

ST. IGNATIUS ELIAS JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE

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

Worship at Christ the Redeemer Church, Newmarket Road, Cambridge,

CB5 8RS

Trustees Report and Accounts for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

St. Ignatius Elias Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Cambridge.

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

Administrative Information

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rev. Fr. Jebin Ipe

Mr. Biju Baby

Mr. Benny Simon

Mr. Dipu Varghese

Mr. Sabu Paulose

Mr. Shebu V Kuriakose

Mr. Varghese George

Mr. Wilson Mathai

Mrs. Aby Rajeev

Mrs. Nisha Varghese

Mrs. Teena Alex

VICAR & PRESIDENT

Rev. Fr. Jebin Ipe

SECRETARY

Mr. Sabu Paulose

TREASURER

Mr. Wilson Mathai

AUDITOR

Mr. Jacob Eapen

COMMUNICATION ADDRESS

St Ignatius EJ Syrian Orthodox Church Cambridge

5 Parr Close

North Stowe

Cambridge

CB24 1DB

EMAIL

jsoccambridge10@gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.jsoccambridge.com

CHARITY NUMBER

1202872

OUR BANK

HSBC BANK

63-64 St Andrew's Street

Cambridge

CB2 3BZ

WORSHIP PLACE

Christ The Redeemer Church

New Market Road

Cambridge

CB5 8RS

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

Let us thank God Almighty for guiding us through the last year and glorify his name. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I, the Secretary, present the Annual Report of our parish for the year 2024 -25.

Introduction

Structure, objectives

This Church is a part of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church and a Diaspora community of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Christian Church, India. The supreme head of this Church is His Holiness Moran Mar Ignatius Ephrem II, The Patriarch of Antioch and all the East and his Successors. His Beatitude Abon Mor Baselios, Catholicos of the East is the second highest hierarchical position of the Church. He is the Head of the Church in India. The Patriarch

appointed a Metropolitan (called Patriarchal Vicar) from Malankara Jacobite Syrian Christian Church, His Grace Dr. Issac Mor Osthatheos who is the bishop in charge of the Parish.

Church's aim is to keep the faith, traditions, and doctrines of the Jacobite Syrian Christian Church and to perform all the religious rites and sacraments to all its members by the ancient Syriac Orthodox traditions and to help the poor and the needy.

Governance and Management

This Church is a registered charity and therefore governed as per its governing laws. The Charity run by the Board of Trustees elected by the Church General Meeting. The Trustees manage the administrative as well as the financial affairs of the Church. The Trustees meet regularly to take decisions and check the activities.

The Parish and membership

During the report year, with the help of members, the Board of Trustees and the Vicar are to keep our Parish register up to date. As per the current parish register, our total membership is 52 families.

The Vicar

Rev Fr. Jebin Ipe is our Vicar. The Vicar's spiritual leadership has had profound influence on our families. The vicar's capable leadership has helped tremendously in the running of spiritual organizations like Sunday school, women's association, and student's movement in the Church.

General Body Meetings

The annual general body meeting (AGM) held on 3rd May 2025 to present and approve the annual report and accounts for the year 2024 - 2025. The general body approved the accounts with the audit report.

Report year Board of Trustees (Managing Committee)

1. Rev. Fr. Jebin Ipe	Vicar & President	Appointed
2. Mr. Sabu Paulose	Secretary	Chosen
3. Mr. Wilson Mathai	Treasurer	Chosen
4. Mr. Biju Baby	Committee member	Chosen
5. Mr. Benny Simon	Committee member	Chosen
6. Mr. Dipu Varghese	Committee member	Chosen
7. Mr. Shebu V Kuriakose	Committee member	Chosen
8. Mr. Varghese George	Committee member	Chosen
9. Mrs. Aby Rajeev	Committee member	Chosen
10. Mrs. Nisha Varghese	Committee member	Chosen

Mr. Jacob Eapen is the auditor for the report year.

Activities

Our Holy Services are on the First and Third Saturday morning of every month. We would like to thank our vicar and all the other Priests who have presided over these services along with all the acolytes who have served in the sanctuary during these services. We also like to appreciate the great service from our choir team who play a vital role in making our services melodious.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the trustees of Christ the Redeemer Church who have been providing their church, its premises, and other facilities to conduct our services.

Parish Day & Annual Feast (St. Ignatius Day)

The feast day of our patron saint, Mor Ignatius Elias the 119th patriarch of Antioch and all the east celebrated as the parish day of our congregation on 14th and 15th of February 2025.

The vespers service held on 14th led by Rev. Fr. Philip Thomas and Fr. Jebin Ipe. After which Fr. Philip blessed us with a touching sermon. The service followed by cultural programs organized by various spiritual organizations of our church.

On Saturday 15th Feb 2025, on the main feast day, proceedings started with morning prayer followed by special Holy Mass. The Chief celebrants were Rev Fr Abin Markose, and co-celebrants were Vicar Rev. Fr. Jebin Ipe and Fr. Alex Paul. Holy Mass followed by a sermon by the Vicar which was a blessing to everyone who attended. There was Procession afterwards in the traditional way and cultural activities followed. Prizes distributed for Sunday school children who won in the cultural competition which held in the summer. Nercha (Ritual Food) and a traditional Kerala meal given to all who attended the feast.

Great Lent and Passion Week

Our parish conducted Great Lent held face to face from 12th April till 19th April 2025.

The Services led by our vicar Rev. Fr. Jebin Ipe.

Arrangements made to organize 7 Lent time prayer meetings at the home of volunteering members during the lent and the arrangements for Holy Week services for the year completed during the report period. And the first prayer held on 14/03/25 and graciously hosted by Mr. Shebu V Kuriakose at his home.

Church Kalolsavam (Art Festival)

We conducted our church Kalolsavam on Saturday 1st Feb 2025. The event included various competitions for children which eagerly taken part in by our Sunday school students. We would like to thank Sunday school teachers and parents for preparing kids for the event. First and second prize winners got qualified to be our Church in the Central Zone Kalolsavam.

Harvest and Food Festival

Harvest and food festival celebrated in our parish on Saturday, 16th Nov 2024 at Christ the Redeemer Church. The day started with morning prayer followed by Holy Mass and then we auctioned the products brought by our church members and then everyone had the opportunity to taste the home delicacies cooked by Women's association members which was the main highlight of the event. Thanks to our women's association members for yet another successful celebration of harvest festival.

BBQ & Culture Programs

The church conducted a BBQ on 15/06/2024 Saturday after the divine liturgy, there was wholehearted participation from all our members and the event concluded with various games and cultural programs which made the day a memorable one. We express our sincere gratitude to all trustees and members who worked behind the event and all those who made it an enormous success with their participation.

Pilgrimage

The Church organized a one-day pilgrimage to the Anglican shrine Our Lady in Walsingham on 30/06/24 Sunday. We all had a very blessed and enjoyable day by the prayers of holy virgin Mary the mother of God. We blessed to conduct an intercessory prayer at the shrine followed by a delicious lunch; the day ended with a lovely afternoon at Hunstanton beach.

Home Visits

During this period, we were able to continue the home visits under the leadership of our vicar and the support of our parishioners. We would also like to use this opportunity to remember the members whose parents who have fallen asleep in the lord, may lord console them and repose the departed souls in the blossom of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. We were able to join the family in a time of need, and we thank everyone who extended their support during this challenging time.

Onam Celebration (Traditional Kerala festival)

"Onam" the harvest festival of our homeland Kerala celebrated in our church on 07/09/24, Saturday after the Holy Mass. We saw the participation of around 125 attendees for this event making it a day to remember. The event inaugurated by the vicar Rev.Fr. Jebin Ipe and followed by many games and cultural activities including the traditional tug of war and musical chair which saw great participation. We also served delicious traditional food. The event concluded at around 5pm. We thank everyone who worked behind the event for its success and all those who took part in the event and made it memorable.

Family Conference

Five families from our church attended the family conference organized by our diocese on 28th and 29th september 2024.

Carol Competition

Our church choir team took part in the Carol songs competition conducted by MSOC in December 2024.

Christmas Carol & Special service

We organized a carol service visiting the homes of our members announcing the good news of the birth of our lord Jesus Christ. The event conducted on 07/12/24 and 21/12/24 afternoons. The Event saw great participation both during the caroling and for practice sessions held in the weeks leading up to the event. We also gifted the families with whom we visited a Christmas cake and calendar for the year 2025 to spread the joy of Christmas. We thank Everyone who took part in the caroling service.

Spiritual organizations

Sunday School

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." - Matthew 7:24. Our Sunday school classes conducted online. To educate our children spiritually and morally, by the teachings of Jesus Christ and the faith and traditions of the Syrian Orthodox Church and to develop our children the habit of attending church regularly, studying the Scriptures, and taking part conscientiously in the worship and sacramental life of our Church.

Sunday school annual exam held face to face, which helped children to highlight the knowledge gained over the year. Our children are incredibly talented, in addition to the Bible studies

We gave importance to teaching extracurricular activities for youth development. The challenging work of the head teacher and all other teachers appreciated.

Women's Association (Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam):

With the Motto of "Pray, Act and Illuminate," the Women's prayer group of the Church meets once a month online. Their activities are prayer, singing devotional songs, Bible reading, conducting bible quiz, Chain prayer, Bible classes, and presentation etc. Parish members often send prayer requests to women's association.

The Women's association is functioning under the able leadership of Rev Vicar and the secretary.

Vacation Bible School

The Sunday school organized vacation bible school 2024 on 1st and 2nd November 2024 at whittle ford memorial hall and Christ the redeemer church, Cambridge. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to come closer to God and to learn more about our faith.

Other activities

Charity

We donated £500.00 to a lady needs urgent surgery in Kerala, India in 2024 and £700.00 for medical emergencies to a family in Kerala, India in March 2025.

Website

The Parish web address is jsoccambridge.com and Facebook account which regularly updated with useful information for our church members.

Financial activities

This year (01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025), total income from various incoming resources was £38546.72 and total expenses were £27969.33

By adding up the retained surpluses from the previous years of

£18274.24, the current total kept surplus for the period is £28851.67

Future Developments

With the enormous support from our members, we would like to extend our activities which include that to find a permanent place for Worship.

Conclusion

By the grace of our heavenly Holy Father, our savior Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, we have enlightening guidance for our parish. Let us continue the communion with them. May our Lord lead us in light to carry out the best for the Church in the days to come. May the Lord Almighty bless our Parish to make all our efforts for the Glory of His Kingdom.

Thank you

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

-Sd- 

Sabu Paulose

(Secretary)

Cambridge

Approval

This report approved by the Annual General Meeting on 03/05/2025. This is a true copy of St. Ignatius Elias Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Cambridge Annual Report.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Ignatius Elias Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Cambri

1202872

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2024

To

31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	9,884	-	-	9,884	-
Offertory	6,253	-	-	6,253	-
Monthly Subscription	8,370	-	-	8,370	-
Christmas Carol receipts	1,408	-	-	1,408	-
Food Festival Collection	1,497	-	-	1,497	-
Family Conference Registration	335	-	-	335	-
Annual Feast day	1,800	-	-	1,800	-
Receipts from Sunday School	310	-	-	310	-
Pilgrimage	1,732	-	-	1,732	-
Gift Aid last year	6,957	-	-	6,957	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	38,547	-	-	38,547	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	38,547	-	-	38,547	-
A3 Payments					
Church Rent	2,953	-	-	2,953	-
Altar items (sound systems)	1,576	-	-	1,576	-
Vicar/Priest Allowance	6,201	-	-	6,201	-
Pilgrimage	1,693	-	-	1,693	-
Expense Incurred by church organisations	1,677	-	-	1,677	-
Charity Donations	1,200	-	-	1,200	-
Church Council Payments	1,510	-	-	1,510	-
HSBC Bank Charges	46	-	-	46	-
Refreshment Income	10,484	-	-	10,484	-
Miscellaneous Expenses	629	-	-	629	-
Sub total	27,969	-	-	27,969	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	27,969	-	-	27,969	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,578	-	-	10,578	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	18,274	-	-	18,274	-
Cash funds this year end	28,852	-	-	28,852	-

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	346	-	-
	Cash at Bank	28,506	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	28,852	-	-
	(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)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Wilson Mathai	25/10/25
	Sabu Paulose	25/10/25

St Ignatius Elias Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Cambridge
Independent Examiners Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees/members of St. Ignatius Elias Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, Cambridge (Charity No: 1202872) 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 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. Jacob Eapen
(Hon. Independent Examiner)

Dated: 08/09/2025