectures, festive gatherings, refreshments after the main church services, helping the elderly, few parties over the course of the year to bring the community together as well as supporting the church's youth with their activities.

Also, it provides the church halls for use by other people from the community as well as its use by a full day nursery by the local community.

The Main Activities Undertaken During the Year to Further the Charity's Purpose for the Public Benefit.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity shall provide and maintain places of Christian worship to enable the officiating of sacraments and for the due performance of the rites of baptism, marriage, burial and other ceremonies according to the principles of the Syrian Orthodox Christian Faith.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity may exercise the following powers:

1. To provide and maintain the ministerial services of clergy (such as a bishop, corepiscopos, priest(s), or monk(s) including the provision of a residence(s).
2. To expand and sustain its religious meetings and conferences.
3. To hold and otherwise promote religious meetings and conferences.
4. To help the needy in the United Kingdom and abroad.
5. To provide and expand the spiritual, social, cultural and educational activities.
6. To teach and promote the Syriac/Aramaic language and heritage.
7. To participate in ecumenical discussions.
8. To participate in local/national events as appropriate.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in managing the activities of the charity.

The Short Term and Longer Term Aims and Objectives:

The main objective of the Charity for the year 31 May 2024 (as always) was to ensure that the Charity remained solvent, accessible, and modern and at the heart of the community and the Syriac people living in the United Kingdom. To this end the Charity intend to keep a close control on the finances, trying to reduce unnecessary expenditure and to enhance surplus monies by investing in its properties and reducing the mortgage loans.

Also, the Charity ensures that it provides services to the community to meet its objectives as highlighted in its Governing Document.

In the financial review section of this report there is a description of the investment policies and objectives established by the trustees and the extent to which social environmental or ethical considerations are taken into account.

Additionally, the Charity aims to:

- Continue being a self-sustainable enterprise.
- Achieve and maintain a good working relationship amongst the trustees and with the clergy, staff, volunteers and parishioners.
- Continue to interact with the church parishioners and community with the aim of regular consultation to identify demands of provision and services.
- Encourage the church youths to take more active roles in the life of the church so they can contribute to its success by bringing their own ideas. They can also be trained to take the responsibilities of running the church charity in the future
- Support the Syriac Scouts music group.

The Charity's Strategies for Achieving Its Aims and Objectives in the Future:

The main objective of the Charity is to maintain and provide places of worship to the Syrian Orthodox parishioners. St Thomas Cathedral building at 1 Armstrong Road is continuing to provide ample space to allow the Syriac parishioners to attend church services. St Mary's Chapel on the first floor is used mainly by the youth for educational purposes e.g. Sunday School Education and Music Lessons to the Syriac Scouts group that subscribes to the British Scouts Association.

Furthermore, the charity continues to liaise with sister churches in the Greater London area and in other cities to hire church buildings to help conduct church services. This is due to the increase in the number of the parishioner outside London. Regular monthly service are being held in places like New Malden, Brighton, Manchester and Birmingham.

The Charity's strategy to use its investment income to pay off some of the mortgage and thus reducing the interest on the loans, and to use the recently purchased rural property to provide a spiritual retreat and conference facilities

How the Activities Undertaken During the Year Contributed to the Achievement of the Aims and Objectives:

The cathedral building has provided large space to allow more parishioners to attend the church services. The small church hall on the side with its moving partition has been fully utilised not only for refreshments, wakes and social activities but also provide further rental income due to the expansion of full day nursery.

The charity has organised several social events throughout the year such as boxing day party for the youth, new year party and Valentine party, as well as picnics and pilgrimage trips, as well as educational activity trips for the youths. The events brought the community together and allowed them to meet others of the same denomination who settled in the UK recently or from sisterly churches.

Resources Used in the Activities Undertaken During the Year:

This year, the hire of the big church hall at the Syriac Centre was restricted to church functions and large wakes during the weekends. The hall has been used for a couple of Folklore and fundraising events.

The small hall holds the weekly serving of refreshments after the church services, extended full day Nursery space during the week, as well as Language tuition once/twice a week by a local sister church

The charity has also subsidised the church's youth's activities during the year - including youth workshops, online tuition and music tuition.

The Charity ensures adherence to Health & Safety issues, by updating its policies, raising awareness of opportunities to train and supporting its volunteer officers and maintenance staff as and when required to do so.

Social Investment Policies and How These Contributed to the Achievement of Charity's Aims and Objectives During the Year:

The investment properties owned by the Charity are rented out to elderly parishioners and needy households. The elderly parishioners are benefiting of being in close proximity to the church and enjoying being socially close to each other. The business start-up in one of the flats, continued to pay regular rent despite some difficulties towards the end of the financial year.

The hall at the Syriac Centre is rented to a Nursery for the local community to benefit from during week days. At the weekend the hall may be used for wakes by the parishioners and fundraising social events.

The provision of the rural property benefited the clergy to take respite from city life and to use it as a base to administer to the congregation in that area. It was used to house a summer conference for the youth from our European sister church. It also provided a vast expanse for the community to gather for picnics, games, cultural performances and fundraising events.

The Contribution of Volunteers during the Year:

The charity is run and administered by the volunteering trustees of the charity. They are assisted by other volunteers from within the church community and organised into committees / teams. The volunteering teams help with some of the activities such as; providing refreshments, organising social gatherings, parties and social trips; Sunday school duties, media and communications, engineering advice, and buildings' maintenance, insurance advice and liaison, cashiers and bookkeeping, as well as the Health & Safety and Fire protection duties. Some volunteers also come together occasionally to do thorough cleaning of religious areas and icons especially before special occasions and festivities.

Achievements and performance

The Main Achievements and Performance of the Charity during the Year:
The Charity relies on regular donations from its members as well as grant aid from donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued.

The main achievements and performance of the charity in the year ending 31-May-2024:

1. The charity have managed to pay off some of the loans within the year.
2. Continue to update and maintain better processes for accounting.
3. Continue to pursue Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, trustees and clergy to obtain enhanced DBS.
4. Continue to implement and monitor health and safety measures for the protection of church attendees.
5. Ensured that the maintenance and upkeep of the charity's properties.
6. Adopted new key policies and revised existing ones.
7. Supported the needy and helped our sister church in Brazil.
8. Continue to support British Syriac Scouts music band.
9. Ensured the salaries of the clergy are in line with minimum wage rules.
10. Made a decision to recruit another minister of religion/religious worker.
11. Continued funding support for London North West NHS for research into Covid-19.

The Difference the charity's Performance during the Year has made to the Beneficiaries of the Charity and Wider Society:

During the year the Charity has:

1. Sustained places of worship according to the Syriac Orthodox Rite for the people.
2. Maintained the ministerial services of the clergy.
3. Arranged meetings and conferences to publicise the Christian Faith according to the Syriac Orthodox Faith and to promote and educate about the Syriac language, culture and heritage.
4. Provided assistance for the needy people in the United Kingdom and abroad.
5. Letting the nursery to expand and use the small Church hall as well as big Centre hall. Thus enabling the local families of all faiths and none to benefit their children and also to volunteer.
6. Enhanced the safety of its properties and provided prompt and consistent maintenance support for its tenants, and keeping the area in good standard.
7. Sourcing local services and shops for catering facilities and maintenance.
8. The success of the Syriac scouts music group has attracted more children to join thus enhancing their confidence and sense of worth and belonging to the community.
9. Inviting and attending multi-faith and multi-function meetings and events by the clergy or members of the Syriac community.
10. Obtained a sponsorship T2 and T5 license from the Home Office to recruit one priest and a religious worker from abroad. This is valid until November 2024.
11. Implement the necessary policies and reviewing the remaining ones.

The degree to which the achievements and performance during the year have benefited wider society:

Within the Christian wider society, the charity provided services in different cities like Brighton, Hove, Manchester, Birmingham, Coventry, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Some of those were of mixed denominations mainly Orthodox and Catholic Iraqis and Syrians who share the same culture and language and who put denominational difference aside. This is a positive step towards unity in Christ.

Visiting clergy from outside the UK continue to benefit from hospitality at the Syriac Centre.

The Scouts Association benefited from our membership as St Thomas Syriac Scouts.

The charity shared its views and culture with other faiths and denominations to enhance an atmosphere of peace and tolerance.

The donations made by the charity to the sisterly church abroad (Brazil) enabled it to develop and sustain their services in the country.

The Significant Charitable Activities Undertaken in the Year:

The Charity assists with the smooth running of the church to allow the parishioners to practice their faith. Also, it assists with publishing news about the church activities its members.

It helps to provide the facilities for the parishioners as well as the local community to use the Charity's premises such as a day care nursery.

The Charity, from time to time, oversees the collection of donations from its members, other supporters and organisations to help the needy and displaced people and those suffering from natural disasters abroad.

The Charity with help from its members organises social events, parties and trips.

The Charity attends meeting of other similar organisations and collaborate with other churches to help the people in need.

The Charity, through its clergy, participates in meetings to promote the spirit of ecumenism and to advance peace in the world especially the Middle East.

The Charity is still contributing financially to support NHS research efforts on Covid-19.

How the Achievements during the Year Measure up to the Objectives Set:

1. The provision of extra space for the nursery (the small hall) gave further sustainability to the Charity income and helped to meet the demand of the local community.
2. The rental properties are bringing in sustainable income and satisfied tenants.
3. The upstairs church (1st floor at 1 Armstrong Road) is being used for Educational and cultural purposes: Sunday school, music lessons etc.
4. The Rural property is providing support for the spiritual welfare of the clergy and also a welcome retreat for the congregation during the spring and summer months.

Investment Performance against the Investment Objectives:

The income from the rent of the flats in the Syriac Centre (now 7 in total) plus the Nursery as well as from the rent of the two properties at 33 Old Oak Road and 52 First Avenue, continue to provide the charity's financial plan. This is in addition to the continuous generous donations from parishioners and friends.

Structure, governance and management

The Methods Used to Recruit and Appoint New Charity Trustees:

Trustees are selected based on the Members section of the Charity's Article of Association. New trustees can be added provided that their total number does not exceed eight at present. The existing trustees announce the need to elect new trustees to the charity within a reasonable time.

Nominations are invited from eligible parishioners by submitting brief CV and future working plan on how to help improve the running of the charity.

During a General Meeting, the charity members will vote to elect the trustees if the number of the nominations exceeds seven, otherwise, if the number is seven or less, then the nominees will be considered elected.

The Policies and Procedures for the Induction and Training of Trustees:

The procedure for the training of trustees is to provide each one with "The Essential Trustee" publication that is provided by the Charity Commission.

The Charity's policies are:

1. Health and Safety Policy (published).
2. Fire Policy (published).
3. Safeguarding Policy (published).
4. Equality Policy (published).
5. Finance (published).
6. Complaints Policy (under review).
7. Recruitment Policy (under review).
8. GDPR and Confidentiality Policy (under further review).

The Charity has five approved DBS personnel. Provision are being prepared for all those who will be in contact with vulnerable people to obtain DBS checks. A new safeguarding procedure has been circulated to the trustees.

Fire Risk Assessment was prepared and being implemented accordingly and in the process of being updated. A Fire Policy, and Evacuation procedure are in place.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Charity's Organisational Structure and How the Charity Makes Decisions and Delegates:

The Charity's board of Trustees acts as a Management Team.

The Board of Directors (Trustees) can form sub-groups. The sub-groups can be led by one or more trustees and joined by volunteering members of the charity appointed in consultation with the Bishop from within the parishioners to form joint committees. The joint committees will help the Trustees in the day to day running of various church activities and responsible for implementing policies.

The final decisions are taken by the charity trustees and sometimes after consulting the church's archbishop.

The Trustees along with those members of the committees can also form other sub committees with other volunteers from within the church parishioners to look after spiritual, social, cultural and other needs and requirements of the church and its people in different parts of the UK.

The Chief Executive Officer and Other Senior Management Personnel to Whom Day to Day Management is Delegated:

All the Trustees of the Charity work collectively to manage the day to day work of Charity.

Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel:

All the charity trustees are volunteers. They do not receive payment or remuneration from the charity.

Employment of Disabled Persons:

The charity employs clergy personnel only. At present, the charity employs less than 5 clergy and none of them is registered as a disabled person to the Charity's best of knowledge.

Whenever posts will be available there will be no discrimination towards applicants either as permanent members of staff or as volunteers.

The Charity as a Part of a Wider Network:

The Charity has no responsibility for nor is it answerable to any other organisation.

The Charity as part of its relationships with other groups, charities and individuals is prepared to provide them with space and support when required if it is possible, for which they will incur a fee.

Occasionally, the Charity may provide the space at a reduced rate depending on need and ability to pay with the provision that the applicant should be member of the Charity, local community or charities of benefit to our Charity or local community.

The Charity's Relationships with Related Parties:

The Syrian Orthodox Church is a charitable company and does not have subsidiaries.

Financial review

The Trustees' Bankers and Advisors:

Bankers: HSBC Bank, 184 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1HE
Barclays Bank PLC, Barclays Business, 81/83 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4PD

Solicitors Attwells Solicitors LLP, 88 St John's Wood High Street, London, NW8 7SH

Accountant Bassam Sara, B.S Accounts Ltd,
15 Ranfurly Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3JB

The Charity's Financial Position at the End of the Year Ended 31 May 2024

The financial position of the charity at 31 May 2024 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income	173,118	217,541
Unrestricted Revenue Funds available for the general purposes of the charity	4,015,927	3,842,809
Restricted Revenue Funds	0	0
Total Funds	**4,015,927**	**3,842,809**

The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31 May 2024 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

The Statement of Financial Activities show net incoming resources for the year of a revenue nature of £173,916 (prior year - £217,841) and net realised incoming resources of a capital nature of £nil (prior year £nil), making net overall realised incoming resources of £173,916 (prior year - £217,841).

The total reserves at the year's end stand at £4,015,927 (prior year £3,842,809)

Free unrestricted liquid reserves were £4,015,927 (prior year £3,842,809).

Specific changes in fixed assets are detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Policies on Reserves:

The charity has total free unrestricted liquid reserves of £4,015,927 at the year end, £4,602,064 of which is invested in the charity's properties, leaving a deficit of £586,137 in deficit on free liquid reserves. Of the amount of £586,137, an amount of £689,825 is represented by long term creditors, leaving free unrestricted revenue reserve in deficit by £103,688. The trustees have resolved to establish reserves excluding funds required for the property to provide for future activities, and to provide funding for the expected unrestricted expenditure for six month ahead in the sum of £160,000 and are taking steps to achieve this.

Availability and Adequacy of Assets of Each of the Funds:

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund, bearing in mind the events described in note 15 to the accounts, when taken with known future income streams.

Investment Policy and Investment Objectives:

The current financial policy is to use the new renovated building and the income generated by the existing and future assets to further the objects of the charity.

Risks and Uncertainties Facing the Charity:

The identified risks are the increase in loan level incurred by the charity due to the purchase of the Church at 1 Armstrong Road. Additionally, the added costs are those related to continuous renovation work and improvements.

The income from renting the hall to the day nursery may be affected by Ofstead special measures. This could lead to reduction in the money generated by the rent.

This risk is mitigated by the fact that; the charity owns its assets, which are freeholds, and it has a pro-active management committee to oversee all future reviews and developments.

Furthermore, the professional image of the charity is well established. This is illustrated by the expansion of its assets and the amount of donations contributed by its members and other donors. Moreover, the charity has been acknowledged by other organisations and several high profiled people.

There is a difficulty in getting members to commit time for the meetings and actual work. This leads to the work load being shouldered by few members.

Risks may arise relating to the differences between the Christian faith and secular Government policies. The Charity will have to abide by the Church's Christian dogma.

Factors Likely to Affect Future Financial Performance:

The church parishioners are known to rally around if there will be future project to help the community or in response to an appeal to help needy people, or to raise donations or provide loans when there is a need to purchase or renovate a property.

Principal Funding Sources in the Year and How These Support the Key Objectives of the Charity:

Donations were received from a variety of sources, and these are set out in detail in the notes to the accounts.

Plans for the Future

Summary of Plans for the Future and the Trustees' Perspective of the Future Direction of the Charity:

1. Plans to enhance youth services via digital means.
2. Plans to upgrade the rural property buildings and enhance the community activities to use the space more effectively.
3. To recruit one more priest and/or religious worker to support the congregations outside London.
4. Plan and assist the clergy to establish more parishes UK wide.
5. To form Scout groups in other parishes.
6. Ensure continued support for overseas families especially victims of disasters.

Details of the Auditor:

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Fawley Judge & Easton be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The trustees state that so far as each of the trustees at the time this report was approved are aware:

44. There is no relevant audit information (as defined by section 418(3) of the Companies Act 2006) of which the auditors are unaware, and,
45. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Dr A Al-Khoury
Trustee
Dated: 7 February 2025

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015 (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016).

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to:

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the auditor in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, the report is consistent with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Syrian Orthodox Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 May 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Leathley (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Fawley Judge & Easton 7 February 2025

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor
1 Parliament Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 2AS

Fawley Judge & Easton is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	215,138	233,786	53,540	287,326
Investments	**4**	243,497	244,435	-	244,435
Total income		458,635	478,221	53,540	531,761
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	**5**	285,517	260,680	53,540	314,220
Total expenditure		285,517	260,680	53,540	314,220
Net income and movement in funds		173,118	217,541	-	217,541
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 June 2023		3,842,809	3,625,268	-	3,625,268
Fund balances at 31 May 2024		4,015,927	3,842,809	-	3,842,809

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MAY 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**11**		4,606,227		4,700,299
Current assets					
Debtors	**12**	-		740	
Cash at bank and in hand		105,360		119,935	
		105,360		120,675	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**14**	(5,835)		(6,354)	
Net current assets			99,525		114,321
Total assets less current liabilities			4,705,752		4,814,620
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**15**		(689,825)		(971,811)
Net assets			4,015,927		3,842,809
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds			4,015,927		3,842,809
			4,015,927		3,842,809

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 May 2024, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 7 February 2025

Mrs B Kassir
Trustee

Company Registration No. 04766548

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**19**		30,892		70,096
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(10,599)		(850,240)	
Investment income received		243,497		244,435	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			232,898		(605,805)
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		(278,365)		(75,058)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(278,365)		(75,058)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents			(14,575)		(610,767)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			119,935		730,702
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			105,360		119,935

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Syrian Orthodox Church is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 7-11 Armstrong Road, London, W3 7JL.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Direct costs that are specifically related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Shared direct costs and support costs are apportioned between activities.

The basis for apportionment, which is consistently applied, and proportionate to the circumstances, is :-

Staffing - on the basis of time spent in connection with any particular activity.
Premises related costs - on the proportion of floor area occupied by a particular activity.
Non specific support costs - on the basis of the usage of resources, in terms of time taken, capacity used, request made or other measures
Estimation techniques used in apportioning costs - none

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	2% on a straight line basis
Plant and equipment	20% on a straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Other	215,138	-	215,138	233,786	53,540	287,326

3 Income from donations and legacies **(Continued)**

Donations and Legacies	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year	Prior Year
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Small donations individually less than £1000	20,793	-	**20,793**	44,202
Malaab	1,000	-	**1,000**	
Numan Hallaji	1,000	-	**1,000**	
Peter Henderson	1,450	-	**1,450**	
R Ibrahim	1,300	-	**1,300**	
Samia Saloomy	1,000	-	**1,000**	
Sarmad Sabri	1,000	-	**1,000**	
Shamoon Ltd	1,200	-	**1,200**	
Sundus Henderson	1,200	-	**1,200**	
Zain Shamoon	1,000	-	**1,000**	
Earthquake appeal	-	-	**-**	53,540
Mazin Butti	1,890	-	**1,890**	
Nour Assoufi	1,220	-	**1,220**	
AS Tamo	3,020	-	**3,020**	-
Emil Salmo	1,500	-	**1,500**	
Basil Shamas	1,018	-	**1,018**	-
RG George	2,000	-	**2,000**	
Safwan Sarsam	3,450	-	**3,450**	3,000
S Karkour	1,014	-	**1,014**	
M Archies	4,200	-	**4,200**	-
B Kassir	5,450	-	**5,450**	-
S & D Sabri	2,320	-	**2,320**	2,117
Hassan Khoory	2,250	-	**2,350**	-
Bashir Adnan	-	-	**-**	4,000
W Ozan	-	-	**-**	3,000
M Dawood	5,700	-	**5,700**	1,620
M Bradley	5,000	-	**5,000**	-
Hawa Investments	3,500	-	**3,500**	1,806
Dr P Hardo	1,020	-	**1,020**	2,000
A Tamoush	1,000	-	**1,000**	1,000
N Halaji	-	-	**-**	2,000
N Auchi	-	-	**-**	1,500
Dina Karoomi	1,100	-	**1,000**	-
Al-Khoury	1,940	-	**1,940**	3,000
Y Makida	1,200	-	**1,200**	1,200
Zaghlol Kassab	7,680	-	**7,680**	1,000
Z Agrawe	5,000	-	**5,000**	5,000
Bashar Karoomi	1,300	-	**1,300**	-
Aid To The Church in Need	-	-	-	0
Church lighting collections and candles		-	**-**	***0***
Church Services	5,125	-	**5,125**	***5,125***
Church collections from plates	44,308	-	**44,308**	44,308
Total private sector revenue grants	144,148	-	**144,148**	***179,618***
Revenue grants & donations from non public bodies				
Total private sector revenue grants	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

3 Income from donations and legacies (Continued)

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Rental income from investment property	243,460	244,425
Interest receivable	37	10
	243,497	244,435

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Heading #ac982 2024 £	Heading #ac982 2023 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	68,122	66,714
Depreciation and impairment	101,050	99,759
Cost of goods sold	2,551	2,506
Loan interest	30,000	21,253
Accountancy fees paid other than to the auditor	3,108	4,209
Motor expenses	4,385	1,310
Other charitable expenditure	36,964	74,997
	246,180	270,748
Share of support and governance costs (see note 6)		
Support	36,367	38,055
Governance	2,970	5,417
	285,517	314,220
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	285,517	260,680
Restricted funds	-	53,540
	285,517	314,220

6 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	Support costs	Governance costs	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates and water charges	5,019	-	5,019	3,245	-	3,245
Light heat and power	9,183	-	9,183	9,355	-	9,355
Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	13,525	-	13,525	17,453	-	17,453
Property insurance	6,590	-	6,590	5,942	-	5,942
Stationery and printing	1,140	-	1,140	-	-	-
Equipment expenses	220	-	220	1,546	-	1,546
Software licences and expenses	690	-	690	514	-	514
Audit fees	-	2,820	2,820	-	2,820	2,820
Legal and professional	-	150	150	-	2,597	2,597
	36,367	2,970	39,337	38,055	5,417	43,472
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	36,367	2,970	39,337	38,055	5,417	43,472

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £2,820 (2023- £2,750) for audit fees.

7 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	2,820	2,820
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	101,050	99,759

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
	2	2

9 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	64,080	62,792
Other pension costs	4,042	3,922
	68,122	66,714

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

Remuneration of key management personnel
The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 June 2023	5,531,454	90,651	22,420	5,644,525
Additions	-	10,599	-	10,599
At 31 May 2024	5,531,454	101,250	22,420	5,655,124
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 June 2023	835,874	94,271	17,702	947,847
Depreciation charged in the year	93,516	3,050	4,484	101,050
At 31 May 2024	929,390	97,321	22,186	1,048,897
Carrying amount				
At 31 May 2024	4,602,064	3,929	234	4,606,227
At 31 May 2023	4,695,580	1	4,718	4,700,299

12 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	740

13 Loans and overdrafts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans	689,825	971,811
Payable after one year	689,825	971,811

The long-term loans are secured by fixed charges over the properties of Syrian Orthodox Church.

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	909	928
Trade creditors	960	1,507
Accruals and deferred income	3,966	3,919
	5,835	6,354

15 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Bank loans	13	689,825	971,811

16 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2024	2023
	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	4,042	3,922

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

17 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 June 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 May 2024
	£	£	£	£
General funds	3,842,809	458,635	(285,517)	4,015,927

17 Unrestricted funds **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 June 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 May 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	3,625,268	478,221	(260,680)	3,842,809

18 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

A loan from Mr A Al-Khoury (£10,000) who is a trustee to Syrian Orthdox Cchurch was outstanding at the year end.

The following amounts were outstanding at the reporting end date:

	Amounts owed to related parties	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Trustees	10,000	15,000

19 Cash generated from operations

	2024	2023
	£	£
Surplus for the year	173,118	217,541
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(243,497)	(244,435)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	101,050	99,759
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	740	(740)
(Decrease) in creditors	(519)	(2,029)
Cash generated from operations	30,892	70,096

20 Analysis of changes in net (debt)/funds

	At 1 June 2023	Cash flows	At 31 May 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	119,935	(14,575)	105,360
Loans falling due after more than one year	(971,811)	281,986	(689,825)
	(851,876)	267,411	(584,465)

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1107634

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1107634

Company Registration No. 04766548 (England and Wales)

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

Fawley Judge & Eastom
Chartered Certified Accountants
1 Parliament Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 2AS

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Dr A Al-Khoury Mrs Z Hanna Dr S Henderson HH C Karim Mrs B Kassin Mr M Khoory Dr Z Shamoon
Secretary	Dr A Al-Khoury
Charity number	1107634
Company number	04766548
Registered office	7-11 Armstrong Road London W3 7JL
Auditor	Fawley Judge & Easton Chartered Certified Accountants 1 Parliament Street Hull East Yorkshire HU1 2AS

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2023, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity Name:

The legal name of the charity is: Syrian Orthodox Church

The charity is also known by its operating name, Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac Orthodox Church UK, Syrian Orthdox Church UK or SOC UK.

The Charity's Areas of Operation and UK Charitable Registration

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with the charity number 1107634.

Legal Structure of the Charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all, trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The Principal Operating Address, Telephone Number, Email and Web Addresses of the Charity

The Syriac Centre
7-11 Armstrong Road
London
W3 7JL

Telephone: 020 87495834

Email Address: Enquiry.20@soc-uk.net

Web address: www.syrianorthodoxchurch.net

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

The Trustees in Office on the Date the Report was approved were:

Dr A Al-Khoury
Mrs Z Hanna
Dr S Henderson
HH C Karim
Mrs B Kassir
Mr M Khoory
Dr Z Shamoon
At the Annual General Meeting no trustees retire form office.

All the trustees are members of the church.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and Activities of the Charity:

The Purposes of the Charity as Specified in its Governing Document:

The objects of the Charity, as stated in the governing document of the Charity, are to advance and promote the Christian Faith in accordance with the teachings and practices of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch.

The Main Activities Undertaken in Relation to Those Purposes during the Year:

The Charity seeks to provide opportunities for people to contribute to the objectives, and offer the church's facilities for worship, and the church hall and centre hall for educational, cultural and social activities.

Significant activities are; Bible study, cultural lectures, refreshments after the main church services, few parties over the course of the year to bring the community together as well as supporting the church's youth with their activities.

Also, it provides the halls for use by other people from the local community as well as its use by a full day nursery.

The Main Activities Undertaken During the Year to Further the Charity's Purpose for the Public Benefit.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity shall provide and maintain places of Christian worship to enable the officiating of sacraments and for the due performance of the rites of baptism, marriage, burial and other ceremonies according to the principles of the Syrian Orthodox Christian Faith.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity may exercise the following powers:

1. To provide and maintain the ministerial services of clergy (such as a bishop, corepiscopos, priest(s), or monk (s)) including the provision of a residence(s).
2. To hold and otherwise promote religious meetings and conferences.
3. To help the needy in the United Kingdom and abroad.
4. To provide spiritual, social, cultural and educational activities.
5. To teach and promote the Syriac/Aramaic language and heritage.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in managing the activities of the charity.

The Short Term and Longer Term Aims and Objectives:

The main objective of the Charity for the year 31 May 2023 (as always) was to ensure that the Charity remained solvent, accessible, and modern and at the heart of the community and the Syriac people living in the United Kingdom. To this end the Charity intend to keep a close controll on the finances, trying to reduce unnecessary expenditure and to enhance surplus monies by investing in its properties and reducing the mortgage loans.

Also, the Charity ensures that it provides services to the community to meet its objectives as highlighted in its Governing Document.

In the financial review section of this report there is a description of the investment policies and objectives established by the trustees and the extent to which social environmental or ethical considerations are taken into account.

Additionally, the Charity continues to aspire to:

- Continue being a self-sustainable enterprise.
- Achieve and maintain a good working relationship amongst the trustees and with the clergy, staff, volunteers and parishioners.
- Continue to interact with the church parishioners and community with the aim of regular consultation to identify demands of provision and services.
- Encourage the church youths to take more active roles in the life of the church so they can contribute to its success by bringing their own ideas. They can also be trained to take the responsibilities of running the church charity in the future
- Support the Syriac Scouts group.

The Charity's Strategies for Achieving Its Aims and Objectives in the Future:

The main objective of the Charity is to maintain and provide places of worship to the Syrian Orthodox parishioners. St Thomas Cathedral building at 1 Armstrong Road is continuing to provide ample space to allow the Syriac parishioners to attend church services. St Mary's Chapel on the first floor is used mainly by the youth for educational purposes e.g. Sunday School Education and Music Lessons to the Syriac Scouts group that subscribes to the British Scouts Association.

Furthermore, the charity continues to liaise with sister churches in the Greater London area and in other cities to hire church buildings to help conduct church services. This is due to the increase in the number of the parishioner outside London. Regular monthly service are being held in places like New Malden, Brighton, Manchester and Birmingham.

The Charity's strategy to use its investment income to pay off some of the mortgage and thus reducing the interest on the loans.

How the Activities Undertaken During the Year Contributed to the Achievement of the Aims and Objectives:

The cathedral building has provided large space to allow more parishioners to attend the church services. The side space inside the main church building acts now as the church hall when moving partition are used to separate the hall from the sanctuary of the main church space. This allows the use of this church hall for different functions as and when needed.

The charity has organised several social events throughout the year such as boxing day party for the youth, new year party and Valentine party, as well as social trips for all as well as educational trips for the youths. The events brought the community together and allowed them to meet others of the same denomination who settled in the UK recently on from sisterly churches.

Resources Used in the Activities Undertaken During the Year:

Activities this year started to pick up again after the removall of the restriction imposed because of Covid. The hall at the Syriac centre have been used for some of the charity's social events and the weekly serving of refreshments after the church services as well as the cathedral's small hall.

The charity has also subsidised the church's youth's activities during the year including online tuition.

The Charity ensures adherence to Health & Safety issues, by updating its policies, raising awareness of opportunities to train and supporting its volunteer officers and maintenance staff as and when required to do so.

Social Investment Policies and How These Contributed to the Achievement of Charity's Aims and Objectives During the Year:

The investment properties owned by the Charity are rented out to elderly parishioners and needy households. The elderly parishioners are benefiting of being in close proximity to the church and enjoying being socially close to each other. The tenants and the local community also benefited when the local authority licenced a new business start-up in one of the flats to become of a beauty salon.

The hall at the Syriac Centre (7-11 Armstrong Road) is rented to a Nursery for the Local community to benefit from during week days. At the weekend the hall is used for church functions to benefit church members and local residents. The Charity ensured its support for the Nursery even during closure because of Covid-19.

The provision of the rural property benefited the clergy to take respite from city life and also provided a vast expanse for the community to gather for picnics, games and cultural performances.

The Contribution of Volunteers during the Year:

The charity is run and administered by the volunteering trustees of the charity. They are assisted by other volunteers from within the church community and organised into committees/teams. The volunteering teams help with some of the activities such as; providing refreshments, organising social gatherings, parties and social trips; Sunday school duties, media and communications, engineering advice, and buildings' maintenance, insurance advice and liaison, cashiers and bookkeeping, as well as the Health & Safety and Fire protection duties.

Achievements and performance

The Main Achievements and Performance of the Charity during the Year:
The Charity relies on regular donations from its members as well as grant aid from donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued.

The main achievements and performance of the charity in the year ending 31-May-2023:

1. Used the raised loan to purchase the rural property. The charity have managed to pay off some of those loans within the year.
2. Continue to update and maintain better processes for accounting.
3. Continue to support British Syriac Scouts in the UK and provided them with their essential needs.
4. Sunday school teachers and scouts leaders have obtained enhanced DBS.
5. Continue to implemented and monitor health and safety measures for the protection of church attendees.
6. Adopted new key policies and revised existing ones (see later).
7. Supported the needy and devastated victims of the Earthquake in Syria and Turkey.
8. Continued funding support for London North West NHS for research into Covid-19.

The Difference the charity's Performance during the Year has made to the Beneficiaries of the Charity and Wider Society:

During the year the Charity has:

1. Sustained places of worship according to the Syriac Orthodox Rite for the people.
2. Maintained the ministerial services of the clergy.
3. Arranged meetings and conferences to publicise the Christian Faith according to the Syriac Orthodox Faith and to promote and educate about the Syriac language, culture and heritage.
4. Provided assistance for the needy people in the United Kingdom and abroad.
5. Letting the centre hall to be used as a nursery. Thus enabling the local families of all faiths and none to benefit their children and also to volunteer.
6. Enhanced the safety of its properties and provided consistent maintenance support for its tenants, and keeping the area in good standard.
7. Sourcing local services and shops for catering facilities and maintenance.
8. The established Syriac scouts group has invited more people to join in the marching band.
9. Inviting and attending multi-faith and multi-function meetings and events by the clergy or members of the Syriac community.
10. Obtained a sponsorship T2 and T5 license from the Home Office to recruit one priest and a religious worker from abroad. This is valid until November 2024.
11. Implement the necessary policies and reviewing the remaining ones.

The degree to which the achievements and performance during the year have benefited wider society:

Within the Christian wider society, the charity provided services in different cities like Brighton, Hove, Manchester, Birmingham, Coventry, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Some of those were of mixed denominations mainly Orthodox and Catholic Iraqis and Syrians who share the same culture and language and who put denominational difference aside. This is a positive step towards unity in Christ.

Visiting clergy from outside the UK continue to benefit from hospitality at the Syriac Centre.

The Scouts Association benefited from our membership as St Thomas Syriac Scouts.

The charity shared its views and culture with other faiths and denominations to enhance an atmosphere of peace and tolerance.

The donations made by the charity to the needy abroad,, have enabled many families in the Middle East to withstand the disasters and harsh winter months.

The Significant Charitable Activities Undertaken in the Year:

The Charity assists with the smooth running of the church to allow the parishioners to practice their faith. Also, it assists with publishing news about the church activities its members.

It helps to provide the facilities for the parishioners as welll as the local community to use the Charity's premises such as a day care nursery.

The Charity, from time to time, oversees the collection of donations from its members, other supporters and organisations to help the needy and displaced people and those suffering from natural disasters abroad.

The Charity with help from its members organises social events, parties and trips.

The Charity attends meeting of other similar organisations and collaborate with other churches to help the people in need.

The Charity, through its clergy, participates in meetings to promote the spirit of ecumenism and to advance peace in the world especially the Middle East.

The Charity is still contributing financially to support NHS research efforts on Covid-19.

How the Achievements during the Year Measure up to the Objectives Set:

1. The large hall is providing a facility to the local community to be used by a day care nursery.
2. The rental properties are bringing in sustainable income and satisfactory residences.
3. The upstairs church (1st floor at 1 Armstrong Road) is being used for Educational and cultural purposes: Sunday school, music lessons etc.
4. The Rural property is providing support for the spiritual welfare of the clergy and also a welcome retreat for the congregation during the spring and summer months.

Investment Performance against the Investment Objectives:

The income from the rent of the flats in the Syriac Centre (now 7 in total) plus the Nursery as well as from the rent of the two properties at 33 Old Oak Road and 52 First Avenue, continue to provide the charity's financial plan. This is in addition to the continuous generous donations from parishioners and friends.

Structure, governance and management

The Methods Used to Recruit and Appoint New Charity Trustees:

Trustees are selected based on the Members section of the Charity's Article of Association. New trustees can be added provided that their total number does not exceed eight at present. The existing trustees announce the need to elect new trustees to the charity within a reasonable time.

Nominations are invited from eligible parishioners by submitting brief CV and future working plan on how to help improve the running of the charity.

During a General Meeting, the charity members will vote to elect the trustees if the number of the nominations exceeds seven, otherwise, if the number is seven or less, then the nominees will be considered elected.

The Policies and Procedures for the Induction and Training of Trustees:

The procedure for the training of trustees is to provide each one with "The Essential Trustee" publication that is provided by the Charity Commission.

The Charity's policies are:

1. Health and Safety Policy (published).
2. Fire Policy (published).
3. Safeguarding Policy (published).
4. Equality Policy (published).
5. Finance (published).
6. Complaints Policy (under review).
7. Recruitment Policy (under review).
8. GDPR and Confidentiality Policy (under further review).

The Charity has five approved DBS personnel. Provision are being prepared for all those who will be in contact with vulnerable people to obtain DBS checks. A new safeguarding procedure has been circulated to the trustees.

Fire Risk Assessment was prepared and being implemented accordingly and in the process of being updated. A Fire Policy, and Evacuation procedure are in place.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Charity's Organisational Structure and How the Charity Makes Decisions and Delegates:

The Charity's board of Trustees acts as a Management Team.

The Board of Directors (Trustees) can form sub-groups. The sub-groups can be led by one or more trustees and joined by volunteering members of the charity appointed in consultation with the Bishop from within the parishioners to form joint committees. The joint committees will help the Trustees in the day to day running of various church activities and responsible for implementing policies.

The final decisions are taken by the charity trustees and sometimes after consulting the church's archbishop.

The Trustees along with those members of the committees can also form other sub committees with other volunteers from within the church parishioners to look after spiritual, social, cultural and other needs and requirements of the church and its people in different parts of the UK.

The Chief Executive Officer and Other Senior Management Personnel to Whom Day to Day Management is Delegated:

All the Trustees of the Charity work collectively to manage the day to day work of Charity.

Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel:

All the charity trustees are volunteers. They do not receive payment or remuneration from the charity.

Employment of Disabled Persons:

The charity employs clergy personnel only. At present, the charity employs less than 5 clergy and none of them is registered as a disabled person to the Charity's best of knowledge.

Whenever posts will be available there will be no discrimination towards applicants either as permanent members of staff or as volunteers.

The Charity as a Part of a Wider Network:

The Charity has no responsibility for nor is it answerable to any other organisation.

The Charity as part of its relationships with other groups, charities and individuals is prepared to provide them with space and support when required if it is possible, for which they will incur a fee.

Occasionally, the Charity may provide the space at a reduced rate depending on need and ability to pay with the provision that the applicant should be member of the Charity, local community or charities of benefit to our Charity or local community.

The Charity's Relationships with Related Parties:

The Syrian Orthodox Church is a charitable company and does not have subsidiaries.

Financial review

The Trustees' Bankers and Advisors:

Bankers:	HSBC Bank, 184 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1HE Barclays Bank PLC, Barclays Business, 81/83 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4PD
Solicitors.	Attwells Solicitors LLP, 88 St John's Wood High Street, London, NW8 7SH
Accountant	Raghad Aziz ICPA CIPP, Just Accounts (Cardiff) Ltd, Certified Practicing Accountant, Dunbelling, Tegfan Close, Llanishen, Cardiff, Wales, CF14 5DE

The Charity's Financial Position at the End of the Year Ended 31 May 2023

The financial position of the charity at 31 May 2023 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income	217,541	391,239
Unrestricted Revenue Funds available for the general purposes of the charity	3,842,809	3,625,268
Restricted Revenue Funds	0	0
Total Funds	**3,842,809**	**3,625,268**

The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31 May 2023 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

The Statement of Financial Activities show net incoming resources for the year of a revenue nature of £217,541 (prior year - £391,239) and net realised incoming resources of a capital nature of £nil (prior year £nil), making net overall realised incoming resources of £217,541 (prior year - £391,239).

The total reserves at the year's end stand at £3,842,809 (prior year £3,625,268)

Free unrestricted liquid reserves were £3,842,809 (prior year £3,625,268).

Specific changes in fixed assets are detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Policies on Reserves:

The charity has total free unrestricted liquid reserves of £3,842,809 at the year end, £4,695,580 of which is invested in the charity's properties, leaving a deficit of £852,771 in deficit on free liquid reserves. Of the amount of £852,771, an amount of £971,811 is represented by long term creditors, leaving free unrestricted revenue reserve in deficit by £119,040. The trustees have resolved to establish reserves excluding funds required for the property to provide for future activities, and to provide funding for the expected unrestricted expenditure for six month ahead in the sum of £160,000 and are taking steps to achieve this.

Availability and Adequacy of Assets of Each of the Funds:

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund, bearing in mind the events described in note 15 to the accounts, when taken with known future income streams.

Investment Policy and Investment Objectives:

The current financial policy is to use the new renovated building and the income generated by the existing and future assets to further the objects of the charity.

Risks and Uncertainties Facing the Charity::

The identified risks are the increase in loan level incurred by the charity due to the purchase of the Church at 1 Armstrong Road. Additionally, the added costs are those related to continuous renovation work and improvements.

The income from renting the hall to the day nursery may be affected by Ofstead special measures. This could lead to reduction in the money generated by the rent.

This risk is mitigated by the fact that; the charity owns its assets, which are freeholds, and it has a pro-active management committee to oversee all future reviews and developments.

Furthermore, the professional image of the charity is well established. This is illustrated by the expansion of its assets and the amount of donations contributed by its members and other donors. Moreover, the charity has been acknowledged by other organisations and several high profiled people.

There is a difficulty in getting members to commit time for the meetings and actual work. This leads to the work load being shouldered by few members.

Risks may arise relating to the differences between the Christian faith and secular Government policies. The Charity will have to abide by the Church's Christian dogma.

Factors Likely to Affect Future Financial Performance:

The church parishioners are known to rally around if there will be future project to help the community or in response to an appeal to help needy people, or to raise donations or provide loans when there is a need to purchase or renovate a property..

Principal Funding Sources in the Year and How These Support the Key Objectives of the Charity:

Donations were received from a variety of sources, and these are set out in detail in the notes to the accounts.

Plans for the Future

Summary of Plans for the Future and the Trustees' Perspective of the Future Direction of the Charity:

1. Plans to enhance youth services via digital means.
2. Plans to upgrade the rural property buildings and enhance the community activities to use the space more effectively.
3. To recruit one more priest and/or religious worker to support the congregations outside London.
4. Plan and assist the clergy to establish more parishes UK wide.
5. To form Scout groups in other parishes.
6. Ensure continued support for overseas families especially victims of disasters.

Details of the Auditor:

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Fawley Judge & Easton be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The trustees state that so far as each of the trustees at the time this report was approved are aware:

1. There is no relevant audit information (as defined by section 418(3) of the Companies Act 2006) of which the auditors are unaware, and,
2. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Dr A Al-Khoury
Trustee
Dated: 19 February 2024

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015 (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016).

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to:

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the auditor in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, the report is consistent with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Syrian Orthodox Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 May 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Leathley (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Fawley Judge & Easton 19 February 2024

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor
1 Parliament Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 2AS

Fawley Judge & Easton is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	233,786	53,540	287,326	378,482
Investments	4	244,435	-	244,435	232,036
Total income		478,221	53,540	531,761	610,518
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	260,680	53,540	314,220	219,279
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		217,541	-	217,541	391,239
Fund balances at 1 June 2022		3,625,268	-	3,625,268	3,234,029
Fund balances at 31 May 2023		3,842,809	-	3,842,809	3,625,268

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MAY 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		4,700,299		3,949,817
Current assets					
Debtors	11	740		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		119,935		730,702	
		120,675		730,702	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(6,354)		(49,208)	
Net current assets			114,321		681,494
Total assets less current liabilities			4,814,620		4,631,311
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(971,811)		(1,006,043)
Net assets			3,842,809		3,625,268
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds			3,842,809		3,625,268
			3,842,809		3,625,268

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 May 2023, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 19 February 2024

Mrs B Kassir
Trustee

Company Registration No. 04766548

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	16		70,096		270,823
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(850,240)		-	
Investment income received		244,435		232,036	
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities			(605,805)		232,036
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		(75,058)		89,409	
Net cash (used in)/generated from financing activities			(75,058)		89,409
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(610,767)		592,268
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			730,702		138,434
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			119,935		730,702

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Syrian Orthodox Church is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 7-11 Armstrong Road, London, W3 7JL.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Direct costs that are specifically related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Shared direct costs and support costs are apportioned between activities.

The basis for apportionment, which is consistently applied, and proportionate to the circumstances, is :-

Staffing - on the basis of time spent in connection with any particular activity.
Premises related costs - on the proportion of floor area occupied by a particular activity.
Non specific support costs - on the basis of the usage of resources, in terms of time taken, capacity used, request made or other measures
Estimation techniques used in apportioning costs - none

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	2% on a straight line basis
Plant and equipment	20% on a straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Other	233,786	53,540	287,326	378,482

3 Donations and legacies (Continued)

Donations and Legacies	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2021 £	Current year 2021 £	Prior Year 2020 £
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Small donations individually less than £1000	44,202	-	**44,202**	66,723
Earthquake appeal	-	53,540	**53,540**	-
AS Tamo	-	-	-	2,000
Basil Shamas	-	-	-	2,000
Safwan Sarsam	3,000	-	**3,000**	-
Dr R Makadsi & Mrs Y Askar	-	-	-	1,000
E Mattie-Sulieman	-	-	-	2,000
S & D Sabri	2,117	-	**2,117**	-
Hassan Khoory	-	-	-	1,000
Bashir Adnan	4,200	-	**4,200**	-
W Ozan	3,000	-	**3,000**	-
M Dawood	1,620	-	**1,620**	3,500
Maryam Saad	-	-	-	1,500
Hawa Investments	1,806	-	**1,806**	-
Dr P Hardo	2,000	-	**2,000**	-
A Tamoush	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
N Halaji	2,000	-	**2,000**	-
N Auchi	1,500	-	**1,500**	-
Al-Khoury & Telchy	3,000	-	**3,000**	-
Y Makida	1,200	-	**1,200**	-
Zaghlol Kassab	1,000	-	**1,000**	4,500
Z Agrawe	5,000	-	**5,000**	-
SJH Hawa	-	-	-	*119,845*
Aid To The Church in Need	-	-	-	0
Church lighting collections and candles		-	-	*0*
Church Services	5,125	-	**5,125**	*12,260*
Church collections from plates	44,308	-	**44,308**	19,493
Total private sector revenue grants	126,078	53,540	**179,618**	*235,621*
Revenue grants & donations from non public bodies				
Dana Pharmacy	-	-	-	-
Total private sector revenue grants	-	-	-	-

4 Investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Rental income from investment property	244,425	232,034
Interest receivable	10	2
	244,435	232,036

5 Charitable activities

	Charitable activities as a church 2023	Charitable activities as a church 2022
	£	£
Staff costs	66,714	48,021
Depreciation and impairment	99,759	104,944
Cost of goods sold	2,506	9,113
Loan interest	21,253	12,559
Accountancy fees paid other than to the auditor	4,209	1,757
Motor expenses	1,310	305
Other charitable expenditure	74,997	13,218
	270,748	189,917
Share of support costs (see note 6)	38,055	22,102
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	5,417	7,260
	314,220	219,279
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	260,680	219,279
Restricted funds	53,540	-
	314,220	219,279

6 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	Support costs	Governance costs	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates and water charges	3,245	-	3,245	3,126	-	3,126
Light heat and power	9,355	-	9,355	9,444	-	9,444
Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	17,453	-	17,453	4,228	-	4,228
Property insurance	5,942	-	5,942	4,211	-	4,211
Equipment expenses	1,546	-	1,546	669	-	669
Software licences and expenses	514	-	514	424	-	424
Audit fees	-	2,820	2,820	-	2,820	2,820
Legal and professional	-	2,597	2,597	-	4,440	4,440
	38,055	5,417	43,472	22,102	7,260	29,362
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	38,055	5,417	43,472	22,102	7,260	29,362

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £2,820 (2022- £2,750) for audit fees.

7 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
	2	2

Employment costs	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	62,792	45,388
Other pension costs	3,922	2,633
	66,714	48,021

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

9 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 June 2022	4,681,454	90,411	22,420	4,794,285
Additions	850,000	240	-	850,240
At 31 May 2023	5,531,454	90,651	22,420	5,644,525
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 June 2022	742,337	88,912	13,218	844,467
Depreciation charged in the year	93,537	1,738	4,484	99,759
At 31 May 2023	835,874	90,650	17,702	944,226
Carrying amount				
At 31 May 2023	4,695,580	1	4,718	4,700,299
At 31 May 2022	3,939,117	1,498	9,202	3,949,817

11 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	740	-

12 Loans and overdrafts

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans	971,811	1,046,869
Payable within one year	-	40,826
Payable after one year	971,811	1,006,043

The long-term loans are secured by fixed charges over the properties of Syriam Orthodox Church.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	12	-	40,826
Other taxation and social security		928	1,557
Trade creditors		1,507	6,256
Accruals and deferred income		3,919	569
		6,354	49,208

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Bank loans	12	971,811	1,006,043

15 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

Loans from Mr A Al-Khoury (£10,000) and Mrs B Kassir (£5,000) both of whom are trustees to Syrian Orthdox Cchurch were outstanding at the year end.

The following amounts were outstanding at the reporting end date:

	Amounts owed to related parties	
	2023 £	2022 £
Trustees	15,000	15,000

16	Cash generated from operations	2023	2022
		£	£
	Surplus for the year	217,541	391,239
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(244,435)	(232,036)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	99,759	104,944
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(740)	199
	(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(2,028)	6,469
	Cash generated from operations	70,097	270,815

17	Analysis of changes in net (debt)/funds	At 1 June 2022	Cash flows	At 31 May 2023
		£	£	£
	Cash at bank and in hand	730,702	(610,767)	119,935
	Loans falling due within one year	(40,826)	40,826	-
	Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,006,043)	34,232	(971,811)
		(316,167)	(535,709)	(851,876)

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1107634

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1107634

Company Registration No. 04766548 (England and Wales)

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

Fawley Judge & Easton
Chartered Certified Accountants
1 Parliament Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 2AS

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Dr A Al-Khoury Mrs Z Hanna Dr S Henderson HH C Kasim Mrs B Kassir Mr M Khoury Dr Z Shamoon
Secretary	Dr A Al-Khoury
Charity number	1107634
Company number	04766548
Registered office	7-11 Armstrong Road London W3 7JL
Auditor	Fawley Judge & Easton Chartered Certified Accountants 1 Parliament Street Hull East Yorkshire HU1 2AS

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2022, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity Name:

The legal name of the charity is: Syrian Orthodox Church

The charity is also known by its operating name, Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac Orthodox Church UK, Syrian Orthdox Church UK or SOC UK.

The Charity's Areas of Operation and UK Charitable Registration

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with the charity number 1107634.

Legal Structure of the Charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all, trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The Principal Operating Address, Telephone Number, Email and Web Addresses of the Charity

The Syriac Centre
7-11 Armstrong Road
London
W3 7JL

Telephone: 020 87495834

Email Address: Enquiry.20@soc-uk.net

Web address: www.syrianorthodoxchurch.net

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

The Trustees in Office on the Date the Report was approved were:

Dr A Al-Khoury
Mrs Z Hanna
Dr S Henderson
HH C Karim
Mrs B Kassir
Mr M Khoory
Dr Z Shamoon
At the Annual General Meeting no trustees retire form office.

All the trustees are members of the church.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and Activities of the Charity:

The Purposes of the Charity as Specified in its Governing Document::

The objects of the Charity, as stated in the governing document of the Charity, are to advance and promote the Christian Faith in accordance with the teachings and practices of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch.

The Main Activities Undertaken in Relation to Those Purposes during the Year:

The Charity seeks to provide opportunities for people to contribute to the objectives, and offer the church's facilities for worship, and the church hall and centre hall for educational, cultural and social activities.

Significant activities are; Bible study, cultural lectures, refreshments after the main church services, few parties over the course of the year to bring the community together as well as supporting the church's youth with their activities.

Also, it provides the halls for use by other people from the local community as well as its use by a full day nursery.

The Main Activities Undertaken During the Year to Further the Charity's Purpose for the Public Benefit.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity shall provide and maintain places of Christian worship to enable the officiating of sacraments and for the due performance of the rites of baptism, marriage, burial and other ceremonies according to the principles of the Syrian Orthodox Christian Faith.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity may exercise the following powers:

1. To provide and maintain the ministerial services of clergy (such as a bishop, corepiscopos, priest(s), or monk(s)) including the provision of a residence(s).
2. To hold and otherwise promote religious meetings and conferences.
3. To help the needy in the United Kingdom and abroad.
4. To provide spiritual, social, cultural and educational activities.
5. To teach and promote the Syriac/Aramaic language and heritage.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in managing the activities of the charity.

The Short Term and Longer Term Aims and Objectives:

The main objective of the Charity for the year 31 May 2021 (as always) was to ensure that the Charity remained solvent, accessible, and modern and at the heart of the community and the Syriac people living in the United Kingdom. To this end the Charity intend to keep a close control on the finances, trying to reduce unnecessary expenditure and to enhance surplus monies by investing in its properties.

Also, the Charity ensures that it provides services to the community to meet its objectives as highlighted in its Governing Document.

In the financial review section of this report there is a description of the investment policies and objectives established by the trustees and the extent to which social environmental or ethical considerations are taken into account.

Additionally, the Charity continues to aspire to:

- Continue being a self-sustainable enterprise.
- Achieve and maintain a good working relationship amongst the trustees and with the clergy, staff, volunteers and parishioners.
- Continue to interact with the church parishioners and community with the aim of regular consultation to identify demands of provision and services.
- Encourage the church youths to take more active roles in the life of the church so they can contribute to its success by bringing their own ideas. They can also be trained to take the responsibilities of running the church charity in the future.
- Support the Syriac Scouts group.

The Charity's Strategies for Achieving Its Aims and Objectives in the Future:

The main objective of the Charity is to maintain and provide places of worship to the Syrian Orthodox parishioners. St Thomas Cathedral building at 1 Armstrong Road is continuing to provide ample space to allow the Syriac parishioners to attend church services. St Mary's Chapel on the first floor is used mainly by the youth to attend church services in English, Sunday School Education and Music Lessons to the Syriac Scouts group that subscribes to the British Scouts Association.

The Charity's strategy to use its investment income to pay off some of the mortgage and thus reducing the interest on the loans.

How the Activities Undertaken During the Year Contributed to the Achievement of the Aims and Objectives:

The cathedral building has provided large space to allow more parishioners to attend the church services. The charity is planning to install moving partitions to allow the separation of the sanctuary of the main church space from extra space to the side. This willl help to organise different functions at times when there is no church service.

There has been weekly Bible studies for the parishioners led by some of the clergy, which contributed towards explaining the church's faith to the parishioners and guests, and answered many of their questions.

The charity has organised several social events throughout the year such as boxing day party for the youth, new year party and Valentine party, as well as social trips for all as well as educational trips for the youths. The events brought the community together and allowed them to meet others of the same denomination who settled in the UK recently or from sisterly churches.

Resources Used in the Activities Undertaken During the Year:

The hall at the Syriac centre was used for some of the charity's social events and the weekly serving of refreshments after the church services as well as the cathedral's small hall.

The charity has also subsidised the church's youth's activities during the year.

The Charity ensured adherence to Health & Safety issues and provided training for Fire Awareness and Fire Wardens certification. The charity has arranged for the H&S training, safeguarding as well as Fire awareness. Policies have been written to ensure good practice.

Social Investment Policies and How These Contributed to the Achievement of Charity's Aims and Objectives During the Year:

The church building at 1 Armstrong Road has provided ample space for the parishioners during the church services. The first floor is used for youth activities and also as a spill out space to avoid crowding during Covid-19 restrictions.

The investment properties owned by the Charity are rented out to elderly parishioners and needy households. The elderly parishioners are benefiting of being in close proximity to the church and enjoying being socially close to each other.
The hall at the Syriac Centre (7-11 Armstrong Road) is rented to a Nursery for the Local community to benefit from during week days. At the weekend the hall is used for church functions to benefit church members and local residents. The Charity ensured its support for the Nursery even during closure because of Covid-19.

The Contribution of Volunteers during the Year:

The charity is run and administered by the volunteering trustees of the charity. They are assisted by other volunteers from within the church community and organised into committees / teams. The volunteering teams help with some of the activities such as; providing refreshments, organising social gatherings, parties and social trips; Sunday school duties, media and communications, engineering advise, and buildings' maintenance, insurance advice and liaison as well as the Health & Safety and Fire protection duties.

Achievements and performance

The Main Achievements and Performance of the Charity during the Year:

The Charity relies on regular donations from its members as well as grant aid from donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued.

A. The main achievements and performance of the charity in the year ending 31-May-2021:
   1. Raised new loans to purchase a new property.
   2. Continue to update and maintain better processes for accounting.
   3. Continue to support British Syriac Scouts in the UK and provided them with their essential needs.
   4. Sunday school teachers and scouts leaders have obtained enhanced DBS.
   5. Undertook the necessary precautions and adhered to the government and health authority's guidelines to protect against COVID-19. Implemented health and safety measures for the protection of church attendees and ensured the control of the number of attendees.
   6. Continued to support the UK Prison services to rehabilitate offenders by allowing the "PAY BACK" groups to clean the church and the bishopric on a weekly basis and providing supervision for them.
   7. Adopted and implemented new key policies (see later).

The Difference the charity's Performance during the Year has made to the Beneficiaries of the Charity and Wider Society:

During the year the Charity has:

a. Sustained places of worship according to the Syrian Orthodox Rite for the people.

b. Maintained the ministerial services of the clergy.

c. Arranged meetings and conferences to publicise the Christian Faith according to the Syriac Orthodox Faith and to promote and educate about the Syriac language, culture and heritage.

d. Provided assistance for the needy people in the United Kingdom and abroad.

e. Letting the centre hall to be used as a nursery. Thus enabling the local families of all faiths and none to benefit their children and also to volunteer.

f. Using the payback services to clean the church benefits the local prisoners or those on probation with opportunity for rehabilitation. Our clergy provide them with lunch and show them kindness and supervise them to help them build trust and a sense of worthiness.

g. Enhanced the safety of its properties and provided consistent maintenance support for its tenants, and keeping the area in good standard. Furthermore, the letting of flats are not restricted to people of the church as we had tenants of other religion as well.

h. Sourcing local services and shops for catering facilities and maintenance.

ii. The established Syriac scouts group engages with the West London district and regional scouts as well as international scouts' organisations. Invited other scouts to join in the marching band.

jj. Inviting and attending multi-faith and multi-function meetings and events by the clergy on members of the Syriac community.

k. Obtained a sponsorship T2 and T5 license from the Home Office to recruit one priest and a religious worker from abroad. This is Valid until November 2024.

l. Started to implement the necessary policies. Some have been completed and the remaining ones are under review.

The policies are:

1. Health and Safety Policy (published).
2. Fire Policy (published).
3. Safeguarding Policy (published).
4. Equality Policy (published).
5. Finance (published).
6. Complaints Policy (under review).
7. Recruitment Policy (under review).
8. GDPR and Confidentiality Policy (under further review).

The degree to which the achievements and performance during the year have benefited wider society:

Within the Christian wider society, the charity provided services in different cities like Manchester and Birmingham, Coventry, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Brighton. Some of those were of different denominations mainly Orthodox and Catholic Iraqis who share the same culture and language and who put denominational difference aside. This is a positive step towards unity in Christ.

Visiting clergy from Brazil, Iraq, Australia and other countries benefited from hospitality at the Syriac Centre.

Within the secular society, the charity contributed to the success of the community service scheme by making the church properties available for cleaning and providing supervision and support to the people doing their community sentence.

The Scouts Association benefited from our membership as St Thomas Syriac Scouts.

The charity shared its views and culture with other faiths and denominations to enhance an atmosphere of peace and tolerance.

Various businesses benefited from promoting their names though our fundraising bazaars by offering their small value produce and raffle presents.

The Significant Charitable Activities Undertaken in the Year:

The Charity assists with the smooth running of the church to allow the parishioners to practice their faith. Also, it assists with publishing news about the church activities and news to its members.

It helps to provide the facilities for the parishioners as well as the local community to use the Charity's premises such as a day care nursery.

The Charity, from time to time, oversees the collection of donations from its members, other supporters and organisations to help the needy and displaced people abroad.

The Charity with help from its members organises social events, parties and trips.

The Charity attends meeting of other similar organisations and collaborate with other churches to help the people in need.

The Charity, through its clergy, participates in meetings to promote the spirit of ecumenism and to advance peace in the world especially the Middle East.

The Charity is contributing financially to support NHS research efforts on Covid-19

How the Achievements during the Year Measure up to the Objectives Set:

The previous hall is providing a facility to the local community to be used by a day care nursery. The upstairs church (1st floor at 1 Armstrong Road) is being used for Sunday School and monthly Mass, in English, to the youth as well as the Scouts.

Investment Performance against the Investment Objectives:

The income from the rent of the new flats and church hall to a Nursery in the Syriac Centre as well as from the rent of the two properties at 33 Old Oak Road and 52 First Avenue, continue to provide the charity's financial plan. This is in addition to the continuous generous donations from parishioners and friends.

Structure, governance and management

The Methods Used to Recruit and Appoint New Charity Trustees:

Trustees are selected based on the Members section of the Charity's Article of Association. New trustees can be added provided that their total number does not exceed eight at present. The existing trustees announce the need to elect new trustees to the charity within a reasonable time.

Nominations are invited from eligible parishioners by submitting brief CV and future working plan on how to help improve the running of the charity.

During a General Meeting, the charity members will vote to elect the trustees if the number of the nominations exceeds seven, otherwise, if the number is seven or less, then the nominees will be considered elected.

The Policies and Procedures for the Induction and Training of Trustees:

The procedure for the training of trustees is to provide each one with "The Essential Trustee" publication that is provided by the Charity Commission.

The charity has five approved DBS personnel. Provisions are being prepared for all those who are going to be in contact with vulnerable people to obtain DBS checks. A new safeguarding procedure was prepared and circulated to the Trustees.

A Fire Risk Assessment was ordered and an Action Plan was prepared and implemented accordingly. A Fire Policy, Evacuation procedure as well as a Health & Safety policy were written and circulated.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Charity's Organisational Structure and How the Charity Makes Decisions and Delegates:

The Charity's board of Trustees acts as a Management Team.

The Board of Directors (Trustees) can form sub-groups. The sub-groups can be led by one or more trustees and joined by volunteering members of the charity appointed in consultation with the Bishop from within the parishioners to form joint committees. The joint committees will help the Trustees in the day to day running of various church activities and responsible for implementing policies.

The final decisions are taken by the charity trustees and sometimes after consulting the church's archbishop.

The Trustees along with those members of the committees can also form other sub committees with other volunteers from within the church parishioners to look after spiritual, social, cultural and other needs and requirements of the church and its people in different parts of the UK.

The Chief Executive Officer and Other Senior Management Personnel to Whom Day to Day Management is Delegated:

All the Trustees of the Charity work collectively to manage the day to day work of Charity.

Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel:

All the charity trustees are volunteers. They do not receive payment or remuneration from the charity.

Employment of Disabled Persons:

The charity employs clergy personnel only. At present, the charity employs less than 5 clergy and none of them is registered as a disabled person to the Charity's best of knowledge.

Whenever posts will be available there will be no discrimination towards applicants either as permanent members of staff or as volunteers.

The Charity as a Part of a Wider Network:

The Charity has no responsibility for nor is it answerable to any other organisation.

The Charity as part of its relationships with other groups, charities and individuals is prepared to provide them with space and support when required if it is possible, for which they will incur a fee.

Occasionally, the Charity may provide the space at a reduced rate depending on need and ability to pay with the provision that the applicant should be member of the Charity, local community or charities of benefit to our Charity or local community.

The Charity's Relationships with Related Parties:

The Syriam Orthodox Church is a charitable company and does not have subsidiaries.

Financial review

The Trustees' Bankers and Advisors:

Bankers:	HSBC Bank, 184 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1HE Barclays Bank PLC, Barclays Business, 81/83 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4PD
Solicitors	Attwells Solicitors LLP, 88 St John's Wood High Street, London, NW8 7SH
Accountant	Raghad Aziz ICPA CIPP, Just Accounts (Cardiff) Ltd, Certified Practicing Accountant, Dunbelling, Tegfan Close, Llanishen, Cardiff, Wales, CF14 5DE

The Charity's Financial Position at the End of the Year Ended 31 May 2021

The financial position of the charity at 31 May 2021 and compasatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income	391,239	212,021
Unrestricted Revenue Funds available for the general purposes of the charity	3,625,029	3,231,271
Restricted Revenue Funds	0	2,750
Total Funds	**3,625,029**	**3,234,021**

The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31 May 2022 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfill its obligations.

The Statement of Financial Activities show net incoming resources for the year of a revenue nature of £391,239 (prior year - £212,021) and net realised incoming resources of a capital nature of £nil (prior year £nil), making net overall realised incoming resources of £391,239 (prior year - £212,021).

The total reserves at the year's end stand at £3,625,268 (prior year £3,234,021).

Free unrestricted liquid reserves were £3,625,268 (prior year £3,231,271).

Specific changes in fixed assets are detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Policies on Reserves:

The charity has total free unrestricted liquid reserves of £3,625,268 at the year end, £4,054,761 of which is invested in the charity's properties, leaving a deficit of £429,493 as a deficit on free liquid reserves. Of the amount of £429,493, an amount of £429,493 is represented by long term creditors, leaving free unrestricted revenue reserve in deficit by £0. The trustees have resolved to establish reserves excluding funds required for the property to provide for future activities, and to provide funding for the expected unrestricted expenditure for six month ahead in the sum of £150,000 and are taking steps to achieve this.

Availability and Adequacy of Assets of Each of the Funds:

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund, bearing in mind the events described in note 15 to the accounts, when taken with known future income streams.

Investment Policy and Investment Objectives::

The current financial policy is to use the new renovated building and the income generated by the existing and future assets to further the objects of the charity.

Risks and Uncertainties Facing the Charity:

The added costs are those related to continuous renovation work and improvements.

The income from renting the hall to the day nursery may be affected by Ofstead special measures. This could lead to reduction in the money generated by the rent.

This risk is mitigated by the fact that; the charity owns its assets, which are freeholds, and it has a pro-active management committee to oversee all future reviews and developments.

Furthermore, the professional image of the charity is well established. This is illustrated by the expansion of its assets and the amount of donations contributed by its members and other donors. Moreover, the charity has been acknowledged by other organisations and several high profiled people.

There is a difficulty in getting members to commit time for the meetings and actual work. This leads to the work load being shouldered by few members.

Factors Likely to Affect Future Financial Performance:

However, the church parishioners are known to rally around if there will be future project to help the community or in response to an appeal to help needy people.

Principal Funding Sources in the Year and How These Support the Key Objectives of the Charity:

Donations were received from a variety of sources, and these are set out in detail in the notes to the accounts.

Plans for the Future

Summary of Plans for the Future and the Trustees' Perspective of the Future Direction of the Charity:

1. Continue to enhance youth services via digital means.
2. A consideration to purchase a building with land in the countryside outside London to convert to a Monastery and a spiritual retreat Centre for the public.
3. To recruit one more priest and/or religious worker to support the congregations outside London.
4. Plan and assist the clergy to establish more parishes UK wide.
5. To form Scout groups in other parishes.

Details of the Auditor:

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Fawley Judge & Easton be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The trustees state that so far as each of the trustees at the time this report was approved are aware:

1. There is no relevant audit information (as defined by section 418(3) of the Companies Act 2006) of which the auditors are unaware, and,
2. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Dr A Al-Khoury
Trustee
Dated: 20 February 2023

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015 (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016).

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to:

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the auditor in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, the report is consistent with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Syrian Orthodox Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 May 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Leathley (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Fawley Judge & Easton

20 February 2023

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor
1 Parliament Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 2AS

Fawley Judge & Easton is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	378,482	279,896	-	279,896
Charitable activities	4	-	1,608	-	1,608
Investments	5	232,036	205,549	-	205,549
Total income		610,518	487,053	-	487,053
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	219,279	275,032	-	275,032
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		391,239	212,021	-	212,021
Fund balances at 1 June 2021		3,234,029	3,019,250	2,750	3,022,000
Fund balances at 31 May 2022		3,625,268	3,231,271	2,750	3,234,021

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MAY 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		3,949,817		4,054,761
Current assets					
Debtors	11	-		199	
Cash at bank and in hand		730,702		138,434	
		730,702		138,633	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(49,208)		(42,739)	
Net current assets			681,494		95,894
Total assets less current liabilities			4,631,311		4,150,655
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14		(1,006,043)		(916,634)
Net assets			3,625,268		3,234,021
Income funds					
Restricted funds			-		2,750
Unrestricted funds			3,625,268		3,231,271
			3,625,268		3,234,021

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 May 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20 February 2023

Mrs B Kassir
Trustee

Company Registration No. 04766548

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	17		270,815		134,229
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-		(22,547)	
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets		-		4,997	
Investment income received		232,036		205,549	
Net cash generated from investing activities			232,036		187,999
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		89,409		(417,854)	
Net cash generated from/(used in) financing activities			89,409		(417,854)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			592,260		(95,626)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			138,434		234,059
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			730,702		138,434

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Syrian Orthodox Church is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 7-11 Armstrong Road, London, W3 7JL.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Direct costs that are specifically related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Shared direct costs and support costs are apportioned between activities.

The basis for apportionment, which is consistently applied, and proportionate to the circumstances, is :-

Staffing - on the basis of time spent in connection with any particular activity.
Premises related costs - on the proportion of floor area occupied by a particular activity.
Non specific support costs - on the basis of the usage of resources, in terms of time taken, capacity used, request made or other measures.
Estimation techniques used in apportioning costs - none

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	2% on a straight line basis
Plant and equipment	20% on a straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1. Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Other	378,482	279,896

3 Donations and legacies (Continued)

Donations and Legacies	Current year Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Current year Restricted Funds 2021 £	Current year 2021 £	Prior Year 2020 £
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Small donations individually less than £1000	60,173	-	60,173	5,650
Layla Richardson	-	-	-	1,000
AS Tamo	2,000	-	2,000	-
Basil Shamas	2,000	-	2,000	-
D Xavier	-	-	-	11,000
Dr R Makadsi & Mrs Y Askar	1,000	-	1,000	-
E Mattie-Sulieman	2,000	-	2,000	-
Bassam Fatehalla	-	-	-	3,000
Hassan Khoory	1,000	-	1,000	-
Mr S Sarsam & Mrs LA Sarsam	-	-	-	4,500
K Alshatan	11,000	-	11,000	-
M Dawood	3,500	-	3,500	-
Maryam Saad	11,500	-	1,500	-
Dr MA Alfaham & Dr LN Alfaham	1,350	-	1,350	-
M Shamoon	-	-	-	1,000
N Adbulahadi	-	-	-	3,000
N Auchi	-	-	-	1,500
S Antoon Rassam & N A Rahou	-	-	-	3,000
N Hawa	1,000	-	1,000	-
Samira Smith	1,000	-	1,000	-
Zaghloll Kassab	4,500	-	4,500	-
Zaid Aboudi	2,000	-	2,000	-
SJH Hawa	119,845	-	119,845	-
Aid To The Church in Need	-	-	-	5,000
Church lighting collections and candles		-	-	970
Church Services	12,260	-	12,260	3,060
Church collections from plates	19,493	-	19,493	29,569
Total private sector revenue grants	235,621	-	235,621	62,249
Revenue grants & donations from non public bodies				
Dana Pharmacy	-	-	-	-
Total private sector revenue grants	-	-	-	-

4 Charitable activities

	Sales of goods and services 2021 £	Sales of goods and services 2021 £
Sales within charitable activities		11,608

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £
Rental income from investment property	232,034	205,543
Interest receivable	2	6
	232,036	205,549

6 Charitable activities

	Charitable activities as a church 2022 £	Charitable activities as a church 2021 £
Staff costs	48,021	41,439
Depreciation and impairment	104,944	117,936
Marketing and advertising	-	312
Cost of goods sold	9,113	865
Loan interest	12,559	36,609
Accountancy fees paid other than to the auditor	1,757	1,672
Motor expenses	305	2,376
Other charitable expenditure	13,218	20,736
	189,917	221,945
Share of support costs (see note 7)	22,102	49,030
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	7,260	4,057
	219,279	275,032

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	Support costs	Governance costs	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates and water charges	1,591	-	1,591	1,793	-	1,793
Light heat and power	9,444	-	9,444	4,341	-	4,341
Cleaning and waste management	-	-	-	390	-	390
Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	5,763	-	5,763	35,084	-	35,084
Property insurance	4,211	-	4,211	5,769	-	5,769
Equipment expenses	669	-	669	1,308	-	1,308
Software licences and expenses	424	-	424	346	-	346
Audit fees	-	2,820	2,820	-	2,828	2,828
Legal and professional	-	4,440	4,440	-	1,228	1,228
	22,102	7,260	29,362	49,031	4,056	53,087
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	22,102	7,260	29,362	49,030	4,057	53,087

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £2,828 (2021 - £2,750) for audit fees.

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
	2	2

Employment costs	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	45,388	39,294
Other pension costs	2,633	2,145
	48,021	41,439

9 Employees (Continued)

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 June 2021	4,681,454	90,411	22,420	4,794,285
At 31 May 2022	4,681,454	90,411	22,420	4,794,285
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 June 2021	648,779	82,010	8,734	739,523
Depreciation charged in the year	93,558	6,903	4,484	104,945
At 31 May 2022	742,337	88,913	13,218	844,468
Carrying amount				
At 31 May 2022	3,939,117	1,498	9,202	3,949,817
At 31 May 2021	4,032,674	8,401	13,686	4,054,761

11 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	-	199

12 Loans and overdrafts

	2022	2021
	£	£
Bank loans	1,046,869	957,460
Payable within one year	40,826	40,826
Payable after one year	1,006,043	916,634

The long-term loans are secured by fixed charges over the properties of Syrian Orthodox Church.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans	12	40,826	40,826
Other taxation and social security		1,557	711
Trade creditors		6,256	716
Accruals and deferred income		569	486
		49,208	42,739

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Bank loans	12	1,006,043	916,634

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances at 31 May 2022 are represented by:				
Tangible assets	3,949,817	4,054,761	-	4,054,761
Current assets/(liabilities)	681,494	93,144	2,750	95,894
Long term liabilities	(1,006,043)	(916,634)	-	(916,634)
	3,625,268	3,231,271	2,750	3,234,021

16 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

There was a loan from Mr A Al-Khoury (£10,000) and Mrs B Kassir (£5,000) both of whom are trustees to Syrian Orthdox Cchurch during the year under review.

16 Related party transactions (Continued)

The following amounts were outstanding at the reporting end date:

	Amounts owed to related parties	
	2022	2021
	£	£
Trustees	-	15,000

17 Cash generated from operations

	2022	2021
	£	£
Surplus for the year	391,239	212,021
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(232,036)	(205,549)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	104,944	117,936
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	199	16,829
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	6,469	(7,008)
Cash generated from operations	270,815	134,229

18 Analysis of changes in net (debt)/funds

	At 1 June 2021	Cash flows	At 31 May 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	138,434	592,268	730,702
Loans falling due within one year	(40,826)	-	(40,826)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(916,634)	(89,409)	(1,006,043)
	(819,026)	502,859	(316,167)

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1107634

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1107634

Company Registration No. 04766548 (England and Wales)

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021



Fawley Judge & Easton
Chartered Certified Accountants
1 Parliament Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 2AS

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Dr A Al-Khoury Mrs Z Hanna Dr S Henderson HH C Karim Mrs B Kassir Mr M Khoory Dr Z Shamoon
Secretary	Dr A Al-Khoury
Charity number	1107634
Company number	04766548
Registered office	7-11 Armstrong Road London W3 7JL
Auditor	Fawley Judge & Easton Chartered Certified Accountants 1 Parliament Street Hull East Yorkshire HU1 2AS

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2021, which also comprises the Directors' Report required by the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity Name:

The legal name of the charity is: Syrian Orthodox Church

The charity is also known by its operating name, Syriac Orthodox Church, Syriac Orthodox Church UK, Syrian Orthdox Church UK or SOC UK.

The Charity's Areas of Operation and UK Charitable Registration

The charity is registered in England & Wales with the Charity Commission in England & Wales (CCEW) with the charity number 1107634.

Legal Structure of the Charity

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Acts. The governing document of the charity is the Memorandum and Articles of Association establishing the company under company legislation.

There are no restrictions in the governing documents on the operation of the Charity or on its investment powers other than those imposed by Charity Law.

By operation of law all, trustees are directors under the Companies Act 2006 and all directors are trustees under Charities legislation and have responsibilities, as such, under both company and charity legislation.

The trustees are all individuals.

The Principal Operating Address, Telephone Number, Email and Web Addresses of the Charity

The Syriac Centre
7-11 Armstrong Road
London
W3 7JL

Telephone: 020 87495834

Email Address: Enquiry.20@soc-uk.net

Web address: www.syrianorthodoxchurch.net

The registered office of the charity for Companies Act purposes is the same as the operating address shown above.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

The Trustees in Office on the Date the Report was approved were:

Dr A Al-Khoury
Mrs Z Hanna
Dr P Hardo (Resigned 11 March 2021)
Dr S Henderson
HH C Karim
Mrs B Kassir
Mr M Khoory
Dr Z Shamoon
The trustees who served as a trustee in the reporting period were as shown above. However, Dr Philip Hardo had resigned on 11-Mar-2021 and his resignation was filed with Companies House on 24-Mar-2021.

At the Annual General Meeting no trustees retire form office.

All the trustees are members of the church.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and Activities of the Charity:

The Purposes of the Charity as Specified in its Governing Document:

The objects of the Charity, as stated in the governing document of the Charity, are to advance and promote the Christian Faith in accordance with the teachings and practices of the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch.

The Main Activities Undertaken in Relation to Those Purposes during the Year:

The Charity seeks to provide opportunities for people to contribute to the objectives, and offer the church's facilities for worship, and the church hall and centre hall for educational, cultural and social activities.

Significant activities are; Bible study, cultural lectures, refreshments after the main church services, few parties over the course of the year to bring the community together as well as supporting the church's youth with their activities.

Also, it provides the halls for use by other people from the local community as well as its use by a full day nursery.

The Main Activities Undertaken During the Year to Further the Charity's Purpose for the Public Benefit.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity shall provide and maintain places of Christian worship to enable the officiating of sacraments and for the due performance of the rites of baptism, marriage, burial and other ceremonies according to the principles of the Syrian Orthodox Christian Faith.

For the purpose of attaining the aforesaid objectives, but not otherwise, the Charity may exercise the following powers:

1. To provide and maintain the ministerial services of clergy (such as a bishop, corepiscopos, priest(s), or monk(s)) including the provision of a residence(s).
2. To hold and otherwise promote religious meetings and conferences.
3. To help the needy in the United Kingdom and abroad.
4. To provide spiritual, social, cultural and educational activities.
5. To teach and promote the Syriac/Aramaic language and heritage.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in managing the activities of the charity.

The Short Term and Longer Term Aims and Objectives:

The main objective of the Charity for the year 31 May 2021 (as always) was to ensure that the Charity remained solvent, accessible, and modern and at the heart of the community and the Syriac people living in the United Kingdom. To this end the Charity intend to keep a close control on the finances, trying to reduce unnecessary expenditure and to enhance surplus monies by investing in its properties.

Also, the Charity ensures that it provides services to the community to meet its objectives as highlighted in its Governing Document.

In the financial review section of this report there is a description of the investment policies and objectives established by the trustees and the extent to which social environmental or ethical considerations are taken into account.

Additionally, the Charity continues to aspire to:

- Continue being a self-sustainable enterprise.
- Achieve and maintain a good working relationship amongst the trustees and with the clergy, staff, volunteers and parishioners.
- Continue to interact with the church parishioners and community with the aim of regular consultation to identify demands of provision and services.
- Encourage the church youths to take more active roles in the life of the church so they can contribute to its success by bringing their own ideas. They can also be trained to take the responsibilities of running the church charity in the future
- Support the Syriac Scouts group.

The Charity's Strategies for Achieving Its Aims and Objectives in the Future:

The main objective of the Charity is to maintain and provide places of worship to the Syrian Orthodox parishioners. St Thomas Cathedral building at 1 Armstrong Road is continuing to provide ample space to allow the Syriac parishioners to attend church services. St Mary's Chapel on the first floor is used mainly by the youth to attend church services in English, Sunday School Education and Music Lessons to the Syriac Scouts group that subscribes to the British Scouts Association.

The Charity's strategy to use its investment income to pay off some of the mortgage and thus reducing the interest on the loans.

How the Activities Undertaken During the Year Contributed to the Achievement of the Aims and Objectives:

The cathedral building has provided large space to allow more parishioners to attend the church services. The charity is planning to install moving partitions to allow the separation of the sanctuary of the main church space from extra space to the side. This will help to organise different functions at times when there is no church service.

There has been weekly Bible studies for the parishioners led by some of the clergy, which contributed towards explaining the church's faith to the parishioners and guests, and answered many of their questions.

The charity has organised several social events throughout the year such as boxing day party for the youth, new year party and Valentine party, as well as social trips for all as well as educational trips for the youths. The events brought the community together and allowed them to meet others of the same denomination who settled in the UK recently or from sisterly churches.

Resources Used in the Activities Undertaken During the Year:

The hall at the Syriac centre was used for some of the charity's social events and the weekly serving of refreshments after the church services as well as the cathedral's small hall.

The charity has also subsidised the church's youth's activities during the year.

The Charity ensured adherence to Health & Safety issues and provided training for Fire Awareness and Fire Wardens certification. The charity has arranged for the H&S training, safeguarding as well as Fire awareness. Policies have been written to ensure good practice.

Social Investment Policies and How These Contributed to the Achievement of Charity's Aims and Objectives During the Year:

The church building at 1 Armstrong Road has provided ample space for the parishioners during the church services. The first floor is used for youth activities and also as a spill out space to avoid crowding during Covid-19 restrictions.

The investment properties owned by the Charity are rented out to elderly parishioners and needy households. The elderly parishioners are benefiting of being in close proximity to the church and enjoying being socially close to each other.
The hall at the Syriac Centre (7-11 Armstrong Road) is rented to a Nursery for the Local community to benefit from during week days. At the weekend the hall is used for church functions to benefit church members and local residents. The Charity ensured its support for the Nursery even during closure because of Covid-19.

The ground floor was redesigned and renovated to accommodate two new units adjacent to the existing Nursery Hall. One unit (8) is residential and the other (9) was rented to a business offering services to the parishioners and the wider community.

The Contribution of Volunteers during the Year:

The charity is run and administered by the volunteering trustees of the charity. They are assisted by other volunteers from within the church community and organised into committees / teams. The volunteering teams help with some of the activities such as; providing refreshments, organising social gatherings, parties and social trips; Sunday school duties, media and communications, engineering advise, and buildings' maintenance, insurance advice and liaison as well as the Health & Safety and Fire protection duties.

Achievements and performance

The Main Achievements and Performance of the Charity during the Year:

The Charity relies on regular donations from its members as well as grant aid from donors identified in the accounts, whose support is valued.

A. The main achievements and performance of the charity in the year ending 31-May-2021:
   1. Raised new loans to reduce the amount of mortgage and pay less interest. The charity have managed to pay off some of those loans within the year.
   2. Continue to update and maintain better processes for accounting.
   3. Continue to support British Syriac Scouts in the UK and provided them with their essential needs.
   4. Sunday school teachers and scouts leaders have obtained enhanced DBS.
   5. Undertook the necessary precautions and adhered to the government and health authority's guidelines to protect against COVID-19. Implemented health and safety measures for the protection of church attendees and ensured the control of the number of attendees.
   6. Purchased equipment, e.g. cameras and vision mixers, to enhance the media coverage of online service. This was and still is of great benefit during lockdown not only to our parishioners in the UK but also connected to others all over the world.
   7. Continued to support the UK Prison services to rehabilitate offenders by allowing the "PAY BACK" groups to clean the church and the bishopric on a weekly basis and providing supervision for them.
   8. Adopted and implemented new key policies (see later).

The Difference the charity's Performance during the Year has made to the Beneficiaries of the Charity and Wider Society:

During the year the Charity has:

a. Sustained places of worship according to the Syrian Orthodox Rite for the people.

b. Maintained the ministerial services of the clergy.

c. Arranged meetings and conferences to publicise the Christian Faith according to the Syriac Orthodox Faith and to promote and educate about the Syriac language, culture and heritage.

d. Provided assistance for the needy people in the United Kingdom and abroad.

e. Letting the centre hall to be used as a nursery. Thus enabling the local families of all faiths and none to benefit their children and also to volunteer.

f. Using the payback services to clean the church benefits the local prisoners or those on probation with opportunity for rehabilitation. Our clergy provide them with lunch and show them kindness and supervise them to help them build trust and a sense or worthiness.

g. Enhanced the safety of its properties and provided consistent maintenance support for its tenants, and keeping the area in good standard. Furthermore, the letting of flats are not restricted to people of the church as we had tenants of other religion as well.

h. Sourcing local services and shops for catering facilities and maintenance.

i. The established Syriac scouts group engages with the West London district and regional scouts as well as international scouts' organisations. Invited other scouts to join in the marching band.

j. Inviting and attending multi-faith and multi-function meetings and events by the clergy or members of the Syriac community.

k. Obtained a sponsorship T2 and T5 license from the Home Office to recruit one priest and a religious worker from abroad. This is Valid until November 2024.

l. Started to implement the necessary policies. Some have been completed and the remaining ones are under review.

The policies are:

1. Health and Safety Policy (published).
2. Fire Policy (published).
3. Safeguarding Policy (published).
4. Equality Policy (published).
5. Finance (published).
6. Complaints Policy (under review).
7. Recruitment Policy (under review).
8. GDPR and Confidentiality Policy (under final review).

The degree to which the achievements and performance during the year have benefited wider society:

Within the Christian wider society, the charity provided services in different cities like Manchester and Birmingham, Coventry, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Brighton. Some of those were of different denominations mainly Orthodox and Catholic Iraqis who share the same culture and language and who put denominational difference aside. This is a positive step towards unity in Christ.

Visiting clergy from Brazil, Iraq, Australia and other countries benefited from hospitality at the Syriac Centre.

Within the secular society, the charity contributed to the success of the community service scheme by making the church properties available for cleaning and providing supervision and support to the people doing their community sentence.

The Scouts Association benefited from our membership as St Thomas Syriac Scouts.

The charity shared its views and culture with other faiths and denominations to enhance an atmosphere of peace and tolerance.

Various businesses benefited from promoting their names though our fundraising bazaars by offering their small value produce and raffle presents.

The Significant Charitable Activities Undertaken in the Year:

The Charity assists with the smooth running of the church to allow the parishioners to practice their faith. Also, it assists with publishing news about the church activities and news to its members.

It helps to provide the facilities for the parishioners as well as the local community to use the Charity's premises such as a day care nursery.

The Charity, from time to time, oversees the collection of donations from its members, other supporters and organisations to help the needy and displaced people abroad.

The Charity with help from its members organises social events, parties and trips.

The Charity attends meeting of other similar organisations and collaborate with other churches to help the people in need.

The Charity, through its clergy, participates in meetings to promote the spirit of ecumenism and to advance peace in the world especially the Middle East.

The Charity is contributing financially to support NHS research efforts on Covid-19

How the Achievements during the Year Measure up to the Objectives Set:

The redesign and addition of two more units on the ground floor of the Syriac Centre provided extra rental income as well as allowing a parishioner (member of the charity) to start her business locally.

The previous hall is providing a facility to the local community to be used by a day care nursery. The upstairs church (1st floor at 1 Armstrong Road) is being used for Sunday School and monthly Mass, in English, to the youth as well as the Scouts.

Investment Performance against the Investment Objectives:

The income from the rent of the new flats and church hall to a Nursery in the Syriac Centre as well as from the rent of the two properties at 33 Old Oak Road and 52 First Avenue, continue to provide the charity's financial plan. This is in addition to the continuous generous donations from parishioners and friends.

Structure, governance and management

The Methods Used to Recruit and Appoint New Charity Trustees:

Trustees are selected based on the Members section of the Charity's Article of Association. New trustees can be added provided that their total number does not exceed eight at present. The existing trustees announce the need to elect new trustees to the charity within a reasonable time.

Nominations are invited from eligible parishioners by submitting brief CV and future working plan on how to help improve the running of the charity.

During a General Meeting, the charity members will vote to elect the trustees if the number of the nominations exceeds seven, otherwise, if the number is seven or less, then the nominees will be considered elected.

The Policies and Procedures for the Induction and Training of Trustees:

The procedure for the training of trustees is to provide each one with "The Essential Trustee" publication that is provided by the Charity Commission.

The charity has five approved DBS personnel. Provisions are being prepared for all those who are going to be in contact with vulnerable people to obtain DBS checks. A new safeguarding procedure was prepared and circulated to the Trustees.

A Fire Risk Assessment was ordered and an Action Plan was prepared and implemented accordingly. A Fire Policy, Evacuation procedure as well as a Health & Safety policy were written and circulated.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Charity's Organisational Structure and How the Charity Makes Decisions and Delegates:

The Charity's board of Trustees acts as a Management Team.

The Board of Directors (Trustees) can form sub-groups. The sub-groups can be led by one or more trustees and joined by volunteering members of the charity appointed in consultation with the Bishop from within the parishioners to form joint committees. The joint committees will help the Trustees in the day to day running of various church activities and responsible for implementing policies.

The final decisions are taken by the charity trustees and sometimes after consulting the church's archbishop.

The Trustees along with those members of the committees can also form other sub committees with other volunteers from within the church parishioners to look after spiritual, social, cultural and other needs and requirements of the church and its people in different parts of the UK.

The Chief Executive Officer and Other Senior Management Personnel to Whom Day to Day Management is Delegated:

All the Trustees of the Charity work collectively to manage the day to day work of Charity.

Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel:

All the charity trustees are volunteers. They do not receive payment or remuneration from the charity.

Employment of Disabled Persons:

The charity employs clergy personnel only. At present, the charity employs less than 5 clergy and none of them is registered as a disabled person to the Charity's best of knowledge.

Whenever posts will be available there will be no discrimination towards applicants either as permanent members of staff or as volunteers.

The Charity as a Part of a Wider Network:

The Charity has no responsibility for nor is it answerable to any other organisation.

The Charity as part of its relationships with other groups, charities and individuals is prepared to provide them with space and support when required if it is possible, for which they will incur a fee.

Occasionally, the Charity may provide the space at a reduced rate depending on need and ability to pay with the provision that the applicant should be member of the Charity, local community or charities of benefit to our Charity or local community.

The Charity's Relationships with Related Parties:

The Syrian Orthodox Church is a charitable company and does not have subsidiaries.

Financial review
The Trustees' Bankers and Advisors:

Bankers:	HSBC Bank, 184 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1HE Barclays Bank PLC, Barclays Business, 81/83 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4PD
Solicitors	Attwells Solicitors LLP, 88 St John's Wood High Street, London, NW8 7SH
Accountant	Raghad Aziz ICPA CIPP, Just Accounts (Cardiff) Ltd, Certified Practicing Accountant, Dunbelling, Tegfan Close, Llanishen, Cardiff, Wales, CF14 5DE

The Charity's Financial Position at the End of the Year Ended 31 May 2021

The financial position of the charity at 31 May 2021 and comparatives for the prior period, as more fully detailed in the accounts, can be summarised as follows:-

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income	212,021	76,332
Unrestricted Revenue Funds available for the general purposes of the charity	3,231,271	3,019,250
Restricted Revenue Funds	2,750	2,750
Total Funds	**3,231,271**	**3,022,000**

The board of trustees are satisfied with the performance of the charity during the year and the position at 31 May 2021 and consider that the charity is in a strong position to continue its activities during the coming year, and that the charity's assets are adequate to fulfil its obligations.

The Statement of Financial Activities show net incoming resources for the year of a revenue nature of £212,021 (prior year - £76,332) and net realised incoming resources of a capital nature of £nil (prior year £nil), making net overall realised incoming resources of £212,021 (prior year - £76,332).

The total reserves at the year's end stand at £3,234,021 (prior year £3,022,000)

Free unrestricted liquid reserves were £3,231,271 (prior year £3,231,271).

Specific changes in fixed assets are detailed in the notes to the accounts.

Policies on Reserves:

The charity has total free unrestricted liquid reserves of £3,231,271 at the year end, £4,054,761 of which is invested in the charity's properties, leaving a deficit of £823,490 as a deficit on free liquid reserves. Of the amount of £823,490, an amount of £823,490 is represented by long term creditors, leaving free unrestricted revenue reserve in deficit by £0. The trustees have resolved to establish reserves excluding funds required for the property to provide for future activities, and to provide funding for the expected unrestricted expenditure for six month ahead in the sum of £150,000 and are taking steps to achieve this.

Availability and Adequacy of Assets of Each of the Funds:

The board of trustees is satisfied that the charity's assets in each fund are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations in respect of each fund, bearing in mind the events described in note 15 to the accounts, when taken with known future income streams.

Investment Policy and Investment Objectives:

The current financial policy is to use the new renovated building and the income generated by the existing and future assets to further the objects of the charity.

Risks and Uncertainties Facing the Charity:

The identified risks are the increase in loan level incurred by the charity due to the purchase of the Church at 1 Armstrong Road. Additionally, the added costs are those related to continuous renovation work and improvements.

The income from renting the hall to the day nursery may be affected by Ofstead special measures. This could lead to reduction in the money generated by the rent.

This risk is mitigated by the fact that; the charity owns its assets, which are freeholds, and it has a pro-active management committee to oversee all future reviews and developments.

Furthermore, the professional image of the charity is well established. This is illustrated by the expansion of its assets and the amount of donations contributed by its members and other donors. Moreover, the charity has been acknowledged by other organisations and several high profiled people.

There is a difficulty in getting members to commit time for the meetings and actual work. This leads to the work load being shouldered by few members.

Factors Likely to Affect Future Financial Performance:

Reduction in the amount of donations is anticipated after the completion of the conversion work on the first floor of 7-11 Armstrong Road as people will feel less obliged to donate large sums of money to support a major project. However, the church parishioners are known to rally around if there will be future project to help the community or in response to an appeal to help needy people.

Principal Funding Sources in the Year and How These Support the Key Objectives of the Charity:

Donations were received from a variety of sources, and these are set out in detail in the notes to the accounts.

Plans for the Future

Summary of Plans for the Future and the Trustees' Perspective of the Future Direction of the Charity:

1. Plans to enhance youth services via digital means.
2. A consideration to purchase a building with land in the countryside outside London to convert to a Monastery and a spiritual retreat Centre for the public.
3. To recruit one more priest and/or religious worker to support the congregations outside London.
4. Plan and assist the clergy to establish more parishes UK wide.
5. To form Scout groups in other parishes.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Notwithstanding the explicit requirement in the extant statutory regulations, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the SORP 2005, in view of the fact that the SORP 2005 has been withdrawn, the Trustees determined to interpret this responsibility as requiring them to follow current best practice and prepare the accounts according to the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015 (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016).

In particular, the Companies Act 2006 and charity law require the Board of Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to:

- to prepare the accounts in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The law requires that the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for the year.

The Trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the contents of the Trustees' report, and the statutory responsibility of the auditor in relation to the Trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, the report is consistent with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

Details of the Auditor:

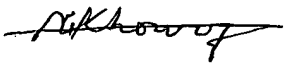
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Fawley Judge & Easton be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The trustees state that so far as each of the trustees at the time this report was approved are aware:

1. There is no relevant audit information (as defined by section 418(3) of the Companies Act 2006) of which the auditors are unaware, and,
2. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Dr A Al-Khoury
Trustee
Dated: 16 February 2022

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Syrian Orthodox Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 May 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 May 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

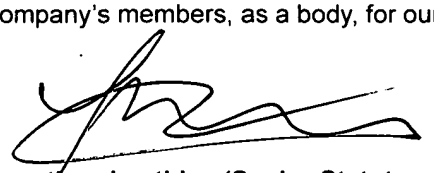
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)
TO THE TRUSTEES OF SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Jonathan Leathley (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Fawley Judge & Easton 16 February 2022

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Auditor
1 Parliament Street
Hull
East Yorkshire
HU1 2AS

Fawley Judge & Easton is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	279,896	-	279,896	164,113	-	164,113
Charitable activities	**4**	1,608	-	1,608	28,040	-	28,040
Investments	**5**	205,549	-	205,549	186,122	-	186,122
Total income		487,053	-	487,053	378,275	-	378,275
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	**6**	275,032	-	275,032	301,943	-	301,943
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		212,021	-	212,021	76,332	-	76,332
Fund balances at 1 June 2020		3,019,250	2,750	3,022,000	2,942,918	2,750	2,945,668
Fund balances at 31 May 2021		3,231,271	2,750	3,234,021	3,019,250	2,750	3,022,000

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MAY 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		4,054,761		4,155,148
Current assets					
Debtors	**11**	199		17,028	
Cash at bank and in hand		138,434		234,059	
		138,633		251,087	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(42,739)		(65,483)	
Net current assets			95,894		185,604
Total assets less current liabilities			4,150,655		4,340,752
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	**14**		(916,634)		(1,318,752)
Net assets			3,234,021		3,022,000
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**15**		2,750		2,750
Unrestricted funds			3,231,271		3,019,250
			3,234,021		3,022,000

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 May 2021, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 16 February 2022

Mrs B Kassir
Trustee

Company Registration No. 04766548

SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**18**		134,229		11,149
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(22,547)		-	
Proceeds on disposal of tangible fixed assets		4,997		-	
Investment income received		205,549		186,122	
Net cash generated from investing activities			187,999		186,122
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		(417,854)		(64,790)	
Net cash used in financing activities			(417,854)		(64,790)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(95,626)		132,481
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			234,059		101,578
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			138,434		234,059

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Syrian Orthodox Church is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 7-11 Armstrong Road, London, W3 7JL.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's [governing document], the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

A liability, and the related expenditure, is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, and when it is more likely than not that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and when the amount of the obligation can be measured or reliably estimated.

Liabilities arising from future funding commitments and constructive obligations, including performance related grants, where the timing or the amount of the future expenditure required to settle the obligation are uncertain, give rise to a provision in the accounts, which is reviewed at the accounting year end. The provision is increased to reflect any increases in liabilities, and is decreased by the utilisation of any provision within the period, and reversed if any provision is no longer required. These movements are charged or credited to the respective funds and activities to which the provision relates.

Direct costs that are specifically related to an activity are allocated to that activity. Shared direct costs and support costs are apportioned between activities.

The basis for apportionment, which is consistently applied, and proportionate to the circumstances, is :-

Staffing - on the basis of time spent in connection with any particular activity.
Premises related costs - on the proportion of floor area occupied by a particular activity.
Non specific support costs - on the basis of the usage of resources, in terms of time taken, capacity used, request made or other measures
Estimation techniques used in apportioning costs - none

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold land and buildings	2% on a straight line basis
Plant and equipment	20% on a straight line basis
Motor vehicles	25% on a straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Taxation

The Trustees consider that the charity satisfies the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively on the specific charitable objects of the charity and for no other purpose.

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.12 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Other	279,896	164,113

3 **Donations and legacies** **(Continued)**

Donations and Legacies	Current year Unrestricted Funds	Current year Restricted Funds	Current year	Prior Year
	2021	2021	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts from individuals				
Small donations individually less than £1000	60,173	-	**60,173**	5,650
Layla Richardson	-	-	**-**	1,000
AS Tamo	2,000	-	**2,000**	-
Basil Shamas	2,000	-	**2,000**	-
D Xavier	-	-	**-**	1,000
Dr R Makadsi & Mrs Y Askar	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
E Mattie-Sulieman	2,000	-	**2,000**	-
Bassam Fatehalla	-	-	**-**	3,000
Hassan Khoory	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
Mr S Sarsam & Mrs LA Sarsam	-	-	**-**	4,500
K Alshatan	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
M Dawood	3,500	-	**3,500**	-
Maryam Saad	1,500	-	**1,500**	-
Dr MA Alfaham & Dr LN Alfaham	1,350	-	**1,350**	-
M Shamoon	-	-	**-**	1,000
N Adbulahad	-	-	**-**	3,000
N Auchi	-	-	**-**	1,500
S Antoon Rassam & N A Rahou	-	-	**-**	3,000
N Hawa	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
Samira Smith	1,000	-	**1,000**	-
Zaghlol Kassab	4,500	-	**4,500**	-
Zaid Aboudi	2,000	-	**2,000**	-
SJH Hawa	119,845	-	**119,845**	-
Aid To The Church in Need	-	-	-	5,000
Church lighting collections and candles		-	**-**	***970***
Church Services	12,260	-	**12,260**	***3,060***
Church collections from plates	19,493	-	**19,493**	29,569
Total private sector revenue grants	235,621	-	**235,621**	***62,249***
Revenue grants & donations from non public bodies				
Dana Pharmacy	-	-	-	-
Total private sector revenue grants	-	-	-	-

4 Charitable activities

	Sales of goods and services 2021 £	Sales of goods and services 2020 £
Sales within charitable activities	1,608	28,040

5 Investments

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds 2020 £
Rental income from investment property	205,543	186,090
Interest receivable	6	32
	205,549	186,122

6 Charitable activities

	Charitable activities as a church 2021 £	Charitable activities as a church 2020 £
Staff costs	41,439	40,420
Depreciation and impairment	117,936	116,683
Marketing and advertising	312	98
Cost of goods sold	865	37,647
Bank charges	-	52
Loan interest	36,609	52,476
Accountancy fees paid other than to the auditor	1,672	1,576
Staff training	-	174
Motor expenses	2,376	4,839
Other charitable expenditure	20,736	2,425
	221,945	256,390
Share of support costs (see note 7)	49,030	38,963
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	4,057	6,590
	275,032	301,943

7 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	Support costs	Governance costs	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rates and water charges	1,793	-	1,793	6,936	-	6,936
Light heat and power	4,341	-	4,341	5,007	-	5,007
Cleaning and waste management	390	-	390	2,952	-	2,952
Premises repairs, renewals and maintenance	35,084	-	35,084	18,444	-	18,444
Property insurance	5,769	-	5,769	4,869	-	4,869
Equipment expenses	1,308	-	1,308	25	-	25
Software licences and expenses	346	-	346	341	-	341
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	389	-	389
Audit fees	-	2,828	2,828	-	2,828	2,828
Legal and professional	-	1,228	1,228	-	3,762	3,762
	49,031	4,056	53,087	38,963	6,590	45,553
Analysed between						
Charitable activities	49,031	4,056	53,087	38,963	6,590	45,553

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £2,828 (2020- £2,750) for audit fees.

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2021 Number	2020 Number
2	2

9 Employees (Continued)

Employment costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	39,294	38,221
Social security costs	-	41
Other pension costs	2,145	2,158
	41,439	40,420

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 June 2020	4,681,453	90,284	19,989	4,791,726
Additions	-	127	22,420	22,547
Disposals	-	-	(19,989)	(19,989)
At 31 May 2021	4,681,453	90,411	22,420	4,794,284
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 June 2020	555,162	66,424	14,992	636,578
Depreciation charged in the year	93,617	15,586	8,734	117,937
Eliminated in respect of disposals	-	-	(14,992)	(14,992)
At 31 May 2021	648,779	82,010	8,734	739,523
Carrying amount				
At 31 May 2021	4,032,674	8,401	13,686	4,054,761
At 31 May 2020	4,126,291	23,860	4,997	4,155,148

11 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	199	13,273
Prepayments and accrued income	-	3,755
	199	17,028

12 Loans and overdrafts

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank loans	957,460	1,375,314
Payable within one year	40,826	56,562
Payable after one year	916,634	1,318,752

The long-term loans are secured by fixed charges over the properties of Syrian Orthodox Church.

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Bank loans	12	40,826	56,562
Other taxation and social security		711	738
Trade creditors		716	4,395
Accruals and deferred income		486	3,788
		42,739	65,483

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Notes	2021	2020
		£	£
Bank loans	12	916,634	1,318,752

15 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Movement in funds		Movement in funds	
	Incoming resources	Balance at 1 June 2020	Incoming resources	Balance at 31 May 2021
	£	£	£	£
	-	2,750	-	2,750

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021	Restricted funds 2021	Total 2021	Unrestricted funds 2020	Restricted funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 May 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	4,054,761	-	4,054,761	4,155,148	-	4,155,148
Current assets/ (liabilities)	93,144	2,750	95,894	185,604	-	185,604
Long term liabilities	(916,634)	-	(916,634)	(1,318,752)	-	(1,318,752)
	3,231,271	2,750	3,234,021	3,022,000	-	3,022,000

17 Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties

During the year the charity entered into the following transactions with related parties:

There was a loan from Mr A Al-Khoury (£10,000) and Mrs B Kassir (£5,000) both of whom are trustees to Syrian Orthdox Cchurch during the year under review.

The following amounts were outstanding at the reporting end date:

	Amounts owed to related parties 2021	2020
	£	£
Trustees	15,000	-

18 Cash generated from operations

	2021	2020
	£	£
Surplus for the year	212,021	77,717
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(205,549)	(186,122)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	117,936	116,683
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	16,829	1
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(7,008)	2,870
Cash generated from operations	134,229	11,149

19 Analysis of changes in net (debt)/funds

	At 1 June 2020	Cash flows	At 31 May 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	234,059	(95,625)	138,434
Loans falling due within one year	(56,562)	15,736	(40,826)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(1,318,752)	402,118	(916,634)
	(1,141,255)	322,229	(819,026)