

ST.THOMAS (JACOBITE) SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND, UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1159301

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2014-11-20

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 77 Spitalfield Lane
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 6SG

Phone 07809826082

Email stthomasjsoc@yahoo.co.uk

Website www.jsocportsmouth.co.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE RELIGION OF THE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN HAMPSHIRE, WEST SUSSEX AND ADJOINING AREAS OF THE SOUTH PART OF ENGLAND, IN PARTICULAR:TO MAINTAIN THE FAITH, TRADITIONS AND DOCTRINES OF THE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND TO PERFORM ALL THE RELIGIOUS RITES AND SACRAMENTS TO ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANCIENT SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH TRADITIONS.TO CONDUCT THE HOLY EUCHARIST, SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES ACCORDING TO THE FAITH TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS AND RITES OF THE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AS UNDER HIS HOLINESS THE PATRIARCH OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST.TO PROVIDE HOLY SACRAMENTS TO ALL ITS MEMBERS AND EVANGELISATIONTO ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE INSTITUTION FOR THE WELFARE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AND FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY.TO ORGANISE AND CONDUCT SUNDAY SCHOOL, PRAYER MEETINGS, RETREAT, YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS AND VANITHA SAMAJAM (WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION) ETC.TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHURCHTO ORGANISE ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SPREADING OF THE UNIVERSAL (JACOBITE) SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH.TO BUY, RENT, LEASE OR ACQUIRE PROPERTY AND MANAGE IT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHURCH.TO RELIEVE POVERTY AND SICKNESS IN HAMPSHIRE, WEST SUSSEX AND SOUTH PART OF ENGLAND AND INDIA.

Activities: Activities related to the advancement of Christian faith, especially the traditions and doctrines of Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in Hampshire, West Sussex and adjoining area of the south part of England. Charitable activities like relieving poverty and sickness for the benefit of the public.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Brighton And Hove
- Hampshire
- Portsmouth City
- Southampton City
- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£30,411	£17,078	-	-
2024-03-31	£27,535	£18,419	-	-
2023-03-31	£23,022	£15,156	-	-
2022-03-31	£17,481	£7,028	-	-
2021-03-31	£13,336	£10,099	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Basil Ulahannan		2025-05-24
Ebin Thazhuthedi Varghese MSW		2021-11-27
JOY PALIKODATH JACOB		2013-04-13
James Thomas Thadathil		2020-06-27
Madhu Mamman		2021-11-27
Poly Varghese		2023-06-10
RINISH KURIAN		2013-04-13
Reji Puthussery Poulouse		2025-05-24
Rev Philip Thomas		2025-01-11
SUNNY ABRAHAM ALACKAL		2025-05-24
Zeena Jose		2025-05-24

ST.THOMAS (JACOBITE) SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND, UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1159301

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date					
From	01	04	2024	To	31	03	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **St.Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church, Portsmouth, England. UK**

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) **1159301**

Charity's principal address **77 Spitalfield Lane**

Chichester

West Sussex

Postcode PO19 6SG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fr. Philip Thomas	President		General Body
2	Mr. James Thadathil	Vice President		General Body
3	Mr. Poly Varghese	Secretary		General Body
4	Mr. Joy P. Jacob	Treasurer		General Body
5	Mr. Ebin Varghese			General Body
6	Mr. Madhu Mamman			General Body
7	Mr. Reji P. Poullose			General Body
8	Mr. Basil Ulahannan			General Body
9	Mr. Sunny A. Alackal			General Body
10	Mrs. Zeena Jose			General Body
11	Mr. Rinish Kurian	Internal Auditor		General Body
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	The Church's Bylaw/Governing document is the constitution that has been submitted to the Charity Commission
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Managing Committee members/ Board of Trustees are elected by the Annual General Body meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Our Church St. Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church, Portsmouth is an integral part of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church led by the Patriarch, the Supreme Head of Antioch and all the East, currently, His Holiness Mor Ignatius Aphrem II reigning the Apostolic throne of St. Peter. The Church also owes its allegiance to His Beatitude Dr. Joseph Mor Gregorios, the catholicos of the east (Malankara/India) and his successors, the regional head of believers. The Patriarchal Vicar (metropolitan in charge of UK) in consultation with the Patriarch governs and guides our church in the matters of faith.

The vicar/priest of our church is appointed by the Patriarch through the Patriarchal Vicar. Vicar is formally elected as the president by the General Body. The Annual General Body/meeting elects all the office bearers including secretary, treasurer, internal auditors and other managing committee members/board of trustees. All administrative and financial affairs of the church are managed and administered by the managing committee/board of trustees. The maximum number of trustees will be 10 excluding one or two internal auditors. The tenure of the elected managing committee is 2 years.

The managing committee/board of trustees meets regularly at least once in two months to deliberate and make decisions regarding the day to day affairs of the church including the approval of new membership applications and financial matters. A half-yearly general body meeting is also convened regularly.

We have set out strict rules for the spending and to regulate the use of funds. All Income and expenditure is budgeted at the beginning of the financial year. The accounts of the church are internally audited by the internal auditors, who are elected by the annual general body meeting.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The most important object of our organisation is to advance the religion of Christian faith especially that of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in Hampshire, West Sussex and the adjoining areas of south part of England.

To maintain the faith, traditions and doctrines of Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church and to perform all the religious rites, Holy Eucharist, and the Holy Sacraments to all faithful members and the regular worship services.

Our objects include raising funds to organise activities for community development, religious and charitable activities for the welfare of the church members and also for the poor and needy in a wider society.

To organise and conduct Sunday school, prayer meetings, family camps & retreats and to promote youth association and women's association/Vanitha samajam.

To buy, rent, lease or acquire property and manage it for the church.

To alleviate poverty and sickness.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our worship services include gatherings of all believers from Hampshire, West Sussex and the southern parts of England. In these gatherings we pray to God, learn Bible, the faith and traditions of our Church through the informative sermons of our priests and lay leaders. We teach our forthcoming generations about these through Sunday School lessons, Youth and Women's Association meetings as well as camps and retreat.

In these worship services the most important sacraments of Holy Eucharist, baptism and wedding are administered as well. Our worship services finish with agape meals offered by families or funded sometimes by church to foster the aspect of sharing between us.

The parish members in difficult situations such as sickness, bereavement, depravity, poverty and family problems etc. are given special care through the house visits, counselling and prayers by our priests and trustees & volunteers. Sacraments such as anointing of the sick are done on such occasions.

The poor and needy in the society (of any religion or community), especially in India are given financial support. The collections from Christmas Carol services are reserved for this purpose, in addition to the voluntary contributions or donations to the charity fund. The applications come through the parish members from the needy in their home towns or villages in India and decisions over them are taken in the regular committee/trustee meetings.

At present the Holy Eucharist is celebrated every 2nd and 4th Saturday of all the months, in addition to the special services of Christmas, Passion Week and Parish day celebrations. The Sunday School lessons, Youth Associations and Vanitha Samajam (Women's Association) meetings are regularly organised after the worship services. Prayer meetings are conducted every Sunday and retreats are organised occasionally.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We give donations to applicants recommended by parish members, only after proper verification of the genuineness and their existing financial status. The applications are placed at the committee/board of trustees meeting and decisions are made after detailed discussions. The amount of payment is decided at the committee meetings. The volunteers sometimes raise funds by accepting small donations or give donations to the church for charity purposes. They also bring forward charity applications from eligible families they know personally who are facing financial difficulties due to terminal illness and general poverty or childrens' educational needs.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Annual General Body meeting was conducted in the month of May, presided by the Vicar/President, Fr. Philip Thomas. The meeting had an appraisal of all activities of the church, including the progress of Sunday school, youth association and women's association (Vanitha Samajam).

We have successfully welcomed many new families as our members and volunteers during the year 2024-25. The holy communion services were conducted regularly on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of all the months, currently at St. Nicholas Church Hall, Brook Lane, Bosham-PO18 8JZ.

Parish Day and remembrance of St. Thomas: Parish Day celebrations were organised on 12th and 13th of July 2024. The holy communion services were led by invited priests Fr. Akhil Joy and Fr. Eldhose Venkadath along with Vicar Fr. Peter Kuriakose and on Parish Day. The Holy Mass was followed by the holy communion and special devotional message, prayers with incense, procession, benediction & love feasts. The Sunday school, Youth as well as Women's association (Vanitha Samajam) annual day celebrations were successfully conducted in the evening of 13th July 2024 at Lavant Memorial Hall, Chichester.

Family Camp & Retreat: We have conducted a family camp at Queen Elizabeth County park, Petersfield in Sept. 2024 and most of the families participated in it. Many families actively participated in the two days Family conference and retreat conducted under the leadership of MSOC diocese in Sept. 2024 at Leicester.

Christmas Programme: During Christmas celebrations, Carol visited Parishioners' homes on 7th and 8th December 2024. On 24th evening Christmas Mass and the Holy Eucharist were conducted by Vicar, Rev. Fr. Philip Thomas. He gave a Christmas message to parishioners followed by carol singing competitions by the Sunday School Students and youth Association members.

Sunday school: We conducted Sunday School classes regularly after the Holy Mass. The Sunday school takes initiative to educate children with spiritual guidance and moral aspects of life in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the faith & traditions of the Syriac Orthodox Church. The students are encouraged to attend church regularly and to study the scriptures. Annual arts and cultural competitions were conducted and prizes were distributed to winners as usual.

Youth Association: The Youth Association members had meetings after every Holy Mass and had good discussions about issues involving moral ethics leading to personal spiritual development which could help them to be good future citizens.

Vanitha Samajam (Women's Association): The Women's Association is a prayer group of women and they meet after the Holy Mass. It also has a secretary as a leader. Their activities include prayer, singing devotional songs, Bible readings, conducting Bible quiz, chain prayer, Bible presentations and messages.

We have made a charity donation of total £1000 this year to four people who were financially poor and sick.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The church reserves are held to fund its current and future activities. We are raising a building fund also in Bank Savings Account with an aim of building or buying an own Church (or for a long term leasing of a Church or a property which can be used for Church/worship services)

Details of any funds materially in deficit

There are no funds in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal source of fund is the monthly subscription from members and voluntary donations and contributions on special occasions like Passion Week, Christmas and Parish Day.

The church is run by volunteers who are not entitled to any remuneration, except the Vicar's/priests' allowances for pastoral services.

The church does not have sufficient funds currently to invest in long term investments. The available funds are held as cash in mainstream Bank, as Savings Account (Building Fund). We keep this fund in savings account with an aim of building or buying a Church of our own or on leasehold basis.

Section F

Other optional information


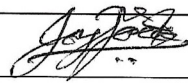
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Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Poly Varghese	Joy Palikodath Jacob
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	Treasurer

Date 04/07/2025



Charity Name St.Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church,Portsmouth,England,UK	No (if any) 1159301
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

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					
Subscription	12,085	-	-	12,085	9,200
Offertory	3,571	-	-	3,571	3,652
Donations & Contributions	5,721	-	-	5,721	7,691
Holy Mass Donation & Special Sacramental Donations	1,275	-	-	1,275	850
Family Camp Donation	655	-	-	655	314
Building Fund	-	-	-	-	550
Interest	-	1,440	-	1,440	1,015
Gift Aid	5,664	-	-	5,664	4,263
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	28,971	1,440	-	30,411	27,535
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	28,971	1,440	-	30,411	27,535
A3 Payments					
Printing, Stationery & Postage	54	-	-	54	116
Vicar's/Priests' Allowances	4,950	-	-	4,950	4,800
M.S.O.C.(Diocese) & Rent	2,840	-	-	2,840	3,090
Passion Week, Christmas & Parish Day Expenses	3,873	-	-	3,873	7,262
Professional Expenses, (Accounting/Audit Fees)	300	-	-	300	-
Charity Payments	1,000	-	-	1,000	400
Family Camp & Retreat, Sunday School & Youth Association	2,078	-	-	2,078	2,221
Food & Refresments, Travelling Exp. & Bank charges	1,312	-	-	1,312	235
Misc. Expenses, Rishheesa, Gifts etc.	671	-	-	671	295
Sub total	17,078	-	-	17,078	18,419
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	17,078	-	-	17,078	18,419
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,893	1,440	-	13,333	9,116
A5 Transfers between funds	20,000	20,000	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,813	63,009	-	77,822	68,706
Cash funds this year end	6,706	84,449	-	91,155	77,822

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	Cash in Hand	103	-	-
	Bank Current Account	6,603	-	-
	Bank Savings Account (Building Fund)	-	84,449	-
	Total cash funds	6,706	84,449	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK OK OK

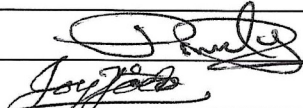
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

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

Categories	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
	Poly Varghese	04-07-25
	Joy Palikodath Jacob	04-07-25



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of Charity Name
St.Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church,Portsmouth,England,UK

On accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 **Charity no (if any)** 1159301

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:** 29/08/2025

Name: Seejo Tony

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

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.

ST.THOMAS (JACOBITE) SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND, UK

England & Wales - Charity number 1159301

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date				
From	01	04	2023	To	31	03	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **St.Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church, Portsmouth, England. UK**

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1159301

Charity's principal address 32 Spitalfield Lane
 Chichester
 West Sussex
Postcode PO19 6SQ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fr. Petar Kuriakose	President		General Body
2	Mr. James Thadathil	Vice President		General Body
3	Mr. Poly Varghese	Secretary		General Body
4	Mr. Joy P. Jacob	Treasurer		General Body
5	Mr. Ebin Varghese			General Body
6	Mr. Gibin Varghese			General Body
7	Mr. Diji Markose			General Body
8	Mr. Renjit John			General Body
9	Mr. Madhu Mamman			General Body
10	Mr. Biju Varghese			General Body
11	Mr. Rinish Kurian	Internal Auditor		General Body
12	Mr. Arun Jose	Internal Auditor		General Body
13				
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity’s trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	The Church’s Bylaw/Governing document is the constitution that has been submitted to the Charity Commission
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Unincorporated charity
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Managing Committee members/ Board of Trustees are elected by the Annual General Body meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; • the charity’s organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; • relationship with any related parties; • trustees’ consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>Our Church St.Thomas Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Portsmouth is an integral part of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church led by the Patriarch, the Supreme Head of Antioch and all the East, currently, His Holiness Mor Ignatius Aphrem II reigning the Apostolic throne of St.Peter. The Church also owes its allegiance to His Beatitude Mor Baselios Thomas I, the catholicos of the east (Malankara/India) and his successors, the regional head of believers. The Patriarchal Vicar (metropolitan in charge of UK) in consultation with the Patriarch governs and guides our church in the matters of faith.</p> <p>The vicar/priest of our church is appointed by the Patriarch through the Patriarchal Vicar. Vicar is formally elected as the president by the General Body. The Annual General Body/meeting elects all the office bearers including secretary, treasurer, internal auditors and other managing committee members/board of trustees. All administrative and financial affairs of the church are managed and administered by the managing committee/board of trustees. The maximum number of trustees will be 10 excluding one or two internal auditors. The tenure of the elected managing committee is 2 years.</p> <p>The managing committee meets regularly at least once in two months to deliberate and make decisions regarding the day to day affairs of the church including the approval of new membership applications and financial matters. A half-yearly general body meeting is also convened regularly.</p> <p>Strict rules are set out by the trustees for the spending and to regulate the use of funds. All Income and expenditure is budgeted at the beginning of the financial year. The accounts of the church are internally audited by the internal auditors, who are elected by the annual general body meeting.</p>
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Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The most important object of our organisation is to advance the religion of Christian faith especially that of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in Hampshire, West Sussex and the adjoining areas of south part of England.

To maintain the faith, traditions and doctrines of Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church and to perform all the religious rites, Holy Eucharist, and the Holy Sacraments to all its members and the regular worship services.

Our objects include raising funds to organise activities for community development, religious and charitable activities for the welfare of the church members and also for the poor and needy in a wider society.

To organise and conduct Sunday school, prayer meetings, family camps & retreats and to promote youth association and women's association/Vanitha samajam.

To buy, rent, lease or acquire property and manage it for the church.

To relieve poverty and sickness.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our worship services include gatherings of all believers from Hampshire, West Sussex and the southern parts of England. In these gatherings we pray to God, learn Bible, the faith and traditions of our Church through the informative sermons of our priests and lay leaders. We teach our forthcoming generations about these through Sunday School lessons, youth and women's association meetings.

In these worship services the most important sacraments of Holy Eucharist, baptism and wedding are administered as well. Our worship services finish with agape meals offered by families to foster the aspect of sharing between us.

The parish members in difficult situations such as sickness, bereavement, depravity, poverty and family problems etc. are given special care through the house visits, counselling and prayers by our priests and trustees. Sacraments such as anointing of the sick are done on such occasions.

The poor and needy in the society (of any religion or community), especially in India are given financial support. The collections from Christmas Carol services are reserved for this purpose, in addition to the voluntary contributions or donations to the charity fund. The applications come through the parish members from the needy in their home towns in India and decisions over them are taken in the regular committee/trustee meetings.

At present the Holy Eucharist is celebrated every 2nd and 4th Saturday of all the months, in addition to the special services of Christmas, Passion Week and Parish day celebrations. The Sunday School lessons, Youth Associations and Vanitha Samajam (Women's Association) meetings are regularly organised after the worship services. Prayer meetings are conducted every Sunday and retreats are organised occasionally.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

We give donations to applicants recommended by parish members, only after proper verification of the genuineness and their existing financial status. The applications are placed at the committee/board of trustees meeting and decisions are made after detailed discussions. The amount of payment is decided at the committee meetings. The volunteers sometimes give donations to the church for charity purposes, in certain special cases.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The Annual General Body meeting was conducted in the month of May, presided by the Vicar/President, Fr. Petar Kuriakose. The meeting had an appraisal of all activities of the church, including the progress of Sunday school, youth association and women's association (Vanitha Samajam).

Our church has successfully welcomed many new families as our members and volunteers during the last year. The holy communion services were conducted regularly on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of all the months.

Passion Week Services: Two holy week services were held successfully in this financial year, first one during the Second week of April 2023 with Maundy Thursday services in the night of 5th April 2023 followed by Good Friday and then Easter services in the night of 8th April 2023. The Second holy week was conducted during the fifth week of March 2024 with Maundy Thursday in the night of 27th March 2024 followed by Good Friday and Easter services in the night of 30th March 2024. The Holy weeks were a great success and hundreds of believers attended the services including church members and people from other Christian denominations.

Parish Day and remembrance of St. Thomas: Parish Day celebrations were on 7th and 8th July 2023 led by the chief guest, Bishop, Issac Mor Osthathos (Patriarchal Vicar) who was leading the holy communion services on Parish Day. The Holy Mass was followed by the holy communion and special devotional message, Prayers with incense, procession, benediction & love feasts. The Sunday school, Youth and women's association (Vanith Samajam) annual day celebrations were successfully conducted in the evening of 8th July 2023.

Christmas Programme: During Christmas celebrations, Carol visited Parishioners' homes on 9th and 16th December 2023. On 24th evening Christmas Mass and the Holy Eucharist were conducted by Vicar, Rev. Fr. Petar Kuriakose. He gave a Christmas message to parishioners followed by carol singing competitions by the Sunday School Students and youth.

Sunday school: We conducted Sunday School classes regularly after the Holy Mass. The Sunday school takes initiative to educate children with spiritual guidance and moral aspects of life in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the faith & traditions of the Syriac Orthodox Church. The students are encouraged to attend church regularly and to study the scriptures. Annual arts and cultural competitions were conducted and prizes were distributed to winners.

Youth Association: The Youth Movement members meet after the Holy Mass and have good discussions about issues involving moral ethics leading to personal spiritual development which helps them to be good future citizens.

Vanitha Samajam (Women's Association): The Women's Association is a prayer group of women and they meet after the Holy Mass. It also has a secretary as a leader. Their activities include prayer, singing devotional songs, Bible readings, conducting Bible quiz, chain prayer, Bible presentations and classes.

We have made a charity donation of £ 400 to a cancer patient this year.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The church reserves are held to fund its current and future activities. We are raising a building fund also in Bank Savings Account with an aim of building or buying an own Church (or for a long term leasing of a Church or a property which can be used for Church/worship services)

Details of any funds materially in deficit

There are no funds in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Our principal source of fund is the monthly subscription from members and voluntary donations and contributions on special occasions like Passion Week, Christmas and Parish Day.

The church is run by volunteers who are not entitled to any remuneration, except the Vicar's/priests' allowances for pastoral services.


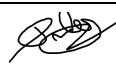
The church does not have sufficient funds currently to invest in long term investments. The available funds are held as cash in mainstream Bank, as Savings Account (Building Fund). We keep this fund in savings account with an aim of building or buying a Church of our own or on leasehold basis.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

	Signature(s)		
	Full name(s)	JOY PALIKODATH JACOB	Poly Varghese
	Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	Secretary

Date 18/11/2024



Charity Name St.Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church,Portsmouth,England,UK	No (if any) 1159301
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2023	To	Period end date 31/03/2024
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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					
Subscription	9,200	-	-	9,200	7,730
Offertory	3,652	-	-	3,652	2,949
Donations & Contributions	7,691	-	-	7,691	4,129
Holy Mass Donation & Special Sacramental Donations	850	-	-	850	725
Family Camp Donation	314	-	-	314	-
Building Fund	-	550	-	550	1,200
Interest	-	1,015	-	1,015	235
Gift Aid	4,263	-	-	4,263	6,055
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	25,970	1,565	-	27,535	23,023
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	25,970	1,565	-	27,535	23,023
A3 Payments					
Printing, Stationery & Postage	116	-	-	116	33
Church Properties	-	-	-	-	1,440
Vicar's/Priests' Allowances	4,800	-	-	4,800	4,100
M.S.O.C.Contribution & Rent	3,090	-	-	3,090	2,060
Passion Week, Christmas & Parish Day Expenses	7,262	-	-	7,262	3,854
Charity Payments	400	-	-	400	500
Family Camp & Retreat,Sunday School & Youth Association	2,221	-	-	2,221	1,286
Church Consumables, Food, Travelling Exp.& Bank charges	235	-	-	235	701
Misc. Expenses, Gifts etc.	295	-	-	295	1,182
Sub total	18,419	-	-	18,419	15,156
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	18,419	-	-	18,419	15,156
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,551	1,565	-	9,116	7,867
A5 Transfers between funds	-	9,950	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	17,212	51,494	-	68,706	60,840
Cash funds this year end	14,813	63,009	-	77,822	68,706

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	Cash in Hand	540	-	-
	Bank Current Account	14,273		-
	Bank Savings Account (Building Fund)		63,009	-
	Total cash funds	14,813	63,009	-

(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
	JOY PALIKODATH JACOB	18/11/2024
	Poly Varghese	20/11/2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
St.Thomas (Jacobite) Syrian Orthodox Church,Portsmouth,England,UK

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1159301

Set out on pages

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

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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 November 2024

Name: Seejo Tony

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

AAT

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.