



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From

Period start date

01

Jan

2023

To

Period end date

31

Dec

2023

### Section A

### Reference and administration details

Charity name ST THOMAS JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH LONDON

Other names charity is known by ST THOMAS JSOC LONDON

Registered charity number (if any) 1177726

Charity's principal address 2A Taunton road

Harold hill,

Romford

Post code

RM3 7ST

### 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. Raju C Abraham (Vicar)	Chair Person		General Body
2	POULOSE KAKKASSERY	Secretary		General Body
3	BIJU JACOB	Treasurer		General Body
4	BASIL JOHN	Joint Secretary		General Body
5	Pradeep Cherian			General Body
6	Binoy Jacob			General Body
7	Santosh Alexander			General Body
8	Ciby Yohannan			General Body
9	Sujoy Abraham			General Body
10	Mrs. Biji Siril			General Body
11	E. V. Roy			General Body
12	Shyam Simon			General Body
13	Mrs Maria Biju			General Body
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)

--

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	The Church's governing document is the Constitution that has been submitted to the Charity Commission.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CIO
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by General Body

### 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.

**St Thomas Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church** is a vital part of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church, under the leadership of Mor Ignatius Aphrem II, the Patriarch and Supreme Head of Antioch and all the East, seated on the Apostolic Throne of St Peter. Our Church also pledges allegiance to His Beatitude Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I, the Catholicos of the East (Malankara), and his successors. The Patriarchal Vicar, appointed as the Metropolitan in charge of the UK, governs our Church's faith matters in consultation with the Patriarch.

The Vicar's appointment is made by the Patriarch through the Patriarchal Vicar. The Annual General Body elects the Church office bearers, including the Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Internal Auditor, and other Managing Committee members/Trustees. The Managing Committee oversees and administers all the church's administrative and financial affairs, with elected members serving a tenure of two years.

The Managing Committee convenes at least once a month to deliberate and decide on the Church's daily operations, including approving new membership applications. A biannual general body meeting is held every six months. The Church's income and expenditure are budgeted at the beginning of the financial year and approved by the general body. All spending is regulated, ensuring adherence to the rules set out by the Trustees to prevent misuse of funds.

Accounts and procedures undergo internal auditing at least twice a year by an elected internal auditor during the Annual General Body Meeting (AGM). An independent examination or external scrutiny is also conducted by an independent examiner appointed by the Trustees.

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

The primary objective of the Church is to promote the Christian faith and spread the Gospel. This includes:

- Conducting the Holy Eucharist, Sacraments, and Services according to the faith, traditions, and customs of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church.
- Providing the Holy Sacrament to all faithful members.
- Establishing charitable institutions for the welfare of Church members and the broader community.
- Supporting charitable institutions to assist the poor and needy in Greater London and India.
- Alleviating poverty and sickness.
- Other charitable purposes benefiting the public and community development.

### 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)

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at St Thomas JSO Church, Romford, London, RM3 7ST, with an average attendance of over 200 people. The service begins at 09:30 with morning prayers, followed by the Holy Mass at 10:00.

Recognizing that the children are the foundation of future society and the Church, significant emphasis is placed on their spiritual education. Sunday School is conducted to instill Christian faith, church traditions, and positive moral and social values. Over 80 children are registered and regularly attend online Sunday School classes, following a structured curriculum provided by MJSSC in Kerala, India, in coordination with MJSSA UK.

The Youth Association actively engages as altar boys, choir singers, and group leaders. Their goal is to learn and practice the Lord's teachings, grow in faith, and develop strong moral values and social conscience. They also organize various cultural, community, and charity activities.

A Women's Forum is actively involved in the Church, focusing on spiritual growth through prayers, devotional worship, and Bible study sessions.

Four fellowship units, based on the geographical spread of members' residences, hold regular prayer meetings monthly. These meetings provide opportunities for families to gather, interact, worship together, and strengthen fellowship.

Traditional Christmas Carol services involve groups, including ladies, children, the Vicar, and Santa Claus, visiting members' residences to sing and proclaim the glorious news of the Saviour's birth and the hope it brings.

Regular attendance at Holy services is believed to purify the soul, provide a finer perspective on life, and bring out the best in individuals, prompting them to consider the needs of others as equally important as their own.

Helping the poor and the needy forms an important part of our Worship to God. We also believe that helping the poor is one of the ways of contributing towards building a better world. A portion of our income is spent each year to provide financial assistance to sick patients, disabled and the poor. To further our mission of supporting the community, we organize a charity food distribution program, benefiting 30-40 families. This initiative takes place every 4th and 5th Sunday at the Church, providing essential nourishment to those in need.

Grants are given to the eligible applicants, only after proper verification of the genuineness and their existing financial status and this is discussed in detail in the committee meetings of the Trustees. It is also here that the amount to be given is decided and this is sent directly to the beneficiary with no third parties involved.

### Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- Contribution made by volunteers.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Our Church is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with effect from 27th Mar 2018. Our new Charity Registration Number is 1177726.

St Thomas Day: On 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, our Church celebrated the feast day of St Thomas which was blessed by a Perunnal message from HG Mathew Mor Anthemos, Gospel retreat by Rev. Fr. Joshy Vettikattil and Rev. Fr. Philip Thomas. The special Holy Mass was conducted with Rev Fr Jebin Iype as main Celebrant and Vicar: Fr Raju C Abraham and Rev.Fr. Philip Thomas.

Youth Association: With the theme Spiritual nourishment and personality development, many activities such as Food for community charity food distributions, meet and greet, Youth retreat and Holy Mass in English are successfully undertaken this year.

### Other community and charity activities undertaken during the year 2019:

- **Charity Food Pantry; community charity food distribution and deliveries in Romford community on every 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.**
- **Garden of Love veg. Green garden project and tree planting within the church compound.**
- **Regularly support by providing food items to needy neighbourhood area, Abercrombie house and local sheltered homes at Harold hill.**

## 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.

**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.

The principal source of income is voluntary donations and monthly subscription fees from our members.

The major expenditure is the mortgage being paid to Charity Bank for repaying the loan.

The Church is run by volunteers who are not entitled to any remuneration, except the Vicar's allowances being paid to the Priest for pastoral services.

Other expenses are in proportion to the needs of the congregation.

The Church does not have sufficient funds currently to invest in long term investments. Funds available are held as cash in a mainstream bank,

## Section F Other optional information

**Public Benefit:**

The Trustees have considered the guidance produced by the Charity Commission on the provision of the public benefit and they confirm that the public benefit has been provided by:


- 1) Promoting the whole mission of the church through activities for individuals, parents and toddlers.
- 2) Providing regular Christian Worship open to all.
- 3) Teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- 4) Instituting Christian values in children.
- 5) Extending the charity works of the Church to other communities around us.
- 6) Voluntary and Charity activities to relieve poverty and sickness in Greater London and India.

## 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)**

Poulose Kakkassery

**Position (Secretary)**

Secretary

**Date**

13.10.2022



Charity Name ST THOMAS JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH	No (if any) 1177726
---	------------------------

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 1/1/2023	To	Period end date 12/31/2023
------------------------	-------------------------------	----	-------------------------------

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
SUBSCRIPTIONS	30,295		-	30,295	34,380
OFFERINGS	38,506		-	38,506	24,926
DONATIONS	53,498		-	53,498	29,820
INTEREST	1,957			1,957	45
GIFT AID	40,203			40,203	45,154
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	164,458	-	-	164,458	134,325
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	164,458	-	-	164,458	134,325
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
ACCOUNTANCY FEES	720			720	720
PAYMENTS TO VICAR	14,250		-	14,250	15,800
MISSION OF CONGREGATION	33689.54		-	33,690	31,946
INSURANCE	1,129			1,129	1,960
CHARITY CONTRIBUTION	13,293		-	13,293	5,414
FOOD & REFRESHMENT	7,985		-	7,985	5,485
MSOC CONTRIBUTION	2,680			2,680	1,050
LOAN REPAYMENT	30,584			30,584	23,492
CHURCH UTILITIES	2,572			2,572	1,579
CHURCH BUILDING EXPENSES				-	3,123
BANK CHARGES	198		-	198	277.93
<b>Sub total</b>	107,101	-	-	107,101	90,847
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	107,101	-	-	107,101	90,847
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	57,358	-	-	57,358	43,478
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	20,428	- 20,428	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	224,072	20,428	-	244,500	201,022
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	301,858	-	-	301,858	244,500



## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	CURRENT	118,629	-	-
	SAVING	183,229	-	-
	PETTY CASH	-		
	BUILDING FUND	-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>301,858</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	CHURCH BUILDING		631,387	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	BANK LOAN ( THE CHARITY BANK LTD )		288,640	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Mr. Poulose Kakkassery	7/18/2024	
		Mr. Biju Jacob	7/18/2024	



# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A

## Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

ST THOMAS JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31st DECEMBER 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1177726

**Set out on pages**

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent  
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions 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 my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met ; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

18/07/2024

**Name:**

Sebastian Machukattu Devasia

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

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

**Address:**

17 NEALS CORNER, BATH ROAD, HOUNSLOW

MIDDLESEX

TW3 3HJ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

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