

St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church

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

Northampton



Trustee's Report and Accounts

1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025



Administrative Information

Vicar & President

Rev. Fr. Alex Paul

Secretary

Mr. Anil Mathew

Treasurer

Mr. Saibu Thomas

Auditors

Mr. Mathews Mattamana and Mr. Kevil Itty

Communication Address

17, Battle Close

Northampton NN4 6RP

United Kingdom



Email:

stmarys.jsoc.northampton2015@gmail.com



Website:

www.jacobitechurchnorthampton.com

Charity Registration Number

1162484

Our Bank

HSBC

22 Abington Street

Northampton NN1 2AN

Worship Place

Victoria Road Congregational Church

Victoria Road

Northampton NN1 5ED

St Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, Northampton

Annual Report and Accounts

For the period: 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

Message from the Secretary

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and accounts for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Let us first thank God Almighty for guiding us throughout the year and glorify His Holy Name. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I, the Secretary, am honoured to present the Annual Report of our Parish for the year 2024–25, highlighting our spiritual, community, and charitable activities, as well as the progress and achievements of our Church.

Introduction

Structure and Objectives

St Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, Northampton, is part of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church and a diaspora community of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Christian Church, India. The supreme head of the Church is His Holiness Moran Mar Ignatius Aphrem II, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, with His Beatitude Aboon Mor Baselios Joseph, Catholicos of the East, as the head of the Church in India. The Patriarch has appointed His Grace Mor Osthathios Issac as the Metropolitan (Patriarchal Vicar) overseeing the Parish.

The Church's objectives are to maintain the faith, traditions, and doctrines of the Jacobite Syrian Christian Church; perform religious rites and sacraments for its members in accordance with the ancient Syriac Orthodox traditions; and support the poor and needy.

Governance and Management

As a registered charity, the Church is governed in accordance with relevant laws. It is managed by a Board of Trustees elected by the Church General Meeting. The Trustees are responsible for the administrative and financial affairs of the Church and meet regularly to monitor activities and make decisions.

Parish and Membership

The Parish register was diligently maintained throughout the year. As of this report, St. Mary's Church, Northampton, comprises **40 families**, reflecting the dedication and active participation of our parish community in spiritual and Church activities.

The Vicar:

Rev. Fr. Alex Paul serves as our Vicar. His spiritual leadership has had a profound influence on our families and has strengthened the operation of spiritual organizations such as Sunday School, Women's Association, Youth association and Student Movements.

General Body Meetings:

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on **24th May 2025** to present and approve the Annual Report and Accounts for 2024–25. The accounts were approved along with the audit report.

Board of Trustees (Managing Committee) 2024–25

Name	Position	Status
Rev. Fr. Alex Paul	Vicar & President	Present
Rev. Fr. Jebin Ipe	Ex Vicar	Transferred
Mr. Anil Mathew	Secretary	Elected
Mr. Saibu Thomas	Treasurer	Elected
Mr. Johnson Pockayil	Committee Member	Elected
Mr. Libin Mathew	Committee Member	Elected
Mr. Bijoy Thomas	Committee Member	Elected
Mr. Eldhose Varghese	Committee Member	Elected
Mr. Thomas Varkey	Committee Member	Elected
Mr. Velson Thomas	Committee Member	Elected
Mrs. Shaiba Abraham	Committee Member	Elected
Mr. Anil Varghese	Committee Member	Elected

Auditors:

Mr. Mathews Mattamana and Mr. Kevil Itty

Activities

Holy Services

Regular Holy Qurbana services were held on the second and fourth Saturday mornings of each month. Through these divine services, our parish community was able to worship together and grow spiritually in faith and fellowship.

We express our heartfelt thanks to all the priests who celebrated the Holy Mass, the altar servers who assisted faithfully, and the choir members who enhanced the beauty of our worship through their melodious singing.

A special word of gratitude goes to the Trustees of Victoria Road Congregational Church, Northampton, for graciously providing their church premises for our services and activities throughout the year.

Parish Day & Annual Feast (St. Mary's Day)

The Annual Day celebrations of the Church were held on 7th–8th September 2024, bringing together parish members for worship, fellowship, and cultural celebration.

- 7th September 2024 (Friday): The celebrations commenced with flag hosting, followed by evening prayers, Gospel preaching, and Benediction, marking the spiritual beginning of the Parish Day.
- 8th September 2024 (Saturday – Feast Day): The main feast day began with morning Holy Mass, celebrated by Chief Celebrant Fr. Alex Paul, with co-celebrants Rev. Fr. Jebin Ipe and Fr. Sajan Mathew. The Mass was followed by an inspiring sermon, a traditional procession, and engaging cultural activities. Prizes were awarded to Sunday School children who excelled in the summer competitions. The day concluded with Nercha, and a traditional Kerala meal served to all attendees, fostering fellowship and community spirit.

Great Lent and Passion Week

During the year, Great Lent and Passion Week services were observed in March 2024, providing parish members with opportunities for prayer, reflection, and spiritual growth.

As part of the observance, parish home visits were conducted by Fr. Jebin Ipe across Northampton, Kettering, Milton Keynes, and Bedford, strengthening pastoral care and providing spiritual support to families in their homes.

The Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam actively participated in charitable initiatives during this period, organizing a Food Drive. The collected food items were donated to a local charity through the Victoria Road Congregational Church, reflecting the parish's commitment to serving the community in accordance with Christian values of compassion and charity.

Baptism

This year, the Parish was blessed to celebrate the baptism of a young boy and a young girl, conducted by Vicar Rev. Fr. Jebin Ipe and Fr. Alex Paul. It was a joyful and blessed occasion for the families and all parish members who witnessed the ceremonies.

Church Kalolsavam

The Church Kalolsavam was held on 27th April and 11th May 2024, featuring a variety of competitions for Sunday School children. These events provided a valuable opportunity for our young members to showcase their talents in music, arts, elocution, and other creative fields, fostering both spiritual and personal growth.

Winners from the parish-level competitions proudly represented St Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, Northampton, at the National Kalolsavam held in Leeds. Their active participation and commendable performances brought great joy and pride to our parish community.

We express our heartfelt appreciation to the Sunday School teachers, parents, and volunteers for their tireless efforts, guidance, and support in making the event a memorable success.

Harvest and Food Festival

The Harvest and Food Festival was joyfully celebrated on 9th November 2024. The day began with the Holy Mass, followed by the auction of harvest products generously contributed by parish members. The highlight of the event was the wide variety of home-cooked delicacies prepared by the Martha Mariam Women's Association, which were shared and sold to raise funds for charitable causes.

The event beautifully reflected the unity, generosity, and fellowship of our parish community. Heartfelt thanks to all parishioners, volunteers, and the Women's Association members for their dedicated efforts in making this celebration both spiritually and socially enriching.

Carol Virunnu and Christmas Carols

During the blessed Christmas season, our Church Choir actively participated in the MSOC Carol Virunnu held in December 2024, offering beautiful renditions of traditional carols and hymns that reflected the joy and spirit of Christ's birth.

In preparation for Christmas, our parish organised home carol visits across Northampton, Kettering, Bedford, Milton Keynes, Rushden, and Daventry on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of December 2024. The choir and parish members joined together in singing carols, sharing prayers, and spreading the message of peace and goodwill.

We extend our sincere thanks to all choir members, families who hosted the carols, and everyone who participated and supported these joyous events

Family Conference

The MSOC UK Family Conference was held in Leicester on 28th and 29th September 2024, and members of St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, Northampton actively participated in this event. The conference provided an opportunity for spiritual renewal, fellowship, and faith formation, bringing together families from across the UK.

The sessions focused on strengthening family relationships, deepening faith, and fostering community unity through prayers, interactive discussions, and spiritual guidance. Participation in this conference allowed our parish members to connect with the wider Jacobite Syrian Orthodox community, share experiences, and gain inspiration for spiritual and family life.

We extend our gratitude to the organisers, speakers, and volunteers of the conference and are thankful for the active engagement of our parish members in this spiritually enriching event.

Church Tour

As part of fostering fellowship and strengthening the bonds among parish families, our Church organised a Parish Tour on 31st August 2024. The tour provided a wonderful opportunity for members to come together outside the regular Church setting, sharing moments of prayer, joy, and togetherness.

It was a delightful occasion for families and children to connect, relax, and experience the unity of our parish community in a spirit of love, faith, and fellowship. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the organisers, volunteers, and all participants who contributed to making the trip a memorable and spiritually enriching experience.

House Blessing

Several parishioners were blessed with new homes during the year, and house blessing services were conducted by our Vicar, Rev. Fr Alex Paul. These occasions were moments of joy and thanksgiving, uniting families and parish members in prayer and fellowship.

Spiritual Organizations

Sunday School

Sunday School classes were conducted after the Holy Mass throughout the year, focusing on the spiritual, moral, and biblical education of our children. Through engaging lessons, prayers, and activities, the students were encouraged to grow in their faith and understanding of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Holy Church.

The annual examination and various extracurricular activities provided opportunities for the children to demonstrate their learning, creativity, and leadership. The dedicated efforts of the Head Teacher, Sunday School teachers, parents, and the Vicar are sincerely appreciated for their commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of our young members.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

The Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held on 21st and 22nd February 2025, offering a meaningful and interactive experience for children. The sessions included Bible classes, group activities, songs, and creative workshops, all centred around deepening faith and fellowship.

The program concluded with a closing ceremony and a rally, where students showcased what they learned and expressed their joy through songs and presentations. Special thanks to all teachers, volunteers, and parents for their dedicated planning and support in making the event a success.

Women's Association (Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam)

The Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam, the Women's Association of our parish, continues to be a source of spiritual strength and fellowship. The group meets monthly, engaging in prayer sessions, Bible readings, devotional songs, discussions, and Bible quizzes, nurturing both faith and unity among members.

The association functions under the guidance and leadership of our Vicar, Rev. Fr. Alex Paul, with Mrs. Sonu Velson serving as Secretary and Mrs. Shoby Anil as Treasurer. Their dedication and service have greatly contributed to the spiritual and social activities of the parish.

Charity

During the year, St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, Northampton, continued its commitment to helping those in need:

- £500 was donated to support two individuals undergoing treatment for critical illnesses.
- £630 was donated to assist a Priest's family in need.
- Food Drive. collected food items and donated to a local charity through the Victoria Road Congregational Church

These contributions reflect the Parish's dedication to living out the teachings of Christ through acts of compassion and charity.

Website & Social Media

- The parish maintains an active online presence to keep members informed and engaged. The [Church website](#) and Facebook account are regularly updated with announcements, event details, spiritual messages, and other relevant parish information. These platforms serve as important tools for communication, outreach, and community engagement.
-

Financial Overview

Description	Amount (£)
Total Income	57,964
Total Expenditure	34,463
Retained Surplus from Previous Years	101,048
Current Total Retained Surplus	124,549

Future Developments

Looking ahead, the Parish aims to expand its activities and enhance community engagement. A key objective is to identify and establish a permanent place of worship, ensuring a dedicated space for spiritual, cultural, and social gatherings. These initiatives will be made possible through the continued generosity and active support of our parish members.

Conclusion

By the grace of God, St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, Northampton, has completed another blessed year. The dedication and efforts of the Board of Trustees, spiritual organizations, and volunteers have been invaluable in advancing the Church's mission and fostering the spiritual growth of our parish community.

We wholeheartedly reaffirm our allegiance to the Holy Throne of Antioch, His Holiness Moran Mar Ignatius Aphrem II, His Beatitude Baselios Joseph, and His Grace Mor Osthatheos Issac.

We express our sincere gratitude to all parish members for their prayers, generosity, and active participation in Church programs. May the intercession of Holy Mother Mary, our Patron Saint, and all the saints continue to guide, inspire, and bless our Parish in the years to come.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Anil Mathew

Hon. Secretary
Northampton

Approval:

This Annual Report was approved by the Annual General Meeting of St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Northampton, on 24th May 2025. It is a true and accurate record of the activities, finances, and achievements of the Parish for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church

1162484

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2023

To

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					
Donations	15,111	-	-	15,111	-
Offerory	8,920	-	-	8,920	-
Monthly subscription	9,930	-	-	9,930	-
Christmas celebration receipts	6,140	-	-	6,140	-
Receipts by church organisations	2,390	-	-	2,390	-
Harvest festival collections	1,315	-	-	1,315	-
Bank interest income	1,798	-	-	1,798	-
Tax refund from HMRC	12,360	-	-	12,360	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	57,964	-	-	57,964	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	57,964	-	-	57,964	-
A3 Payments					
Refreshments	13,802	-	-	13,802	-
Vicar / Priest allowance	6,900	-	-	6,900	-
Rent, rate and tax	4,128	-	-	4,128	-
Donations paid	1,130	-	-	1,130	-
Expenses incurred by church organisations	456	-	-	456	-
Church council expenses	2,295	-	-	2,295	-
Altar items purchased	1,186	-	-	1,186	-
Travelling expenses	1,190	-	-	1,190	-
Miscellaneous expenses	1,186	-	-	1,186	-
HSBC bank charges	98	-	-	98	-
Printing and stationary	2,092	-	-	2,092	-
Sub total	34,463	-	-	34,463	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	34,463	-	-	34,463	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	23,501	-	-	23,501	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	101,048	-	-	101,048	-
Cash funds this year end	124,549	-	-	124,549	-

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	161	-	-
	Cash at bank-General	124,388	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	124,549	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Anil Mathew	23/12/2024	
		Saibu Thomas	23/12/2024	

St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Northampton
Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

*Report to the Trustees / members of St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Northampton
(Charity No: 1162484) on the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.*

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiners

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5) (b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Direction given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

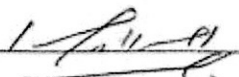
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no material matters have come to our attention which gives us 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.
-

We 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.

Mr. Mathews Mattamana



(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Mr. Kevill Itty



(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Dated: 22/11/25