



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From

Period start date

01 Jan 2024

To

Period end date

31 Dec 2024

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	Rev Gheevarghese Thandayath Fr.	Chairperson		General Body
2	Basil John	Secretary		General Body
3	Pradeep Cherian	Treasurer		General Body
4	Saji Chacko	Joint Secretary		General Body
5	Resmi Binoy			General Body
6	Binoy Jacob			General Body
7	Riya Thukalil			General Body
8	Alen Siril			General Body
9	Rikku Varghese			General Body
10	Shiji Varughese			General Body
11	Kakkassery Poullose			General Body
12	Shyam Simon			General Body
13	Biju Jacob			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)

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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 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.

Section C Objectives and activities

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 09:00 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 instil Christian faith, church traditions, and positive moral and social values. Over 80 children are registered and regularly attend Sunday School classes after the Holy Mass. Sunday school 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 6th and 7^h of July 2024 our Church celebrated the feast day of St 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 4th 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,**
- **Distributed Toys to the local children and children ward of below hospitals**
 1. **Queens Hospital Romford**
 2. **King George Hospital Ilford**
 3. **Hillingdon Hospital Uxbridge**
 4. **Darent valley Hospital Dartford**

Section E

Financial review

The Church reserves are held to fund its current and future activities.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

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.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Basil John

Position (Secretary)

Secretary

Date

31.10.2025



Charity Name ST THOMAS JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH	No (if any) 1177726
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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 1/1/2024	To	Period end date 12/31/2024
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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					
SUBSCRIPTIONS	32,394		-	32,394	30,295
OFFERINGS	45,078		-	45,078	38,506
DONATIONS	106,816		-	106,816	53,498
INTEREST	3,401			3,401	1,957
OTHER INCOME	170			170	
GIFT AID	28,614			28,614	40,203
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	216,472	-	-	216,472	164,458
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	216,472	-	-	216,472	164,458
A3 Payments					
ACCOUNTANCY FEES	720			720	720
PAYMENTS TO VICAR	14,500		-	14,500	14,250
MISSION OF CONGREGATION	20,596		-	20,596	33,690
INSURANCE	1,264			1,264	1,129
CHARITY CONTRIBUTION	10,588		-	10,588	13,293
FOOD & REFRESHMENT	16,372		-	16,372	7,985
MSOC /MJSSA CONTRIBUTION	3,235			3,235	2,680
LOAN REPAYMENT	31,696			31,696	30,584
CHURCH UTILITIES	1,538			1,538	2,572
CHURCH BUILDING EXPENSES	129,878			129,878	-
BANK CHARGES			-	-	198.05
Sub total	230,387	-	-	230,387	107,101
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	230,387	-	-	230,387	107,101
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 13,916	-	-	- 13,916	57,358
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	301,858		-	301,858	244,500
Cash funds this year end	287,942	-	-	287,942	301,858

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	CURRENT	101,088	-	-
	SAVING	186,854	-	-
	PETTY CASH	-	-	-
	BUILDING FUND	-	-	-
	Total cash funds	287,942	-	-
	(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)
	CHURCH BUILDING		631,387	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	BANK LOAN (THE CHARITY BANK LTD)		256,944	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Mr. Basil John	9/12/2025	
		Mr. Pradeep Cherian	9/12/2025	



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 2024

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 Act have 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: 12/09/2025

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

Sebastian and Daughters Ltd
Chartered Certified Accountants
17 Neals Corner, 2 Bath Road
Hounslow, Middlesex
TW3 3HJ
TEL: 020 3490 9263

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

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