



Trustees' Annual Report for the period								
From		Period start date			To		Period end date	
		01	04	2023			31	03

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				
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)

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)

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 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.

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 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.

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.

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

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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 (Vanitha 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.


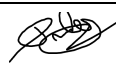
The church does not have sufficient funds currently to invest in long term investments. The available funds are held as cash in mainstream Bank, as Savings Account (Building Fund). We keep this fund in savings account with an aim of building or buying a Church of our own or on leasehold basis.

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

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2023		31/03/2024

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
Offerory	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

Poly Varghese

18/11/2024

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.