

ST GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH LEEDS
a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR END
31 December 2023**

**ST GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH LEEDS
ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL CHAPEL
BECKETT STREET**

LEEDS

**ST GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH LEEDS**

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ST GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH LEEDS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

Reference and administration details

Charity name: ST GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH LEEDS

Charity Number: 1203186

CIO registration number: CE032358

Names of the board of trustees who manage the charity;

Rev Akhil Joy

Anoop Kurian

Varghese Pappan

Alias Alukkal Varkey

Vigy Kunnalakkattu Kuriakose

Shibu K Eapen

Beena Thomas

Anoop Abraham

Smija Pulliyil Alex

Poulose Baby Thelappillil

Basil Chengamanattu Eldhose

Tina Mary Vibin

SIJO CHACKO

Structure, Governance and management

The Church's Bylaw/Governing document is the constitution that has been submitted to the Charity Commission.

The charity is constituted as Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Board of Trustees are elected by the Annual General Meeting.

Our Church, St George Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church Leeds, 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 Mor Baselios Thomas I, 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. The Vicar for the time being shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be a Charity Trustee who chair over the meetings of Board of Trustees. The Annual General Body/meeting elects all the office bearers including secretary, treasurer, internal auditors and other board of trustees. All administrative and financial affairs of the church are managed and administered by the board of trustees. The maximum number of trustees will be 13 . The tenure of the elected board of trustees is 2 years.

The 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. Strict rules are set out by the trustees 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.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

Objectives and Activities

THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT: TO ADVANCE THE RELIGION OF THE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN LEEDS AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS BY:

1.MAINTAINING THE FAITH, TRADITIONS AND DOCTRINES OF THE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND PERFORMING ALL THE RELIGIOUS RITES AND SACRAMENTS FOR ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANCIENT SYRIAN ORTHODOX TRADITION AS FOLLOWED BY THE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN INDIA; 2.CONDUCTING HOLY EUCHARIST, SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES ACCORDING TO THE FAITH TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS AND RITES OF THE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH; 3.PROVIDING HOLY SACRAMENTS TO ALL ITS MEMBERS; 4.ESTABLISHING CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS FOR THE WELFARE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AND FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY; AND 5.ORGANISING AND CONDUCTING SUNDAY SCHOOL, PRAYER MEETINGS, RETREATS, YOUTH ASSOCIATION AND VANITHA SAMAJAM (WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION) AND SPIRITUAL ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES. TO FURTHER SUCH CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE CHARITY TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Our worship services include gatherings of all believers from Leeds and surrounding areas. 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. 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 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. 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. 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.

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 give donations to the church for charity purposes, in certain special cases.

Achievements and performance

The Annual General Body meeting was conducted in the month of May, presided by the Vicar/Chair, Fr. Akhil Joy. 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). Our church has successfully welcomed many new families as our members and volunteers during the last year. The holy communion services were conducted regularly on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of all the months. Passion Week Services: Two holy week services were held successfully in this financial

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

year, first one during the Second week of April 2023 with Maundy Thursday services in the night of 5th April 2023 followed by Good Friday and then Easter services in the night of 8th April 2023. The Holy weeks were a great success and hundreds of believers attended the services including church members and people from other Christian denominations.

Parish Day and Crystal Jubilee: Parish Day and crystal jubilee celebrations were conducted in November 2023 led by parish Vicar who lead the holy communion services. The Holy Mass was followed by the holy communion and special devotional message, Prayers with incense, procession, benediction & love feasts.

The Sunday school, Youth and women's association (Vanith Samajam) annual day celebrations were successfully conducted in the evening of 8th July 2023. Christmas Programme: During Christmas celebrations, Carol visited Parishioners' homes on 9th and 16th December 2023. On 24th evening Christmas Mass and the Holy Eucharist were conducted by Vicar, Rev. Fr. Akhil Joy. He gave a Christmas message to parishioners followed by carol singing competitions by the Sunday School Students and youth.

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.

Vacation Bible School was organised in July 2023 for children to further deepen faith in Jesus Christ.

Youth Association: The Youth Movement members meets after the Holy Mass and have good discussions about issues involving moral ethics leading to personal spiritual development which helps them to be good future citizens. During the year, Youth Association organised payasamela and cake sale to raising funds for the charity.

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 classes. We have made a charity donation of £ 400 to a cancer patient this year

Financial Review

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

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.

Approved by the board on 29/10/2024

Signed by Anoop Kurian (Trustee)



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of ST GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH LEEDS for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act ; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.



Seejo Tony
Member of Association of Accounting Technicians
ACS ACCOUNTANTS LTD
58 Highbury Grove
Portsmouth
PO6 2RS

29/10/2024

**ST GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH LEEDS**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	37,683.00	37,683.00	-
Total		37,683.00	37,683.00	-
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	4	24,579.00	24,579.00	-
Total		24,579.00	24,579.00	-
Net income/(expenditure)		13,104.00	13,104.00	-
Net movement in funds		13,104.00	13,104.00	-
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-
Total funds carried forward		13,104.00	13,104.00	-

**ST GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH LEEDS**

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

Recommended categories by activity	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	6	13,504.00	13,504.00	-
Total current assets		13,504.00	13,504.00	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	400.00	400.00	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)		13,104.00	13,104.00	-
Total net assets or liabilities		13,104.00	13,104.00	-
Funds of the Charity				
Unrestricted funds	8	13,104.00	13,104.00	-
Restricted income funds	8		-	-
Endowment funds	8		-	-
Total funds		13,104.00	13,104.00	-

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 29/10/2024

and signed on its behalf by:

Anoop Kurian
Trustee



**ST GEORGE JACOBITE SYRIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH LEEDS**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by the Charity, which is a public benefit entity, in the preparation of the accounts are as follows.

1.2 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the inclusion of charitable properties and fixed asset investments and investment properties at valuation.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

These accounts are presented in pounds sterling and rounded to the nearest pound.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have prepared financial projections, taking into consideration the current economic conditions and have, at the time of approving these accounts, a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.4 Income from donations or grants

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably. For donations, this is usually on receipt. For grants, this is usually when a formal offer is made in writing. If a donation or grant contains terms and conditions outside of the charity's control which must be met before the charity is entitled to the funds, or if the donor specifies that the funds must be used in future time periods, then the income is deferred.

1.5 Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities is recognised over the period to which the income relates. Membership fees are recognised over the period of the membership. Any amounts relating to future periods are deferred.

1.6 Income from membership subscriptions

Membership subscriptions received in the nature of a gift are recognised in Donations and Legacies.

Membership subscriptions which give a member the right to buy services or other benefits are recognised as income earned from the provision of goods and services as income from charitable activities.

1.7 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when a present legal or constructive obligation exists at the balance sheet date as

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount can be estimated reliably. It is inclusive of VAT which cannot be recovered. Direct costs are those costs which directly attribute to its activities. Wages and salaries are allocated to direct costs based on an estimate of time spent on charitable activities by staff members.

Support costs include staff costs and are those which do not produce a direct output. Staff costs relate to specific activities and this is reflected in the allocation of payroll costs based on the percentage of time spent.

All costs, including governance costs, are allocated between the expenditure categories of the charity on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are charged directly; others are apportioned on an appropriate basis.

Support costs and overheads have been calculated by allocating staff time to the level of involvement in the various activities of the Charity.

1.8 Provisions for liabilities

A liability is measured on recognition at its historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

1.9 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are those funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

2 Income from Donations and Legacies

Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£
Charity Collections	940.00	940.00	-
Christmas Collections	1,476.00	1,476.00	-
Crystal Jubilee Income	783.00	783.00	-
Donation and gifts	10,053.00	10,053.00	-
Family Conference Income	65.00	65.00	-
Family Day Out	1,089.00	1,089.00	-
Food Spons receipts	4,838.00	4,838.00	-
Miscellaneous Receipt	17.00	17.00	-
Offeretory	2,525.00	2,525.00	-
Qurbana Offerings	9,733.00	9,733.00	-
Subscription Receipts	3,475.00	3,475.00	-
Sunday School Receipts	823.00	823.00	-
Vanitha Samajam	1,339.00	1,339.00	-
Youth Association	527.00	527.00	-
	37,683.00	37,683.00	-

3 Expenditure on Raising Funds

Analysis	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	£	£
Support Costs	-	-
	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

4 Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
Analysis	£	£
Legal/professional fees	400.00	-
Vicar Allowances	4,425.00	-
Vanitha Samajam Expenses	1,275.00	-
Food Expenses	6,460.00	-
Rent Expenses	1,440.00	-
Vicar Car Parking Allowances	115.00	-
Other Church Expenses	1,344.00	-
Vicar Travelling Expenses	1,350.00	-
Family Day out	507.00	-
M S O C Expenses	1,010.00	-
Christmas Expenses	857.00	-
Charity Payments	1,000.00	-
Sound system Expenses	2.00	-
Sunday School Expenses	1,264.00	-
Crystal Jubilee Expenses	2,843.00	-
Youth Association Expenses	146.00	-
Support Costs	141.00	-
	24,579.00	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

5 Support Costs

	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
Analysis	£	£
Printing and stationery	31.00	-
Governance Costs		
Bank Charges	110.00	-
	141.00	-

6 Cash at bank and in hand

	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	£	£
Cash at bank and on hand	13,504.00	-
	13,504.00	-

7 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	400.00	-
	400.00	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

8 Charity funds

8.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the CURRENT reporting period

Fund names	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditur e	Transfers	Gains and losses	Fund balances carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
General Fund	-	37,683.00	(24,579.00)	-	-	13,104.00
Total	-	37,683.00	(24,579.00)	-	-	13,104.00

8.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the PREVIOUS reporting period

8.3 Transfers between funds

This Year

	Amount £
Between unrestricted and restricted funds	-
Between endowment and restricted funds	-
Between endowment and unrestricted funds	-

8.4 Designated funds

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

This year

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount

Last year

Planned use	Purpose of the designation	Amount