



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

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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. 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.


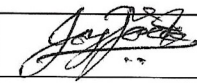
The church is run by volunteers who are not entitled to any remuneration, except the Vicar's/priests' allowances for pastoral services.

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****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	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
	01/04/2024		31/03/2025

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, Risheesa, 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	-	-	-
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))

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	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			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

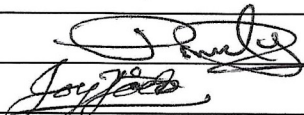
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval



Poly Varghese
Joy Palikodath Jacob

04-07-25
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.