



ST. MARY'S JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH MANCHESTER

(Under the Holy Apostolic See of Antioch & All the East)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

UK Charity Registration No.1126394



ST. MARY'S JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH MANCHESTER

Annual Report 2024-2025

The annual report of the St. Marys' Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church Manchester covers the period from April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2025.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING 2025

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Manchester, was held after the Holy Mass on **Sunday, 1st June 2025**, at St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Moffat Close, Bolton BL2 6UA. The meeting was chaired by the Vicar, **Rev. Fr. Lilu Varghese**.

During the meeting, the **Annual Report for 2024–2025** was presented by the Secretary, **Mr. K. J. Kuriakose**, and was approved unanimously. The **Statement of Income and Expenditure**, along with the **Audit Report** for the financial year 2024–2025, was presented by the Church Treasurer, **Mr. Eldho Peringattel**, and was also approved by the General Body.

During this financial year, the Church Managing Committee met **19 times** to discuss and take various decisions required for the administration of the Church. In addition, **three General Body meetings** were convened during this period. We thank all committee members for their valuable support.

At the Annual General Body Meeting held on **26th May 2024**, **Mr. Kuriakose Kochuparambil Joseph** was selected as Secretary, and **Mr. Kernal Eapen** was chosen as Vice President for another one-year term. We sincerely thank **Mr. Jacob Koshy** and **Mr. Reji Thomas** for their dedicated service as Vice President and Secretary until that date.

We warmly welcomed our new Vicar, **Rev. Fr. Lilu Pulikkunnel Varghese**, and Assistant Vicar, **Fr. Sanu Mathew**, on **1st January 2025**, appointed by the Bull from our Patriarchal Vicar, **His Grace Issac Mor Osthathos Metropolitan**. We express our heartfelt gratitude to **Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Thandayath** for leading the Church for nearly a decade as Vicar. Under his leadership, our Church made substantial progress, and the St. Mary's JSOC family wishes him every success and prayers

for his next assignment. A farewell meeting was organised in **January 2025** to honour and thank our beloved Vicar.

During this period, **18 families** were welcomed as new members to our Church, while **three families** relocated abroad and left Manchester.

We are pleased to announce that our long-cherished dream of publishing a **Church Souvenir** was finally realised in printed form this year. Once again, we thank all volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring this project to completion.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Presented below is a list of the selected Board of Trustees and their appointed positions.

Vicar & President	: Rev Fr Lilu Pulikkunnel Varghese
Vice President	: Mr. Kernal Eapen
Secretary	: Mr. Kuriakose Kochuparambil Joseph
Joint Secretary	: Mr. Binu Thankachan
Treasurer	: Mr. Eldo Peringattel Kuriakose
Joint Treasurer	: Mr. Basil Sunny
Councillor	: Mr. Saju Pappachan
Women's Association	: Mrs. Sindhu Saju
Ex Official	: Mr. Bijoy Alias
Committee Members	: Mr. Thomas Paul, Mr. Thomas Chacko, Mr. Jobin George
Auditors	: Mr. Binu Skariah, Mr Basil Varghese

Communication address	: St Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Moffat Close, Bolton BL2 6UA
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Charity number	: 1126394
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Bankers	: HSBC Bank Plc, 203 Wilmslow Road, Rusholme Manchester M14 5BE
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Worship place	: Moffat Close, Bolton BL26UA
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GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH

REGULAR HOLY MASS

Regular Holy Mass and special services on feast days were celebrated every Sunday. Morning prayers begin at **9:30 a.m.**, followed by the **Holy Qurbana at 10:30 a.m.** Approximately **200 people**, including children, regularly attend these services. The services are open to all, irrespective of parish membership.

ANNUAL CHURCH FEATS AND PARISH DAY:

Our Annual Church Feast was celebrated on **11th and 12th May 2024**. We were blessed by the presence of **His Grace Mor Aprim Mathews** as the main celebrant, along with our Vicar, **Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Thandayath**, and Assistant Vicar, **Rev. Fr. Lilu Pulikkunnel Varghese**. We express our sincere thanks to all who participated in the Holy Qurbana and the celebrations.

The Parish Day was organised on **14th September 2024** at **Salford St. James Hall**. Church members enjoyed a wonderful day filled with games, cultural programmes, and traditional Kerala cuisine. It was a truly memorable event for our parish.

A family tour to the **Lake District** was organised from **5th to 7th April 2024**, with participation from many church members. It was a joyful and enriching experience for all involved.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

The Christmas Carol programme was coordinated by **Mr. Jobin George**, along with **Mr. Thomas Paul** and **Mr. Binu Thankachan**, and was conducted on **14th, 15th, 21st, and 22nd December 2024**. On the evening of **24th December**, Holy Mass and special Christmas worship services were held at St. Mary's JSOC, Bolton.

We thank all families who warmly welcomed the Carol teams into their homes and all those who participated in the celebrations.

Our Church Carol Team also participated in the **MSOC UK Carol Virunnu Competition**, held at **Stoke-on-Trent on 7th December 2024**, and delivered a remarkable performance.

ACTIVITIES OF SPIRITUAL ORGANISATIONS:

Sunday school:

Sunday School classes for **Grades 1–10** were conducted regularly after Holy Mass, as in previous years. **Mr. Kernal Eapen** served as Headmaster until **31st December 2024**, after which **Mr. Aji Ulahannan** assumed the role of Headmaster, with **Mrs. Seematti Basil** as Assistant Headteacher. We sincerely thank Mr. Kernal Eapen for his dedicated service over many years.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) was organised on **1st, 2nd, and 3rd November 2024** and was a grand success. A children's festival (**Balakalolsavam**) was also conducted, and the winners represented our parish at the **North of England Regional Sunday School Festival**, which we had the privilege of hosting at our church. Our Sunday School was crowned **Champions of the North**.

The regional winners participated in the **National Sunday School Kalolsavam** held in **Leeds**, where our Sunday School achieved **Second Runner-Up** position. We thank all parents and teachers for their tireless efforts in preparing the children.

Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam (Woman's Prayer Group):

The Women's Prayer Group meets twice a month under the leadership of **Mrs. Sindhu Saju**. Their activities include prayer, devotional singing, Bible readings, Bible quizzes, chain prayers, presentations, and study classes. The group organised a **Harvest Festival** and raised **£1,549** for charitable purposes.

Youth Association

The **St. Mary's Youth Association** was formed this year to actively involve the youth of our parish. **Mr. Ajeesh Cherian** serves as Secretary, **Mr. Vineeth Varkey** as Treasurer, and **Mrs. Babitha Eldhose** as Joint Secretary.

Student Movement

Our Church has an active Student Movement comprising high school and university students. **Ms. Livia Lijo** serves as Secretary, and **Mr. Samual Saju** as Treasurer. The group raised **£489** for charity during the Annual Feast.

Choir Team and Susrushaka team

We express our sincere gratitude to our dedicated Choir Team, comprising both junior and adult members. Their committed service continues to enhance the spiritual, musical, and prayerful experience of the Holy Qurbana and other Church services.

IN LOVING MEMEORY OF BEATITUDE ABOON MOR BASELIOS THOMAS I
CATHOLICOS

On **31st October 2024**, our Catholicos, **His Beatitude Mor Baselius Thomas I**, a true servant of God and a tireless defender of our Church in Malankara, was called to eternal rest. His life was a beacon of faith, courage, and dedication. Often referred as 'Malankarayude Yakkob Burddane', His Beatitude was not only a leader but a shepherd whose unwavering loyalty to the Holy Church and the Throne of Antioch inspired countless faithful.

St. Mary's JSOC, with heavy hearts and deep gratitude, conducted memorial services during this period and bid a prayerful farewell.

HIS BEATITUDE ABOON MOR BASELIOS JOSEPH I

His Grace Mor Gregorios Joseph was consecrated as New Catholicos (**HIS BEATITUDE ABOON MOR BASELIOS JOSEPH I**) on **25th March 2025** by **His Holiness Ignatius Aphrem II**, at **St. Mary's Cathedral of Aatchane, Lebanon**. This historic event marks a new chapter in the Church's rich

heritage, reaffirming its enduring traditions. St. Mary's JSOC wishes His Beatitude a long, blessed reign and continues to uphold him in prayer.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the financial year **2024–2025**, the total income from various sources amounted to **£153,884.60**, including balances carried forward from previous years. Total expenditure was **£139,551.35**.

- **Bank balance:** £22,043.57
- **Cash in hand:** £2,604.69
- **Outstanding loan balance:** £64,250

CONCLUSION

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to **His Grace Issac Mor Osthathios, Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Thandayath, Rev. Fr. Lilu Varghese**, who acted as Vicars, **Fr. Sanu Mathew** as assistant Vicar, **Fr. Eldhose Rajan, Fr. Shijo Kurian** as our home priests, all visiting priests, members of the Board of Trustees, parish members, and well-wishers for their unwavering support.

We sincerely hope for your continued prayers and cooperation in the years to come.

On behalf of 2024-2025 Board of Trustees.

K J Kuriakose

Secretary



Charity Name ST MARY'S JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH MANCHESTER	No (if any) 1126394
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2024	To	Period end date 31/03/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
SUBSCRIPTIONS	27,525	-	-	27,525	25,980
OFFERINGS	15,913	-	-	15,913	26,095
DONATIONS	20,745	-	-	20,745	66,685
BUILDING FUND	11,975	-	-	11,975	12,885
GIFT AID	52,199	-	-	52,199	13,790
DONATIONS OTHER	-	-	-	-	550
PARISHDAY	2,620	-	-	2,620	2,430
PASSION WEEK	150	-	-	150	3,075
PERUNNAL SHARE	4,311	-	-	4,311	920
SPECIAL QURBANO	2,610	-	-	2,610	2,320
CHRISTMAS DONATIONS	4,649	-	-	4,649	4,250
BAPTISM	25	-	-	25	25
PAYPAL/EASY FUND	19	-	-	19	146
VANITHA SAMAJAM	1,549	-	-	1,549	-
SOUVENIR	-	-	-	-	16,500
HOUSE WARMING	50	-	-	50	175
SUNDAY SCHOOL	1,075	-	-	1,075	1,015
STUDENT MOVEMENT	489	-	-	489	-
DIOCESE BUI.FUND	2,600	-	-	2,600	-
ADVANCE RTN.	2,070	-	-	2,070	-
LOAN RECEIVED	2,000	-	-	2,000	133,550
FAMILY CONFERENCE	1,310	-	-	1,310	1,290
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	153,884	-	-	153,884	311,680
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	153,884	-	-	153,884	311,680
A3 Payments					
FOOD EXPENCE	30,607	-	-	30,607	27,774
ALLOWANCE TO PRIEST	13,901	-	-	13,901	16,051
RENT	644	-	-	644	1,525
KITCHEN WORK	613	-	-	613	-
WEB RENUEL	20	-	-	20	-
DONATION PAID	751	-	-	751	-
INSURANCE	978	-	-	978	-
CHRISTMAS EXPENSE	2,558	-	-	2,558	971
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	3,593	-	-	3,593	354
CHARITY DONATION	450	-	-	450	-
MSOC COUNCIL	4,785	-	-	4,785	3,626
TRAVELLING EXPENSE	356	-	-	356	50
PRINTING AND STATIONARY	603	-	-	603	35
NEW CHURCH WORKS	-	-	-	-	135,827
ELECTRICITY	5,425	-	-	5,425	7,709
BANK CHARGES	94	-	-	94	97
SOUVENIR	3,700	-	-	3,700	1,673
PASSION WEEK EXPENSES	120	-	-	120	140
LOAN REPAID	50,000	-	-	50,000	21,300
PROFESSIONAL FEES	700	-	-	700	-
SUNDAY SCHOOL EXPENSES	3,080	-	-	3,080	2,362
CHURCH ITEMS	3,701	-	-	3,701	24,007
RETREAT EXPENSES	-	-	-	-	6,387
CHURCH CLEANING	3,293	-	-	3,293	1,520
CHURCH CONSECRATION	-	-	-	-	72,725
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	9,579	-	-	9,579	19,009
Sub total	139,551	-	-	139,551	343,143
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	139,551	-	-	139,551	343,143
Net of receipts/(payments)	14,333	1	-	14,333	31,463

A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,315	-	10,315	41,778
Cash funds this year end	24,648	-	24,648	10,315

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	HSBC CURRENT AC	22,043	-	-
	HSBC SAVINGS AC	-	-	-
	CASH BALANCE	2,605	-	-
	Total cash funds	24,648	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Ashen Paul	Ashen Paul	21/01/2026



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

ST MARY'S JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH MANCHESTER

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1126394

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2025

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

26 January 2026

Name:

Seejo Tony

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

AFA

Address:

58 Highbury Grove

Portsmouth PO6 2RS

Section B**Disclosure**

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

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